

# DNL Dockenfield *newsletter*

**News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Issue 280**

**Published 6 July 2020**



**'Somewhere over the rainbow' and 'Mummy love'. These two beautiful photographs taken around Old Lane by Ronnie Bennett**

## **Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?**

If anyone had predicted, as we celebrated New Year's Eve just 6 months ago, that this is how our lives would unfold during 2020, you would have had them carted off in a padded van. And yet here we are, as the opening lines of Queen's iconic song imply, stuck half way between our real lives and an unwelcome fantasy.

Reduced into lockdown, we took to celebrating the small things; the everyday moments that hitherto we would have taken for granted. A chance meeting with friends on our daily exercise; a take away beef burger from the pub; a family phone call. As people shrank back into themselves and their reduced boundaries, these stood out as memorable moments in an otherwise barren social life. As the second phase of easing has begun, and life has a smidgeon of normality about it, perhaps we should remember those small things and continue to treasure them.

Down the years, DNL has existed as a voice for the village, a noticeboard of events to look forward to and enjoy. Of necessity, recent editions have been either reduced 'emergency' issues or their appearance has been more spasmodic than usual because quite simply there has been less to report. Now with the return of the Bluebell, the Holly Bush, the British Legion, the Brewery and Frensham Pond Hotel, in DNL's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday edition there is at last some good news to tell you about. Let's hope there will be more to report in future editions. In the meantime, please continue to take care.

**Michael**

## **Something old, something new**

The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted a name change on the front cover. After 40 years of the masthead announcing 'Dockenfield Newsletter', with this edition it has changed to simply 'DNL' with the Newsletter bit as a subhead. So a (slightly) new look as a birthday present!

The reason is twofold. Firstly, these days everyone calls it DNL anyway, for brevity. And now there are very nearly as many readers outside Dockenfield as there are in the village. I hope you will be happy to know that the rest of DNL is un-changed, with all the ingredients you know and (I hope) love.



## Clapping for the carers

As the lockdown continued, so the weekly ‘clap for the carers’ became a Thursday fixture across the nation. In Dockenfield residents came out in strength, and with some lovely, and sometimes lively, variations on the theme.

In Green Lane, Penny Heath and Karen Wane added a touch of true classical class to the proceedings as this picture by Guy Jackson shows. Elsewhere sounds echoed around the village, and not just from residents putting their hands together in all four corners of the village. There were wooden spoons on saucepans; a school bell and even a set of bongo drums.

Meanwhile, at Great Holt, Thursday nights were seriously noisy during lockdown as residents expressed their gratitude to the NHS, as demonstrated by this composite picture of many of the residents put together by Anne Tutt.

In everyone one’s minds of course were not only the key workers, but also the many others who have been helping the world keep turning during the crisis.

I am thinking here of our wonderful bin men; John the postie; Michael the milkman; Lucy and Robin and the Bluebell takeaway team; everyone at the Village Shop; the Parish Magazine; Parish Friends and all the other lovely people who have volunteered to help and have been quietly caring for their friends and neighbours

Thank you to all of them from all of us.

## Spot the difference!

Pictured below right, a typical Dockenfield Day; and Dockenfield Day this year, Saturday 6 June 2020. One other thing: it is some many years since it rained on ‘D Day’, but this year it did! Not massively, but a little at opening time and heavier towards what would have been the close of the fete. Hopefully that means it will be dry for next year.

## Historic Garden Open in Frensham

### Raising Funds for St Mary’s Church

Visit a beautiful Frensham garden of historical interest and raise some very much-needed funds for St Mary’s Church.

Ann Fisk was very concerned to hear that St Mary’s has lost most of its regular income through weekly services, weddings and much more since coronavirus caused the closure of the church doors. She has kindly offered to help redress some of the financial difficulty by opening her large garden for people to walk around and relax in, on Thursday mornings 10am to 12 midday or afternoons 2pm to 4pm. £5 per person and bookable in advance to keep numbers safe and within current guidelines.

The property was originally owned by the Guinness family, who also owned Pierrepont and still has the building in the garden that was the first school in Frensham. There are 5 areas for two people to sit and enjoy coffee/tea as well (but please BYO!). For further details or to book your morning or afternoon phone **Morag James** on 01252 793133.



## **Reopening of the pubs, clubs and hotels as lockdown eases**

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

We were delighted to open on Saturday and Sunday 4/5 July for both food and drink

To start with it will be bookings only (even if you don't plan to eat) to allow us to be in control of customer numbers and to do things in the safest way possible. Bookings can be made over the phone 01252 792801, but email is preferable [bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com](mailto:bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com) or through our website <https://bluebell-dockenfield.com/>.

We will have a reduced menu whilst we adjust to a new way of doing things. Our hours will also be reduced and we will be closed on a Monday and Tuesday. Then we will be open Wednesday 12-3pm (food 12-2.30pm) and 5.30-10pm (food 6-9pm), Thursday 12-3pm (food 12-2.30pm) and 5.30-10pm (food 6-9pm), Friday 12-3pm (food 12-2.30pm) and 5.30-10pm (food 6-9pm), Saturday 12-10pm (food 12-9pm) and Sunday 12-8pm (food 12-4pm).

Our takeaways will still be available on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday by pre-order only *before* 3pm on Thursday. Orders can be emailed either direct to the pub or via our website. Once we find our feet, we hope to be able to run a takeaway service alongside our opening hours.

On the subject of takeaways, we want to say a huge thank you to all of you who have supported us and given words of encouragement and kindness and made us feel like you are well and truly behind us. We would love to say let's have a massive party to celebrate but that may be a while yet!

Wishing everyone health and happiness and crossing everything that we can all start to move forward.

**Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell Team xxx**

**The Holly Bush, Frensham** (Tel: 01252 447060 [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk))

The Holly Bush reopened last Saturday 4 July, at 9.30am. If you want to book a table or need any information as to opening hours and social distancing arrangements please call them on the number above.

**Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch** (Tel: 01252 793014, [www.frenshamrbl.org.uk](http://www.frenshamrbl.org.uk))

At long last, the Club has reopened, two days ago, on Saturday 4 July. The Committee have been making plans for this for some time and have obtained the necessary items such as screens, hand sanitiser and stickers to mark out social distancing arrangements, as well as plastic wipe-down chairs and tables. Entry is at the side door (with the concrete ramp) and you will be asked to sign in, in accordance with Government recommendations. A contactless card machine has now been installed, so please come prepared to use this method of payment to minimise infection risks.

Full details on revised opening hours and guidance as to how the club and bar will be operating, so members can enjoy a long-awaited drink at the club whilst maintaining social distancing, are on our website: [www.frenshamrbl.org.uk](http://www.frenshamrbl.org.uk).

We hope all members and your families are well and we are so pleased that we are now able to socialise together again, even if it is from a distance! We are so looking forward to seeing you at the Club.

The commemorative rose bed is slowly coming into bloom, even after some of the roses were chewed by deer earlier this year. We have planted four additional roses and we have added an edging of marigolds, grown by Barry Byng.

**Janet Caiger and Jo Gayton**

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

The Brewery reopened the Terrace in line with the current regulations from 4 July.

**Terrace regular opening hours:** Friday and Saturday 12 - 6pm, Sunday 12 - 4pm plus special events (when allowed). Our own brewed beers are available to takeaway or to drink on the Terrace. (Other drinks are available too, wine/prosecco/cider/spirits/soft drinks.)

**Joe Wood**

**The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa** (Tel: 01252 795161, [www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk](http://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk))

The hotel re-opened for business on the 4 July. They are now taking bookings either on the terrace or the Watermark restaurant for lunch, dinner and afternoon tea. Please note that it is mandatory to make a booking to reserve a table space.

## **Keeping love alive in lockdown**

Did you hear about the couple who arranged 'date nights' once a week at home to help keep their love burning bright during lockdown? And the name they gave to those date nights? '*Oh, you again.*'

## Parish Council News

All Parish Council meetings are being held via video-conference meetings (Zoom) at present due to COVID-19 restrictions. This will continue until safe to resume meetings in a public place.

If any residents wish to speak at a meeting there is a slot in the agenda. The agenda can be found on the Parish Council Website a week before the meeting. [www.dockenfieldpdc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpdc.org.uk). Alternatively for any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact the clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

**Meeting Dates:** Tuesday **16 June** 8pm via Zoom; Tuesday **21 July** 8pm via Zoom; August no meeting; Tuesday **15 September** 8pm via Zoom.

**Chairman:** After 25 years Jill Trout has stood down as Chairman of the Parish Council. Jill is staying on as a Parish Councilor where her deep experience will continue to be invaluable. Jill started her involvement with the Parish Council as a clerk in the 1980s; she first became a Parish Councilor in 1989. Jill started her chairmanship on Friday 26 May 1995 taking over from Norman Taylor – an extraordinary track record of service to the village. The Parish Council would like to thank Jill for her dedicated service and continued commitment to the village.

