‘Everybody needs good neighbours’
The theme tune to the soap opera ‘Neighbours’ is perhaps one of the most recognisable musical scores ever composed. But a recent survey discovered that less and less people even know their neighbour’s name, and felt more lonely and, in the case of the elderly more vulnerable, as a result. Would I be naïve in thinking that this couldn’t happen in a village such as Dockenfield, where community spirit is alive and well, as demonstrated during the recent bad weather?

If getting to know more people in the village is something that is on your mind, then head to the Parish Supper (on 12 March), and get involved in Dockenfield Day on 5 June. And if you want to know more about all the important things that impact the village, then do pitch up at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April.

Michael

Website Photo Competition
All the excellent entries submitted were judged by the members of the Council and Newsletter Editor, Michael Foster, at the February meeting of the Parish Council.

We are pleased to announce that Paul Wood’s picture showing a sunrise over the village was the winner. You will be able to see this on the home page for the new Parish Council website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk) when it launches soon, along with the highly commended entry from Jack Bessant of summer haymaking. Paul has very kindly donated his prize to charity. Thank you to all the entrants – all the pictures entered can be seen on the website. As the Newsletter is photocopied in black and white I am afraid that it is not possible to show the winning picture in the Newsletter.

Robert Clayson

Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 20 April, 7.45pm at the Good Shepherd
At the end of last year’s Annual Meeting one resident was heard to say that she hadn’t realised how many items of real importance to the village were going to be discussed, and why wasn’t that emphasised more in the advance publicity?

So here it is, duly flagged up, on the front page where you just can’t miss it. You will find full details on page 3. Be there if you can.

A Batt’s Corner First Edition?
On the day of printing DNL I was told that a first edition stamp or postmark, due out on 13 April, will feature Batt’s Corner in some way. I checked with the Post Office but couldn’t get confirmation of this and the Royal Mail website didn’t help. So I don’t know exactly what form this would take. As a matter of interest, while researching, I found that a stamp was issued in September 2004 illustrating the ‘Natterer’s Bat’ and the Special Day of Issue Post Mark featured the name of Batt’s Corner, Dockenfield (in silver). The reference at the time was L9246.

Anyway, I didn’t want the Newsletter to go out without giving this a mention. So check it out nearer the time is the best advice I can offer at this stage.

Peter James

The Centenary Parish Supper
Friday, 12 March, 7.30pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd
There are just a few tickets remaining for the annual Parish Supper on 12 March. The theme for the supper will be ‘The Centenary’ celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building of the Church of the Good Shepherd. The evening will include a complimentary drink on arrival, meal, raffle, auction and good company. Hannah Poulson and Mared Evans have kindly agreed to provide the musical entertainment.

Tickets are £10 per person and they are only available in advance. If you would like to attend this popular event please complete the booking form on page 14, and return to Jane Wood at the address shown on the form. The profit for the evening will be shared between Church funds and St Mary’s Frensham Trust.

Peter James
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News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings. Here are the dates for all the Parish Council Meetings for the rest of 2010. They are all held in the vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd, starting at 7.45pm. Everybody is welcome to attend all or part of each meeting: 16 March; 20 April (also the Annual Parish Meeting, see below); 18 May; 15 June; 20 July; 17 August; 21 September; 19 October; 16 November; and 14 December. You can normally find the agenda for each meeting posted in the Bus Shelter near the Good Shepherd by the morning of the meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting 20 April, 7.45pm at the Good Shepherd. This is the highlight of the Parish Council year: our annual meeting when as always everyone is welcome (indeed encouraged) to attend. Indeed we hope that all enthusiasts of village life will want to be there to hear about all the matters affecting the village at the moment. There will be a full programme of speakers, including a presentation from Robert Clayson on the new Parish Council website as well as updates on Neighbourhood Watch, local policing, Alice Holt Forest, CPRE, and the village’s snow strategy as well as contributions from Dockenfield’s Waverley and Surrey Councillors. Do come along and support your Parish Councillors and learn all about your village. Admission is free as are the coffee and biscuits.

The Street Cleaning Schedule. Please remember that the village streets and lanes are to due be cleaned every three months, in the weeks commencing 3 May and 2 August 2010 as per the list published in the last edition. Please let Lyndsey Edwards (email clerk.dockenfieldpc@tesco.net) know if your area has not been cleaned within the stated time frame. In February some residents reported that their roads had not been cleaned and this gave Lyndsey the chance to chase Waverley and it is important that such checking is continued. (Since this item was written, Bealeswood Lane has been cleaned as a result of the clerk being able to complain to Waverley that it had not been done at the appointed time. So it’s important that Lyndsey gets told what is happening).

Dockenfield Telephone Box. It probably won’t have escaped your attention that the red telephone box by the playground in The Street is in a bad state of repair and currently unusable. The situation is that the Parish have been unable to adopt the phone box, but Waverley have insisted that it is retained in the village which means that BT are obliged to maintain it in good order. To help get the necessary repairs actioned as rapidly as possible it would be very helpful if lots of residents get in touch with BT asking them to prioritise the matter. You will have to state the telephone number 01252 793167 when contacting BT. Ideally please get in touch with them by email (customer.serv.payphones@bt.com) so that there is a record of your contact. If that isn’t possible, then do please call them on 0800 66 16 10 and then press option 2. Many thanks for your help.

Dockenfield in Bloom. A big ‘thank you’ to Nicky and Mike Rutherford who have planted a whole sack of daffodils in the village, principally at the two chicanes, but also in other areas. So when Dockenfield bursts into a yellow haze we have them to thank.

