



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

APRIL 2023  
Issue 349

## MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY

A Day for the Community to  
Come Together and Celebrate our  
Wonderful Village and its People!

1200 - 1700 **BYO PICNIC**  
bring your own food and  
drink, rugs, chair etc and  
settle in for a relaxing and  
fun afternoon

1430 - 1530 **Childrens**  
Craft come and make your  
own crown in celebration of  
the coronation



KING CHARLES III  
CORONATION DAY

1500 - 1700 **Cream Teas, Cake and Coffee** all proceeds will go to  
supporting the warm hub

1700 **Raffle Winners Announced** proceeds from the sale of  
tickets will go to the warm hub

**Plants will be on sale through the day in aid of the Fontmell Magna  
Friendship Garden**

SPRINGHEAD, FONTMELL MAGNA



If you are able to donate a raffle prize for the event, please contact  
Hannah Lister ([hannahlister2011@gmail.com](mailto:hannahlister2011@gmail.com)) or drop them off at her  
house, 36 South Street.

## FONTMELL MAGNA CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Help needed on Monday May 8th at Springhead Gardens .  
Calling all cake makers, scone makers and tea servers

I am coordinating the teas between 3-5 pm on Monday May 8th in our  
village celebration of the coronation of King Charles III.

I would be very grateful for any

1. Scones - we will be serving clotted cream teas
2. Cakes - to cut
3. Tea servers and kitchen help

at Springhead kitchens on Monday May 8th from 2.30 ( helping to set up )  
- 5 pm

Cakes can be delivered straight to Springhead kitchens after 12 pm on the  
day , or dropped to my house , or I will collect from you.

Please can you email Sian on [sianhighnam@gmail.com](mailto:sianhighnam@gmail.com) if you are happy  
to help in any way. It is always fun on teas as you see everyone !

Thank you very much

Sian

## Notices – April 2023

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

2nd 0930 Palm Sunday Holy Communion  
 9th 0930 Easter Day Holy Communion  
 16th 0930 Sung Communion  
 23rd 0900 Holy Communion  
 Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Time TBC)  
 30th Service at Ashmore

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 18th April 2023 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

Next walk: Saturday 15th April 10.30a.m. from the  
Barford Inn, Barford St Martin SP3 4AB. Leaders:  
Louise (07753 897292) and Hannah.

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  
4.00 to 5.30pm. Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

See page 4 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 7.00-9.00pm  
Enquiries: Gerry Bone 812505

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

**To book the Hall, please contact :**

**Sian Highnam on 811028 or email**

**[bookings.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com)**

## **The Gossip Tree would like to welcome the following people to the village:**

Bruce and Diane Ramsden have moved from Hengistbury Head to No 3 Old Crown Rd

John and Hilary Pitt with Olive the dog. They have moved from Malvern to Fairfield, West Street.

A small correction to Tony & Christele who are moving into Pump Cottage, West St. from Vancouver, her surname is Souich not Sovich as previously advised.

## **St Andrew's School Fontmell Magna**

I am always surprised by the arrival of the summer term! It appears that the spring term has whizzed by in a stream of events at St Andrew's. We do so enjoy this time of year as we can get outside and embrace the outdoors. In the last few weeks, we have celebrated World Book Day with a wonderful flavour of storytelling and wellbeing, raised funds for Red Nose Day giving it a flavour of recycling this time round with home-made noses! Provided some funds for the survivors of the Turkish earthquake and made sure we have given time to amazing women in history with a sharp focus on International Women's Day. We love a good celebration here and our community ALWAYS comes up trumps as they invest completely in all we do. Our curriculum continues to flourish as we layer up our day-to-day teaching with our Experience Offer, ensuring our children get a taste of the arts, culture, theatre, sports, music, science, adventure and outdoor learning during each school year. With PTFA funds now securely allocated to supporting these opportunities we can ensure they happen progressively through school. We have been delighted to welcome Gillian Cross (local author), Julian Richards (renowned archaeologist), the RLNI, SCARF (health and wellbeing team), excellent worship leaders, community volunteers and a Paralympian into school so far this year! Children have been to Winchester Science Museum, Studland, the Lighthouse in Poole, Springhead, Bournemouth Football ground, Port Regis swim and gym and some are set to see The Lion King musical and embark on residential visits as we head to the summer term. We truly believe that these experiences enhance the lives of our youngsters and show them the opportunities available. We continue to be proud to be at the heart of Fontmell and to be working alongside the villagers and supporters of this beautiful village. Happy Easter everyone, all the best for now,

Debbie Brown and all at St Andrew's.



## Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 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 and 56 members of the public.

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Public Questions:

Caroline Rhodes asked if checks will be made that Pennyfarthing Homes implement the biodiversity plan measures that were included in the planning permission. A resident said that bird boxes and other facilities had been installed. MH expressed confidence that Pennyfarthing Homes would honour the biodiversity plan.

**Co-opted Councillor:** Hannah Lister was co-opted onto the Parish Council by unanimous vote. Hannah will lead on Community Reach matters – liaison with Dorset Council, neighbouring councils, village school, etc.

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

**Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Minutes of the Meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

**Matters Arising from the 17<sup>th</sup> January Minutes:** The request by a resident for a grit bin has been held over to the next financial year.

### Report from The Clerk:

**a. Issues actioned since the last meeting -** All items on the agenda.

**b. Finance update -** the current balance in the PC bank account is **£4,977**.

**c. Resolve to pay bills presented**

### The invoices paid since the last meeting are as follows:

Clerk's wages Feb £433.26 HMRC Feb £7.60

Clerk's wages March £485.05 incl. laptop software renew HMRC March £7.60

BV handyman - noticeboards x 3 refurb £558 SLCC - CiLCA training balance £173.75

Village sign Dorset Council £196.84 Parish Online GeoXphere £45.00

Village Hall NP meeting Nov £18.00 Village Hall PC meetings Dec & Jan £49.50

Planning Consultant - Mill Street Development £891.00.

The Clerk/RFO pointed out that this payment had not been authorised correctly, by the councillors concerned, in accordance with financial regulations for an amount over £500; the payment was subsequently authorised by resolution approved unanimously.

Income received – Neighbourhood Plan Review grant £2,877.00

VAT Refund £1,307.88 - claim submitted but payment not yet received.

### Planning

#### a. Planning Applications

Since the last meeting the Parish Council has received 5 new planning applications. Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group (NPMG) reports on each of these applications can be found on the parish website. [http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Neighbourhood\\_Plan\\_Monitoring\\_Group\\_34858.aspx](http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_Monitoring_Group_34858.aspx)

**P/OUT/2023/00667 - Land at Mill Street Fontmell Magna Dorset SP7 0NU**

**Erection of 25 no. dwellinghouses with associated access, drainage infrastructure, LAP, public open space & landscaping (outline application to determine access, layout & scale only)**

This is a re-hash of an application in 2017 (2/2017/2014/OUT) for 29 houses on this site, which was refused. The new application conflicts with 10 policies in the NP and may conflict with 4 more policies. The PC is objecting through submission of a formal statement prepared by the NP Monitoring Group and our retained planning consultant. The key issues are:

- the site has been classed as unsuitable in a 2021 SHLAA exercise
- there is no evidence of housing need for 25 new dwellings
- the site is outside the settlement boundary
- the development would harm the setting of the AONB and of Fernlea Cottage, a Grade II listed property.
- would mean the loss of grade 2 agricultural land.
- the development would harm biodiversity on the site and at nearby sites such as Middle Mill.

**The PC approved a resolution to strongly object to this application** The objection statement can be found on the website at: <http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/UserFiles/Files/Planning/Mill%20Street%20objection%20230315%20-%20approved%20version.pdf>

**P/FUL/2022/06530 - Middle Farm Lurmer Street Fontmell Magna Shaftesbury SP7 0NT**

**Demolish existing barn and erect dwelling with associated landscaping.**

The application conflicts with 10 policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. In particular, the site for the proposed dwelling lies outside the village's Settlement Boundary, contrary to Policy FM18 of the Neighbourhood Plan, and will consequently cause significant harm to the setting of the AONB. The Parish Council has objected to this application.

**P/HOU/2023/00322 and P/LBC/2023/00524 - Myrtle Cottage, West Street, Fontmell Magna, SP7 0PF. Convert garage to additional living space – Now Granted**

Myrtle Cottage is a Grade II listed building from 1960. The PC supported this application, to convert a garage to living space.

