



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This month's edition of the Gossip Tree was kindly sponsored by an anonymous donor

JULY 2023
Issue 352



SPRINGHEAD

THE JABBERWOCKY AND OTHER NONSENSE by Calf 2 Cow Theatre – 22nd August 2023

Beware the Jabberwock! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch! Run for your life! Save yourself!

The village of Pokeytin is under threat. Crops and cows disappear in the night, Mrs Dodos' washing has been pinched from the line and Mr Walrus can't find a single oyster! Who is to blame? Why the Jabberwocky of course! But is this monster really as bad as those old locals make out?

Calf 2 Cow present a hilarious new adaptation of Lewis Carroll's famous poem "The Jabberwocky". Expect multi-rolling, floor stamping rock 'n' roll and a giant dragon puppet, breathing actual fire (we hope)! Grab your Jubjub bird, and your best mad hat, and prepare yourself for the belly-laughing quest of a lifetime. This is the Jabberwocky as **NEVER** seen before.

Gardens open from 5.30 pm for picnics and the performance starts at 7.00 pm, lasting approximately 80 minutes plus intervals. It is recommended for ages 6+.

Please note that this is an outdoor performance – bring your own chair/blanket to sit on plus a torch. Assistance dogs only please.

Adults £14.00 Under 18's £6.00 Family £36.00

To book follow the link below to the Artsreach website

: <https://artsreach.co.uk/whats-on>

Or contact 01747 811853

Notices – July 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for July

- 2nd No service at St Andrews, Benefice service at Iwerne Minster at 1000
- 9th 0930 Morning Worship
- 16th 0930 Sung Communion
- 23rd 0930 Morning Worship
- 30th 1000 Benefice Service at St Andrews

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: 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

Next walk: Saturday May 20th starting from the Fiddleford Inn, Sturminster Newton DT10 2BX at 10.00 a.m. Leaders: Neil and Jane Davies (01747 811627).

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

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 page 4 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 7.00-9.00pm
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

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

Linzi and Brent Allman and their dog Fynn, who
have moved from Wylie to Princes Field,
Parsonage St.

Vicky Elliot and Lettuce her miniature dachshund
have moved into Gable Cottage, which she has
renamed Christmas Cottage.

Julie and Graham Newton and their whippet Lolly,
who have moved from Warwickshire to 5 Sutton
View



A well known local resident out
for their morning constitutional!

Photo courtesy of Loreto Diaz
Perez.

New (to us) Books for the Friendship Garden Library

The Library has received some more helpful gardening books. Thank
you so much to the thoughtful people who donated them. We are
always pleased to add to the growing collection and these
cover topics that were a bit sparse on the shelves before.

Mostly they are guides to growing vegetables by RHS,
Alan Titmarsh and others – very knowledgeable writers
who are surely even able to help with growing unwonky,
undamaged carrots and unfussy rhubarb.

For basics we have been given How to Be a Gardener books 1 and 2
for the number of us who feel a bit unsure about these things.

Specialists might be interested in Orchids A Practical Handbook by
Brian and Wilma Rittashausen – “an inspirational encyclopaedia of
orchids covering over 200 varieties”.

And at the end of a successful growing season turn to Growing, Dry-
ing and Preserving Flowers by Alan Cormack and David Carter –
such a useful book for keeping flowers inside our homes and works
spaces long after they have finished being beautiful outside.

Finally, in the related to gardening section for people with an interest
in textiles is a photographically illustrated volume on Silk Designs of
the 18th Century from the V and A - almost all floral, inspiring and
very, very lovely.

Anyone is welcome to borrow these books – just sign them out in the
log book and return them when you are ready.



Saturday 20th May - Iwerne Valley Walking group.



The walk in May started at the Fiddle-
ford Inn and went to Sturminster
Newton and back. We were lucky with
such a beautiful day. The May and cow
parsley were striking. We continued
along the trailway with many cyclists
and walkers with dogs enjoying the
weather. Our dogs were Molly and a

guest dog Willow. Of course Molly found a cowpat and proceeded to
roll in it. Luckily when we reached the Fiddleford Mill both dogs
jumped in for a swim in the mill pond. We visited the Manor House to
see the oak rafters and the mural which sadly is very damaged.
Arriving back at the pub we all had lunch in the garden for the first
time this year.

Neil Davies



The D'Cruz Trio

presents a concert of music by

Brahms, Fauré, Bridge, Coleridge-Taylor & Bruch

At St Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna

On Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 19.30



Tickets £10 in advance (purchase at Fontmell Village Shop)
or £12 on the door (Cash only)

Refreshments

Proceeds to be shared between St Andrew's Church and
Friends of Kilbride Church, Oban

Contacts: Robert Wellen (robertwellen@btinternet.com)
(01747 811070)

Caroline D'Cruz: Caroline D'Cruz (cdcmusic22@outlook.com)

Garden Club Trip to Holme Gardens

Twenty or so enthusiastic Garden Club members made their way to Holme Gardens near Wareham and enjoyed coffee, conversation and a comfort break before assembling on the terrace to be welcomed by Simon Goldsack. Simon is the owner, horticulturalist and garden designer. The 15 acre former dairy and strawberry farm has been transformed into a stunning garden, inspirational plant centre, farm and gift shops, café and art gallery!

