



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

November
2023
Issue 356



Christmas Fayre

Sunday November 26th
11am to 3pm

At Fontmell Magna Village Hall
Supported by many local Arts & Crafts.



Notices – November 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for November

5th 0900 Church Breakfast

12th (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)

1000 in St Andrew's Church followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

19th 0930 Sung Communion

26th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 21st November 2023 in the village hall at 1800. Tea and coffee will be served from 5.30pm

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

Hillarnias Tearooms - Winter Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10-3

Saturdays by bookings only

Light Brunches 10-12

Lunches from 12pm

Private hire available

The Tea Room Crafters

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Tea Room.

Enquiries: Jenny White 812042

The Fontmell

Arne & Sarah

Enquiries: 812208

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

AGM Saturday November 18th 3.30p.m. at the Iwerne Minster Village Club. Local walk beforehand at 2p.m. weather permitting.

Contact: Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002



**St Andrew's Parish
Church and St
Andrew's School
Fontmell Magna**

ST ANDREW'S DAY SERVICE

**(ONE DAY LATE-St Andrew's Day is
30 November!)**

**St Andrew's Parish
Church, Fontmell
Magna
Friday 1 December
2023 at 2.30 pm**

*Special
Appearance
from St Andrew
in person!*

**An informal service with the full school TO WHICH ALL
PARENTS, FAMILY AND VILLAGE MEMBERS ARE
WELCOME**

**Let's join together as a community to celebrate our
Patron Saint
'Fishy' refreshments to eat or take away and a chance to
chat and mingle after the service**

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 entry on this page

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**



Hillarnias
—Village Tearoom—

Childrens Gingerbread Workshop with Santa

Come and join the Christmas magic this December and decorate your own gingerbread house followed by a visit to Santa in our secret grotto.

£10 per child

Each child will receive a ready made gingerbread house for them to decorate in our tearooms. Once they have completed their masterpiece, one of Santas elves will take them up to see Santa in his hidden grotto.

Each child will receive a gift and instant photo.

Saturday 2nd December 1-4pm
Saturday 9th December 1-4pm
Saturday 23rd December 1-4pm

Prebooking and payment required in person or email your booking enquiry to hillarnias@gmail.com



Hillarnias
—Village Tearoom—

Christmas Celebrations

Parsnip Soup
Served with a cheese scone or warm crusty roll

Pigs in Blankets
Tossed in maple syrup and orange zest

Festive Fries
In a sage and onion dusting with crumbled stilton

Goats Cheese Tartlets
With a red onion marmalade dip

Spinach and cream cheese tear and share
With a cranberry dip

Chicken vol au vents
Chicken in a creamy leek dressing

Sausage Wreath
Sausage and chestnut share and tear with a cranberry mayonnaise

Mince Pie
Served warm with brandy cream

Tea, coffee, gingerbread latte or hot chocolate

Join us for a Christmas celebration throughout December for just £20 per head.
Prebooking and payment required. Maximum of 20 people. Private hire is also available.
Visit us in person or email your booking enquiry to hillarnias@gmail.com

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP—OCTOBER WALK

Following the aftermath of Storm Babet it was touch and go whether the Iwerne Valley Walking group undertook their October walk around Abbotsbury. Postponed from July due to bad weather, we were hopeful that lightning wouldn't strike twice, literally as well as figuratively!

However seven intrepid walkers, plus three dogs, decided to take the plunge and it definitely was a risk worth taking. Leaving the pretty village of Abbotsbury the walk initially led up to the top of a steep hill where the views of Chesil beach and The Fleet were well worth all the effort. In the distance we could see rain clouds gathering over Portland Bill so put our best feet forward along a very muddy South West coastal path towards Abbotsbury tropical gardens. Looking out for each other, with one eye on the stunning scenery, we slipped and slid our way down the hill - and only one of us came away with a muddy backside.

