



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

DECEMBER

2022

Issue 345

## Fontmell Magna Village shop, post office and café

The Craft group have created lovely gifts for Christmas available to purchase in the cafe. All proceeds go to Weldmar Hospice.

Dry Cleaning and laundry services available as usual.

Most of you will be aware we work alongside many local companies e.g. Dorset honey (Twyford), Dorset chocolate Co. Prime Cuts (Shaftesbury), Leopard Dairy (Iwerne), 'From Dorset With Love' products, Meggy Moo (Shroton), Crook & Churn Dairy (Farringdon), Shaftesbury Wines, Cranborne Chase cider, Mrs. Mack's dressing, Cann Mills flour, Wiltons wholefoods (huge variety of dried fruits and nuts), Moores biscuits, Plant World (Gillingham), Long Crichel bakery, Panary Bakery (Cann) and of course not forgetting Lavender Blue (Gillingham) cakes and patisserie.

Please remember that when ordering through us in most cases you will pay the same as if buying directly from the individual company.

Meat, dairy, fruit & veg, alcohol and groceries can be ordered directly from the shop in person or on 01747 811201. Can we have your Christmas orders as soon as possible please.

We also sell over 30 varieties of cheese so please ask if you can't find your favourite.

Christmas trees and wreaths will be here again this year and ideally be ordered, in person or by phone, by 21<sup>st</sup> November please? Other products please order asap.



Small trees 4'-5' £ TBC approx £28

Medium 5'-6'6" £ TBC approx £40

Large 7'-9'6" £ TBC approx £55

Order forms will be available in the shop from December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Christmas Closed 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. New Years Day and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan closed.

28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 9 - 1.

## Fontmell Films 🎬 🎬 🎬

Our film for 14th December is 'The Railway Children Return'. It's 1944 and World War II is raging. Bobbie (Jenny Agutter), one of the original Railway Children but by now a grandmother, welcomes a group of evacuees from Salford to her home in Yorkshire. One day they encounter a young African American GI (Kenneth Aitkens) who, like them, is far away from home, and who is hiding from the authorities.

Doors open at 7pm for complimentary mulled wine and mince pies with the film showing at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available at £6.50 at the Village Shop or £7 on the door.

We look forward to seeing you then.

The Moviola Committee

For more information please call Libby on 01747.811551



## Notices – December 2022

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

4th 0900 Special Sunday Breakfast for St Andrew's Day  
11th 0930 Morning Worship  
18th 1600 Carol Service  
24th 2330 Midnight Holy Communion  
25th 0930 Christmas Day Holy Communion

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 6th December 2022 in the village hall at 1900. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm

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

**Cafe** 9-4 Monday to Friday and 9-12 Saturday

garden cafe from May - October

A2 licence for home-cooked meals, all day breakfast, jackets toasties etc

### The Tea Room Crafters

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

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

### The Fontmell

### CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Enquiries: 811441 or [john@thefontmell.com](mailto:john@thefontmell.com)

### St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Our December Christmas walk will be on the morning of Saturday 17th. Leaders are Clare Martin (07769 553999) and Claire Watson (07708 473568)

Sorry we can't be more specific at this point.

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

### Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

## Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Returns in 2023

Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or  
garden.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna & District Society

1st Friday of the month, October to May from 7.30pm.  
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282  
Email: [susanannekeen@gmail.com](mailto:susanannekeen@gmail.com)

Fontmell Films

Enquires: Libby Gendall 811551

Archive Society

3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall Next meeting is the AGM on 17th November  
4.00 to 5.30pm. Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

See page 2 for details of next meeting

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 at 0930 and 1100  
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281  
[Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk)

Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 1000-1100.  
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci Gillett 07940 961221 [stablebodies@gmail.com](mailto:stablebodies@gmail.com)

Pilates with Sam Whitford – Monday mornings term-time

*Mondays 10.30 to 11.30am. Contact Sam Whitford 07740 906515 email: [s.whitford@btinternet.com](mailto:s.whitford@btinternet.com)*