Our new website. This will be going live soon at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk, thanks to the excellent work of Robert Clayson. Please see the separate article on page 1 for news of the photo competition winner. Do come along to the Annual Meeting (see above) to hear all about it. The website will contain the agenda’s for forthcoming meetings, minutes from the Council Meetings, recent editions of the Newsletter, updates from the Activities Committee, links to other useful local websites, and pictures of the village. Also included is the Local Business Directory which is distributed with Newsletter on a periodic basis. If you have any additional pictures you would like to be considered for use in the future or indeed additional content for the site then please get in touch with Lyndsey Edwards, the Parish Clerk.

Snow Strategy for Dockenfield. You will no doubt have seen the outline details of our proposed strategy in January’s issue of the Newsletter. This was discussed at the Parish Council meetings in January and February, also at the Activities Committee meeting in January and continues to be a subject of concern to us all. Now householders have (hopefully) recovered from the snow problems, please consider making a contribution of your own ideas to the Strategy by emailing Lyndsey on her email address above.

The Parish Council has continued its discussions with the Highways Department at Surrey County Council requesting a more than doubling of the number of salt bins in the village and to put forward ideas for a ‘snow strategy’ for the village so that we do not experience a repeat of the difficulties encountered this year with the severe snow and ice.

As a result of David Harmer’s and the Parish Council’s representations, Dockenfield is now officially termed an ‘isolated community’ by the Highways Department. This will lead to improved treatment/supplies reaching the village roads in the future.

Dockenfield Parish Council and David Harmer (our local SCC councillor) will be presenting a full report on the snow strategy at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Jill Trout and Lyndsey Edwards
**Millbridge WI**  
**Thursdays 18 March and 15 April, 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall**  
The next two events of the WI are:  
**18 March:** ‘Peru’ by Marion Dante  
**15 April:** ‘Women and the Vote’ by Mrs B McLoughlin  
For more information please contact Diana Parratt on Tel: 794168.

**Village Lunch**  
**Wednesdays 24 March and 28 April, midday at the British Legion**  
Join your friends and neighbours for the next two Village Lunches, when the accompanying charity sales tables will be organised by the Dyslexic Centre and Bells Piece respectively.

I have just read in the Parish Magazine that the price of the lunch is going up a tickle to £2.50, plus 20p for coffee. Not welcome I am sure, but hey, where else can you get a great meal for a price like that, with good company and the chance to raise some money for charity thrown in for good measure?

**Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group**  
**Tuesdays 9 March, 13 April and 11 May 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall**  
We meet at the Marindin Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.45pm. Visitors are welcome. The next three meetings are:  
**9 March:** The Hidden Treasures of Farnham, by Mrs A Peers-David, who is a well known speaker on Farnham.  
**13 April:** Two members will talk on the Old Village Shops in Frensham. Also a member will read an account on Tommy Reilly.  
**11 May:** Mr Jones will be talking on his role as a Town Crier.  
We then have a break until the 12 October.  
For more information please contact Mary Embling on Tel: 793084.  
**Mary Embling**

**Good Shepherd Centenary**  
The Church of the Good Shepherd reaches its centenary on 28 May 2010. The PCC would like to invite everyone to celebrate this very special occasion and are organising some events to mark this milestone.

The Right Reverend Bishop Ian Brackley has kindly agreed to come and lead us in a service of celebration at 10.30 a.m. on **Sunday 6 June**. He would love to see as many of the Parish residents as possible. The service will be followed by a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles. There will then be a picnic lunch in the Good Shepherd garden. This will be run on similar lines to the Millennium party. Bring your own picnic – tables will be available on request or supply your own tables/chairs/rugs etc. There will be a treasure hunt, raffle and other fun.

If you are interested in the history of the Church there will be a centenary booklet for sale and a display in the Church. Any money raised will go towards a memorial of the centenary, which we hope will include a spotlight over the cross on the outside of the east wall.

As the weekend coincides with Dockenfield Day we also hope to run a couple of events on 5 June at the Good Shepherd.

**Other diary dates:**  
**28 May:** Lecture at the Good Shepherd on the history of the Church and Dockenfield (to be confirmed)  
**3 October:** Good Shepherd Harvest Festival  
**8 October:** Harvest Supper in the Good Shepherd  
**10 October:** Harvest Festival at St Mary’s  
**Morag James and Pat Telfer**

**News from the CPRE**  
Waverley Borough Council is currently consulting (closing date for comments is 10 March) on where to put the 5000 new homes that the Government’s South East Plan wants to foist on us. Go to www.waverley.gov.uk/ldf for details. The problem is that Waverley’s consultants do not think that the homes can all be accommodated within the settlement boundaries of the four towns and the villages.

One option (option 2) is to site some of the new housing on the edge of the four towns and the larger villages; another (option 3) is to do so on the edge of the four towns and all the villages, which could include Dockenfield and Frensham. Unlike most of the other villages, Dockenfield is not in the Green Belt but it is in an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) - which The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Surrey County Council, Waverley and others are seeking to include in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB.

CPRE does not favour Option 3, and wants to see the AONB/AGLV and Green Belt fully protected. CPRE contends that the housing policies of the Government should not override established policies for the protection of the countryside and its towns and villages.

All could change because the Conservatives have just published a Planning Green Paper, which states that they wouldspeedily abolish the present Government’s South East Plan.

**Colin Hall, CPRE Waverley**
Get involved in Dockenfield Day
Saturday 5 June, 2pm-6pm at the playing field, corner of Abbotts Cottages and The Street

I say this every year for the very simple reason that every year it is true. Dockenfield Day is the highlight of the village social calendar, and it wouldn’t do to miss out. So, first up, stick the date in your diary. Now. No, don’t put it off until you have finished reading this article. You’ll only forget.

If you are new to the village, or just haven’t been before, let me tell you it is the very embodiment of a traditional country village fete. Friendly, inclusive, determinedly un-commercial, unashamedly local and stacks of fun for all the family.

