



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

JUNE 2023
Issue 351

Coronation Service at Fontmell Magna on Sunday 7 May

Approximately 40 attended a Holy Communion Service in the morning, led by the Vicar. Below are pictures of the decorations/ flower arrangements in the Church.

The bells were rung beforehand: [BellBoard \(ringingworld.co.uk\)](http://BellBoard.ringingworld.co.uk) including 'Double Coronation ringer', Joseph Wrigley who also rang for the Coronation in 1953.



Notices – June 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for June

4th 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall
11th 0930 Holy Communion
18th 0930 Sung Communion
25th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 20th June 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

WANTED

Volunteers to join the Fontmell Magna churchyard maintenance team
Ideally two volunteers to share the grass cutting – ride on mower provided
Please contact Robert Wellen (robertwellen@btinternet.com)
or 01747 811070)

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:

Karen and John Mayell

They have moved from Cirencester to 7 Sutton
View

THE FONTMELL IS RE-OPENING

The Gossip Tree has been advised that The Fontmell will be re-opening in early July under the management of Arnie & Sarah.

This is great news for the community and I hope that everyone will support the new venture to ensure that the village retains a pub.

As soon as I have more details of when the pub will re-open and the plans for it then I will pass them on.



Food Bank App

BankTheFood is a free app we can use to find out what food donations our local Food Bank needs. Individual Food Banks nationally use it to regularly update a list of the food donations they are most in need of. The app locates the closest Food Bank, which for Fontmell is the Trussell Trust in Gillingham, which we have supported for several years.

This opens directly to show red, amber and green lists of foods required urgently/ running low/ well stocked.

Donations can be left as usual in St Andrews Church or at the shop or taken directly to Paris Court, Gillingham (open Monday and Thursday mornings 9.30-12).

DOWNLOAD THE BANKTHEFOOD APP NOW!

Chris Leppard
@ferretandbird says:
"For me it just makes more sense. Rather than throwing a few random items into my trolley, I can actually get what the Food Bank needs. It's a great idea - I hope more will use it."

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WWW.BANKTHEFOOD.ORG.UK

Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on

Tuesday 16th May at 6.30pm, in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs A Davis (Chair AD) Hannah Lister (HL) L Scott Walby (LSW) C Scott (CS) & A Main (AM)

In Attendance: Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and circa 26 members of the public.

1. Welcome & apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman announced the sad news that Howard Horstead died on Friday 12th May; the PC have done a card for the family. Apologies from L Kurton and S Highnam.

2. Co-opt new PC Councillor and election of Chairman and Vice Chairmen 2023 - 2024: Chairman Andrew Davis resigned as Chair and from the PC. Laura Kurton was voted the Chairman (Proposer Hannah Lister, seconder Andy Main) and councillors Hannah Lister (P – AM 2-CS), Andrew Main (P – HL - 2 CS), Laura Scott-Walby (P – HL 2 AM) and Christine Scott (P – HL 2 AM) re-elected.

3. Assignment of Councillor responsibilities: Planning – L Scott-Walby; Highways – H Lister; Community Reach – H Lister; Parish Communications – L Kurton; Social Infrastructure – C Scott; Footpaths – Andy Main

Annual Parish Meeting

4. Reports from Parish Clubs, Societies and Groups:

Reports read from the following clubs, these reports can be found on the Parish website:

Fontmell Society – Dick Stainer

Village Hall – Rosie-Anne Yates

Friendship Garden – Sian Highnam (read in her absence by the Chair)

Speed Watch – Peter Mole

Gossip Tree – Barbara Humphreys

Archive Society – Roger Hillman

Moviola – Andy Main – announced that Moviola has sadly closed and remaining funds were distributed between the new defibrillator, church and archive society.

5. Public Open Forum: no questions from the public.

6. Parish Council Annual Report 2022 – 2023: Thank you to Mike Humphreys for producing the report, public told it can be found on the website.

7. Report from Dorset Ward Councillor: Jane Somper read her report

Parish Council Meeting

8 Declarations of Interest: none declared

9 Approve minutes of last meeting: minutes were approved by council (Proposed by Chair seconded by Andy Main). However, since approving the minutes an item has been brought to our attention that was missed off the minutes of April's meeting so we would like to take the opportunity to amend this. The PC received £3000 from FMPAST and this was used to purchase the bench and picnic table at Middle Mill in memory of Gary Payne. We would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions.

10 Consider any matters arising from the April minutes (not covered by this agenda)

10.1 Update on School Drop off Usage (H Lister): Explained there had been a slight upset due to miscommunication when Pennyfarthing put up a sign indicating the new drop off area without consulting with the School. Pennyfarthing were contacted and understanding the situation agreed to cover up the sign. Pennyfarthing has indicated that the area should be finished by June/July but suggested they close it off until September when the new school year starts to give the school time. School have had this timeframe put to them and we are waiting to hear of any further issues/questions they may have.