Everything from trees to perennials, from meadows to heather, ponds, statues, fruit, woods - there is something for everyone and more! Simon has been inspired by Beth Chatto, Roy Strong and many more of our best-loved garden gurus. His knowledge is encyclopaedic and his enthusiasm contagious. Started just seven years ago it is an incredible achievement.

Rewilding is high on the agenda and paths through fields of poppies, grasses and wildflowers are already attracting wildlife.

A large pond surrounded by meadows will soon have a viewing platform and hide.

After our guided tour and countless photographs the group were free to roam! Lunch on 'our' terrace was enjoyed by many and despite being very busy service was excellent.

I think all who were there would agree it was well worth the drive and is high on the list of 'Things To Do Again'.

Thanks to everyone who helped organise and arrange the visit especially The Sues - Morgan & Chippington and to Lorna McCurragh and Ann Wrigley for suggesting the venue. All ideas for next year's outing welcome!

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

As we enter July, the garden is really starting to bloom now with our cut flowers and this will continue for the rest of the season.

Briony's cut flower bed is filling up and spreading quickly and we will have blooms to cut in the next few weeks.

The sweet peas look fantastic and the dahlia are looking so strong.

We think we have now stopped the animals from attacking the art club bed by netting around the plants while they grow stronger.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been on the maintenance rota and have watered, weeded and cut back in the hot spell.

Clayesmore senior school have now finished their year's volunteering with us and they restart at the end of September. We are hoping to have some volunteers from St Andrew's School in July to help in the garden .

The Pop up cafes have continued and it has been lovely to see so many of you over the weeks . We look forward to continuing these until the end of August.

Our August pop ups will be outdoors while we have a new kitchen refurbishment in the village hall. We are aiming to continue every Wednesday and only rain will stop play !

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY- GARDEN GATHERING

SATURDAY JULY 1 st 9.30- 10.30 followed by coffee- a chance for a catch up together for weeding and a natter!

This is the first date for anyone in the village who might like to come to the garden for an hour to weed the beds, cut back, tie up and water. It will not be hard work and is really a chance to get together for a catch up, meet new villagers and have a natter and a coffee.

FRIDAY JULY 14 th 11.30-12.30

Our second catch up in the garden, when we are hoping to be joined by some year sixes from St Andrew's Primary School. If you would like to join me on either / both of those dates, please can you e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com for my catering purposes.

Wishing everyone a lovely July and please do pick sweet peas and cut flowers when you are in the garden to enjoy at home.

Regards

Sian



Wedding at St Andrew's, Friday 2 June (Sarah Twist and Aaron Lets)

picture taken by Roger Thomas.



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday July 15th 10.30am, starting from Rodden Row, Abbotsbury car park, DT3 4JL.

Leaders: Kathryn Reed 07393 213319 and Pam Jelley 01747 812786



Compost Corner

Having a nature friendly garden is what we're all being encouraged to achieve; the recent Chelsea RHS gardens were testament to this philosophy, and bugs and bees were welcome as benign visitors to the show gardens. But what to do when you have invertebrate invasion? This recently happened to my daughter in London. She sent me photos of her once pristine box hedge writhing with hundreds, maybe thousands of caterpillars from the dreaded box tree moth. These are invasive visitors from overseas and can terrifyingly quickly denude a box bush of every leaf in a matter of days. So what to do? There are a few options : 1. remove the caterpillars by hand 2. Spray with an insecticide 3. Introduce a parasitic nematode worm 4. Give up and replace the box with another species. In the end she decided to adopt resolutions 1. and 2. Although she delegated the caterpillar removal to her husband; she was too squeamish.

And the final outcome? Healthy new leaves are starting to appear and she's ensuring it's well watered and being ever vigilant re. unwelcome visitors, so with a bit of luck, resolution 4. won't be necessary.

Alison Main



Village weather for May 2023

AGlorious unbroken sunshine with cool North East wind. wet week, after 3 dry days, then almost dry until the end of the month.

9 rain days, 1 ground frost, no gales, air frost or snow. 2 days thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 14.3mm on 8th)	57.2mm	41.9mm
Sunshine	240.8 hours Avg 7.25	Avg 6.2 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 22.9C on 27th)	18.6°C	17.9°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 1.4 on 16th)	7.3°C	7.8C

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:

(fmgosstree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the July issue by Friday 23rd June 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 **fmgosstree@gmail.com***