Welcome to Dockenfield’s ‘Wild West’

Last year D Day was themed for the first time and it was terrific. Loads of people joining in, having fun dressing up, plus some very clever stalls and side shows to complement the theme. This year’s theme is ‘The Wild West’. Couldn’t be easier to get involved, could it? There are lots of ways to dress to the theme: cowboys, indians, squaws, medicine men, cavalry, sheriffs and bandits. You name it. But at a minimum all you have to do is stick on some jeans, add a check shirt, tie a coloured hanky round your neck and hey presto. If you have got a cowboy hat and some boots, so much the better.

Lots to look forward to

All your favourite stalls will be there. Yup, that’s right. There’s the dog show, tug of war, coconut shy, face painting, children's magician, human fruit machine, tombola, bash the rat, children’s races, basketball, and loads of stalls where you can have fun, grab a bargain, or both. And you can feast yourself at the barbeque, tea and cake stall or Pimms tent. There will be live music during the day, with ‘The Commoners’ back by popular demand. Oh, and there’s real ale. Let’s not forget the real ale.

And for this year, since we are in the Wild West there will be: panning for gold, village stocks, a rodeo, a cork shooting gallery, a treasure hunt and a cactus lasoo. And more.

This year’s competition

To join in with the 100th anniversary of the village church, this year’s competition is to draw or paint the Good Shepherd. There will be two age groups, 15 and under and over 16.

Get involved

Attending the fete is great fun, but so is helping out, and a great way to meet new people. Here’s a few ways you can be a real help.

*Please volunteer:* to help run (or help on) a stall, help in the morning, or clear up afterwards. Or to lend us a marquee or a gazebo we could borrow for the day.

*Join in with the theme:* do you have a wigwam or some hobby horses; could you lead a line dancing group; do you have a pony that children could safely take (accompanied) rides on?

If you can help with any of the above we would love to hear from you. Just get in touch with Seb Fox (on Tel: 07930 986677 or email: sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk), make contact with the Newsletter, or talk to any member of the Activities Committee. Also we believe we have been in touch with most of last year’s stall holders asking them to help out again, but please contact Seb if you haven’t heard.

*Got an idea?* Then share it with us. If you have an event, stall, or activity that you would like to see considered as part of D Day, then please get in touch as above.

*Start collecting.* Quite simply all the stalls rely on your generosity for their success. So please start collecting for the following stalls: toys, raffle, tombola, books/dvds and cds (no videos this year please), plants and the nearly new and curiosities stall which is perfect for ‘nearly new’ children’s clothes, unwanted presents and good quality collectables. Please deliver to or call the following stallholders

**Garden Plants**  
Dan Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane  
Tel: 792442

**Tombola Prizes**  
Fiona Jones, Keeper’s Cottage, Bealeswood Common  
Tel: 792433

**Toys**  
Rachel Illet, Hallsgrove House, Boundary Road  
Tel: 793551

**Cakes**  
Daryl Fox, Drift House, The Street  
Tel: 792080

**Nearly New/Curiosities**  
Jackie Hutton, Goose Cottage, Green Lane  
Tel: 790333
News from Bealeswood Common

Many thanks to the hardy souls that turned out for a chilly Bealeswood work party on 13 Feb. We coppiced an area of blackthorn scrub opposite Orchard End and also tidied up a snow damaged willow on the corner of Bealeswood Lane. People quickly got to work cutting the scrub whilst others put their pyromania skills to the test to start a warming bonfire for the cuttings. I think all those present would agree that it was a very productive few hours.

I know there were a few people who would have found it easier to attend the work party if it had been on a Sunday. The reason for choosing a Saturday is that I simply did not have a Sunday free before the start of the birdnesting season. As I have previously mentioned, I have around 20 other sites and all my Sundays were booked up with work parties on these. I do appreciate that many people prefer a Sunday however and have therefore provisionally set aside Sunday 24 October for our next work party at Bealeswood so please pencil this date into your diaries. I haven’t yet decided exactly what we are doing but it is likely it will involve cutting back one of the scrub islands to stop it encroaching into the flower rich grassland. I will confirm the date and task in the next newsletter.

It seems that spring is finally round the corner. The birds are becoming more vocal and woodland flowers are beginning to emerge. We’ve yet to see the corresponding improvement in the weather admittedly but I live in hope. My memory might be a bit blurred after a year out of the country, but this winter did seem to be particularly cold and wet, even by British standards. The onset of spring means quite a change in work for me as I have to limit the practical work on site to avoid disturbing nesting birds and other active wildlife. It does mean I finally run out of excuses to keep avoiding the dreaded paperwork but it is also one the most exciting times of year to be in a job like mine. It is when a lot of British wildlife is at its most active and it gives us the opportunity to appreciate just why we spend so many hours working through the cold and wet of winter in order to give it a better chance. Flowers come up, the bird song can be so intense that it’s often hard to pick out individuals, reptiles come out of hibernation, and butterflies and other insects take to the air. It makes it a pleasure to work in the countryside and if you get the chance to have a stroll around Bealeswood Common on a sunny spring day then I would definitely recommend it.

As many of you may know I am based at Frensham Common just up the road and my job role requires me to do a lot of wildlife survey work there during the Spring and the Summer. This means I probably won’t be able to get out to survey the wildlife on my other sites as much as I would like. I know many of you enjoy walking around Bealeswood on a regular basis and are therefore very likely to spot certain wildlife that I could miss. I would therefore like to appeal to everyone to send any wildlife records from Bealeswood that you feel to be of interest to me so I can collate them on a database. All records will help to build our knowledge of Bealeswood’s wildlife and therefore allow us to make more informed management decisions in the future. Please find my contact details below.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Diana and John Jeffery for kindly volunteering to help me with the Bealeswood butterfly survey this year. Without this help, I would unable to complete this important survey, so it is very much appreciated. I will include an over view of our findings in a newsletter later in the year.