Dockenfield Parish Council welcomes their new Chairman Paul Wood. Paul has been a Councilor for DPC since 2007. Paul and his wife Catherine have lived in Dockenfield for 20 years and prior to that in Frensham for 7 years; their son Ben is a PhD student at university. Paul had a long career with a global bank in technology and is now a semi-retired technology consultant. Paul is interested in horticulture, hiking, listening to Pink Floyd and is passionate about the beautiful place where we live.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** Dockenfield Parish Council is due to receive some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money this financial year – the CIL is a charge levied by local authorities on new development in their area, the intent being to help deliver the infrastructure needed to support their area. The money must be spent on capital expenditure not operational/maintenance expenses. The Parish Council is interested in views from residents on how the CIL money can best be used to improve the village. Please contact the clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk with your ideas.

**Proposed Incinerator near Alton:** Residents should be aware of a proposal to build an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF), commonly known as an incinerator, at the Veolia site on the south side of the A31 between Bentley and Alton. The proposal replaces the current Mixed Recycling Facility (MRF) with an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) capable of incinerating 330,000 tonnes per year of waste that cannot be recycled and converting the energy into electricity sufficient to power 75,000 homes. Information on the proposed ERF is available at: <https://www.veolia.co.uk/alton/proposals>. The proposals have already met local opposition with the “No Wey Incinerator” campaign group: <https://www.noweyincinerator.com/>. The Parish Council will be monitoring developments and, as and when a formal planning application is submitted, will review in detail. In the meantime, we encourage residents to become aware of the proposals and issues associated with the disposal of the waste we produce that cannot be recycled or reused.

**Paul Wood and Jessica Hobday** (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

## A message from Jill Trout

*As you can see (left), Jill Trout has stood down after 25 years as Chairman of Dockenfield Parish Council. She has asked DNL to include the following poem she has written following her retirement.*

### Achievements!

With 1982 came Green Belt Strategy,  
Recommendation for AONB case,  
38 years shows no legacy  
When will Natural England grant our place?

Now Centre Parcs in Alice Holt forest  
Taking time and money to address,  
Followed promptly by a tented village,  
In the arboretum no less!

A Sandpit near the Convent,  
Cross County work again  
On its back a fly ash tip  
With promise of toxic rain.

The tranquil little village  
Not a square mile in size,  
So many threats to overcome  
When money is the prize.

So planning is not a small thing,  
Nor traffic, paths and roads.  
But Christmas carols we still all sing  
Enjoying our abode.

Too many others to mention,  
Village land and pond afore,  
Protecting this scrap of England  
To enjoy for ever more.

**Jill Trout, June 2020**

## Tasks completed!

Three long overdue tasks had been unfulfilled for in some cases over a year. These were miraculously achieved within a week:

1. First came the ditch on the forest edge at Batt's Corner. Many thanks to Forest England for this.
2. Secondly, the gas leak that had been apparent on Dockenfield Road at the end of Batt's Corner has been fixed by a very efficient team who even spread grass seed on the verge, which despite lack of rain is growing splendidly.
3. Thirdly, Batt's Corner is well on the way to getting fibre Broadband, thanks to the hard work and tenacity of Olly Cruickshank.

Some good has come along during lockdown.

**Jill Trout**

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

### **Win a £50 voucher to spend at the Bluebell**

DNL's quest for the couple in the village who have been married the longest has, like so much else, been interrupted by Coronavirus and the lockdown. But now, with things easing a little, I would like to put out a last call for any couple to put their names forward.

And now DNL can announce that the couple who have been married the longest will be rewarded with a £50 voucher to spend at the Bluebell (when circumstances permit, of course). This offer I think tells you a lot about the thoughtfulness of Robin and Lucy Catchpole. With all the difficulties they face as a consequence of the lockdown, they still have the generosity of spirit to think of the village in this way.

So please, if you live in Dockenfield (as defined by whether you receive a hard copy of DNL through your door) and have been married more than 50 years do send me your names and date and perhaps place of your marriage. Do this even if you are certain that there are others who have been married longer than you, as DNL will publish a 'Role of Honour' of all couples who have reached that romantic milestone.

Send details to [michael.foster66@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.foster66@btinternet.com). Last entries please by 14 August.

## **Village Flag**

We have some entries for the design of the new village flag, but we would love to have a few more. So please put your thinking caps on. Here's what we are looking for:

- 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 or deliver (by arrangement) to: [thetROUTS@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thetROUTS@hotmail.co.uk)
- This is open to all, both adults and children, who live or have lived in the village.
- This will be flown in conjunction with the Union Flag and be the same (large) size.
- Judges: to be decided. Deadline: 30 August. So plenty of time to perfect your submission

Thank you.

**Jill Trout**

## **Men's Night.....**

After three very successful virtual Men's Nights, the hope is that the easing of lockdown will enable the next one to return to the Bluebell. The next dates are this coming Thursday 9 July from 8pm and then Thursday 13 August. Because we live in uncertain and changing times it is probably best to await final confirmation from **Mark Rosling** along with arrangements that ensure government guidelines are adhered to. To be sure you hear from him, please check you are on the Men's Night mailing list: [markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com)

## **.....and Ladies Night**

Because of these strange times there is no fixed date at the moment so again probably the best thing to do is to await news from **Nicola Hames** who will tell everyone via her email distribution list. To get on that reminder list just email [nicolabb@gmail.com](mailto:nicolabb@gmail.com)

## **DNL edition 279**

The last edition of DNL (edition 279) was distributed entirely by email in order to protect our distributors during the Coronavirus crisis. This of course was tricky as no complete list of residents' email addresses exists, and indeed some do not have email at all. Whilst we did our very best to distribute it fully, it is possible that some of you never received a copy. If you were one of those and would like to receive one, please email me: [michael.foster66@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.foster66@btinternet.com).

I also know some residents like to keep hard copies of every DNL. If so, and you would like a colour printed copy of 279, let me know and I will arrange it provided you can collect from Farm Cottage. This applies whether you got an email edition or not. Please let me know by 10 August as I will have to order a special, one-off print run.

## **New WBC Ranger for Dockenfield**

Darren Hills the dedicated WBC Ranger for Bealeswood for a number of years, has been moved to another area. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication to Bealeswood and the Abbott's Cottages area. He was an extremely easy person to work and communicate with and we will definitely miss him.

However, as luck would have it Dockenfield has been allocated Vicky Keller, our previous Ranger. When she was with us before, Vicky also carried out enthusiastic work and management of the Common so we are more than fortunate to have her back. So welcome Vicky.

No doubt in the future we will be having the promised working party on the common once Corvid 19 regulations allow, I will liaise with Vicky and provide updates.

**Jill Trout**

## **News on the Northbrook Park development**

Good news came on 12 June when that East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) announced that it had taken Northbrook Park (*just off the A31, between Bentley and Farnham*) out of their draft Local Plan as a major housing development site. Northbrook Park lies along the A31 between Farnham and Bentley. It was in January 2019 that EHDC published their draft plan for consultation which included Northbrook as one of two favoured new major development sites. CPRE Surrey and the Alice Holt Community Forum among many others opposed the proposal on the grounds that the plans failed to take into account the flood risk in the Wey valley and the sensitivity of the site environmentally and aesthetically.

The strength of opposition to Northbrook from local residents/local communities, including the Bentley Action Group, and the quality of the planning arguments led to EHDC undertaking a second consultation on the Local plan in October 2019 looking at 10 possible major development sites (including Northbrook). On 12 June EHDC announced following their Major Site Consultation which closed in October that they would be including only Whitehill & Bordon (1,300 houses) in the draft Local Plan, which they hope to adopt within the next 12 months.

It is not all over yet, however. EHDC also announced that they intend to continue to search for a second major development site in the A31 corridor, which means that all seven sites under review (including Northbrook) remain in play, but that any decision would be for a future Local Plan exercise, probably in 4-6 years. We will need to remain vigilant as EHDC is clearly determined to put a major new development site somewhere along the A31 corridor.

**Colin Hall, Campaign for Rural England, Surrey**

## **Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity needs your help**

We are appealing for help as the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity tries to survive this time of crisis, whilst supporting increasing numbers of people with dyslexia. The charity's income has been hit hard, with so much fundraising activity cancelled and our Centre closed for so long. Meanwhile demand for our services is higher than ever, with school closures having particularly left dyslexic children without support.

Adapting to home-schooling or working at home is particularly challenging for children and adults with dyslexia. It's equally challenging for parents who are trying to support their dyslexic children, while isolated at home. 1 in 10 of these parents are dyslexic themselves.

Our brilliant team have risen to the challenge of switching as much as possible to Zoom and Skype. We have given over 200 support sessions by video call every month during lockdown, to children and adults who are struggling with their dyslexia.