Taekwon-do

Friday 5.30 to 6.30—suitable for adults and children from 6 years. Enquiries:  
Sam Donohoo 07388 342625 or  
[sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk)

Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –  
[murchie25@btinternet.com](mailto:murchie25@btinternet.com) Adults £1 per hour,  
Children/Students 50p per hour

Aerobics

Thursday 1000-1100 Gentle/Low impact aerobics with Abby  
Enquiries; Abby Down 01747 850867 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)**

## Zumba With Abby D

*I'm pleased to say, Thursday Morning's Group Exercise will be returning to the Village Hall in the New Year with an addition! There will now be 2 classes – so choose your level and get in touch.*

Zumba Gold \*

**10 am** is the 45min standing, low impact Zumba Gold class – music from around the world, lots of different rhythms broken down and simplified but that will still challenge your brain, make you feel good and leave you humming & happy for the rest of the day.

Zumba Chair \*\*

**11am** is the NEW 30min Seated Chair Zumba class. Fun, chirpy tunes – old and new – to wiggle on your chair to, with arm and leg movements to challenge your core and improve your co-ordination. You will be surprised how warm you get. Afterwards we can have a cuppa and chat together: and we've definitely earned a biscuit or 2 – so stay and socialise with others in the warmth of the village hall, til noon.

\* Zumba Gold returns Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, please express your interest/ pre-book your places in advance

**\*\* THE CHAIR CLASS LAUNCHES ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023 AND ANYONE WHO CAN GET TO THE HALL AND SIT ON AN ARMLESS CHAIR IS WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**\*\*FREE demo of the Chair class next Wed, 30th Nov, at her 'Open Hall' Coffee Morning.\*\***

## **Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club**

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall. The talk is 'Springhead Garden', by Jonathon Pinder and guests are welcome (£2 payable on the door). Refreshments are available. For further details on the Garden Club please contact Sue Chippington 811520.

Whether you are a novice gardener or a seasoned campaigner you might like to meet with like-minded garden enthusiasts at our garden club meetings. We are a friendly bunch and meet once a month at Fontmell Magna Village Hall, usually on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. We have speakers on a range of topics, a summer outing, social evenings and links with Castle Gardens at Sherborne. If you fancy joining the club, or just want to come along as a guest to one of our evenings, then contact the Secretary Sue Chippington on 01747 811520 for more details.

## **VILLAGE CAROL SINGING**

After the cancellation of this annual event for two years due to Covid, we are planning to sing carols around the village on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. You are welcome to join us or just listen on your doorsteps. Please watch out for us as we come down your way (we don't knock on doors unless asked to) – approximate times below.

Bring your babies in buggies, dogs with decorations (or not!) and your lanterns.

We meet at the village Hall at 5.30 and finish at the church about 7.00 with Christmas drinks and nibbles. Everyone is welcome.

- 5:30 Village Hall
- 5:35 West View
- 5:40 Orchard Close
- 5:50 Fontmell Under 5's track
- 6:00 The Maples, West Street
- 6:15 Collyer's Rise
- 6.35 St Andrew's View
- 6.50 Holbrook, Church Street
- 7:00 Mulled wine and mince pies inside the Church

## Silver Clay workshop at Fontmell Magna Village Hall Wednesday 1st February 2023

Fontmell Magna Village Hall offers yet another unique activity. Silver Clay is a fantastic material to work with. Creating your own jewellery in one day is great fun and no previous experience is required. Jo Richards of Faye Benjamin has been invited to come from her base in Winchester. Please view her web pages and Etsy shop online

[fayebenjamin.co.uk](http://fayebenjamin.co.uk)  
[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/FayeBenjamin](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/FayeBenjamin)  
[www.facebook.com/fayebenjaminjewellery](http://www.facebook.com/fayebenjaminjewellery)  
[www.instagram.com/fayebenjaminjewellery](http://www.instagram.com/fayebenjaminjewellery)



