



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

MARCH 2023
Issue 348

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

As many of you know, the Gossip Tree can be received either as an electronic version delivered by email or as a paper copy which is delivered to some residents in the village as well as copies being placed in the village shop.

The printing costs are covered by sponsorship from village organisations and residents and we are looking for people or organisations who would be happy to sponsor a forthcoming issue.

The cost of sponsoring an edition is £30. The sponsor will have their generous sponsorship recognised in the banner on the front page of the GT, or the donation can be anonymous if that is what people prefer.

If you are interested in sponsoring us, please contact me at

fmgosiptree@gmail.com or

Barbara Humphreys (blueletterbox@btinternet.com)

Thank you in advance

Graham Eames

Editor

Gossip Tree

Notices – March 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for March

5th 0900 Sunday Breakfast in Village Hall
12th 0930 Morning Worship
19th 0930 Mothering Sunday Worship
26th 0900 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 21st March 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: clrjane.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 18th round the Wardour
Castles, starting at 10.00 am from The Forester
in Donhead St Andrew SP7 9EE.

Leaders: Penny (01747 812222) and Pam
(01747 811251)

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Planning Application for 25 Homes along Mill Street

A new planning application P/OUT/2023/00667 has been submitted to Dorset Council by Hartdene Homes, for 25 new dwellings along Mill Street on two fields north of Mill Street behind Collyer's Rise.



Fontmell Magna Parish Council

A similar application for the same site came forward in 2018, which was opposed by the Parish Council and subsequently rejected by Dorset Council.

The Parish Council is minded to object to this new application for similar reasons. The site is not an allocated site for development in the Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan. It is not at all clear that the village needs 25 more homes, as the parish has more than met its housing allocation in the Dorset Local Plan with 45 new homes completed or approved since April 2017, against a plan target of around 40. A further site in the Neighbourhood Plan at Blandfords Farm Barn is allocated for 10 homes.

More residents along Mill Street would mean additional traffic using this single-track lane, and there are safety risks to more pedestrians crossing the A350 to access village facilities. Also, the development would impact the setting of the AONB which we all value.

If you wish to examine the planning application documents, you can find them on the Dorset Planning website by following this link:

<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=394189>

There's a "Make Comments" button on the main page for residents to make comments on the application. The closing date for comments is 17th March 2023.

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 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 7.30-9.30pm

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

To book the Hall, please contact :

Sian Highnam on 811028 or email

bookings.fmvh@mail.com

THE TEA ROOM CRAFTERS

During November and December 2022, the Tea Room Crafters of Fontmell Magna, displayed their hand made Christmas crafts in the Fontmell Shop/PO. A very big THANK YOU to Jan and Rick for letting us have the space to display all items, looking after the display and safely keeping the cash- without their support none of this would have been possible. Another big thank you to all the people who liked what we made and bought something. It was decided that the money raised would be for a worthy cause and we agreed with Jan on Weldmar Hospice care.

On the 25th January 2023 the Tea Room Crafters handed over the cheque for £446.25 to Fran Gleason, Community Outreach Coordinator from Weldmar Hospice care (first picture). Fran was absolutely thrilled with the amount raised, stayed for tea with us and remarked how impressed she was with the group.



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

Fiona and Mark Turnbull who have moved to No 3 Sutton View

Emma and Keith Breakspere who have moved from Thames Ditton to No 1 Sutton View.

Tony Bailey and Christele Sovich who are moving to Pump Cottage, West St. from Vancouver

Caroline and Bill Raymond who have moved into 6 Sutton View from Iwerne Minster

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III—A VILLAGE PARTY

On Saturday 6th May, King Charles III will be crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In the past the village has organised events to celebrate occasions such as this, there was a street party for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and we even managed a socially distanced street tea party to celebrate VE Day during lockdown!!

I was wondering if people wanted to organise something similar for the Coronation, perhaps a tea party at the Village Hall on the afternoon of the Coronation?

The people who organised these events are all unavailable to take on the organisation so I am hoping that there are people in the village who would be interested in stepping forward to take on this role. I'm sure that organisers of previous events will be happy to share the sort of things that are required to make the event a success so that the task is not too daunting.

If you would like to help, please get in touch with me at fmgossiptree@gmail.com

Graham Eames, Editor



Fontmell Films 🎬 🎬 🎬

Unfortunately "Mrs Harris didn't quite make it to Paris" as scheduled in the February Gossip Tree so she is making a second attempt on Wednesday 8th March!

The Moviola Committee would like to sincerely thank our audience on the 8th February for their patience and understanding, it was the first technical problem Fontmell Moviola have experienced in 16 years and hopefully the last!

We look forward to seeing all those that purchased tickets for the February date at our March showing and further tickets are on sale now at the village shop at £6.50 or £7 on the door.

