

# DOCKENFIELD

## newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 274

Published 5 August 2019

### The spirit of Dockenfield

It takes both talent and courage to write a musical based on your own challenging life experiences, and especially one that is good enough to command a three-week run at the Edinburgh Festival. But talent and courage are clearly what Dockenfield's very own Helena Fox has in spades. A number of residents have seen 'Rust – the Musical' at a preview in Guildford and it's a powerful, moving, immensely relevant and honest production. I know Edinburgh is a distance away but catch it if you can.

Meanwhile the spirit of our village affirmed itself in an associated way as a number of families in the village hosted the show's actors and actresses for five nights when they came down for rehearsals at the Good Shepherd in July. It speaks volumes of about our community that there were more volunteer hosts than were necessary. And this of course was only a few weeks after the village came together at another very successful Dockenfield Day.... quite rightly known as the pint-sized fete with the big, big heart.

Little wonder then that when residents who have left the village are asked about their new neighbourhood, they initially wax lyrical but invariably add, at the end, '*but it isn't Dockenfield*'.  
**Michael**



**Spot the difference. St Mary's School in 1889 and again last month, 130 years later**  
See page 8

### Dockenfield Bat Walk: Mark 2 Friday, 9 August at 8pm: meet at the notice board on Bealeswood Common

The first Bat Walk in May might have been a tickle on the chilly side but was enjoyed by all, as was the drink in the Bluebell afterwards! So, a second walk has been arranged for Friday 9 August, meeting once again at the top of Bealeswood Common.

This will be either a short walk around the lanes of the village of about an hour listening and looking for bat activity, or maybe to Frensham Mill to search for the Daubeton Bat. All welcome. Finishing of course for a drink in the Bluebell. In case of bad weather please ring before to check the walk will be going ahead.  
**Steve Lockett** (07530 044278)

### Please plant a tree....

The Government is suggesting the nation needs more trees to act as the lungs of Britain. Perhaps if everybody in Dockenfield planted a tree on their land it would be a very good start. Also replant another tree to replace one cut down.  
**Jill Trout**

### Big news from the Village Shop

There are big things happening at your local village shop, including longer opening hours, new ranges, more local products. See page 4 for more details or visit the shop's smart new website where you can sign up to their new newsletter which will keep you abreast of all the news and special offers. Just visit [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk)

## Rust the Musical

Hello DNL readers! I have just finished my second year at Cambridge and have been given the incredibly exciting opportunity of taking an original musical, written by myself and a fellow student, to the Edinburgh Fringe.

The musical, *Rust*, follows Evie over the course of a month in a rehab centre as she starts to rebuild herself from rock bottom; it is relevant, moving, and life-affirming. It is based on my own experience of mental illness and recovery and is extremely important to me, and I feel so lucky to be able to put the show on. We started rehearsing at the end of term, and it was very surreal and emotional to see *Rust* starting to take shape.

At the end of July, Dockenfield welcomed the cast and crew for a final few days of rehearsal – you may have seen us around the village (most likely at the pub!). My warmest thanks go to the generous Dockenfield residents who so kindly hosted the production members in their homes. We did a preview performance at Guildford County School on 30 July, and it was wonderful to see some Dockenfield faces there, as well as lots of old school friends and family.

We opened in Edinburgh on 2 August and are here until the 24<sup>th</sup>. The link to our Edinburgh performances is here: <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/rust>

It would be amazing to spot some friendly faces during the rest of the run in Edinburgh, so please do come and see us, and send any friends and family our way!

Feel free to drop me an email at [helenacafox@gmail.com](mailto:helenacafox@gmail.com) if you would like more information or for me to email you the web link. Thank you for reading!

**Helena Fox**



## Rehearsals of 'Rust – the Musical' in the Good Shepherd in July



**Champagne moment. Wendy and Rosie celebrate**

## Alice Holt Forest 'Climate Change' Walk Friday 27 September, 10.30am at the Arboretum

Are you interested in forests, climate change and resilience? Join us for a walk of the Alice Holt Climate Change Adaptation Trail. Friday 27 September. Meet by 10.30am in the Alice Holt Arboretum Car Park.

The walk is particularly topical for those who manage, own and use forests and woodland and wish to find out more about the changes occurring. Places are limited; for more information and to reserve your spot please email **Gail Atkinson**: [gail.atkinson@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:gail.atkinson@forestresearch.gov.uk).

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

### Friday 27 September at Frensham Cricket Club

Do come along to 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning' on Friday 27 September, from 9.30am-midday. This annual event, in the lovely setting of Frensham Cricket Club, raises valuable funds for a wonderful cause. It is always huge fun as you get to meet friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a delicious cup of tea or coffee and a home-made cake.

Anyone unable to attend but still interested in donating should call into the village shop where there is a collection box. Similarly, if you are able to bake or donate a cake, then let the village shop know. **Sue Wicks**

*There will also be a Macmillan Coffee Morning held as usual at the Bluebell, probably in October. Please look out for details at the pub or on their website.*

## Wendy and Rosie complete their 'Mighty Hike'

We completed our Mighty Hike from Brighton to Eastbourne. That's 26 miles across the South Downs and the Seven Sisters. We have raised over £600 for Macmillan and would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all the Dockenfield residents and friends who supported and sponsored us. It was a long hike in 40 mph winds but we completed the whole course and out of 2,000 hikers we were in the top half of finishers. Once we have recovered from the blisters, we might even do another one in the future. It was a great experience, brilliantly organised by Macmillan and we would recommend it to any walkers up for a challenge. Thanks everyone!

**Wendy and Rosie McCann**

# VILLAGE DIARY ..... *events you won't want to miss*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Friday, 9 August</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Bat Walk	Noticeboard at the top of Bealeswood Common	Page 1
<b>Thursday, 15 August</b>	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 11
<b>Tuesday, 27 August</b>	1pm	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church Hall	Page 15
<b>Wednesday, 28 August</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 11
<b>Monday, 2 September</b>	3pm	Tea at 3	St Mary's Church Hall	Page 11
<b>Tuesday, 10 September</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Tuesday, 10 September</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of Good Shepherd	Page 11
<b>Saturday, 14 September</b>	2.30-4pm	Autumn Show	Marindin Hall	Page 6
<b>Thursday, 19 September</b>	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 11
<b>Saturday, 21 September</b>	9am-1pm	Good Shepherd Gardening Morning	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 10
<b>Tuesday, 24 September</b>	9.30am midday 1pm	'Walking Together' Soup lunch followed by Organ Recital	Meet at St Mary's Church St Mary's Hall and Church	Page 15
<b>Wednesday, 25 September</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 11
<b>Friday, 27 September</b>	9.30am - midday	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Frensham Cricket Pavilion	Page 2
<b>Friday, 27 September</b>	10.30am	Alice Holt Forest Climate Change Walk	Alice Holt Arboretum Car Park	Page 2
<b>Saturday, 28 September</b>	Tba	Garden Outing to RHS Wisley	Car sharing to be arranged	Page 6
<b>Saturday 5 October</b>	9.30-11am	Autumn Plant and Produce Sale	Frensham Village Shop	Page 6
<b>Monday, 7 October</b>	3pm	Tea at 3	St Mary's Church Hall	Page 11
<b>Tuesday, 8 October</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Friday, 12 October</b>	7pm	Harvest Supper	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 10
<b>Tuesday, 15 October</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of Good Shepherd	Page 11
<b>Friday, 18 October</b>	7pm	Dockenfield Skittles Evening	Jolly Farmer pub, Blacknest	Page 5

**Dockenfield Newsletter** is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the contributors or distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of printing 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 credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website.

Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered six times a year to all 250 or so households in and around the village. In addition around 200 people, predominantly but not necessarily local, are emailed a copy upon publication. Both services are entirely free of charge and without obligation. If you don't live in the village but enjoy reading the Newsletter, and would like to be added to this mailing list please email michael.foster66@btinternet.com Please be reassured that this mailing list is used to distribute pdf copies of the Newsletter and for no other purpose, and will never be disclosed to any third party. Alternatively, if you are already on this list and wish to unsubscribe at any time, again just email as above and your name will be removed from the list immediately.

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 20 September** 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.

## News from Frensham Village Shop

Hopefully during the excitement of Dockenfield Day, you'll have found time to visit our stall, buy some goodies, look at the plans for the future of the shop, and talk to Paul about how it will all come to pass. Understandably, with complicated projects, it takes time to get the necessary elements together. But we are looking forward now to bringing it to reality and will announce the detailed plans and launch date as soon as possible.

With longer working hours we will be recruiting for a 5.30 - 7pm shift, Monday to Friday. Working alongside current staff, ideally this will be a job share for young or older. If you wish to register an interest, please email me at [hr@frensham-village-shop.co.uk](mailto:hr@frensham-village-shop.co.uk)

In the meantime, please visit our **new website** ( [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk) ) and sign up on the homepage for Paul's occasional Newsletters (and special offers). You'll discover more about our plans for **new ranges** – more **local** products, fresh and chilled produce, meal solutions, and the bean to cup coffee and hot chocolate; **new hours** – open till 7pm on week days and till 5.30pm on Saturdays, **including the Post Office**; and a **new layout** – new fridges for the extended ranges as well as enhanced displays for bakery, wine...

Celebrating our local suppliers (how local can we get?); **'Mummy Makes Fudge'** is created in a kitchen at Farnham Pottery. Aged 9, and according to Grandma Hawkins, a "very good cake-maker", Liz Usher was encouraged to "keep up the good work". And so she has! Since 2010, Liz has been making delicious fudge to a family recipe with a few modern twists. Using only traditional ingredients: dairy butter + milk + sugar, she's creating yummy crumbly buttery chunks of Great Taste award-winning handmade fudge. Responding to customers' tastes there are over 30 flavours to choose from, and all gluten free. Special collaborations include Alresford Watercress Fudge, Cotswold Lavender Fudge and HotPods super-hot chilli fudge. *"But I do find that Vanilla, Clotted Cream and Salt Caramel are more traditional flavour choices!"* says Liz.

With no unnecessary shelf-life-enhancing additives and only natural flavourings, her fudge keeps for eight weeks, but much longer if hidden in the fridge or freezer! Great for gifts if you can resist temptation. Available from our counter, or call us to order particular flavours. As a micro-producer, at the end of term, Liz reverts to being a Mummy. And every month, as one of our volunteers, Liz uses her graphic skills, and sometimes a quirky sense of humour, to adorn our Parish Magazine article. If you have favourite locally made products you'd like to buy locally, please speak to Paul.

**..... and there's a local 2020 Calendar** to think about. Please send your local photos, ideally by email, to [manager@frensham-village-shop.co.uk](mailto:manager@frensham-village-shop.co.uk) in any digital format by 30 September, with your name and the location of the photos. A 2020 calendar will wing its way as a prize for each selected photo.

*Stuck at home and can't get out? Call Paul for a delivery.* [www.frenshamvillage-shop.co.uk](http://www.frenshamvillage-shop.co.uk) or Tel: 795240.

**Mayonne Coldicott**

## AGLV/AONB update

Many Dockenfield residents will be aware that the Dockenfield/Frensham Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) has been recommended by landscape consultants to Natural England and the Surrey Hills AONB office for upgrading to Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) status so that it would all form part of the Surrey Hills AONB. The Surrey Landscape Character Assessment April 2015 (LCA) states that this AGLV lies within the locally defined Dockenfield to Millbridge Open Greensand Hills landscape character type, defined by its undulating landform of predominantly pastoral landscape with paddocks and woodlands, linear settlements along rural lanes and roads and scattered farmsteads. The LCA states that the relatively rural landscape and woodlands in the area aids the sense of tranquillity and remoteness in some areas, particularly away from the road.

The upgrading to AONB status has turned out to be a slow process and in the interim CPRE and the Parish Council have to fight all the harder to protect its landscape and wildlife qualities. It is encouraging therefore that in July, a Planning Inspector supported the case put forward by the Parish Council, CPRE and many Dockenfield residents and rejected an appeal for a commercial equestrian facility on an AGLV site outside the village.

The Inspector stated that whilst the site is not within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), it is within the AGLV which is recognised and protected by Policy RE3 of the Waverley Borough Local Plan Part 1: Strategic Policies and Sites 2018 and that this policy requires all development to respect and, where appropriate, enhance the distinctive character of the landscape in which it is located. It seeks to protect the character and quality of the AGLV by retaining it for its own sake and as a buffer to the AONB.

**Colin Hall, CPRE Surrey Waverley District Committee**

## D Day 2019

The sun shone as usual, the village showed off some natty holiday beach wear, 'Downstairs at Deano's' returned for a triumphant second year and the Pimms flowed even more freely than previously: all-in-all another very successful D Day, brimming with colourful plants, delicious cakes and much needed refreshing ice cream held on the Playing Field on Saturday 1 June.

Thank you to all who came along to enjoy the blend of old favourites at the usual bargain prices and try out some new additions like the keenly-contested Space Hopper race, the sticky Donut Challenge and even a spot of surfing - and a particular thanks to all the unsung heroes who turn up early each year to set up, run the stalls and then stay on to pack away.

Roll on D Day 2020!

**The Organising Committee**

## Thank you - please support these local businesses

Yet again local businesses came up trumps and donated some excellent prizes for us to raffle at Dockenfield Day. Through their continuing generosity, the raffle raises a very healthy contribution towards the fete funds and the lucky winners go home with some really good prizes. I'm pleased to say we made a very healthy sum of over £440 - our best ever.

