

# DOCKENFIELD

## *newsletter*

Special Email Edition

No 279

Published 19 April 2020



**The rainbow, pictured here over Dockenfield, has come to represent ‘positivity, hope and togetherness’ in the battle against Coronavirus**

### **Everything’s the same; but everything’s different**

If you looked through your window pretty much most days in the last three weeks your eyes would have been treated to the sight of a perfect spring day. Sunshine, virgin green leaves, blossom on the trees; flowers in the garden; new growth; the countryside beckoning; Mother Nature springing into fresh life. What could be more perfect?

But it’s not perfect is it? Beyond your house and garden, everything is different. The whole world is being changed by an invisible enemy and we are in lockdown; a lockdown that has just been extended by a further three weeks.

We have rushed out this DNL very early, to be with you as soon as possible after that extension was announced. Its purpose is to update you on what is happening to help keep everyone (and especially the more vulnerable) safe and well. But as well as being useful, I want this DNL to be entertaining; to bring some fun, some entertainment and hopefully a smile or two into your lives. I hope it succeeds.

Because we want to abide by government guidelines and because we want to protect our lovely distributors, this is the first DNL to be delivered electronically. This makes it easy to forward it to others outside the village if you think it would be of interest to them.

The last few weeks have shown our local community at its very finest, and the hugest thank you to everyone that continues to make that possible. We are so blessed to be living here, with our countryside and our community. In the words of a friend, ‘*There are worse places to be stuck, aren’t there?*’

Stay safe, stay healthy.

**Michael x**

## News from Dockenfield Parish Council

In times of adversity the value of our community and helping others comes to the fore. Dockenfield is fortunate to have the Parish Friends, the emergency warden volunteers together with numerous informal, local WhatsApp and other support networks. Whether it is shopping or collecting medication for those in self-isolation, sharing that all important bread-making flour or simply having a supportive Skype call to keep the spirits up; we have all found new ways of going about our daily business in these challenging times. Fortunately, the weather has been great and we are blessed with fantastic countryside on our doorstep for exercise, which makes it so much more bearable.

In the last edition of the DNL we called for more volunteers and the response has been fantastic, the number of volunteers has grown over four-fold, plus Parish Friends and all those helping neighbours on a more informal basis. Dockenfield Parish Council extends its gratitude and thanks to all those providing this vital local community support at this challenging time.

The Parish Friends and Emergency Warden Volunteer contacts are below and may also be found on the village website (<http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/index.php/coronavirus>):-

### Parish Friends contacts:

Morag James – 01252 793133 [morag.james@btinternet.com](mailto:morag.james@btinternet.com)  
Eunice King - 01252 790690 [eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk)  
Rev'd Jane Walker - 01252 792137 [vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk)

### Emergency Warden contacts:

Batts Corner - Jo Rogers 07900 340680 [joleerogers@hotmail.com](mailto:joleerogers@hotmail.com)  
Batts Corner - Oli Rosling 07795 018128 [olirosling@gmail.com](mailto:olirosling@gmail.com)  
Batts Corner - Natalie Stewart 07771 558488 [nataliestewart1@gmail.com](mailto:nataliestewart1@gmail.com)  
Batts Corner - Nick Stewart 07500 605867 [Nick.Stewart@baringa.com](mailto:Nick.Stewart@baringa.com)  
Batts Corner - Catherine Timson 07795 510705 [catherinetimson@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinetimson@hotmail.com)  
Bealeswood Lane - Debbie Foster 01252 792142 [debbie.foster55@btinternet.com](mailto:debbie.foster55@btinternet.com)  
Bealeswood Lane - Steve Luckett 07530 044278, [posteve@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:posteve@hotmail.co.uk)  
Cradle Lane - Hannah and Michael Cole 07515 887231 [hannah.e.h.cole@outlook.com](mailto:hannah.e.h.cole@outlook.com)  
Dockenfield Street - Duncan Arthur 07426 767444 [duncarthur@gmail.com](mailto:duncarthur@gmail.com)  
Dockenfield Street - Jo North, [jo\\_north@hotmail.com](mailto:jo_north@hotmail.com)  
Dockenfield Street - Susan Slinger 07798 657954, [susanslinger@gmail.com](mailto:susanslinger@gmail.com)  
Green Lane - Chris Sutton 01252 795976 [suttondpc@gmail.com](mailto:suttondpc@gmail.com)  
High Thicket Road - Amanda Smith 07970 770904 [mandac@btinternet.com](mailto:mandac@btinternet.com)  
High Thicket Road - Richard Smith 07833 077845 [tricky.smith@btinternet.com](mailto:tricky.smith@btinternet.com)  
Lake Lane - Raf Wane 01252 790841 [rafwane@hotmail.com](mailto:rafwane@hotmail.com)  
Lake Lane - Guy Jackson 07557 992731 [guybjackson@btinternet.com](mailto:guybjackson@btinternet.com)  
Old Lane (Great Holt) - Anne Tutt 07866 495544 [tutts@me.com](mailto:tutts@me.com)  
Old Lane (Old Convent Flats) - Karen Hart 01420 473044 [karenmhart123@gmail.com](mailto:karenmhart123@gmail.com)  
Old Lane – Janet Mulholland 07879 485417 [janet.needs@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.needs@btinternet.com)  
Old Lane - Dr Edward Wernick 07946 529298, [edwardwernick@btinternet.com](mailto:edwardwernick@btinternet.com)  
The Street - Christine Allingham 01252 795650, [grahamallingham@sky.com](mailto:grahamallingham@sky.com)  
The Street - Rob Cregeen 07787 157731 [robcregeen@brayfoxsmith.com](mailto:robcregeen@brayfoxsmith.com)  
The Street - Kari Erickson 07990 020146, [kari.m.erickson@gmail.com](mailto:kari.m.erickson@gmail.com)  
The Street - Seb Fox 01252 792080 [sebastian@brownfoxconsultancy.com](mailto:sebastian@brownfoxconsultancy.com)  
The Street - Peter James 01252 793133 [peterjames123@gmail.com](mailto:peterjames123@gmail.com)  
The Street - Rob O'Connell 07884 655353, [roboc71@gmail.com](mailto:roboc71@gmail.com)  
The Street - Lynne Thomas [lynnethomas00@gmail.com](mailto:lynnethomas00@gmail.com)

