



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

April 2024
Issue 361

SPRING FAIR

Fontmell Magna Village Hall



Saturday 20th April

10.30am to 3.30pm



Artisan stalls and crafts, local produce,
food and drink

www.fontmellmagnavillagehall.co.uk

[f](https://www.facebook.com/villagehallfontmellmagna) [@villagehallfontmellmagna](https://www.instagram.com/villagehallfontmellmagna)

Notices – April 2024

St. Andrew's Church - Services for April

7th 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

14th 0930 Worship for all

21st 0930 Sung Communion

28th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 14th May 2024 in the village hall at 1830.

Tea and coffee will be served from 6.00pm

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 8.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sun 9.00am - 11.00am

Enquiries: 811201

Hillarnias Tearooms - Winter Hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday to Friday 1-5pm

Saturdays 9-2pm

Sunday Closed

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

Next walk: TBC - for details contact Claire on
07708 473568

Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002



**EVENSONG IS
BACK!!**

THE IWERNE VALLEY BENEFICE PRESENTS

A SERVICE OF CHORAL EVENSONG

DIRECTED BY MR ASHLEY STAFFORD AND MR MICHAEL BROWN
ORGANIST MR SAM RYALL

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL 2024 AT 5PM
ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
IWERNE MINSTER

ALL WELCOME

THIS SERVICE WILL BE PRESENTED BY AN OCTET OF HAND-PICKED SINGERS OF THE
HIGHEST QUALITY TO ENSURE A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF THIS ANCIENT AND MUCH-
LOVED ACT OF WORSHIP.

FURTHER EVENSONG EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT MARY'S IWERNE MINSTER:
5TH JULY, 25TH SEPTEMBER AND TO CELEBRATE 'THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS' ON
1ST NOVEMBER 2024.

*O Lord, open thou our lips
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise*

'MAKING JESUS KNOWN'

Fontmell St Andrew - Fundraising - Just Giving Page LIVE:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fontmellmagnachurch>

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

BUDDLEIAS

Any help is welcome to cut half the buddleias
from April 10 From 10am to 4pm, finishing by
Friday 12 April.

Queries Judy
01747811302.



Meeting of Fontmell Friends, 13th of March 2024 Insights on Life from 90° North: An evening with Pen Hadow.

Fontmell Friends is a new venture and its first meeting got it off to a tremendous start. The packed Village Hall was treated to an entertaining and fascinating description of Pen Hadow's solo walk to the North Pole, and of the Arctic unique environment.

After two failed attempts, Pen succeeded in 2003 in walking over 400 miles from Canada to the North Pole without being resupplied. The Arctic consists of frozen sea ice, much of which is now breaking up so that it is impossible to walk in a straight line. His sledge with equipment and supplies weighed over 20 stone and had to be pulled over ice ridges amounting to more than the height of Everest.

The environment is amazing. At one end polar bears are the largest carnivore on the surface of the planet – at the other end millions of microorganisms on which the other creatures feed. We saw photographs of beautiful birds as well as whales, fish, walrus and seals.

Unfortunately, this environment is under threat as air and sea temperatures rise and the ice melts. As both the Suez and Panama Canals are at risk of becoming unavailable through geopolitical factors to shipping, more and more ships may sail through the Arctic. Pen's aim is for us to create a North Pole Marine Reserve in order to save this extraordinary habitat.

FONTMELL FRIENDS TALK
An Evening with
Angus Campbell Esq CVO
Lord-Lieutenant
of Dorset



“Serving the Crown”

7.00pm, Wednesday 17th April
Village Hall

Doors open 6.15pm for pop-up bar and soft drinks
Tickets £2.50 from Village Shop or £3.00 on the door.

Further details from Andrew Davis 07831 162446

CHARITY FUND RAISING EVENT

I am Jessica Radley and I am running the London Marathon on April 21st in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity close to my heart as they cared for my dear friend Lily during her Leukaemia cancer treatment in Southampton General Hospital in 2019/20.

