



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*Kindly Sponsored by David & Nina of Bedchester*

OCTOBER

2021

Issue 331

## FONTMELL SHOP & CAFÉ

Fontmell shop cafe (licenced) is still open and serving all-day breakfasts Monday to Saturday. Seating is available in our lovely garden or indoors if preferred. We have exceptionally competitive prices and always provide free biscuits or cake for our local groups who use us.

We also provide hot home-made lunches, jacket potatoes, toasties, sandwiches, salads, soup and rolls, take-away breakfast sandwiches and rolls.

In addition we also have a king size B&B room with en-suite bathroom at the back of the house for a quiet night's rest. Breakfast is included in the price of £85.00 per night. Our B&B has been registered with the local Authority for six years and complies with all fire safety regulations.

So if you want to use the shop or post office and fancy a drink or something to eat, either in the premises or take-away, why not come and enjoy it with us and others in the community you may know already or even to meet new folk!

We look forward to welcoming you all. Rick and Jan x

## Fontmell Film Nights

It was wonderful to see everyone that came to our September film and we really appreciate your support.

Our film showing on Wednesday 13th October is "Nomadland" (12a). Following the economic collapse of a company town in rural Nevada, Fern played by Frances McDormant, packs her van and sets off on the road to explore life outside of conventional society as a modern day nomad. Also starring David Strathairn.

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

Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30. Do come and join us and don't forget your cushion!

For more information please call Libby on 01747 811551

## RIDE AND STRIDE 2021

We had a marvellous response for donations for this year's Ride and Stride event on the 11th September so a grateful thanks to all of you in your support for this very important and deserving fund raising for the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

Five members of the parish set out on the day to visit churches and raise funds on the day. Gerry Bone cycled at great speed at home for over 5 miles on his quest for the full honours on the day.

Christopher and Beverley from Bedchester cycled and visited some 12 churches and greatly enjoyed the experience and the fine weather.

David Fangen and our leading Church warden one Barry Roberts walked from Fontmell to Ashmore and thence through the lovely woods around Ashmore onto the Wessex Ridgeway for refreshments at the Cricketers in Shroton where other walkers also stopped. They the resumed suitably filled along the Iwerne Valley to Iwerne, Sutton Waldron and thence home to St Andrews at Fontmell for teas and finished their 14 mile stride.

Thanks to you all a sum in excess of £1900 was raised and will be gratefully received by the Charity and half comes to our Church.

## Notices – October 2021

### St. Andrew's Church - Services for October

3rd 0900 Sunday Breakfast at Village Hall  
10th 0930 Morning Worship  
17th 0930 Holy Communion with choir  
24th 0930 Holy Communion  
31st 1000 Benefice Service

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 17th November 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

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](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

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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)

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

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



### **Stalls will include:**

The Real Cure – Gift packs of delicious locally sourced and cured charcuterie  
Handmade by Lizzie – Artisan soaps, body butters, scrubs and soy wax candles and melts  
Sam Brown London – locally handcrafted leather belts and bags  
Flax & Fleece - home interior collection, leather planter hangers, sheepskin, wool and linen throws & rugs  
Tack Room Distillery – selling a range of distilled products, gin and candles  
Dorset Eco – a full range of eco friendly products for the home, bowls, lunch boxes, and Weaver Green bags and blankets (made entirely from recycled plastic bottles)  
Real Kid – Children's clothing and homeware boutique  
Freckledy Speckledy – hand thrown artisan pots and bowls.  
Trinity Design Studio – handmade lampshades, vivified lamp bases, hand painted silk scarves and textured art  
Shaston Studio – Original hand-painted ceramics  
Bud's Bites – Pick n' mix style treats for dogs, now with their new range of dog toys  
James Frameses – Framed vintage diecast models  
Sam Dodd Art - Wildlife art, originals, prints and cards  
The Truckle Truck – the travelling cheesemonger also selling cheese accompaniments and gifts  
Self Care Co – Soy aromatherapy candles and reed diffusers  
Tropic – skincare, body care and makeup, skin care consultations and products to try.

