



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

This edition of the Gossip Tree was kindly sponsored by the Iwerne Valley Walking Group

February
2024
Issue 359

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

The Iwerne Valley Walking Group has been going for nearly 25 years and is open to anyone in the area who's keen to go walking and explore our beautiful countryside with a friendly group of like-minded folk.

We meet up every third Saturday in the month, weather permitting, always in the morning except on Midsummer's Eve (when, as expected, it's in the evening of the Solstice, June 21st, to try and catch the sun setting) and our AGM which is in November in the afternoon. Annual subscription is just £2 per person.

Not only is it good exercise but it is also very sociable as we generally try to start out from a pub and do a circular walk of around 4 to 5 miles, ending up back at the pub for lunch for those who wish to stay. We take it in turns to lead the walks, but there's absolutely no obligation to do so.

Do come and join us! For more information, contact Helen English on 01747 853472, email :englishhv49@gmail.com

Fontmell Magna Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

We are seeking feedback on the draft of our new Neighbourhood Plan. The Consultation Period will run from 12 February to 31st March.

Please see the pre-submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan on the Parish Council Website www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk. You can download copies of the Draft Plan, see where to inspect paper copies and obtain paper feedback forms, and share your views by email to np@fontmellmagnapc.co.uk. If you prefer, there will also be a Survey Monkey online survey available during the consultation period.

Full details of how to give feedback will be on the website and PC noticeboards.

Fontmell Magna Parish Directory

The Gossip Tree team are working with the Parish Council to bring back a paper edition of the Parish Directory. This was something that was, in the past, delivered to houses in our area every year.

The Directory is a contact list of businesses, interests, clubs, support organisations and amenities which people might find useful, a bit like a miniature Dentons Directory for Fontmell parish. The directory now needs updating.

If you would like details of your organisation published in the list please let Gay or Barbara know via email at: fmplanbh@btinternet.com preferably, or if that's not possible by phoning 01747 811669.

The finished list will replace the existing one published on the PC website which you can see at: http://www.fontmellmagnapc.co.uk/Community_Information_29460.aspx

Paper copies will be available for every new resident through the Welcome Packs where they might be particularly useful.

We invite suggestions and corrections to the online version by 3rd March 2024 and look forward to receiving your details, though there might be just a few instances where inclusion is at our discretion.

Thank you very much for your help.

Barbara and Gay.

Notices – February 2024

St. Andrew's Church - Services for February

4th 0900 Church Breakfast—Village Hall

11th 0930 Worship for all

18th 0930 Sung Communion

25th 0930 Holy Communion

Parish Council Meeting

Next PC meeting

Tues 16th January 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 Hillarnias 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 February 17th, 10a.m. from The Sheaf of Arrows, Cranborne BH21 5PR. Leaders: Jim & Cathy on 01258 861526.

Helen English 01747 853472

Bell-ringing

Enquiries: Caroline Rhodes 812002

Events in the Village Hall

Fontmell Friendship Garden—Pop up Café

Returns in 2024

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 TEA ROOMS

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have made the difficult decision to close the Tearooms in the mornings. The Tearooms is simply not used enough and is not financially viable to stay open all day every day. Should the demand increase, we will of course revisit these hours and look to extend them in the future.

The Tearooms will open Tuesday through to Friday 1pm - 5pm and Saturdays 9am to 2pm. We apologise for any inconvenience, in particular to the Tuesday and Friday morning coffee ladies. Please note the Tearoom hours do not affect the shop and post office hours that remain the same.

Best wishes, Tarnia



Dick Jones Funeral – 20 January 2024 – at Fontmell Magna –

'well in excess of 200 people' attended

Village Meeting on Church Fabric

This meeting is open to all and will be held in St Andrew's Parish Church on **Friday 1 March 2024 at 7 pm**. If you care about our parish church please come along. We shall give more information about the challenge we face in repairing the structure of the building and at the same time seek your fundraising ideas: for instance could you organise an event? Do you have social media skills that we could use? We hope that a fundraising group will be formed to lead this campaign and draw up a programme of events. This will be additional to applications for grants that the PCC will be making.