To book please contact

[susanheatley19@gmail.com](mailto:susanheatley19@gmail.com)

Places are a minimum of 6 maximum of 8

Bookings paid in advance

Price £78.00pp and £18 on the day for supplies

Closing date for bookings

17th December 2022

If there are cancellations places can be offered from a waiting list

In the unlikely event of not reaching a minimum number of attendees and cancelling the day all fees will be refunded in full

This is a perfect gift experience and ideal to give at Christmas.

A gift certificate can be issued on payment, just make sure your gift receiver is able to attend!!



Fontmell Magna Village Hall is a charitable organisation regulated by the Charity Commission. Registration number:

### IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—OCTOBER 2022

Despite a not very promising start to the morning, the sun came out just as the group headed out from the car park of the Walled Garden Café in Moreton. Fourteen walkers and two dogs enjoyed the varied walk around Moreton which covered a section of the Queen Elizabeth trail and part of the TE Lawrence walking trail. The route included woodland, open common land and points of historic interest. Along the route we saw a memorial marking the spot where TE Lawrence came off his motorbike which led to his death.

Along the route a spectacular example of autumn flora was spotted in the form of Fly Agaric mushrooms. Famous for their hallucinogenic properties they are not to be included in any walker's foraging collection! On return to the Walled Garden, the walkers were joined by 4 additional members for the lunch. The Walled Garden and its café (the Dovecote Café) places a special focus on employing people with learning difficulties and it was good to be supporting such a worthy organisation while enjoying a very nice lunch. As a bonus addition for the walkers there was the opportunity to visit the nearby cemetery where TE Lawrence was buried and St Nicholas Church. The inside of the church is flooded with light due to the thirteen windows engraved by the artist Sir Laurence Whistler.

Anne & Richard Andrews..

### COMPOST CORNER CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Put on your boots, grab a jacket and take a look around your garden - do you know where all your plants are from? Are they true natives to these isles or do they hail from moors, mountains or meadows many miles away.

Test your plant knowledge with this little quiz

1. Dahlias have had a long flowering season this year. These beautiful flowers are native to a) Brazil b) Costa Rica c) Mexico
2. Horse Chestnuts are magnificent trees but were only introduced in the 16C but from where? a) the Balkans b) the Iberian peninsula c) Ireland
3. Lupins and Wisteria have something in common - they're both members of the pea family. The stunning Wisteria sinensis was unknown in the west until 1816...but where was it found? a) Japan b) Korea c) China
4. A beech wood is such a glorious place to walk and in spring often carpeted with bluebells, but are they really native to the UK? a) yes b) no
5. Dierama are a perfect addition to pond side planting, their arching stems bearing spikes of bell like flowers. Sadly they are now an endangered species due to loss of habitat in their original home of a) South Africa b) Turkey c) Madeira

It's Christmas! And there is a shrub flowering now that has the most delicious fragrance - it's called 'Christmas Box', *Sarcococca hookeriana*, named after Sir Joseph Hooker a famous botanist and plant collector. It was introduced to the UK from a) Australia b) S. Europe c) N E Asia

Happy Christmas!

Alison Main



## FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



As the garden goes to sleep for Winter ( when it arrives!), we have been delighted to receive three awards in recent weeks.

### DORSET VOLUNTEERING SERVICE – TEAM OR GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD



I was accompanied by Sue Morgan and Sara Jane Glanville to a wonderful awards evening on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Dorset Volunteering centre in Dorchester. We were recognised in the team or group of the year award and we were delighted to accept the certificate on behalf of the whole village. It was a humbling evening with some fantastic volunteers recognised, from teenagers to a lovely lady who was 90 who had been volunteering in Dorchester hospital for 25 years. It was a privilege to be recognised in a room full of amazing people who give hours of their time to their communities.

