



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This month's edition of the Gossip Tree is sponsored by Jenny & Pat White in memory of their niece

October 2023
Issue 355

WELCOME TO FONTMELL MAGNA - GET TOGETHER

21st OCTOBER

There is a 'Welcome to Fontmell' coffee morning for residents and all newcomers to the village on Saturday 21st October in the Village Hall from 10 am to 12md.

Come and meet others in the Village and enjoy a cup of coffee and biscuit/ cake. Everyone welcome.



Christmas Fayre

Sunday November 26th

11am to 3pm

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



The Gravellers & Friends

An Evening of Song

In aid of the Yellow Bus Garden Project

Friday 6 October, 7pm

Shepherds Corner Farm, Durweston, DT11 0QF

Tickets £25 to include drink and nibbles from Jules
– 07765566312

Cash bar

Notices – October 2023

St. Andrew's Church - Services for October

1st 0900 Church Breakfast in the Village Hall
8th 0930 Worship for all
15th 0930 Sung Communion
22nd 0930 Holy Communion
29th No service at St Andrew's – BENEFICE SERVICE at Sutton Waldron at 10 am

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 16th September 2024 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: 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

Arne & Sarah

Enquiries: 812208

Fontmell Magna Toddler Group & Under 5s

Enquiries: 812773

Iwerne Valley Walking Group

Next walk: Saturday October 21st, starting at 10.30a.m. from the Rodden Row car park, Abbotsbury (fees do apply - so might be good to car share). Followed by lunch at the Abbotsbury Tea Rooms. Leaders: Pam on 01747 812786 and Kathryn on 07393 2133219 for further details.

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 3 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 CHURCH—FONTMELL MAGNA

FONTMELL HARVEST SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER



A joyful family baptism service was held in St Andrew's Church on 3 September, conducted by the Reverend Toby Carson. Four children were baptised with a Church full of about one hundred adults and other children.



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:

Gill and Howard Horne who have moved from Chichester to 6 Old Crown Rd

Dorset Ride & Stride 2023

Many thanks to the huge numbers of you from Fontmell and the surrounding Dorset countryside in helping Robert Wellen, Gerry Bone and myself in the massive response and donations which have to date exceeded £2500.

As you will recall this effort is in aid of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust which offers grants and support in maintaining our wonderful churches and chapels in our lovely county.

Thanks to you all,

David Fangen.

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 19th and sign up. There will be a gardening quiz afterwards.

The following two talks may whet your appetite.

On November 16th Sally Morgan will give a talk on 'The Climate Change Garden' and then

On December 14th 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
01747 811520

'A Time to remember'

The Festival of 'All Souls' 2023

St Mary Church Iwerne Minster

6.00pm Thursday 2nd of November 2023

You are warmly invited to attend the above service in which those who have been lost to us in death will be remembered and re-dedicated into the hands of Almighty God.

During the Holy communion the names of our dearly departed will be read out and a candle will be lit for each person to be remembered celebrating the Christian hope of our eternal life in Jesus Christ.

This is a service for everyone in the Iwerne Valley Benefice. Whether you regularly attend Church or not, you are very welcome.

If you wish someone to be remembered in this service, please email your details and the details of the person to be remembered.

The Revd David W John—david.john6@btopenworld.com

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

Revelation Chapter 21 vs 4

Fontmell friendship garden

Garden update and future events

It has been a very busy week in the Friendship Garden with three consecutive days of work -

Thursday - Saturday, involving 20 people and children over the end of September and some photos are enclosed to show the progress made so far.

The Fontmell Under Fives troughs have been moved to the band hut and we will be welcoming the children to the garden to plant tulips.

All the tubs around the village hall have been replanted with sweet william, wallflowers, pansies and forget me nots.

We have started emptying the cut flower beds, ensuring we have saved perennials which have been re potted temporarily ready for their new locations.

LOOKING AHEAD- WE HAVE THE MAIN MOVES IN OCTOBER AND SOME HELP WOULD BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES

FRIDAY OCT 6 th 11.45-12.45- emptying beds with Clayesmore seniors and villagers

SATURDAY OCT 7 th 9.30-10.45 planting crocus with Clayesmore prep and villagers

THURSDAY OCT 12 th - HELLO YELLOW MORNING 9.00-10.45

If you are free, I would be grateful for help in this event . Help in planting sweet peas and crocus with the children / helping give juice and a biscuit would be gratefully accepted.

MAIN GARDEN MOVE WEEKEND

SATURDAY OCT 14 th .9.00-12.00

Move the six cut flower beds, the two rectangular beds either side of the gate and the two herb beds- empty the soil, move the wooden beds and re fill. This is physical work- but we will have the help of a tractor and a propelled wheelbarrow.

