

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 276 Published 2 December 2019

Santa's sack is overflowing

Blimey, is it really Christmas again? Oh, my days; what happened to 2019? Fortunately help is at hand in the form of the biggest, happiest, most fun-filled sack-load of seasonal things to do. You will find pretty much everything you need to know right here in this DNL, so all that remains for me to do is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020. Thank you for being such lovely readers.

Christmas Highlights

Saturday/Sunday 7-8 December: Christmas Festival
Sunday 8 December: Put up the village Christmas Tree
Monday 9 December: Carols around the Bus Shelter
Thursday 12 December: 'Dodgy Christmas Jumper' Men's Night
Saturday 14 December: Family Christmas Party
Thursday 19 December: Carols at the Holly Bush
Friday 20 December: 'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch at the Bluebell
Friday 27 December: Village Walk



Inside this DNL: ALL you need to know about Christmas

All the Christmas events: Page 3,4-7
All the pub, club, hotel and brewery opening times: Pages 9 and 10
All the Christmas Church services: Page 4
All the Village Shop opening hours: Page 7



The magical Christmas Tree Festival returns to St Mary's on 7th and 8th December. Page 5

Book tickets for Dockenfield's Christmas Party!

When? Saturday 14 December, 5-9.30pm.

Where? The Good Shepherd Church

What? A great disco and games; bar serving beer, wine, prosecco, soft drinks; delicious curry and children's food; plenty of good friends and company....what else do you need? Oh yes and to top it all, Santa makes a visit with presents for the children!

How do I book? Complete the booking form on page 16 and photo/scan it and send it via email to Abi on Abi@bushbaby.travel. Abi can sort payment – and get you on the 'Good' list!

Late night shopping

Did you know that the Village Shop is now open **until 7pm, Monday - Friday**. Full details on page 7



Poppy Appeal 2019

Dockenfield has once again most generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our Dockenfield house to house collectors of Jack Bessant, Pat Clough, Sarah Stirling and Catherine and Harriet Kneller collected £478 between them. Incredibly well done to all of you and thank you to everyone who so generously donated.

Remembrance Sunday at the Dockenfield Memorial was well attended. The three related ponies Pandora, Skyler and Sapphire (ridden by left to right above: Jill Trout, Jessica Blowers and Sue Hobday) wearing their special pony poppies were “on parade” led by Peter Shipway, the Legion Standard Bearer, along with about 50 villagers. (Pictures by Simon Claiden)

Wreaths were laid at the Memorial by Chris Sutton, Cadet Cpl Eleanor Bentley, Scouts Archie Allingham, Charlie Miles and Jack Williams on behalf of the village, and the RBL respectively. John Stirling read the Exhortation and our bugler Mark Cox played The Last Post preceding the two minutes silence, followed by Reveille. The Reverend Jane Walker conducted a very poignant service, reading out the names of those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

My personal thanks to the traffic marshalls, the bugler, and the members of the RBL club who all helped so much during the appeal period. It is anticipated that the total amount raised for the Poppy Appeal in 2019 will be £9,020, a record amount for our area.

Peter James

Tea at Three

Tea at 3 has become one of the truly popular dates in the calendar and so here is a chance to get all the new year dates in to your 2020 diary. Remembering that there is no Tea in January, the remainder of the dates are:

3 February; 2 March; 6 April; 11 May; 8 June ; 6 July; 3 August; 7 September; 5 October, 2 November; 7 December.

Friends, neighbours, residents are all invited to what is a truly friendly and happy gathering so do pop in and join us. You are sure to be given a warm 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 (Tel: 793133)



Jenny Miller receiving her award in London recently

The World Congress of Faiths' Essay Award 2019

Congratulations to Dockenfield's very own **Jenny Miller**, Interfaith Minister, who is the Joint Winner of the World Congress of Faiths' Essay Award 2019, writing on the subject: *'Is Interfaith Worship a desirable practice?'* As well as her award, Jenny received a cheque which she asked to be made payable to the Interfaith Charity, Spirit of Peace.

Jenny also gave an interesting talk on Interfaith at St Mary's Church Forum in September, which was based on this winning essay, which will be published in The World Congress of Faiths' International Journal *Interreligious Insight* in the December or June edition. For further information about The World Congress of Faiths, see: www.worldfaiths.org

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Saturday 7 Dec	11am-6pm	Christmas Festival including	St Mary's Church	Page 5
Sunday 8 Dec	11am-5pm	Christmas Tree Competition		
Sunday, 8 December	10.30am	Help put up the village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 5
Monday, 9 December	6.45pm	Village Christmas Carols	Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 5
Mon, Wed, Fri 9,11,13 Dec	Various times	Wreath making	St Mary's Hall	Page 6
Wednesday, 11 December	6-8pm	Christmas Drinks at Helen Arkell	Helen Arkell Centre	Page 7
Thursday, 12 December	7.30pm	Millbridge WI Christmas Party	Marindin Hall	Page 11
Thursday, 12 December	From 8pm	'Dodgy Christmas Jumper' Men's Night	The Bluebell pub	Page 3
Saturday, 14 December	5pm	Farnham Brass Band and St Mary's School Choir Concert	St Mary's Church	Page 6
Saturday, 14 December	5-9.30pm	Dockenfield Christmas Party	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Thursday, 19 December	6.30pm	Carol Singing	The Holly Bush pub	Pages 9
Friday, 20 December	From midday	'Not-the-Office' Christmas lunch	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Friday, 27 December	10.30am	Village Walk	Meet at Marindin Hall	Page 4
Saturday, 28 December	7.30pm	End of the Year Quiz	The British Legion	Page 6
Monday, 31 December	From 8pm	New Year's Eve Party with Buffalo Bill's Karaoke	The British Legion	Page 10
Thursday, 16 January	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 11
Tuesday, 21 January	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of Good Shepherd	Page 11
Wednesday, 22 January	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 11
Thursday, 23 January	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society Social	Marindin Hall	Page 13
Tuesday, 28 January	9.30am	'Walking Together' Walking Group	Meet at St Mary's Church	Page 8

Two very special Men's Nights.....