I know I mention it every year, but it's very noticeable that it's the local independent businesses and smaller chains that readily offer their help, despite being asked to donate prizes by so many other local good causes. So wherever possible, it would be good if we could try and support these local businesses. Many thanks again (in alphabetical order) to :

Bill's Restaurant Farnham	Tel: 01252 716589	<a href="https://bills-website.co.uk/restaurants/farnham">https://bills-website.co.uk/restaurants/farnham</a>
Bluebell Pub	Tel: 01252 792801	<a href="http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com">www.bluebell-dockenfield.com</a>
Clinique at Elphicks	Tel: 01252 716222	<a href="http://elphicks.co.uk/clinique">elphicks.co.uk/clinique</a>
Country Market	Tel: 01420 472486	<a href="http://www.countrymarket.co.uk">www.countrymarket.co.uk</a>
Forest Lodge Garden Centre	Tel: 01420 23275	<a href="http://www.forest-lodge.co.uk">www.forest-lodge.co.uk</a>
Frensham Pond Hotel & Spa	Tel: 01252 795161	<a href="http://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk">www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk</a>
Frensham Village Shop	Tel: 01252 795240	<a href="http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk">www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk</a>
Hand's of Rowledge Butchers	Tel: 01252 792204	
Kebur Garden Materials	Tel: 01252 517571	<a href="http://www.kebur.co.uk">www.kebur.co.uk</a>
PRC MOT Ltd, Bucks Horn Oak	Tel: 01420 520522	<a href="http://www.prcmot.co.uk">www.prcmot.co.uk</a>
Rookery Barns Ltd	Tel: 01420 488870	<a href="http://www.rookerybarns.com">www.rookerybarns.com</a>
Strutt & Parker Estate Agents	Tel: 01252 821102	<a href="http://www.struttandparker.com">www.struttandparker.com</a>
The Star Inn, Bentley	Tel: 01420 23184	<a href="http://www.thestarinnbentley.co.uk">www.thestarinnbentley.co.uk</a>

Grateful thanks also to the very generous gifts received from villagers.

**Debbie Foster**

## Dockenfield Skittles 2019

### Friday 18 October at 7pm, at the Jolly Farmer

If you are wanting a lovely evening catching up with friends and neighbours please do not leave it till the last minute to sign up for the Dockenfield skittles night. Places are limited and I would hate for anyone to be disappointed.

Please contact me with your bookings together with your cheque and menu choices. The booking form is on page 14. Or email me ([katy.poulsom@btconnect.com](mailto:katy.poulsom@btconnect.com)). The cost is just £16pp (cheques payable to K Poulsom) to include food, for which there are following options (all served with chips, except the potato which is accompanied by a mixed salad) -

\* Battered cod \* Chicken, ham & leek pie \* Pork & chorizo burger \* Wholetail scampi \* Falafel & spinach burger (v) \* Jacket potato with cheese and baked beans (*please indicate on the booking form your food choice and quantity*).

**Katy Poulsom (Tel: 07703 519488)**

## Frensham and Dockenfield History Group

The History Group starts again on Tuesday, **10 September** when David Millais will give a talk entitled 'From Ranching to Rhododendrons!' Local birds will be the topic on Tuesday **8 October** by Alan Cox and on **12 November** Graham Lewington will tell us about The British Red Cross today. All meetings are on a Tuesday at the Marindin Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

**Chris Bonner**

## **Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society**

This has been a busy summer for the Society in a growing season that has changed from dry cool weather, to rain and then to hot and dry. Two plant sales at D Day and then Frensham Fayre were very well stocked and very well attended and raised monies for the villages, their charities and the Society. These occurred either side of Dockenfield's first Open Gardens event for Phyllis Tuckwell that was well attended, but, thankfully, not too well attended for those opening their gardens and supplying teas. Thanks are due to Bo and Lene Rasmussen for the loan of a field for parking for the afternoon.

Later in June, Suzanne McLean organised a very well attended visit to Woolbeding Garden near Midhurst. Nearly a full coach full of keen gardeners departed from the Good Shepherd and from Hollowdene for half a day at this remarkable National Trust garden. Look it up if you have not visited at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens) The only slight catch to a visit is that if you don't travel on a coach party you have to park in Midhurst and get a minibus to and from the gardens as they do not have parking. Finally, the best of Frensham's and Dockenfield's roses were on show at our "Rose Evening" in late June and by a secret ballot Sheila Aiken was declared to have grown and shown the best roses with the award of our Perring Cup.

Whilst I write we have time to enjoy our gardens through the summer but on the horizon is the Autumn Show. So it is starting to be the time to keep an eye on your shrubs, flowers, veg and fruit to see what might be good for the 14 September Plant Show.

**Autumn Show, Saturday 14 September, in the Marindin Hall** Once again we have a number of Open Classes which anyone, whether a member of the society or not, can enter. There are prizes for all entries in the Junior Classes (age 15 years and under). Entries must be delivered to the Marindin Hall between 9.15 - 10.45am on the morning of the Show. All flowers must have been grown by the entrant. Preserves must be in a plain lidded jar with no logos/decorations, and any other food entries must be covered. Photos should be unmounted prints not exceeding 8" x 10" or 20.5cm x 25.5cm (except where otherwise stated); they may be cropped but not digitally enhanced. The Show is open to all from 2.30 - 4pm and the prize giving is at 3.45pm. As ever, the Show is a great place to catch up with friends old and new over tea and cakes.

**To enter the Open Classes** - please complete the form on page 14 as indicated and post it to Chas Pell, Bramble Cottage, West End Lane, Frensham, GU10 3BE, or email your entries to [cpell5253@aol.com](mailto:cpell5253@aol.com) or take the form to the Frensham Village Shop, no later than 12 noon on Thursday 12 September. Please call the Show organizer, Chas or 01252 797281, with any questions. More information on our website [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk)

Looking further ahead the Society is organising a day trip for a tour of RHS Wisley. This will start at 10.30am on Saturday **28 September** and will last approximately 1½ hours. The tour will take in areas that are looking exceptionally good at that time as well as provide an opportunity to ask questions to make it a truly informative outing. This will be organised on a drive and car-share basis, so, if you want to be included, please contact **Ruth Murphy (01252 793267 or: [ruth.murphy@burtleys.com](mailto:ruth.murphy@burtleys.com))** and let her know whether you would require a lift on the day or can offer space in your car and for further details.

As always, our annual plant and produce sale will be held outside the Frensham Village shop from 9.30 - 11am on Saturday **5 October**. Please support your local garden Society by buying or, even better, bringing and buying some horticultural delights.

**Dan Bosence**

## **Wild-flower walk on Bealeswood Common**

A walk to admire and identify the wild flowers on the Common was hastily arranged for Sunday 21 July. Thirteen villagers and one dog spent 2 hours examining and identifying our rich flora from the damp shady lower common (Bealeswood Lane), through the open grass-dominated main common through to the triangle opposite the Bluebell pub. Over 50 flowers were out and this is typical for the Common at this time of year and, even though the orchids were over, there is still a riot of colour over much of the Common. Please try and find time to visit our main area of green space before this peak flowering season is over. If anyone wants a copy of the list of flowers that we saw in late July, and are still mostly flowering, then contact me at [dwbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbosence@btinternet.com) or 792442. Also, if you missed the event but would like to join it next year then let me know and I can organise it, and advertise it, well ahead of time.

**Dan Bosence**

## **An apple a day...**

...keeps the doctor away. Or so says the old wives' tale. And, if it is correct, then we are in big trouble this year as our apple crop has bombed. A normal year will see us with masses of apples; a bumper year sees us overrun with fruit. This year? Well you could count them on the fingers of one hand. Is this anybody else's experience?

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank you for a great Dockenfield Day

What a Dockenfield Day it was! How successful; a wonderful community event; much loved by the many regulars who attend year-on-year.