The next meeting dates of the Council are: Tuesdays **21 April** and **19 May**. These meetings will be conducted remotely using Skype video conferencing. If anyone has an agenda item for the meetings please let the clerk, Jessica Hobday, know in advance: [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk). As previously announced, the Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed to a date to be determined when life has returned to more normal times.

The village **Emergency Email List** is used to communicate important news concerning matters in the village. As we go through this current emergency there has never been a more important time to be on the list. If you have not signed up to this service please get in touch with Jessica: [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk).

Let's all keep Dockenfield safe and healthy.

**Paul Wood, on behalf of Dockenfield Parish Council**

## News from the Village Shop

**Thank you** for your support of the shop in the current situation! The response of the local community has been great to see, especially about 80 people who have joined our volunteer team to help pick & pack orders from the shop for delivery to the vulnerable and those self-isolating in the Frensham and Dockenfield area. We have made almost 300 deliveries up to Easter, having only started the service a few weeks before – an amazing response from all involved.

**Delivery Service:** If you need to use this, please call the shop on 01252 795240 between 0830-1130 Monday to Saturday or use the online form at [Frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://Frensham-village-shop.co.uk).

**Shop and Post Office Opening Hours:** We have a fantastic selection of fruit and veg, milk, bread, eggs, alongside a great range of food, drink & household goods, and a few treats as well!

Please note the revised opening hours below to allow us to operate the delivery service whilst adhering to government guidelines. Only 1 customer is allowed in the shop at a time, and we encourage you to use card payments where possible.

**Monday to Friday: 1200 – 1900**  
**Saturday: 1200 – 1730**  
**Sunday: 0900 – 1100**

**New products:** Why not a Mud ‘Squiche’ - square quiches - which have arrived in the shop this month!

**Old Favourites:** ‘Sprinkle of Saffron’ are still supplying their frozen curries including Prawn, Lamb, Chicken & Veggie curries, perfect for when you don’t feel like cooking!

We are hugely grateful to all those, staff and volunteers, who have been working incredibly hard with changing circumstances to meet personal safety requirements, and the needs of our communities.

Please stay safe and support your local shop by shopping locally! We hope to see you soon.

**Callum Keaveny**  
**[www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk) Tel: 01252 795 240**

## Parish Friends

### We are still here to help

We are now into the 4<sup>th</sup> week of lockdown as I write with an extension of at least a further 3 weeks announced today, 16 April. It seems an appropriate time to remind the village that the Parish Friends are still here to offer help of a practical nature – help with shopping, collection of prescriptions, a chat or (from Reverend Jane or me) spiritual help – especially as many of us are self-isolating at the moment. Also, we have had volunteers who have offered help with dog walking and putting bins out etc. Please do contact me on 01252-793133 or [morag.james@btinternet.com](mailto:morag.james@btinternet.com) if you would like help in any way.

Dockenfield is lucky to have a very good Parish Council who, as the country was about to go into lockdown, met to discuss the best way to organise help for the village. DPC already had an emergency support group with wardens for each road and the Parish Friends, who are a team of church representatives, have been quietly helping those that need it for over 30 years, and are aware of each house in the street that they are responsible for. So between us we are hopefully able to cover most, if not all, needs.

Huge thanks are due to everyone helping in this strange time – the wardens, DPC, Parish Friends and also the Frensham Village Shop, which has a wonderful team of volunteers who can deliver food and newspapers to Dockenfield and Frensham alike. Over 680 homes were reached in the two villages by a team of PFs and other kind volunteers, delivering Village Shop flyers and a note from the respective PF with their contact details. In response we have been overwhelmed by the number of offers to volunteer, thank you. It has been a busy time, with daily calls received and made, so the help is much appreciated. Thank you also to DNL for keeping us all informed!

