



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*Kindly Sponsored by The Archive Society*

SEPTEMBER

2021

Issue 330

## Dorset Historic Churches Trust- St Andrews Fontmell Magna.

The annual Ride and Stride event is 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).



## St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna—Services

September

5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Sunday Breakfast at the Village Hall

12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Morning Worship

19<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Harvest Festival

26<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion

## Sian Highnam is running ( shuffling!) the London Marathon on October 3rd with her twin sister, Bethan.

This is the link to her Just Giving page with the story . There is also a hard copy for sponsorship at the till in the village shop..

Villagers might see her out and about early doors running four times a week - her long runs are on Saturdays or Sundays and she will be wearing her charity vest with her name on - so easy to see it is her!



Search Sian Highnam at [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) or follow the link

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=sian-highnam-SAVMLMBONDS333-2020-182476&pageUrl=1>

## Notices – September 2021

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

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

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

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: 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



## 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](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.  
New members welcome.  
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](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)

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)**

## FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE ARCHIVE SOCIETY

The Archive Society is to reconvene on Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup> after our enforced break and will then continue with our regular monthly meetings which are held on the third Thursday of the month from 4.00pm – 5.30pm.

The first meeting will commence with the AGM; a very simple and short official time, and then we shall discuss where the small group of active members will put their energies in the coming months. We would welcome anyone interested in joining us or just interested in what we do to come along or contact the Society.

The Archive Society, over many years, has established a considerable collection of photographs, documents, ephemera, maps and artefacts associated with the Parish of Fontmell Magna, which includes Bedchester and parts of Hartgrove.

The parish is 'interestingly' shaped like a small dog!



The Society exists to collect and research new material, to protect the archived material we have for future generations and to facilitate its availability to interested people. We have a very good website ([fontmellmagna.net](http://fontmellmagna.net)) on which members have put research articles and a gallery of some of our collection of photographs and links to other sites of interest to the local area.

Until the pandemic the society presented, excellently received, biennial, four-day exhibitions in the Village Hall and occasional articles in the Gossip Tree. We also answer questions and requests for information through the website e-mail facility or to members of the Society. ([Roger Hillman 01747811878](mailto:Roger.Hillman@fontmellmagna.net))

The dwindling band of active members will, after the very short AGM, discuss the future direction of the Society particularly how to recruit new members and projects to develop the scope and range of activities of the Society. Possible projects include the digitalisation of the archive material to fit alongside our data base and image bank so that it would be available online for the general public. The Dorset History Centre would be prepared to advise best practise for this activity which would be a long-term project. A book published by the Society in 2007 called A Community Study proved to be very popular but we have no more copies so this could be re-written and published online. Also, much material produced for our exhibitions could be written as articles for the web site. We are also cooperating with Julian Richards (local TV archaeologist) in his project 'The Last Wild Britain - the hunt for our Stone Age Ancestors', which is investigating Mesolithic times around Springhead

**We really need your help as our numbers are dwindling and it is so important that we keep the memories of this village alive. We are a fun group with much laughter! Does that encourage you? We'd love to hear from you!**





# Springhead

a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

## Open Gardens & Membership News from the Springhead Trust

Things have been somewhat quieter at Springhead over the past year or so but now that life is beginning to return to normal, we have some events planned and are restarting the Friends' membership programme.

If you have supported us before, we would love to have you back and, if you have not done so, do please join and support our charitable work. Membership is just £15 a year single, or £25 joint and entitles you to free entrance to the gardens on days when we are open. There are also reductions on tickets for various events.

The support of our Friends is important to us as a charity, not just in financial terms but also through volunteering, either helping in the gardens or at events. Do let us know if you are interested.

You can sign up to be a Friend at:

<https://www.springheadtrust.org.uk/support-us/join-the-friends-of-springhead/>  
or join when you visit us.



## News from the Village Hall

The Pop-up Café team had a busy August with a steady flow of visitors popping in for tea and cake on Wednesday Afternoons. Thank you to everyone who helped with that, donated cakes or came along for a cuppa and some cake. We made a small profit to go towards the Friendship Garden Fund.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the National Play Day Event "Picnic in the Park" at the beginning of August, we estimate the attendance was over 200. It was lovely to see so many children trying out different activities. We were very lucky with the weather and we all had lots of fun, even our hard working volunteers. We'd like to thank everyone who made the day possible, providing such a lovely range of activities for the children. The kitchen catering was a triumph, with a fabulous children's picnic menu planned and produced by Susanah. Thanks also for the donated cakes and to all of you who helped out serving food and drinks.

