



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

MAY 2023
Issue 350



Monday 8th May

A Day for the Community to Come Together and Celebrate our Wonderful Village and its People!

- 1200 – 1700 **BYO PICNIC bring your own food and drink, rugs, chairs etc and settle in for a relaxing and fun afternoon**
- 1430 – 1530 Childrens Craft come and make your own crown in celebration of the coronation
- 1500 – 1700 **Cream Teas, Cake and Coffee all proceeds will go to supporting the warm hub**

Plants will be on sale through the day in aid of the Fontmell Magna Friendship Garden

Springhead, Fontmell Magna



Fontmell Magna Parish Council

Notices – May 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for May

7th 0930 Coronation Sunday Holy Communion
 14th 0930 Morning Worship
 21st 0930 Sung Communion
 28th 1000 Benefice Service for Pentecost at Iwerne Minster

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting
 Tues 16th May 2023 in the village hall at 1900.
 Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm

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

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

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH FONTMELL MAGNA

SPECIAL SERVICE FOR CORONATION WEEKEND

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2023

AT 9.30 A.M.

Everyone in the the Parish is welcome



Easter at St Andrew's

On 29 March a 'whole school' service was held in the Church, led by the Vicar, David John – a joyful service including a lovely tribute in song to 'hot cross buns'. The following day, groups from the school, took part in an 'Easter Experience', learning the Easter story, and which included the artwork 'Darkness into Light' (still on display in the Church). Thank you Phyll and colleagues. On 2 April, Palm Sunday, palm crosses were distributed, including to many villagers who could not attend the service. On Good Friday, 7 April, eight villagers processed from the Church to the Gossip Tree, with a cross and crown of thorns and nails, for a short act of worship and witness. Over the weekend, the church was beautifully decorated with Easter flowers thanks to Joy Murphy and her team and looked marvellous on Easter Day, 9 April. This included a wonderful 'Easter Garden' under the altar. On that day, the bells rung, and a congregation of around 75, including youngsters and babies, attended a moving service of Holy Communion, led by the Reverend Garry Bennett.



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

Fiona Angilley, her partner Jason Allum, and his son James Allum.

They have moved from Charton Down to 5, Old Crown Rd

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)



present



by Patricia Gay

with 2 course supper

Friday 16th June 2023

Child Okeford Village Hall

7.00 pm

£15.00

For ticket information email: serocharity@gmail.com or ring: 07725 245066

Bar & Raffle

Proceeds to Julia's House Hospice for Children

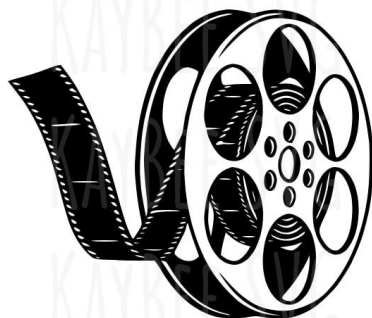
FONTMELL FILM NIGHTS

Starting in the village in January 2007 and run by volunteers for over 16 years, it is with regret that the committee have made the difficult decision that we are not able to continue running our film nights in the village hall.

For some time now audience numbers have not met the required level to enable us to break even on our costs payable to Moviola who provide us with the film hire and a presenter. This financial loss each month is simply no longer sustainable.

Our thanks go to all those that have supported us, also to Jan & Rick at the village shop for providing our "box office" and to Perry & Sons for their help with the posters, you have all been very kind.

With best wishes
The Moviola Committee



Fontmell Community Support Hubs
at Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Hosted in partnership with the
Fontmell Friendship Garden



2pm to 5pm
on these Wednesdays:

- April: 26th
- May: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
- June: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
- July: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

(Hall Closed from 31st July for 3 weeks)

All are welcome and it's FREE
Hot drinks, savoury snacks and cake

For further information please see the Parish Council website or visit our Facebook page
@villagehallfontmellmagna or email: secretary.fmvh@mail.com

"Fontmell Community Support

The FCS team would like to thank all our volunteers who helped to make the 10 Community Warm Hubs such a success. We catered for up to 40 people for lunch and 10 or so families with children for tea each week. We also provided takeaway meals to many housebound villagers. We have established good links with the Abbeyview Health & Wellbeing Team and the Citizens Advice Bureau. We were keen to keep these connections going over the summer so are pleased to announce that the Fontmell Friendship Garden has agreed that we can team up with them to provide Afternoon Tea between 2pm and 5pm on Wednesdays at the Village Hall. We will also be able to supply foodbank boxes during this time. If you are interested in volunteering to help serve teas or bake cakes please contact Siân Highnam: garden.fmvh@mail.com



Fontmell Magna Parish Council – Meeting held on 18th April 2023 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 Andrew Davis (Chair AD), Michael Humphreys (MH), Laura Kurton (LK), Hannah Lister (HL), Andy Main (AM), Christine Scott (CS) plus Sam Smith (Clerk), Dorset Cllr Jane Somper and 35 members of the public.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Questions:

Lorna McCurrach raised the submission of an updated planning application affecting Middle Farm Barn in Lurmer Street. Mike advised that the NP Monitoring Group are looking at this and will report shortly.