The Parish Friends for Dockenfield are myself, Debbie Foster, Sarah Stirling, Annabelle Sutton, Diana Parratt, Rosemary Faun, Sandy Taylor and Barbara Carpenter.

**Morag James, Tel: 01252 793133**

## News from your churches

**Thank you, everybody.** I would like to thank everybody in the villages of Dockenfield and Frensham for offering such tremendous help and support to each other during this very difficult time. We are blessed to have such a caring community. Our Parish Friends' network has proved invaluable as well as many of the local volunteers who are helping those who are vulnerable and cannot leave their home. My particular thanks to Morag James who has been working tirelessly signposting and connecting people. And to the village shop who are working hard getting shopping to those in need.

Should you need help, please do ring Morag or your Parish Friend and they will be happy to support you. If you are unwell, please let Rev'd Jane know so that she can offer her support and prayer.

**Church Services on line.** Rev'd Jane has recorded a series of services during Holy Week which culminated with a beautiful service broadcast from the Vicarage garden on Easter Day. We thank her for her dedication and support for everybody within the villages (and some of you beyond the boundaries as well).

**How to find the Church services on-line.** To access Rev'd Jane's video services (which will continue until the churches are re-opened) either:

1. Visit [www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/services.htm](http://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/services.htm) and you will find links to all her recorded services on YouTube.
2. Go to YouTube [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and in the search box at the top enter **Frensham Churches** and click on the service you want. Don't forget to turn your sound on! To make sure you know when there's a new service from Rev Jane, you can subscribe to the **Frensham Churches channel** by clicking on the red 'Subscribe' button and follow the joining instructions (free account). You'll be automatically emailed when there's a new video to watch.

**Church Life.** Many of you will already subscribe to our 'Church Life' email publication but for those of you who don't, this is a quarterly email that focuses on what is happening in the churches, fundraising and future events. Local people also contribute items of interest and we aim to answer those burning questions that you may have. Do take a look at previous publications by visiting our webpage and sign up if you think you might be interested. Just to remind you, this is not the Parish Magazine (or DNL) but a publication that aims to improve communication between our volunteers and those who are interested in the church and the beautiful historic buildings. Due to popular demand we have extended the distribution to anybody in the villages who may like to receive it. Follow this link to sign up - <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/churchlife.htm>. The next edition will be in May.

**Clap for the Carers.** Like everyone, I too have been particularly moved by the selfless and dedicated work that is happening throughout our land by a myriad of NHS workers and volunteers. Let us continue to clap for the NHS at 8pm on Thursday evenings. Harry Glover will be chiming bells at St Mary's to show our thanks to them for the amazing work they are doing.

**Planting Seeds.** For many of us it has been a joy to spend time in our gardens and relish in the lovely warm sunny weather. I did a rummage in my shed and found some seeds from 2006, planted them and am pleased to report that I now have four tiny tomato plants (sadly the other hundreds of seeds sown didn't make it!) I felt so disappointed in my hundreds of failures that it did diminish the success of the four tiny plants that came through. It got me thinking about expectations and how to manage them during these difficult times. Perhaps reflecting on what I have rather than what I want or am missing is how to get through. I am thankful for my little plants – they have reminded me of how fortunate I am.

**Church Gardens.** Talking of gardening we have been trying to keep the grass under control in the churches (under strict social distancing) but are suspending this for the coming couple of weeks when it is thought that the virus will hit its peak. We will resume mowing again most likely at the beginning of May. And the shape of the design of the wild flower meadow at the Good Shepherd is coming along nicely (do have a peak if you are walking past the church) - something to look forward to in the summer months.

**Would you like a jigsaw?** I am offering to deliver jigsaws from our large selection at St Mary's. If you would like any do give me a call and I will arrange a delivery to your doorstep.

**St George's Day.** Finally, as we approach St Georges Day on 23 April, I thought that I would share a poem about him which hopefully will lift your spirits and you can find this poem on page 12.  
Happy St George's Day!

With blessings, **Eunice King – Churchwarden** 01252 790690 [eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk)

## **A message from the Bluebell**

After a really successful weekend of being closed but doing takeaways, we made the difficult decision to fully close after the Monday lockdown announcement. We felt for the safety of our staff, our customers and ourselves that this was the most sensible thing to do. We are really hoping to start takeaways again as restrictions start lifting.

In the meantime, we have been keeping busy! There is always a long list of jobs that need doing, but while we are open, we never have time, so that is a bonus! Add in to that, the children who need feeding 50 times a day, the school work (painful!) and the animals who demand so much attention and I'm wondering how we ever found time to work!

It is hard to have such beautiful weather and imagine how busy we would have been if we were allowed to be open, but we are focusing on the positives: having an Easter weekend as a family for the first time in 7 years; beautiful walks; sunshine; and being able to slow down a little bit.

That doesn't mean to say we aren't desperate to re-open! We miss our pub life and we miss all of our customers and (dare I say it), we miss the stress! So, once we are through this, I hope we can have the biggest celebration.

Sending all of our love to everyone.