The last Pop-up Café of the year will be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September then we plan to re-start our monthly Community Lunch Clubs between September and March. Please keep a lookout for our further announcements and posters once all the dates are confirmed.

The new equipment we were expecting to purchase for the playground this summer has been delayed because our preferred supplier is overwhelmed with new playground orders. Maintenance is still being carried out and we aim to have some new equipment in the under 12's playground by the Spring.

Arrangements for the Early Christmas Market on 16<sup>th</sup> October are progressing well thanks to Sian and Rosie-Anne. Raffle tickets will be on sale soon with the proceeds going towards the Village Hall, Playground and Friendship Garden Charities. Any extra money we raise enables us to make additional improvements to the hall, play area and garden for the benefit of all who use the hall and its' grounds.

We would really welcome some help with finding raffle prizes this year so if you have any new, unused items you are willing to donate for us to add to a basket or if you would like to donate a gift, a voucher or a complete hamper please contact Sian by email: [garden.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:garden.fmvh@mail.com) or Rosie-Anne [ra@yatesmail.com](mailto:ra@yatesmail.com)





## FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

We have had some lovely events in the Village Hall and Friendship Garden in August - notably our afternoon to celebrate National Play Day on August 4<sup>th</sup>. We were blessed with lovely weather and had a fantastic turnout. Families enjoyed the Pop Up Play Village, pottery painting, face painting, friendship bracelet making, craft activities, posy making, tennis coaching and had some fantastic healthy snacks cooked by Susannah de Ferry Foster.

The Pop Up cafe has continued throughout August on Wednesdays from 2-4 pm and it has been lovely to see and meet new people. The LAST pop up cafe session is on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup>. All the funds raised will be ploughed back into Village hall and garden activities.



### FUNDING

Waitrose have been in touch through their very supportive customer support representative- Helen Keevil. I am delighted to say they have been impressed with all our work and have chosen us as one of their nominated projects to support nature and the environment. We have been awarded £400 which will go towards buying Spring bulbs, bee friendly seeds and seeds and plants for next year.



### FUTURE PLANS

#### 1. THURSDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> - Hello Yellow Morning in support of mental health in young children.

We are joining with St Andrew's School to recognise and support this important initiative. The social prescribing aim of the garden is a direct link here and we will be welcoming the children, who will be dressed in yellow and will be planting yellow flowers in their long bed in the garden and at the entrance to the village hall. They will be planting daffodils, narcissi and tulips with the promise of blooms in Spring.

We would welcome any villager help here in assisting to plant, or serving the yellow food and drink we are planning! We just ask you also please dress in yellow.

The village hall and garden will be open for this event and we are in the process of finalising details. Please do get in touch with me if you would like to help and be involved in this special morning.

#### 2. SATURDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> - AUTUMN FAIR 11-3 pm

Please put this date in your diaries. As last year, we are holding an early Christmas/ Autumn fair where there will be stalls, food and live music. We are working on all the details at the moment.

REQUEST PLEASE FOR: CAKES FOR THE CAKE STALL, HELP TO SERVE TEAS, SET UP, HELP ON A STALL RAFFLE PRIZES  
Again, please get in touch with me if you can help in any way.

We are also in the process of planning the garden for next year and all clubs in the village have been contacted regarding beds for next year and we are planning something a little different! - more details to follow in the October edition. Thank you to everyone who has manned and is still manning the garden on the rota, ensuring it looks so wonderful and also to everyone who has baked and helped out at the Pop up Cafe. Fontmell Magna is a truly wonderful village

Siân



## Councillors Chronicles No.6 – A Cunning Plan

Regular readers of the new Blackmore Vale magazine can't help but notice that planning applications, often followed by disputes, feature in successive editions. Planning consent is of concern to so many of us and we tend to have strong views about what should be permitted and what is unacceptable. The 6<sup>th</sup> August edition contains an article which highlights the tension that can exist between Neighbourhood Plans and the Dorset Local Plan. Our parish is one of the fortunate ones in having a Neighbourhood Plan because its existence ensures a strong influence in planning decisions regarding local policies and preferences.

