



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*This edition was kindly sponsored by Fontmell Magna Parish Council*

NOVEMBER  
2022  
Issue 344



## THE FONTMELL

The Fontmell is to remain shut whilst various options are being reviewed. It is likely to remain shut until March 2023

## St Andrews Church Harvest Festival October 2022

### Supporting Foodbank

Our church's Harvest Festival celebrations took place this year in early October at our church breakfast in the Village Hall and St Andrew's School service in the church.

This year we supported the **Gillingham Foodbank, run by The Trussell Trust**. They need non-perishable, long-life food.

Our response to this request was huge! ..... tins of meat, fish, fruit, beans, spaghetti, custard, rice pudding, peas, carrots, potatoes, soup, pasta sauces, instant soup, packets of cereal, biscuits, rice, pasta, instant mash, fruit juice, peanut butter, jam, honey, long-life milk, sweets, dog food, cat food ... .. nappies .. and more.

**Total: an amazing 149.3 Kg!**

*The Gillingham Foodbank serves our village too and is available to any family or individual*

## Fontmell Films 🎬 🎬 🎬

Our film showing on Wednesday 9th November is the much anticipated cinematic return of 'Downtown Abbey: A New Era' which reunites the familiar cast as they go on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the Dowager Countess' newly inherited villa.



Meanwhile, strapped for cash and faced with a leaking roof, Lady Mary decides to allow a film crew to use the Abbey as the setting for their latest picture.

Tickets are £6.50 in advance from Fontmell Magna Post Office or £7.00 on the door.

The door and bar is open from 7pm and the film starts at 7:30 pm

We look forward to seeing you then.

The Moviola Committee

For more information please call Libby on 01747.811551

## Notices – November 2022

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

2nd 1830 All Souls Service  
6th 0900 Sunday Breakfast  
13th 1000 Remembrance Service  
20th 0930 Sung Communion  
27th 0930 Holy Communion (Advent)

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 23rd November 2022 in the village hall at 1900

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

AGM at the Iwerne Minster Village Club on  
Saturday November 19th at 3.30pm, following a  
walk starting from there at 2.

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 6 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)**

## **Iwerne Valley Walking Group Hambledon Hill walk September 2022**

Our walk on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September was a local circular one commencing at the Talbot in Iwerne Minster.

It was a beautiful morning and, having ordered our lunches, 12 of us set off. A further 4 members unable to complete the walk were to join us later for lunch.

From the car park we were able to take a short walk along the A 350 to reach the track. Skirting the cricket pitch, we made our way up the steps and through the gate to commence our climb up Iwerne Hill. At the top of the grass track we were afforded stunning views of the village and Saint Mary's Church.

We continued our upward climb and, as it levelled out, we took a left-hand gate through a small stretch of woods to the main gravelled track. Interestingly 3 of our party had not been aware of this route before.



We followed the track past the small air strip until we reached the gate which allowed us to make the descent down the steep grassy field. Fortunately, there were no cattle on the slope.

We crossed the A 350 and entered Shroton where Claire led us through a path crossing a small bridge through a beautiful newly built arbour adjacent to the children's playground. We took a short cut past the village hall to find ourselves at the base of Hambledon Hill.

At this point 3 of our party led by Claire went back along the base of the Hill and then along the river back to Iwerne. The rest of us took the long beautiful walk up the chalky hill. Apart from a small group of children running down the hill with a teacher, we had the whole of the hill to ourselves.

As we reached the top the peace and tranquillity was breathtaking and we could see for miles. Who could have believed that only a few short weeks before, hundreds of us had stood on the same spot and watched all the surrounding beacons being lit for the Queens 70<sup>th</sup>. Jubilee?

Our descent was considerably quicker but very pleasant, enjoying the vista as we passed through fields and through Oyles mill. We arrived back at the Talbot to enjoy a very pleasant lunch outside in the sunshine. Dennis, Helen, Pauline and the 2 Janes who joined us at this point for lunch were delighted for the opportunity to catch up with everyone.

Pam Payne



## **Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust**

### **Gary Payne's memorial bench**

Saturday 8th October was a beautiful sunny day and about 50 people came to Middle Mill for the dedication of the memorial bench to Gary Payne. After a few brief remarks made by myself Margaret Payne unveiled the plaque on the bench. Refreshments were then served and people stayed to enjoy the sunshine and the opportunity to chat with friends

Dick Stainer, Chairman – Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust



## Fontmell Magna Parish Council - Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Village Hall.

Full meeting minutes and associated papers are available on the Parish Council 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 Andrew Davis (Chair AD), Michael Humphreys (MH), Christine Scott (CS), Laura Kurton (LK), plus Sam Smith (Clerk) Dorset Cllr Jane Somper (part) and 29 members of the public.

