



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

*This month's edition of the Gossip Tree was kindly sponsored by Anne & Joseph Rigley to celebrate their wedding anniversary*

August 2023  
Issue 353

## THE FONTMELL

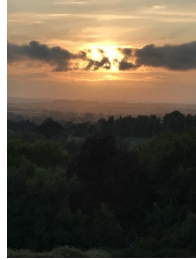
I am delighted to announce that the Fontmell re-opened on Monday 31st July for drinks with food being served from Tuesday 1st August.

Arnie & Sarah are the new publicans and we wish them every success.

I will send out full details of opening hours and details of their menu later this month.

## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—SOLSTICE WALK

On June 21st nine humans and one dog left Child Okeford to do a walk that would end, we hoped, at sunset. The first mile was a bit tricky as the fields were dry, cracked and very overgrown so it was a relief to arrive at the trailway. We passed the old railway station and continued for a while then turned left over much better fields which led us to the road connecting Child Okeford to Hanford, then to a track taking us up Hambledon Hill. We decided it was a bit too warm to walk to the top so a little way up we sat down and had our picnics. Around us was an impressive number of wild orchids. The sun was basking behind thin clouds so took its time but, finally, it obliged and streaked the lower part of the sky with gold. Our return to our base was mainly on a footpath running alongside the road then up to the church, so little time was spent on the road as night was coming. We all felt lucky as not all Iwerne Valley 'sunset' walks can be described as such! Pauline &



## LOWER BLANDFORDS FARM DEVELOPMENT PLANNING APPLICATION

The deadline for comments on the planning application for road access to the Blandfords Farm housing development is the 7th August 2023.

If you would like to comment, the planning reference is :

**P/OUT/2023/02893**

You can access the Dorset Council website using the link below.

<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=396900>

There is a petition at the Village Shop and at the Village Hall should you wish to sign it.

## Notices – August 2023

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

6th 0900 Breakfast Church—St Andrew's Church and churchyard (weather permitting)  
13th 0930 Worship for all  
20th 0930 Sung Communion  
27th 0930 Holy Communion

### Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 19th September 2023 in the village hall at 1900. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm

Parish clerk: Ann Lee

[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

Now open, please contact Arnie & Sarah for opening times

Tel: 01747 812208

### St. Andrew's School

Enquiries: 811500

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk: . No walk in August.

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

### Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

## Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Contact Sian Highnam 811028 or garden.fmvh@mail.com

### Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month  
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282  
Email: [susanannekeen@gmail.com](mailto:susanannekeen@gmail.com)

### 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: Derek 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

Paula Grewal and Dave Ellson, who, after four years in Canada and two in Wimborne have moved to 11 Old Crown Rd.

Carl and Katherine Jenkins, daughter Bella and dogs Winston and Tess have moved from Poole to 14 Sutton View.

Sophie Read and Jack Gunter and dog Bertie have moved to 12 Old Crown Rd

Shannon, Steffon and daughter Haillie aged 2, together with spaniels Charlie and Dexter, have moved from Guy's Marsh to 10 Sutton View

Martin and Julie Piper have moved from Eynsford, Kent to 9 Old Crown Rd.

**If you are aware of anyone new moving in to the village, please could you let An Hobbs know ([ann.p.hobbs@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.p.hobbs@btinternet.com)) know so that she can visit them and give them a welcome pack.**

## Village weather for June 2023

Blazing June—No real rain from 19th May to 19th June, then a good inch before a fine, dry and less rainy week. Generally hot.

5 rain days, no gales, frost, snow or thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 29.4mm on 19th)	34.3mm	34.4mm
Sunshine	266.1 hours Avg 8.9	Avg 7.0 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 28.7C on 13th)	23.5°C	20.8°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 6.6 on 30th)	11.2°C	8.7C

## Compost Corner

Hostas are a great addition to the garden but are notorious for being a favourite meal for our mollusc friends. But this year, I can honestly say that I have two perfect, completely hole-less hostas. So how on earth have I achieved this? Well, they're sitting in our pond, raised up on bricks and completely out of reach of voracious slugs and snails. There are various pond snails but these seem to prefer slimy algae to tasty hosta leaves. I lost a lot of plants last winter, but despite the pond being completely frozen over, it didn't affect these hostas at all and now in summer having a ready supply of water means they never dry out. But what if you don't have a pond? Use a water filled bowl put a hosta in the middle raised up on some stones and they'll be safe from marauding wildlife. Alison Main

This June 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 July 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 September issue by Friday 18th August 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)*