



# THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

September  
2023  
Issue 354

This month's edition of the Gossip Tree is sponsored by Peter and Meriel Gray with many thanks for the hard work of the Editor and Chairwoman for making it happen.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Friends of Fontmell Friendship Garden are running a Coffee Morning at Fontmell Magna Village Hall on Wednesday 27th September from 10.30am.

Last year in partnership with St Andrews School we raised £517.80 so let's see if we can do the same (or better) again this year.

For more details or to get involved please email: [garden.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:garden.fmvh@mail.com)

The link to our fundraising page is here: <http://www.justgiving.com/cm23000362> where you can make a donation online.



## Friends of Fontmell Friendship Garden Coffee Morning

## The Annual Ride and Stride takes place on the 9th September in support of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust.

There will be sponsorship forms in St Andrews Church, the Village Shop and the Fontmell, "our village pub".

Last year we raised the second largest amount in the whole of Dorset with over £2200 for this most worthwhile charity which is founded to bring financial assistance to all of our wonderful Churches and Chapels in our lovely county.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. The Church Warden Robert Wellen will be raising sponsorship for his stride over the five Churches in the Iwerne Benefice and the Parish Organiser David Fangen will cycle and visit over 15 of our North Dorset villages and will also be on the sponsorship trail.

Should anyone wish to join please contact me, David Fangen, on 01747 811176 and ride or stride if you are able.

## FONTMELL MAGNA & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We have an interesting programme of talks lined up for 2023-24 so why not come along to get inspired. All meetings take place in the Village Hall (unless otherwise indicated) on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m. You can come along as a guest (£2.50 on the door) but why not join the club for a very reasonable annual membership fee of £12. You can then attend all talks for no additional cost and receive discounted offers at certain times of the year on compost and plants from Castle Gardens, Sherborne. We also have social evenings and an annual outing. You don't need to be a gardening expert to join the club!

If you are interested in joining, why not come along to our AGM meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on October 19<sup>th</sup> and sign up. There will be a gardening quiz afterwards.

The following two talks may whet your appetite. On November 16<sup>th</sup> Sally Morgan will give a talk on 'The Climate Change Garden' and then on December 14<sup>th</sup> we have Mitch Perkins from Dorset Wildlife Trust on 'Wildlife Gardening'.

Further information about the Garden Club may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Sue Chippington. [sue.chippington@outlook.com](mailto:sue.chippington@outlook.com) 01747 811520

## Notices – September 2023

### St. Andrew's Church - Services for September

3rd 0900 Church Breakfast in the Village Hall  
10th 0930 Worship for all  
17th 0930 Sung Communion  
24th 0930 Harvest Festival

*Everyone welcome to celebrate Harvest and see the Church beautifully decorated.*

### 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](mailto:clerk@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk)

### Local Councillor—Jane Somper

Email: [cllrjane.somper@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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

Arnie & Sarah

For opening hours see website  
[www.ourvillagepub.com](http://www.ourvillagepub.com)  
Email: [fontmellthepub@gmail.com](mailto:fontmellthepub@gmail.com)

Enquiries: 812208

### Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

### Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk: Saturday September 16th, starting  
from the Trailway car park by Hayward  
Bridge, Child Okeford, 10.00am for 10.15.  
Followed by pub lunch at The Plough,  
Manston, if desired. Leaders: Anne &  
Richard Andrews (07825 862037)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Kirsty@vhadevelopments.co.uk)

### Pilates

Mon 1730-1930 Tues 1000-1100.  
STOTT Pilates Matwork with props Enquiries: Vicci  
Gillett 07940 961221 [stablebodies@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sam.donohoo@hotmail.co.uk)

### Tennis court

Booking: Louise Murchie, 27 Orchard Close –  
[murchie25@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com)**

## **ST ANDREW'S CHURCH—FONTMELL MAGNA**

In August we celebrated our Breakfast Church (first picture), actually in the Church (there's a novelty!) as the Village Hall was out of action. Lovely sausages and other grub enjoyed, courtesy of Sue and Peter Keen and an absorbing 'thought for the day', including a quiz on Desert Island Discs, from Chris Jervis. There have been two weddings at St Andrew's, one at the end of July and a second on 12<sup>th</sup> August, both with full churches, fine weather (at the important times) and great joy (second picture, from 12 August). Thank you everyone who helped in making the church and churchyard 'spic and span' for these events. There have also been three baptism ceremonies, welcoming new members of the church: on 6 August and on 13 August (the weekend of 12/13 August was a busy weekend – alongside the wedding on Saturday and morning worship on Sunday, there were two baptisms during the afternoon). Everyone is always welcome to any of our services, whether you have attended before or not!

