



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

JANUARY

2023

Issue 346

Fontmell Magna shop , post office and tea room

We wanted to say a special thank you to all our customers and friends of the village shop.

As always you showed your support in many different ways throughout 2022 and we are very grateful. We are especially pleased that the Communities Land Trust (CLT) have become the shop landlords which will greatly help to secure the future of your shop, post office and tea room.

While we remain the business owners here we will continue to do our best to ensure we meet your needs. Please always let us know if we can be of further service to you.

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

With our love, Jan and Rick x

Fontmell Films 🎬 🎬 🎬

Our film for Wednesday 11th January 2023 is 'Where The Crawdads Sing'. Based on the best-selling novel, this is the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.



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

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

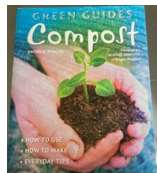
We look forward to seeing you then.

The Moviola Committee

Some new items for the Friendship Garden Library:

The library has been boosted by the gift of a large number of gardening magazines, all in very good condition. They cover over a year's-worth of gardening activity and are available for anyone who would like to have them either to keep or to return when finished with. As with all the library material you can find them in the committee room in the village hall. Please help yourselves.

We have also been given a copy of the **Green Guides Compost**, written by Rachele Strauss and endorsed by the worm compost people – Wiggly Wigglers. It looks at how to use compost most effectively, how to make it and some everyday tips for healthy compost, so a very useful book to have available.



Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 19th January at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall.

The talk is 'Blueberries', by Dan Benson of Brothers Farm, Trehane Nursery. Guests are welcome (£2 payable on the door). Refreshments are available. For further details on the Garden Club please contact Sue Chippington 811520.

Notices – January 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for January

1st 0900 Benefice Service at Iwerne Minster
8th 0930 Holy Communion
15th 0930 Sung Communion
22nd 0900 Morning Worship
29th 1000 Benefice Service at Shroton

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 17th January 2023 in the village hall at 1900. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.20pm

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

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

Our December Christmas walk will be on the morning of Saturday 17th. Leaders are Clare Martin (07769 553999) and Claire Watson (07708 473568)

Sorry we can't be more specific at this point.

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
4.00 to 5.30pm. Enquiries: Roger Hillman 811878

Fontmell Magna & District Garden Club

See page 1 for details of next meeting

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@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

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

Zumba With Abby D

I'm pleased to say, Thursday Morning's Group Exercise will be returning to the Village Hall in the New Year with an addition! There will now be 2 classes – so choose your level and get in touch.

Zumba Gold *

10 am is the 45min standing, low impact Zumba Gold class – music from around the world, lots of different rhythms broken down and simplified but that will still challenge your brain, make you feel good and leave you humming & happy for the rest of the day.

Zumba Chair **

11am is the NEW 30min Seated Chair Zumba class. Fun, chirpy tunes – old and new – to wiggle on your chair to, with arm and leg movements to challenge your core and improve your co-ordination. You will be surprised how warm you get. Afterwards we can have a cuppa and chat together: and we've definitely earned a biscuit or 2 – so stay and socialise with others in the warmth of the village hall, til noon.

* Zumba Gold returns Thursday 12th January, please express your interest/ pre-book your places in advance

**** THE CHAIR CLASS LAUNCHES ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 AND ANYONE WHO CAN GET TO THE HALL AND SIT ON AN ARMLESS CHAIR IS WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**STRUGGLING TO
MAKE ENDS MEET?**



**Fontmell Community
Support is available**

**Weekly 'Hub'
every
Wednesday
3-4.30 pm in
the Fontmell
Village Hall**

**Warm Space
Welcoming
cuppa
Friendly
Advice**

**Access to
Foodbank
Boxes**



Everyone is welcome – starts 14 December

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

Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 6th December 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

Present: Cllrs A Davis (Chair AD) M Humphreys (MH) C Scott (CS) A Main (AM) & L Kurton (LK) **In Attendance:** S Smith (Clerk) Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and 29 members of the public.

Public Questions: A resident raised the issue of the long-standing hedging that has been removed along the roadside at the Spring Meadows development. Was this a discrepancy in the original planning application? Cllr Davis had investigated and found Dorset Highways have removed the hedge for traffic safety and visibility reasons.

Apologies for Absence: All present.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the Meetings held on the 4th October 2022: The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chair.