**Sandy and Norman Taylor**

### Congratulations

*How lovely is this! DNL is very happy to bring you news of an engagement, a wedding and the birth of two babies, (so the full set of happiness so to speak: hatches, matches but no despatches), all involving young ladies who have spent all or most of their lives in the village. Lots of love to all concerned.*

We are very happy to announce the engagement between Annabel James and Stuart Wilkinson. Until university Annabel lived in Dockenfield and Stu lived in Frensham but they only met at Newcastle Uni! They were both christened at St Mary's Church where they will be getting married next summer! **Morag and Peter James**

We were married in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Frensham on 29 June and celebrated afterwards in Dockenfield. It was a simply magical day, and we would particularly like to thank Revd Jane Walker for the beautiful service and everyone who took part as bell ringers or in the magnificent choir. Dockenfield is such a beautiful part of the English countryside, and we were delighted to be married in the same church that Babette's parents, Bo and Lene Rasmussen had previously tied the knot. **Babette and David Littlemore**

Many readers may remember Clare Lean (nee Reyersbach) who grew up in the village. On 22 May, she gave birth to Samuel, a first grandson for John and the late Susan Reyersbach. Samuel is the first boy to be born in John's family for over 65 years. Clare and her husband, Alex, were married at St Mary's Church in 2017 and are now living in Woking. **John Reyersbach**

James and Hannah Wigfull (nee Poulson) now the proud parents of Mark Joshua, born on 12 June weighing in at 9lb 5oz. All is well and everyone is adjusting to our new exciting chapter with MJ. **Katy Poulson**

### Nothing changes if nobody changes

In the past few editions of DNL, I have begun to include more articles on the importance of recycling and the impact of climate change, light pollution and the like. This has prompted a number of readers to ask whether or not it is possible to begin a 'DNL Forum' with readers invited to email in with their own personal tips, ideas and recommendations on these so important subjects.

So please, do feel free to write in with your thoughts and ideas. They don't have to be world changing. Just little things like 'use soap bars to wash rather than liquid soap from a one-use plastic bottle'; 'remember to recycle the cardboard on the inside of a toilet roll'; or 'when you run the tap to wait for the hot to come through, save the water and put it on the garden'. Ditto with the washing up water.

All ideas, large and small, welcome, from all readers wherever you are. As a well-known supermarket has been known to say, 'Every Little Helps'. Just email: michael.foster66@btinternet.com and I will try and publish them in the next DNL. In fact, since I wrote this piece, one idea has already been submitted about trees which has been included on the front page.

### Fancy seeing you here....

Some years back Debbie and I were sitting having a cup of tea in a harbourside café in Padstow, when Tony and Eleanor Nesbitt (who used to live at Orchard End in Bealeswood Lane) walked by. A few years later we were at the New London Theatre waiting for curtain up on the show 'War Horse' and Sue and Jessica Hobday and family came and sat right next to us. And last month we were having a light lunch in a café in Grange over Sands (just south of the Lake District) and who should walk by but Guy and Sharon Jackson.

The moral of these stories is simple: don't go doing anything you ought not to be doing because you never know who may just appear around the corner....

### Message in a Bottle

When I was sitting in the waiting room of our GP practice recently I came across this really neat idea and thought it would be useful to publicise it in the Newsletter. For anyone living at home, they can be reassured to know that essential information would be readily available to the Emergency Services should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme, which is sponsored by the Lions Club, involves completing a form detailing illnesses, allergies, medication and contact information and popping it into a plastic bottle that is then placed in the door compartment of your fridge. There's also a sticker which the emergency services will immediately alert them to looking in the fridge for what could be life-saving information. These bottles and the enclosed forms can be picked up at your local GP surgery.

Such a good and simple idea which will give reassurance, especially to people living on their own at home.

**Debbie Foster**

## **St Mary's School, Frensham: a brief history**

I know I am biased as a long-term resident, but it seems to me that Dockenfield and Frensham are blessed. Two lovely villages, with very special, tight-knit communities, set in genuine countryside that (so far at least) have managed to keep the creeping urbanisation of south Farnham at bay. And yet this small parish of ours has so many facilities; the 'glue' that helps bind people together: two churches; two pubs; a village shop and post office, a British Legion and countless clubs, groups and societies. Plus, of course, at the heart of the community St Mary's School is one of the most attractive schools you are ever likely to come across, set alongside a village green.

Surprisingly, the original school building was a pub, 'The Cricketers', purchased in 1845 by one Dr Frederick Cobb out of his own funds and donations. Its aim was to '*provide instruction in religion and instruction appropriate to the pupils low station in life, such as to encourage habits of industry and awareness and acceptance of the existing social order and resignation to their lot.*' A recognition of the impoverished state of countryside children at that time. At the same time, Dr Cobb also built the school hall and it was in these two buildings that the original school began life.

Before the school was founded the only local 'educational' facilities were two 'Dames Schools', which amounted to little more than a glorified child-minding service. Perhaps no surprise then that by the 1860s the school was attracting an average attendance of over 100 children, despite education being neither compulsory nor free. Indeed, it was often dependent on the vagaries of parents' individual wishes and their financial situation. Term times were governed by the harvest seasons and the 'hopping holidays'; and the curriculum included gardening, swimming, drill and bookbinding as well as the more traditional subjects of writing, arithmetic and religion with needlework for the girls.

The children, aged from 3-14, often had to walk many miles to attend and it was quite usual for them to carry a potato with them to be cooked on the school fire and eaten for lunch.

A fascinating record of school life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and down the years since, can be found in the school's much prized Log Books; handwritten notes of daily events, started in 1863. They record many reasons for absence, including (in the 1880s): children not being able to get their boots on because of chilblains; an outbreak of mumps; avoidance of examinations; the need for children to go to work; and, bizarrely, attendance at a local circus. In 1896 the school was closed due to an outbreak of scarlet fever amongst the scholars; and sadly in 1902 two pupils died in an accident at Frensham Ponds, one bravely trying to rescue the other. There are also numerous references to 'Batts Corner Infants School' which seemed to open its doors on 17 November 1887 with 22 pupils and worked in harmony with St Mary's for many years until it closed permanently on 23 August 1923 and '*all stock and stores were checked and stock book put in order.*'

Rather more alarmingly, these Logs record the punishments meted out by teachers out for misbehaviour by pupils. These included, in 1909, a child of 13 being whipped on the back and buttocks for 'insolence to teacher' and in 1912 a pupil of just 8 being given six strokes on the buttocks for 'stealing eggs'.

Such things are unimaginable in classrooms of today of course, least of all at St Mary's which we witnessed as an enormously happy place when we were shown around by Sharon Miller from the school's office. From 1993 the school has been St Mary's C of E (Aided) Infant School for ages 4-7 and the smiles on the young children's faces showed how much nowadays they enjoy being at school. Both the original school buildings still exist but have been added to consistently over the years and the school now has three full size classrooms, a separate library (the original pub), a kitchen, a small group teaching room, a playground and use of a playing field. The latest addition, the 'Library Garden' shows how keen the school is to keep pupils in touch with nature; whilst there is a major drive to make the school as plastic free as possible, a policy from which the world at large could surely learn!

Generations of Dockenfield residents continue to attend St Mary's, with past and present pupils including Diana Parratt, Jill Trout, Marjorie Bessant, Barry Covington, Pam Fullbrook, Brian and Kathy Cripps, David Poulson, Maureen Stone, Morgan Evans and his two children Rhys and Mari-Elin, Rory Kneller, Amelia Hinde, Freddie Pamment, Christopher and Marcus Livingstone, William Barnett and Edward Seymour.

