



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

Kindly Sponsored by Barry & Rosie Roberts, because they simply enjoy living in Fontmell Magna

MARCH
2022
Issue 336

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to let people know about a very useful service that is being provided by Fontmell Magna Parish Council.

It consists of information from the PC on developments affecting the village and wider parish as well as as information on road closures and alerts from Dorset Council (such as the recent ones regarding the storms). These essential updates are not things that can easily be covered in a monthly newsletter.

If you would like to subscribe to this service, please contact Laura Kurton at laurakurton.council@gmail.com

FONTMELL MAGNA ART CLUB

Our 9th Art Exhibition

SUNDAY 13th MARCH

2pm - 5pm

FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL

FREE ENTRY

TEA/ COFFEE/ CAKES

SUPPORTING DORSET AND SOMERSET AIR AMBULANCE



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Event in Fontmell Magna on 5th June

Everyone who would like to be involved is invited to an
OPEN MEETING
Wednesday 6th April in the
Village Hall at 7.00pm

Notices – March 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February

2nd 1900 Ash Wednesday Service
6th 0900 Sunday Breakfast at Village Hall*
13th 0930 Morning Worship
20th 0930 Holy Communion with choir
27th 0930 Mothering Sunday Service

* Guest Speaker: Toby Carson LM

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Wed 16th March 2022 at 7.00pm in the village hall

Parish clerk: Sam Smith
clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk

Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07710 395359

Village Shop & Post Office

Normal opening hours:

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm

Sat 9.00am - 1.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

The Tea Room Crafters

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

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell—opening hours

Mon & Tues—Closed

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

Sunday 12-6, food served 12-3

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002



Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Resumes 20th April 2022
Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or
garden.fmvh@mail.com

Community Lunch Club

Last Wednesday of the Month October to March—
contacts: Rosie-Anne Yates 07710 326 339 and Lisa
Le Druilhenec 812 500 or email: lunch.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

Archive Society

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

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

Thursday 17th March 7.30pm ‘

The Healthy Veg garden
A talk by Sally Morgan

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 at 0930 and 1100
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281
Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk

Pilates

Mon 1830-1930 Tues 1000-1100.
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci
Gillett 07940 961221 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*

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

Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –
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

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

St Andrew's 2021 Charity Donations

It has long been a custom for St Andrew's Church to make modest donations to charities. The Royal British Legion (£150) and the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (£100) are regulars on our list, but in 2021 the PCC decided to make a single large donation (£1,000) to Alabare Christian Care & Support based in Salisbury. They specialise in helping the homeless and those with mental and other disabilities.

We received a letter and thank-you card from Alabare which said inter alia: *“As you know, the pressures on the homeless and vulnerable are considerable, and at Alabaré we are doing all we can to ensure that we continue to provide a safe place for those in crisis to receive the support that they need. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the congregation and encourage them to continue to hold our work in their prayers. With many thanks again for your generous support.”*

The full text is posted in the Church. Thank you to all who contributed.

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council

Iwerne Valley Benefice

Lent lecture series 2022

An exploration of Hope within the modern world

ALL WELCOME

Wednesday 16th March 12 midday – 2pm

Revd Alan and Dr Clare Amos

‘A message of hope for young people within our world today’

Wednesday 23rd March 12 midday – 2pm

Revd Garry Bennett and Revd David W John

‘Christian Hope vs Materialism / Consumerism’

Wednesday 30th March 12 midday - 2pm

Revd John Simmons and Revd Chris Jervis

‘Christian Hope in a world of suffering and trauma’

Each session will include a fellowship lunch of the finest home-made soup and bread.

Venue: The Parish Church of Saint Mary, Shroton.

All Welcome:

**For further details please contact Revd David W John 01747
811623 david.john6@btopenworld.com**

www.iwernevalleybenefice.org.uk

Fontmell voices for the speaking clock on

This is Alfred 107.3 FM

Some of you will be aware that This is Alfred has gone live from 14th February 2022, on FM 107.3. As part of the preparations for the broadcasts, I was asked to obtain 12 people from Fontmell Magna saying – ‘Hello my name is.....and I live in.....and the time in Fontmell is.....’ I beset upon and highjacked people in my quest.

Thank you to Karl, Robin, Dick, Stephanie, Sue East, Louise, Sue Jones, Jill, Judy, Barry and Jane for giving me 7-10 seconds of their time to make the short recordings. Amongst those collected from the villages in the immediate vicinity of Shaftesbury, a Fontmell voice will announce the time on the hour when This is Alfred is on the air....Sue Heatley

Fontmell Magna and District Society

Friday 4th of February 2022 – Sir John Stuttard – “Peking to Paris in a Pink Rolls Royce”

Why pink? The car was a 1934 Rolls Royce and John had it painted in response to the request of a journalist friend who asked for it to be painted in Financial Times pink. The occasion was the 1997 Peking to Paris car rally and every car had to be over 30 years old. Over 90 cars started and they almost all finished. The rally was held to commemorate ninety years since a French newspaper sponsored a similar event in 1907.