**Lucy, Robin and everyone at The Bluebell xxx**

## **A message from the Holly Bush**

A huge thank you for all the messages of support Sally and I have received. We are all fine and well here, and all the HB team have been protected. The Team will be ready to greet you all when the time is right. For our chefs it is the chance to spend time with their families and perhaps think of new and exciting things prepare for you.

A huge well done to The Village Shop who are doing a fantastic job.

## **An Appeal**

For those a little younger we are known as the 'Lego pub'. But sadly, our large basket of Lego is so depleted we have had to launch an investigation into where it has all gone. We hired the best private detectives and after an exhaustive investigation we have found the culprit (pictured below right).

Please, if anyone is having a clear out during these times and has any Lego or Brio they are getting rid of we would be very grateful to receive it. Please leave any donations under the awning at the pub. We are there most days.

Stay safe and well.

**David, Sally and the HB Team**

## **Let's hear it for The Bluebell and The Holly Bush**

You will have read above how hard the Bluebell tried to keep going for their customers until it proved impossible to do so. Meanwhile, the Holly Bush, having taken the decision to close once the lockdown was announced, used Sunday 22 March to give away all the perishable food from their kitchen. They put a table under an umbrella outside the pub with all the food assembled on it with a sign saying '*Please help yourselves, love Team HB*'.

An illustration, if any were needed, how marvellously these two pubs care about their customers and the community they serve. And their customers, I know, care deeply about them and are wishing them well during what must be extraordinarily testing times for them. On behalf of everyone in the wider Parish, DNL sends love and best wishes to Robin, Lucy, David and Sally and all the teams at both their fine pubs. They are so important to us all and we can't wait to be back with them again.



## **What will the world learn from this?**

When all this is over, and a semblance of normality returns, what will the world have learned I wonder? Will the human race remember that reduced car and air travel has brought huge reductions to levels of pollution and so saved lives? Might we work from home more and have greater appreciation of our jobs and of our employees? Will we continue to find solace in Mother Nature; to treasure the sound of birdsong above the noise of traffic; and appreciate the countryside for all its beauty? Can we maintain our renewed respect for food; buy locally; grow our own veg; share our supplies and avoid unnecessary wastage? Will we value front line workers more than before; love our neighbours; volunteer for the community; co-operate internationally and truly cherish friendships old and new? Will we be able to embrace a new way of living? Or will the world return to type?

## **Clap for the carers .....**

How wonderful it has been to hear the sound of clapping reverberate around the village every Thursday night, with so many residents determined to thank all the front-line workers for the amazing things they are all doing at the pointed end of this crisis. And its not just clapping you can hear: there's the sound of wooden spoons on saucepans, bongo drums and school bells. As far as I am aware the clapping 'ceremony' will continue every **Thursday at 8pm**, so do please come out onto your doorsteps, into your front gardens and join us. It only takes a couple of minutes, yet nationally it means so much to the front-line workers (of which there are some in our village), and actually it's quite an emotional experience to participate.

## **..... and thanks to so many other people as well**

And there are so many other people throughout our community to thank as well. Just look through this DNL and you will see the list of volunteers selflessly helping out, including Parish Friends and those at the Village Shop that are doing so much. There are many others, street by street, lane by lane, not mentioned here but who are working to help their friends and neighbours. Then there is our lovely Postie, John; our terrific refuse collection team; Michael the milkman.....

Where would we be without you all? On behalf of our Parish, thank you all.

## **Village Flag**

This seems to be the *perfect* time to design a NEW village flag.

- Time limit: 31 May: so plenty of time to perfect your submission
- Specification: Dockenfield (and its many aspects)
- Design: to fit a rectangular flag shape
- Materials: any medium - simple, bold and large enough to be seen at the end of the flagpole
- Size: of initial design no smaller than A4 remembering this will be made into a flag similar to that flying at present (big!)
- Submission: electronic design format (e.g. bmp, gif, jpg or png file formats) preferred but hand drawn just as acceptable
- Send to: [thetrouts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thetrouts@hotmail.co.uk); or deliver to Holtside Bungalow, Batts Corner
- Judges: to be decided

Thank you.

**Jill Trout**

## **Thank you to DNL's contributors**

From inception to publication, this edition of DNL has been brought out remarkably quickly, in just a few short days. This wouldn't have been possible without the swift response of all the contributors, so my huge thanks to them for responding so speedily.

## **Have you been married 50 years or more?**

Back in January, when things were normal, I launched a search to discover which couple in the village has been married the longest. I didn't have room to follow it up in the last 'special edition' of DNL but would like to re-instate the search now. So, if you live in Dockenfield and have been married for more than 50 years please get in touch with details of when your wedding was. Those that have sent in details already need not resend. Please email [michael.foster66@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.foster66@btinternet.com).

## Letters to the Editor

### Thank you to all the volunteers

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and all the Dockenfield Volunteers. I live in a small community of 7 houses in Old Lane and the help that has been shared between us has been both touching and reassuring. However, I am sitting here wondering how I can help the wider community of Dockenfield without coming into contact with anyone or breaking the isolation rules. I expect this may already have been suggested, but does a DVD swap centre exist. I am sure we all have DVDs we have enjoyed but no longer watch. Could we on our one permitted walk, drop off films to a specific location and perhaps find one there we would like to take home. At the end of our quarantine, any left could be sold at the Fete. Thank you again; I love The Dockenfield Newsletter.