Skirting the gardens and Abbotsbury Swannery, being relieved to be back on firmer ground, we made our way around St Catherine's Chapel and back to the Old Schoolhouse Tearooms for lunch. All agreed it had been a fabulous walk, the rain kept at bay and we travelled home feeling a sense of achievement.

Kathryn Reed

**AGM Saturday November 18th
3.30p.m. at the Iwerne Minster Village
Club. Local walk beforehand at
2p.m. weather permitting. More
details from Helen on 01747 853472**



Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall.

The talk is 'The Climate Change Garden', by Sally Morgan and guests are welcome (£2.50 payable on the door). Refreshments are available.

For further details on the Garden Club please contact

Sue Chippington 811520.

BUDDLEIAS

Thank you all who braved heat and showers to prepare the buddleias for the winter.

a brilliant achievement in the week.

Judy and Peter

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

Susie and Greg Czarnota- Bojarski who have moved from Long Crendon to The HayBarn Old Tythe Farm Hartgrove

Ruth and Michael Olpin who have moved from Salisbury to The Farmhouse, Old Tythe Barn Hardgrave

Hilary and Martin Wildbur who have moved from Manston to 13 Old Crown Rd

Steven and Lesley Drew who have moved from Epsom, Surrey, to 7, Old Crown Rd

Duane and Tanya Hills from Poole (I think) to Fontmell Village shop and Post Office

Stonehenge - we need to talk.....

Sunday 26th November 10.00am -5.00pm



Stonehenge is a world-famous monument, the greatest achievement of our prehistoric ancestors. It has been the subject of investigation and speculation for centuries and, while science has provided some answers, there is much that remains enigmatic.

This day will feature presentations by three leading experts in their individual fields:

Julian Richards is an archaeologist who has studied Stonehenge and its landscapes for over 40 years. The author of a number of publications on the subject of Stonehenge, Julian also examines Stonehenge as a cultural icon.

Simon Banton is an archaeoastronomer - someone who studies humanity's eternal fascination with the sky and its expression through ancient monuments. He's been an astronomer for over 50 years and a Stonehenge geek for the last 30.

Luke Winter is one of the country's leading experimental archaeologists. Responsible for the design and build of the Neolithic houses at the Stonehenge Visitor centre, Luke brings a unique insight to the question of how Stonehenge might have been built and the lives of its builders.

After each presentation there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion and the remainder of the day will allow the opportunity to explore wider issues. This is the chance to ask all those questions about Stonehenge that you have always wanted to ask...

The course starts with registration at 10.00am. Tea/coffee will be provided throughout the day. Lunch is not provided and there are no shops or food outlets nearby so please bring a packed lunch. Lunchtime will give an opportunity to explore Springhead's beautiful gardens. Please note the heating is kept low so wrap up well.

The course is strictly limited to 40 participants and early booking is advised. The cost per person is £40 and all proceeds will go towards supporting Springheads education aims.

www.springheadtrust.org.uk



IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS AGAIN!... and SERO would like to invite you to a CHRISTMAS CRACKER of an evening with festive songs performed by

GEOFFREY HORTON

Acclaimed bass-baritone Geoffrey has over 40 years of experience in the music profession, has sung major operatic roles, Gilbert & Sullivan, appeared in musicals and directed everything from opera to panto. He has also performed as an international guest soloist. The songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Lerner & Loewe will be mixed in with a few seasonal songs and some audience participation!

CHILD OKEFORD VILLAGE HALL, DT11

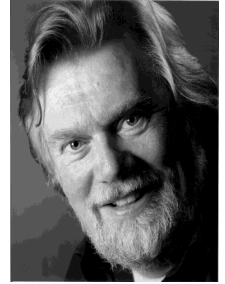
Sunday 26 November, 7pm-930pm approx

£12.50 to include light refreshments.