Gentlemen, you already know of course that Men's Night takes place on the second Thursday of every month. Always great fun of course, but the next couple are truly unmissable

12 December: It's the Christmas edition of Men's Night and with that comes a call for dodgy Xmas jumpers. They aren't obligatory, but they are ever so welcome. And the dodgier the better, frankly. Plus of course it's general election day; and what better place to be than up the pub on an evening like that?

9 January: It's the **11th Anniversary of Men's Night** and Mark Rosling's wonderful idea is going from strength to strength. Doesn't time fly when you are having fun?

.....and a special night for the Ladies as well

And Ladies, don't forget there is a corresponding night for you at the Bluebell. The next Ladies' Night is on Thursday **30 January** from 8pm. This is the first evening since the frequency changed to quarterly and it would be lovely to have a bumper turnout, so do try to be there. More details from Nicola Hames (nicolabb@gmail.com).

Everything you want to know about Christmas in the Parish

Christmas Services

Everybody is welcome to all services irrespective of faith.

1 December - Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion (St Mary's)

10.30am Worship and Fellowship (Good Shepherd)

6pm Advent Carols (St Mary's)

8 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)

10.30am Parish Communion (Good Shepherd)

5pm Christingle (St Mary's)

15 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (St Mary's)

10.30am Choral Matins (St Mary's)

22 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)

10.30am Parish Communion & Baptism (St Mary's)

6pm Christmas Carol Service with children's Nativity (St Mary's)

24 December - Christmas Eve

2pm Crib service (St Mary's)

4pm Crib service (Good Shepherd)

11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Mary's)

25 December - Christmas Day

9am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)

10.30am Parish Communion (St Mary's)

And don't forget Epiphany on 5 January

Village Walk

Friday 27 December, starting at 10.30am at the Marindin Hall

Come and join us, meet up with friends, family and dogs and have some fun!

Meet: at the Marindin hall

Start: with breakfast and hot butties

Enjoy: a comfortable walk - a choice between two distances, using footpaths as much as possible

Visit: Pierrepont Farm to meet Mike and Bev's prize-winning herd

Return: to the hall for soup and a mince pie

Advance Tickets, available now from Frensham Village Shop, priced just £5 for adults; £2.50 for children (5-15) and under 5s free. **Sue Green**

An ethical Christmas perhaps?

Some ideas for presents, large or small.....from our local eco shop 'Okomoko' in Downing Street which sells all sorts of alternative household things - no plastic and all ethically sourced. Shampoos and conditioner soaps; no plastic used at all, or bamboo toothbrushes to replace plastic ones.

There are great companies like 'Ethical Superstore' which has a large range of eco, vegan, palm oil free and Fairtrade products. For new mothers there is a site called 'Kit and Kin', which does nappies and creams etc for babies, for young children; ethically made soft toys called cuddleandkind.com.

There are clothes made from bamboo- which is more sustainable than cotton- wonderfully soft and comfortable from BAM at: bambooclothing.co.uk.

Recycled paper is available on various sites.... or try wrapping gifts in bits of fabric that can be used again! Make hampers of food that will actually get eaten and put them in a little wicker basket that can be re-used...especially good for adults! Have fun and make it about family.

Nicola Rutherford

Christmas rubbish and recycle collections

Here are the revised dates for bin collections over Christmas, plus some other seasonal recycling tips for those readers that live in Waverley and whose regular collections are on a Wednesday.

The collection on Wednesday 25 December will take place on Friday 27 December.

The collection on Wednesday 1 January will take place on Friday 3 January.

The collection on Wednesday 8 January will take place on Thursday 9 January.

Please also note: wrapping paper, greeting cards and gift tags can all be recycled, but please remove as much sticky tape as you can. However, paper with foil or glitter and cards with batteries cannot be recycled. Christmas trees can be recycled via the Waverley garden collection service.

Any questions now or at any time of the year? Just visit www.waverley.gov.uk/bins to check.

Please save all your used Christmas stamps

Christmas is coming around again soon and hopefully we will all get lots of cards. Please help us by saving your used stamps again as usual. Please pass on to **Marjorie and Jack Bessant**, 1 Beales Cottages, The Street, Dockenfield, GU10 4JH. Also thank you to the people who have passed on their used stamps all through the year. Very much appreciated. All proceeds from the stamps go to charity.

Christmas in Dockenfield 2019

Help put up the Village Christmas Tree

Sunday 8 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

Come along and have fun as we lift the village Christmas tree into place and decorate it with presents and lights. There was a very good turn out last year and we are hoping for even more residents to come and help this time. Children please bring along wrapped boxes to put on the tree.

Village Christmas Carols

Monday 9 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street

Join in our traditional family carol singing, a highlight of the village Christmas calendar, with free hot mince pies and mulled juice and wine.

Village Christmas Party

Saturday 14 December, 5-9.30pm at The Good Shepherd Church

See page 1 for details and page 16 for the booking form.

Christmas Festival: 7-8 December at St Mary's

To get you into the Christmas spirit, do consider coming to the Frensham Christmas Festival over the weekend of 7 and 8 December sponsored by The Bluebell and The Holly Bush. This year we are turning the event into a Christmas extravaganza - running the **Christmas Tree Competition** and also providing **musical entertainment** throughout the weekend. We have some very talented singers and musicians who will be coming along to entertain us as well as the adorable children from St Mary's school. There will be Christmas stalls, an amazing raffle and festive refreshments.

On the Friday afternoon/evening we will be inviting local charities and groups with whom we have a connection (including The Vine Centre) to come along and enjoy the festivities with us. This is our chance to offer our hospitality and to give them a jolly good time.

On Saturday 7 December at 7pm we will be holding a very special **'Carols by Candlelight'** – this isn't a service but an opportunity for us all to have a good sing-a-long of our favourite carols in the twinkling Christmas tree kingdom of St Mary's. Tickets will be £4 (on the door) to include mulled cider and mince pie.

Opening times for the Christmas Festival are: 11am to 6pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday. Admission is £4, 5-16 years £1 and under 5's free. Please note that adult admission includes a voucher for Country Market café for a free coffee and mince pie.