With charitable income reduced, we have had to put many of our staff on 'furlough leave' since the beginning of April and we have been managing with a skeleton team of staff. Despite re-opening our Centre in a reduced way earlier in June, allowing for social distancing, we are struggling to make ends meet.

If you are able to contribute in any way at all, we would be hugely grateful. You can donate through our website at [www.helenarkell.org.uk](http://www.helenarkell.org.uk) or pop something through our door at the bottom of Arkell Lane, Frensham GU10 3BL. Or by all means email me at [andyc@helenarkell.org.uk](mailto:andyc@helenarkell.org.uk)

Thank you so much!

**Andy Cook**

## **Parish Friends**

A brief note from me to say thank you once more to everyone who has contributed to helping the Dockenfield community, on our behalf, to cope with all the unexpected situations that Covid-19 has sent our way over so many weeks. It has been good to speak to a number of people I have not met but hopefully, as the easing of the lockdown continues, that will be put right at some point.

While life begins to move on for the majority in Dockenfield I am mindful that there are still a number of people here who remain shielding until 1 August. Please let me know if I, or any of the Parish Friends can help. It is possible for example, for regular helpers or neighbours for the shielding to have to return to work etc.

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

**Morag James Tel: 01252 793133**

## Please can you help us help Farnham Foodbank?

These are difficult times for those who can't afford sufficient food for themselves and their families. Because of the crisis, Farnham Foodbank had to close its doors to both food donations and collections, relying instead on a network of collection points around the area, with volunteers then delivering emergency food parcels to those in need.

Since Dockenfield didn't have a collection point, we decided to start one on 7 May. In the eight weeks since then, thanks to the generosity of residents, we have collected a fantastic total of 721 items of food. So first of all, a huge thank you to everyone who has donated so generously. Some people have given us money and asked to purchase the most needed items when we do our weekly shop, which we are happy to do. Often food donations are left anonymously in our porch; but please don't feel embarrassed to tell us it was you as that gives us the chance to thank you personally if we can.

But this isn't a one-off problem.....it will still be there in the months ahead and so we would like to ask you all to continue to donate items as and when you are able so that we can keep these valuable supplies going. No matter what quantity, '*every little helps*' as the famous ad reminds us. So, wherever you may live, if you are able to help, please leave any contributions on the table in our (open) front porch at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield GU10 4HS. We will be sure to check the porch at least twice a day and take food in for safe storage until we deliver each Sunday afternoon.

One thing that is working really well is having Heather Britton act as a 'satellite' collector for us at Great Holt. The donations from there have been wonderfully generous and so a big thank you to everyone there and to Heather for being such a star. If anyone else in the village feels able start a similar arrangement elsewhere in the village, then do please let us know.

Any non-perishable items are welcome, although we understand that they have an excess of tinned pulses. Do please make sure that everything is in code.

There are lots of people in need in and around Farnham right now, so thank you so much for any help you may be able to give. The more we get for the Foodbank the better.

**Michael and Debbie Foster**

## Open spaces in Dockenfield

The Open Spaces Group has been formalised and will work closely with the Parish Council.

The village is fortunate enough to own Fritz's Field (at the corner of The Street and High Thicket), The Parish Field (at Abbott's Cottages) and, shortly, Hatch Pond (on the right as you leave the village, heading east towards Frensham). Management Plans are in the process/or have been written and the Group, headed by Jill Trout together with Dan Bosence, Steve Luckett, Roger Trout, Ian McLean and Nathalie Griffiths, will consider options and implement. Considering social distancing it is useful to have six people at present.

There is a wealth of environmental, ecological, butterfly, bird, mammal, plant and other knowledge in the village which we also hope to harness together with the usual Dockenfield enthusiasm.

**Jill Trout**

## Thank you for saying 'Thank You'

People are often very kind about DNL, saying how much they enjoy reading it. But with the last couple of 'special' editions I have been overwhelmed with readers telling me what a fillip it has been during these difficult lockdown months. In fact, some 40 or so of you have been in touch. It takes an age to produce each edition, so I can't tell you how much I appreciate you getting in touch like that. It makes it all worthwhile. Thank you.

## Fifty Shades of Grey

Jane Pearson, DNL's 'Overseas Correspondent' writes the most delicious emails, and I simply can't resist including this excerpt from one of her latest, commenting on some of the unforeseen consequences of lockdown.

*'We're all out manicuring our gardens to perfection in this glorious weather; casual is the order of the day and we happily drift around in sloppy clothes, though most of us now look like Robinson Crusoe on a bad hair day, and worse, many are sporting fifty shades of grey which is a terrible giveaway.'*

## DNL in the news

Jeremy Hunt, the MP for S W Surrey, has been writing a daily coronavirus update, which he emails round to constituents who have requested a copy. As part of that, he called DNL to see how our village was getting along during the lockdown and we chatted about the many volunteers we have been fortunate enough to have, and initiatives that have taken place enabling things like Men's Night, Pilates and the WI and much else besides to continue to take place, albeit on a virtual basis. As a result, Dockenfield got a mention in one of his updates and, through that, into the Farnham Herald.

## No excuses

Quarantine put an end to the time-honoured way of finishing a boring telephone call with the words, 'Sorry got to rush, I'm due out.'

## **News from Frensham Village Shop**

**Hello everyone,** it's been a great few months of learning at the Frensham Village Shop, having gone from "business as usual" up until March then into a complete overhaul of how the shop operates since then. Our home delivery service has been a great success, and we have completed over 650 deliveries now, which is incredible considering we had never planned to start this before the lockdown began! A huge thanks to Martin Beer for organising this and to all the volunteers who have come into the shop to take orders, pack them and deliver them in a safe way.

We have also had to review how the shop itself works, and those of you who have been in will have noticed the new screens, floor markings and 2 customer limit to ensure social distancing. We have been grateful for the support of the local community in the last few months and have been delighted to play a greater role as well.

Moreover, we have not only maintained most of the products we stocked before and are now back to normal in most areas, but added some new suppliers, such as MUD Pies & Squiches, Hattingley Still Rosé, Loseley Bakery and Longeley Farm. Our fruit and veg deliveries have been a real highlight as well and are well worth checking out. Everyone has their own favourites, but for me the King Prawn Goan Curry from Sprinkle of Saffron is hard to beat!

As we move into the next phase of lockdown and what that means for the country, we will make some changes to how we operate. **From 6 July** we will return to our normal opening hours of 0830-1900 Monday to Friday, 0830-1700 Saturday and 0900-1100 Sunday and Bank Holidays. We will also bring the Home Delivery service to a close but will offer a "Phone and Collect" service, so please contact the shop if you want to use this.

The sense of community and helping those nearest to us has been a real highlight of the lockdown period for most, and we are proud of the role we can play in this for Frensham, Dockenfield and the surrounding area.

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)    01252 795240

## **A really wet February somersaults into the sunniest May on record**

May was the sunniest calendar month on record, and spring was the sunniest spring, the Met Office has said. The UK enjoyed 266 hours of sunshine in May - surpassing the previous record of 265 hours in June 1957. It was also the driest May in the south of England since records began in 1862.

And it is even more extraordinary this period of drought followed a drenching winter, with record rain in February. Meteorologists say they are amazed at the sudden switch from extreme wet to extreme dry, saying that quite simply '*it is not "British" weather*'.

The actual rainfall figures for the village supplied by **Jack Bessant** are:

**2019:** April: 29.1mm; May 38.1mm

**2020** April: 45.6mm; May 2020 0.6mm

May 2020 was the driest month since Dockenfield records began. The only day with rain was 1 May with 0.6mm.

## **Millbridge WI**

Millbridge WI haven't had a meeting since March, but we are still in contact; the committee have had two outdoor meetings with six members all social distancing. We have our own website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites. The Flower of the Month still happens but with photographs; the Book Group and Craft Group still hold monthly on line meetings; and 'Mill News' keeps everyone up to date.

**Diana Parrott**

## **An expensive birthday cake**

To celebrate my lockdown birthday, we bought a really rather yummy Waitrose chocolate cake, a slice to be consumed daily with a cup of tea or coffee! Half way through one afternoon's slice and there came a knock at our front door. After a short interlude, we returned to the kitchen to find the plate empty and one of our cats happily licking her lips.

Now chocolate can be lethal to cats and dogs, so a swift visit to the vets followed. As luck would have it, the visit came late on the Saturday of a Bank Holiday weekend. So probably double-time, double-time. In any event, we are thinking of contacting the Guinness Book of Records to nominate this as the most expensive slice of cake ever.

## **VE Celebrations in Batt's Corner - 8 May 2020**

It all started when I received a message from our lovely neighbour Meryl Evans who asked if Hannah would consider leading the singing that night. Hannah is currently suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum (severe pregnancy sickness) and wouldn't be able to commit as it all depended how she felt later on in the day.