P/FUL/2022/06531 - Middle Farm Cottage, Lurmer Street, Fontmell Magna Shaftesbury SP7 0NT

Erect rear extension & garage (demolish existing extension). Carry out internal reconfiguration and external cladding. Boundary change to plot 1 (2/2017/1856/FUL) and erect garage.

The proposed design will conform to some Neighbourhood Plan policies but it would conflict with others.

On balance, the Parish Council objects to this application. It was noted that a large mobile chalet has been erected on the Middle Farm site. This structure is not included in the planning application and the matter has been referred to Planning Enforcement.

P/MPO/2023/01555 - Land At South Street Fontmell Magna, Spring Meadows

Modification of S106 agreement dated 23 December 2021 2/2020/0577/FUL by Sovereign Homes. This application is currently being assessed.

Thanks were expressed to the NPMG for assessing these; an updated summary report is on the parish website.

#### **b. Other Potential Sites for Development**

AD described three more sites around the village where planning applications could come forward for new housing development.

1. **Land at Blandfords Farm Barn (Site 22).** This site is allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan for 10 custom or self-build homes, with access achieved by connecting to the road through Spring Meadows. There have been discussions with the potential developer, Intelligent Land, who have a plan for 9 houses but with access to the site via West Street, west of the Village Hall. They cite problems with creating access through Spring Meadows because of land ownership restrictions. IL has suggested a public consultation event to display their plan to residents and receive feedback.

Vernon Christopher revealed that he has retained ownership of a strip of land 1m wide around the edge of the Spring Meadows site. He stated that no approach had been made by Intelligent Land to discuss buying the piece of land needed to join Spring Meadows to a development on site 22.

**The PC approved unanimously a resolution to oppose access to Site 22 from West Street and to insist any development must provide access by connecting through to the Spring Meadows.**

The Clerk will write to IL to inform them of the Parish's strong views regarding access to the site.

2. **Land adjoining Spring Meadows, South Street.** A planning application may come forward to build 20 homes on the field south of the Spring Meadows development. The PC would be minded to object to such an application because there is no evidence of housing need for new homes beyond the allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan and the site is outside the village Settlement Boundary.
3. **Land near Middle Farm, Lurmer Street.** A planning application may come forward to build new homes on adjoining Middle Farm. The PC would be minded to object to such an application because there is no evidence of housing need for new homes beyond the allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan, the site is outside the village Settlement Boundary and a development would harm the setting of the AONB.

A resident raised the question of how to stop speculative housing developers bringing forward plans to develop sites, sometimes several times over on the same site. The parish's Neighbourhood Plan provides the best defence against inappropriate and unwanted housing development in and around the village.

#### **c. Neighbourhood Plan Review**

Currently the Neighbourhood Plan policies on housing, which span the period 2017-31, are deemed out of date because Dorset Council are unable to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply and meet the Government's housing delivery test. The remedy is to update the NP and have it re-approved by residents, which will give it at least 2 more years of currency. A project team chaired by Rosie-Anne Yates has started this work, to update the key policies and hopefully fast-track its re-approval by September. More residents are needed to volunteer their time to bolster the project team and get this work done quickly.

#### **d. NPMG**

Two new members have joined the Monitoring Group – Ian Warr and Aidy Lister; a full list of members is on the parish website. MH is acting Chair and Secretary until new people come forward to take these roles.

#### **e. Spring Meadows Development**

Completion of the housing development is expected in July 2023 although some of the final landscaping

planting may not complete until November 23 due to seasonality. Sales figures to date are:

- 6 houses completed, 9 exchanged (including 6 affordable rented homes to Sovereign Housing).

- 5 houses reserved, 10 on the market.

The School Drop-Off Area will be completed by June 2023. Adoption of the Drop-Off Area by Salisbury Diocese is being negotiated and agreed currently. Concerns have been raised by the school's Academy Trust over security and lighting for the Drop-Off Area.

#### **Report from Dorset Councillor:**

Jane Somper's written report will be available on the PC website shortly. Jane highlighted the following points:

**Strategic Poole-M4 Route** - The Department of Transport has announced that the A350 south of Warminster will not form part of the main north-south strategic corridor. This means the new road will not be built along the A350/C13 corridor, which is very good news.

**Planning** – Dorset Council is inviting landowners to submit parcels of land for various forms of development, including housing and employment.