The original pupils of over 150 years ago would probably recognise the location and maybe a couple of the buildings. But little else. What, I wonder, would they have made of the desktop computers, the touch screen Chromebooks and some of the subjects that are now available? In addition to the regular curriculum these include French and Spanish, yoga, piano, dance, and tennis and more; with a good programme of events and outings into the bargain.

What a lovely school this is. Friendly, welcoming, caring and yet at the same time contemporary and forward thinking in so many ways. Gosh, I wish I had gone to school there myself!

## News from all the pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish

*Ahead of each edition I email the Bluebell and all of the other pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish to ask for news including information of any live music or other special events they may be hosting and list them below if given. Where I have received no information, the venue is listed so you can check any events with them direct.*

### **The Bluebell, Dockenfield:** (Tel: 792801; [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com))

The Summer so far has been a bit mad here! We have no grand plans over the summer holidays but are **opening times** will be as normal-

Monday-Friday 12 midday-3pm, 5.30-11pm (Food served 12 midday-2.30pm, 6pm-9pm)

Saturday 12 midday-11pm (Food served 12 midday-3pm, 5-9pm)

Sunday 12 midday-8pm (Food served 12 midday-4pm)

Our **lunch menu**, with one course for £7, two courses for £11 and three courses for £13 is still proving extremely popular during the week and is available Monday-Friday (excl bank holidays).

We are currently trying to gauge interest for the **Rugby World Cup** in September. There are some morning games and with enough interest we could open early and do breakfast. If you could give us a call or email if you are interested that would be great.

Will you vote for the Bluebell please? **The 'Surrey Life' Food and Drink Awards...**for Best Surrey Pub. You can vote by going on to the 'Surrey Life' Food and Drink website and putting in our address and post code (The Bluebell, Batts Corner, Dockenfield, Farnham, GU10 4EX). The last date for voting is 16 August.

**'Men's Night'**: takes place at the pub every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month, starting from 8pm, so the next two dates are **8 August** and **12 September**. Men's Night of course is one occasion when you can take advantage of the 'Burger and a Pint for £10 deal'. To get onto the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: [markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com).

There is a change to the frequency of the **'Ladies Night'**: which will now happen on a quarterly basis, on the last Thursday of the relevant month. So, the next date is Thursday **26 September**, starting from 8pm. For more info and to be added to the 'Ladies' Night' email circulation list please contact Nicola Hames ([nicolabb@gmail.com](mailto:nicolabb@gmail.com)). Nicola has also agreed with the Bluebell that instead of the 'Burger and a Pint' for £10, the Bluebell would happily substitute the pint for a small glass of red or white wine.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning.** The Bluebell is once again planning to hold a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. The date was not finalised when DNL was published but it is likely to be sometime in October. Please see the pub website and other notices for more details nearer the time.

Thanks as always for supporting us!

**Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell team x**

### **Craft Brews @ Frensham Brewery** (Tel: 07774982174 [www.craftbrews.uk](http://www.craftbrews.uk))

**Taproom regular opening hours:** Friday and Saturday 12 - 6 pm, Sunday 12 - 4 pm plus special events. Our own brewed beers/cider are available to drink in the Taproom together with wine/prosecco/cider/spirits/soft drinks.

*Upcoming events:*

**Curry and a Pint Nights** are held on the first Friday of each month. Sprinkle of Saffron provide a two-course curry complemented by one of our beers (or wine/prosecco/soft drink). The next two dates are: Fridays **6 September** and **4 October**. To see the menu, additional dates and to book a place, please visit [www.craftbrews.uk/shop](http://www.craftbrews.uk/shop)

**Rugby World Cup:** Starting in September through to 2 November selected RWC matches will be shown in the Taproom. Breakfast (Bacon/Sausage butties) will be available, check the website for details.

*For more information on all these events please visit the website above*

**Joe Wood**

### **Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch** (Tel: 793014)

**The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa** (Tel: 795161, [www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk](http://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk))

**The Holly Bush, Frensham** (Tel: 447060 [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk))

**The Hare and Hounds, Rowledge** (Tel: 01252 792287)

## Wild swimming?

Two good friends went to swimming lessons to brush up on their skills. One proved better at crawl, the other at backstroke. Noticing this, the tutor remarked (the names here are changed) '*Peter, you are great on your front; Linda, you are best on your back.*'

## News from your churches

The **Village Lunch** being held at the British Legion on **28 August** (*see page 11*) is in aid of the Church Fabric Fund. The Fabric Fund helps us to pay for maintenance and repairs to the fabric of both of our churches. Everyone is welcome to the lunch and if you have some items to donate to the raffle or some bric-a-brac we can sell we would be very grateful. Please either leave in the church(es) or give me a call on 790690.

On **21 September** (9am to 1pm) we are having the annual **Good Shepherd gardening morning** where we will be hedge cutting, strimming, weeding and generally tidying the churchyard. The churchyard is maintained by a small team of people on a rota who cut the grass, but the annual gardening morning addresses other areas that need doing. We rely on the generosity of people's time and effort to maintain the churchyard to such a good standard. We know that time is a very precious commodity in this fast-paced world, but please give a thought (or an hour or two) to your village church. Again, please give me a call or email [eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk) if you can help.

Talking about the churchyard, we have an exciting new plan for a **wild flower meadow**. In consultation with Dan Bosence we are planning on developing a wild flower area with a mowed path to the flag pole as we understand that there are many interesting wild flowers in the current grass area that left alone should flourish. It will mean a change around of focus with our maintenance – less mowing (although we will maintain the lawn to the west of the path) and one or two large sessions to cut back the meadow after flowering.

With this in mind Revd Jane is planning a **Harvest Festival** service with a big difference this year. On Sunday **6 October** at 10.30pm we will have the usual Harvest celebration but would ask you all to bring along some bulbs for planting in the churchyard. This will be an interactive service - yes planting the bulbs! So bring along your dibbers and welly boots and pray it doesn't rain! We are hoping to create a wonderfully colourful churchyard throughout the Spring with bulbs and the Summer with wild flowers.

Talking of Harvest, the ever popular **Harvest Supper** will be held on Friday **12 October** at The Good Shepherd from 7pm. More details about tickets in the next edition.

And finally, and I know it's really early, but I just wanted to mention our **Christmas Festival** which is happening this year over the weekend of **6,7,8 December** very kindly sponsored by The Bluebell and The Holly Bush pubs. We are planning a Christmas extravaganza with wonderful trees, entertainment, Carols by Candlelight and lots, lots more. Do have a think about entering a Christmas Tree (I know it's just too early to think about really, but the WI have started theirs already)! More about this in the next edition.

**Eunice King**

## The secret life of moles

This time last year I reported that our cat 'Ollie' had captured and killed at least 9 moles, reducing at least the havoc they wreak on our lawn every year. This year though we know of only two successes, which may explain why there are extra molehills popping up at alarming intervals. And I know we are not the only ones in the village with a mole problem. But how much do you know about these very secretive animals?

You won't be surprised to learn that they spend almost their entire life underground. There are estimated to be around 35-40 million moles in the UK. (Wow! Did you know there were that many? No, me neither.) The males are called 'boars' and females are called 'sows', whilst a group is called a 'labour'. They measure around 14 cms in length and have a 2.8 cm tail. They can dig their way through an amazing 14 metres of soil in just one hour. A mole's body is covered in a soft, thick, silver-black fur, which hides the small eyes. In some cases, moles' eyes are almost completely covered with fur and skin. Moles have no external ears and have very poor eyesight but have excellent senses of smell and touch.