Later that morning, Hugh Evans messaged everyone and invited them to sing along to a rendition of 'We'll Meet Again', after the Queen's speech at 9pm. With fingers crossed Hannah could lead the singing, but in any event to bring along a glass of wine for lubrication purposes.

Another announcement was made by Sue and Geoff Cooke later in the day, that they were spending the evening in their front garden and invited neighbours along to have a socially distanced drink or two, to bring a glass and join them over the gate.

Just before 9pm we all started to gather in the road, being social distanced and listened to the Queen. Following this and with Hannah's lead (as she was feeling well enough) and along with her husband James, who accompanied on his Sagbutt (A medieval instrument resembling the trombone) burst into glorious song and repeated several times over.

It was a brilliant night with great neighbours, an impromptu drinks and street 'party'; what a special memory of how we celebrated VE Day 2020.

**Katy Poulsom**

## **Meanwhile, in Abbotts Cottages**

Batt's Corner wasn't the only part of the village that celebrated VE Day, with many houses draped in Union Jacks. This picture of Diana and Harold's house in Abbotts Cottages is a good example.



*Picture (left) of 5 Abbotts Cottages taken by Diana Parratt and (right) of Glenroona taken by Guy Jackson*

## **News from your churches**

**Services in church** You may be aware that the Government has issued guidance on permitting services in church as from 4 July. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting further guidance from the Diocese of Guildford. We do not expect services to resume immediately as there will be a great deal of planning and organising to work through as well as a comprehensive risk assessment. At this stage we are looking at mid-August before we believe we will be ready to welcome people into the church for collective worship. We want to ensure that everybody is safe. We will be maintaining social distancing, hand sanitising and likely a temperature gun device along with other protocols. We anticipate holding short communion/meditative services in The Good Shepherd, leaving St Mary's open for individual prayer throughout the week. Do bear with us and keep checking back to the website at <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/services.htm> where we will post any updates. We are now permitted to hold small simple wedding services limited to 30 people in the church. Sadly, there is no singing at any services due to the high risk of spreading of the virus when projecting your voice.

**Re-opening of St Mary's** St Mary's is open daily for individual prayer between 8.30am to 5.30pm. We have introduced appropriate social distancing measures including a one-way system and restrictions on the pews that can be used. We have asked that a maximum of six people be in the church at any one time. Hand sanitizer will be at the crossing for use on entry and exit.

**Cont/**

**Re-opening of St Mary's (cont/)** The church will not be manned at all, in fact it will be open much like it was before but with certain areas off limits and with social distancing. It will be cleaned every evening in accordance with Church of England guidelines.

Please note that all services are still suspended probably until mid-August as indicated above and there are no church activities. The Good Shepherd remains closed. Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell or have any of the Covid 19 symptoms. Whilst Jane will be doing her daily office, please respect that these times are not for group prayers but rather for your own personal reflection and prayer. Everyone is welcome to come and light a candle and enjoy the tranquil surroundings of the church.

**Services on-line** Jane will be continuing to record services and they will be on YouTube by 10.30am every Sunday morning. You can view the video via the website at <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/services.htm>. (Go to this page and click on the service you want to watch – it will take you directly to the video on YouTube). We intend to continue with online recordings for some time to come and certainly beyond mid-August.

Jane was due to go on her sabbatical for three months at the end of June but has now decided to postpone it until 2022 in order to be with her flock during the lifting of the lockdown restrictions. We are grateful that she will be here with us during these difficult times.

**Face masks** Jill Wright is making masks for the local community from cotton fabric that is backed with PU-backed towelling. They are machine washable, easy to tie and nicely shaped for comfort and there is a choice of fabric design too (see below). They cost £5 and Jill is very generously donating all the proceeds to church funds. She has had orders for 187 masks so far and is working day and night to fulfil demand! We are so grateful to her for doing this for our community. If you would like to buy a mask, then please call Jill on 01252 790843.

**Fundraising** Like many businesses and shops around the country who have been closed, we have much reduced income as a result of our church closures. Many of you do contribute to our mission and upkeep of the churches via monthly direct debits/standing orders and we thank you for continuing to do this. However, for those of you who make donations in yellow and blue envelopes and in the collection plate, these are not possible at the moment. Our finances are looking quite bleak and if you are able, we would encourage you to make a donation. This can be done via the church website at <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/giving.htm> where you can make a donation securely online. Whatever you can give is hugely appreciated.

Please don't forget to do your shopping via **Easyfundraising**. We get a donation and it costs you nothing. So far, we have 25 supports but let's try to make it more (further information about this is on the Giving page of the website via the link above). Every little helps!

**Forum** The weekly Forum group is still meeting during the closure of church activities but are doing it online via Microsoft Teams. Jon Savage co-ordinates the programme which is interesting and diverse. We 'meet' every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. If you are interested in joining the group then do email Jon and he will send you an invitation – [comms@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:comms@frenshamchurches.org.uk). Take a look at the programme here <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/forumprogramme.htm>. You will see that we have lots of interesting evenings planned, from birds, to plants to YouTube! Everybody is welcome.

**Wildflower meadow** Finally, the wild flower meadow at The Good Shepherd is looking splendid at the moment. Do take a look when you are passing. According to our expert Dan Bosence, we had 27 different types of wild flower not counting the different grasses. One of the flowers was the common spotted orchid (see opposite) and a carpet of ox-eye daisies (see below). Amazing with no intervention from us, just letting Mother Nature do her thing!

With blessings.

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



# The Cuckoo Clock kept ticking

## 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? The 'first look' at DNL's annual Cuckoo Clock happened in the last DNL (279) which, because of the crisis came out hot on the heels of 278, leaving little time for reporting. Now though, I can present the complete Cuckoo Clock for 2020.

**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!)*'. And later that same day, at 10am, John and Emma Green heard a cuckoo in Cradle Lane on Easter Sunday at about 10am and a number of times locally in the following days.

**13 April** heard by David Millais at the southern end of the King's Ridge. Poignantly, David goes on to say, '*13 April was my late brother Andrew's birthday, and it is often the first day that I hear the cuckoo around here.*'

**14 April:** At 9.15am Alison Bosence hears it for the first time, up towards Abbots Woods. Meanwhile, Liz Glover from Shortfield Common first heard a cuckoo today at Wishanger.

**15 April:** Rev'd Jane Walker heard the cuckoo this morning when out walking the dogs in Frensham. And not far away, James Clarke heard one 'near the cow fields/drunken path adjacent to the Reeds Road on that side of the old Pierrepont School.'

**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. Clearly the cuckoo was in good voice that day as Jeff Powell heard it three times in quick succession in pretty much the same place. And pretty damn busy too by the sounds of it, as later that same day it was heard by Sally Rafferty at the junction of Old Lane and Heath Lane.

**18 April** Peter Fox and his son John a cuckoo near to Abbott's Woods at 3.15pm.

**19 April:** Lynn Francis emails to say: '*I was up before dawn on Sunday doing a dawn chorus walk (all alone!). At about 6am I was walking over Broxhead Common and heard my first cuckoo. It was some way away but it was lovely to hear it.*'

**20 April:** Another busy day for our local cuckoo! Maureen Stone hears it at 7.30 by Dockenfield Street; moment later at 7.45, Jill Trout at Batt's Corner, followed close by Philippa Hall in West End Lane when out feeding the chickens at 9.15am.

**21 April:** And Ronnie Bennett is enjoying the beautiful weather, working in her garden at Manor Farm Mews, Old Lane and hears the cuckoo for the first time....and not far away, Helena Fox hears a cuckoo as she walks along the footpath between Abbots Cottages and Old Lane.

**22 April:** At last! I was beginning to get a bit complex, but at last I (Michael) hear our first cuckoo, in an almost identical location to Helena yesterday.

**23 April** (St George's Day): and Debbie now hears the cuckoo calling from Jeffry's Copse as she is sitting in our vegetable garden repairing the bird netting! In fact, the cuckoo near us has become very vociferous today!

**24 April:** And this is really pleasing! Emma Green, having heard the cuckoo near Cradle Lane on 12 April (see above) now emails to say, '*We had to let you know that today we actually saw 'our' cuckoo. It's the first time I have ever seen one. We heard it from the house, to then see it fly straight to the tree in front of the house and calling 'cuckoo' before flying off. What a treat!*' Last year we had a few reports of sightings but this is the first of 2020 and very good news. Thanks, Emma.



**25 April:** And word from Joe Wood at Frensham Brewery that he heard the cuckoo nearby today and later the same day in Churt.

**26 April:** DNL's second sighting! Lyn Francis who first heard the cuckoo on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Broxhead Common goes one better and reports that she heard it again today in pretty much the same place and in fact '*saw it, as it called and then flew away*'.