It's not too late to enter a Christmas tree into the competition. Please email parish.admin@frenshamchurches.org.uk to let us know now and please encourage your friends, neighbours, clubs and local businesses to join in. It's free to enter a tree and is a good way for local organisations and businesses to get themselves noticed. And the winners (as chosen by the visitors to the event) will win money to donate to their favourite charity.

The **Christingle service** will mark the end of the festivities at 5pm on Sunday – everyone is very welcome. This is a lovely service for the children (and the young at heart!!)

Eunice King – Churchwarden eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk

'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch

Friday 20 December, from midday at the Bluebell pub

The increasingly popular Dockenfield 'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch will take place on Friday 20 December at the Bluebell. If you work for yourself or work from home in or near Dockenfield, do join us for this extremely convivial event. It's a great opportunity if you don't have your own work Christmas party to ensure you won't miss out on one, and you'll be able to walk home afterwards! The criteria are interpreted fairly loosely, so if you're interested in coming along, please email **Sebastian Fox**: sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk by **9 December**.

Christmas Pub and Club opening times: pages 9 & 10

Village Shop Christmas opening hours and last postal dates: page 7

More Seasonal News and Events from St Mary's and the Good Shepherd Advent

By the time this edition of DNL is published we will have held our Thanksgiving Weekend – Christ the King – which marks the end of the Christian year. It is also known as 'stir up Sunday' when traditionally Christmas puddings are made (don't panic if you haven't made yours yet though!!) The start of the new Christian year is Advent (meaning 'coming' in Latin) which heralds the coming of Jesus into the world. It is very much a time of preparation and lasts from Advent Sunday (1 December) until Christmas Eve.

Christmastide

Following on from Advent is Christmastide which continues until Candlemas on 2 February. So Christmas keeps on going long after we take down our decorations and commit the tree to the recycling or back to the attic! During Christmastide we also celebrate **Epiphany** on Sunday 5 January. Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi (three wise men) to Jesus – and no this didn't happen at Christmas as depicted by so many Nativity scenes! It is when God revealed himself to the world through the incarnation of Jesus.

Wreath Making: 9,11 and 13 December

And what about making your very own fresh Christmas Wreath? The popular wreath making is back again. At St Mary's hall on Monday 9 December, 11am to 2pm (including lunch), Wednesday 11 December, 7pm to 9pm (including mulled wine and mince pie) or Friday 13 December, 9.30am to midday (including coffee and mince pie). Cost is £18 to include all materials. Please call Barbara Potter on 794727 to book your place. Do hurry as places are going fast!

Concert: 14 December, 5pm at St Mary's

Farnham Brass Band and the choir of **St Mary's School** are holding a concert on Saturday 14 December at 5pm at St Mary's Church, entitled 'Christmas Crackers'. Tickets on the door, £10 for adults, £5 children 10-16 years, under 10 years free, to include refreshments. It is certain to be a rousing evening!

End of Year Quiz, 28 December at the British Legion

Bell ringers End of Year Quiz at the British Legion. 7.30 for 8pm. Bring your own food. Teams of up to 6 people. Entry £4 per person. Proceeds will be donated to the Frensham Bell maintenance fund.

Visit of Bishop Andrew

We are looking forward to welcoming Bishop Andrew to St Mary's on **Sunday 26 January** when he will be taking the 10.30am Parish Communion service. It is his first visit to the Benefice so please do come along to meet him. With this in mind we are having our annual spruce up of St Mary's on Friday 24 January starting at 9am – volunteers will be most welcome please!

Plays at St Mary's: 6, 7 and 8 February

Two one act Noel Coward plays – 'Still Life' (the play on which 'Brief Encounter' was based) and 'Fumed Oak' (an "unpleasant comedy" as billed by Coward) both directed by Hilary Lee-Corbin. Tickets £15 (to include a drink and canapes) available in the New Year from Karen Nockels (pccsecretary@frenshamchurches.org.uk).

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper at The Good Shepherd was another roaringly successful sell-out. Thanks to such wonderful generosity by everyone, over £1,600 was raised for church funds (a record!). Splendid food and entertainment was laid on by an army of helpers and we thank you all for everything you did to make it such an enjoyable evening.

Thanks to all volunteers

Finally, I would like to thank the gentlemen who give their time so generously to mow the lawns at the Good Shepherd throughout the spring and summer. We rely on volunteers as we have no funding to keep everything ship-shape. Massive thanks gentlemen for quietly turning up and getting on with it. If you would like to join the team in 2020 please do get in touch – it only takes a couple of hours (less once we have the meadow) a couple of times a year. Talking meadows there is a photo on page 16 of some enthusiastic folk getting down and dirty with their dibbers planting spring bulbs during our Harvest Festival service in October.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year!!

Eunice King – Churchwarden eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk www.frenshamchurches.org.uk

Christmas at the newly refurbished Frensham Village Shop

We're now open:

Monday to Friday: **8.30am – 7pm** (*that's not a typo; the shop really is open until 7pm!*)

Saturday: **8.30am – 5.30pm**

Sundays and Bank Holidays: **9 – 11am**

With positive comments on the new layout and wider product range, especially in the chillers and freezers, early customer reaction to the refurb has been very encouraging. Now we need to get the word out, particularly in the run-up to Christmas, that we have extended opening hours for the shop and Post Office. Do come and take advantage of what is, at present, a quieter time with no queues!

Our Christmas offering is also extended:

- We'll be taking orders for **turkeys and other festive meats and cheeses** from Hands of Rowledge for collection in Frensham on Christmas Eve.
- We'll be encouraging you to order a **personalised fruit and veg box** for the Christmas holiday.
- We have **local wines and special gins**, to complement your usual favourites – they'll make great presents!
- And we have many **new local products** to make your Christmas entertaining more relaxing.

Come in and explore ... we'd love to see you!

STOP PRESS!

We are delighted to welcome two new recruits in the Village Shop. Bea and Ella have joined our team to work with current staff and assist with our longer hours.

News from the Post Office: Special Christmas stamps now on sale

UK latest recommended posting dates:

18 December: 2nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For (2nd)

20 December: 1st Class and Royal Mail Signed For (1st)

23 December: Special Delivery Guaranteed

For overseas postage dates, please come and collect a leaflet from the Post Office. Open now till 7pm, Monday to Friday, and 5.30pm Saturdays.