**Yvette Cutting, Manor Farm Mews**

*Do please get in touch with DNL if you have any ideas of how DVDs could be safely exchanged. Dockenfield Day this year has of course sadly been postponed*

### Lovely flowers

What a joy it's been to go along The Street with all the lovely daffodils.

**Diana and Harold Parratt, Abbotts Cottages**

### First swallow

We saw our first swallow today (Sunday 5 April at 12.20pm). And another 20 mins later, with a third sighting the following day at 11.05am.

**Roger Trout, Holtside Bungalow, Batts Corner**

*Happy to report that we had the first sighting of swallows returning to Farm Cottage on 16 April. Always a moment of great joy when they come back to their home, our barn, after thousands of miles of travel (something of course we humans can't do right now!)*

### Appreciation for the last DNL

*At just 4 pages the last edition of DNL was easily the smallest I have ever published as Editor, but it received a great response from readers mindful of the sudden change in their lives caused by the coronavirus epidemic.*

*Here are extracts from a few of the emails DNL has received.*

Thank you so much for getting a Newsletter to us all; it is very reassuring knowing we have such a strong community.

**John and Jo Whitby, Sandy Lane**

Reading this Michael makes me proud to be British: a big well done to Dockenfield.

**Robert Hawkes**

*(Former Dockenfield policeman, now resident in Four Marks but still a DNL reader)*

It is a real comfort to receive the DNL at the moment. Thanks for continuing to send it. Best wishes.

**Clare Jupp**

*(Former Dockenfield resident now living in Rowledge)*

This is exactly what your community needs.

**Michael Schau**

*(DNL reader in New York City)*

So enjoyed reading the Dockenfield News and thank you again for taking the trouble to send it. We wish the people of Dockenfield good health and may we all come together again in the future and win this battle.

**Diana Jeffrey**

*(Former Dockenfield resident now living in Farnham)*

## Congratulations

- To Helen Burchell on the birth of her baby daughter Arabella Grace, born on 21 January and weighing in at 7lb 5oz. Longer term residents will recall that Helen used to live in Sandy Lane with her parents Bill and Sheila before moving to the south coast. And as Helen points out, that makes four births to current and recent Batts Corner residents in just 12 months or so, with Mared Morant, Hannah James and Alice White the other three proud mothers.
- To Yvette Cutting of Manor Farm Mews who writes to say: *'I am now the proud grandmother to 3 little boys, the latest born on the 6th April (Rory Wilfred Menzies) You might like to say in the Newsletter, as a reassurance to any mums and dads to be, that The Royal Surrey and all their staff were amazing, doing their very best to protect everyone in the maternity unit from the virus. Although we are only 7 households here in the Mews, we all stand outside our doors and clap furiously in the hopes we will be heard in the village by any of the amazing key workers that live there. I have more reason than most to be grateful with two relatives recovering from the virus and the safe delivery of Rory.'*

## Rainfall figures: from one extreme to another

Rain fall for 2019: January: 23.7mm; February 62.1mm; March: 85.5mm

Rainfall for 2020: January: 87.9mm; February: 186mm; March 50mm

February 2020 was the wettest February on record. The wettest day was the 16th with 38.1mm. there were only 6 days with no rain. There have been only two months wetter than February 2020 since village records began in 2003 and these were November 2003 with 226.06mm and November 2009 with 232.41mm. And then look what happened in March!

**Jack Bessant**

## **Please don't forget the charities**

Income for charities, locally and nationally has crashed since the lockdown has begun. Fund raising events have had to be cancelled, charity shops shut, and communication with regular supporters has become more difficult. So, if you are able to do so, please donate to your favourite charities or those that are currently specific to coronavirus. I know that they would appreciate your help now more than ever.

## **Edwin Abbott Memorial Cottages Trust**

A two bedroomed cottage with a garden will shortly be available in Churt. Who qualifies to live in this Almshouses property? Applicants must have limited financial means and have connections to or within the vicinity of Churt. The Trust is registered by the Charity Commission and governed by local Trustees. Residents pay a monthly maintenance contribution, which is similar to rent but different in law and less than a commercial rate.

Anyone wishing to be considered for residency should apply in writing to the Trust Secretary:  
Mrs J Lyndsey-Clark, Bunker Cottage, Churt Road, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6HZ.

**Pam Hibbert**

## **A great time to litter pick?**

If the national news is to be believed, the population in lockdown is taking the opportunity to spring clean their houses and tidy their gardens. I guess that's probably true of most of you reading this. Well, here's a thought. Can we extend that urge to spring clean to our own lanes and countryside by collecting litter as we go around on our daily walks?

You must, absolutely must, protect your own safety by wearing gloves; and take a bag with you to collect up the litter you spot. And ideally sort it into recyclables and rubbish when you get home. And I should make clear that I am not advocating a group litter pick of any kind. Social distancing must always be observed. But if you are on your own or in 'allowable' family groups this seems the perfect opportunity to make our villages and countryside as pristine as our homes and gardens are turning out to be.