Vicky Booth, Countryside Ranger for Bealeswood Common
Tel: 792416            Email: vicky.booth@waverley.gov.uk

Admission is free
Oh yes, I forgot to say. Admission is free. Couldn’t be better could it?

Later, at the Blue Bell
Once the fete is over, the fun continues up at the Blue Bell with more live music and special menus. See page 7 for details.
**Events at the Blue Bell**

**Regular Things.** Fish special on a Friday, and always including fish and chips with fresh fish and home made beer batter, and a soon to be launched take away service. All the meat for the Sunday roasts is now coming from Hampshire.

**Mondays.** The pub will re-open on Monday evenings from Monday 29 March.

**Happy Hour Drinks.** Still available Tuesday to Friday from 5-7pm, with free bar snacks on the Friday.

**Music Nights.** There will be live music evenings once per month starting on 26 March, and then every last Friday of the month. The first music night will be headlined by Andy Stedman, playing two sets, supported by a set from Sam King. They are both local musicians from the Farnham area.

**Mothers Day 14 March.** Two sittings 12-2pm and then 3-5pm. There will be a special gift for all the mums.

**Easter Sunday 4 April.** Usual events with the Easter Egg Hunt for the children, raffles and this year a colouring competition and Sunday roasts for all the family.

**Dockenfield Day: Saturday 5 June.** After the fete has finished at 6pm, the pub will be entering into the spirit of the day by continuing with the Wild West theme. There are no final details at the moment, but they hope to put on a special meal or entire menu, have live music, and to get the pub and staff all dressed up to suit the occasion.

‘Mother Earth’. They have design plans for the vegetable plot in place now to put the raised beds in around the side of the pub near the decking area, but the weather has made any other progress difficult.

**The Blue Bell Beer Festival 2010.** This will be held on the same weekend as last year, being Friday 10 and Saturday 11 September. New initiatives for this year include a selection of wines in the marquee, and activities for the children. Details and times to be confirmed later. If you have a suggestion you would like to put forward then email Alex on alexkneil@hotmail.co.uk or Tel 792801.

**Website.** To be re-launched soon with a new design: www.thebluebellfarnham.co.uk

**The Blue Bell in the News.** As you may have seen in the Farnham Herald, the number of testimonials received by the Blue Bell in a competition run by ‘the best of’ group meant that the pub was voted the best business in Farnham’ and 14th best pub in the UK.’

**A Message from Alex:** ‘Well what a year it was last year. Even in a recession a small village pub can pull through and we would like to thank all those in the village who supported us in any way in 2009. It was a tough year for everybody. We are really making a big effort this year to improve our food, service and what we can offer. We have a new chef and a new menu. We are listening to all our customers and trying to improve in any way possible’.

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**Well done, Hannah**

Anyone who has had the good fortune to hear Hannah Poulson sing will know just how talented she is. So what excellent news that she has the chance to further that talent at a top music college.

In the words of her (understandably proud) mother, Katy: ‘Hannah was offered 3 places at music college. The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, The Royal College of Music in London and Trinity College London. Hannah was offered a first year scholarship at The Royal Welsh, which was also her first choice. So watch out Wales another resident of Batts Corner will be residing there…’

**Dockenfield: centre of the universe**

Emails are wonderful things. Dan, in Siberia, needed to get in touch with Jill in Perth (Australian version), on some Parish business. The email exchange took place ‘via’ Dockenfield as addresses needed to be checked at home. Which, as Jill pointed out, is surely proof of what we have all suspected for a long time - Dockenfield is indeed the centre of the universe.

**Dockenfield Hash**

The regular Hash is being replaced on 27 March by the Holt Bolt. Several people have entered and if you’re interested, go to www.allabouttriathlons.co.uk/events_bah.php or search for ‘Bolt Round the Holt’. You can choose the distance you want to run (5k, 10k or 20k). Hope to see you there.

-Sébastian Fox

**Sales Aid**

One Farnham estate agent has, I notice, begun to mention in their blurb that the Newsletter is one of the benefits of living in Dockenfield. Indeed the first house to sell itself in this way sold almost immediately. But for some unaccountable reason, my share of the commission in used notes has yet to tumble through the letter box……

**So, how as it for you?**

Here’s hoping you have enjoyed the mild winter we were promised, as much as you enjoyed last year’s ‘barbeque’ summer. I wonder what lies in store for us during the rest of the year? As far as I know the Met Office haven’t yet issued a prediction. Surprise!
Garden birds in early Spring
The mention of Spring may evoke a sniff of derision, unless the weather has improved by the time you read this. However, it is of some comfort after the wintry weather to know that it is the extended hours of daylight more than increased warmth at this time of year which stimulates the birds to behave in ways we associate with Spring. Dunnocks, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Robins, Thrushes and Blackbirds all began to sing in February, for example, despite the cold, wet conditions. Male birds, which tend to do most of the singing, establish territories and make warning calls to other males not to cross boundaries. There will be flurries of aggressive behaviour if intruders do not take the hint. Birds establish territories in order to ensure adequate food supplies, as well as to establish breeding partnerships.

As the breeding season approaches our garden birds, especially the males, all begin to look markedly smarter, with brighter plumage. How? Well, they have not moulted again since the end of last summer. On many birds the new feathers produced during last year's moult had pale tips which covered some of the colour underneath. During the winter these pale tips have gradually worn away, so that by the time of the breeding season the birds’ brightest plumage is on display to impress potential mates and to intimidate potential rivals.