SUNDAY OCT 15 th. 9.00-12.00

Re planting the beds in their new position with saved perennials and stocks of wallflowers, and spring bulbs. This is less physical and I will have laid all the plants out in situ.

Thank you to everyone who has already offered help. I would be very grateful for any more help - even if it is just for part of the time.

Please e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com if you can help. Refreshments will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you on some of these dates.

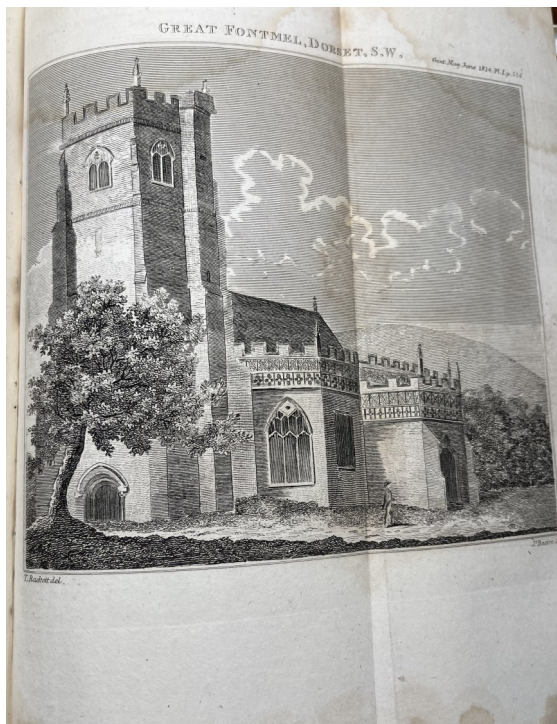
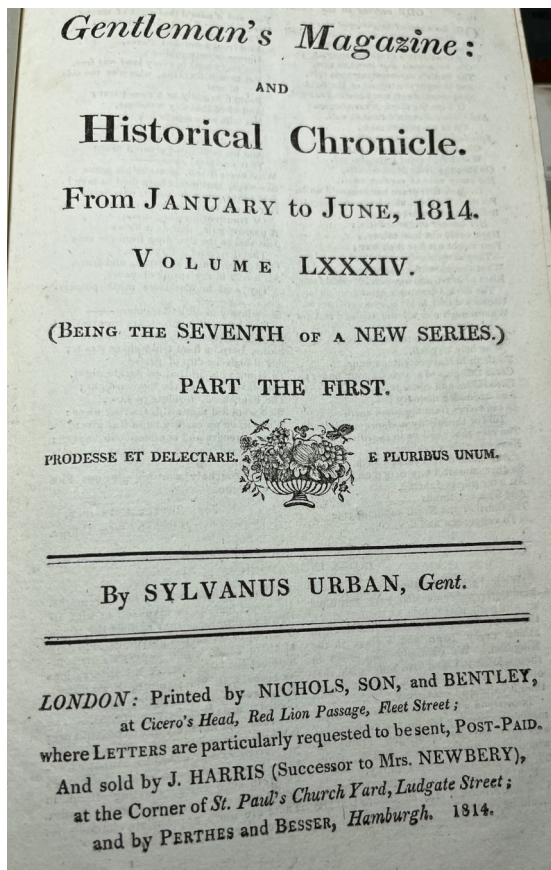
Kind Regards

Sian



FONTMELL MAGNA—A LITTLE SLICE OF THE VILLAGE'S HISTORY

Our Chairwoman Barbara Humpheys found this fascinating article whilst working in the Stourhead Library which provides a fascinating snapshot of how the village was in 1814



536 *Description of the Church of Great Fontmel, co. Dorset.*

card of admission; and I shall feel ever grateful for the patronage of the publick on the present occasion. Yours, &c. OLIVIA SERRES.

Mr. URBAN, June 3.

GREAT-FONTMEL is a large Parish in the hundred of Sexpenny-Handley, and county of Dorset. In the Domesday Survey, the Church of St. Mary at Sceptesberie (Shaftesbury Abbey) held Fontmale, consisting of 16 carucates, once worth 10*l.* but then 15*l.* In the rental in Shaftesbury Register here were 15 hides, except the demesnes, and 86 tenants.

At the Dissolution of Religious Houses, temp. Henry VIII. this manor was granted to the Arundels, afterwards Barons of Wardour.

In 1809 the manors and tithings of East and West-Fontmel, and Hertgrove cum Bedchester, were sold by the late Lord Arundel and his trustees to Sir Richard Carr Glyn, bart. second surviving son of the late Sir Richard Glyn, bart. Lord Mayor of London in 1759, and eldest son by the second wife Elizabeth, co-heiress of Robert Carr, esq. This gentleman was elected Alderman of London, for the ward of Bishopsgate, in 1790; filled the Civic chair in 1798; and in 1800 was created a Baronet. His country seat is at Gaunt's House, co. Dorset.

