



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

OCTOBER
2022
Issue 343



On 8th September 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II died.

For the majority of us she was the only monarch that we have ever known and her death was a moment of true sadness, her duty and service to us for over 70 years was an inspiration and she was one of the constants in all of our lives. She was admired and loved by so many people, both by her citizens in the UK but worldwide.

The coverage of her death and the ensuing period of mourning and funeral were a fitting tribute and here at the Gossip Tree we have decided to produce our own tribute by compiling a collection of the memories of The Queen from villagers which will be distributed to everyone in the village. I already have a number of memories, but if you would like to add your own thoughts then please email them to me.

Graham Eames

Editor, Gossip Tree

Fontmell Films 🎬 🎬 🎬

Our film showing on Wednesday 12th October is 'Operation Mincemeat', the remarkable true story of the elaborate plot cooked up by British intelligence in 1943 to fool Nazi Germany into thinking the allies planned to invade Greece and Sardinia, rather than their actual target, Sicily. A strong cast includes Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen, Penelope Wilton and Johnny Flynn.

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



Notices – October 2022

St. Andrew's Church - Services for October

2nd 0900 Harvest Sunday Breakfast
9th 0930 Morning worship
16th 0930 Sung Communion
23rd 0930 Holy Communion
30th 1000 Benefice Service at Fontmell Magna (tbc)

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting
Tues 4th October 2022 in the village hall at 1900

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

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—opening hours

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Enquiries: 811441 or john@thefontmell.com

St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

See Page 4 for details of the next walk

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

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

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@vhdevelopments.co.uk

Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 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**

Fontmell Magna Friendship Garden

Forthcoming Events:

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1st - TABLE TOP SALE 12-4 pm

As highlighted last week, this is kindly being organised and run by Laura Scott Walby.

Please do contact her if you would like to take a table to sell goods. Drop me an e mail and I will put you in touch with her.

Thank you to Sue M, SJ, Becky and Jenny W who have all offered to help with teas.

Monies raised are being split between the Vale Pantry, the Village hall and the garden.

As always - any extra helping hands are always welcome for extra cakes or serving teas

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19th - HELLO YELLOW AFTERNOON WITH ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL

We are running the Hello Yellow initiative again this year with St Andrew's School and Clayesmore school. Hello Yellow is a national initiative to recognise the importance of mental health in young people.

It will run this year from 12.30- 3.15, with the whole of St Andrew's School involved.

Thank you so much to the incredible crafting ladies who are running crafts again this year.

At the moment, there is just me planting bulbs with the children- and I would be very grateful for a few pairs of extra hands. It is a simple exercise- as last year, I will pre prepare the planting holes and the children will just pop a daffodil in there and stamp them down. An additional task this year is for them to plant a sweet pea each - which I will encourage them to look after and we can plant them in the village garden and possibly school beds.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26th - HIGH SHERIFF OF DORSET VISIT 10.30-12.00

As I explained last week - this is a wonderful visit, where we will be receiving a special award , nominated by the Chair of Dorset Council for the community initiative and work in the garden. It is a huge honour and a tribute to all of you and all the hard work.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already offered to help serve coffees and make cakes. Everyone is invited to this celebration - but it would be very helpful for me to have an idea re numbers and if you haven't yet e mailed me, please could you let me know if you are planning to come along to the celebration.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10th - CHRISTMAS FAIR

Finally - we will have our Christmas Fair on this date - more details to follow....but this is an advance warning !

And finally! - I heard from the RHS assessor last week with regards to the " In your neighbourhood " initiative . As you know, Sara Jane and I met the assessor in the garden in June . We will know the outcome by October 13th



THE ARCHIVE SOCIETY

No meeting in October. Our next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday November 17th at 4.00 pm in the Village Hall.

There will be no meeting in December but regular meetings will start again on Thursday, January 19th at 4.00 pm in the Village Hall.

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Emergency Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs A Davis (Chair AD) M Humphreys (MH) A Main (AM) L Kurton (LM) & C Scott (CS). In Attendance: S Smith (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None, all PC Cllrs present.

Bench & Picnic Bench at Middle Mill: The PC agreed to purchase the new bench and picnic table for siting at Middle Mill. One of these is a memorial bench for the late Gary Payne. The benches will be for residents use but remain the responsibility/property of the PC.

Letter to FM Public Amenity Site Trust: AD has put together a letter addressed to the to The Trust to confirm the bench arrangement. The Trust has agreed to donate £3,000 to Parish Council funds. All Cllrs agreed to this. The confirmation letter was signed by AD and the Clerk and handed to Dick Stainer. A cheque for £3,000 was given to the Clerk by DS. AD thanked the trustees of the FM Public Amenity Site Trust for arranging for the new bench and table, which will enhance residents and visitors experience when visiting the Middle Mill and the Wildlife Reserve.

Matters Arising from Councillors/Clerk:

Clerk – the Clerk stated that she would like to undertake the CILCA qualification. The course commences in November 2022. The total signing up cost is £645.00 but this amount can be split between Parish Councils. All Cllrs agreed that it would be advantageous for the Clerk to undertake this qualification. A qualified Clerk would give the PC the 'general power of competence' which would allow the PC to undertake more advanced activities.