If you would like to support me in my fund raising efforts, details of my Just Giving page are below

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/jessica-radley-1701689144519?
utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fjessica-radley-
1701689144519&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pdf-share](https://www.justgiving.com/page/jessica-radley-1701689144519?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fjessica-radley-1701689144519&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pdf-share)

Spring Fair at Fontmell Magna Village Hall

We are holding a Spring Fair this April at Fontmell Magna Village Hall in order to raise funds for the Village Hall Charity and to also provide the opportunity for other charities to promote their causes and raise much needed funds.

The 3 main Charities that are attending the event are:

The Springhead Trust, The Dorset Wildlife Trust, Home-Start, Blackmore Vale

These Charities will have outside stalls and will be signing up new members and promoting the work of their charities. Home-start will also be running a tombola and providing some activities for children including face painting.

We have invited the Church to take 2 stalls to promote the fundraising they have just launched to raise funds to repair the Church Roof. Their inside stall will focus on bric a brac and the outdoor stall has the theme of produce. They are looking for homemade produce, jams, marmalades, chutneys and homemade cakes to sell on the day. If you would like to contribute to their produce stall please could you contact Robert Wellen, Church Warden – who is coordinating this stall on 01747 811 070 or email: robertwellen@btinternet.com

The Friendship Garden is running a fundraising stall and if you would like to get involved with this then please contact Siân Highnam on 07774 647060 or email garden.fmvh@mail.com

In addition to providing a platform for these Charities and local causes we also have a lovely selection of indoor and outdoor stalls for some Spring shopping.

Indoors we have:

Tack Room Distillery – premium award winning gin and vodka from Milton on Stour

Kenyon Antiques – antique jewellery, silver and cutlery

Kathy Morgan – local author – latest fiction book Field Murder as well as her Woodford Mystery series

Freckledy Speckledy – Anita McCoy “the accidental potter” returns with her lovely range of hand thrown pottery

Sinceris – Sinead Peacock – a stall selling soy wax candles, natural soaps, reed diffusers, natural skin care and gents grooming.

Tropic - Elle McAdams – Natural organic skincare and makeup

The Well Trodden Path – Matt Briars – Local beekeeper from Compton Abbas selling beeswax goods which are crafted and hand made locally. Hand dipped beeswax candles, beeswax reusable food wraps, beeswax soap and handmade macrame shelves.

Paula Grewal – villager, selling 100% silk scarfs, 100% cotton scarves, cotton pouches, purses, jewellery and vases.

Catherine Allard and Jayne – crafts and stall promoting local dog rescue charity

Outdoors we have:

The Truckle Truck – many of you will know Carolyn Hopkins, the mobile cheesemonger from Shaftesbury – a great chance to sample and buy some lovely cheeses.

Full Circle Coffee – Jason Allum – bringing their espresso coffee machine so you can buy delicious freshly made barista coffee.

The Real Cure – delicious, local, award-winning charcuterie from Hartgrove. A chance to sample and buy some of their new charcuterie range.

Dorset Eco – Sarah is returning with her bigger tent this year selling a wide range of environmentally friendly household, beauty and homeware items, she will also be showcasing her new range of eco-friendly doormats made in the UK out of recycled materials.

There are other stallholders in the pipeline which I will add to social media as they are confirmed so please keep a look out on Facebook and Nextdoor for the latest stallholder list.

Refreshments will be available outdoors from our hot food marquee and local business, Full Circle Coffee, will be selling top quality takeaway barista coffee.

Our tea room ladies will be providing takeaway tea, soft drinks and cakes from the indoor kitchen.

I mentioned last month that we were looking for donations for our hamper raffle. We have been promised a filled hamper from Virginia Hayward and some vouchers from local shops and cafes. We have also been donated some lovely, empty, hampers which we would like to fill with a spring/summer theme. If you have anything you think might be suitable for a hamper gift then please get in touch by email or by phone 01747 812 500 or secretary.fmvh@mail.com or leave in the porch at Blackmore Cottage, West Street.

Raffle tickets are on sale at the Village Shop and the Fontmell.