Clarification re Site 22 Blandford Farm

In the minutes of the meeting of 4th October, the PC stated... "The original intention was access to this site would be via the road in Spring Meadows but the owner of that site has created what's known in the trade as a ransom strip, which is a strip of land that would have to be acquired by the developer of site 22 in order to extend the road into site 20, and they would want a serious amount of money for that strip of land so that's why it's called a ransom.....". At the same meeting, the landowner of the land adjacent to Spring Meadows, Vernon Christopher, stated he objected to being reported as holding a ransom strip and demanding a significant amount of money as the developer of the adjoining site 22 had had not made any commercial offer to purchase an access strip of land from him. Mr Christopher invited the representative from Intelligent Land (the developer) who was at the meeting, to challenge what Mr Christopher had said, but no confirmation or denial was forthcoming. After the PC meeting, the chairman met with Vernon Christopher and offered him an apology on behalf of the PC. The PC was remiss in not making an effort to check what they had been told by the developer with Mr Christopher, before reporting the matter at the PC meeting. Vernon Christopher accepted the apology, and the PC is now happy to formally report the clarification at today's meeting and minute the correction accordingly.

Matters Arising from the October 2022 Minutes:

- a. **Security lights at the school** - LK has contacted the school; the lights are currently switched off while they wait for sensors to be fitted.
- b. **Tree planting at Spring Meadows** - MH has contacted site manager at Spring Meadows and has obtained a proposed planting plan for the new development; this has been forwarded to the resident who raised the issue at the last PC meeting.
- c. **Mobile Broadband Coverage** - Currently there is a poor level of network coverage in the village centre; MH has made contact with EE several times, this has proved unproductive - no further action for now.
- d. **Memorial Conifer Hedge** - the PC has paid for the war memorial side of the hedge to be trimmed; the top will also be cut back and the cost for this will be shared 50/50 with the neighbouring property owner.

Report from the Clerk:

- a. **NJC pay award 2022** - the Clerk has been awarded a pay rise by NJC, back dated to April 2022; all Cllrs agreed to the Clerk receiving this rise.
- b. **CILCA** – training for the Clerk is underway.

Finance:

- a. **Finance Update** - the current balance in the PC bank account is **£5,029.81** and the PC savings account **£7,799.38**. MH expressed concern that the PC may incur an overspend of approximately £1,400 compared to budget; the Clerk explained that some expected costs may fall into the 2023/24 financial year.

b. Resolve to Pay Bills Presented

The invoices paid since the last meeting are as follows:

Landworks inv.37 - £50.00 War Memorial tidy	Avalon Print £165.00 Neighbourhood Plan printing
B Robbins £39.50 DC green waste bin	Iwerne Valley Benefice £126.00 Emergency Plan booklet printing
Landworks inv.43 £190.00 War Memorial strim and hedge cutting	Village Hall £18.00 room hire Sept 2022
Dorset Planning Consultant £108.00 Neighbourhood Plan advice	The Gossip Tree £60.00 PC sponsorship
Clerks' wages Oct £394.15 Nov £384.16 Dec £629.66 inc back dated pay rise	
HMRC PAYE £4.60 , HMRC PAYE £1.20 , HMRC PAYE £59.00 DM Payroll services £95.00	DAPTC £58.75 CILCA costs

- c. **Budget/Precept 2023/24** A precept planning document had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to meeting. The Precept will need to be raised from the 2022/23 amount due to inflation and increased costs.

Report from Dorset Councillor: Jane Somper's written report will be available on the PC website. She highlighted the following points: JS listed some statistics and figures on the rising costs of social care in Dorset. Dorset Council is currently preparing its budget for 2023/24 but will not receive confirmation of its funding from central Government until December 2022. Council tax is likely to rise 5% as central Government has removed the cap. £76 million has been saved in Dorset with the switch over to a Unitary Council. A library consultation is currently ongoing on the Dorset Council website.

Reports from the Parish Councillors

Planning:

a. NP Monitoring Group New Approach - The PC gave a thank you to Robert McCurrach who is stepping down from the role as Secretary of the group. The village Neighbourhood Plan is taken into consideration when the PC is asked to comment on submitted planning applications. The PC would like more engagement and transparency with residents when it comes to planning decisions. The PC sees a greater need to engage with the planning applicant at the first stage of the process. Some residents may not know that we have a Neighbourhood Plan! The Clerk will send a letter to all new planning applicants asking if they would like to engage with the PC and discuss their application.

b. Planning Applications

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 was a large resident response to this application. The PC objected to this application and it was subsequently refused by DC. The extent of the changes needed to create liveable dwellings would be too extensive to be permitted under a change of use of the agricultural barns.