10.2 Memorial Garden Grass Cutting Contract (A Main): Quote from Landworx will be provided at next PC meeting

10.3 New defibrillator – confirmation of funding (C Scott): £380 has been raised towards the cost of the new defibrillator - £100 donation from Rob and Becky, £100 donation from Moviola, £180 raised from the raffle at the Kings Coronation Party

10.4 Planning for defibrillator training (C Scott) – Request for more people to sign up for the defibrillator training. 2-hour training course which covers - How to do CPR; How to use the defibrillator; Recovery position and handing over to paramedics. Up to 50 can join, please sign up by emailing fmpc.cscott@gmail.com

10.5 Start-Up on new VETS emergency response system (C Scott) – request for more people to sign up for this and provide their number

10.6 Completion date for new footpath from School drop off area (A Main) - Dorset Council has advised it should be completed in about 6 weeks.

11 Report from Clerk (Chair)

11.1 Finance update & resolve to pay bills presented (H Lister) – all bills are paid up to date and bank balance for May after all outgoings is £10648.17. Copy of outgoings attached to minutes

11.2 Year end Accounts and plan for audit (H Lister): audit has been completed and approved. LSW Proposed to accept accounts AM seconded.

11.3 Approval of the PC Annual Return 2022 – 2023: To discuss at next meeting

12 Planning:

LSW read the NPMG terms of reference and confirmed that this would be continued in the future. Parishioners can put their views to Councillors in or outside PC meetings. Question from the public about whether records would be kept in the event a member of the PC heard reasons of objection or approval from members of the public in relation to developments. The PC confirmed records would be kept. Two Parish Councillors would be present when speaking to Developers, not members of the NPMG, records will be kept, and this is not a change to current policy. A second question asked how people would be selected for their views – this is not a selection process and views will only be heard in cases where residents actively contact the PC to relay their views.

12.2 Planning applications received - Since the last meeting the Parish Council has received 3 new planning applications. Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Groups (NPMG) reports on each of these applications can be found on the parish website.

P/PAAC/2023/00853 – St Andrews Farm Barns (L Scott-Walby) – A discussion was held on the location and potential impact of the proposal. There were three main objections that are referred to in the NPMG report (see website). LSW proposed to Object to the Application, Andy Main seconded, Proposal carried.

P/FUL/2023/02472 - Margarets Yard (L Scott-Walby) - The Applicant has taken on board the NPMG comments and the revisions in the new Applications largely address these. Any outstanding matters were regarded as minor. LSW proposed to Support, HL seconded. Proposal carried.

Spring Meadows Development Update (L Scott-Walby) – Wessex Water's application to close West Street to route the sewer though Blandfords Farm has been opposed by Highways pending further details .

Possible Blandfords Farm Development A short explanation regarding the issues was given, including the implications of the various access point options with reference to the Neighbourhood Plan, settlement boundary and housing completions.

13 Neighbourhood Plan Review Group – update from the chair of the review group Rosie-Anne (see report on website) explained that the review group had been working hard to update the plan.

14 Highways

14.1 Update on 20 mph speed limit application – Peter Mole confirmed the application had sadly been rejected by Dorset Council. Campaign was ongoing and further meetings would take place to continue to fight our case. 20% of traffic is now exceeding the speed limit by at least 5mph

15 Community Reach

15.1 PC Membership to DAPTA Committee – membership was confirmed but H Lister was unsure if she would be able to make the meeting in June.

16 Communications – Laura Kurton was absent so update will be provided at the next meeting.

17 Governance

17.1 Update on recruitment of new clerk – we are still actively seeking a new clerk and there is a candidate who has applied. Hopefully there will be a further update at the meeting in June.

Dated: 21st May Hannah Lister – taking the meeting in the absence of Laura Kurton

Date of Next Meeting: 20th June 2023



A 'work party' raking the grass in St Andrew's Churchyard on 27 May – well, having an ice-cream break when the picture was taken.

NEWS FROM SERO SUPPORTING JULIA'S HOUSE



Sero is a Latin word and one of its meanings is *'to join together'*. In April 2004, a group of ladies decided that they would like to form a charity with the aim of raising money for local causes. Sero feel it is very important to support Dorset children and their families.

Our chosen charity has been Julia's House, the Dorset Children's Hospice <http://www.juliashouse.org> for which we have donated over £110,000 over the years. The aim of Julia's House is to maximise and enrich the quality of life for Dorset children and young people who are unlikely to live beyond the age of 18. They provide support from diagnosis to death and beyond for the whole family, offering multi-disciplinary end of life care in the hospice building or in the family home.

We hope you can come along and support us at our events this summer:

On Saturday 1 July we will be hosting a stall at **Child Okeford's Hey Day** full of our usual goodies and gifts plus a few surprises and lots of bargains. Make sure you visit us between 12-4! There will of course be much more going on at Hey Day, a traditional village fete and a great day out for all the family.