Frensham Village Shop and Post Office Christmas holiday opening hours

Tuesday 24 December: Shop and Post Office 8.30am – 1pm

Wednesday 25 December: Christmas day: closed all day

Thursday 26 December: Boxing Day: **Shop only** 9am – 11am

Friday 27 December: Normal hours: **Shop and Post Office** 8.30am – 7pm

Saturday 28 December: Normal hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Sunday 29 December: Normal hours: **Shop** 9am – 11am *then closed for Annual stock check*

Monday 30 December: Normal hours

Tuesday 31 December: Normal hours

Wednesday 1 January: New Year: **Shop only** 9am – 11am

Thursday 2 January: Normal hours: **Shop and Post Office** 8.30am – 7pm

Stuck at home and can't get out? Call Paul for a delivery.

Mayonne Coldicott Tel: 795240
www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk

Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

Christmas Drinks

Wednesday 11 December, 6-8pm

Join us for festive drinks and nibbles to celebrate the amazing work our charity does and to find out more about our future plans.

Please email events@helenarkell.org.uk or phone 01252 792 400 if you would like to come.

HELP! Course for Parents

Monday mornings – 20, 27 January and 3 February

Hints, Encouragement and Liaison for Parents

Develop your understanding of the many advantages and challenges which can face learners with dyslexia both at home and at school. Our unique Parents' Course, provides strategies, tips and ideas for parents.

Letters to the Editor

A double 'Thank You' from Marjorie and Jack Bessant

Jack and I would like to say thank you all so very much for all your kind thoughts and comments after the death of my sister and brother in law, Gwen and Ron Gold. It meant a lot.

Also, thank you so very much to the very kind people of The Street in Dockenfield again this year in supporting Jack's Poppy collection. It was very kind and lovely to see you all again.

Marjorie Bessant

In praise of DNL

I have just finished reading the Dockenfield Newsletter and felt that I had to let you know how much I appreciate receiving it. It is always interesting and leaves me with a "feel good" feeling which is great.

Signing up for it after meeting you all those years ago is definitely one of the best things I've done.

Tina Austin, Old Compton Lane, Farnham

Comings...

A warm welcome to Dockenfield to Thomas and Gemma Russell in Weyside Cottages, The Street, who moved in last August.

...goings...

None that I have been told about for this edition

...and congratulations to

Tim Adams and Catherine Timson on the birth of their daughter Hannah Rose on 7 April. News of this happy event only reached DNL in the middle of October, so this announcement isn't exactly hot off the presses but as Catherine says: '*Hannah's not quite so little now but it would be great to get a mention in DNL. I kept meaning to message you so thanks for getting in touch. The village jungle drums have clearly done their job!*' Better slightly late than never is what I say!

If you are new to the village, then please let the Newsletter know and we can welcome you in the next edition. Or if you want to offer congratulations on a wedding, birthday or anniversary again let the Newsletter know and they can be mentioned in this section. And if you want to stay in touch once you have left Dockenfield, ask for an email copy of the Newsletter to be sent to you. Just email michael.foster66@btinternet.com

The unsung heroes and heroines of the Newsletter

Many readers are kind enough to say how much they enjoy reading DNL, which is very reassuring as it does take many days to put together. But those thanks should not be aimed solely at me. Because I can write as much as I like, but if we didn't have DNL's trustworthy band of distributors the Newsletter would never get through to you. They deliver every edition to your home come rain or shine, so please can I give them their annual moment in the spotlight. During the last 12 months your DNL has been delivered to you by:

Mark and Sally Vardy, Jack and Marjorie Bessant, Gerry Davy, Anne Tutt, Jean Elkes, Diana and Harold Parratt, Gail Atkinson, Debbie Foster, Karen Wake, Suzanne McLean, Mark and Karen Giles and Janette and Neil Platt. Also, to Fliss Blackburn who kindly stood in as a 'holiday reserve'.

A thank you also to DNL's excellent contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a valuable read and to Debbie Foster who is such a help when it comes to laying it all out. And to Ian McLean and Richard and Fliss Blackburn who proof read my final effort (quite often when away on business around the world) and remove any mistakes and typos. And last but not least, to the Parish Council for stumping up the money to make all this possible.

This year DNL has once again been printed by Treloar Print and I am grateful to everyone there for all the help they give.

Walking Together: December and January activities

Should any reader of DNL wish to join the Walking Together Group, please note the forthcoming programme and e-mail Lesley Rosling (roslings@hotmail.com) advising her of your interest.

Tuesday 3 December: Walking Together will enter a Christmas tree in St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. The Group plan to meet on 3 December to decorate the Christmas tree, meeting at St Mary's Church at 9.30am. Once the tree has been constructed and decorated (circa 12 noon), the Group will travel to The Bluebell for the Walking Together Christmas lunch.

Tuesday 28 January 2020 – Walking Together's first anniversary celebration walk including lunch.

Please note the light lunch at St Mary's Church and the organ recitals will not be held during the months of January, February and March – due to the planned restoration and cleaning of the organ. Thank you and best wishes. **Lesley Rosling and Jeff Powell**

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)

We are gearing up for Christmas and excited to get the decorations up!

Our **opening hours** over the Christmas period will be:

Monday 23 December: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Tuesday 24 December: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 5-9)

Wednesday 25 December: Christmas Day-Closed all day

Thursday 26 December: Boxing Day- Midday-8pm (food 12-6)

Friday 27 December: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Saturday 28 December: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Sunday 29 December: Midday-8pm (food 12-4)

Monday 30 December: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Tuesday 31 December: New Year's Eve-Midday-8pm (food 12-7)

Wednesday 1 January: New Year's Day-Midday-8pm (food 12-6)

Thursday 2 January: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Friday 3 January: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Saturday 4 January: Midday-11pm (food 12-3, 6-9)

Sunday 5 January: Midday-8pm (food 12-4)

Unless booked in advance from the Christmas menu, our menus will be similar to normal (although the lunch menu will not be available Mon 23 December- Sunday 5 January).

