



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by Briony & Jeremy Long

JANUARY

2022

Issue 334

## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations June 2022

You have no doubt noticed that there is a 4-day bank holiday planned for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June this year.

A few of us are keen to organise a Street Party to celebrate the Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June as part of the national "Big Jubilee Lunch" inviting all villagers to share friendship, food and fun with their neighbours as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved. We will need help in the planning as well as help on the day.

For more information please contact: Lisa 07962 138039, Sian 811 028 or Barry 811 906



## Notices – January 2022

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

See announcement opposite

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 19th January 2022 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: [cjlrlane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cjlrlane.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

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

### Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

## 🎉 🎉 🎬 🎬 Fontmell Film Nights 🎬 🎬 🎉 🎉

Our first film of 2022 showing on Wednesday 12th January is "The Courier" (12A) starring Benedict Cumberbatch. A thriller, this is the true story of British businessman Greville Wynne who unwittingly is recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history.

Tickets are on sale now at the village shop £6.50 or £7 on the door.

Doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30 We look forward to seeing you and it will be our first film sitting on the new village hall chairs—very exciting!!

For more information please call Libby on 01747.811551



## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH FONTMELL MAGNA—JANUARY 2022

No Sunday Breakfast in January

9 9.30am Morning Worship

16 9.30am Holy Communion with choir

23 9.30am Holy Communion

30 10.00am Benefice Service at ASHMORE

Since the implementation of Plan B, the congregation are being asked to wear masks again, as is the requirement for all public buildings.

Other measures such as hand gel and respecting the wishes of others for social distancing remain in place. We will still be serving refreshments.

## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday 15th January at 10 a.m. from Tarrant Gunville (DT11 8JW) to Chettle and back.

Leaders: Judy on 01747 811302 and Phyl on 01747 811713.



## Community Lunch Club

January's Community Lunch will take place in the village hall on Wednesday 26th January.

12 for 12.30pm.

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



## Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust Ltd

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

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

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

The Directors are delighted to say that FMCLT has now been able to raise a total of £385,000 for the proposed purchase of the Village Shop freehold. Of this, £205,000 comes from shareholders' pledges (as previously advised). The balance is being provided, in 5-year interest-free loans, by members of the community who wish to remain anonymous. The Directors are proceeding with the preparation of the necessary legal documentation and due diligence, and are very grateful for this extra support.

This total amount is at the lower end of the amounts foreseen in the Prospectus. This is because we do not now need a commercial mortgage, which would have incurred costs. However, a slower build-up of surpluses may mean that the ability to provide funds for community projects will be delayed.

The next stage will be to press on with purchasing the freehold, as agreed in principle with the freeholder. We have appointed a solicitor and the normal searches and pre-contract work are now under way.

If you would like any further information, please see our website (<https://www.fmclt.org/>), and do not hesitate to contact any of the directors.

### Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2021 – Julian Richards – “Finding Flints in Fontmell”

If you had been living in the Middle Stone Age about seven thousand years ago you would not have wanted to meet an angry auroch on a dark night. These were a fearsome type of cattle (now extinct) with huge horns that roamed the land along with wolves and bears.

It is well known that humans at that time were hunter gatherers, always on the move in search of food. In fact, however, there are places by rivers and springs where people stayed put and the food came to them in the form of fish in the water and animals coming to drink. There is a Mesolithic site next to the A303 where footprints of aurochs have been found in swampy ground by a spring. The aurochs came to drink, got stuck in the mud, and were killed and carved up with tools of flint.

Julian is an archaeologist specialising in the Stone Age periods and was interested when Judy and Peter Westgate showed him the flints that had been found in their garden. He started work on the Springhead Project, following a previous visit with local schoolchildren, in August 2021. So far the project team has successfully dug 31 test pits and many beautiful flints have been found. Animals clearly came to drink at the spring and what Julian would really like would be to find a base camp, a site of more settled habitation, with animal bones. He will therefore keep digging and everyone is warmly welcome to come and look and participate. In particular, if anyone finds worked flints in their garden, he would be grateful if you could contact him via the Springhead office.

Our next talk is in the New Year on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. We will have a talk by Sir John Stuttard, a former Lord Mayor of London, about his experiences on the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge 1997.

Michael Golberg

### **Free ‘Startup School for Seniors’ course for Dorset residents**

Are you currently unemployed, have recently been made redundant or are looking to branch out on your own?

**Startup School for Seniors** is a free eight week eLearning course for unemployed Dorset residents, who are looking to start their own business.

This course is for you if:

- You have a passion or idea you'd like to turn into a business
- You want to gain the skills necessary to get a new business off the ground
- You would benefit from the support of others

The course is being delivered online by entrepreneur Suzanne Noble and business coach Mark Elliott, who create a fun, interactive learning experience and support you to progress week by week.

Funded by [Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership](#), the course is **free** for those based in the county. The course starts on 14 January 2022 and registration will open shortly. Add your email address to our reminder list now and we will be in touch with you soon. You can sign up at [www.startupschoolforseniors.com](http://www.startupschoolforseniors.com)

## 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 the month, October to May from 7.30pm.  
Enquiries: Dick Stainer 811153

### Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Barry Roberts 811906

### 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

### Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

Thursday 9 December 7.30pm  
'Festive Flower Arranging' A talk by Ellen from Bright Blooms

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](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)**

## **THANK YOU TO WONDERFUL, GENEROUS PEOPLE**

When the news reports showed the desperate situation at Kabul airport during the evacuation from Afghanistan, many of us were deeply moved. These were people in urgent fear, escaping with nothing more than their lives. A Salisbury pub began a collection of clothing, but it was all going to Care4Calais where the warehouses were already full, with no means of distribution.