The male Great Tit now has a broader black stripe down his belly than the female. The black and white pattern on his head is more defined, too. Blue Tits also have brighter, crisper colours. Apparently the blue cap on a male Blue Tit’s head reflects ultraviolet, which other Blue Tits can see even though we can’t. The alpha males have more of this plus factor than other males, and this seems to appeal to the females, who choose their mates accordingly. The male Chaffinch looks particularly splendid now, with his pale blue cap, pink breast and bright white wing bars. The Starling’s speckled brown plumage of winter months loses its speckles and becomes iridescent, with green and purple highlights. Female birds, which tend to have less colourful plumage, also look smarter now. Even the LBJs (Little Brown Jobs), as they are called by birders, look spruce, and the subtle colours of the Dunnock and the House Sparrow, for example, look brighter and crisper.

In some birds the colour of the bill changes. A young male Blackbird develops his yellow bill in his first winter and will then keep it. A male Chaffinch has a horn-coloured bill during the rest of the year, but it looks blue during the breeding season. The Starling has a dark grey-brown bill in winter, but it becomes yellow in spring. Unlike as it may seem, the base of the Starling’s bill also changes, and becomes pink for a female and blue for a male. It’s all down to hormones!

Once a male bird has established a breeding territory he turns his attentions to attracting a mate. His song is his first blandishment. Once a likely female comes into his territory he will try his display technique to entice her to stay. This courtship behaviour can look quite bizarre sometimes. The male Blackbird adopts a pose in which his rump feathers are fluffed out, his head is stretched forward, and the feathers on his crown are raised. With his tail fanned and his bill open, he makes bowing movements and little runs towards the female. The male Chaffinch also adopts an odd courtship posture, tilting his body to lift one wing and display his bright pink flank and belly. He may also flutter his wings in a rapid, shallow pattern, as he follows her about. Female birds often look quite unimpressed by all this showing-off for quite some time, until they make their choice of mate.

With increasing day length and gradually rising temperatures the birds come into breeding readiness. Robins occasionally nest as early as January, and quite frequently in February. Thrushes and Blackbirds usually begin from late March onwards. From April onwards, as you will notice, general bird activity becomes frantic!

Val Lewis

Frensham & Dockenfield Support Group for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice
Please put the following dates in your diary for our activities this year:

**Sat 22 May**  Phyllis Tuckwell Fete is being held this year at Gostrey Meadows in central Farnham. Again we are running a cake stall so any contributions would be gratefully received. Details in the next Newsletter.

**Sat 19 June**  Frensham Fayre: We will be running a tombola bottle stall.

**Mon 21 June**  We will be holding a Bridge and afternoon tea event in a marquee at Spreakley Hollow, Frensham by kind permission of David and Caroline Wilkinson. More information in the next Newsletter.

**Tues 16 Nov**  Our annual Christmas Fair at Frensham Heights.

Judy Dadak
News from our Local Police Officer

Welcome to John. I start this message by welcoming my new colleague John Francis to the Dockenfield area. John is a Police Community Support Officer (PCS0) and is dedicated to working with me so naturally will be another face to get to know in Dockenfield. As in his title, John’s role is very much one of supporting me and the community. One difference between John and myself is that you will notice that he has a pair of legs and will be using them to walk the village and is aiming to walk around the village at least once a week. So when you see him and believe me you will instantly recognise who he is please stop and have a chat: I know he is partial to a cup of tea.

Stay alert. A Dockenfield resident recently saw a suspicious male in the grounds of their property and when challenged he stated that he was lost, and was promptly escorted off the property. Patrick Rendell (Neighbourhood Watch) was then informed, Patrick then left a message for me, and as I was not working that day I didn’t pick the message up until the day after, approximately 18 hours after the message was left. This is not a criticism of those involved as they felt they were doing the right thing at the time, however in future if you see a trespasser on your property and the circumstances look suspicious please dial 999. We really don’t mind - nothing gets an officer’s blood pumping more than when we get a shout for ‘an intruder on’, which is ‘police-speak’ for a possible burglar on the premises.

Take care when keeping fit. At a recent surgery it was brought to my attention that there seem to be a number of road runners around the village who have been difficult to see as they have been wearing dark clothing. So if you are a road runner please wear high viz clothing to protect not only yourselves but drivers as well. Whilst on the subject of safety also be aware that Rachel Morris our local Para Olympian also uses the local roads in preparation for 2012. She does all she can to be visible but please be mindful that she may just be around the next bend.

Police surgeries. Just to say that my surgeries will be continuing in my police car, parked outside the Good Shepherd. Due to Bank Holidays, these will take place on the second Monday of each month between 11.30 am and midday ie 12th April and 10th May. I plan to return to the first Monday of the month thereafter.

Keep Safe.

Pc 2295 Rob Hawkes & PCSO 14088 John Francis
Safer Neighbourhood Team
0845 125 2222 wswaverleysnt1@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Spring forward....

Don’t forget to put your clocks forward one hour at 1 am on the morning Sunday 28 March.

....Spring backwards

Meanwhile the cold winter has delayed the arrival of spring flowers such as daffodils by up to a month, meaning that all flowers are likely to put in an appearance at once with a grand display of colour.

Pond Life

Did you catch the article in the news a couple of weeks ago that warned of the dangers of aquatic plants like water-primrose and parrot’s feather that are used to liven up garden ponds with their bright flowers and exotic foliage? It seems that these plants can grow up to eight inches a day, can take hold quickly in the countryside and have caused havoc for native plants and animals.

Species like Japanese knotweed is even capable of growing through concrete and destroying buildings. New Zealand pygmy, that sucks oxygen from the pond, can make it impossible for frogs and fish to breed. Floating pennywort and water fern can block drainage passages and cause flooding.