LK – raised the issue of a lack of bus stop at the new Spring Meadows development and access to the main village for the less abled. This issue has been raised by existing residents and also by a potential new resident. Cllr Jane Somper is taking the issue further with Highways. LK suggested a bus stop at the turning circle within the development.

Welcome pack – LK has been talking to Ann Hobbs re the village Welcome Pack. The emergency plan and business directory need to be added. Ann had asked LK about re imbursement for the printing costs. The PC offered to purchase Ann some paper and ink for this purpose. Producing a printed cover folder was discussed as project for the future.

AM – the dog waste bin has not yet been replaced at Middle Mill; it looks like a concrete base will need to be laid first. It appears that nobody is responsible for the dog bin behind the school, but this bin is being currently emptied. Pennyfarthing Homes have offered to install another dog bin by the new development, the cost of emptying it will mostly likely have to be meet by the PC.

CS – the battery in the defibrillator will be replaced soon.

AD – stated that efforts are being made to try to improve the acoustics in the short term at Village Hall with the use of partitions, etc.

Date of Next Meeting: 4th October 2022 in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm (delayed from 21st September due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II).

A new local Bereavement Peer Support Group

has just started up as part of the Blackmore Vale Partnership social prescribing services. Run by volunteers, the aim is to provide support for those who are bereaved so they can take steps to rebuild their self confidence. Come along for cake and a cuppa and get together with others in the same position.

1st Friday in each month, 5-6.30pm
Abbeyview Medical Centre, Shaftesbury

Last Wednesday in each month, 10-11.30am
Stour Connect, Sturminster Newton

Any enquiries please email bvpsocialprescribing@dorsetgp.nhs.uk

Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

Gary Payne memorial bench

All of you who have visited Middle Mill dam site in the last month will have seen the new concrete plinths. These were prepared with the invaluable assistance of Gordon Gosling who kindly provided a concrete mixer and mixed all the concrete for the plinths on one very warm evening in August. A week later the memorial bench was delivered and installed by Richard Jesse from Sixpenny Forge.



A brass plate has been commissioned inscribed to the memory of Gary Payne with a short dedication to him.

All that remains is to fix the plate on the bench and hold an informal ceremony to remember Gary, the work that he did for the community and the Middle Mill dam site in particular.

This will take place on Saturday the 8th of October at 12:00 midday and anyone wishing to come along will be very welcome.

Dick Stainer, Chairman – Fontmell Magna Public Amenity Site Trust

Ride and Stride 2022.

With many thanks to all of the Parish and the Fontmell community the support and effort by you all is so terrific that we breached the £2000.00 target for our St Andrew's and for the wider Dorset Historic Churches Trust with walkers and riders on and around the 10th September.

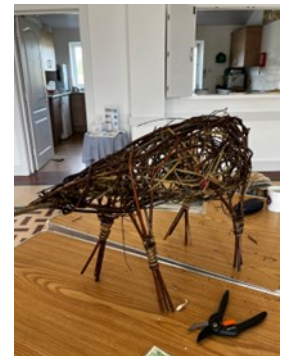
As a community we can hold our heads up high with thanks to Ric and Jan at the shop to keep the form filled, all members of the Church congregation for their continuing support, to those who manned the Church as a welcoming group with Sue Neville and her drinks and nibbles and fellow sponsorship gatherers. Should any have missed the chance the opportunity is still there so approach Gerry, Barry Roberts or myself, David Fangen for last minute contributions-never too late.

With grateful thanks,

David of Bedchester.



On Saturday 17th September 2022, in FM Village hall, eight new students joined Kim Creswell – (Tutor) to complete a pig sculptured from willow. This is the second workshop to be run exclusively in the Village Hall. The day was a success. All followed Kim's lead, first making the frame for the body, then intertwining willow to strengthen the frame. The afternoon concentrated on completing the weaving effect of head and ears. Kim grows and supplies all materials. The willow is prepared after a long soak. The sculptures need a few days to dry, a couple of coats of Danish oil or similar before going into the garden on display.



- Karen said – small friendly group, good value for money. Thank you so much for a great day it was beyond my wildest expectations
- Linda said – the workshop was great, wish we had longer to finish them properly. Kim is a fantastic teacher and willow 'sculpturist'.

Everyone was deeply engrossed and focused on their sculpture. Kim gives one to one attention at each stage. NO experience needed – if you have never weaved willow before it can feel daunting. The pigs still needed some finishing so Kim sent everyone home with enough willow to finish the sculpture, the techniques already embedded to memory and practice through the day.

We will negotiate another date for the spring. A sculpture yet to be decided on but one that is ideal for a beginner. If you are interested and want to get ahead by booking a place then please send an e mail to susanheatley1@gmail.com. Places are limited to 8, the maximum for Kim to support effectively. The charges will be slightly more next time to accommodate the hire of the village hall. Kim's work and profile can be viewed and read at www.kimcreswell.co.uk.

Sue Morgan

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Our next walk is on Saturday October 15th, 10 a.m. for 10.15 start from the Dovecote Café in Moreton, the Walled Garden, DT2 8RG (GPS coordinates 50.7027, -2.2803).