Moles are carnivores feeding almost exclusively on small invertebrate animals living underground such as earthworms and the larvae of beetles and flies. Because their saliva contains a toxin that can paralyse earthworms, moles are able to store their still living prey for later consumption. They construct special underground 'larders' for just this purpose. Researchers have discovered such larders with over a thousand earthworms in them. Before eating worms, moles pull them between their squeezed paws to force the earth and dirt out of the worm's gut. Moles sleep, feed and breed in their tunnels and only occasionally appear above ground at the top of one of their characteristic molehills (which presumably is the time when 'Ollie' will pounce). They have a well-developed sense of orientation enabling them to retain a mental plan of their complex layout of underground tunnels.

The gestation period is 4 weeks with the female giving birth to one litter per year containing 2 to 7 young who leave the mother when they about 5 weeks old. The average life span of a mole is just 2½ years.

## **Saving wildflowers on our road verges**

Hopefully everyone is noticing how beautiful some of the road verges are looking with an abundance of wildflowers in different parts of the country. Such a difference from previous years. And this means that the wildlife will be having a much happier time! This is in no small part due to the campaigning that is going on to alert County Councils to the need for better management. 'Plantlife' (a registered charity committed to saving threatened wildflowers, plants and fungi) has been in the vanguard of this campaign by providing education and lobbying. Their website : [www.plantlife.org.uk](http://www.plantlife.org.uk) is an excellent resource, so full of information and practical tips about what we can all do to help alter a truly alarming drop in the UK's wildflower diversity and hence essential wildlife.

Last year, amongst thousands of others, I signed up to their on-line petition <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign> (or just Google plantlife petition). It seems that, fairly, recently Surrey County Council have begun to listen and are now having talks with Plantlife. I understand too that Dockenfield Parish Council is in contact to help see that SCC's revised plans are translated to those actually doing the management! But there is still a long way to go and it would be great to see even more support of Plantlife's aims by signing the petition now. You could also subscribe to Plantlife's newsletter and spread the word. How about a 'mini-meadow' in your garden? I'm asked to remind you (by an enthusiast) that to maintain the wildflower population it is essential to do one cut, sometime between mid July to mid September. Please check out more details on this really useful and accessible website.

I have been speaking to Philippa Hall who is passionate about the subject. She (and a team of people in Frensham and Dockenfield) monitor the biodiversity on Bealeswood Common and Shortfield Common in Frensham, providing invaluable information. Many thanks to all of them for their continued work come rain, come shine!

On a really positive note: Dan Bosence recently did a walk on Bealeswood Common which was ablaze with colour and sporting nearly 50 different flowering plants (see page 6). He compared it to some Alpine meadows in Switzerland that he and Alison had just been to, saying that our common was almost as good! So that's great news.

**Debbie Foster**

## **News from Dockenfield Parish Council**

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next meeting dates of the Council are: Tuesdays **10 September**; **15 October**; and **19 November**.

Meetings are held at 8pm in the vestry of the Good Shepherd. Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of each meeting. Please always note: whilst these dates are accurate at the time DNL goes to press, they can be subject to change if circumstances dictate; so, if you are planning to attend it is always worth checking beforehand on the DPC website, as below.

**Emergency Email List:** We do recommend that everyone signs up for the Emergency Email List which updates residents about important events in the village. All you have to do is email Jessica on [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk) **Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday** ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)) [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)

## **Millbridge WI**

**Thursdays 15 August and 19 September 7.30pm, at the Marindin Hall**

The next two meetings of the Millbridge WI are:

**15 August:** 'Being a Paramedic' by Tina Cox

**19 September:** 'Weather' by Ian Currie

For more information please contact

**Bridgette Wilson** on Tel: 792527.

## **Village Lunch**

**Wednesdays 28 August and 25 September, midday at the British Legion**

The next two Village Lunches are on the following dates with the charities benefitting from the raffle and sales tables shown alongside.

**28 August:** the menu is casserole and the charity being supported is Church Fabric

**25 September:** the menu is cottage pie and the charity being supported is the Kingsley Centre

## **Tea at Three**

Tea at Three will be on the first Monday of the month: **2 September** and **7 October** in St Mary's Church Hall. We really enjoy seeing some regular visitors and new, of all ages, so would encourage anyone to pop in and join us where I would expect you to be given a warm and friendly welcome as well as tea, sandwiches, cakes.... Do give me a call if you have a query and I can organise a lift if it would help. **Morag James 793133**

## **Events at the Kingsley Centre**

### **Bridge Lunch**

**Wednesday 11 September**

Lunch at 12.30 p.m. £64 per table of four. Please bring your own table. For more details contact: Diana: Tel 01252 710735 or [jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk](mailto:jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk)

### **Autumn Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 5 October, 2pm**

Come along and find your perfect autumn outfit. Bargains to be had!

Both events are at the Kingsley Centre, Forge Road, Kingsley, GU35 9ND. They have been huge supporters of Dockenfield over the years, so do try and support them.

**Jill Trout**

## **One Swallow doesn't make a summer....**

One of the delights of the summer months is the return of our feathered visitors, which have flown thousands of miles from various places in Africa to breed in the more moderate climate here. Swallows, House Martins and Swifts are among their number, and all of these can be seen in our locality, although their numbers are dropping alarmingly.

Swallows, House Martins and Swifts were all once cave-dwellers, but most now build their nests and raise their young in or near human dwellings. Swallows (now officially called Barn Swallows) prefer open access, as in barns, garages and sheds left open by kindly humans. Martins like vertical house walls or eaves against which to build their nests. Swifts prefer the privacy of small openings under the eaves of buildings. Sadly, modern habits of tidiness have resulted in many of these convenient spaces being blocked up. Man-made 'nests' are available from the RSPB and other organisations for bird-lovers to buy and install, and ease the housing crisis which these birds are experiencing.

Swifts tend to arrive in May, later than Swallows and Martins, which sometimes arrive as early as April. By the end of July, the Swifts have usually gone. In September and October Swallows and House Martins may still be raising their young. Swallows are known to raise as many as three broods in a season if weather conditions are favourable and there are sufficient numbers of insects to feed on. Some Martins may even have nestlings from a second or third brood until the middle of October. Older youngsters from a first brood may help to feed their younger siblings. Some may build outline nests as they await departure, as practice for the real thing next year. The adult birds begin to look somewhat faded and worn after their long weeks of work in rearing their young.

Soon they begin gathering in family groups and increasing numbers, lining telephone wires or other perches, restlessly twittering, or swooping low over our houses and gardens, feeding up for the long journey they must make back to Africa. Occasionally groups will suddenly rise skywards, seemingly ready to depart, but then settle on the wires again. Then suddenly they are gone. Martins will head off, probably for areas of west central Africa. We do not yet know accurately where they go, but they seem not to cross the Sahara. Swallows, like Swifts, make for southern Africa, a journey of some 6,000 miles. Both are well equipped for the longer journey, having long pointed wings which enable them to fly strongly at a steady speed.

