



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

December
2023
Issue 357

FONTMELL VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Would you be interested in having a sing song around the village before Christmas?

No musical ability required!!!

Friday 15 December starting at 6 pm at the Village Hall—for about an hour—ending at The Fontmell Inn

Children to be accompanied by semi-responsible adults please.

No pressure to donate, but I would suggest a collection tin for *Crisis at Christmas*.

If interested/ can come please let Robert Wellen know by Friday 1

December (or as soon as possible after) to gauge if we have enough!

(01747 811070 or robertwellen@btinternet.com)

Notices – December 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for November

3rd 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

10th 0930 Worship for all

17th 1600 Carol Service (Ideal for children & young families)

24th 2330 Holy Communion

25th 0930 Holy Communion (Ideal for children & young families)

31st 1000 Benefice Service at Shroton

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 16th January 2024 in the village hall at 1830. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.00pm

Parish clerk: 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 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

Hillarnias Tearooms - Winter Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10-3

Saturdays by bookings only

Light Brunches 10-12

Lunches from 12pm

Private hire available

The Tea Room Crafters

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

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Arne & Sarah

Enquiries: 812208

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

See page 4 for details of December walk

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002



**CHRISTMAS
2023 AT ST
ANDREW'S
CHURCH
FONTMELL
MAGNA**

**Sunday 17 December at 4 pm:
CAROL SERVICE led by the
Reverend Toby Carson (followed by
seasonal refreshments)**

**Sunday 24 December (Christmas
Eve) at 11.30 pm:
HOLY COMMUNION led by
Reverend Canon Alan Amos**

**Monday 25 December
(Christmas Day) at 9.30 am:
HOLY COMMUNION led by
Reverend Canon Alan Amos**

***Bring the Family to
Church this Christmas***

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Returns in 2024

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

Sunday Breakfast

1st Sunday of the month
Enquiries: Sue Keen 812282
Email: 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 entry on this page

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 7.00-9.00pm
Enquiries: Derek Bone 812505

Dru Yoga

Friday mornings at 0930 and 1100
Enquiries: Kirsty Elliot 829281
Kirsty@vhadevelopments.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

To book the Hall, please contact :

Sian Highnam on 811028 or email bookings.fmvh@mail.com



Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The next meeting of the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club is on Thursday December 14th at 7.30pm at Fontmell Magna Village Hall. The talk is on 'Wildlife Gardening' by Mitch Perkins from Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Guests welcome - £2.50 on the door. For further details on the club please contact Sue Chippington 01747 811520



Remembrance Day Service at Fontmell Magna War Memorial

Grand Opening of the Playground and Village Hall Open Day

On the 28th of October we held an event at the Village Hall to Open the new Village Playground and simultaneously showcase the new facilities inside the Village Hall that had all been provided thanks to section 106 developer contributions from Penny Farthing Homes.

The children from St. Andrews School designed posters for us as part of a competition. They were judged by the Art Group who meet regularly at the Village Hall and the winner was Greta Briars who was invited to cut the ribbon to open the new playground.



We also took the opportunity to thank all those who had helped with fundraising over the years and the various campaigners and fundraisers for the Village Hall Playground that had gone before. The Village Hall fundraising campaign was started in 2018 by Rosie-Anne Yates. Kim Masters who had been leading a group of mums fundraising for a new playground joined the Committee and brought her extensive knowledge and research on suitable playgrounds and surfaces to our team. The Playground Appeal raised over £10,000 towards the new Playground over 5 years which when added to the developer contributions provided the playground you see today.

In the Hall there were displays from the Archive Society, Gardening Club, St Andrews School, Community Land Trust, Springhead Trust, Speed watch, Village Shop, Tea Room Crafters, Blackmore Vale Partnership, Home Start and our popular Yoga teacher Kirsty Elliot.

Peter Keen demonstrated how to use the hearing loop and microphones and we had the new sound and projector system running.

We were pleased to show off the new acoustic panels which have made a huge difference to the hall and the new kitchen which is now awaiting a lick of paint before Christmas.

Our next project using the remaining section 106 funds is to overhaul the Ladies and Gents Toilets which we hope to start in the Spring.



FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The Garden has been ticking over nicely. Thank you to the Clayesmore students and volunteers who worked on Friday November 17th to weed and tidy all round the village hall and the garden beds in preparation for various events.

Brony's tree has been planted and we are delighted, it will be a lovely reminder of her hard work with us in the garden and the village hall.

Tom Foote has very kindly offered to move Patrick Murphy's memorial tree from the old site to the new site when the weather is appropriate. He is completing this task for us free of charge, using his labour and machinery.

The Fontmell Under 5s have planted colourful tulips into their trough for us to enjoy in the Spring.

The Clayesmore students have continued to help on Fridays and last week they helped pot on lots of autumn sown seedlings which are destined for the garden next Spring. In their last few sessions they will be making wreaths and potting on indoor bulbs.

Don't forget the 2 wreath making workshops which are taking place in the village hall on 6th December from 6-9pm and 9th December from 10am to 1pm. There are some spaces on each, please email Becky Church on

churchiegirl28@gmail.com to reserve a place.

Sian

Compost Corner

I was once asked by a passing visitor to Fontmell Magna, 'you live in such a beautiful village, but what do you actually find to DO here?'. Since, at that particular moment in time, I was wielding some shears and immersed in a flower bed, I reckoned that it was obvious how I spent a portion of my day.

Gardening is more and more being recognised as a really valuable activity and not just for older people; it has been suggested that gardening and horticulture should be included in the national curriculum as the benefits are considered so far reaching; the phrase 'less screen time more green time' is catching on.

But what's so great about gardening? It's because gardening requires a whole range of skills and knowledge from numerous disciplines including: botany, biology, soil science, maths, art, design and Latin. It also provides excellent exercise, and essential qualities such as forbearance, patience, optimism and commitment and can really help mental health. So this Christmas if you're stuck for present ideas, just think... gardening and give something really useful: a mini greenhouse, secateurs, seeds, a bag of compost, some manure (well maybe not under the Christmas tree!)

Happy Christmas

Alison Main



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Next walk—Saturday 16th December, 10 for 10.15 a.m. - Gold Hill Farm Kitchen, Ridgway Lane, Child Okeford DT11 8HB. For further details, contact Claire on 07708 473568

January walk—TBC Saturday 20th January 2024. For details, contact Clare on 07769553999

Village weather for October 2023

After a dry 10 days, rain fell every day for the rest of the month resulting in a high water table and several rainbows..

19 rain days, 4 gales, 4 ground frost, 1 air frost. No thunder or snow.

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 20.4mm on 24th)	140mm	163.4mm
Sunshine	78.7 hours Avg 2.53	100.6 Avg 3.2 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 19.7 on 1st)	16.0°C	17.4°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -0.3 on 15th)	8.1°C	8.6°C

This December 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 issue contact me via email:

(fmgosiptree@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com for further information.

Submissions for the December issue by Wednesday 20th December 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