Leaders: Anne & Richard Andrews.



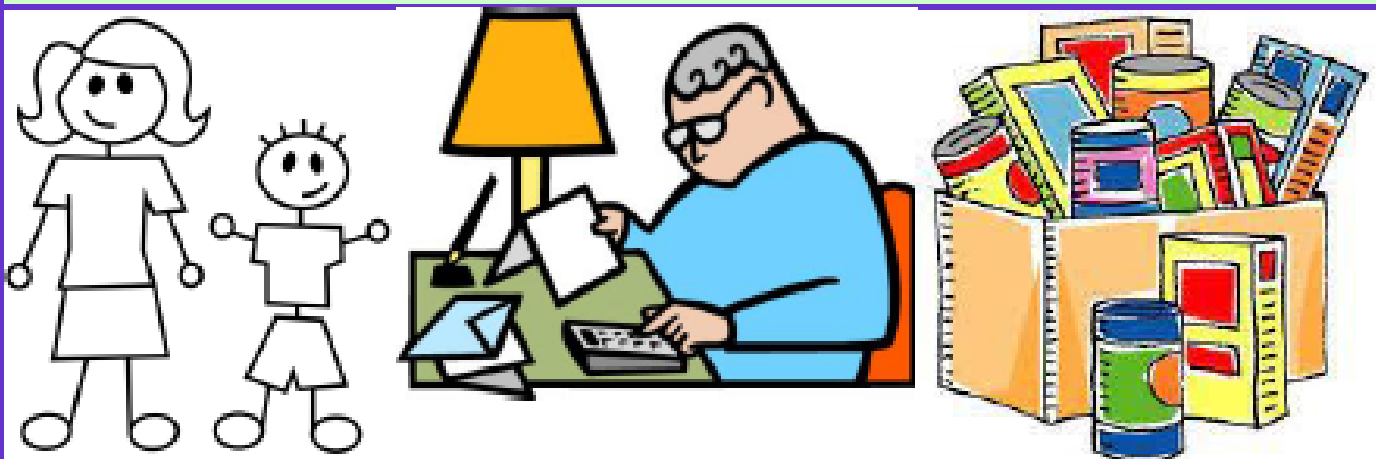
**STRUGGLING TO
MAKE **ENDS** MEET?**



COST OF LIVING CRISIS

OPEN MEETING

*St Andrew's Parish Church, Fontmell Magna
Wednesday 19 October 2022 from 7 pm to 9 pm.
Refreshments Provided. **EVERYONE WELCOME***



**Advice—Group discussions—
Community Plan of Action**

**Point of Contact: Robert Wellen robertwellen@btinternet.com or
01747 811070**

New Books On the Shelf of the Friendship Garden Library

We have, very kindly, been given some new books for the Friendship Garden Library. Covering useful techniques and information they augment well those already on the shelf. They are:

The Kitchen Gardener by Alan Titchmarsh

The Flower Arrangers Garden by Rosemary Verey

RHS Plants for Places

RHS Rosemoor

Clematis RHS Practicals

Pruning and Training RHS Practicals

Annuals and Biennials RHS Practicals

Step by Step Garden Guides Perennials by Siegfried Stein

Step by Step Garden Guides Shrubs by Karlheinz Jacobi

Gardens for Wildlife by Martin Walters

Hip House Plants, 30 stylish plants for your home, supplement from Eve magazine.



All Friendship Garden library books are on the handsome wooden bookcase in the small room next to the kitchen of the Village Hall. They are free for anyone to borrow - just sign the logbook when you take away one (or more) and return them for others to borrow when you are ready.

Compost Corner

Our dear late Queen not only loved and appreciated flowers attending virtually every RHS Chelsea Flower Show, even this year when she was so frail, but she also had many flowers named after her including: Camellia japonica 'Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II', Denrobuim 'Queen Elizabeth II', Liliium 'Queen Elizabeth', Clematis Montana 'Elizabeth', Rhododendron 'Queen Elizabeth II' and Rosa Queen Elizabeth II'. But possibly the most popular and well known one is, Rosa 'Queen Elizabeth' a glorious pink rose surprisingly bred not in the UK but in the USA 68 years ago in 1954. Not only is it extremely popular in the UK but it was voted the world's most popular flower in 1979. We have this rose in our garden enjoying its blooms for month after month - it is tall, upright, strong, and robust and I hope we will enjoy it for many years to come - it will continually remind us of Her Majesty.

Alison Main



Village weather for August 2022

A hot dry month—one useful thunderstorm on 16th then mostly dry and hot for the rest of the month. Dorset was having an official drought.

5 rain days, 1 day thunder no gales, frost or hail.

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 24.8mm on 16th)	29.3mm	31mm
Sunshine Avg. 6.4 hrs	198.8 hours	Avg 3.9 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 34.2°C on 13th)	25.6°C	20.2°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 6.1°C on 5th)	11.9°C	10.9°C

This October 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 November issue contact me via email:

(fmgosiptree@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com for further information.
Submissions for the November issue by Thursday 20th October 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