As well as these local independent and artisan businesses we also have many of our local crafters selling a wide range of hand-made goods including Christmas cards & decorations, cushions, bags candles, sewn, knitted and felted creations, jewellery, antiques and collectibles. Some fabulous stocking fillers here!

You will also have the opportunity to buy Dampneys Gin and Fruit Liqueurs and some gorgeous Christmas items usually only available from The Potting Shed in Shaftesbury. Our village primary school, St. Andrews, will be running a craft stall.

Homemade cakes, jams and chutneys will also be on sale and you can enter our Grand Hamper Raffle.

In addition to all our Christmas goodies there will be hot food, mulled cider and beer available from the outside catering gazebo and tea, coffee and cake from our indoor team.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to this popular annual village event.

### **FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME**

For more information, please contact Lisa on 07962 138039 or Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339 or email to: [playground.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:playground.fmvh@mail.com)

**Fontmell Magna Village Hall, Friendship Garden and Playground Appeal**  
**Registered Charity No: 301129**

All profit from this event will be put towards improving the Play and Recreation Areas at the Village Hall and the Fontmell Friendship Garden

**Early Christmas Market at Fontmell Magna Village Hall and Grounds**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
**11 am to 3 pm**

Fontmell Magna Village Hall is hosting another exciting early Christmas market this year, indoors and out, to provide you with an excellent opportunity to start your festive preparations in good time – and maybe have a better choice of wonderful local goodies?

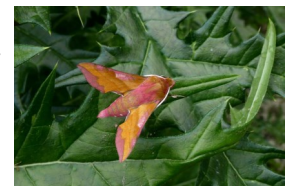
## **Moth-spotting at Springhead—Aug 16, 2021**

Ducks and swans have always been appreciated on Springhead's lake, but we've recently been finding out about some of the smaller and more hidden creatures to be found in our 15 acres of gardens and grounds.

The Small Elephant Hawk-moth (pictured) is just one of more than 250 moth species recorded this summer by moth expert Tim Norriss. Found in one of Springhead's orchards, this species lives in chalk grassland and other areas where it can find foodplants such as Honeysuckle and campions.

Other moths (pictured top to bottom below) collected in moth traps and photographed by Bill Raymond include the Lappet moth, which looks like a cluster of dried leaves; the Privet Hawk-moth – the largest hawk-moth in the UK; and the Poplar Hawk-moth, which doesn't feed as an adult but eats poplar and willow leaves as a caterpillar.

The results of the moth survey, the wider invertebrate survey and other surveys including the bird survey carried out in the early summer, are helping to build up a picture of the biodiversity supported by Springhead's rich and varied habitats and how best to conserve it. 'Knowing which insects, birds, small mammals and other wildlife are found at Springhead helps us to manage the gardens and grounds in the best way to ensure there is appropriate food and shelter for the different species' says Edward Parker, the charity's Director.



## **Growing to give—Sep 1, 2021**

Food charities have been facing a significant rise in demand for food since the start of the pandemic, and the Springhead Trust is now working with a new national scheme to help supply fresh vegetables for the local community.

Since the summer of 2020 Springhead has been contributing produce from the productive gardens to Open House, the weekly support service for local families in need in the Shaftesbury area.

In May 2021, Open House developed Open Fridge – a community fridge and freezer in a shipping container, which is open three days a week. Produce from Springhead which is not used by Open House now goes to the Open Fridge, explains Catherine Simmonds, Co-ordinator of Springhead's Productive Gardens project: 'This allows a much larger range of fresh and frozen donations to be accepted. We've therefore been able to contribute boxes of fresh produce and feel confident that they can be used. This month we've delivered fresh courgettes, beans, tomatoes and cucumbers.'

Under the banner of Grow to Give – a national scheme which links growers, allotment holders and school gardens to their local foodbank via on-site collection boxes – Springhead is now a partner with Shaftesbury's Mampitts and St James allotments and Shaftesbury Home Grown community farm. The scheme reduces food waste as well as providing home-grown vegetables for the community.