Co-opted Councillor: Laura Scott Walby was co-opted onto the Parish Council by unanimous vote. Laura will lead on Planning matters, replacing Mike.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes of the Meetings held on the 21st March 2023:

Hannah updated the meeting on the School's adoption of the School Drop-Off Area in the Spring Meadows development. Negotiations are continuing with Pennyfarthing Homes over suitable lighting and security for parents and children who would use the facility. The Drop-Off Area is expected to be ready in June.

Report from the Clerk:

a. Issues actioned since the last meeting - All items on the agenda.

b. Finance update - the current balance in the PC bank account is **£6,483**. This includes a VAT refund of £1,307.88

c. Invoices paid since the last meeting are:

Avalon Print £82.00 NP copies

DAPTC annual membership 23/24 £280.27

SID posts £1,216.80

Dorset Consultant £3,452.28 NP Review related work - paid from grant received

Clerk's wages April – TBA?

Village Hall hire £36 for March and £22.50 April PC meeting

Barbara Robbins green waste bin 23/24 £65.00

Vision ICT £150.60 website and email services 23/24

Landworxs £50 grass maintenance for War Memorial

Mill Street dog waste bin £80.78 23/24

Blackmore Vale ad for new Clerk £289.84

The Clerk advised that the Financial Year-End accounts are being prepared. The Clerk also raised the need to clarify the contract with Landworxs for grounds maintenance.

Planning

a. Planning Applications

Since the last meeting the Parish Council has received 4 new planning applications. Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group (NPMG) reports on each of these applications can be found on the parish website. http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Neighbourhood_Plan_Monitoring_Group_34858.aspx

P/PAAC/2023/01596 - Green Farm Margaret Marsh Shaftesbury SP7 0AZ

Change of use & conversion of agricultural buildings to 2 no. dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)

PC to Support

Neighbourhood Plan Policy FM16, Housing Type - as one of the two proposed units is a 4-bedroom dwelling, the application does not fully comply with this policy.

Closing date: 13/04/23

[P/HOU/2023/01648 and P/LBC/2023/01649 - Blackberry Farm, Hannahs Hill, Fontmell Magna SP7 0AT](#)

Internal changes to property.

PC to Support Two minor observations regarding an internal door and the position of a soil pipe.

Closing date: 23/04/23

[P/FUL/2023/01218 - Compton Abbas Airfield](#)

Erect 2 No. workshop buildings

PC to Support It's been confirmed Cranborne Chase AONB are aware of this development. JS advised no date is scheduled at present for the road improvement works at nearby Gore Clump.

Closing date: 21/04/23

[P/FUL/2023/01303 - Penn Hill Dairy Barn, Bedchester, SP7 0JY](#)

Erect 1 No. dwelling and barn (demolish existing barns)

PC to Object There have been three planning applications affecting this site since 2019, the latest involving demolishing a large barn built in 2017 and an adjacent shack. Several residents raised concerns about this application, as it would require demolishing the barn that is in use and erecting a two-storey 2-bed dwelling with a much a larger footprint than the modest design for a house which was granted prior approval in April 2022. If approval were granted for this larger dwelling it could set a precedent for future new dwellings being constructed in open countryside, outside the parish settlement boundary, with the consequential loss of agricultural land and harm to the landscape.

Councillors voted by majority 5:2 to object to this application. The PC's previous comment on this application would be withdrawn from the Dorset Planning website and its objections recorded.

Thanks were expressed to the NP Monitoring Group for assessing these applications; an updated summary report is on the parish website.

[b. Land at Blandfords Farm Barn \(Site 22\).](#)

Intelligent Land has suggested holding a public consultation event on its plans for developing this site, which proposes 9 large custom/self-build dwellings. However, the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group is in the process of updating the policy on this site, given the complications over access that have arisen. The previous owner of the Spring Meadows land (Site 20), Vernon Christopher, has retained a 1m wide strip of land around Site 20 along its north and east boundaries, a part of which would have to be acquired to create an access road into Site 22. The NP Monitoring Group will meet on 24th April to discuss options for developing Site 22 and report back to the Parish Council.