Villagers may have noticed that the Church Carillon has recently been silent. It has now been repaired by Peter from Cumbria Clocks (based a little nearer in Bournemouth!) so you should hear it again ringing every three hours starting at midnight. The Church Carillon was 'made by William Monk of Berwick St John in 1748 ... playing six of the seven notes of the hymn tune 'Hanover'".

### **Robert Wellen**

*Middle Cottage, 20 Lurmer Street*

*Fontmell Magna  
Shaftesbury, Dorset  
SP7 0NT*

*01747 811070 or 07817 633584 (no signal at home)*



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

Darren and Terrie Jerrom, who have moved from Sutton in Surrey to The Old Post Office Bedchester

Carina and Martin Syms who have moved from Stour Provost to The Old Rectory Mill St

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

Isobel and Kevin Kelly who have moved from Wardour to Christmas Cottage ,23 St Andrews View.

Jen McCarthy and Jake Claydon have moved from Poole to 14 Old Crown Rd

Sophie, Mark Gamblin with children Luca and Harley who have moved from Shaftesbury to 22 Sutton View

## The Fontmell Magna community bids farewell to Rick and Jan.



On Saturday, 26 August, over 60 members of the community gathered at The Fontmell Pub to thank Rick and Jan Atfield for their 11 years' service at the Fontmell Magna village shop & Post Office.

Pen Hadow, speaking on behalf of the whole village, paid a warm tribute to Rick and Jan commending their time, effort and commitment in providing the village with a much valued local service. In particular he thanked them for the exceptional services they provided during the pandemic and lockdown; services that were much appreciated throughout the community and indeed a lifeline for some.

Pen also thanked them for their fortitude and perseverance during the 4 years that the Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust took to bring the ownership of the shop premises into safer hands. He said that the successful completion of that acquisition in July 2022, funded equally by the community and the Government's 'Community Ownership Fund', cleared the way for all the repairs and maintenance needed given the previous landlord's woeful neglect of the property. At the same time the shop lease was restructured to support the shop business. These measures have secured the future of our important community asset, the village shop, post office and café - so very nearly lost.

As we say thank you to Rick and Jan and wish them well for the future, we look forward to the next chapter in the story of our village shop.



## **FONTMELL VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE FAREWELL FROM JAN & RICK**

After ten and a half years we are finally able to retire.

As many of you know, we have been in negotiations with new buyers for some time and we are now writing to you to tell you we exchanged contracts on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023. This means we will be leaving on the 1<sup>st</sup> September when the new owners, Tanya and Dwayne Hills will move in. We will be living in Exeter temporarily, while we find more permanent accommodation.

As you can imagine, we have very mixed feelings. Over the years there have been many ups and downs. Most of all we will miss YOU. However, we very much hope we have delivered a service you needed and wanted from your local shop.

We will be offering Tanya and Dwayne some time to get to know the business here and introduce them to you all in the last two weeks of August, before we leave.

Thank you to all of you have supported us over the years (in so many different ways) and of course to those of you who have recently moved here. We know you will show the same support for Tanya and Dwayne and we're certain that the service to you will go from strength to strength, with new blood and fresh ideas.

With love and very best wishes to you all. Jan and Rick x

## **INTRODUCTION TO NEW TENANTS FONTMELL SHOP & POST OFFICE**

Fontmell Magna Community Land Trust

Our village shop is going to have new tenants from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and they have sent us the following note as a brief introduction.