**27 April:** '*Heard the cuckoo at last on Monday and Tuesday*' reports Val Lewis in Rowledge.

**4 May:** Norman and Sandy Taylor email from Great Holt to say '*We were sitting in our garden having an early morning coffee, when we heard the very distinctive call of the cuckoo. We have been in our garden most days through April, I think we maybe the last to report hearing the cuckoo to you.*' But no, Norman and Sandy, you are not....

**6 May:** And my lovely sister, a DNL reader from Jacobs Well, Guildford celebrates hearing a cuckoo near Sutton Green. Such a success this, as she didn't hear one at all last year. Meanwhile, Harry Glover, an enthusiastic Cuckoo Clock Participant from Frensham emails to say that he is very sad not to have heard one at all so far this year. The cuckoo is something of a harbinger of spring, and so I know exactly what he means. But then.....

**20 May** Harry emails again to say, '*Better late than never? I've just heard my first cuckoo!! At 9am, sitting in my study at home with the window open*'. Excellent. All is well with the world.

***Thank you everybody for sending in these reports; they make the cuckoo clock an annual highlight***

## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

I am pleased to report that the Society has taken a positive attitude to Lockdown through organising activities that can be done rather than commiserating about what can't be done. For many of us Lockdown has given us more time to look after and enjoy our gardens. Many gardens will have benefitted from the extra attention and social commentators never tire of informing us of how good gardens are for mental health. So, what has been happening in the Hort and Prod?

In the early days of lockdown in March the decision was made to hold a virtual version of the Spring Show. This was open to all and successfully illustrated all the fantastic flowers shrubs and veg that people had been growing in their gardens. For details see [https://fdhs.org.uk/?page\\_id=1356](https://fdhs.org.uk/?page_id=1356). It attracted some overseas entries and clearly influenced the horticultural world as we subsequently heard that the RHS had followed our lead and would put on a virtual Chelsea Flower Show and it appears they are now cancelling all their shows for the rest of this year. However, we aim to do better than this and plans are under way to hold our Autumn Flower and Veg Show on Saturday

**5 September.** We expect there will be some form of social distancing still in place then but the Marindin Hall lends itself to a winding one-way route through the rooms with separate entrances and exits. The numbers of classes and tables will be reduced to our core interests, the horticultural classes. Cooking, handicraft and photography classes will be kept the same for September 2021 so as not to disappoint those who have already made a start on these. Teas and cakes are always popular and we are planning safe ways to do these within whatever guidelines are in place at the time. Keep an eye on the Hort and Prod Newsletter and the website <https://fdhs.org.uk> for details.

With Dockenfield Day cancelled I thought I would have a year off growing veg plants for the plant stall but after a number of enquiries from villagers about whether I would be growing my normal range I succumbed. Plants would be raised but for a Covid-19 charity rather than for village funds. After advertising the plant sale in DNL and the Parish Magazine, the requests came flooding in and over 500 veg plants were raised at Jeffreys Cottage, with the greenhouse crammed to the roof with seedlings. Sales were made during Lockdown to about 35 keen veg growers who collected their plants at pre-arranged individual pick-up times and in total it raised about £260. The amount raised has been split equally between Society funds and the Covid-19 Community Support Response at The Vine Centre, Aldershot. Further good news is that the amount going to the Vine Centre will be doubled by matching community funding scheme run by British Petroleum at Sunbury which is being promoted on behalf of the Society by Stuart Easton in Frensham. Many thanks, Stuart! Roll on next year for a plant stall at Dockenfield Day which is easy by comparison; you grow all the plants, set up a stall, sell what you have and go home! Growing plants to order is much harder as seeds don't germinate to order! Apologies to those who didn't get their first choices of veg varieties.

Other events later in the year will (Covid-19 advice permitting) be a Social evening at the Frensham Brewery on Thursday **24 September** and throughout the summer members are being encouraged to collect seeds from their garden flowers, and veg, store them in labelled paper bags/envelopes in readiness for a seed swap event later in year (AGM?). Date to be advertised in Hort and Prod Newsletter, which, as expected, has been in regular production and distribution throughout Lockdown.

**Dan Bosence**

## Local wildlife

DNL has been lucky enough to have a couple of wildlife photographs sent in by residents. They are a baby pigeon photographed by Steve Luckett in Bealeswood Lane; and a rare Roesel's Bush Cricket, photographed by Alan Cox, up at Batts Corner on the small area of uncut grassland near the pub that Dan Bosence calls 'The Bluebell Triangle'.



## The rest of the funnies

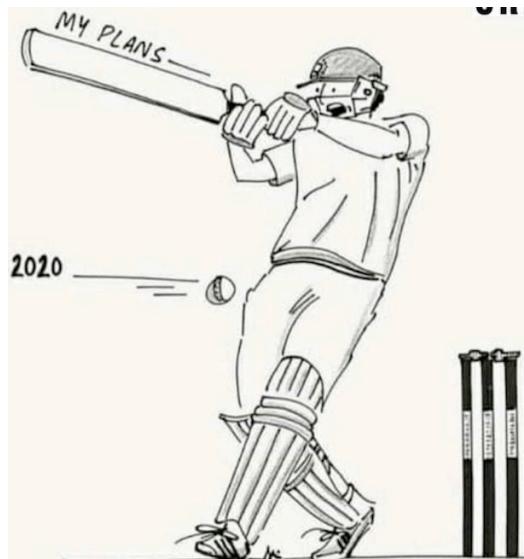
Judging by our 'postbag' the Lockdown jokes published in the last edition were very well received. So, here's a few more:

- The Department of Health is looking to hire couples married for 7 years or more to educate people on social distancing
- In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now yelling at my parents for going out
- Day One of Quarantine: I am going to use this as an opportunity to improve my health. Day Two of Quarantine: due to personal reasons I am eating a lasagne in my shower
- Had a painter and decorator round. He's currently furloughed from Virgin Atlantic. Made a lovely job of the landing
- It's important to have two alcohol-free days a week. We employ a chap in the village to do ours
- '*Why is my sister's name Paris?*' '*Because we conceived her in Paris*' '*Thanks, Dad*' '*No problem, Quarantine*'
- What an awful year this week has been
- During the Middle Ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Anyone know if the government has anything similar in mind this time around?
- Its only when a mosquito lands on your genitals that you realise there is always a way to solve problems without using violence
- There's going to be a one-minute clap for Vera Lynn. Don't know where, don't know when...
- '*As I get older, all I need in life is a Specsavers, a Boots and a Greggs*' '*Yes, life is all specs, drugs and sausage rolls*'

### Are you Zoomed out?

I'll be honest and say that before Coronavirus hit our shores, I had never heard of Zoom. And then, little by little, we found that Zoom meetings became one of the principal things in the diary. Zoom Pilates, Circuit Training, Choir, Family Gatherings, Quizes, One to Ones, Men's Nights and Ladies Nights and more besides. And thank the stars for it as it became a vital cog in keeping spirits up and life and soul together, never mind an invaluable way of home tutoring children. And for those living alone it must be a Godsend.

But again, being honest, haven't there been occasional times when you have become 'Zoomed out'? When what you really want to do of an evening is pour a glass of wine and crash out in front of something dumb on the telly rather than chat again to people who you have ended up seeing 'virtually' more frequently than you might have done in normal life?



### 'Shelf Publicity'

I loved the headline, as above, that evidently appeared in the Daily Telegraph in late May. It refers to the growing habit, occasioned by the growth in Zoom conferencing, for people to fill the shelves behind them with books of a high intellectual standard rather than 'bodice rippers' in order to demonstrate the superior nature of their lifestyle to those to whom they are chatting. Apparently, sales of high-brow books have gone through the roof to satisfy this craving for perceived gravitas. Us? On the wall behind us we have family and village photos, and a notice board on which hang such important items as a travel calendar (fat chance, huh!) and a copy of the Good Shepherd mowing rota.

### Bealeswood Common Butterflies

Butterflies seen in April	Brimstone, peacock, orange-tip, speckled wood, holly blue, large white, green veined white, common blue
Butterflies seen in May	Green veined white, orange-tip, large white, small white, speckled wood, common blue
Butterflies seen in June	Orange-tip, common blue, speckled wood, meadow brown, marbled white

Apart from one week in May when it was too hot and dry, we have seen reasonable numbers of butterflies but there are concerns that the native grasses, which are the larval food of the 8 grassland species that we see at Bealeswood, may be too dried up by the lack of rain to support many caterpillars this year.

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

## **Gangsta Granny conquers Coronavirus...**

### **...and then changes the course of history!**

Regular readers will know that DNL has an 'Overseas Correspondent'. **Jane Pearson** is not only a past resident of the village but also a previous editor of DNL. She now lives on the Isle of Wight, from which she sends occasional, and very amusing, reports, including a recent report saying how she gained the nickname, Gangsta Granny. Her latest missive tells of the impact of coronavirus on her life and that of the island.