Pond owners are urged to pull up the plants and make sure they are completely destroyed, rather than just chucked on the compost heap where the roots can still take hold.

The Name Game

Did you read recently that the most popular boys name ever is John? And that the most common name in the phone book in this country is Smith (worldwide it is Wang, but I digress).

And if you think that Smith isn’t the most exciting surname on the planet, trust me things could be a lot worse. A new survey has listed some of the most improbable, not to say embarrassing, names that folk have been landed with.

Examples in this country evidently include: Stan Still, Anna Sasin, Hazel Nut, Barb Dwyer, Justin Case, Mary Christmas, Paige Turner, Chris Cross, and Barry Cade.

Likewise in the USA there are people rejoicing in such names as Carrie Oakey, Anna Prentice and Bill Board. What were their parents thinking of?

The Good Shepherd mowing rota

The Good Shepherd churchyard mowing rota is now being finalised and copies will be despatched to all volunteers within the next two weeks. Thank you all in advance for your co-operation. It is very much appreciated.

Patrick Rendell Tel: 794761 or email: patrickrendell@btinternet.com

Pat
**The Bishop comes to Farnham**

In previous articles we have met the people of medieval Farnham and looked at the lives of some of the bishops - the feudal lords of the area. But how often did local people actually have a chance to see the bishop? For most of the time, throughout the medieval period, the buildings of the Castle were largely empty, with only the Constable and a small staff living permanently within the walls. Even the Great Hall, the centre of social life in the Castle, was used for storing the salted carcasses of pigs for much of the time. This peaceful domestic scene changed abruptly however, when the bishop or one of his guests - frequently the king - visited Farnham. While local people may have enjoyed the chance to see their lords they certainly would not have enjoyed the work that each visit entailed.

Like the kings, the medieval bishops travelled with large escorts and indeed took much of their official and domestic household with them on their frequent journeys between Winchester and London. William of Wykeham for example, bishop from 1367 to 1404, visited Farnham on over one hundred occasions and several of the bishops actually died while staying in the castle.

No doubt a messenger was sent to warn the Constable well in advance of a visit by the bishop, to allow time for the castle to be suitably prepared. The quiet scene must have changed to one of bustle and controlled chaos as the salted pigs were removed and new rushes strewn in the hall, the stables mucked out and readied for the large numbers of horses they would have to accommodate and the rest of the castle cleaned. This was the responsibility of a particular group of about eighteen peasants, while others were charged with supplying fuel in the form of faggots (bundles of wood) and charcoal. Provisions would also have to be brought in large quantities. For instance, during 1307-8, the bishop and his entourage consumed twenty-eight pigs, one boar, twenty-four goats, four swans, five bulls, one ox and several deer and drank three tuns of wine and eleven casks of cider and a large quantity of ale - all, apart from the wine, provided from the Farnham estate. And that is not to mention the bread and cheese, fish and fruits of various sorts that also had to be provided by the manor - including Dockenfield. The wine itself was occasionally produced from vineyards on the bishop's estates, but mostly came from France, being brought up from Southampton in large casks drawn by teams of up to five horses before being stored at the castle. Not surprisingly, occasionally there is evidence in the account rolls of local resentment at the burdens imposed on the community, particularly over the quantities of faggots to be supplied to the castle. In 1300 the people of Tongham, Elstead, Tilford, Frensham, Wrecclesham, Runwick and Dogflud refused to carry out this duty and were duly fined at the next court.

Hopefully, for the sake of the Constable, at the appointed time the bishop would ride into sight on his warhorse, preceded by his men at arms, crossbowmen and archers, perhaps surrounded by his friends or guests and followed by his domestic chaplains, clerks, gentlemen attendants and a host of minor officials and servants. Following this group would be the carts containing everything that a medieval bishop needed, from his vestments and his bedding to the altar cross and silverware needed for the chapel. Other carts would carry furniture, cooking utensils and everything else required to allow the continued smooth running of the household.

Perhaps the bishop would retire to his ‘camera’ or private chambers first before dealing with matters of local business such as holding meetings with local officials or interviewing local candidates for the priesthood. Bishops also frequently sent letters from Farnham Castle to destinations all over Britain and sometimes Europe, paying one of the local peasants a small sum to act as ‘postman’. Later in the evening after holding a service in one of the castle’s chapels, dinner would be served in the great hall and finally the bishop and his guests would retire to their rooms leaving the servants to sleep on the rushes in the hall.

All in all a visit by the bishop must have been a colourful and memorable, if somewhat tiring, event for the people of the small medieval town of Farnham and the surrounding countryside.  

David Graham

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**Jasmine makes the front page!**

Jasmine and her school chums, Charlotte and Imogen, were on the front page of the Farnham Herald (12 February). Jazz, blonde hair, black and white outfit, in front of the cheque. They performed with ShowShack's at the Prince's Theatre in Farnham and £10,000 was raised for charity. For more information see the photo and article: 'Theatre School Pupils Helping Cancer Fight’ or visit www.farnhamherald.com/tr/news.cfm?id=5086&y=2010&searchword=Showshack

Karen Britton

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**Farnham and Bourne Choral Society**

**Saturday, 15 May 7.30 pm at St Andrew’s Church, Farnham**

The Choral Society, conducted by Robin Wells, will be singing Mendelssohn’s ‘Elijah’ at St Andrew’s Church on Saturday, 15 May.