And whilst you are about it, please keep an eye out for fly tipping. There is a significant increase in fly tipping incidents thought to be related to councils shutting down civic amenity sites. For example, a friend has observed (and reported to East Hampshire District Council) a case of fly tipping on Dockenfield Street in an entrance to Alice Holt Forest a couple of days ago.

## **Useful ideas and information**

- Jeremy Hunt MP has set up a very informative, non-political, daily email newsletter called 'Daily Coronavirus Update'. You can subscribe (free) to this by emailing Jeremy Hunt: [office@swsca.co.uk](mailto:office@swsca.co.uk)
- Do please sign up to the Emergency Email List that communicates important and urgent information to residents. To add your name just email Jessica Hobday at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk).
- 'Heads Together' is a campaign co-ordinated by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in partnership with eight mental health charities in the UK all of whom who are ready to give the support and guidance that might be needed through this challenging time; [www.headstogether.org.uk](http://www.headstogether.org.uk).
  - If anyone needs urgent help you can call the Samaritans at any time, 24/7. Tel No: 116 123. This number is free of charge, and you don't have to be suicidal to get in touch.
  - If you need immediate support, then text SHOUT to 85258 any time, day or night, and chat by text to share what is worrying you.
- The 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline telephone number is 0808 2000 248.

## **Never mind toilet rolls...**

Somewhat bizarrely, one of the first personifications of this crisis was panic buying of toilet rolls. That seems to have settled down, and now I'm told gaps on the shelves are appearing where hair colourant used to be. Why would that be, I wonder?

## Best of the funnies

What is it about the British personality that makes us seek solace in sometimes self-mocking humour? Right now, though it might be a bit of a saviour, as a favourite means of communicating whilst on lockdown has been the exchange of ‘funnies’ on WhatsApp and Facebook. Many of them are pretty rude of course which (sadly) means I can’t repeat them in a family Newsletter; but here are some of the best polite ones:

*‘I have given up drinking for a month’* Sorry, bad punctuation. *‘I have given up. Drinking for a month’*

My cat just asked me if I want the radio left on while he goes out!

Q: ‘What surprises you most about the coronavirus?’

A: ‘It has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel all sports, shut down all bars and kept men at home’

Sign on a white van parked in the street: ‘No toilet rolls are kept in this van overnight’

Alongside an estate agent’s floor plan of the inside of a house are the words: ‘Looking at the map for some weekend travel ideas’

‘Never in my whole life did I imagine that my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth’

‘I’m so bored I went outside to knock on my own door, then came back inside and said *‘Who is it?’*”

Quarantine Survival Tip Number 463. Empty your glass bottles into the recycle bin at 8pm on a Thursday so the NHS clapping drowns out the sound of your household’s descent into alcoholism (*oddly this timing exactly coincides with the need to put our bins out for Friday morning collection*).

## The Dawn Chorus

Spring is such a joy after the rigours of a grey, wet winter, and this year it can be particularly consoling, when Covid-19 is causing global havoc. Since we have been largely confined to our homes and road and air traffic has been restricted we have been able to savour quietness. We may be more aware of the dawn chorus, always a special joy in April and May. In early April the birds strike up at about 5 a.m., and as the days lengthen they begin even earlier. The blackbirds, thrushes and robins start the overture. Then the wrens, finches, tits, and dunnocks join in. Perhaps a cuckoo begins calling. Woodpeckers begin their drumming. Chiff-chaffs call repeatedly. Gradually the dawn chorus becomes a symphony. What a start to the day.

However, the dawn chorus is not for our benefit! Most singing birds are males, which sing to advertise their presence, and to establish a territory, attract a mate, and warn off potential rivals. During the dawn chorus males sing longer and more complex songs than the repetitive ones they use later to defend their territories. Females listen to each song and visit each territory before choosing a mate. They seem to prefer males with the most complex songs. A male’s song can be part of a courtship ritual or it can reaffirm a previous partnership. The dawn chorus may also allow birds to keep track of their rivals and to identify whether others have arrived or disappeared since yesterday, whether there is a new rival, or a newly vacant territory. Birds leave gaps in their songs to listen for replies and locate their rivals. Great tits and chaffinches have a wide repertoire of songs, which may convince rivals that there are more birds in the area and that all territory is taken.

Why do the birds strike up so early? Early morning is the most effective time to sing as the cold, damp air makes for a sharper sound which travels further than later in the day. Blackbirds and thrushes choose high perches from which to sing. Wrens and tits sing from one position and then move on to another. Dawn is not the best time for insect-eaters to feed, as most insects are inactive until the temperature rises. Blackbirds, thrushes and robins are the first to be active because worms, one of their foods of choice, are more easily found in the morning on top of damp ground. The early bird really does get the worm!