MH confirmed that 3 new applications had been submitted and assessed by the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group; their reports are available on the PC website:

Land East of Charlie's Cottage, Mill Street. Erect 1 No. dwelling, create new vehicular and pedestrian access and 5 No. parking spaces. The PC has objected to this, as the proposed large dwelling would be outside the settlement boundary. The proposal conflicts with 5 policies in the Neighbourhood Plan

The Old Rectory Mill Street Fontmell Magna Shaftesbury SP7 ONU.

Erect first floor side extension and roof over existing external store to form linked boot room. The PC objected to this application due to the uncomplimentary mixture of tiles and finishes being employed, not in keeping with the character of the rest of the village. Thus, the proposal conflicts with Policy FM9 of the NP on Building Design.

Meadow Hayes Cottage, Bedchester. Change of use of adjoining paddock to use as residential garden. The PC supported this application, but this has been refused by Dorset Council.

c. Neighbourhood Plan - The Plan's policies and projects need to be reviewed and updated to maintain their relevance and currency. A Neighbourhood Plan Review Group is being formed to carry out the work; the project will take 12-18 months, with most of the costs covered by Government grants.

The Review Group is still looking for new members; please contact the Clerk if you feel you can help with this important work

d. Spring Meadows Development - A School Drop Off Area is being created for parents to use at school drop off/pick up times, to alleviate the traffic congestion on West Street. The PC has been talking to the Salisbury Diocese about them taking on ownership of this area. As the Diocese owns the land that the school occupies, the school and parents could then have exclusive use the area. If not adopted, then the space could be used by anyone. The Diocese have now agreed to take on responsibility for the drop off area.

e. 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. Lisa from the Village Hall gave a run down on the Village Halls 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. Another £29,000 is being used towards the new play area, plus £10,000 from VH funds. There will also be £10,000 set aside for the equipment maintenance. An open space sports area is planned. The tennis court will be resurfaced the nets replaced and netball lines marked out. The Village Hall Committee would also like to purchase some additional land for the playground to create a football area. £5,700 has been set aside for pre-school provision. The PC will be taking over responsibility of the new playground. There are some discrepancies over the land ownership and this needs to be resolved legally before the new equipment is installed. It is hoped that the project will be well under way by Summer 2023.

f. Site 22 Blandford Farm - no update and no contact from the potential developers.

Communications: LK gave a short presentation with the slide projector.

a. FMPC Logo - The local school children were invited to design a logo for the Parish Council but there was not a great response so the PC decided to design the logo itself. The new logo is based on the original three water mill wheels in Fontmell Magna and the symbolic image of the PC engaging with residents. The logo is available for all community groups to use, eg. village hall, etc.

b. Parish Directory & Welcome Pack This has been updated and copies printed and circulated. This pack is delivered to all new residents who move to the Fontmell parish area. Michael and Ann Hobbs were thanked for their valued work with the Welcome Pack.

Communications (cont):

c. Parish Council Website - A move towards a village FB page is proposed that could be used by all partners. The cost for the website could be shared with the community groups using it. LK to research cost and viability.

d. PC Noticeboards - All three of the PC noticeboards are currently being repaired and refurbished. The Bedchester crossroads information board is to be moved closer to the village centre. The closest resident has been consulted and is in agreement with a new location on the village green outside Holbrook.

e. Community Transport - LK is looking into possible schemes for providing community-based transport. All ideas are welcome.

f. Spring Meadows Bus Stop - DC Highways have confirmed that a bus stop cannot be sited within the Spring Meadows development. The route is a 'staged carriage bus service'. Travelling into Spring Meadows would alter the whole route and the service would take too long to reach its destination. The current footpath from the development to the village centre is being improved.

Highways:

a. Dorset Speed Limit Policy - The PC has applied to DC for a 20mph speed limit through the village and along the A350. Dorset Council has a £75,000 budget for whole of Dorset for this scheme, which will not go far. Amounts from £5,000 - £65,000 per parish/town have been quoted. The PC believes it has a good case for the 20-mph speed limit.

Peter Mole reported that a recent Speed watch session on the A350 showed an increase in speeding. It was thought this was due to the road being widened for the Spring Meadows development.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID) The PC is proceeding with purchasing and installing a SID at 3 positions in the village and along the A350. Two more posts need to be installed at a cost of £964 plus VAT. It was agreed to go ahead and order these posts. The SID is to be ordered before end of the financial year.

c. Mill Street - A new village sign has been ordered, to be erected along Mill Street.