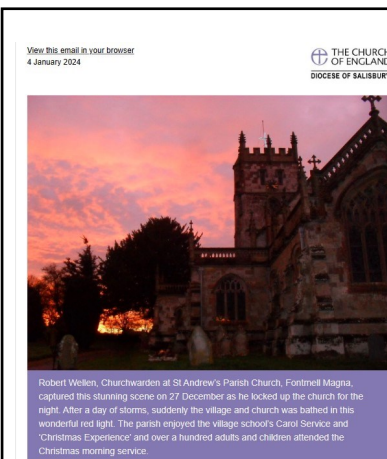
Robert Wellen, *Middle Cottage, 20 Lurmer Street
Fontmell Magna, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0NT
01747 811070 or 07817 633584 (no signal at home)*

Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club programme is on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall. The talk is 'Fuchsias my Way', by Derek Dexter.

Guests are welcome (£2.50 payable on the door) and refreshments are available.

For further details on the Garden Club please contact Sue Chippington 811520.



View this email in your browser
4 January 2024

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

Robert Wellen, Churchwarden at St Andrew's Parish Church, Fontmell Magna, captured this stunning scene on 27 December as he locked up the church for the night. After a day of storms, suddenly the village and church was bathed in this wonderful red light. The parish enjoyed the village school's Carol Service and 'Christmas Experience' and over a hundred adults and children attended the Christmas morning service.

'Grapevine' is the on-line newsletter of the Diocese of Salisbury, so most of Dorset and Wiltshire, and Fontmell featured as the 'headline' in the first edition of 2024 (as well as appearing in The Blackmore Vale Magazine) – should boost the summer tourist trade!

IVWG Walk Child Okeford December 2023

For our Christmas walk, we set off from Gold Hill Organic Farm with 11 humans and 4 dogs, including a guide dog in training, past the many polytunnels, through a copse with a stream, up towards Hambledon Hill, to a stone circle (created last century) with alpacas. The walk was only 2.5 miles long, a choice for this colder time of year. We were lucky to have a dry day amongst a week of much rain and there were some muddy bits including a slurry pit on the way back, but fortunately it wasn't the kind of mud that cakes up your boots and this was only a small part of the walk. We had a delicious lunch in the Gold Hill Organic Kitchen, joined by two other walking group members. It's not possible to book a table so we took a chance and ate quite early to avoid the crowds.

Claire Watson



HOMESTART—BLACKMORE VALE

My name is Sue Morgan and I moved to Fontmell Magna with my husband Jeff in September 2019. Before Christmas that year I contacted a charity called Home Start. At that time the scheme covered North Dorset, but in 2022-3 the organisation expanded into south Somerset and renamed to become Home Start Blackmore Vale (HSBV). The first Home-Start began 50 years ago, and there are now over 180 schemes across the UK. Home-Start has helped more than 1.5 million families nationally. After completing the training, volunteers commit 2-3 hours each week to work with a family who have at least one child under 5, where their parenting experience, support, kindness, and care has been proved to help transform the lives of parents and their children. Home-Start Blackmore Vale has helped over 750 families in the last 12 years. In 2022 I was invited to become a Trustee and I now represent the volunteer perspective on that Board of Directors for HSBV. I am still supporting families and over the last 4 years I have supported six families all with varying needs, but mostly I offer a listening ear.

Why do I do this? As a healthcare professional in my working life I wanted to continue to use those skills as a retiree. There are many rewards and over a period of 3-6 months of visiting a family they can name a difference – the philosophy is to help the children at a critical time in their development. HSBV provides other support strategies with a Playgroup, Mothers in Mind – a Perinatal Support group and recently a School Readiness programme. In the picture you can see Jamie Keast (L) a Scheme Co-ordinator with the Scheme Manager - Chelsey Gowen. There are six other employees in the scheme who work varied hours to cover the administration, training and supervision of approximately 50+ volunteers, who in turn support a growing number of families referred to HSBV locally. HSBV is overseen by the Trustees, who are also volunteers. This role is new to me and I have learnt so much in the last two years about charities, how they operate and constantly need to fundraise to provide the revenue to maintain all of the above.

The biggest reward in both voluntary roles is to have met so many people in the area like Chelsey, Jamie and the rest of the team who support me. My Trustee colleagues and Carole – Chair of the Board meet bi monthly and I welcome their experience, wisdom and skill to oversee a successful and strong branch of this national charity. The volunteer army, my peers - all so like-minded in making a commitment and we support each other when we come to training each year. Most importantly, meeting the families who have all needed different things from me. The involvement with them has been truly positive and humbling.

The charity is looking to recruit past or new volunteers with parenting experience, to commit to two or three hours per week to help parents and children in the community. If you would like to get involved, please contact us. Training will be provided, and no special qualifications are needed. Fontmell Magna is rich with new residents, and I am sure there are those amongst you looking for that opportunity to participate in voluntary work in your local area.