It's been a strange new existence and there have been some huge benefits and changes. Here we seem to have developed an even better feeling of community, with each and every one helping each other, shopping for each other, picking up prescriptions, leaving little treats on doorsteps and getting to know (at a distance!) all the second home owners who have flooded down. We've developed a delightful new dance when we meet someone, a step to the side, a do si doh, a small backing away, a smile and a wave and we're on our way. Ferries are only intermittent which is wonderful, air is clear, skies are not threaded with planes, the sea is now translucent, no traffic noise, no shrieking police sirens, no diesel fumes, red squirrels are waltzing up and down Fishbourne Lane and the bird song is just amazing.

And even more amazing for me. I was out gardening a week ago and guess, just guess what flew straight across the garden - one of the Sea Eagles! I've never seen anything so huge; I reckon its wingspan must have been well over 6 feet, broad winged like a buzzard with outstretched pinions, and carrying some sort of fish in its claws. It flew over at about, maybe, 3 metres, came swooping in over next door and obviously straight from the Solent, jiggle jaggled its way through the trees and was away. A wonderful moment.

How are you all managing in Dockenfield? I can't think of a better place to hide away, though Fishbourne must run a close second. And thank goodness for technology. The family and I have Zoom meetings; one weekend a Caribbean evening when I dressed up in my shoutiest shirt, sun hat, shades and as my hair now looks unbelievably long and straggled I slapped on the lovely wig I got during chemo, and as it was a BYO drinks, dressed my glass up with cherries on a stick; then we had another meet for a pub supper at the 'Pearson Arms'. Linda supplied pics. of the pub (which looked remarkably like their garden shed) and I blazoned the coat of arms. And of course, we have Facebook, e mail and so on. Hurray for modernity.

Talking of technology: I've been having a little mull about how the history of the world might have changed if all this high-tech stuff had been around aeons ago.

Just imagine if Julius Caesar had had a mobile, someone could have texted him: '*Watch your 6 o'clock, watch your back, don't like the look of your best friend Brutus and his chums. He's got a nasty knife tucked in his toga and that Cassius hath a mean and calculating look. They're gathering like vultures. And remember the date, mate. Those Ides are coming up. Do a runner, spring your chariot, and go into lockdown till next week is over.*'

Or if Mrs Lincoln had said to the President one evening: '*Aw, c'mon Abe babe. Do we really have to go to the theatre again? I'm partied out. Why don't we pour ourselves a tinsy winsy noggin of Southern Comfort, chill out and do a bit of Netflix instead.*'

Or if Archduke Franz Ferdinand had had a smartphone, called up his guards and said: '*Our idiot coachman has taken a left instead of a right, and we're stuck in an alley and there's a sinister fellow sneaking towards us with a large black pineapple in one hand and a pistol in the other. Send the troops pronto.*' What chance a war if the guards had made it in time?

Noah was making heavy weather of learning carpentry online. "*Get a move on Noah, said Mrs N. There's a big storm coming, the tide's dropping; your GPS is on the blink and we might get stuck on Ararat if you don't sharpen up. I'll go on revamping the interior; I need to sort the restaurants. It'd be madness to let the lions and wildebeest share the same one. The wildebeest will fear they'll be dish of the day. And to have a sign above the snack bar saying 'come in for a quick bite' is not perhaps the greatest of ideas. What's more, we've only got one duck billed platypus. What do you mean, they're endangered? They surely will be if we don't get another. I'll email Amazon Prime and get them to deliver.*"

*'And I know the elephants are Kings of the Jungle, but to put them in first class is a no-no: The Ark will topple over. Best bet would be terrapins and tortoises topside and elephants midships in second class. I'll call a good removal firm to shift them; reckon Moovers is best, Trip Advisor gives them 5 stars.'*

But the world had kept on turning in its old fashioned way: and maybe in a thousand years people will look back at us, and wonder what the summer of 2020 might have looked like had there been modern technology.

## **Wagtails**

The **Pied Wagtail** is well named, with its perky walk, constantly wagging tail and its distinctive black and white plumage. Bill Oddie calls it the Chiswick Flyover because he often sees it in urban surroundings, and hears it call ‘chis-ick.’

The Wagtail is an endearing, busy little bird. It appears almost everywhere. The main reason for this is its varied diet. It feeds on tiny insects, using its sharp pointed bill to pick them out of grass, pavements, car parks, roadside verges and roofs.

It is a resident bird, and one of the few insectivorous birds to stick it out through our winters, when insects are scarce. Some, however, migrate across the Channel to France, Spain and Africa for the winter. Those which remain as the insect supply diminishes will come more frequently into our gardens, looking for small morsels of fat, suet, or seeds. They will pick at the crumbs of sunflower hearts which fall from the feeders used by the perching birds.

The Pied Wagtail has been recorded in the UK since Anglo-Saxon times. It is a specifically British bird, a sub-species of the White Wagtail species which occurs widely across Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. The Pied Wagtail has a much darker back, almost black in the male compared with the pale grey back of the White Wagtail. Females, which are greyer, are more difficult to tell apart, though the Pied Wagtail tends to be darker than the White Wagtail. Some White Wagtails occur in the UK on Spring and Autumn migration to and from southern Europe and Africa, so it is worth looking closely at any Wagtails which turn up in your garden.

You might be lucky to have Pied Wagtails nesting in your garden in the Spring. They may choose drainpipes, gaps in stone walls, spaces beneath roof tiles, and among ivy in which to build their nests of twigs, roots and moss. The female lays a clutch of between five and eight eggs, which are grey with brown speckles. Between mid-April and mid-August in good conditions she may have two or three broods. The nestlings fledge after about two weeks.

The Pied Wagtail is usually seen alone or in a group of two or three, but in winter evenings hundreds of them gather in noisy roosts. These roosts provide safety in numbers against night-time predators such as owls, and they also allow the Wagtails to huddle together for warmth. About 600 have been observed roosting in laurel bushes close to a building in Sheffield; about 100 have gathered at the end of Ryde Pier on the Isle of Wight; and at the ferry terminal car park in Weymouth 5,000 have been recorded!

Another Wagtail which we may occasionally see locally, is the **Grey Wagtail**. Unlike the Pied Wagtail, it is badly named, and can be confused with the Yellow Wagtail, a summer visitor which is rarely seen in our area. The Grey Wagtail’s back is blue-grey, but the male’s underside, from the throat to the base of the tail, is bright yellow. Even the paler female is yellow underneath her tail. The Grey Wagtail is usually to be seen alongside fast-flowing rivers and streams, hopping between boulders in search of insects, tadpoles and tiny fish, and wagging its long tail. A good place to look locally for Grey Wagtails is Frensham Mill. They usually nest in holes by streams or crevices behind waterfalls. In winter, when food is more scarce, Grey Wagtails spread out over a wider area, and may sometimes appear in parks, farmyards and woods, and even occasionally on bird tables.

**Val Lewis**

## **Neil Platt**

It is with immense sadness that I write to tell you of the death of our very good friend and great neighbour, Neil Platt, who died in the early hours of yesterday morning, Sunday 5 July, after a brave year-long battle against stomach cancer. Neil was just 56 years old. That’s no age at all is it? Way, way too young. Cancer is such a cruel disease. It was lovely though that Neil lived to know that his beloved Liverpool won the Premiership just a few days earlier. On behalf of everyone in the village, DNL sends lots of love and the biggest hugs to Neil’s wife Janette and daughter Olivia. The flag at the Good Shepherd has been lowered in his memory.

## **Stella Keddie (nee Kirby)**

Gordon Haytree writes to tell DNL of the sad death of Stella Margaret Keddie, one of the original residents of Abbotts Cottages. When the first six council houses, as they then were, were built, Stella was one of the very first tenants, moving in in 1936. She moved to Heath End when she got married, but maintained an active interest in the parish, attending meetings of the History Group. She went to school with Gordon at St Marys, and she appears in the reunion school photo. She was born on 22 July 1931 and died on 30 May 2020, aged 88.

## **It's a small world!**

I had to have a minor eye operation in late February, and the Administrator looking after the office of the consultant was a charming lady by the name of Anna Nicholas, who used to live at Weyside Cottages, The Street in Dockenfield. Anyone remember her?

## **The Surrey Virtual Wellbeing Hub**

In response to the recent lockdown, Surrey County Council has launched a ‘Virtual Wellbeing Hub’ that allows residents to access a variety of mental health and emotional wellbeing sessions virtually from their own homes. Just visit: [virtualwellbeing.healthysurrey.org.uk](http://virtualwellbeing.healthysurrey.org.uk).

## **Farnham Library...**

...is reopening today, Monday 6 July.

## **Poets Corner**

The three poems that appeared in the last edition of DNL were incredibly well received with one reader writing in to say it had inspired her children to write poems of their own. So here are two more: the first one I found in the archives of my late mother-in-law; the second one was sent in by Jean Elkes of Green Lane who says that she cut it out of a very old edition of DNL. Does anyone recognise the author of the poem or anything about it? If so, do please let DNL know.

