



THE GOSSIP TREE

News & Views from the Parish of FONTMELL MAGNA

January 2024
Issue 358

“Fontmell Meet and Chat” Group

A small group of residents have been challenged to re-start the Fontmell Society – which until recently held evening talks in the Village Hall.

But we need a few more volunteers from all age groups and gender to form an energetic team to plan and organise interesting talks or film shows. A new brand name is needed.

If you think you could spare a hour or two a month to help organise events at the Village Hall with the aim to attract Fontmell residents to meet and chat (drinks bar available), could you please contact:

Acting chair – Fontmell Society

Andrew Davis

07831 162446

davisaih@btinternet.com

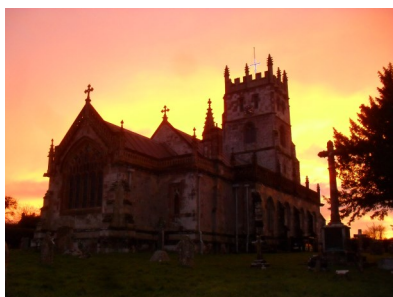
Fontmell Carol Singing - Friday 15 December

On a not that ‘bleak winter’ evening, dry and clear, around twenty Fontmell villagers gathered outside the Village Hall for an hour of carol singing. Like herding cats we meandered and sang through the village, stopping at different houses along the way. The purpose was to have fun and bring the Christmas message to the village, but we also had a bucket collection for *Crisis* and thanks to everyone’s generosity raised £160. Thank you to Arnie and Sarah at The Fontmell for the mince pies at our final stop.

Robert Wellen



Sunset over St Andrews Church— 27th December 2023



Notices – January 2024

St. Andrew’s Church - Services for January

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 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

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

For details of next walk, please contact:

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**

Fontmell Magna and District Garden Club

The next talk on the Fontmell Magna and District
Garden Club programme is on Thursday
18th January at 7.30pm at FM Village Hall.

The talk is 'Low Maintenance Gardening', by a
speaker from Castle Gardens. 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.

FONTMELL MAGNA: YOUR PARISH CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Villagers – this is to let you know that your parish church of St Andrew's, Fontmell Magna, will require some serious 'tender loving care' over the next few years. Can you help?

I need not tell you how much our beloved parish church is loved and appreciated. It is not only the principal building in our village and the focus of Christian worship and witness, it is also the venue for family baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other local and national commemorations. It is used regularly by our village church school. It is tenderly loved and tended by so many willing volunteers and is open every day of the year for everyone: a glance at the Visitor's Book illustrates how the church is valued. We must keep it that way.

What is wrong? Immediate work is needed to the stone parapets on top of the North Aisle (pictured). The stonework is cracking with one of the pinnacles leaning quite noticeably. Repairs are needed to make these parapets structurally stable. Repairs are also needed to the church roof. The lead is at the end of its serviceable life; being over 120 years old, and work needs to start on the South Aisle, where water has started to come in during heavy downpours. The current estimated cost (capital funds) (this may change) for work on the pinnacles on the North Aisle and the roof of the South Aisle is 'in the region of' £200,000, which includes VAT which is reclaimable.

A small group of PCC members, with the support of others, will be applying to grant-making bodies for funds towards this work. But we as a village also need a fundraising campaign and I am sure that villagers will want to help. To that end a **Village Meeting**, open to all, will be held in the Church on **Friday 1 March 2024 at 7 p.m.** 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.

Keeping the Church's structure in good order is a major task. However, the positive side to this challenge is the scope it gives for our wonderful community to yet again come together and have some fun, whilst at the same time helping to preserve our beloved old church for us and for future generations.

Any questions please do be in contact with me (01747 811070 or robertwellen@btinternet.com).

Robert Wellen (Churchwarden – on behalf of the Fontmell PCC).

Picture: North Aisle (reproduced by permission St Ann's Gate Architects, Salisbury)



The Fontmell Community Lunch Club is back

We are pleased to announce that we have enough funding remaining from the Warm Hubs we ran in 2023 to provide 6 Community lunches this Winter and Spring. We are combining the format of the Community Lunch Club with the Fontmell Community Support Warm Hubs to bring you the best of both, the main difference being that we do ask you to book in advance so we know how much to cook, this helps our funds go further.

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. The first of the lunches will be on Wednesday 24th January 2024 with doors open from 12 noon and food 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 812 500. We are looking for additional volunteer cooks to share the load so if you are interested in finding out more about what this entails please get in touch.

We also provide foodbank boxes so if you are in need or know someone who is, please email the foodbank team on:

fontmellfoodbank@post.com

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Wed 24th January Community Lunch

All are welcome to join us for a

FREE LUNCH at

Fontmell Magna Village Hall

Doors open 12 noon

Lunch Served from 12.30 pm

To book call: Lisa on 01747 812 500 email: lunch.fmvh@mail.com

Main Course

Dessert

Tea and Coffee

We can cater for most dietary requirements.



CANON DICK HEATH REMI JONES

On November 22nd, 2023, Dick died peacefully at The Cedars Nursing Home, after a long illness. His Funeral will take place in St. Andrew's Church, Fontmell Magna, on Saturday, 20th January at 12 noon, followed by burial in the churchyard. No flowers please.

Donations, in memory of Dick, would be gratefully received for Amnesty International UK (one of several charities which Dick supported and of which he was a founder member of the Putney Branch) online at www.mhfd.co.uk or sent to Merefield & Henstridge F/D, Ridgemount, Pitts Lane, West Melbury, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0BU. Tel: 01747 853532.

In addition, at Dick's request, there will be a Retiring Collection at the Funeral for St. Andrew's Church.

Royal British Legion

The Tea Room Crafters and friends who have made the poppies and which were sold in the Village Hall, St. Andrews School and St Andrew's Church Fontmell on behalf of the Royal British Legion have raised the brilliant sum of £142-85.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed. We have received a letter of thanks from the RBL for the many people who will benefit from our kindness.

Jenny White

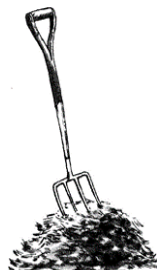


Compost Corner

The onion, what a fine vegetable and ingredient it is. They're not tricky to grow, store well and so many recipes, whether it's for soup, a casserole, French, Spanish or Indian dish the method invariably starts with: 'Take a finely chopped onion'.

I always thought I was pretty adept at onion chopping but I was recently shown a brilliant, and very easy onion preparation technique. So here goes....take one onion, leave the skin on and cut off the top end leaving the root end intact. Slice the onion down the middle from the stalk end to the root end, and remove the papery skin. Place the flat cut side on a chopping board and you'll see white lines on the fleshy scale leaves running up and down the bulb. Cut right through the onion along all these lines. Then turn the onion round 90 degrees and cut across at intervals of about 2mm until you reach the root end and chop that off...and bingo! You have a perfectly chopped onion.

Alison Main



Village Weather for November 2023

A dreary wet month with one dry week near the end. Some frosty days and a hint of snow on the final day. 19 rain days, No gales but gusty at times, 12 ground frost, 5 air frost. No hail or thunder.

Comp. Figures	2023	2022
Rain (Most 24mm on 1st)	119.1m	184.0mm
Sunshine	52.1 hours Avg 1.7	Avg 2.2 hrs
Max mean temp. (highest 14.2 on 1st, 12th & 13th)	11.2°C	12.8°C
Min mean temp. (lowest -5.9 on 25th)	3.8°C	5.9C

This January 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 February issue by Wednesday 18th January 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