'Men's Night': takes place at the pub every 2nd Thursday in the month, starting from 8pm. The next two dates are **12 December** and **9 January**. You can get a burger and a pint for £10 (plain burger) or £12 (Bluebell Burger). To get onto the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: markrosling@outlook.com. See also page 3.

'Ladies' Night': is now happening on a quarterly basis, but always on the last Thursday of the relevant month. So, the next date is Thursday **30 January 2020**, starting from 8pm. For more info and to be added to the 'Ladies' Night' email circulation list please contact Nicola Hames (nicolabb@gmail.com). Please turn up and support this in large numbers.

Bring on the mulled wine!

Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell team x

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060 www.thehollybush.co.uk)

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful customers and staff for another busy and memorable year at The Holly Bush.

The Street food parties in the garden proved to be a huge success this summer, we enjoyed hosting many special birthday parties and post wedding brunches in the sunshine or on balmy evenings.

This Autumn has seen our in-house bakery kitchen swing into operation. Old school classics are proving to be popular with afternoon tea and morning coffees, Victoria sponge and coffee and walnut cakes are the hands down favourites. This also means we now offer our beautiful private dining room/meeting room for tea time celebrations and baby showers!

We were again proud to be running the bar at 'The Party in The Park' and raising huge amounts of money for the Frensham Fair Committee's chosen charities. Well done to the Fair organisers for what proved to be a great day and night yet again.

We will again be welcoming everyone to the "**Village Carol Singing at The Holly Bush**" on Thursday **19 December** starting at 6.30pm. Our Bakery will be handing out free mince pies and pastries, there will be free drinks and sweets for the little ones too. We will have hot dogs for sale or you can book a table and enjoy a sing-song with your loved ones on the evening (01252447060). We will be donating all the monies from mulled cider to "Step by Step" a charity run to support young homeless people in our area. This, sadly is a fast-growing problem and is happening on our doorstep. www.stepbystep.org.uk. There will also be a collection on the evening so please give generously!

For any Christmas private dining enquires or any party enquiries please contact Hannah at hollybushf@gmail.com

Cont/

cont/

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060 www.thehollybush.co.uk)

Our Christmas and New Year **opening hours** are:

Christmas Eve: Pub: 10am-10pm; Kitchen: 10am-8pm

Christmas Day: 11am-2pm for *drinks only*

Boxing Day: Pub: 10am-6pm; Kitchen: 10am-5pm

Friday 27 December: Pub: 9:30am-11pm; Kitchen: 9:30am-9:30pm

Saturday 28 December: Pub: 9:30am-11pm; Kitchen: 9:30am-9:30pm

Sunday 29 December: Pub: 9:30am-6pm; Kitchen: 9:30am-4:30pm

Monday 30 December: Pub: 8:30am-11pm; Kitchen: 8:30am-2:30pm / 6pm-9:30pm

Tuesday 31 December (New Year's Eve): Pub: 10am-6pm; Kitchen: 10am-5pm

Wednesday 1 January: Pub: 10am-6pm; Kitchen: 10am-5pm

Thursday 2 January: *back to normal hours*

We wish all our customers and staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

David Lee

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

Monday 2 December 8pm – Club AGM: if you value the club and enjoy coming, please come to the AGM to hear plans and give your views.

Saturday 21 December 7.30pm – Christmas Draw: make sure you buy plenty of tickets as there are many quality prizes this year.

Tuesday 24 December 8pm – Christmas Eve Party: fun and games for everyone.

Christmas Day Midday – 2pm: meet your friends and bring your family for a lunchtime drink.

Saturday 28 December 7.30pm – End of the Year Quiz: run by Harry and Liz Glover to raise money for the bells at St Mary's Church.

Tuesday 31 December 8pm – New Year's Eve with Buffalo Bill's Karaoke **Janet Caiger and Jo Gayton**

Craft Brews Brewery and Taproom (Tel: 07774982174 /www.craftbrews.uk /@CraftBrewsUK)

Taproom regular opening hours: Friday and Saturday Midday - 6 pm, Sunday Midday - 4 pm plus special events. Our own brewed beers/cider are available to takeaway or to drink in the Taproom. (Other drinks are available too, wine/prosecco/cider/spirits/soft drinks.)

Upcoming events:

Gingerbread Crafts Build & decorate a gingerbread house or train, to see dates and book a place, please visit www.craftbrews.uk/shop

20 December X-mas Curry and a Pint Night with a Christmas special Turkey curry provided by Sprinkle of Saffron, complemented by one of our beers (or wine/prosecco/soft drink).

3 January Curry and a Pint Sprinkle of Saffron provide a two-course curry complemented by one of our beers (or wine/prosecco/soft drink)

To see the menu and to book a place, please visit www.craftbrews.uk/shop

Taproom Christmas opening hours: Saturday 21 December 12 – 8 pm, Sunday 22 December 12 – 8 pm

Closed from 23 December to 2 January

Joe Wood

The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa (Tel: 795161, www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk)

All the prices shown are per adult; there are discounts for children

Christmas Sunday lunches: on 1,8,15 and 22 December: 3 courses plus tea/coffee and mince pies; £26.95pp

Christmas Eve dinner: 3 courses plus tea/coffee and mince pies; £29.50pp

Christmas Day lunch: 3 courses plus tea/coffee, mince pies and mulled wine; £85pp

Christmas Day dinner: Buffet from 7.30-9pm, £34.95pp

Boxing Day lunch: 3 courses plus tea/coffee and mints, £28.95pp

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball: 5 courses plus cheese, tea/coffee and petit fours and a welcome cocktail and entertainment through to 1am, £95pp. Or take a luxurious New Year break: Arrive in time for a traditional afternoon tea. Make full use of the Spa and fitness studio before the Masquerade Ball. One or two night stays available. Full details from the hotel.

A gift....but for whom?

Did you know that the UK Gift Card and Voucher Association estimate that we waste £300 million on unspent and expired gift vouchers every year? That's £6million a week on average. Something to think about when considering your gift options this Christmas.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Next Meeting Dates: The next meeting dates of the Council are: Tuesdays **21 January, 18 February** and **17 March**. There is no meeting in December. 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.