### **Good Health!**

The horse and mare live 30 years,  
And do not know of wine and beers.  
The goats and sheep at 20 die,  
And never tasted Scotch or rye.  
The cow drinks water by the ton,  
At 15 life is almost done.

The dog at 14 years packs it in,  
Without the aid of rum or gin.  
The modest, sober, bone dry hen,  
Lays eggs for years and dies at 10  
But sinful, ginful, rum soaked men,  
Survive till 3 score years and ten.  
And some of us: the mighty few,  
Stay pickled till we're 92

**Anon**

The grassy bank where violets grow  
With clumps of primroses down below;  
This lovely spot hasn't changed at all  
Since I first saw it when I was small.

Where now the man who dwelt in yon cot  
Worked in the forest content with his lot?  
Where now the Jeffreys, Frank and Glad,  
That I played with when I was a lad?

The memories flood, the visions clear,  
I recall them all and feel them near  
Willie Bridger and old Bob West  
Are two of the men I knew the best.

Edie Smith and little Miss Pack;  
How it all comes crowding back  
Stanley Ward who lived on the hill  
And Jessops shop- I can see it still

Skylarks singing, soaring high,  
Lost in the blue of the summer sky;  
It all seems now so fresh and new  
with memories steeped in Dockenfield dew.

Perhaps next year, if God is kind  
I'll come again and try to find  
The joy to be found in going back  
And walking again down a childhood track.

### **Dockenfield Revisited**

Wandering back down a tiny lane  
Walking the verges once again  
Too many years since I last talked  
To the birds and flowers as I walked.

Nothing has changed in sixty years  
It is still the same despite my fears.  
The hedge is still there, the tiny stream  
still trickles along in a timeless dream.

### **Now you can read Jenny's winning essay**

Edition 276 of DNL carried a photo of Jenny Miller receiving her award for being Joint Winner of the World Congress of Faith's Essay Award 2019. You can now read her winning essay as a pdf copy is freely downloadable on the home page of Jenny's (non-commercial) website, [www.sundarispirit.co.uk](http://www.sundarispirit.co.uk). It has also been published in the International Interreligious Theological Journal of The World Congress of Faiths, *Interreligious Insight* (June 2020).

### **Ain't this the truth?**

Time was if you invited someone round to supper it could be quite a performance. Planning, shopping, cleaning, laying the table, cooking, serving. And maybe smarten up a bit on the sartorial front.

Now there aren't many benefits from lockdown but one of them is that the invite becomes so much less complicated. Check the weather for eating outside, keep your distance, grab a pizza, a takeaway, whatever. The point becomes the simple joy of seeing friends irrespective of what's on the menu. And that surely, is what has always been the important thing, not all the trappings on the side.

### **Thought for the day**

Social distancing? You can bet that infidelity has taken a big hit.

## **Meanwhile, in Farnham**

I imagine most of us have been wondering how well the shops and restaurants in and around Farnham will recover as the lockdown is eased. One thing is for sure, those that do survive will be eager for our business. I'm guessing also, you will want the town centre to return to prosperity. To help you know which ones are open, take a look at the website [www.virtualfarnham.co.uk](http://www.virtualfarnham.co.uk) as this will give you details of who is opening and what safety measures are necessary.

Please also note that Waverley Borough Council resumed car parking charges on 1 July and so once again you will have to go in with a pocket full of change.

### **Why not try a visit to Kew Gardens?**

I am not writing from personal experience, but I have been told that a visit to Kew Gardens is particularly rewarding this year. It seems that the lack of pollution in the air has meant that the place is positively blooming. Ordinarily it would suffer from being close to central London, to Heathrow and to motorways. Is there a moral in there somewhere?

### **Oh deer!**

35 years we have lived in the village and our garden has scarcely been troubled by deer. This year they're having a right old munch.

### **Thought for the lockdown**

'You are not here to save the world, but you are here to touch the hands that are within your reach.'

*Kathleen Price*

## The answers to DNL's very own Local Quiz

In the last edition DNL published its every own 'Local Quiz'. There were no prizes on offer. It was just a bit of fun during lockdown, to test (and maybe improve) your knowledge of the area in which you live. You may not have done the quiz, but chances are you might be interested in the answers set out below:

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. **Answer:** 8. *Green Lane, Lake Lane, Bealeswood Lane, Sandy Lane, Woodhill Lane, West End Lane, Old Lane and Heath Lane*
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? **Answer:** *Maultries Hill*
3. According to the annals of Waverley Abbey, in what year was St Mary's Church dedicated? Was it 1143, 1207 or 1239? **Answer:** *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? **Answer:** *Innumbs*
5. What was the original use of the building that now forms the oldest part of St Mary's School? **Answer:** *A pub*
6. What were the two principal natural features that made the area in and around Alice Holt Forest attractive to the Romans? **Answer:** *Clay and oak*
7. In what year was Frensham Village Shop declared formally opened in its current premises? **Answer:** *2011*
8. And which two famous personalities were present at the opening ceremony? **Answer:** *Racing driver Damon Hill (who at the time lived in West End Lane) and local MP Jeremy Hunt*
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? **Answer:** *Three miles away from Frensham at Moor Park, Farnham, not far from Waverley Abbey*
10. The area from the top of Bower Hill to approximately the Bluebell pub in Dockenfield is known as Batt's Corner. How did it get that name? **Answer:** *Legend has it that the highwayman Batt was hanged there.*
11. Why were the Frensham Ponds originally dug? **Answer:** *Fish ponds, created for when the Bishop of Winchester visited Farnham*
12. When did the Church of the Good Shepherd celebrate its centenary? **Answer:** *2010*
13. What were the oast houses in the Parish formerly used for? **Answer:** *Drying hops*
14. How many people lived in Dockenfield at the time of the 2001 census? Was it 378, 421 or 457? **Answer:** *421*
15. Waverley Abbey was founded in 1128 by what order of Monks? **Answer:** *Cistercian Monks*
16. In which year did a) Robin and Lucy Catchpole become landlords of the Bluebell and b) David and Sally Lee become landlords of the Holly Bush? **Answer:** *2013*
17. What event in the village led to the launch of Dockenfield Newsletter over 35 years ago? **Answer:** *The closing of the village shop, which had until then been the focal point for the exchange of village news and gossip*
18. In which year was the first Dockenfield Parish Council meeting held? Was it 1894, 1921 or 1933? **Answer:** *1894*
19. In which year did the ceremony to bless the newly constructed Church Hall extension to St Mary's take place? **Answer:** *2013*
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? **Answer:** *The Mariners*

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# DOCKENFIELD *newsletter*

40 years and still going strong

## Happy Birthday, DNL

DNL is 40 years old! Well, 40 years and a couple of months to be exact, because its birthday in fact was in April. Because of lockdown, there wasn't an April edition this year and so you could say this is its 'Official Birthday'. I guess you could say that that is the closest it's going to get to royal connections!

We thought it would be nice to devote a couple of pages to a bit of unashamed nostalgia. So this is a glance back to the time of the very first issue; the idea and initiatives that brought DNL to life; to some of the events that have shaped our village and indeed in the intervening period; and last but not least a thank you to the many editors, contributors, distributors and other volunteers that continue to make its publication possible.

Judging by the comments I receive, DNL is as appreciated and as useful today as it always has been, not only in Dockenfield but to a growing wider audience. Long may that continue. **Michael**

## Celebrating 40 Years...

How the world has changed over 40 years. In 1980 the internet was still 10 years away from being invented, email and mobile phones didn't exist, at least not in the form we know today, and the DNL was born. Over 40 years the DNL has evolved from a single sheet to the bumper 16-page colour editions of today. The readership has expanded from residents of the village to a growing global email distribution that is close in size to the village distribution. What has not changed is the fantastic way that the DNL communicates Dockenfield matters.

Communicating village events and news – Dockenfield Day, the Christmas Party, church and local society events, events at the Bluebell, the Holly Bush, Frensham Village Shop and other local businesses in the Business Directory, putting up the Christmas Tree, Carol Singing, the "Cuckoo Clock", news of local flora and fauna, the Comings and Goings, the most exotic places to read the DNL.... and so much more. Recently, during the coronavirus pandemic, the DNL has provided a valuable platform for communicating our volunteer community support network. The DNL communicates, entertains and provides part of that essential "glue" that binds our community together.

Special thanks go to the editors, the contributors and deliverers without whom the DNL would not be what it is today. All are volunteers who give their time willingly and generously come rain or shine. A big thank you to you all.