The Chairman started the meeting by congratulating Sian Highnam and the volunteers from the Village Hall Committee who have recently received a 'High Sheriff Award' for the Friendship Garden. The Friendship Garden has also been nominated for an award at the Dorset Volunteer Celebration evening, "Team of the Year award". The PC Cllrs and residents attending congratulated the committee on their success.

### Public Questions

A resident raised the issue of the hard core on the Spring Meadows school drop-off area, where trees will be planted imminently, and voiced concerns regarding the soil suitability.

A resident mentioned the bright outside lights at the village school, shining on to West Street.

**Apologies for Absence:** Andy Main (AM)

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Minutes of the Meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022:** These were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

### Matters Arising:

**a. Mobile broadband coverage** - Currently there is a poor level of network coverage in the village centre. MH has made contact with EE a number of times about improving the service but this has not proved productive. A team from Dorset Council has started an initiative to register assets in villages with poor service onto to a database. Assets such as a church, village hall, existing broadband fibre cable, etc. that are already in place would reduce the costs for a network provider; the PC is participating in this research. Progress can hopefully be made with at least 4G, but it would mean a signal mast being erected somewhere in the Village; it's already been established the church tower would not be suitable for this.

**b. Spring Meadows Bus Stop** - The need for a bus stop has been voiced by prospective Spring Meadows residents and current village residents. At present there is no bus stop close to Spring Meadows. Siting a bus stop at the new Spring Meadows turning area has been suggested. The PC has written to DC Highways for advice, before approaching the bus company.

### Report from The Clerk:

**a. Meeting dates for 2023** - The Clerk has provisionally booked PC meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November 2023 and is awaiting confirmation. The Clerk will confirm dates after liaising with Jane Somper.

**b. CILCA** - The Clerk will undertake the 'Certificate in Local Council Administration' commencing November 2022; the cost for Fontmell is £645.00. Once qualified the Parish Council will obtain the 'General Power of Competence' via the Clerk.

**c. PC Garden Waste Bin** - The PC has agreed to provide a Dorset Council green waste bin for the volunteers who cut the village green in Church Street, to dispose of the waste cuttings.

### Finance:

**a. Half Year Finance Update** - The following documents were issued by the Clerk to PC Cllrs:

**A 6-month Bank Reconciliation** - This document was signed by the Chairman for the end of year PC audit record.

**Budget v Spend** – Spending is currently above our forecast budget, but the document does not show the whole picture as we have received money from other sources this year to cover the extra spending.

**Precept Planning** - The 2023/24 precept request will need to be discussed at the November PC meeting; Councillors are asked to look at the draft precept plan before the next meeting. The Clerk will check with DC Electoral Services, the implications of new Spring Meadow residents on our precept and also the number of properties counted for council tax in 2021/22 compared with 2022/23.

**b. Balances** - The current balance in the PC bank account is **£6,249.26** and the PC savings account **£7,796.59**. The second half of the precept from DC has been credited to the PC bank account, ie. **£5,384.50**.

**c. Resolve to Pay Bills presented** -

Invoices paid since the last meeting included:

FM Village Hall **£550.00** (2022/23 play park grant)

Sixpenny Forge Ltd **£3,600** (memorial bench)

Vision ICT **£150.60** (2022/23 Website hosting etc)

## Fontmell Magna Parish Council - Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Village Hall.(cont)

### Report from Dorset Councillor:

Jane's written report will be available on the PC Website. She highlighted the following points:

- Dorset is to be one of just nine areas in England to receive funding from a new government scheme to improve electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Dorset Council has secured £2.7million to increase the number of EV charge points.
- The PC was asked to be aware of vulnerable residents in the community. JS gave out some leaflets highlighting avenues from which to seek help. More information is on the helpandkidness.co.uk website.
- DC are currently running Adult Service public engagement sessions. The next forum is in Sturminster Newton on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, all are welcome.