We are looking for additional overflow parking for this event so if anyone has a large area of hardstanding or a well-drained field close to the Village Hall that we could use as parking for visitors attending the Spring Fair please could you get in touch with me as soon as possible.

Last, but not least, we need some help on the morning of the Spring Fair erecting the large Village Hall Gazebos. If you can spare some time from 8am on Saturday 20th April to help put up 3 or 4 large gazebos and a small marquee please contact me as soon as possible so I can explain the plan.

Lisa Le Druillenec secretary.fmvh@mail.com

Fontmell Magna Village Hall Fundraising Committee

Fundraising for St Andrew's – Provisional Timetable of Events 2024

Further details to follow – may be subject to alteration.

Month	Date	Event	
APRIL	20th	Spring Fair Dick Jones Memorial Concert	
MAY	16th	FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS in the Church to start on 3 May, 10 am to 12 noon and run to end of September.	
JUNE	7th		Morshead Trophy* presentation (6.30 pm) (Ride and Stride) Alan Amos Lecture on Hardy and Barnes (7 p.m.) Caroline D'Cruz Lunchtime' concert (1230 start)
JULY	18th		D'Cruz Trio Concert (evening)
	TBA		Weekend: Open Gardens (Saturday) and Teddy Bear's Picnic and Parachute Jump (Sunday after-
AUGUST	9 th		Caroline D'Cruz Lunchtime' concert (1230 start) Summer Tea Party (3 to 5.30 pm.)
SEPTEMBER	14 th	Ride and Stride (half of money raised by us to Fontmell church) Caroline D'Cruz Lunchtime' concert (1230 start)	
OCTOBER	12	Talk by David John: 'The Metropolitan Police and ME' (6.30 pm.)	
NOVEMBER	30	St Andrew's Day Lunch and Talk by Clare Amos	
DECEMBER	14th	Christmas Handbell Concert (7.30 pm): Clapper Chaos Carol Singing	
	TBA		

* https://www.dhct.org.uk/m/ride_and_stride.php

Fontmell St Andrew - Fundraising - Just Giving Page (details on front page of Gossip Tree). Alternatively you can put cash in the wall safe in the church OR make contact with our Treasurer, Roger Thomas (drthomas.mfh@gmail.com) to arrange a one-off donation direct to the PCC account or to complete a standing order form for a monthly donation. Cheques payable to 'Fontmell Magna PCC' also to Roger please or in the wall safe.

Robert Wellen

Middle Cottage, 20 Lurmer Street
Fontmell Magna
Shaftesbury, Dorset
SP7 0NT

01747 811070 or 07817 633584 (no signal at home)

FONTMELL FRIENDSHIP GARDEN APRIL UPDATE

PLEASE DO JOIN US IF YOU HAVE SOME SPARE TIME FOR A POTTER AND A NATTER

The garden is for everyone in the village and we welcome anyone to visit, sit and enjoy the garden, cut the flowers when in bloom to enjoy at home and also join the fantastic team of friendly volunteers in a whole variety of activities . I send out a weekly garden update to over a hundred villagers and please do e mail me if you would like to be added to that list to receive information regarding the garden.

I have a planned schedule of events for the garden and anyone is welcome to get involved in as much or as little as they would like. It is a lovely project for making friends and enjoying blooms. It is not hugely labour intensive and the beds are easily accessible for management.

This is the schedule for the next few weeks. If you would like to join in with any of these activities, please do e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com . Thank you to those of you who have already contacted me – I have added your name to my grid!

Refreshments are provided at every activity and if the weather is against us, I schedule an alternative dry weather activity – typically potting on seedlings, sewing seeds or associated jobs.