Tickets are priced £10 and £12 and are available from Jean Heathcote on Tel: 793251.
Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society
Spring Show - Saturday, 27 March 2.30-4pm at The Marindin Hall

The next major village event being organised by the Society is the Spring Flower and Produce Show. This is open to all for viewing and it is an event not to be missed. It is normally a spectacular display of mainly spring flowers and foliage, but also vegetables, home cooking and photography. It takes place from 2.30 till 4pm on Saturday 27 March in the Marindin Hall. The organiser, Roderick-Adam Smith has laid down a challenge to each of the members of the Society to enter “at least one exhibit”. This year the daffodil classes have been revised and illustrated examples of the different types of daffodil now recognised by the RHS are in the last Newsletter for the Society. Spring seems to be running about a month late this year (first flowering primrose on Bealeswood Common noted on 13 Feb this year compared with second week of January last year) so do not be hesitant about entering something as we shall all be in the same boat.

If you are not a member of the Society but would like to enter something then the following list gives you those classes that are open for anyone to enter:

All

Class 31: Mixed garden flowers – number of stems and varieties at exhibitor’s discretion (may include flowering shrubs).

Juniors*:

Class 4: A table arrangement for Easter.

Class 32: A container of mixed garden flowers.

Class 39: A face made from fruit and/or vegetables, (can be bought or home grown).

Class 45: Cookery. Chocolate fridge cake – 3 slices.


So why not give the Show a go? All entries are very welcome and there are prizes for all entries in the Junior Classes. Exhibits must be delivered to the Marindin Hall, Millbridge between 8.45am and 10.15am on the morning of the Show. All flowers must have been grown in the entrant’s garden or allotment (except Class 39 above). The Show is open to the public from 2.30pm-4.00pm and the prize giving is at 3.45pm. If you have any questions, please contact either Roderick Adam-Smith on Tel: 793633 or Suzanne McLean on Tel: 792231. For an entry form please see page 14.

Evening Talks

If you have an interest or desire or even a raging enthusiasm to grow your own healthy home grown produce whilst reducing your food miles and carbon footprint then the following three talks are for you:

Thursday 25 March: John Trim – “Vegetables for the table and show bench”

Thursday 22 April: Arthur Shearing – “Getting the best from your herbs”

Thursday 27 May: Brian Herbert – “Bees and Beekeeping”

New Committee

At its last AGM there was a changing of the guard of the Hort and Prod prompted by the coming to the end of my stipulated 4 years of Chairmanship. For 2010 the new people at the helm are: President- Dan Bosence (Tel: 792442); Chairman- Annette Clayson (Tel: 793775); Secretary- Caroline Plant (Tel: 793991); Treasurer- Bridgette Wilson (Tel: 792527); Show Administrator- Suzanne McLean (Tel: 792231); Membership Secretary- Anton Kleiven (Tel: 793928).

Dan Bosence

Comings….

• A really rather belated but nevertheless very warm Dockenfield welcome to Stuart and Jenny Miller who moved into Four Winds in High Thicket Road last May. And now they can announce another (and very delightful) new arrival in the village: their first baby girl Chloë India Rose, born on 26 January. Congratulations.

• Lesley and Peter Vince have moved into Garden Cottage in Bealeswood Lane, having come back to the UK after 4 years in Spain. One of the reasons to return was the birth of their first grandson 6 weeks ago.

….Goings….

• Well, none that I know of for this edition.

….and New Arrivals

• Hugh and Meryl Evans became grandparents for the first time in January when their son Morgan and his wife Rhiannon had a son, Rhys, in San Francisco.

Want to welcome a new neighbour? Or say goodbye to friends that are leaving the village? If you let the Newsletter know they can be mentioned in this section. And if you want to stay in touch once you have left Dockenfield, just ask for an email copy of the Newsletter to be sent to you.
**News from Frensham Village Shop**

**Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 4 May, 8pm at the Good Shepherd**

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held in Dockenfield this year on Tuesday 4 May at the Church of the Good Shepherd starting at 8pm. Everyone from the two villages is welcome to join us for a glass of wine beforehand and stay for the meeting to celebrate another successful year for our community shop, and to discuss future plans.

**Did you know?**

I was talking to a friend who is involved with the village shop in Ropley and it seems that they have been advised by estate agents in the area that property values in villages are lifted a few percentage points by the presence of a village shop within easy reach. Yet another reason for visiting our shop on top of the savings in time, mileage and car parking charges together with the friendly service from village volunteers! And a price comparison exercise last autumn with one of the huge supermarkets in Farnham showed that the Village Shop basket of everyday groceries was very competitive. We’ll do another one soon.

So, for those of you who have yet to see our offer, come and take a look. And while you are there, remember the Post Office which offers a full range of PO services, including:

- Gas and electricity key/card top up.
- Phone top up.
- Foreign currency (very good rates).
- Cash, from most debit cards.
- PO bank account transactions.
- BT, Council Tax and Income Tax bills can be paid here.
- Fishing licences.
- But – sorry – not lottery tickets.

**Stop Press!**

Postage stamp prices go up in April. Buy a job lot now and save money!  

David O’Gorman

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**The Frensham Fayre**

**Saturday 19 June, 2pm at Hollowdene**

Typing this, my fingers are so cold it seems as though summer will never arrive, but it definitely will, and so we’re already planning the Frensham Fayre. This year the theme, chosen by the Cubs and the children of St. Mary’s School, is **Wonders of the World.** It should be very easy to enter The Parade, The Children’s Art Competition or Best Dressed Stall Holder or Stall with a theme as wide as this! I’ve been asking around to find out what people think is a Wonder of the World and so far I’ve come up with a 1,000 year old oak, unexpected red roses on Valentines Day and The Archers…….

There will be a photographic competition again this year – details will be in the Parish Magazine. More House Music (so popular last year) will be returning, the usual excellent selection of stalls will be up and running and the evening event is being organised by FOSMS in support of St. Mary’s. On the Sunday morning after the Fayre, there will be a church service, as usual, in the marquee and in the afternoon a St. Mary’s School reunion. More details on all of this next time – as well as details of the VIP chosen to open the Fayre and judge the parade.