I send you a neat View of the Church, shewing its very curious Porch (see Plate I.) which I beg you to insert, with the following account of it, extracted from the new edition of Hutchins's History of Dorset:

"The Church of Great-Fontmel is dedicated to St. Andrew. The nave is of one pace with the chancel, a pointed arch between, and two pointed arches with clustered columns, the capitals composed of four angels surrounded with scrolls. On a screen in the South aisle are three wooden heads, in rounds beautifully cut, and a scroll round the ledge inscribed, WA'TER KING AND ESBELL HIS WIF. The letters are of the fantastic form which prevailed about the beginning of the 16th century. Esbell is probably Isabel. The K is sufficiently like one in the Urswick chapel at Windsor.—Against the North wall three perks. The font is a bason on a round shaft. Over the East door of the chancel a figure of a monk's head under a round arch, brought by Mr. Dibben, the late Rector, from an old house in the Parish, and fixed up on the wall of the chancel; which, with the screen, is all new paved, the only stone paving, a blue one, with the only stone pulpit is carved in pannels, with the pot; the desk a long seat, as at Walsford, but made a box for the unnoticed, curiosity about this place. — But the greatest, and the most of which are a variety of bas reliefs, ornaments; among them are the letters of an ecclesiastic, with the letters &c. executed with great spirit and freedom; and at the end,

and under the battlements the following inscription, bearing date 1530:

Her of our lord god M V C XXX
 M lord to the I call for mp + the sun all
 my smti p' ch'a me fen to the
 for k'p iea bet pei + me
 i h x; &c."

Commemorating some unknown erection of this porch. Among other arms are those of Milton Abbey; and the Stourtons, a bend between six wells; and a fret single, quartering in a border a bird, a sledge; two bundles or gerbes crossed, a portecullis; a sickle and other instruments of husbandry; a W united to another initial; the Bourchier knot; i h x; &c."

"The Rectory was antiently a prebend in the Abbey of Shaftesbury, and appropriated to the maintenance of one of the Abbess's Chaplains or Confessors. The antient patron was the Abbess of Shaftesbury; but since the Reformation, the Arundels of Wardour. The Advowson was purchased not long since by William Salkeld, esq."

According to the last Parliamentary Return, in 1811, the Parish of Great Fontmel contained 76 houses, occupied by 88 families, consisting of 180 males and 231 females—total 421; of whom 69 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 18 in trade, &c. The tithing of Hartgrove contained 44 houses, occupied by 50 families, consisting of 106 males and 143 females—total 249: of whom 43 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 3 in trade, manufactures, &c.

Yours, &c. B. N.

* A kind of impalement. † they.

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

Walkers Rescue Sheep September 2023

The September walk of the Iwerne Valley Walking Group started from the Trailway car park just north of Shillingstone and covered about five miles of level walking with beautiful views of the countryside including the imposing Hambledon Hill. En route we saw some deer in the fields and came across a distressed lone sheep which had its head stuck in a wire fence. Three of the walkers extricated its head by folding back its ears and pulling it out! They then went on to alert the farmer to recover his missing stock. The route took us through Hammoon where we called in to admire the Grade 1 listed St Paul's Church.

Having returned to the railway carpark, the group moved on to the Plough at Manston for lunch. The pub has recently been refitted and the group were very impressed with the friendly staff and the menu on offer.

Anne & Richard Andrews



Compost Corner

On a recent visit to Hilltop Garden at Stour Provost my observant friend spotted a very unusual animal: a huge black, yellow and white striped spider. Not hugely surprisingly, it is called the wasp spider which originates from Europe and Asia and has now started to colonise southern England. This very large spider (body up to 2 cm long) has these markings to mimic a wasp in order to deter predators, but is not dangerous for us. However, the female wasp spider, once the next generation has been secured, will happily eat the male wasp spider (small and brown). The one we saw was a female - it is rare to see a male wasp spider.

But there's another new kid on the block - well heading our way, the deadly fire ant (which has migrated from America to Asia and has now been found in Sicily), it can repeatedly sting and there have been many fatalities- so don't forget to wear your gardening gloves...

Alison Main



Village weather for August 2023

A very unsettled month with predominantly low pressure. A drier sunny week mid month

17 rain days, 2 gales, no ground, or air frost or snow. 1 days thunder

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 15.4mm on 17th)	64.9mm	29.3mm
Sunshine	132.7 hours Avg 4.3	198.8 Avg 6.4 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 25.8C on 23rd)	21°C	25.6°C
Min mean temp. (lowest 5.5 on 30th)	11.3°C	11.9C

This October 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:

(fmgosspitree@gmail.com)

Alternatively, contact the **Chairman, Barbara Humphreys**, email: blueletterbox@btinternet.com for further information.
Submissions for the November issue by Friday 20th October 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 fmgosspitree@gmail.com