John is a classic car enthusiast and we were all captivated by his thrilling account of this most gruelling challenge. He showed us slides and videos of breathtaking scenery and described moments of heart stopping danger. They drove over the highest road in the world and in Nepal alone they had to cross 13 rivers with no bridges. In Greece they consulted the Delphic oracle and were told unequivocally that they would succeed in finishing. The priestess was right and when finally in Paris they were able to enjoy a well deserved glass of champagne.

Our next talk is on Friday the 4th of March when will have a talk from Lucy Barfoot of ‘Coconut & Cotton’ in Swan’s Yard in Shaftesbury. She will explain how seeing the impact of plastic waste in the world led her to selling products to help everyone live in a more sustainable manner.

Michael Golberg

🍷 🍷 🍷 Fontmell Film Nights 🍷 🍷 🍷

Our film showing at Fontmell Magna Village Hall on Wednesday 9th March is “The Pebble and the Boy” starring Patrick MacNamee, Sacha Parkinson, Max Boast and Patsy Kensit. The



story follows John Parker, a 19 year old, who has been bequeathed an old Lambretta scooter by his Father, who had been an ardent Mod in his youth. John sets out from his home in Manchester on a journey to Brighton, the spiritual home of the Mods. The film is a celebration of Mod culture and fashion and features music from Paul Weller and The Jam.

Tickets are on sale 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.

For more information please call Libby on 01747.811551



On Saturday 29th January 2022, a novel activity took place in Fontmell’s village hall. Over the two sessions, morning and afternoon, 12 people from Fontmell and the neighbouring villages participated in the recycling/reviving/repurposing of old, broken and tired jewellery. Sue Morgan of West Street, facilitated the groups who came with their items to

- re string a freshwater pearl bracelet,
- repair a Chinese jade bracelet
- repurpose one lonesome earring to make a pair again only smaller!
- make a flamingo and cat mosaic from beads and buttons
- clean numerous items and revived many to their former glory
- recycle some very large costume jewellery parts into a ‘hanging’ thing for Mummy!

Alison said - *Thank you so much for your jewellery session yesterday - it was such a good idea and lovely to see treasured, sentimental pieces given a new lease of life.*

Louise said – *Fantastic workshop, I’m very happy with my repaired jewellery*

Becky said – *I absolutely love the bracelet – thank you so much for persisting. There is something so special about memorabilia.*

The sessions will appear again, probably when the pop up cafes re start and a table will be set up in the hall to facilitate anyone who wants to bring along items to repair, refresh or revive.

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Wed 23rd March Community Lunch

All are welcome to join us for a
FREE LUNCH at

Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Doors open 12.30 pm

Lunch Served from 1.00 pm

To book call: Lisa 01747 812 500 or
Rosie-Anne on 07710 326 339
email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

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



Food for the Community Lunch Club is provided free of charge thanks to the Community Recovery Fund Grant we received in September 2021 from Dorset Council.





St Andrews CE Primary School PTFA & Zumba With Abby D are proud to present our:



FITNESS AND FAMILY TIME FUNDRAISER

On Saturday 23rd April at Sturfit Sports Centre, DT10 1EW

9.30am – 1pm in aid of our Primary School PTFA & The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE TO ENJOY:

TASTER FITNESS CLASSES FOR ADULTS & 14YR+

CHILDRENS TASTER CLUB ACTIVITIES

TEA, CAKE & NIBBLES FOR ALL AGES

BOUNCY CASTLE FUN FOR 3-11 YR

All Enquiries to Abby Down: 07901 597129/ zumbawithabbyd@gmail.com

Councillor Chronicles No.9 - Get To Know You by Laura Kurton

"We are all one - or at least we should be - and it is our job, our duty, and our great challenge to fight the voices of division and seek the salve of reconciliation." - Roy Barnes
Last month I shared a story about Community Spirit and the importance of joining forces as individuals, to create something great together. The truth is, to have a network of support immediately around you can be a blessing, especially in the countryside, I felt this most when I moved to Bedchester in late 2020 and was keen to get to know my neighbours - but as you can imagine, moving in during lockdown didn't make it easy. I had been working on yachts for the last 10 years, so was desperately missing the simple pleasures of a close knit community with all the fun of social gatherings, support, friendship and familiar faces. So, I was just so grateful to those that passed by our cottage and stopped for a chat or just gave a nod and said hello - it was the warmest welcome I could have wished for, given the circumstances!

I wanted to actually make friends and get involved with my community in some way beyond my cottage garden though - but I had no idea how to go about it. I hadn't considered joining the Parish Council - in fact, I'm embarrassed to say that I didn't really even know what it was, what its purpose was and who it consisted of!