## **Hands on History— Sep 9 2021**

**Mesolithic flint blades and iron age pottery are among the exciting finds dug up by volunteers as part of an archaeological project being carried out at Springhead this summer and autumn.**

The project has focussed on a series of test pits dug in 'Milcreats', the field just beyond Springhead's car park, alongside the footpath from the village. It is being led by Julian Richards, archaeologist and broadcaster, who has for a long time been interested in the Mesolithic people who lived in and around Springhead in the middle stone age – between 12,000 and 7,000 years ago. 'We're hoping to tell the story of the field, starting in Mesolithic times when hunter gatherers would probably have come to the area in search of wild animals that drank from the natural springs. This was before people started changing the land by farming it, and wolves, bears and beavers would have roamed around, so it was a very different world.'

The volunteers, some of whom are from local archaeological societies, but also include interested local residents, have also found things from other periods of history and pre-history. 'There are bronze age barrows on the hill from the time when the fields were first cultivated' says Julian, 'so we weren't surprised to find bits of bronze age pottery in the field which may have been thrown out with animal manure. We're also keeping things from more recent history – even an old rusty monkey wrench which helps to build a picture of the field's past!' The team is also digging test pits in other parts of the Springhead site, and recently found a rammed chalk wall in one of the kitchen garden's raised beds which could be part of a much earlier mill building, built before brick was available.

Now that evidence of layers of prehistory and history have been found, Julian hopes to dig many more test pits and, depending on the results, carry out more extensive excavations. 'I would love to find evidence of the temporary dwellings that Mesolithic people lived in.' Meanwhile, he'd like to involve more local residents and school children: 'The more people that get involved the better – people really enjoy it, and for children, digging in the dirt and finding stuff is a good way of learning about the past'. The first find from the first metre-square test pit was one of the distinctive and beautifully worked long flint blades that Mesolithic people used. 'The 14-year-old volunteer who picked it up was the first person to have held it for at least 7,000 years. That's hands-on history'.

## **Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 in the Village Hall.**

Draft minutes and papers of the meeting are available on the PC Website

[http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Meetings\\_Minutes\\_and\\_Agendas\\_29213.aspx](http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Meetings_Minutes_and_Agendas_29213.aspx)

**Present:** Cllrs Michael Humphreys (MH) Chair, Jeremy Long (JL) Vice-Chair, Annie Newbury (AN), Christine Scott (CS), Clerk Sam Smith (SS), DC Ward Cllr Jane Somper (JS), plus 12 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Andy Main (AM)

**Declarations of Interest:** None

### **Co-option of Councillors and Role Assignments**

We're delighted to co-opt two new members of the Parish Council.

Laura Kurton, living in Bedchester, will lead on parish communications covering the website, email groups, social media, notice boards, Annual Parish Report. Laura is also willing to help organize community events and will liaise with the Village Hall Committee.

Andrew Davis, living in Parsonage Street, will work on planning matters, covering planning applications, neighbourhood plan updates, NP Monitoring Group, planning regulations.

**Minutes of the Meetings on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021:** These were approved unanimously.

### **Matters Arising:**

**Frequency of Meetings** – Now that the council is at full strength, the frequency of meetings will revert to bi-monthly. Meetings will be held in January, March, May (plus AGM & Annual Parish Meeting), July, September and November.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – a second draft of Dorset Council's Local Plan is expected in early 2022 with implications for housing growth in Fontmell Magna village. Also the Government may bring forward proposals soon to change the national planning system. Thus it seems prudent to wait for these developments to materialize and then update the Neighbourhood Plan later in 2022.

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

JS made reference to a consultation on the Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

### **Reports from Parish Councillors**

**a. Planning** – MH confirmed there had been 9 new applications which were assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website.

The PC posted no objections to 8 of the applications.