Swallows and Martins migrate during daylight, and hunt en route, stopping to rest by night. Swifts (which, incidentally, are not related to Swallows and Martins) have different migratory patterns. Swifts depart as soon as their young are fledged. The swiftlets tumble out of the nest about six weeks after hatching, and they fly non-stop, with no further contact with the parent birds. They remain on the wing for the next *two or three years*. Swifts live out their lives in the air, landing only to nest and to breed. They feed, sleep and even mate on the wing. They fly to Africa and back at least twice before they are sufficiently mature to breed.

Bird migration is still a subject of speculation, although we no longer wonder, as Gilbert White and others once did, whether Swallows migrate to the bottom of ponds for the winter. Modern technology is increasingly useful in providing information about the routes birds take to and from the UK. Our knowledge is still partial, however, and the migration of these small creatures remains a source of wonder and respect.

**Val Lewis**

## **North Downs Way**

Fiona, Caro and I started our walk along this route on 1 July. You may recall the heat was blistering and going somewhat overgrown but views spectacular. As our "roadie" Diana was unable to join us we had to carry all our kit so this made our burden a little heavier! On the third day (which sounds somewhat biblical) we felt that the weather was just too hot for Caro, our dog companion, so we agreed to stop. We will finish the route in sections over the next few weeks.

Thanks everybody who has offered to sponsor us for the benefit of the Kingsley Organisation. Donations can be made to JustGiving via the Kingsley Organisation Web site. Or cheques/cash please email:

jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk Thank you!

**Jill Trout**

## **See you at Weyfest?**

You know Weyfest don't you? The music festival at the Rural Life Centre that's friendly and inclusive, with good music, decent food and decent grub...oh and decent toilets into the bargain. Anyway, here's a strange phenomenon. There are some folk in the village that we only ever see there. Never bump into them in the village, or any place else. But always at Weyfest. So, if you want to catch a neighbour or friend that you haven't seen for eons, grab yourself a ticket. It's on from **16-18 August** inclusive.

## **The pot calling the kettle...**

At a lunch time garden party in July, I was talking to a pal who was helping himself generously from the cheese board, which made me raise an eyebrow at his continuing appetite.

Moments later I spotted an irresistible pudding lying apparently unloved on the buffet table and put it on my plate. At which my pal called out '*You are a remarkable shade of black, Mr Pot.....*'

## Creating a butterfly friendly environment

Following on from Alison Bosence's piece in the last Newsletter about the butterfly friendly wild flowers that flourish in Dockenfield. I said I would share what I have learned about the process of increasing the density of wild flowers on grassland. About five years ago I took advice from Surrey Wildlife Trust and read a number of books. I concluded that whilst I aspired to create a classic meadow with a wide variety of iconic wild flowers, I did not have the time or resources to achieve that end result. However, I also concluded that with a bit of patience and simple changes to the management of the land I ought to be able to provide a better habitat for butterflies and other pollinators without expending too much time or money. Furthermore, that valuable improvements could be made regardless of the size of the land in question.

Five years on our field looks very different: native flowers are beginning to spread and the butterfly population has soared. Last summer a butterfly enthusiast, with better eyes and binoculars than I have, recorded seeing both Purple Emperor and Purple Hairstreak butterflies, both of which are high up on any butterfly enthusiasts' wish list.

The key features for success are a sunny site with low soil fertility. Reduced fertility in the ground might have come about because the grass has been cut short for years and the cuttings always removed or because sheep (or cattle) have grazed the land extensively. The addition of fertilisers over time will also obviously impact the soil fertility. If your patch is high in fertility you can reduce this by cutting the grass short regularly and/or having sheep on your land.

Once you feel that the fertility of the soil has been reduced you can let the grass grow over the summer. At the end of the season, after any existing flowers have seeded the grass needs to be cut. Ideally you would leave the cut grass a few days before removing the clippings, giving the seeds a chance to drop. A further cut later in the year when the grass stops growing will ensure that come the spring the wild flowers have a chance to compete with the grass and not become smothered.

In our field we are able to bring in sheep at the end of the summer to graze the field really short until the grass has stopped growing. The grass is not vigorous enough to grow tall and so we do not need to cut it first – sheep do not do well in tall thick grass apparently. It was a surprise to me to learn that sheep do not significantly increase the fertility of the soil – or rather the benefits of their grazing habits outweigh any increase in fertility. If you have a substantial piece of ground that has easy access you may find somebody who will take the hay off the land for you in which case grazing sheep would not be so important, although still beneficial in the last months of the grass growing season.

In addition to letting nature take its own course we have planted the occasional plug plant and have scattered seeds and hay gathered from other meadows and hedgerows. The success rate is not dramatically high but sufficient enough to justify the effort. I have been particularly keen to introduce Yellow Rattle and have had some success. The hope is that this flower will parasitise the grasses and improve the conditions for the wild flowers.

Apart from the above there is little else needed. I strim the bracken that would take over if I did not and I pull up any docks or ragwort I see. I also provide some rabbit fencing for small areas that are particularly rich in wild flowers. I leave nettles and blackthorn as some butterflies lay their eggs on these.

I hope this provides some inspiration for others who might want to do something similar. The principles outlined here can be applied to any size of grassland, it does not need to be extensive and verges in particular can be a really valuable food source and habitat for pollinators if managed this way.

**Anne Tutt**

## Bealeswood Common Butterfly Survey mid-May to mid-July 2019

May 6- 12	2 x orange tip
May 13 - 19	1 x speckled wood, 2 x common blue, 1 x small white
May 20 – 26	1 x small copper, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x common blue
May 27 – June 2	1 x holly blue, 1 x brimstone, 1 x orange tip, 1 x small white
June 10 – 16	1 x common blue, 9 x meadow brown
June 17 - 23	1 x common blue, 2 x marbled white, 34 x meadow brown, 1 x ringlet
June 24 – 30	3 x skippers, 1 x large white, 3 x common blue, 2 x speckled wood, 3 x marbled white, 83 x meadow brown
July 1 – 7	3 x large white, 1 x red admiral, 7 x skippers, 2 x speckled wood, 48 x marbled white, 197 x meadow brown, 4 x ringlet
July 8 – 14	25 x skippers, 3 x large white, 29 x marbled white, 128 x meadow brown, 12 x ringlet

**Philippa Hall, Alison Bosence and Anne Tutt**

# 2019 Autumn Show Open Classes Entry Form

\* aged 15 and under

<b>Floral Arrangements</b>		<b>Class entry</b>
Class 3	It's in the Detail – an arrangement not to exceed 25cm in height, width or depth.	
Class 4 Juniors *	An arrangement of Grasses – not to exceed 60cm in width and 80cm in height.	
<b>Flowers</b>		
Class 29	A container of mixed garden flowers – number of kinds and stems, sprays or branches at exhibitor's discretion (may include flowering shrubs).	
Class 30	A container of mixed stems, sprays or branches.	
Class 31 Juniors *	Floating Nasturtiums – five flower heads displayed floating on water.	
<b>Fun Classes</b>		
Class 47	The heaviest pumpkin.	
Class 48	Most misshapen fruit or vegetable.	
<b>Home Industries</b>		
Class 57	Soft fruit jam (named and dated – day/month/year)	
Class 58	A bottle of undiluted cordial (named and dated – day/month/year).	
Class 59	Flapjacks – five on a plate - (Following the recipe available from the Village Shop or at <a href="http://www.fdhs.org.uk">www.fdhs.org.uk</a> ).	
Class 60	Knitted cushion cover (pattern of your choice) – pad not to exceed 50cm in width.	
Class 61 Juniors*	A bug hotel - for ages 8 – 15 (not from a kit).	
Class 62 Juniors*	Draw a picture of your favourite mini beast - for ages under 8.	
<b>Photography</b>		
Class 63	Airborne and Earthbound – two prints no larger than A5 size.	
Class 64	Lichen	
Class 65	A Local Landmark	
Class 66 Juniors *	The seaside	

Name .....