It was actually thanks to a nasty pothole outside of our cottage that created the divine intervention that led to me meeting with the Parish Council Chairman, Mike Humphreys. Mike shared the same interests as I do for the community - of course he would, but hearing my own thoughts being reflected through his words filled my heart with joy.

I was offered the opportunity to join the Parish Council and, as I love meeting people to learn and grow from them, always with the view that "we don't know what we don't know", I accepted the offer and was officially co-opted in September 2021.

It has provided me with so many fantastic experiences and moments to meet new people. One of which being the Village Hall Committee - this is a wonderful group of spectacular people who have put so much time and effort into organizing community events for all, many of which are free! Their hard work provides an extremely important, welcoming space for many residents to meet and enjoy each other's company, that otherwise wouldn't exist.

I continue to meet and make friends with more and more of my lovely neighbours and I must say, it's just amazing what we experience and learn when our hearts and minds are open. If we haven't already met, I look forward to the day that we do!

And watch this space to get to know more about my role on the Parish Council here in Fontmell Magna and how you can join us and get involved too! If you simply can't wait to find out though, reach out and drop me a bell! You can find my number below.

Until then, warm regards and well wishes,

Laura Kurton

Well Cottage Bedchester.

07977564585, 01747 812449





Hello, my name is Debbie Brown, and I am the headteacher at St Andrew's Primary School.

I have been asked to write a small piece for the Gossip Tree each month, it is my pleasure to do so.

I have been here officially, at the school since June 2021, although I previously supported here during the first lockdown in 2020. This is a wonderful little community who feel like family to those of us who come here each day. The school has been through tough times in recent years and seen many different school leaders. My aim is to bring stability to all who come here and enable the wonderful young people to THRIVE. We have been working hard on establishing a great curriculum with key drivers of COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT and COMMUNICATION as we feel these are vital for us and the world we live in today. There is so much to share about us and what we are up to but for now just a little taste of some moments in school in the last couple of weeks.



Follow us on TWITTER and our school webpage for lots more photos and information and give us a call to come and have a look around J StAndrewsfontmell.co.uk @SAPSfontmell 01747 811500



We are growing our English offer with great quality books. They are expensive so we are slowly building our library up.

After Half Term we welcome Gillian Cross, a very local author to join our Book Week celebrations We are delighted to have her with us.



Our Natural World Artwork is appearing in shops at the Shaftesbury Book Festival – look out for it!

SPRING MEADOWS DEVELOPMENT, HOME FARM, FONTMELL MAGNA

As most people will be aware, Pennyfarthing homes are building 30 new homes on the edge of Fontmell Magna.

The Gossip Tree will cover the development of the site with monthly updates on the progress of the build, any new developments that occur and the impact that the development is having on the local area.

If there are any aspects of the build that people would like us to cover, please get in touch at fmgosiptree@gmail.com.



Compost Corner

If you've been watching The Green Planet you'll have seen how communities in various parts of the world are dispersing seeds, rather unconventionally, using catapults, dropping them from helicopters, even throwing them from the back of a camel. In nature seeds use a variety of methods to disperse their seeds: there are exploding seed capsules, seeds which use little barbs to attach to animals' fur, or seeds with 'wings' which will flutter away from the parent plant, transported by the wind.

A seed is an extraordinary structure, it can be truly minuscule as in an orchid, *Aerides Odonata* (just one gram contains over 3 million seeds) or a hefty 2.5 kg (the *Coco de Mer*). But whatever the size, seeds are a very cost effective and relatively easy way to stock your garden with ornamentals and vegetables.

March is a busy seed planting month; I sow courgette and French bean seeds in March, undercover of course - it's far too cold in the vegetable plot - and they'll be ready to transplant by about May.

Seeds can grow to a fully established plant incredibly quickly; the architectural castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) will grow to an impressive 5 ft in just one season - but beware, all parts of it are toxic, particularly the glossy bean-like seeds.

Alison Main



Village weather for January 2022

A damp start to the year then relatively dry with very little wind. A lot of grey days with days of rare sunshine after frosty nights.

14 rain days, 1 day sleet, 15 air frost, 21 ground frost.; no gales, hail or snow.

Comp. Figures	2021	2020
Rain (Most 7mm on 8th)	34.2 mm	105.8 mm
Sunshine avg 1.6hrs	47.8 hrs	43.9 Hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.1°C on 1st)	8.3°C	8.1°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -6.9°C on 28th)	0.3°C	0.8°C

This March 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 April issue contact me via email:

fmgosiptree@gmail.com

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **blueletterbox@btinternet.com** for further information.
Submissions for the April issue by Thursday 24th March 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 fmgosiptree@gmail.com