Thank you: A big thank you from all the Parish Council to those who work hard on behalf of the village of Dockenfield, all of you enhancing and preserving our quiet enjoyment of the countryside. The Traffic Calming team; Butterfly and vegetation monitoring; the Editor, publishing team, contributors and distributors of DNL; Activities and Xmas Party Committees; everybody who helps out at, and attends, village events; the Parish Clerk; our Surrey County Councillor; the Planning Committee; our internal auditor; Pot hole reporter; Parish Friends; Alice Holt Forum; all the many clubs and Societies; the Poppy Day collectors; the Skittles evening; everyone involved at Good Shepherd and its services, garden and facilities; and everybody else that helps make our village such a very special place to live. Together with the good will and kindness of neighbours and friends. Just about all residents really!

We are fortunate to live in such a special corner of the countryside, adjacent to the forest linked by stunning landscape to Frensham Ponds and beyond, and to the west, the National Park in Hampshire.

Next Bealeswood Common Working Party: Darren, the Bealeswood Common Ranger, will be leading a working party in January/February. Date to be decided so look out for this in your next DNL and noticeboards. This is always good fun ... the coffee and cake are not bad either!

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 as below.

Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday
(dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)
www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Unbelievably for this village we still have no volunteers for the above role... it is an important one but not very onerous. Somebody must have a few hours a month to help. Please contact Jessica our Clerk. 07881 932363 or dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you!

Jill Trout

'Young dancers win ballet roles'

So ran the headline on page 12 of the Farnham Herald dated 21 November, underneath a picture of four dancers: Benjamin, Athena, Amy and Ella. The opening paragraph then ran, *'Talented young dancers from Haslemere, Dockenfield and Grayswood beat off stiff competition to win parts in a major ballet Cinderella in Hollywood.'*

But nowhere in the article did it say who it was who lived in our village. So if the dancer(s) from Dockenfield would like to get in touch with DNL, I would love to publish a short piece about their triumph in the next edition.

What are the chances of this?

Remarkably, exactly the same amount of rain fell in the village in both September and October this year. I wonder what the odds are for that happening? The exact figures for the last two months, compared to last year, are:

September 2018: 31.5mm; **2019** 107.7mm

October 2018: 53.7mm; **2019** 107.7mm

This year has seen the wettest September since 2005, although there have been many wetter Octobers.

Jack Bessant

Village Lunch

Wednesday 22 January, midday at the British Legion

There is no Lunch in December so the date for the next Village Lunch is 22 January when the charity being supported is Frensham Royal British Legion.

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 12 December and 16 January, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The next two meetings of the Millbridge WI are:

12 December: Christmas Party with 'Ukes for All' as the entertainment

16 January: A meeting to discuss the Resolutions to be put forward to the NFWI AGM in the middle of next year. We do, however, enjoy a Ploughman's supper whilst doing so!

For more information please contact **Penny Garrard** on Tel: 793395.

No laughing matter, but...

Serious ill health is rarely a laughing matter, but I couldn't help but raise an eyebrow when a friend told me that her sister was suffering from a *'blockage in the viaduct'* and her brother had been diagnosed with *'cancer of the uterus'*.

Help the birds in winter

Every winter kills off numbers of birds, and extended freezing conditions can take a heavy toll. Small birds, such as Wrens, Tits, and Goldcrests are especially vulnerable. Overnight birds lose about five per cent of their body weight, so in winter they are in particular need of readily available food, especially in the morning and before they go to roost for the night. Unlike humans, who eat for pleasure as well as sustenance, birds eat to survive. We can help.

The RSPB recommends these foods:

- Cake, biscuit and pastry crumbs (bread is not particularly nourishing for birds)
- *Dry* porridge oats, *cooked* potatoes and rice
- Chopped apples and pears
- Dried fruit such as raisins and sultanas (preferably pre-soaked in water)
- Grated mild cheese
- Suet
- Mixed bird food of seeds, fat and dried insects
- Peanut fat, a great favourite

Don't put out meat or poultry fat. It tends to cause soiling of the birds' feathers, which need to be clean if the birds are to remain healthy (and it attracts rats). Remove any stale food, especially any peanuts which are looking mouldy. These can be toxic.

Birds also need a regular supply of clean, unfrozen water, for drinking and for washing. Plodding out into the garden in the frost, ice or snow to put out bird food and to break up the ice and refill the birdbath is guaranteed to produce a quietly virtuous glow. If you feed the garden birds you will be rewarded by constant interest and entertainment. Please keep it up, though, until at least the Spring, as the birds will come to regard your patch as part of their patch, too.

Less easy to help in harsh winter conditions are the owls, whose main food is small mammals such as mice, voles and shrews, which tunnel under snow, out of the sight and hearing even of those sharp-eared owls. Owl numbers have dropped in recent years, but I have been encouraged to see an occasional Barn Owl in Rowledge, and there are resident Tawny Owls in all our local villages. If you should hear an owl hooting it will be a Tawny. Barn Owls are usually silent except for an occasional blood-curdling screech if one is disturbed.

Many birds modify their behaviour to cope with winter conditions. Robins and Blackbirds, which are usually highly territorial, will tolerate more of their own kind in an uneasy truce when they are hungry. Their numbers are boosted in winter by an influx from European countries such as Norway, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands, where it can be even colder than it is here. You may notice more Starlings flying about in foraging flocks, too, and many of these will have flown in from Europe.

A winter bonus is that birds we don't usually see migrate here from colder areas. Redwings, Siskins, Bramblings and Fieldfares have all been spotted in our locality during past winters. Keep a look-out and you may have a pleasant surprise, especially if you keep up the supply of bird food.

Val Lewis

Preparing for winter in Dockenfield

DPC Emergency Strategies. Most residents will know that the Parish Council have a published 'strategy' to put into place in the event either of seriously bad weather or an emergency in the village. Largely this involves 15 or so tips on what best to do; details of where the public grit bins are if needed; and a list of village volunteers who act as 'wardens' at times of bad weather. The version that has been published in DNL for a number of years has been updated and this new version added to the DPC website. We would encourage all residents to study it on the Dockenfield Parish Council website www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk.