[c. Neighbourhood Plan Review](#)

Rosie Anne-Yates reported on the activities of the NP Review Group. Dick Stainer has produced an analysis of housing stock which shows that Fontmell Magna has much higher proportion of 4+ bed homes (37.7%) than in Dorset generally (24%). Hence NP policies need to encourage development of more 1-, 2- and 3-bed homes, and affordable homes. The Review Group are also discussing the implications for Mill Street and West Street on any new developments. Andrew is in contact with Wessex Water over sewage system capacity to support developments on Sites 20 and 22.

Proposed draft changes to the Neighbourhood Plan should be available in early June.

[d. NPMG](#)

Laura Scott Walby has joined the group as the Parish Council representative and link. A fresh appeal was made for new people to come forward to take the roles of Chair and Secretary of the group to replace Mike who is standing down; without people in these roles the group will cease to function.

Report from Dorset Councillor:

Jane Somper's written report will be available on the PC website shortly. Jane highlighted the following points:

Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Dorset Council aim to provide access to charging points within a 10 minute drive for most residents within 10 years. Dorset Council has 'ambitious plans' to expand the charge points into villages and rural locations across the local authority network. The plans, which will play a key part in preparing the county for the government's 2050 net-zero target, will see as many as 200 electric vehicle charge points installed in communities across the Dorset Council area over the next three years.

Jane also mentioned a communications event in Iwerne Minster that took place on 20th April involving Dorset Police, DC fostering services, DC customer services, Cranborne Chase AONB, Wessex Internet and many more.

Reports from the Parish Councillors

Highways:

a. Speed Indicator Device (SID) – The new SID unit is now operational. It will be moved at monthly intervals between three entrance sites to the village – South Street, North Street and West Street.

b. Community Speed Watch - Peter Mole reported increasing incidences of speeding along South Street where the road has been widened to access to Spring Meadows, with obvious risks to pedestrians and other road users. Peter and Hannah will be meeting Dorset Highways to discuss what can be done to tackle this.

Social Infrastructure:

a. Fontmell Pub - Andrew reported much time was being spent in separating speculation from facts. He shared key parts of a letter sent to DC by the agent acting on behalf of the person that has a charge against the Fontmell pub business. This information was received following a Freedom of Information request to DC and key parts are available on the PC website.

b. Defibrillator – Plans are going ahead to install a second defibrillator for the village; the FMCLT has generously given permission to use the telephone box by the shop. Councillors agree the PC would cover the costs of installation and maintenance, which is £405 in year one, then £100pa thereafter.

A training course will be arranged, a 2-hour session for 50 people at a cost of £175. Attendees will be invited to make a voluntary donation.

c. Emergency Response – the Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (V.E.T.S.) will be acquired, where responders are linked by a single phone number; costing £45 in year 1 then £100pa thereafter.

d. S106 Grant Allocation

The S106 monies from the Spring Meadows development will benefit from an uplift for inflation. Rosie Anne gave an update on the various projects to improve facilities in the Village Hall, including refurbishing the kitchen, integrated audio system, sound-proofing, tennis court upgrade, etc. The new playground equipment is planned for installation in September.

e. Mobile Coverage - Further contact has been made with EE about how the mobile network coverage in Fontmell Village centre could be improved.

Community Reach:

a. King's Coronation – Hannah gave details of the celebration planned for Monday 8th May in conjunction with Springhead. Events will run from 12.00-5.00pm, including a community BYO lunch and activities for children. Bunting will be going up on 1st May. Pen Haddow mentioned that Bedchester are organising a separate event for their residents.

b. Village Shop – Dick Stainer reported that a new lease has been signed; the lease provides a lower rent and establishes a saleable business for the shop.

Communications:

a. Mobile Network Coverage – Laura K reported that an online survey is out exploring resident's wishes regarding a 4G mast in the village. Please contact Laura to receive the survey link.

Footpaths:

The footpath N63/6 along the east side of Spring Meadows will be widened and re-surfaced.

The footpath N63/7 from West Street to Home Farm is to be widened, at least to the rear of the school; the hedge has already been cut back to accommodate this.

The stile at the junction of footpath N63/9 and Mill Street has been restored and the rail lowered to make it easier to traverse.

A general waste bin has been installed at Middle Mill.

A planning application to remove a diseased tree at 36 South Street will be supported.