Bar and raffle

**To buy tickets email: serocharity@gmail.com
Or ring Julie on 01258 861218/07749 486733**

Or Kate 01258 863695/07725 245066



*** SERO – raising funds for local causes and Julia' House Children's Hospice**

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

THE FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN HAS MOVED

What a busy time since the last Gossip Tree update!

Since Friday Sept 22nd, we have been working in groups and teams to move the garden to its new location.

There are some incredible statistics since then.....

192 children and villagers have visited and planted or worked in the garden in the four week period from the end of September to the end of October..

Over 180 man hours have been spent in that time!

300 yellow crocus have been planted around the village hall, just under 500 daffodils have been planted along the whole perimeter of the village hall fence lines and along the side of the road. 250 tulips have been planted in beds

Two hedgehog houses have been re sited and re vamped The compost bins are resited All our perennials were dug up, potted on temporarily and replanted Two new shade loving beds have been created with hostas, ferns, hellebores, foxgloves and cyclamen have been planted at the front of the village hall A new tree has been planted at the edge of the village hall and we will be planting a special tree in memory of Briony - the hole has been dug.

There are new tubs and planters around the village hall patio, including climbing roses and planters have been resited around the band hut .Wherever you sit or walk around the village hall, there will be an opportunity to enjoy plants Our new village is rebranded as the Fontmell Friendship Garden"- a garden in our village for the local community to enjoy.

It is an incredible achievement - THANK YOU EVERYONE.

There are some small outstanding jobs - We have Joy's tree to move - this will happen once the leaves have fallen and We have the old sun flower bed to move, once the willow is cut for our use by Sue in November.

The underground irrigation pipes are partially installed and we will be working on connecting a comprehensive irrigation system in the new year . The old site is virtually bare and the new garden will now settle in over the Autumn and winter and we can look forward to it bursting into flower from February.

Here are some lovely pics of the Hello Yellow morning with St Andrew's School this week and some of the volunteers in the garden who helped move the beds and plants .

Thank you very much to everyone who has helped in so many ways.

Sian



Our son Ivo and Jade Letts (a physio from Abbeyview with many clients in the village) are getting married in St Andrews Church Fontmell on Friday 8 December at 3.00pm. Villagers are most welcome to attend the church service. Parking in the village will between 2.30pm and 4.30pm will be busy and we apologies in advance. If any villagers can offer a space on their driveway to alleviate the congestion, we would be very grateful.

Many thanks
 Rosie-Anne & Christian
 Rosie-Anne Yates
 07710326339
ra@yatesmail.org



Compost Corner

The first frosts of autumn aren't far away, so It won't be long before you need to sort out your dahlias. These glorious and increasingly popular plants originated from Mexico and unfortunately are not hardy in this country. So what to do with them over winter - leave them in situ or lift them and store in a frost free shed? A hard, penetrating frost can easily put an end to a dahlia tuber and lifting and storing the tubers is never 100% straightforward in my experience. But there is another excellent solution which I picked up from a dahlia expert: leaving the tuber in the border, covering the entire area in plastic and then adding a very deep mulch (minimum 30 cm). The theory is that the plastic protects the tuber from the damaging effects of too much rain and the mulch protects it from penetrating cold. I've tried this method for a couple of years and it has worked perfectly. Remove the plastic in late spring, once all danger of frost has passed, spread out the mulch and soon fresh new shoots will start appearing.

Alison Main



Village weather for September 2023

Sunny warm first 2 weeks and then thunder and some heavy rain, followed by an unsettled end to the month. Storm Agnes missed Dorset. 11 rain days, 3 gales, 1 ground frost, 1 day thunder. No air frost or snow.

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 30.2mm on 20th)	71.6mm	83.6mm
Sunshine	130.6 hours Avg 4.3	105.7 Avg 3.5 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 30.3C on 9th)	21.7°C	19.5°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 3.5 on 23rd)	11.6°C	9.1C

This November 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 issue contact me via email:

(fmgossiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the December issue by Monday 20th November 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****