There will be formal photos appearing on the Dorset Volunteering website in due course. ([volunteeringdorset.org.uk](http://volunteeringdorset.org.uk))

We give a special thanks to Mike Humphreys from the Parish Council who nominated us as a project.

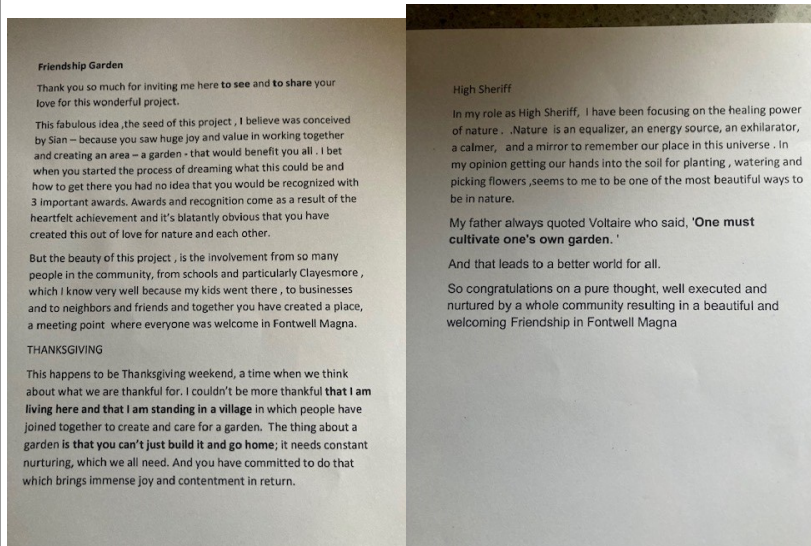
### HIGH SHERIFF OF DORSET RECOGNITION AWARD

Mrs Sybil King visited us on Saturday November 26<sup>th</sup> to award a special High Sheriff of Dorset award for volunteering in the village.

The village hall was full of villagers who have been involved in either the garden or pop up café project. Mrs Sybil King said some very kind awards and presented a certificate and unveiled our plaque, which will be installed outside the village hall for everyone to see.



Mrs King spent time talking to villagers and learning about the garden and café project. As ever, there was a magnificent display of cakes and savoury scones and a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the morning such a success.



These are the kind words of the High Sheriff at the presentation.

### RHS- IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARD FOR A GARDEN COMMUNITY PROJECT

We were assessed by a RHS assessor in June who measured us against very strict criteria and we were delighted to hear we had achieved the highest grade – a level five and an outstanding.

The certificates for the RHS award and the Dorset Volunteering award will be on display in the village hall for everyone to enjoy.

A plaque recognising all three awards will be on display outside the village hall entrance in recognition of the work of so many people in the village and to our sponsors in the area.

# Christmas Fayre

Fontmell Magna Village Hall  
Saturday 10th December 10am to 2.30pm

As well as 14 lovely stalls we are also selling Festive Fayre from our Kitchen with hot drinks and mulled wine. We are also running a Grand Hamper Christmas Raffle where you have the chance to win one of 4 generously filled hampers. The first prize is a Luxury Christmas Hamper "everything you need for Christmas". Tickets are just £1 each and are on sale at the Fontmell Magna Village Shop & Post Office.

Stallholders include:

- The Real Cure - local delicious charcuterie from Hartgrove
- Local Somerset Cider
- The Tackroom Distillery - this year, along with the London Dry and Summer Cup, Tim is bringing his new Bison Grass Gin and his Rhubarb and Blood Orange. He also makes lovely candles from the botanicals used in his gin making.
- We have several talented local crafters with their wonderfully diverse craft stalls selling cushions, bags, aprons, bird boxes, knitted items, sewn items, costume jewellery, felted gnomes, angels and reindeer etc.
- Faye Benjamin Jewellery - Jo will be bringing her handmade fine and sterling silver jewellery. She also runs workshops in jewellery making so pop by to have a chat if you're interested in having a go or even buy a gift experience for a family member.
- Freckledy Speckledy, the accidental potter, is back again this year with her lovely range of hand thrown pottery, ornaments and homewares
- The Self-Care Company are back with their hand poured essential oil soy candles and reed diffusers. They smell so gorgeous and make a lovely gift.
- Local jewellery maker Fran Deeming makes a return with her silver jewellery pendants, earrings, bracelets and rings; all made from 992 pure silver.
- Mandy Forrester fused glass is new this year, she makes fused glass decorative items and cards.
- Elle Adams has a wonderful selection of Tropic skincare, body care and makeup with products for you to try so why not pop along for a free consultation.
- Nicola will also be with us for the first time, she sells quality greetings cards, craft kits, charity Christmas cards, paper stationery for everyday as well as Christmas.
- We will also have our usual Preserves and Cake Stall

Proceeds from the Fayre will help us to hit our target of £10,000 towards the new children's play area coming next year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising over the past 5 years.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall Committee: Registered Charity No.301129

**Springhead**  
a rural centre for creative and sustainable living

**GARDEN OF DELIGHTS CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**FRIDAY 2- SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER 10-4**

**FREE ENTRY**

Springhead is pleased to be hosting this popular fair again this year. Many artists from the West Country will be showcasing their work.

This is an ideal chance to find unusual presents without the rush of the high street.





**STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET?**



**Fontmell Community Support is available**

Weekly 'Hub' every Wednesday 3-4.30 pm in the Fontmell Village Hall

Warm Space Welcoming cuppa Friendly Advice

Access to Foodbank Boxes



Everyone is welcome - starts 14 December

Point of Contact: Robert Wellen robertwellen@btinternet.com or 01747 8211070

The Fontmell Community Support (FCS) will launch a 'warm hub' at the Village Hall on Wednesday 14 December 2022 from 3 to 4.30 p.m. There will be a second on the following Wednesday at the same time and then it is planned to resume every week in January, same date, time and place. FCS is an entirely voluntary 'association' of members of the Church PCC with others participating. It has been launched in liaison with the village school, the parish council and the village hall. Anyone in the village or the surrounds will be welcome for a cuppa and a chat in a warm and safe environment and foodbank assistance will be available, provided by the Gillingham Trussell Trust. If anyone would be willing to volunteer to help and/ or would be willing to make a donation towards heating the village hall, perhaps from the government's heating allowance, if they do not need it, - please contact Robert Wellen on [robertwellen@btinternet.com](mailto:robertwellen@btinternet.com) or 01747 8211070 or to make a donation directly to the Fontmell Magna Village Hall A/c No: 01138325 Sort code: 30-93-45 (gift aid available on application to the village hall).

**BRING THE FAMILY TO CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS**

**SERVICES AT ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH,**  
**FONTMELL MAGNA**

Sunday 18 December at 4 pm: CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 1130 pm: HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day) at 9.30 am: HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone welcome

**Compost Corner**

Christmas Quiz answers

1. Mexico
2. The Balkans
3. China
4. No
5. South Africa
6. N E Asia

Alison Main



**Village weather for October 2022**

Very unsettled with plenty of rain at times. Some good sunshine mid month with light rain. Some colourful sunsets. Mild with predominantly southern air flow.

25 rain days, 1 day thunder, 6 gales 5 ground frost, 1 air frost, no hail.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 36.4mm on 21st)	163.4mm	172mm
Sunshine 122.7 hrs	100.6 hours Avg 3.2	87.4 hrs Avg 2.8 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 20.1°C on 29th)	17.4°C	16.1°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -0.2°C on 11th)	8.6°C	8.0°C

This December 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 January issue contact me via email:

**(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)**

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: [blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com) for further information.  
**Submissions for the November issue by Friday 16th December 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)*