Child Okeford Art Trail Bank Holiday weekend – Friday 25 August – Monday 28 August, 11-4 - A variety of artists will be exhibiting in their homes, the community centre and the village hall. Free admission. Art trail leaflets will be available in local shops. SERO will be providing refreshments during the event, including light lunches, at the village hall (DT11 8EX).

Cheese Festival, 9-10 September, Sturminster Newton 10-5 - **SERO will be running the tea tent at the ever popular Cheese Festival. Home made cakes, fresh sandwiches, scones etc. All at reasonable prices for all the family. For more information, please see <https://www.cheesefestival.co.uk/>**

We are always looking for donations of home made cakes. If you can help, or would like to get involved helping at our events, please get in touch with Kate Partridge – tel 07725245066 or Julie Little – tel 07749 486733 or email us at info@serocharity.org.uk

<https://www.serocharity.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/sero.charity.7>

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

May has been a busy month in the garden. The village hall was planted in patriotic colours for the coronation and the blooms are still looking colourful.

The tubs will be re planted in June to provide us with blooms through until the Autumn.

The reception class from St Andrew's School planted their sunflowers earlier in the month and our Clayesmore volunteers planted the sunflowers grown by years 1 and 2.

We have also been busy planting in the village garden and thank you so much to everyone who has grown seeds , potted on, planted and maintained the garden.

Briony's bed is planted and will fill up as the plants grow to represent the colours of the rainbow.

More plants are being installed on Friday May 26 th and we will continue to infill as necessary in all the beds.

Fontmell Under Fives join me at the start of June to plant up their three troughs and the Clayesmore students continue to help until the first week in June.

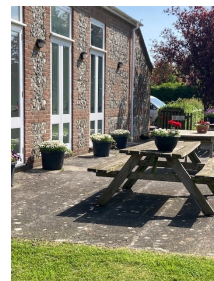
I would like to thank Mrs Sinead Wansey and the four year twelve students who have been wonderful for the whole academic year . They have worked hard and have been enthusiastic, willing and a great help. We will continue this relationship from September with new students.

The garden is now entering the maintenance stage and the joy of collecting blooms over the next few months. Thank you to those of you who have offered to water over the summer months and I will be working on a little rota to start in June.

HELP- If anyone would like to join the watering and weeding crew, please e mail me . The more names we have, the more I can spread the load.

Thank you to everyone who helps in so many ways .

Sian Highnam



On Saturday 22nd April 2022, in FM Village hall, eight new students joined Kim Creswell – (Tutor) to complete a Cockerel sculptured from willow. This is the third workshop to be run exclusively in the Village Hall. The day was a success. All followed Kim's lead, first making the frame for the body, then intertwining willow to strengthen the frame, and using the most amazing colours of willow and cornus. The afternoon concentrated on completing the weaving effect unique to Kim's style. Kim grows and supplies all materials. The willow is prepared after a long soak. The sculptures need a few days to dry, a couple of coats of Danish oil or similar before going into the garden on display. Jacky wrote how she was so pleased that she did something she never thought she could do; the group were nearly all novices and one had come from Gloucester to be with her daughter for the day. We finished spot on time, everyone completed and all the birds looked amazing.

Sue Morgan



Compost Corner

If you read May's Compost Corner, you'll know all about the delights of Wild Garlic and Three Cornered Leek and what useful culinary ingredients they are. But there are all sorts of plants, many considered weeds, that are not only edible but freely available in town or country, but would you know what they are?

Here's a little quiz to see whether you know what you can and what you definitively can't eat.

Edible yes or no?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mugwort. | 9. Common chickweed |
| 2. Honeysuckle flowers. | 10. Lily of the Valley flowers |
| 3. Pineapple weed. | 11. Bluebell flowers |
| 4. Rowan berries. | 12. Horse Chestnuts |
| 5. Nettles. | 13. Spruce Needles |
| 6. Beech leaves. | 14. Ground elder |
| 7. Yew leaves. | 15. Meadowsweet flowers |
| 8. Lords and Ladies. | 16. Cowslip flowers |

But do check and double check that you really have identified the plant correctly!

Alison Main

Answers:

Edible - 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,13,14,15 & 16

Not edible - 7,8,10,11,12



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Wednesday June 21st, Midsummer's Eve walk, starting at 6.30 p.m. from Child Okeford village centre. Please bring a picnic.

For more details contact Helen on 07789 845498.

Village weather for April 2023

An Unsettled month. Wet mid month, with storm Noa creating hail and gales. Some sunny days and frosty nights early in the month

15 rain days, 1 day hail, 2 gales, 14 ground frost, 4 air frost, no snow or thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 19.2mm on 11th)	77.4mm	23.7mm
Sunshine	144.9 hours Avg 4.8	Avg 6.3 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 17.6C on 28th)	13.5°C	14.7°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -2.6C on 4th)	3.7°C	4.8C

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:

fmgossiptree@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 **fmgossiptree@gmail.com***