In Fontmell Magna, one on-going planning application, land South of Home Farm (aka. Pennyfarthing Homes) has taken over three years to resolve, see <https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=59976>

Reasons for delay have included style and design, what the developers will contribute in terms of amenities and facilities, concern for wildlife and ecology, visual impact and most recently the question of who will be responsible for the drop-off area at the back of the school. Negotiations are proceeding and Dorset Council should reach a decision about the outcome by the end of the year.



The scheme complies with the Neighbourhood Plan which identifies the site as one of the most suitable for the development of the 40 new homes that the current Dorset Local Plan has specified for our parish. This number is likely to rise in the next edition of the Dorset Local Plan. Like most other parishes, the Parish Council should identify where a prescribed number of new homes can be accommodated.

Before any planning application is discussed by FM Parish Councillors, an informal advisory group of volunteers, who were all involved in constructing the Neighbourhood Plan and who wanted to use the knowledge and experience they had built up to benefit the community further, assess each submission according to strict criteria. The NP Monitoring Group report on each planning application and make a recommendation to the Parish Council. The PC decides whether to support or object to an application or to make no comment. This is not a subjective response - all decisions

must be made according to local and national regulations and to what is specified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The FM advisory group includes two retired architects and a parish councillor amongst others and the Parish Council is much indebted to them for their diligence and commitment. They are a significant asset to the community and of considerable help to the PC, so thank you to them all. If you are interested in joining the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group please email Robert McCurrach at [robertmccurrach@aol.com](mailto:robertmccurrach@aol.com)



### Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd

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

email: [fontmell.clt@gmail.com](mailto:fontmell.clt@gmail.com) website: [www.fmclt.org](http://www.fmclt.org)

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

#### FMCLT and the Village Shop – An Update

Following our request to members and supporters for funds, we have received a wonderful response, with nearly £180,000 transferred to our bank account so far. A big thank you to all of you who have contributed!

Our application for grant funding from the Government's Community Ownership Fund (whose aim is to enable communities to purchase valuable assets such as shops and post offices) was submitted earlier this month. We were very grateful to Cllr Jane Somper who wrote in support of our application, and also to our MP Simon Hoare, who has written a personal letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in our support and offering to help in any way he can.

Now we are waiting to hear the fate of our application, hopefully some time in September.

We are also delighted to be able to announce that Chris Dymond has agreed to take on the task of overseeing the acquisition of the freehold of the shop premises. Chris is the Director of a major property investment company and brings a level of experience and knowledge which will be invaluable.

As the project gathers momentum we are looking for more help, particularly in the areas of communication and accounting. If you can help, please contact Robert McCurrach on 01747 812077, or on [fontmellclt@gmail.com](mailto:fontmellclt@gmail.com).



## 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)



## Compost Corner

I had a worrying phone call recently regarding some bees that had taken up residence in the eaves of our roof. According to a national bee expert, who had been sent one of the bees to identify, they were an extremely dangerous invasive species, deadly to our native bees and would require immediate professional (and very costly - for us) removal and destruction. Eek....and then the person at the other end of the phone (the 'person' being my brother, he who experimented with lettuce and mangles) said it was a shame it wasn't 1st April.....The bees were in fact native honey bees and perfectly harmless; no need for any action at all. It's well known that bees and in fact, insects in general, are in serious trouble not just in the UK but world-wide. Anything we can do, even on the smallest scale, will help: avoid all pesticides, plant some wild flowers and pollen and nectar rich plants and make an insect hotel. My brother is also a professional snail expert and very anti squishing them - so in the interest of family harmony, I guess I'll just have to put up with holey lettuce.

Alison Main



## Village weather for July 2021

An unsettled start followed by a 9 day heatwave then a damp unsettled end to the month.

18 rain days, no air or ground frost, 2 days thunder and 1 gale

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 22.5 mm on 11th)	110.1 mm	81.5 mm
Sunshine	172 hrs (ave 5.6 hrs)	189.7 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 30.3 °C on 21st )	22.5 °C	19.97 °C
Min mean temp. (lowest 8.9 °C on 11th)	12.9°C	10.14 °C

This September 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 October 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 October issue by Thursday 23rd September 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)***