Join the EEL. Finally, if you haven't already done so, I would most strongly suggest that you 'sign up' to the Dockenfield Emergency Email List (EEL) which sends residents alerts of any kind of emergency in the village (including bad weather, security etc) plus information on major meetings and events of great importance to the village. To 'sign up' simply email the Parish Clerk, Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk). **Ian McLean**

The science of snowdrops

Snowdrops are surely one of this country's most delicate winter flowers. Did you know that the outer petals of a snowdrop open when the temperature is above 10 degrees? When the temperature is lower, the petal shield closes to protect the nectar.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Do you feel frustrated at how little it seems you can do to halt the decline of habitats, insects and birdlife? Do your individual efforts seem trivial and ineffective? Are you humbled by a 16-year-old school girl sailing the Atlantic so she could give the President of the USA a right telling off? All these got me thinking that maybe these problems are not too big for us to tackle and maybe we could all help to solve them by how we look after our gardens? After all it has been estimated that the combined size of all the gardens in the UK is larger than all our nature reserves.

If you have a garden (and few readers of the DNL in the village will not have any garden), then there is something we all can do as individuals to help reverse the trend of declining habitats and wildlife. Just small-scale changes in the way we look after our gardens can make a big difference whether your garden is small or big. In a study in Stirling, central Scotland, many small patches of previously mown grass have been left uncut, and some of them sown with wildflower seeds. Subsequent surveys show that 15 times as many hoverflies and 50 times as many bees visited the uncut grass, compared to the adjacent regularly mown grass.

This sort of study underlies the decision made recently for not cutting the grass in front of the village church, except for a number of paths and edges. In addition, it has been noted that on close examination, that this grass contains abundant wildflowers that just get cut back by the regular mowing. These are some of the same wildflowers that we see on our Bealeswood Common, so now the same late summer cut is planned for both the churchyard and the Common. Such a method can be duplicated in the smallest piece of lawn, if say, just a square metre of grass is left uncut, leaving your lawn mower to trim the edges or some access paths if these are desired.

If, after a few years you feel you might want more colour or to extend the flowering season in, what is in effect, a small meadow, then seeds can be sown or plug plants planted into the grass. Two recent articles in DNL in May and in October this year tell you what plants do well in the heavy clay soil in the village for both caterpillars and butterflies.

It's useful to remember that the plants are the basis for all the wildlife in your garden. Leaves capture sunlight which is converted and stored as sugars and carbohydrates in the plant, providing food for caterpillars, slugs, and aphids, and the flowers provide sugary nectar for the pollinators such as bees and butterflies. These insects and molluscs then provide food for the birds in your garden which in turn provide food for larger birds and animals, thus completing the food chain. So, it is easy to see that one individual, one garden and a small area looked after in a wildlife-friendly manner can make a difference. Something to think about as the nights draw in and the garden gets too boggy to do anything, least of all cut the grass.

Dan Bosence

PS Don't forget the next meeting on **23 January** when it will be a Society Social evening from 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall.

Shine on, Harvest Moon

A cycle of a full moon every 28 days means that there are either 12 or 13 full moons in any one calendar year. But do you know that each of these moons has a name, many of which were given to them by native American Indians after features that they associated with the seasons in the northern hemisphere. The full 2020 list of dates and names is:

10 January:	Wolf Moon
9 February:	Snow Moon
9 March:	Worm Moon
7 April:	Pink Moon
7 May:	Flower Moon
5 June:	Strawberry Moon
5 July:	Buck Moon
3 August:	Sturgeon Moon
2 September:	Harvest Moon
1 October:	Corn Moon
31 October:	Hunters Moon
30 November:	Beaver Moon
29 December:	Cold Moon

In praise of ash

*Beechwood fires are bright and clear,
If the logs are kept a year.
Chestnut only good they say,
If for long 'tis laid away.
But ash new, or ash old
Is fit for a queen with crown of gold.*

*Birch and fir logs burn too fast,
Blaze up bright and do not last.
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elmwood burns like churchyard mold,
E'en the very flames are cold.
But ash green, or ash brown
Is fit for queen with golden crown.*

*Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.
Apple wood will scent your room
With an incense like perfume.
Oaken logs, if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But ash wet, or ash dry
A king shall warm his slippers by.'*

And, on the subject of ash....

Scientists say there is new hope in the fight against ash dieback, a disease that is devastating ash trees? A study has identified the genes that give trees resistance to ash dieback, which arrived in the UK in 2012 and has now spread to almost every part of the country. The discovery suggests that trees could now be bred that are unaffected by the epidemic.

Dockenfield Skittles Night 2019

A bunch of jolly neighbours and friends turned up at the Jolly Farmer for an evening of fun, laughter, food and the all-important skittles competition. Teams and team captains were selected before the event and team captains chose their names:

- Team 1: The Odd Balls - captain Allen Warren
- Team 2: Dueller - captain Ben Poulson
- Team 3: Short & Sweet - captain Tim Farnell-Watson
- Team 4: The Hopefuls - captain Margaret Moore
- Team 5: Little & Large - captain Debbie Foster
- Team 6: Alfred the Great - captain Tony Moore

Two games took place before supper was served. These two established the team, top lady and top man. Many congratulations to:

Team Winners: Dueller (Ben Poulson, Michael Foster, Jill Trout and Fiona Ricketts)

Top Lady: Susan Farnell-Watson

Top Man: Tim Farnell-Watson

A prize for the lowest score of the evening went to: Lauren Attfield

The last game of the night was a knock-out event. With three lives established and throwing one ball at each turn, if you missed the skittles you lost a life. After a close fought battle, the last person standing won The Mansell cup. So, the 2019 winner of the cup goes to: Harvey Ricketts

I would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting. Please make a note of next year's *provisional* date - Friday 16 October 2020.

Katy Poulson

Frensham at War - The Canadian Army arrives

This is the fifth in a series of articles about 'Frensham at War' written for DNL by Trevor G Hill who lived here as a boy. Thank you, Trevor, for sharing your valuable memories with us. The first four can be found in editions 260, 263, 266 and 267 which I can email to you if you missed them.