#### **Reports from the Parish Councillors**

##### **Highways:**

**a. Speed Indicator Device (SID)** – The new SID unit will be installed on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The previous VAS device on the South Street has been removed by Dorset Highways.

**b. 20mph Speed Limit** - A new sign has been installed on South Street before the sharp bend displaying a MAX SPEED 20 message.

**c. Community Speed Watch** - Peter Mole gave a report on the CSW group's work. There have been two near-misses reported on the A350 involving pedestrians. There is evidence that incidents of speeding along South Street have increased, following the widening of the road at the Spring Meadows entrance.

### **Environmental Protection:**

**a. Defibrillator** – A second defibrillator for the village has been made possible by a generous donation of £1500 from Graham Bullen. The PC would need to meet the costs of installation and maintenance.

**b. Plan for Litter Pick** – A Spring litter pick will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, volunteers to meet at the Village Hall at 10.30am. All equipment will be provided and along with refreshments.

### **Social Infrastructure:**

**a. Fontmell Pub** - The PC's application for the pub to be registered as an Asset of Community Value has been refused. Dorset Council said there was insufficient evidence the pub would continue as a pub. Information is being sought from Dorset Council on the future intentions of the pub owner.

**b. Fontmell Surgery** - The Village Hall Committee, some PC Councillors and Cllr Somper met the surgery Practice Manager in February to discuss the future use of the surgery building. The Practice has no plans to reintroduce medical services. Alternative uses would not be financially viable, in having to meet the mortgage costs and maintenance of the building fabric.

**c. Mobile Coverage** - Further contact has been made with EE about how the mobile network coverage in Fontmell Village centre could be improved.

### **Community Reach:**

**a. King's Coronation** – Hannah is organising an event for the parish to celebrate the coronation. Please see the post-meeting note below.

**b. Emergency Response Plan** - Emergency coverage was provided by parish councillors during the recent ambulance strikes. A scheme is being explored for linking the mobile phones of responders to a single number.

### **Footpaths:**

The footpath N63/6 along the north side of Spring Meadows was temporarily closed whilst being upgraded. It is now reopened.

The footpath N63/7 from West Street to Home Farm is to be widened, at least to the rear of the school; the hedge has already been cut back to accommodate this. The Margaret's Yard development and the owner of the land strip around Spring Meadows, may allow the widening process to extend to Home Farm.

The stile at the junction of footpath N63/9 and Mill Street has been restored and the rail lowered to make it easier to traverse.

The dog waste bin at Middle Mill has been removed and it is intended to move the general waste bin (or a replacement) to a position alongside the footpath.

The dog waste bin behind the school at the confluence of footpaths N63/6 and N63/7 has been replaced with a general waste bin

### **Governance:**

The frequency of Parish Council meetings has been increased to 10 per year, ie. every month except for August and December. This will make it easier to process planning applications, which operate on tight deadlines for commenting.

### **Matters arising from Councillors:**

Laura invited residents to join the email subscription list for receiving news on parish events; contact Laura on 01747 812449.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Village Hall. Commencing at 6.30pm for tea/coffee and the formal meeting starting at 7.00pm.

### **Post-Meeting Note:**

#### **King Charles III Coronation**

Following the announcement at the PC meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March in relation to the King's Coronation celebrations there has been a couple of changes mainly to the date and location of the event - the general layout of the day will stay the same. The event will now be held on Monday 8th May at Springhead - not the Village Hall. It will still be a BYO picnic and there will be the opportunity to walk down and look at the Friendship Gardens. Plants will be on sale at Springhead the proceeds from which will go to the Friendship Garden. It has also been confirmed that cream teas will be served between 3-5pm and the proceeds will go to supporting the Warm Hub. More details about the day can be found on the poster in April's Gossip Tree.

### **Buddleia Spring Prune**

All welcome to cut back buddleias from 1000 on Wednesday 12th April to Friday 14th April: A good outdoor gym!

Thank you. Queries—Just Westgate 811302





**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

FMCLT will be holding its third Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

We have had another busy year. Our grant from the Community Ownership Fund was formally agreed in April, and this enabled us to complete negotiations, and finalise the purchase, of the shop freehold. We completed the transaction in August.

Since then, we have done substantial work on the building, which the previous owner had neglected. This has included modernising the heating, installing insulation, and bringing the electrical systems into line with modern standards and fire regulations. That work is very nearly completed.