### Reports from the Parish Councillors:

#### Planning

**a. Planning Applications** MH confirmed that 6 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website.

The PC is supporting 4 applications:

**Yew Tree Farm**, Hartgrove

**Fernlea Cottage**, Mill Street, Fontmell Magna.

**The Barns**, Lower Hartgrove Farm, Green Lane, Hartgrove.

#### **28 Orchard Close , Fontmell Magna**

The PC is objecting to 2 applications:

**Middle Farm**, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna. Erect 2 No. dwellings, convert and extend existing single storey stables to form 1 No. dwelling, and erect garage/car port. Modify vehicular access

**St Andrew's Farm Barn**, Woodbridge Lane, Bedchester. Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to 3 no. dwelling houses (Use Class C3).

There has been a large resident response to this application.

Two further applications are currently being assessed by the NPMG:

Land East of **Charlie's Cottage**, Mill Street.

**The Old Rectory** Mill Street Fontmell Magna

**b. Neighbourhood Plan** - The Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan has been in operation since November 2018 and now needs to be updated to reflect new issues and concerns arising in the parish. Dorset Council has put back the date for adopting its new Local Plan to 2026: this is to process the large volume of feedback received by DC on the initial draft. This delay, in the meantime, unfortunately leaves Fontmell Magna open to speculative development as planning applications cannot easily be refused. It is important that we update our Neighbourhood Plan as a form of defence, stipulating development only in places where it's desirable. The current neighbourhood plan is on the PC website; areas such as Environment & Climate Change, Transport & Highways need to be added. It will take approx. 12 months to update with a team of approx. 8 people needed. *Volunteers will be needed to help with this important project; please contact the Clerk if you wish to be involved.*

**c. Spring Meadows Development** - Adoption of the school drop area. This area is being created for parents to use at school drop off/pick up times to alleviate the traffic on West Street. The PC has been talking to the Salisbury Diocese about possibility of them taking on ownership of this area. The Diocese owns the land that the school occupies. The area could then be used exclusively by the school and parents. If not adopted, then potentially the area could be used by anyone. A £40,000 lump sum will be available for maintenance.

**d. Site 22 Blandfords Farm** This is an allocated site within the FM Neighbourhood Plan. The site is set aside for approx. 5 to 10 new homes including a barn which can be converted. Intelligent Land are interested in developing the site and they will soon submit some ideas to PC for resident to comment on. The developer is suggesting the site could easily accommodate more than 10 houses. Access to the site will be via either of two options - through Spring Meadows or from West Street. There is a land strip in Spring Meadows which would have to be acquired to extend the road in Spring Meadows into Site 22. Access via West Street would be adjacent to the Village Hall. Most residents attending the meeting were against the idea of an access via West Street; the PC would certainly prefer access to go through Spring Meadows. The owner of the land strip in Spring Meadows, who attended the meeting, stated that he would be more than happy to negotiate over the land strip but has not been formally approached by Intelligent Land to date regarding access to Site 22.

#### Highways:

**a. Dorset Speed Limit Policy** - A draft policy has been rejected by Dorset Councillors after strong representations by Fontmell councillors and residents, and other parties, attending a recent council meeting. The policy did not take sufficient account of the growing demand and national trend towards adopting a 20mph speed limit in built-up areas. A recent survey showed strong support amongst Fontmell residents for a 20mph limit on roads and lanes through the village, including along the A350. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paper was published last week but the results are disappointing; it will be very difficult to obtain a lower speed limit due to the criteria set. The new revised Highway Code seems to have been ignored. The Chairman has written a letter from the PC with our views, and he will attend another meeting with DC.

## Fontmell Magna Parish Council - Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the Village Hall.(cont)

**Highways:** **b. Speed Indicator Device (SID)** - The PC will proceed with purchasing and installing a SID at 3 positions in the village along the A350. All PC Cllrs agreed the purchase of a SID at a cost of £4,030.00 with a 10% contingency on cost.

**Environmental Protection:** No report. A new Councillor is needed to cover this area for the parish which includes actions the community can take to address climate change.

### Social Infrastructure:

**a. FMCLT & Village Shop Update** - Dick Stainer reported that scaffolding has been erected at the shop and work has started to make the building watertight. The electricians work inside the property is completed. Heaters in the house are to be installed. A new lease is being drawn up. Several prospective purchasers have been in contact with a view to running the business.

**b. Fontmell Inn** - Unfortunately, the pub has now closed. The PC has no update on plans for its future use. The process of registering a pub as a "Community Asset" was discussed. Residents would like to see the property continue as a village pub.