Eventually, we found a small group in Wiltshire with direct access to the Afghan families, who were glad to receive anything we could gather. We had to wait for phone calls, where to meet - each different rendezvous an hour's drive away - as security for the Afghan translators' families was paramount.

We were amazed to fill a whole carload - our family and our kind Iwerne neighbours gave warm coats, men's and women's jumpers, men's shoes, and shirts, and socks. We'd heard that having lost everything, it meant so much to be given even a toothbrush which was their own - so we bought 100 toothbrushes from Amazon, and our dentist gave three boxes of toothpaste samples.

Then \*more\* people gave \*more\* warm clothing.

The idea of Harvest Festival seemed perfect: thinking of the Bible passage about Ruth, where we read of generosity towards incomers - and we asked each of the five local churches to consider inviting donations of warm clothing for all ages, from babies upwards. St Andrew's, Fontmell agreed to be the collection point for gifts.

Your wonderful gifts arrived in bags and cases, Barry's 'Afghan box' was filled to overflowing, and still more people gave their gifts - from a young mum who brought 3 bags of baby clothes to someone giving her late father's treasured coat.

We have taken FOUR bulging car-loads to various different rendezvous with our contacts. The Afghan families - beginning to feel more settled as their children start going to school - have asked us to pass on their overwhelming thanks and gratitude to all these amazingly generous people.

John and Lavender Buckland

## **159 — Stop Scams UK**

159 is an anti-fraud emergency phone number which will go direct to your bank & where you can find out if the call, text, email or message you've just received is genuine.

It's been launched by Stop Scams UK, it's a year long pilot scheme but with only 9 banks taking part: Barclays, Lloyds, Halifax, Bank of Scotland, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland, Ulster Bank, Santander & Starling Bank.

<https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159>

The village Christmas tea party took place on Saturday 11th December

It was a happy afternoon of friendship, smiles, great food, lovely music from Clayesmore and some lovely villager singing!

Thank you to everyone involved yesterday in so many ways - setting up, decorating, cooking, serving, cleaning, washing up, sewing etc etc



**On the Shelf** of the Friendship Garden Library

**Big Leaves for Exotic Effect** by Stephen Griffith,

published by the Guild of Master Craftsmen Publications



In miserable January here is a book to take the imagination to verdant places far away from those we usually associate with British wintertime. It is, Stephen Griffiths makes clear “not a book for the botanist ... It is written for gardeners, landscape architects or nurseymen who, like me, have been seduced by the almost alien effect that can be achieved by integrating tropical looking plants and large leaved exotics into a cooler climate.”

There are many photographs, most of them taken on the Ilchester Estates in Somerset which shows just what can be achieved in a temperate climate with the knowledge and guidance this author enthusiastically shares.

From November 1990 (just after the great storm) to the present, Griffiths has been the Curator at Abbotsbury Sub Tropical Gardens, responsible for implementing the restoration of the historic woodland garden. In the mid C19th the traditional garden was encouraged to colonise the 100-year-old woodland so that shade, shelter and moisture the trees provided offered ideal conditions for newly collected plants from, especially, the Himalayas, China and Japan which thrived.

When Griffith began work at Abbotsbury he devised a ten-year plan for improving the horticultural content, garden infrastructure, marketing and tourism. Today it is known for its notable display of Rhododendron, Hydrangea and charming Victorian Garden and for us, is a delightful alternative to waiting till spring to start growing our own.



**Compost Corner**

There was a time when a map was an essential tool for navigation but with the onset of Satnav that has all changed. Of course there are all sorts of maps: geological, meteorological, wine. But right now, there's another map in the making, and it's a huge multi-continental undertaking: a map of fungi - the underground mycorrhizal systems that are so vital to our complex ecosystem. We may just think about fungi in simplistic terms; edible fungi like mushrooms or destructive ones (for our ornamental garden plants) like honey fungus but without mycorrhizal fungi, to quote 'Dad's Army's', Pte James Frazer, "we're doomed". They are essential not only for soil structure and fertility but also the global carbon cycle. Furthermore, like so much of the natural world, there's huge concern about the loss of these fungi. There are only a few of fungi hotspots in the world (none U.K.) and by mapping them it is hoped will be protected for the health of our planet. On a smaller scale it's recommended to incorporate mycorrhizal fungi when planting bare rooted roses for example - fungi comes in granular form and you simply sprinkle it onto the roots. It really help your new planting to get off to a start.



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Alison Main

**Village weather for November 2021**

A lot of cold, grey days but not much rainfall. Several frosty nights and chilly winds including Storm Arwen with some sleet in the gale force winds

14 rain days, 1 gale, 1 day sleet/snow, 7 air frost, 20 ground frost.

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 2.9 mm on 30th)	13.6 mm	78.7 mm
Sunshine avg 1.9hrs	57.4 hrs	60.6 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.6°C on 9th)	10.9°C	12.5°C
Min mean temp. (lowest - 3.1°C on 29th)	3.0°C	5.7°C

This January 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 February 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 February issue by Friday 21st January 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)*