The PC objected to 1 application: Grove Farm, Hannah's Hill, to erect a 2 storey extension and demolish a lean-to building. The proposed extension does not relate to the scale or setting of the Grade II listed building and its severe lines are out of character in terms of form, materials and layout. Therefore, it would not comply with Policy FM9 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed development of 30 homes on Land at Home Farm, South Street, continues to await a decision on the planning application. JS reported that the Planning Officer's report is being prepared and the S106 agreement finalized. A decision on the planning application is expected in October.

Residents have expressed concerns over an apparent commercial business operating from Chelwood House in North Street. An enforcement investigation is being conducted by Dorset Council Planning Team.

The Village Hall is proposing to install a small shipping container to store equipment etc.

**b. Highways** – JL reported on more traffic related incidents on the A350, two vehicular crashes at the Mill Street cross-roads and a wall knocked down opposite Parsonage Street. Peter Mole for the Speedwatch team estimated that over 1,000 vehicles per week were exceeding the speed limit by more than 5mph. A lively discussion ensued on the best way to tackle the problems including a one-way system, traffic lights, raised kerbstones, variable speed indicator device. The Parish Council agreed to fund a traffic survey (approx. £300) to establish the benefits of installing Speed Indicator Devices and where best to locate them along the A350. Some fund-raising activities would be needed to take forward the purchase of devices, possible sharing them with other parishes.

**c. Environment Protection** – AN reported that the School defibrillator continues to be checked regularly. A dog waste bin has been requested from Dorset Council to be placed at the entrance to the Gallops on Fontmell Hill. A request has been made to the Gore Farm Estate to increase the gap width between the concrete bollards at Chalk Pit carpark on Fontmell Hill.

**d. Social Infrastructure** – CS reported that Fontmell Magna's participation in the "Chase & Chalke Landscape" initiative, run by Cranborne Chase AONB, will centre on mapped out walks around the village area. CS also reported on recent Village Hall activities, with many clubs and societies re-starting their programmes and planned projects in the Friendship Garden.

Robert McCurrach reported that the FM Community Land Trust has raised over £200,000 towards buying the freehold of the Village Shop. A grant application has been submitted to the Government's Community Ownership Fund to secure the additional capital needed.



## **Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 in the Village Hall. (cont)**

**e. District Liaison** – DAPTC is providing training on the new Code of Conduct, recommended to all councillors.

**f. Footpaths** – No report available.

**g. Governance** – With Laura and Andrew joining the council, a revised list of councillors' responsibilities is available on the website; new councillor training will be provided. An online Register of Interests for councillors comes into force in October, replacing the paper forms.

### **Report from the RFO and Bills Presented**

Current balance is £7,865.

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

Clerk's salary and expenses – £394.82 Churchyard grant - £400

Code of Conduct training - £30

The RFO will prepare a Precept Plan for 2022/23. Councillors are to advise of any anticipated costs in 2022/23.

### **AOB**

Annie (AN) advised that regrettably she will be standing down at the year-end due to other commitments.

Residents reported that several traffic signs are overgrown by hedges along the parish's road and lanes. It is the land-owner's responsibility to keep these signs clearly visible to all road users.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.** A guest speaker from the police will be invited to the meeting to speak on Fraud Protection; an earlier start time will be advised if needed.

### **On The Shelf**

The Gossip Tree has included from time to time, requests (from Annie Newbury especially) for gardeners to resist cutting lawns and grassy patches so that our local plants provide more food for pollinators. Well done to the Village Hall Committee for a bank of yarrow, vetch and clover!

**The Friendship Garden bookcase** is home to several books on wildflower gardening and **Making a Wildflower Meadow by Pam Lewis** is one of them. It was printed in 2003 and is a history of the author's successful efforts to improve plant diversity on her once 'horse-sick' pasture. Some readers may have visited her meadows at Sticky Wicket near Buckland Newton before they closed in 2008. It was a truly magical place of peace and knowledge.