Address .....

Total Number of Entries .....

## Booking Form - SKITTLES EVENING – FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 7pm

Please book ..... tickets (£16 each) for the Skittles Evening at the Jolly Farmer, Blacknest.

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... in payment (payable to K Poulson).

Name(s): ..... Date of booking: .....

Address: .....

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

Names of all players (It is really important to include this so teams can be formed ahead of the evening):

.....

**Food Choices:** complete the numbers of meals from the choices below. All choices are served with chips, except for salad with the potato:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battered cod     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken, ham & leek pie      | <input type="checkbox"/> Pork & chorizo burger                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wholetail scampi | <input type="checkbox"/> Falafal & spinach burger (V) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacket potato, cheese & baked beans (V) |

**Send or deliver to: Katy Poulson, Glenroona, Batt's Corner, Dockenfield GU10 4EX. Or contact by email: [katy.poulson@btconnect.com](mailto:katy.poulson@btconnect.com) or Tel: 07703 519488**

## 'Walking Together' group

In June we celebrated our sixth walk, five miles around Dockenfield, ending with refreshments in Tony and Margaret's beautiful garden with its far-reaching views. It was a glorious walk, if at times unusually strenuous. We have thus far been blessed by sunshine on each walk through our lovely countryside. Laura, one of our regular walkers, is taking things a giant step further by walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostella route over a period of five weeks in July/August. Please think of her and her incredible adventure. We wish her well! It was a really hot day on 23 July but Jeff led a splendid walk on Frensham Common, carefully guiding us wherever possible under the shade of the trees. At the Tern Café we enjoyed cool drinks and Caro, Fiona's dog, feasted on a doggy ice cream!

We take a break in August and will restart walks in earnest in September planning a monthly walk to coincide with the soup and organ recital (see below). The next dates are: Tuesdays **24 September, 22 October, 26 November**. The December date is yet to be confirmed but we hope this will be followed by a pub lunch to celebrate a whole year of walking together. Please join us for companionship and fun at 9.30am at St Mary's Church. Contact on Lesley 0797 333 5393 for details. **Lesley, Fiona, Esther, Jeff**

## Monthly Organ Recitals

The next Organ Recital in St Mary's church will be played by Stephen Lacey on Tuesday **27 August** starting at 1pm. Stephen's programme will include music by Purcell, J S Bach, Schubert, Vierne, Saint-Saens and Mushel. Stephen was organist at St Mary's until 1998 when he was appointed Organist and Director of Music at St Andrew's, Farnham. So, no stranger to St Mary's and its organ; do come and give him your support and hear some rousing and accessible organ music played on one of the finest organs in the area! Delicious homemade soup with rolls will be available from 12 midday in the church hall. There is no charge for either soup or recital, but donations (gift-aided if possible) to offset expenses will be most welcome.

The series of lunchtime recitals continues on Tuesday **24 September** with Mark Brafield (Dorking) and (our very own) Mike Smith on Tuesday **22 October**. All recitals are at 1pm and will be preceded with a light lunch in the church hall at 12pm. From September the Walking Together group re-starts (see above).

Further details may be obtained from Mike Smith (07767 414306) or on the church website under Your Church / Forthcoming Events <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/808345973491.htm>. If you like organ music and would like to hear more, either locally or further afield, visit <http://www.organrecitals.com> which currently has an impressive listing of 48,326 concerts by 4,109 organists at 1,919 venues all over Britain! **Mike Smith**

## What a difference a year makes

Just look at the year on year rainfall figures.

Rain fall for May 2018 51mm; May 2019 38.1mm

June 2018 7.5mm; June 2019 108.6mm (the second wettest June since 2005).

**Jack Bessant**

## Red Arrows over Dockenfield

On Saturday 6 July the Red Arrows flew over Dockenfield in tight formation. Did you see them? Wonderful sight; makes you proud to be British. They had evidently flown over the tennis at Wimbledon, but I don't know where they had originally come from (maybe you can tell us, Billy?). But smart move on their part to leave the best destination to last.

## Who switched on the air-conditioning?

One warm and sunny day last month we were up the top of the Shard in London, where they have two viewing platforms: the 69<sup>th</sup> floor which is fully enclosed and the 72<sup>nd</sup> which has no roof on a large part of it. A tourist (ok, an American) came up to the higher floor and said, '*Ah, that's better, this floor has air-conditioning*'. Which made me wonder; was this the same tourist who I reported on in DNL some years ago? Upon exiting the theatre showing the musical 'Les Misérables' he announced: '*Great show; but which one was Les?*'



## Unexpected Visitors

Ian Hewitt has responded to the request (in the last edition of DNL) for readers to send in news of unexpected animal visitors that appear in and around our village. He says: '*here are photos of a sparrowhawk enjoys visiting our bird feeders but not for seeds or peanuts! And an adder spotted by my daughter Sasha in Alice Holt Forest recently.*'



**Can you spot your house? Dockenfield from the air, photographed last month (with apologies to those residents whose homes are out of the shot)**

### **Dockenfield Open Gardens for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice**

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 June in a perfectly timed spell of fine weather, book-ended by rain either side, four gardens opened to the public in support of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. A total of £1,540 was raised from ticket sales (including some via The Bluebell), teas and cakes and plant sales. To all who supported the event for such a good cause a big thank you from: Lesley and Mark Rosling (Longridge House), Alex and Richard Potts (Hilltop Cottage), Alison and Dan Bosence (Jeffery's Cottage) and Sarah and John Stirling (Bugle House). **Mark Rosling**

### **Sculpture News**

Just to remind readers that there is lots to see over the holidays. Our local Sculpture Park in Churt is great fun and very entertaining for families, hundreds of interesting sculptures to see and a lovely lake and plenty of trees to keep cool!

Borde Hill Gardens are stunning and have a cafe and restaurant, near Haywards Heath. The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden is hidden away and like a secret garden, with water and giant plants, near Ockley in Surrey. Lastly if you're in the area The Cotswolds Sculpture Park is a new sculpture park full of fun work and very suitable for children with a small cafe and entertaining art works. **Nicola Godden BA MRSS Sculptor**

### **'Big Ben'**

After 25 years plus of putting up the posters for Dockenfield Day I have finally handed over the responsibility of being the village 'Poster Man' to Ben Poulson who has been helping me these last few years. So, I just can't resist using these pages to say thank you to him by saying 'that's very big of you, Ben'.

### **A flurry of goldfinches**

We had a real flurry of goldfinches when the heavy showers came the morning of 18 July. I saw 20 in a flash "dancing" on my vegetable patch and drive. A wonderful sight..... **Jill Trout**

### **Heads, you lose!**

An acquaintance of mine attends a gym where one of the exercises involves doing a handstand. Being an eager sort of fella, he decided to practice the move at home. He got himself upside down against the wall; and the next thing he remembers is waking up in Frimley A&E 2 hours later.