**c. Section 106 Grant Money** A total of **£360,000** is to be paid directly to Dorset Council from the developer of Spring Meadows. A third of this money will go to educational needs in Dorset. Rosie Ann Yates from the Village Hall Committee gave a run down on their spending plan:

- Improved acoustics in hall and a new sound system.
- The kitchen is to be upgraded to more of a preparation kitchen with a new oven and fridges etc.
- If money is surplus after these 2 projects are completed, then the toilets at the hall entrance will be refurbished.
- Play area equipment is being replaced: £29,000 is being used towards the play area plus **£10,000** from VH funds. There will also be **£10,000** set aside for equipment maintenance.
- An open space sports area is planned. The tennis court will be resurfaced, the nets replaced and netball lines marked out. The VH Committee would also like to purchase some additional land for the playground to create a football area. **£7,000** has been set aside for pre-school provision.

**d. Defibrillator** - The school would like to take over responsibility of the defibrillator. A question over ownership was raised; the Clerk will investigate. The PC agreed that the school could take the defibrillator on. The feasibility of second defib for the village was discussed, possibly housed in the telephone box at the shop. *Volunteers are needed for a litter pick in early November 2022: approx. 13 people to cover Fontmell, Bedchester and Hartgrove.*

### Community Reach:

**a. Emergency response plan** - A booklet has been produced with help from the VH committee. This plan would guide the community to help themselves in the event of a large emergency event eg. a sustained power cut. The printing of the booklet will cost £252.00. The VH committee has agreed to pay 50% and the PC the other 50%.

**b. Community transport service** - Village public transport is limited. Ways to provide community transport are being researched. Car share, help a neighbour, volunteers on a rota etc.

**Footpaths:** - Pennyfarthing Homes have agreed to purchase a general litter bin for the upgraded footpath. There is an option to use Section 106 to replace the stiles with gates, making the footpath accessible to all, and the possibility of using some section 106 grant money to replace existing stiles with gates.

### Communications:

**a. FMPC Logo** - The local school children were invited to design a logo for the Parish Council. There was not a great response, so we are looking to design our own.

**b. Parish Directory & Welcome Pack** - This has been updated and will be ready by November 2022 to be circulated. Any residents wishing to list their business please contact the PC Clerk.

**c. PC Noticeboards** - All three of the PC noticeboards need some repairs. All PC Cllrs agreed to go ahead with the £558.00 spend.

**Governance:** There continues to be two vacancies on the PC for Cllrs.

**Correspondence:** All correspondence was circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

**Matters arising from Councillors:** None

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022** at the Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.

## BUDDLEIAS

Heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who turned up, often more than once, to help in deadheading the buddleias. Job complete and all ready for next year.

Judy Westgate



# AND



Beat the dark winter nights coffee morning at Fontmell Magna Village Hall on Wednesday November 9th 10- 12.

With the dark nights drawing in – come along for a cuppa and a natter on Wednesday November 9 th from 10-12 in Fontmell Magna Village hall.

It will be a relaxed self serve session .No need to RSVP- just pop in for a hot drink and some friendly chat.

Siân xx

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



## FRIENDS OF FONTMELL MAGNA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



Wednesday 28 September at 10:00



Hosted by Lisa Le Druillenec and Briony Long

At the end of September Briony and I hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Village Hall.

We would like to thank all of you who supported this event and gave so generously. Thanks also to everyone who baked cakes and savoury items, the food buffet surpassed all our expectations.

We were helped, very ably, by some Year 6 pupils from St Andrews School who provided table service, took drink orders, encouraged everyone to have a go at the games to win a cake or sweets, and did an excellent job of washing up.

The coffee morning raised £348.80 on the day. St Andrews School raised £154 from their cake sale and with other donations received we banked £517.80 in the official Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising account. We are still awaiting our certificate, but it will be on display at the Village Hall as soon as we receive it.

### Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

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.

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall. The talk is 'Kingston Lacy through the Seasons', by Andrew Hunt, Head Gardener at Kingston Lacy. Guests are welcome and £2 is payable on the door. Refreshments are available.



## THE FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

We have had some wonderful news in the last month of three special awards for our community project with the garden and its associated pop up cafe.

1. The first award was from the High Sheriff of Dorset . She is giving us a special recognition award for the voluntary work in the garden. We were kindly nominated by Cllr Val Potheary, chair of Dorset Council who visited in the summer.