Although the book is nearly twenty years old now, it is a useful manual on how to turn exhausted or underutilised land (lawns) into something much more productive. And it is a relevant book to gardeners because 97% of vital pollinator rich grassland has been lost in the past 60 years, 13 bees species have become extinct since 1900, 35 are threatened, 75 % of main food crops worldwide are pollinated by bees. With no bees or other pollinators, it would cost £1.8bn every year to pollinate food crops by hand (data from FoE). Lewis writes that if 10% of the vast acreage of gardens in this country were left to flower they would provide 10,000 acres for butterflies, bees and other wildlife.



Her book examines several different ecologies but one of the most useful to many of us might be the section on the Garden Meadow Lawn, a wildlife friendly lawn that is smart and easy to maintain or the Mini Meadow, a tiny patch of rescued turf seeding successfully on hard core and gravel.

One highly practical suggestion: Lewis writes "In a very limited space I would choose [to grow] common knapweed above all other meadow plants. It is suitably competitive in grass, visited by masses of nectar seeking insects and it flowers prettily for almost three months." Seeds are available from Landlife Wildflowers, perhaps Fontmell Magna could become a pretty knapweed village?



### **AUTUMN TIDY UP OF BUDDLEIAS**

Any help will be welcome to cut down buddleias from Monday 18th to Thursday 21st October, 10am to 4pm at Princes Field. Contact Judy 811302



## Community Lunch Club

Fontmell Magna Village Hall's Community Lunch Club was recently awarded a Community Restart Grant by Dorset Council. This funding has enabled us to get the Lunch Club up and running again and to offer the lunches completely free of charge.

For those of you who weren't living in the Village before the first lockdown, this Lunch Club is a befriending scheme with the aim of tackling loneliness and isolation. We provide a 2 course hot lunch followed by tea or coffee, you are welcome to bring your own drinks as we only provide table water. The opening lunch menu is Cottage Pie followed by Apple, Pear and Blackberry Betty served with cream - there will also be a Vegetarian/ Vegan alternative.

All are welcome to attend and you are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbour who has perhaps become socially isolated, especially during this pandemic.

We are limited to 40 lunch places so if you'd like to come along please book quickly.

The lunches run monthly from October to March on the last Wednesday of the month, except for December when we are having a Community Tea Party on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

There is generally some sort of musical entertainment and children from the local school help out with serving food and chatting to guests.

It is a great way to get to know your neighbours, so please take advantage of the offer of a **FREE** lunch.

We look forward to welcoming you to our first lunch.

Please contact: Lisa on 01747 812 500 or Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339. For more details.

The Village Hall is a registered Charity No: 301129

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

## Wed 27<sup>th</sup> October Community Lunch Club

All are welcome to join us for a  
**FREE LUNCH** at

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

**Doors open 12 noon**

**Lunch Served from 12.30 pm**

For details call: Lisa 01747 812 500

or Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339

email: [lunch.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:lunch.fmvh@mail.com)

We can cater for  
most dietary  
requirements,  
please just let us  
know in advance



Please RSVP to Lisa or Rosie-Anne so we know how much to cook



## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Gossip Tree would like to welcome Mrs Debbie Brown who has taken over as Headteacher at St Andrew's School.

The school have some amazing initiatives starting and we will be sharing their news and stories regularly with the village - so we as a community can see the good work and also support their activities in the village.

They are producing a weekly newsletter outlining all of the school's activities and their plans for the future, if you would like to subscribe to this email, please contact them at [office@standrewsfontmell.co.uk](mailto:office@standrewsfontmell.co.uk)

## GENTLE AEROBICS HAS RETURNED

Attached is a photo of our fun exercise class, along with our Zoom participants too.

The hall is lovely and airy and we have a fantastic time dancing in the hall together instead of separately in our kitchens and conservatories with pets & other halves underfoot!

Currently there is only a 9.30am class, but a few others would like a 10.45am class too, so if we can get the numbers up we could run 2 classes.