*Tarnia and Duane Hills are a married professional couple with an extensive background in Management. Duane previously worked as a Group Logistics Manager within a large motor trade for the past 10 years. He also has previous retail and marketing experience. Tarnia previously worked as a CQC registered Practice Manager within healthcare for the past 17 years. Both have a vast transferable skillset covering all areas of running a business. After many years of successfully running their departments/businesses, they have decided to pursue a different lifestyle within their scope of knowledge, expertise and transferable skills. They are very excited to be joining the Fontmell community and hope to continue to serve the needs of the village through the shop, post office and tea rooms. They will be accompanied by their dog Bailey, their 2 cats and their son Arron who is studying physiotherapy at Bournemouth University, and are looking forward to meeting and getting to know you.*

We hope that you will support them in their venture as our new village shop keepers and, of course, we would like to express our thanks and yours to Rick and Jan for all their work and dedication in running the shop especially during the difficult period of the pandemic.

Dick Stainer

## News from the Village Hall

As many of you will know the Hall has been closed during August whilst a new kitchen and sound system was installed. The redecoration of the kitchen is the next job so please bear with us as it still looks a little scruffy.

If you'd like to know how all the new kitchen appliances work please get in touch with our Caretaker, Pat Guy, who will be happy to demonstrate. She has worked really hard to reorganise this new kitchen and many of you will be pleased to hear she has labelled the cupboards and drawers as a few of you requested so it's easier to find everything.

We have instructions on how to use the sound system and hearing loop available for all users, please just ask when booking should you wish to use it. The acoustic clouds are being installed mid-September and we think you will really notice the difference at speaker events.

Now to the playground, thank you to everyone for your patience with this, especially the children. Due to the hard work of our Chairman, Rosie-Anne and one of our Trustees, Derek and various contractors along the way, we have a perfectly levelled grassy area on which the new playground will stand. The aim is to start the installation process early October, sooner if possible.

The responsibility for the playground is remaining with the Village Hall so we will be re-launching the Playground Appeal this Autumn to fundraise for its continuing maintenance. We would like to thank the many villagers who supported our previous fundraising events over the past 5 years and those who donated large sums to this project. Thanks to your support and generosity we have managed, together with developer s106 contributions, to finally commission a playground that will last for many years to come and bring great joy to all the under 12's and their parents and carers. More news when we have a date for the official playground opening.

The final project at the Village Hall will be the refurbishment of the Ladies and Gents loos which is scheduled for January 2024.

To book the village hall please email: [bookings.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:bookings.fmvh@mail.com) and to check availability please view the calendar on our website [www.fontmellmagnavillagehall.co.uk](http://www.fontmellmagnavillagehall.co.uk)

Lisa Le Druillenc, Secretary, Fontmell Magna Village Hall [Secretary.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:Secretary.fmvh@mail.com)



We would like to thank all our supporters, donors and volunteers whose generosity enabled us to continue the afternoon teas aspect of the Warm Hub this summer.

We are keen to provide some form of support this coming winter but as yet we have not found any suitable funding to run the weekly lunches and teas as last year.

We are currently looking at other options including coffee mornings and monthly lunches, so please bear with us and we'll give you an update in the October edition.

In the meantime, if you need support we are still providing foodbank boxes at the Village Hall just email: [fontmellfoodbank@post.com](mailto:fontmellfoodbank@post.com) for further information.

For information on the Shroton Oil Scheme, organised by Mike Scott, please email: [shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com](mailto:shrotonoilscheme@gmail.com)

We also retain good links with the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Social Prescribing Team at the Blackmore Vale Practice so please email [Secretary.fmvh@mail.com](mailto:Secretary.fmvh@mail.com) if you'd like to be put in touch with them.

Fontmell Community Support



Fontmell Community Support Hub  
at Fontmell Magna Village Hall



We commissioned the Hedgehog sign to help them as they cross West Street regularly here, to try and help save them for being squashed ! It was put up on Sunday 6th. Aug. afternoon. However, within 12 hours it was stolen !

Being a one off and distinctive, if anyone saw it for Sale, they could advise the Police .

Anyone trying to sell it would be hard put to explain how the maker's and my DNA was on it !