Governance:

a. Annual Parish Meeting & Parish Council AGM

Andrew advised that these statutory meetings will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in the Village Hall. Leaders of parish clubs and societies are invited to submit short reports on their activities and achievements through the past year.

b. Parish Clerk – Sam Smith is stepping down as Clerk/RFO at the end of April. Andrew expressed a vote of thanks to Sam for her excellent support over the past two years. Recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO is under way. Please contact Andrew Davis in the interim.

c. Councillor Humphreys – Mike is stepping down after serving 8 years as a councillor, including 3 years as chairman. Mike played a leading role in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and has been the lead on planning matters for the parish council throughout his tenure. Andrew expressed a vote of thanks for his service to the parish and presented a generous gift.

Date of Next Meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at the Village Hall. Commencing at 6.30pm for tea/coffee and the formal meeting starting at 7.00pm.

FONTMELL MAGNA POP UP PUB

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust are running a Pop-up Pub on Friday the 5th of May.

It will be held in the Village Hall from 7:30pm to 10:00pm.

Draught beers, wine and soft drinks will be on sale.



BUDDLEIAS

Heartfelt thanks to all those who braved rain, wind and hail to get the buddleias under control. A wonderful effort. Judy



IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

APRIL 2023 WALK

Ten of us, plus two dogs, set out from the Barford Arms on Saturday morning, skirting Barford Down and then up into Grovely Wood. We connected with the beech-lined avenue, a Roman road that runs from Wilton through the wood, before turning back towards Barford St Martin, traversing the west side of the down and then joining a farm track that took us back to the dead end lane that starts at the pub. We were lucky with the weather, coats were being taken off rather than put on, and after a five mile hike a well-deserved lunch was enjoyed by all back at the Barford Arms.

Thank you everyone who joined us.

Louise Parry and Hannah Barrington



Compost Corner

Wild garlic, *Allium ursinum* (also known as ransoms) has become a fashionable cooking ingredient; I've even seen it for sale frozen in supermarkets. Its leaves make an excellent pesto, an addition to soup and the white flowers look so pretty scattered over a bowl of salad. It grows well on chalky soils in deciduous woodland and can be found throughout Dorset in spring - often you can smell it first before you spot it. But there's another wild plant that is also a useful and delicious ingredient: Three-Cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*). It tastes like a combination of garlic, chives and spring onions and all parts of it from bulb to flower, are edible. I was recently in Cornwall and it was growing profusely everywhere - maybe a little too successfully and hailing originally from the Mediterranean, it's technically considered a non-native invasive weed. When it comes to foraging there are certain harvesting rules but not when it comes to Three-Cornered Leek - take as much as you like! Both wild garlic and Three-Cornered Leek could easily take over your garden, so beware - definitely best not to introduce them unless you want to crop them on an industrial scale.



Alison Main

Village weather for March 2023

Only 4 days at the start of the month without rain—a wet month. One snowy morning with few sunny days

27 rain days, 1 day hail, 5 gales, 8 ground frost, 5 air frost, no snow or thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 14.0mm on 7th)	129.0mm	72.57mm
Sunshine	55.7 hours Avg 1.8	Avg 5.1 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.7C on 30th)	10.7°C	13.3°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -5.2C on 2nd)	3.9°C	4.0C

This May 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 June issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the June issue by Friday 19th May 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

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN.

The garden is really gathering momentum this month with a lot of planting taking place.

The village hall is now surrounded by plants in the coronation colours and thank you to all the volunteers who have helped plant the tubs and planters.

Sue Morgan has been beavering away with her willow structures and there are some lovely plant supports , created by Sue and ready for our successive planting.

St Andrew's School will be planting their multi coloured sunflowers with me on May 9th , quickly followed on May 12th by a bigger plant out of hardy plants in several of the beds.

We will soon be able to enjoy our cut flower blooms . Thank you to everyone who has grown flowers from seed. You will also see lots of coronation hopes and wishes strung from trees around the village hall and in the garden. There are some lovely wishes and some profound statements from our children of St Andrew's School.

POP UP CAFES STARTED APRIL 26th

Our pop up cafes have started again , continuing the work of the hubs. We run every Wednesday at the village hall from 2-5 pm and we are offering cakes, simple savouries, tea and coffee. As previously, this is free of charge- but we are happy to accept any donations for the Friendship Garden .

As time goes on, there will be jars of joy available and visitors will be able to cut flowers for themselves from the garden.

Thank you to everyone involved in so many ways.

Regards

Sian