If you fancy an early or mid-morning session please get in touch with Abby: 01747 850867 or [zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com](mailto:zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com)





# **FONTMELL MAGNA & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB** **PROGRAMME 2021-22**

All meetings take place in the Village Hall  
*(unless otherwise indicated)*

*on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month* starting at 7.30 p.m.

October 21<sup>st</sup> **A.G.M.** & Social Evening

November 18<sup>th</sup> Speaker from Castle Gardens  
 "House Plants for Christmas"

December 9<sup>th</sup> "Festive flower arranging"

Talk by Ellen from 'Bright Blooms'

*(Please note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)*

## **2022**

January 20<sup>th</sup> Mike Burks – Castle Gardens

February 17<sup>th</sup> "Epimediums" "What's in a name ?"  
 Sally Gregson of Mill Cottage Plants

March 17<sup>th</sup> "The Healthy Veg Garden"  
 Talk by Sally Morgan

April 21<sup>st</sup> **Social Evening**

May 11th Members' Shopping Evening  
6.00 p.m. at Castle Gardens  
 (Please note this is **Wednesday**)

June OUTING  
*(Date and venue to be arranged)*

August 6<sup>th</sup> **Garden Club Annual Show**

Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> Members' Social  
 in the Village Hall  
*(Please note this is a **Saturday**)*



## Iwerne Valley Walking Group—Damerham walk September 2021

Seven of us met in the Compasses Inn car park after a slightly delayed start. I managed to get a puncture on the way (fixed in ten minutes!). Our walk started by following a path that led down to the local school past a lovely garden which would appear to have been used to supply more than the owner as there was a well-stocked and considerable kitchen garden not to mention lots of flowers. From the school we took a lane down past some lovely houses before turning off onto a narrow path past a place where shepherd's huts on wheels were being built, one of which was a masterpiece.

The path then led up to the start of the path across the fields, up to some woods. The views back gave a panoramic view of the village which is quite spread out across the valley with the church on the far side. You could see some of the houses had similar views back the other way (des reses). The path then led up through the woods to a delightful meadow surrounded on all sides by trees. Through this we came to another field with more panoramic views, this time of the rest of the village which couldn't be seen earlier. We had to wade through lush and rather dewy grass down the hill and across another field back into the village. Once back in the original lane a right turn took us to another path leading through more woods and over the river that runs through the village (another Avon!). Out the other side, left turn and up a slope through more fields to the path that led up to the church. The church gave us a rather pleasant surprise as it was decorated for a wedding that afternoon with a beautiful display of flowers.

From there it was back down the hill to the school, back along the original path to the pub. We were joined in the pub garden by the guests for the wedding enjoying a few!!! libations before the actual event (if they were able to make it!).

Jim Bird



### Compost Corner

Every year we enjoy a visit from a delightful couple who, as children, once lived in our house. We sit in the garden and take afternoon tea and they recount stories of what life was like in Fontmell Magna back in the 1940s and 1950s. Then a couple of years ago, I made tea as usual, but after a sip or two it was left unconsumed and offers of a top up were declined. It was only when I was cooking later in the day that I realised I had put salt in the sugar bowl - the tea must have tasted disgusting!

It's a similar issue with garden chemicals; it is never a good idea to decant chemicals into an unmarked container, you're left not knowing what they are or the correct dilution rate, both of which can be absolutely crucial. Pesticides, insecticides and fertilisers are invariably very toxic and care should always be taken to handle them correctly and always store them well out of reach from any children.

This year when our friends visited they bought their own cake possibly to ensure they at least had something edible to eat!

Alison Main



### Village weather for August 2021

A showery start, then high pressure took over with rather a lot of cloud but dry.

11 rain days, no gales, air or ground frost, 1 day thunder.

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 7.6 mm on 6th)	31 mm	115.7 mm
Sunshine	122.4 hrs	147.4 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 22.4 °C on 25th and 26th)	20.2 °C	22.4 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 5.3 °C on 27th)	10.9°C	12.6 °C

This October 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 November issue contact me via email:

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**Submissions for the November issue by Thursday 21st October please.**

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

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