Please bring your existing February tickets on the new date.

The doors and the bar open at 7pm and the film starts at 7.30

For more information please call Libby in 01747 811551

The Moviola Committee



Crafting Magazines in the Village Hall

If you are interested in crafting I have left two years of craft magazines in the village hall by the gardening bookcase. If you would like any or all of them please have them. I will remove those that are left at the end of March. I was given them by a craft enthusiast who no longer needs them and it would be good if someone could use them.

Barbara Humphreys



Yet another successful day at Fontmell Magna Village Hall.

Jo Richards facilitated a lovely day, making silver jewelry from silver clay. There were 7 participants and, in the photograph, you can see all of the jewelry that was made and taken home at the end of the day. Plus, the inspiration to continue to do this craft, having bought starter kits. This is the sort of craft that you can do in your kitchen. Absolutely fantastic.

Sue Morgan

Fontmell Foodbank

The Fontmell Foodbank now has its own email address: fontmellfoodbank@post.com

The Fontmell Foodbank is supplied by The Gillingham Foodbank, run by The Trussell Trust. A selection of non-perishable food, sufficient for at least 3 days, is pre-packed in plain cardboard boxes. Each will contain tinned food: fish, fruit, veg, beans, spaghetti, soup, custard, cereal, packets of rice, pasta, instant mash, biscuits, long-life milk and fruit juice, tea bags/ coffee and a few treats.



Boxes can be collected at the Wednesday Hub at Fontmell Village Hall between 11.30 & 5pm or we may be able to deliver. Email us or drop in at the hub.

If a foodbox will be helpful to you / your family then please come along or send us an email.

FONTMELL MAGNA & DISTRICT

GARDEN CLUB

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club Programme is;

Thursday 16th March - UK Castle Gardens - a talk by Richard Harvey

The talks will be held at FM Village Hall at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome for a £2 charge.

Refreshments are available.

For further details, or enquiries about joining the Garden Club, (only £10 membership for the year!) please contact Sue Chippington 811520

Dear good people of Fontmell

We were bowled over by the kindness of you all last weekend (4/5th February) – thank you to everyone especially –

- those who joined us for breakfast on Sunday (over 60) and those who cooked and served it
- all those who couldn't make it but nevertheless contributed to the outpouring of love on our farewell card
- The generosity of your gifts – a painting of the church by an artist in residence, a gift token of considerable size, a book of photographs encapsulating Fontmell friendships, a magnificent bunch of flowers and the perfect book for anyone who has spent so much time in the church, loves the service of evensong and likes a good laugh ('*Murder before evensong*').

Thank you also to the many who came and bought at our 'Downsizing Sale' on Saturday and of course the team of helpers who made it happen and fuelled it with tea, not forgetting our ace table-top sale consultant Jean. About £700 was raised to start the fundraising for the repairs which are going to be necessary on the north parapet of the church.

We will take away very fond memories of you all.

Rosie and Barry



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

OPEN GARDENS AT SPRINGHEAD MILL LANE, FONTMELL MAGNA,

SP7 0NU

SATURDAY 18 MARCH, 11-4

This will be a great opportunity to wander round our lakeside gardens to view our lovely collection of spring bulbs.

The café will be open for drinks and cakes.

Locally and organically grown flowers will be on sale for Mother's Day

Entry to the gardens is free but donations would be appreciated. Dogs on leads welcome and there is assisted wheelchair access.

FONTMELL MAGNA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



As March approaches, the garden is showing the shoots of Spring, with crocus underneath the windows and lots of daffodils planted by St Andrew's School emerging.

The Clayesmore volunteers have continued to help on Fridays, joined by villagers, Clayesmore Prep School and Springhead Trust. Thank you so much to everyone.

Seeds have been distributed around the village, planted by Clayesmore students and villagers at my house, where they are tucked into the greenhouse.

This year - we will have

1. coronation colours in the tubs and baskets around the village hall,
2. The garden club have their bed as last year at the entrance to the garden
3. Clayesmore prep school have taken ownership of the two rectangular beds at the entrance to the garden , where they have planted some grasses and herbs and will be growing edible flowers for their sensory beds.
4. The Fontmell Under Fives have the three tubs underneath the surgery windows.
5. Within the garden, we have a bed for the village hall planted in our theme of "all colours of the rainbow" , the art club have a bed, the crafters have a bed (wait and see....really exciting !) , we have our dahlia bed , a sweet pea bed and a special cut flower bed planted in all colours of the rainbow in memory of Briony Long. Finally, we have our long sunflower bed, which St Andrew's School will be planting .

We meet every Friday from 11.45-12.50 to work in the garden with the Clayesmore students and we would welcome anyone who would like to come and join in. It is not heavy work - mainly tidying and planting and always finishes with cake and hot chocolate.