Many thanks,

Carl (C.JOHNSTON123@BTINTERNET.COM)

Dear Supporter

Gillingham Foodbank has been serving the Blackmore Vale and surrounding areas since December 2011. During that period, we have helped literally thousands of local people in crisis to get back on their feet. Not only do we offer help with food, household cleaning items, toiletries and utilities, but also access to benefits, debt and housing advice to ensure the best chance of alleviating poverty.

The cost-of-living crisis, experienced by us all, has led to a huge increase in demand for Foodbank services – 67% more people were provided with emergency food last year than in the previous one. Sadly, food donations have not kept pace with this demand, indeed they have fallen in volume, and we are now having to regularly purchase specific items to cover the shortfall.

As a valued supporter, we would be very grateful for any donations to Gillingham foodbank to help us provide our emergency parcels to local people in need.

We regularly update our website: [www.gillingham.foodbank.org.uk/donate](http://www.gillingham.foodbank.org.uk/donate) with a list of specific needs, plus we use a phone app called [BanktheFood](#), available for Android and Apple smartphones, to assist shoppers wishing to purchase food for the foodbank.

Our current shortages are as follows:

- Biscuits, Instant potato mash, Jam, Pasta Sauce, Packet rice (500g), Tinned meat, stews, etc
- Tinned potatoes, Tinned soup, Tinned vegetables, Tomato ketchup (small)
- Sweet treats, chocolate, UHT fruit juice, UHT semi-skinned milk

We are so grateful to all our donors for the support you give to the foodbank; without you we just wouldn't be able to do what we do.

Thank you

Neil MacBean  
Project manager

Gillingham foodbank  
[6 Station Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4PY](http://6 Station Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4PY)  
M: 07443 785 266  
E: [info@gillingham.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@gillingham.foodbank.org.uk)

Charity number: 1146565



## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Saturday September 16th, starting from the Trailway car park by Hayward Bridge, Child Okeford, 10.00am for 10.15. Followed by pub lunch at The Plough, Manston, if desired. Leaders: Anne & Richard Andrews (07825 862037)

**At St Andrew's Parish  
Church  
Fontmell Magna**

*Harvest Festival*



**Sunday 24th  
September 2023  
at 9.30 a.m.**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!  
Raise the Song of Harvest Home!*

Refreshments after the Service

## THE FONTMELL

We are Sarah and Arnie Fernandes, and we have taken over The Fontmell, our beloved village pub. We met each other at the Fontmell ten years ago, so rest assured it holds a special place in our hearts. And as we prepare to take over the pub, we celebrate ten years of marriage.

We bring us a wealth of experience, having successfully owned and managed various catering businesses. With an unwavering passion for hospitality, our vision for The Fontmell is rooted in creating an extraordinary atmosphere. Patrons can expect warm welcomes, lively conversations, and a place to unwind and connect with friends and neighbours. In addition to fostering a vibrant ambiance, we are committed to offering delicious food and drink. Our extensive expertise in the catering industry guarantees a menu filled with mouthwatering dishes, cooked to perfection. The Fontmell is destined to become the heart and soul of our village, providing a spirited and welcoming experience for all who pass through its doors.



### Compost Corner

One of the delights of a visit to coastal Cornwall in summer is the spectacle of seeing masses of sky blue agapanthus in gardens, fields, along roadsides verges - they're everywhere. These are the evergreen agapanthus which originally came from South Africa and sometimes known as Lily of the Nile or African Lily. They cope well with the salty air, are very low maintenance and drought tolerant, but are not hardy. I had a huge pot of them but because it was so heavy I left it outside over winter. After some very cold weather, all the leaves died and the mass of roots turned to a disgusting, smelly mush and the whole lot had to be chucked away.

The deciduous varieties are a different matter altogether and can safely be planted out and shouldn't be a problem. There are all sorts to choose from as well: white, shades of blue and purple, some with variegated leaves and the flowers last for weeks on end. Once flowering is over, leave the decorative seed heads until winter's weather finally defeats them.

Alison Main



### Village weather for May 2023

A Glorious 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 September 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 October issue by Friday 22nd September 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****