There is another possible reason for the birds to sing at dawn. Many females lay their eggs then. A female in mid-clutch will have several eggs inside her on any day. She will lay one egg in each 24-hour period, usually at dawn. As soon as she has laid her egg she is at her most fertile, and receptive to a male – and not just her mate. He therefore needs to make his presence heard early and loudly, to reinforce the partnership – or to try his chances with another female. Many birds, will mate outside their pair relationships, given the chance.

An alpha male finds a mate early in the season and the pair may rear one, two or even three broods during the summer. As the birds settle into pairs and all the females and the territories are claimed, the dawn chorus gradually fades. A softer dusk chorus – evensong – may continue. Once the mating season finishes, so does the morning chorus, and by late June it has usually come to an end.

**Val Lewis**



**Rain clouds gather over a Dockenfield garden in spring; a rare occurrence in recent weeks**

## **Cuckoo Clock 2020**

### **The story so far.....**

In 2019 the first report of a cuckoo was on 6 April but this year the first time it has been heard was four days later. Perhaps the cuckoo knew this wasn't a great time to be dropping by? DNL has had far fewer cuckoo reports this year, maybe because of the circumstances and because this DNL is coming out hot on the heels of the last one, leaving little time for reporting? So, this is the cuckoo clock for 2020, but only so far.....

**10 April:** The first cuckoo of the season is heard at 9.15am over Bealeswood Common by Jack and Marjorie Bessant. Later that same day, at about 4pm, Mark Rosling also hears it near Sandy Lane.

**12 April:** Easter Sunday: Yvette Cutting reports hearing the cuckoo at 6.45am near Manor Farm, adding '*that's something to lift the spirits (apart from gin!)*'.

**14 April:** At 9.15am Alison Bosence hears it for the first time, up towards Abbots Woods.

**15 April:** Rev'd Jane Walker heard the cuckoo this morning when out walking the dogs in Frensham.

**16 April:** Steve Luckett of Bealeswood Lane is a volunteer at RSPB Farnham Heath and he heard the cuckoo when patrolling near the Rural Life Centre

### **Please keep listening out for the cuckoo**

So *please* continue to send in news when you first hear that iconic sound and I will publish an updated Cuckoo Clock in the next edition. Neither Debbie nor I have heard the cuckoo yet, and hope to do so before too long.

Moreover, DNL has been contacted by the Binsted Eco Network (BEN), asking for DNL to share our cuckoo and other wildlife sightings and info with them. BEN was formed back in February by a few local friends with the aim of helping our community to live lighter on the planet. It's an information network to encourage people in the area in and around Binsted to support the environment and to get involved in positive environmental actions, from choosing to refuse single-use plastic, to encouraging wildlife. As part of this, Alison Melvin of Frith End is producing a fortnightly newsletter (you can take a look at previous editions here: <https://us4.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=05777c727be6f137449c3e6ee&id=da7eb3303e>, to get an idea of what it's covering) and wants DNL's cuckoo clock to include in that.

Alison incidentally bucked the trend and heard the cuckoo early on 23 March, in Frith End.

## Gardening

**Virtual Spring Flower Show.** This is now live for everyone to view on the Hort and Prod website. Just go to [fdhs.org.uk](http://fdhs.org.uk) and click on "Virtual Spring Show 2020" on the menu on the right and enjoy pictures of all the flowers, foliage and veg that people have been growing in the village this spring.

**Vegetable plants for sale.** Although there will be no plant stall at D Day, I shall still be growing my normal range of veg plants for sale with proceeds split between The Vine Centre (Covid-19 Support Centre) and the Hort and Prod. Details will be in the Frensham Parish Magazine (May issue), or email me for a list of what's available for sale and how it will be organised safely.

## Frensham and Dockenfield

**Horticultural Society.** Other activities postponed until further notice.

**Dan Bosence** ([dwjbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwjbosence@btinternet.com))  
**Tel: 792442**

## Virtual Men's Night

*In the 11 years that Men's Night has been running in Dockenfield we have not let snow, rain, sports fixtures or general elections deviate us from meeting on the second Thursday of the month. The only exception was in February last year when we postponed Men's Night by one week because it clashed with Valentine's Day! Sadly, under current circumstances we can't meet at the Bluebell as usual, but we are not going to let COVID 19 spoil the fun'. The words of Mark Rosling, the founder of Men's Night ushering in a temporary new era of Virtual Men's Nights.*

The virtual plan was in fact the brainchild of one of the regulars at Men's Night, Sebastian Fox, who set the first session in motion on Thursday 9 April, carefully timed at 8.05pm, after the 8pm clap for the carers. The eleven attendees very much entered into the spirit of the moment, beer in hand and food or snacks to enjoy. And there was great imagination shown. Phil Nangle set himself up in a local field with a hamburger cooking on a camp fire, whilst Morgan Evans managed to set a backdrop of the inside of the Bluebell itself. It could never replace the real deal at the pub itself, but boy was it great to see everyone again and share a beer and a chat.

In the event that the pub is still closed, the next Virtual Men's Night will be on Zoom on **Thursday 14 May**, starting at 8.05pm. Details from Mark ([markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com)) or Seb ([sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk)). Gentlemen, join us if you can.