We would love to meet any new villagers to join in with our community well being garden and please remember that the flowers, once in bloom are there for villagers to cut and enjoy.

LOOK OUT FOR....

Trees of hope and wishes. I have started to ask villagers if they would like to write their hopes and wishes on cards for the new King's reign, which we will laminate and suspend from trees in the garden and around the village hall,

Plant sale - we will be selling surplus plants at pop up cafes and also the jars of joy, once we have flowers in bloom.

Cafes—As last year and in conjunction with the warm hubs, we will have our garden pop up cafes to join up and socialise in the sunshine with the chance to cut flowers to take home.

We reach our second birthday, after our official opening of June 21, in June 2023 and thrilled to see the awards from last year on display outside the village hall.

If you are new to the village and would like to know more about the garden, please contact me-

Sian Highnam . sianhighnam@gmail.com / 01747 811028



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—Walk on 18th February 2023

Badbury Rings

After a quick visit to the True Lovers' Knot in Tarrant Keynston to place our lunch orders, about 11 of us set off from the National Trust car park at Badbury Rings. For the first mile both Long and Short Walk were together. The views over Cranborne Chase are superb and the incline is very gentle. After 3/4 hr the Short Walk headed back more or less parallel to the outward journey but on the other side of the Rings. It made a very good walk of about 1 1/4hrs and they repaired to the pub for coffee. The Long Walk continued on excellent paths which took us on a loop to join the path the Short Walk took. More or less a figure of eight by the time we got back to the cars. The last part of the walk was across the top of the Rings with a stop at the so-called viewpoint. As it is surrounded by trees it is not well named! However it did point out directions of local landmarks. Unfortunately we forgot to take a group photo. Back to the pub where we were joined by some non-walkers and, although the meals were only just OK, the company was good.

Jim and Cathy Bird

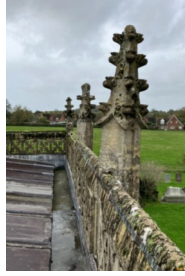
Next walk: Saturday 18th round the Wardour Castles, starting at 10.00 am from The Forester in Donhead St Andrew SP7 9EE.

Leaders: Penny (01747 812222) and Pam (01747 811251)

St Andrew's Parapets 'Need You'

Not obvious to the casual observer, but our impressive church requires urgent repair work and we need the help of the community.

During a recent inspection, the Church Architect noted significant deterioration to some of the parapets of St Andrew's and recommended: "that the parapets on the north and west sides of the North Aisle be dismantled and re-constructed using stainless steel pins, naturally hydraulic lime mortar.....also new lead flashings along the base of the parapet wall" and replacement of defective stones.



Once discovered, these defects have to be fixed not only to save anyone getting killed by a falling parapet but also because our insurance demands that the fabric of the church be kept in good order. To this end the Church Council (PCC) will shortly be launching an appeal to keep our wonderful building ship-shape and Bristol fashion. Remember that St Andrew's church is there for the significant occasions in life, for concerts as well as for regular Sunday services.

To start off the appeal, February's "Downsizing Sale" (courtesy of Barry and Rosie) at the Village Hall raised a cool £700. We shall need to build on that. The PCC is still considering cost estimates of the work and intends to apply for grants and seek other sources of funding including fundraising events. But we hope for the support of the whole of the village community and those beyond who cherish and appreciate this building. More details will follow, but if you have ideas for fundraising or Gift Aided donations to support this appeal, please contact Robert Wellen (robertwellen@btinternet.com or 01747 811070).

Fontmell Magna PCC

Compost Corner

One of the joys of the late winter/early spring garden is the hellebore. These delightful hardy plants are often known as Christmas or Lenten roses but they aren't related to roses at all being members of the buttercup family. The flowers come in many colours from purest white, yellow and green to pinks and purple. Some are speckled and some have double blooms others are cup-shaped and gloriously frilly. They are so easy to grow and maintain although they dislike waterlogged soil, so give them a well drained, humus rich site. Once you have hellebores in your garden you can be sure that you'll have plenty more as they cross-breed so easily. They can also be enjoyed as a cut flower, snip off a few blooms and float them in a shallow bowl of water and lo and behold, you have an exquisite little floral display.

Alison Main



Village weather for January 2023

The rain continued from Mid December to mid January (9 inches!!) then frosty nights- some grey days and some good sunshine.
16 rain days, 5 gales 23 ground frost, 15 air frost, 1 day snow (briefly on 18th) no hail or thunder

Comp. Figures	2022	2021
Rain (Most 26.4mm on 15th)	110.4mm	34.2mm
Sunshine	54.1 hours Avg 1.7	47.8 hrs Avg 1.6 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 12.8C on 4th)	8.5°C	8.3°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -5.6C on 21st)	0.9°C	0°C

This March 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 April issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the April issue by Friday 24th March 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***