The award is being presented on SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26 th in a special coffee morning from 10. 30-12.00 in the Village Hall.

All are invited and it would be lovely to have as many villagers there as possible to greet the High Sheriff. Please e mail me on [sianhighnam@gmail.com](mailto:sianhighnam@gmail.com) if you are planning to come.

2. Within a very short space of time of hearing about that award, we were delighted to learn that we are being recognised in the Dorset Volunteering awards in the team or group category for the garden and its cafe . This award recognises the work of the volunteers in the community and everyone who has helped in any way. We will be accepting a certificate at an awards evening on behalf of all the volunteers on Friday November 16th. A special thank you to Mike Humphries who nominated us on behalf of the Parish Council.

3 Finally - we heard last week that the RHS have awarded us the highest level 5 and an outstanding when assessed in the " It's your community " initiative. This recognises again projects which involve the community and volunteers and have an impact on the community. An RHS assessor visited us in June and measured us against a lengthy and comprehensive list of criteria . Marks were awarded against every category and we achieved the highest level above 85% These three wonderful and unexpected awards are a tribute to everyone in the village and beyond who have helped the garden and cafe project in so many ways- sponsors, the donation of plants, pots, compost, seed growers, plant propagators, planters, weeders, the watering gangs, the cake makers, tea pourers, craft makers , the school voluntary projects etc etc. Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to everyone for the incredible help and support.

Regards  
Sian

# Christmas Fayre

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Saturday 10th December 10am to 2.30pm



**Join us for some Christmas Shopping at Fontmell Magna Village Hall. We have a wonderful selection of stallholders, all local makers, artisan producers or crafters.**

**It is a fabulous opportunity to buy unique gifts for friends and family.**

**Not forgetting some festive fayre on sale from the kitchen and the Grand hamper raffle.**

**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**



**SERO present**

**'What Makes a Virgin an Extra Virgin'**  
an evening with Natalie Wheen

(ex broadcaster on the 'Arts')

Discussing the truths, myths, secrets and scandals of olive oil. Natalie and Deborah MacMillan own 'AVLAKI', which produces Organic Extra Virgin olive oils from Lesvos, Greece.

**Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Child Okeford Village Hall**

**7 pm**

£10 per person, to include olive oil

tasting and snacks.

Wine and soft drinks on sale

Raffle. Organic olive oil and soap for sale.

Proceeds to Julia's House Children's Hospice

Ticket details from:

[info@serocharity.org.uk](mailto:info@serocharity.org.uk)

or ring 01258 861218



### **Compost Corner**

How many trees did the late Queen Elizabeth plant in her lifetime? It was over 1,500 trees in every corner of the world. Those that were planted as mere saplings are now lofty trees including a blue cedar, planted in 1954 in New Zealand which has grown into a towering specimen - what a wonderful, enduring legacy.

Tree planting is a visionary task - think of Humphrey Repton, Capability Brown or Henry Hoare and the landscapes they created in the 18C, with trees as the backbone of their designs. Hundreds of years later we benefit from the realisation of their design's dreams - Stourhead for example, the masterpiece designed by Henry Hoare 'the Magnificent', a stunning garden with the most glorious collection of trees including Giant Sequoia, American tulip tree, Katsura, Davidia, Acers, spruces and pines; and in autumn the changing colour of the trees should not be missed.

In a garden situation a tree can be planted to commemorate a birth or an anniversary or to remember a loved one. Choose a tree appropriate for the plot and it will give pleasure for many generations to come.

Alison Main



NOVEMBER

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

NOVEMBER 12TH

10.30AM @

VILLAGE HALL



IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT

CHRISTINE SCOTT ON MOBILE

07586088069 OR E-MAIL

MUNTERSHOON@HOTMAIL.COM

### **Village weather for September 2022**

A stormy, wet start with thunder and some heavy rain. At last. Then mainly dry and sunny. More unsettled for the final week.

13 rain days, 3 days thunder, 8 ground frost, 0 air frost no gales or hail.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 19.5mm on 7th)	83.6mm	37.5mm
Sunshine 122.7 hrs	105.7 hours	Avg 3..52 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 26.0°C on 12th)	19.5°C	20.7°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 1.5°C on 17th)	9.1°C	10.8°C

This November 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 December 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 November issue by Thursday 17th November 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)***