We are currently recruiting for new trustees and a Chair of Trustees. The current chair Carole Brown is standing down after more than a decade devoted to the charity. So indirectly taking on a voluntary role to support a charity – so vital we have recruits.

For more information see our website: [www: homestartblackmorevale.org.uk](http://www.homestartblackmorevale.org.uk) **Please get in touch if you would like to discuss family support, volunteering or being a trustee.**

Home Start Blackmore Vale,

Telephone: 01258 473038 or email: office@homestartblackmorevale.org.uk



Fontmell Community Lunch Club

We are offering a 2 course lunch, a hot main course and a pudding, tea and coffee absolutely free of charge to anyone living in the Parish of Fontmell Magna.

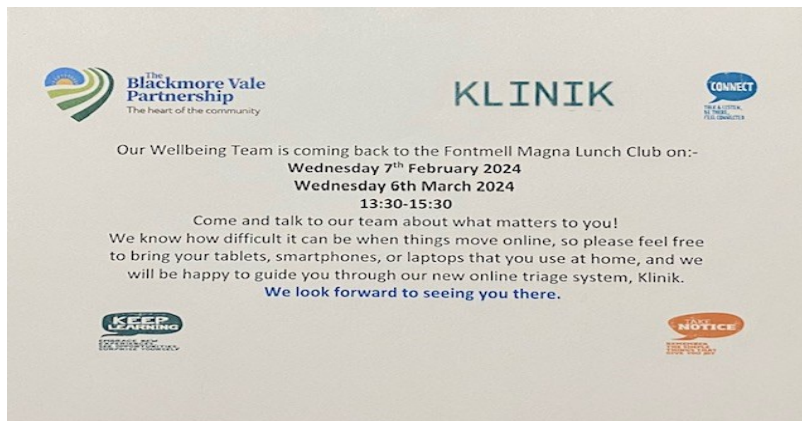
Everyone is welcome and please bring a friend or neighbour. We can also provide takeaways. Our next lunches are:

Wednesday 7th February & Wednesday 21st February doors open from 12 noon and food is served from 12.30 pm.

If you are planning on joining us for lunch **please email:** lunch.fmvh@mail.com or call Lisa on 01747 812500 so we know how much to cook and so we can cater for any special dietary needs. We can also provide foodbank boxes, so if you are in need or know someone who is, please email the foodbank team on: fontmellfoodbank@post.com

At our 7th February lunch we will be joined by the Wellbeing Team from the Blackmore Vale Partnership who will be demonstrating their triaging app Klinik. If you would like some help using the app or would like to learn how to use it more effectively then please bring your smartphone, iPad, tablet or laptop with you. The workshop runs after lunch from 1.30 to 3.30pm.

Fontmell Community Support Hub



Compost Corner

We are a nation of bird lovers: we spend about £250 million on bird food, over half a million of us participate in the annual Great British Bird Watch, we put up nest boxes, provide birdbaths and get up at daybreak on Dawn Chorus day.

I have a selection of bird boxes in our garden:- a multi hole terrace for gregarious sparrows, open fronted ones for robins and wrens and a selection of standard boxes for any one who fancies them. But the tragic fact is that last year not one of them was occupied; all I saw in the one which had a camera was a nice cobweb - not exactly riveting. But we do have a very healthy number of birds visiting our garden, even a moorhen which I saw perched up a Rowan tree. So what am I doing wrong? I admitted this sad fact to a friend who astutely observed that the absence of nest box residents is probably because we have plenty of natural nesting sites. Hurrah - I'm not being ostracised by our feathered friends after all but maybe they have found just what they need hither, thither and yon in some of the wilder corners of the garden and in the trees we've planted here. Perhaps, this year, if I'm really lucky, I'll see a spider by the cobweb in the camera nest box. Can't wait!



Alison Main

Village Weather for December 2023

Another wet, rather sunless month after a frosty start. Relatively mild.

24 rain days, 3 gales associated with storm systems, 10 ground frost, 5 air frost. No hail or thunder.

Annual rainfall 1112.2mm in 2023 compared to 867.5mm in 2022

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 27.7mm on 3rd)	117.0m	130.3mm
Sunshine	15.6 hours Avg 0.5	37.0 hours Avg 1.2 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 13.6 on 24th)	10.7°C	7.5°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -4.7 on 2nd & 3rd)	4.0°C	0.3C

This February 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 March issue by Wednesday 21st February 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