Living near Aldershot we were used to seeing members of the army – British, Australian and New Zealanders were recognisable by the hats they wore. As many luxuries were not available during the war my father bought a special canister for making ice cream. It was rather like a large vacuum flask with an opening at both ends. The ice cream mixture was poured into the central section at the top and then the canister was reversed and ice and salt packed in from the bottom. The ice was collected from Mac Fisheries' shop in Farnham and it was my job to bring it home on the bus in a canvas bag.

On one hot summer afternoon when I was selling ice cream and fizzy drinks from a table outside of our shop when a column of army trucks pulled up. The soldiers were not like any we had seen before, they were the Canadians, and my little stall was soon totally sold out. We soon learnt that the Canadian army was to be stationed in and around our village and that they were to take over from the British troops the large area of Frensham Common for manoeuvres. One contingent had a large camp in the pine trees on Gong Hill and another was stationed in and around Pierrepont House.

When my younger brother was at school his class were invited to a Christmas party given by the troops on Gong Hill so my mother asked me to accompany them so I would know where to go to fetch him home afterwards. However, the friendly Canadians insisted that I stayed and I had to sit with these younger kids. It was embarrassing but even more so when one of the accompanying teachers asked me to sing *O Canada* a song we had practised at school, she was a bit disappointed when a very red-faced embarrassed Trevor refused!

The Canadians however were great friends to the boys and girls in Frensham especially when they supplemented our sweet ration with 'candies' and 'chewing gum'. Apart from lorries these Canadian troops were equipped with Bren-Gun carriers and Sherman Tanks and the petrol pumps at Heath's garage opposite our shop was their refuelling depot. After a day exercise on Frensham Common a great queue of vehicles and tanks formed up along the road from Millbridge and some of the Canadian drivers would give us rides along the road. One day I was in a Bren-gun carrier when it had to stop suddenly to miss a dispatch rider emerging from Heath's Garage it felt as if it had nearly stood on its end! But I was very lucky when one day a tank commander asked if I would like to ride in the turret of his Sherman tank. Apparently, he knew my father and so when we arrived opposite our shop he asked if I had had my pocket money and when I replied 'No' he trained the gun on our shop and said we should demand it early that week!

Trevor G Hill



Future walks around the village

I took some photos of fungi on the common, if you have a corner of the next DNL to fill. I hope to lead a fungus walk next year as there was a good variety of species this year. Also I hope to do a dawn chorus walk in early spring and nightjar walk in summer – details in later issues.

The fungi pictured are from top left clockwise: shaggy inkcap, fly agaric, shaggy parasol and amethyst deceiver.

Steve Lockett

The Vine Centre: Christmas Gift 2019

The Christmas bags last year were a huge success with over 75 bags sent from Dockenfield and Frensham alone! This year we are hoping once again to give the clients of The Vine Centre Christmas gift bags filled with both practical items and gifts. It is also lovely if you can wrap the presents and put a Christmas card with a message in the bag too.

Bags are available in both St Mary's and The Good Shepherd. A big *thank you* to all of those people who have already taken a bag to fill up. The final collection date for the filled Christmas bags is **Sunday 15 December**.

Please place your donations in the chest provided at the crossing in St Mary's Church. Thank you.

Karen Nockels

Farnham Christmas Market Sunday 8 December, 10am-4pm Castle Street, The Borough and the Bush Hotel Farnham

Soak up the festive atmosphere as you browse amongst over 100 stalls in Farnham's traffic-free Christmas Market. There are a huge array of Christmas gifts to choose from plus there is live music from local bands and Christmas Carols to keep everyone entertained while shopping.

Santa will make a special appearance in his grotto whilst children will be able to visit Mary, Joseph and the little donkey at the live nativity.

There are plenty of stalls with food to eat on-the-go as well as delicious locally produced seasonal fayre to buy as gifts.

There's even a free shuttle bus service. Full details of the market can be found at www.farnham.gov.uk.

What a picture

We are so lucky in this village. This is the sort of lovely thing we are privileged to see, from The Street, in our village. I just stood and enjoyed the few minutes I had with these creatures. We have spaces into the village like this that allow animals to come so close. **Nicky Rutherford**



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 17 January 2020** 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.

How much do you know about Christmas?

- The word Christmas comes from the old English 'Cristes Maesse' which means Christ's Mass
- Hanging presents on trees may be a tradition that dates back to the Druids, who believed that the tree was the giver of all good things
- To deliver presents to all the homes in the world, Santa would have to visit approximately 850 houses every second, travelling at an average speed of 650 miles per second
- The first commercial Christmas cards were sold in London in 1843
- The world's tallest Christmas tree was erected in Washington in 1950 and stood at 221ft high.
- The tallest ever snowman was built in the USA at 113ft tall
- And last but not least, Australia lay claim to the longest ever cracker at just a tickle under 10ft



**Planning a dry January?
Help is at hand!**



**Bottoms up, bulbs down!
Hoping for a colourful display
at the Good Shepherd next
springtime. See page 6**

History Group Talks 2020

11 February: AGM

10 March: Robert Grimmond - Old Artifacts Quiz!

14 April: David Rose - Surrey Villages Then and Now

12 May: Alan Grace - TBA

8 September: Alan Copeland - Curios in West Sussex

13 October: Dan Allen or Sheila Willis - TBA

10 November: Andrew Negus - The History of Portsmouth Part 2

1 December: Christmas Party (at the Royal British Legion)

All meetings are on a Tuesday and commence at 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall. **Chris Bonner**

Predictive text, huh

Got an email about DNL from a neighbour. She had, I believe, intended to open with the words '*Hello Michael, in fact.....*'. What I actually received was '*Hello Michael, I'm fat.....*'

DOCKENFIELD CHRISTMAS PARTY, THE GOOD SHEPHERD SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER, 5-9.30pm

Please book: adult tickets at £10 each and child (16 or under) tickets at £6 each.

You can pay on-line. Abi will let you know how. Please complete this form, photo/scan and send it by email her: abi@bushbaby.travel

Family name:..... Address:

Telephone: Email:

Children's names	Children's ages	Boy/Girl	Vegetarian Meal (or other requirements/allergies). Yes/No

Adult vegetarian meals required:

Volunteers Required – please contact Joolz by email: joolzlmiles@aol.com