We have to thank Rick and Jan for putting up with all the dirt, noise and general inconvenience of builders trampling through not only the shop but their home as well, and they have borne this with great forbearance.

In addition, we have also provided a new lease, to set a more community-friendly basis for the shop going forward.

There has been some interest in the shop business, and the next step will be for Rick and Jan to find new tenants to take over, and free them for well-earned retirement.

There will more detail at the AGM as well as the opportunity for members to ask questions of the Directors and Management Committee.

We are looking for more people to join the management group, to help with member communications and general administration. Now that our major project of purchasing the freehold, and modernising the premises, is nearly complete, FMCLT's main business will be to act as landlord, so the workload should ease significantly.

At the AGM two of our Directors, Dick Stainer and Roger Thomas, will be standing for re-election, but Robert McCurrach will be retiring as Director and Secretary. If you would like to join us in the continuing management of this important community project, please let us know.

The short formal meeting will be followed by questions and answers, and refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Directors:	Dick Stainer	01747 811153
	Roger Thomas	01747 811440
	Robert McCurrach	01747 812077

**Fontmell Films** 🎬 🎬 🎬

Our film for Wednesday 23rd April is "Amsterdam" with Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, John David Washington and Robert De Niro. In the 1930s, 3 friends witness a murder, are framed for it and uncover one of the most outrageous plots in American history.

Tickets are £6.50 in advance from the Post Office or £7 on the door. Cash only please. The door and bar is open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. We loom forward to seeing you then.

For more information call Libby Gendall on 01747 811551

The Moviola Committee



## Fontmell Friendship Garden

As Monty was back on our screens last week - I have been looking at the diary to plan our garden for our 2023 Summer season ( our second season- seems so much longer than that)

We were sadly thwarted in the garden with the Clayesmore volunteers last Friday, due to weather - but we kept busy planting out more seeds for the garden. My greenhouses have never been so full at this stage and plenty have germinated- with the promise of lots of potting on required.

I am looking ahead now to the planting for the coronation and beyond to ensure plenty of flowers for the season.

The sunflowers are planted by St Andrew's School , Clayesmore Prep have planted some of the edible flowers for their beds and seeds are starting to sprout around the village .

I have put a series of dates together for specific work in the garden and would be ever so grateful for any help on any of these dates, for any time - some are in the garden and some are at home with me involving potting on, over a cuppa. The majority of the dates involve the normal Friday morning schedule with the Clayesmore students.

I have popped dates in the diary with a mixture of options - some very light duties over a cuppa and natter at my house. From past experience, the times will be shorter.



### GARDEN HELP

Garden Help for coronation planting and planting blooms grown around the village and potting on.

April 11 th - 10-12 at Sian 's house....potting on seeds which need moving on , over a cuppa

April 14 th (9.30-11.00) - removing spent blooms and prepping for coronation planting in the Friendship Garden

April 20 th (10-12) - at Sian's house - potting on seeds for the garden

April 21 st ( 11.45-1.00)- planting and tidying for the coronation in the village garden with Clayesmore School

April 28th ( 11.45-1.00)- planting and tidying for the coronation in the village garden with Clayesmore school

May 2 nd (10-12) - General tidy and final finish pre coronation weekend

May 12 th ( 11.45-13.00) - first large plant out of small plants ( frosts permitting ) with Clayesmore School in the garden

May 23 rd morning - planting sunflowers with the children of St Andrew's School in the garden

May 26 th ( 11.45-13.00) - planting flowers in the garden, tidying and staking with Clayesmore School

June 3 rd (10-12) final seed plant out and refresh of spent blooms in the garden

We will then move into maintenance , weeding, watering etc.

### FUNDRAISING PLANS FOR THE GARDEN

Plant sales - Rik and Jan have kindly agreed to stock some of our plants at the shop

Plant sales at the Wednesday hubs

Jars of joy at warm hubs

Pop up cafe donations

Events in the pipeline! above.

As the blooms start to flower, we will have some fun making jars of joy, herb pots and bouquets.

Anyone is welcome to join in . The garden is going to look lovely again this year and there will be lots of cut flowers for visitors to cut and enjoy.

Please just e mail me on [sianhighnam@gmail.com](mailto:sianhighnam@gmail.com) if you would like to come along to any of the dates above.