Environmental Protection:

a. Village Litter Pick - a successful village litter pick took place on 12th November 2022; CS thanked all the volunteers.

Social Infrastructure:

a. FMCLT & Village Shop Update - Dick Stainer reported a new lease is being drawn up. Several prospective purchasers have been in contact with a view to running the business. Inside heating has been installed. The current owners will need to sign the new lease which will make the sale and hand-over smoother.

b. Fontmell Surgery - The Blackmore Vale Partnership cannot recruit the staff to re-open the surgery; they have suggested that it could be used for other services. The surgery cannot be sold due to covenants on the building. The PC has been invited to make suggestions as to how the surgery building could be used for the benefit of the community. **Please contact the Clerk with any ideas or suggestions you have.**

c. Fontmell Inn - Unfortunately, the pub has now closed. The process of registering a pub as a 'Asset of Community Value' was discussed. Dick Stainer reported that the pub was now in liquidation. AD agreed to write to the liquidator to state that the PC is looking into registering the pub as an ACV and to gauge the response.

d. Defibrillator - The desirability of a second defibrillator for the village was discussed, maybe at the telephone box at the shop? There is currently an approx. 9 months waiting list for defibrillators to be delivered. The cost would be approx. £1,500 for 4 years. Funding will need to be found.

Community Reach:

a. Emergency Response Plan - A booklet has been produced with help from the village hall committee. This has been circulated to all residents and is available on the PC website. An electronic copy can be obtained from the PC. http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Emergency_Response_Plan_44000.aspx

Footpaths: Pennyfarthing Homes have agreed to purchase a general litter bin for the upgraded footpath into the village. There is an option is to use some Section 106 money to replace the styles with gates to make the footpath accessible to all. To date AM has not found any suitable sites where we could make use of this.

Governance: **There are currently two vacancies on the PC for Councillors** - to lead on Environmental Protection and to lead on Community Reach.

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

Jane Somper reported that work at Dinah's Hollow will not commence until wildlife surveys have taken place, which will not be completed until December 2024. It is unlikely that any work will start until the middle to end of 2024. Yellow Spring Meadow direction/promotion signs have been attached to 30mph speed limit signs in the area.

Matters Arising from Councillors: None

Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **17th January 2023** at the Village Hall, **commencing at 6.20pm for tea/coffee and with PC meeting starting at 7.00pm.**

Downsizing



Household Sale
 in aid of Fontmell's
 church repairs appeal
Saturday 4th February
 2 - 4pm at the
Village Hall Fontmell Magna

Village Halls Week

2023

**Warm, welcoming and
 Inclusive spaces**



Event: Village Hall Open Day

With Fontmell Community Support Warm Hub

Date & time: Wednesday 25th January 2023
 12 noon to 4.30pm

Location: Fontmell Magna Village Hall



Compost Corner

Over the years I've been given all sorts of gardening tips from friends in the village and very useful they have been too.

Here are a few which you could try in the year ahead -

1. Use a strong salt (sodium chloride) solution (2 parts salt to 1 part water) to kill weeds on a patio or drive
2. Pop a clove of garlic into house plants - it protects them from aphids and whitefly
3. Orchids aren't that delicate, put them outside in summer and give them a treat - chuck a bucket of water over them - it does them a world of good
4. The most important thing throughout the year is 'hedges, edges and lawns' (in that order) always keep trimmed and cut, and you'll always have a smart garden
5. When cutting down herbaceous plants, having gained a sufficient quantity, use hedging shears to break them into small pieces - this saves a lot of time and also speeds up the composting time
6. For a low maintenance garden put down some geo-textile membrane and to hold it down cut up old metal coat hangers and bend them into little pegs
7. Recycle old fleece socks, they're perfect to keep birds at bay from your ripening cherries
8. Get a gardener!



Village weather for November 2022

Relatively mild with lots of rain and wind (4 days with > 20mm rain) Some night ground frosts.

19 rain days, 5 gales 12 ground frost, 1 air frost, no hail or thunder

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 27.6mm on 2nd)	184.0mm	Most 13.6mm
Sunshine	66.1 hours Avg 2.2	Avg 1.9 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 17.3C on 12th & 13th)	12.8°C	10.9°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -1.2°C on 19th)	5.9°C	3.0°C

This January 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 January issue contact me via email:

(fmgosiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the February issue by Friday 20th January 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