## Cooking the books?

Debbie was in the kitchen doing some cooking whilst I was doing some financial admin by studying a maturity notice for our FRISAs (Fixed Rate Individual Savings Accounts) of which we had one each. She came into see me, and I said 'You know our two FRISAs?' And she replied, 'Yes: one in the utility and an old one in the garage we use for our home-grown fruit'.

## Frensham and Dockenfield History Group

We managed to hold our March meeting just before the Coronavirus shutdown came into force. We do not envisage another meeting until September at the earliest when our subject will be Curios of West Sussex with one of our favourite speakers, Alan Copeland who will be returning after many successful visits! All members who can be contacted by email will receive notification nearer the date, 8 September.

**Chris Bonner**

## Frensham RBL Bowls Club

Our website is updated regularly and everything was in place for another hectic season. Unfortunately, all games on our 2020 fixture card have been cancelled until further notice. Members should check the website regularly for up to date information. The green is looking good as usual, thanks to the continued hard work of Club Green-skeeper, Bert Pharo and his helpers who will carry out minimal maintenance whilst current restrictions exist.

**Chris Bonner**



**Cats contemplating another day in lockdown?**

## Poets Corner

*Suddenly, and delightfully, DNL has three poems submitted for this edition, which I hope you will enjoy reading. In order of appearance they have been sent in by Mayonne Coldicott, Eunice King and Fiona Payne.*

### Smile

Smiling is infectious  
You can catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner  
And someone saw me grin  
When he smiled I realised  
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile  
And then realised its worth  
A single smile like mine  
Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin  
Don't leave it undetected  
Start an epidemic  
And get the world infected.

**Spike Milligan**

### St George

St George was out walking  
He met a dragon on a hill,  
It was wise and wonderful  
Too glorious to kill

It slept amongst the wild thyme  
Where the oxlips and violets grow  
Its skin was a luminous fire  
That made the English landscape glow

Its tears were England's crystal rivers  
Its breath the mist on England's moors  
Its larder was England's orchards,  
Its house was without doors

St George was in awe of it  
It was a thing apart  
He hid the sleeping dragon  
Inside every English heart

So on this day let's celebrate  
England's valleys full of light,  
The green fire of the landscape  
Lakes shivering with delight

Let's celebrate St George's Day  
The dragon in repose  
The brilliant lark ascending,  
The yew, the oak, the rose

**Brian Patten**

### Let's all drink to Lockdown

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this bloody virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

**Jan Beaumont**

## DNL's very own Local Quiz

*With the lockdown, the popularity of online quizzes has grown massively. So DNL thought it would be fun to create its very own quiz, with entirely local questions. There are no prizes; you don't need to email your answers to me, or take any action. It's just a bit of fun to test (and maybe improve) your knowledge of the area in which you live. Answers will appear in the next edition.*

1. How many thoroughfares with the title of 'Lane' are there in and around Dockenfield? For the purposes of this question only take the 'boundaries' as Pitt Farm, Mellow Farm, Grooms Farm, the A325 and West End House.
2. If you travel east from Dockenfield, past Pitt Farm and the water meadows, before you reach Shortfield Common you will go up a short sharp hill. What is the name of that hill?
3. According to the annals of Waverley Abbey, in what year was St Mary's Church dedicated? Was it 1143, 1207 or 1239?
4. There is bridleway that runs from Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield to approximately The Mill House at Frensham that is commonly known as 'the coffin route' on account of its original purpose. But what is its formal name?
5. What was the original use of the building that now forms the oldest part of St Mary's School?
6. What were the two principal natural features that made the area in and around Alice Holt Forest attractive to the Romans?
7. In what year was Frensham Village Shop declared formally opened in its current premises?
8. And which two famous personalities were present at the opening ceremony?
9. The copper cauldron that has been inside St Mary's Church since 1538 is known as 'Mother Ludlam's Cauldron'. Legend has it that it originally was the property of a friendly old white witch called Mother Ludlam who lived in a cave bearing her name. Where is that cave?
10. The area from the top of Bower Hill to approximately the Bluebell pub in Dockenfield is known as Batts Corner. How did it get that name?
11. Why were the Frensham Ponds originally dug?
12. When did the Church of the Good Shepherd celebrate its centenary?
13. What were the oast houses in the Parish formerly used for?
14. How many people lived in Dockenfield at the time of the 2001 census? Was it 378, 421 or 457?
15. Waverley Abbey was founded in 1128 by what order of Monks?
16. In which year(s) did a) Robin and Lucy Catchpole become landlords of the Bluebell and b) David and Sally Lee become landlords of the Holly Bush?
17. What event in the village led to the launch of Dockenfield Newsletter over 35 years ago?
18. In which year was the first Dockenfield Parish Council meeting held? Was it 1894, 1921 or 1933?
19. In which year did the ceremony to bless the newly constructed Church Hall extension to St Mary's take place?
20. Millbridge Court situated on the A287 in Frensham is an upmarket wedding and private function venue. Prior to that, for a few years it ran as the 'Bridge at Pierrepont' serving coffee and light snacks. What was the name of the pub that the Bridge replaced?

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