Philippa Hall

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**Memories of Christmas past**

Once again, Frensham Common was happy to provide the Dockenfield Xmas tree which I thought looked great, lighting up the village. It was selected by Vicky Booth with Katy Poulson and I felling it. It took 4 of us to load it so that it arrived in one piece. The difficult bit is always felling it slowly so that it doesn't break branches as it hits the ground.

Last year (Xmas 2008) Fiona Haynes felled a lovely tree but 4 of us couldn't even lift it, then the vehicle got stuck reversing up to it. Finally we got Katy's flatbed truck close enough, only for Katy to grab the very top of the tree and snap off the top 3 feet! Another tree was sought and Fiona felled it straight onto the back of the truck - rather her than me. Just before it fell onto the truck PC Rob Hawkes and a colleague drove down the bridleway towards us, as he thought a truck parked up there looked very suspicious. (That Rob is really on the ball). As I was chatting to him, his face went ashen grey as he watched a tree fall onto the back of the truck. He whispered, "Was that meant to happen?"

Steve Webster – Ranger, Frensham Common
Music in St Mary’s
Sunday 28 March at 6pm and Saturday 17 April at 7.30 pm, in St Mary’s Church Frensham

Palm Sunday Evening service
There will be a special service of readings and anthems at 6.00pm on Palm Sunday, 28 March. The service will relate the story of Holy Week leading up to Easter. The music in the service will include Hosanna filio David by Tomás Luis da Victoria, Christus factus est by Anton Bruckner, Stabat mater by Josef Rheinberger, Crucifixus à 8 by Antonio Lotti and God so loved the world by Bob Chilcott. All are welcome.

The 2010 series of Organ recitals
The next organ recital in St Mary’s will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 17 April with Mark Brafield playing J S Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Léon Boellmann - his famous Suite Gothique. Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of the organ fund. Refreshments will be available after the recital. Do come and hear some marvellous music played on one of the finest organs in the area.

Future recitals will be given on 26 June by Richard Pearce, 14 August by Francis Rumsey, and 16 October by Linden Innes-Hopkins.

Attention all singers
St Mary’s choir would love to hear from singers who would like to join the choir. Contact Richard Potter (Tel: 794727) or via the church website http://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/music.htm

Mike Smith

A new date in the calendar….
Last month Debbie and I celebrated a new date in the calendar: Shrove Wednesday. We were both out on the Tuesday, and I am sure you will agree that pancakes are just too scrummy to miss out on!

….and some old favourites you shouldn’t miss
Coming up fast and needing to be in your diary are: Mothering Sunday (14 March); St Patrick’s Day (17 March); April Fools Day (watch out on 1 April); Easter weekend (2-5 April); and St George’s Day (23 April).

Some Mothers do ‘Ave ’Em
With Mothering Sunday fast approaching (14 March, lest you forget) it seems appropriate to include the following charming quotations made by children either to or in the presence of their mothers.

MELANIE (age 5) asked her Granny how old she was. Granny replied she was so old she didn't remember any more. Melanie said, 'If you don't remember you must look in the back of your panties. Mine say five to six.'

BRITTANY (age 4) had an earache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mum explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'

SUSAN (age 4) was drinking juice when she got the hiccups. 'Please don't give me this juice again,' she said, 'It makes my teeth cough.'

MARC (age 4) was engrossed in a young couple that were hugging and kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad: 'Why is he whispering in her mouth?'

CLINTON (age 5) was in his bedroom looking worried. When his Mum asked what was troubling him, he replied, 'I don't know what'll happen with this bed when I get married. How will my wife fit in it?'

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: 'What happened to the flea?'

TAMMY (age 4) was with her mother when they met an elderly, rather wrinkled woman her mother knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, 'Why doesn't your skin fit your face?'

The Sermon I think this Mum will never forget…. this particular Sunday sermon...'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. 'Without you, we are but dust...' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mum, what is butt dust?'

Quotes kindly supplied by former resident, Bill Burchell
Dockenfield Newsletter
Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of photocopying and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village.

The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are always credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don’t do this, then please recycle carefully.

For the next edition **the deadline is 9 May**, with items sent by email please, ideally as a Word attachment, to michael.foster66@btinternet.com. Or through the door at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.

**SPRING FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW – ENTRY FORM**
Please complete this Form and send it **either** to Mr Roderick Adam-Smith, The Priory, Priory Lane, Frensham, Farnham, GU10 3DW **or** to Frensham Village Shop, no later than **12 noon on Thursday 25 March 2010**.

Name:........................................................................................................................................

Address:.......................................................................................................................................

I would like to enter the following Classes (just give the numbers from the list on page 11).

Exhibits must be delivered to the Marindin Hall, Millbridge between 8.45am and 10.15am on the morning of the Show. All flowers must have been grown in the entrant’s garden or allotment (except Class 39 above). The Show is open to the public from 2.30pm-4.00pm and the prize giving is at 3.45pm. If you have any questions, please contact either Roderick Adam-Smith on 793633 or Suzanne McLean on 792231.

**BOOKING FORM FOR ‘THE CENTENARY’ PARISH SUPPER, FRIDAY 12 MARCH**
Please reserve:......... tickets (£10 each) for the ‘Centenary’ Parish Supper. I enclose a cheque for £ ........ in payment (payable to Frensham PCC). Please send this form, along with your cheque and a stamped addressed envelope to: **Jane Wood, 1 Dene Cottages, Holly Bush Lane, Frensham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 3BN. Tel: 795627.**

Name:........................................................................................................................................

Address:.......................................................................................................................................

Tel: ............................................... Email: .......................................................................................

**If vegetarian meals are requested, please indicate the number your party requires here** .............

**Other dietary requirements (please state)** .................................................................................