DAY AND DATE	TIME AND LOCATION	ACTIVITY
5.4.24	9.30-10.30 Village hall	Villagers only – weeding , tidying, planting out
12.4.24	9.30-10.30 village hall	As above
17.4.24- SPRING FAIR PREP	9.30-11.30 Sian's house	Spring wreath making to sell at the Spring Fair to raise funds for the garden , potting on and labelling plants for selling
18.4.24- SPRING FAIR PREP	9.30-11.30 Sian's House	Completing Spring wreaths, potting on plants and making jars of joy
19.4.24- SPRING FAIR PREP	11.30-12.45 Sian's house and garden	Completing all preparations for for Spring Fair on 20.4.24
20.4.24- SPRING FAIR	10 am onwards – Village Hall	Helping on the stall for the village Spring Fair on the Friendship Garden table
May onwards	Watering rota – which will be far less this year due to irrigation plans .	

If anyone would like to get involved on any of those dates – please e mail me on sianhighnam@gmail.com

From mid May we will be opening up our garden pop up café in the village hall from 3-5 pm.

The dates for the cafes, which will run fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons offering teas, coffees and cake are May 29th, June 12th and 26th, July 10th and 24th , August 7th and 21st and the last café on September 4th.

We just ask for a donation towards the cost and any funds raised are used for the future of the garden. They are lovely and relaxed and this year, I am aiming to run some little activities – making small posies, summer wreaths etc .

If would like to help with these and have a free Wednesday now and then when you might be able to help, please do E-mail me. I am looking please for cake makers and some hands to help me serve teas

Thank you to everyone who has supported the garden over the last two years and for helping with the massive task of relocation last October. I look forward to seeing the blooms again this year and to sharing cut flowers with the village and welcoming new faces to our lovely group.

Kind Regards

Sian (07774 647060 / sianhighnam@gmail.com)

A Memorial Concert for Canon Dick Jones on Saturday 20th April

will be given by
The Bournemouth Bach Choir
in

St. Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna on Saturday, 20th April at 7pm.

The Programme will include works by Bach, Brahms, Bruckner, Elgar, MacMillan, Mendelssohn, Purcell, Stanford, Tallis, Wesley, Wood, and the 'Evening Hymn' by Balfour Gardiner

There will be an interval of approximately 25 minutes during which wine, soft drinks and nibbles will be served, and the concert will finish at around 9.15 pm.

Attendance is free so no tickets will be issued and no booking is required.

There will be a Retiring Collection with the proceeds to be divided equally between one of Dick's Charities - "Family for Every Child" and St. Andrew's Church Fabric Appeal Fund.

Jennie and Suzie hope to see many friends at the Concert... please come along !

Compost Corner

The 'low country' of South Carolina a land of swamps, creeks, alligators, lush vegetation, antebellum plantations and the ubiquitous Spanish Moss.

Recently we were fortunate enough to visit this southern State and I was fascinated by the Spanish Moss which was omnipresent not only in the countryside but in the city of Charleston too. It was everywhere: hanging from trees, shrubs, roses even power and telegraph lines. You felt that if you hung about for too long it would soon colonise you too.

Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) isn't really a moss at all but an epiphyte, it absorbs nutrients from the air and water from rain, it doesn't harm its host plant at all although sometimes it forms such dense trailing mats that it can shade out leaves of the host plant. They are available here as houseplants and if you follow their particular cultivation requirements, you should have no problem growing them, but be careful when watering as hard water (which we have here) can block their trichomes (specialised cells) and prevent the plant absorbing water and nutrients. One problem you shouldn't experience though is dealing with the wildlife that likes to inhabit Spanish Moss in South Carolina : rat snakes, bats and jumping spiders - not really ideal house guests.

Alison Main



Village Weather for February 2024

Only 6 days with no rain recorded. Some brief sunny days with night frost but mostly mild and wet with saturated ground.

6 air frost, 10 ground frost. 22 rain days and 4 gales

Comp. Figures	2024	2023
Rain (Most 25.6mm on 17th)	143.0m	11.6mm
Sunshine	41.9 hours Avg 1.4 hrs	Avg 2.7 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 15.8 on 15th)	11.4°C	10.3°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -3.1c on 27th)	4.0°C	1.8C

This April 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:

(fmgosiptree@gmail.com)

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

Submissions for the May issue by Monday 22nd April 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 **fmgosiptree@gmail.com***