### GARDEN PLANTING PLAN

If you are able to help at all – please can you e mail me on [sianhighnam@gmail.com](mailto:sianhighnam@gmail.com)

#### Helpers are marked in bold

11th April 1000-1200 Potting On at Sian's house with a cuppa—**Sian & Helen E**

14th April 0930-1100 Removing spent blooms & planting for Coronation in the Friendship Garden— **Sian, Gay M, Linda S**

20th April 1000-1200 Potting on at Sian's house with a cuppa and a natter—**Sian, Judy W**

21st April 1145-1300 Planting and tidying for Coronation in the village garden—**Sian, helen E, Clayesmore Seniors**

28th April 1145-1300 Planting and tidying for Coronation in the village garden—**Sian, Linda, Clayesmore Seniors**

2nd May 1000-1200 General tidy of village garden - **Sian, Gay M, Helen E**

12th May 1145-1300 First large plant out of seeds grown in the village garden—**Sian, Linda, Clayesmore Volunteers**

23rd May AM Planting out sunflowers with St Andrew's School—**Sian, St Andrew's School**

26th May 1145-1300 Planting out in the garden, tidying and staking—**Sian, Linda, Clayesmore School**

3rd June 1000-1200 Final plant out in the garden— **Sian**

Ongoing Weed, water, cut flowers and enjoy

## Iwerne Valley walking Group—Wardour Castle—18th March 2023

We were a party of 12 (and a dog) on the walk, meeting Jane and Denis later at the Forester for lunch.

Our walk took us on a circular route of about four and a half miles starting at the Forester which has been a Public House since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The beautiful old thatched building is made of green sandstone, reputedly taken from the ruins of the old Wardour Castle.

The 'Old' Castle, built in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century was owned during the Civil War by the Royalist Arundell Family. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron had left the castle in the care of his wife but it was besieged by the Roundheads who were undermining the walls causing Lady Blanche to surrender. Meanwhile the Baron had been killed at the Battle of Landsdown leaving his son, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baron, to retake his castle during which the castle was further damaged.

The family built a new stately home 'New Wardour Castle' some one and a half miles away. Stone from the old castle was reputedly used by locals to build and repair village houses, including the Forester.

Our route from the pub took us quickly through the picturesque village of Donhead St. Andrew where we turned up Wardour road. A well signposted route directed us through the edge of the forest and through fields up a hill to enter the estate.

From there we followed a path around the (new) Wardour castle, dropping down across fields and passing Ark Farm towards Old Wardour Castle.

Continuing on the path and skirting the ruins we saw four very large ponds as we headed back through Park Copse where we re-joined the path back towards Donhead St. Andrew and the Forester for lunch.



Pam Payne & Penny Wintle

### Compost Corner

People love collecting things. On a recent holiday to Seville we visited a beautiful 16C palace, La Casa de Pilatos, exquisitely decorated and bursting with antiques but what was the passionate hobby of one of the ducal family? Collecting ornaments of pigs - and there were dozens of them, some worth only a few pence, sharing the magnificent space with old masters and ancient sculptures.

Back in the 17C collecting tulips was all the rage and collectors paid vast sums for a single bulb and even today, a galanthophile (snowdrop enthusiast) will happily pay more than £100 for a special variety.

There are collections of plants all over the country and here in Fontmell, the Westgates have a collection of over 200 Buddleias at Princes Field. It will soon be time to prune them, quite a big task, and if you'd like to arm yourself with some loppers, you'd be very welcome to help!

Alison Main



### Village weather for February 2023

A relatively dry month. Unsettled with some clear sunny days after frost but a lot of dull cloudy days with cold nights.  
7 rain days, 19 ground frost, 7 air frost, no snow, gales, hail or thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 3.4mm on 15th & 22nd)	11.6mm	64.7mm
Sunshine	71.1 hours Avg 2.7	77.5 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 13.9C on 16th)	10.3°C	10.7°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -2.9C on 24th)	1.8°C	2.8°C

This April 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 May issue contact me via email:

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Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: **[blueletterbox@btinternet.com](mailto:blueletterbox@btinternet.com)** for further information.  
**Submissions for the May issue by Friday 21st April please.**

The views expressed in this publication by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editors or of the Committee of The Gossip Tree.

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