A net-zero carbon economy, artificial intelligence, the internet of things - whatever the megatrends of the next 40 years are - I am confident the DNL will be a living record of life in Dockenfield and will continue to inform and entertain. Here's to the next 40 years! **Paul Wood, Chairman Dockenfield Parish Council**

## 280 reasons to say 'thank you'

Dockenfield Newsletter exists because of the (voluntary) efforts of all the editors, contributors, proof-readers and distributors who have worked so hard to publish and deliver each of 280 editions in the last 40 years. Let's not forget either, that whilst the editorship has changed a number of times over those years there are some residents who have been distributing DNL since issue number one.

A word here also in praise of the Kingsley Centre and Treloar Print who down the years have provided the printing facilities for DNL and to all their staff have always been unfailingly friendly and helpful.

Last but by no means least, thanks to the Parish Council who steadfastly believe in the Newsletter's continuing value to the village, and hence continue to finance the printing costs. Let's hope the tradition continues for many years to come.

## **And in the beginning .....**

Back in May, 2007 DNL was celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> edition and so I asked John Taylor for his memories of the early days of the Newsletter and how he has seen it develop since. Sadly, John is no longer around to ask his thoughts as DNL hits its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, but I thought that it would be good to repeat his original letter here as it still has interest and relevance today.

So here we are with Newsletter No. 200 (*now 280 of course*) and perhaps it is an appropriate time to share thoughts of those early editions way back in April 1980. The introduction of Newsletter No. 1 spoke of how, when the shop (now Hampton House) closed, we lost not only the grocery store and post office, but also a meeting place. The last shopkeeper told me of one lady who visited the shop three or four times a day to make small purchases but mainly to meet other people.

The Newsletter was to spread village news, happenings, things to do and to get involved in. Thinking back, it would have been more difficult to spread the word about our fete, our carol evening etc etc without the Newsletter. But 1980 was a different world. No computers, emails or broadband. An Apple was a fruit. Taken one a day, it kept the doctor away! Apple Macs had yet to arrive.

The news was written on scraps of paper then passed to the editor who put it into order for typing on the Olivetti. Then in a little while we acquired a Gestetner machine (hands up in you remember those!). My wife Nancy would have to type on to something called a skin. This was fitted to the roller. Ink was squeezed on to the skin, paper fed in and the handle turned. Presto! Just like a real newspaper – copies rolled off. The ink squirted everywhere. On the rollers, on the paper feeder, on our hands, but the papers rolled out.

Now our editor is fully computerised. News items are emailed. It's all so much more professional. Michael has brought a new style. Our thanks and admiration go to him. Also our thanks go to all those past editors and distributors. I hope they felt if fun to do and worthwhile. This is a lovely village and the Newsletter is such an important part of village life. Here's to the next 100.

**John Taylor (Chairman of Dockenfield Parish Council at the time Newsletter No 1 was launched)**

## **Newsletter Editors from the very beginning to the present day**

Here we are with the 40<sup>th</sup> birthday edition of DNL, celebrating 280 issue since DNL first appeared back in April 1980. What better time then to list all of the residents who have given freely of their time to bring out each edition down the years? That said, I have a couple of caveats. Firstly, I don't have every edition of DNL on file (numbers 10, 83, 171 and 188 are missing; if you have any of these please let me know) and, in the early years quite often there was no indication who the editor was. So, if I have missed anyone out then I apologise. The situation becomes clearer after July 1983 when I think I have all the names correct.

Lyn Doherty

Fred French

Pat Clough

Jean Elkes

John Taylor

Anne Young (editions 26-29, May-November 1983)

Catherine Burdekin (editions 30-34, February-September 1984)

Jane Pearson (editions 35-37, October 1984-February 1985 (*now DNL's Overseas Editor of course, see page 14*))

Sarah and Ben Clough (editions 38-40, April-July 1985)

Robert and Brenda Farrant (editions 41-44, September 1985-March 1986)

Freda Booy (editions 45-55, April 1986-September 1987)

Martin Wake (editions 56-66, November 1987-March 1989)

Annette Clayson (editions 67-71, May-December 1989)

Annette Clayson and Celia Wilkins (editions 72-98, January 1990-January 1993)

Martin and Karen Wake (editions 99-129, February 1993-September 1986)

Lloyd Jones and Sylvia Palmer (editions 130-164, October 1996-October 2001)

Annette, Robert and Michael Clayson (editions 165-192, December 2001-April 2006)

Michael Foster (editions 193-280, May 2006-July 2020 and counting)

## **Surprising events in 40 years of DNL**

The original remit of the Newsletter was announced in edition number one as '*a bulletin of village events and topics*', and that continues to be its primary purpose. But over the years it has, sometimes by accident sometimes by design, got involved in a wider range of topics and events. Here are a few of the highlights:

- It inspired Diana Parratt to believe that it could be a vehicle to publicise a new village fete. And so Dockenfield Day was born in May 1981.

**Cont/**

# DOCKENFIELD NEWSLETTER

No. 1

APRIL, 1980

This, we hope, is the first of many. When our local shop closed in 1972, the village lost an invaluable meeting-place, where news and greetings could be exchanged daily. This is an attempt to provide some kind of substitute - a bulletin of village events and topics. The first few issues will be funded by the Parish Council. Later ones, we hope, will be sponsored by donations and by your own advertisements.

**WHY A PARISH COUNCIL?** There is a simple answer. The Parish Council is the first link in the chain of local government. It carries the voice of Dockenfield to the ears of Waverley, of the County Council, even when necessary of the national Government. Village funds being limited, we have looked to Waverley until now to provide for our needs. In the 80's, rural life is coming under new pressures. Cuts in transport, 'buses, schools and hospitals will affect our village. More and more the Parish Council needs to fight to preserve our amenities. More and more, as higher authority ceases to provide, "do it yourself" has to be the local solution.

## WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL DOING?

Several schemes are at present afoot. The land on the east side of Abbott's Cottages is being cleared, ready for grassing as a play area. Much of the work is being done by local volunteers. This will minimise costs; and the Parish Council is trying to persuade Waverley Council to make a grant towards the expense. Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who have lived here for 30 years, are donating three trees to mark the improvements: a red oak (*quercus borealis*), a cherry (*prunus sargentii*), and possibly a maple (*acer campestre*). The Council intends to plant these near the play area and to fence off the end beside the main road for safety.

At the request of the Parish Council, additional parking provision has recently been made for Abbott's Cottages.

The 'bus service'? It doesn't, of course, run at times to suit everybody; but it is owing to repeated pressure from the Parish Council on the County Council that we have still had a 'bus at all until now. The future is more disturbing. At a meeting of the Voluntary Services Council at Guildford on April 23rd, our chairman learned that Surrey Council has to reduce its grant in support of country 'bus services by £250,000 now and by a further £750,000 in 1981. This means that our service must be reduced further. In answer to Dockenfield protests, the County is asking Alder Valley to run a "shopping 'bus" on two mornings a week to Farnham and on to Aldershot and back. This will leave at 10.15a.m. and return at 12.15p.m. from Aldershot and 12.30p.m. from Farnham. The days have still to be decided.

There is one further gleam of hope. It has been agreed, under pressure, that Dockenfield may be a suitable village to serve with a Post 'bus, i.e. a minibus providing combined passengers and postal collection and delivery. This method is already being tried in eastern Surrey. Discussion with the Post Office is under way.

Dockenfield is entering for the Best Kept Village competition again this year. Already Cubs have been collecting litter. Tidy gardens and well-cut hedges and verges will increase our chances.

-2-

Have you noticed the new yellow bin by the 'bus shelter? The Parish Council had this installed in January for you to help yourselves to road-salt when the ice and snow came. Result - since January no ice and snow! A similar trick might work in the summer. Let the Parish Council know your holiday dates and it will have an umbrella placed by the 'bus shelter, to make the sun shine!

The Parish Council has been asked to help raise funds for the Royal Surrey School of Nursing. If you would like to hold a coffee morning or similar event, please contact John Taylor, who has further details of this appeal.

\* \* \* \* \*

GET WELL SOON ... to Dick Barber, who has the fastest pair of crutches in Green Lane. Good to see you about again.

BEST WISHES ... to Mrs. Bridger in her new home at Peakfield, after many years in Dockenfield.

to Mr. and Mrs. Cranswick, who are now both out of hospital.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POST OFFICE is now held in the Church Vestry each Thursday, 9.30 - 10.30a.m.

THE LIBRARY van will NOW be at the recreation ground on alternate Thursdays, 2.45 - 3.10, from Thursday, 24th April.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FOR SALE

'Barbie' horse, £2; Toot-toot Pushalong Boat for age 1½ - 3, v.g.c. £2; red 'Smiley' Pedal Car, up to 4 years, v.g.c. £8; new "Darryl" Shower Screen (fitting on side of bath) £20; two armchairs, offers. Mrs. Jean Elkes, Frensham 2274.

Child's bicycle seat (fitting to adult cycle) as new £5. Lyn Doherty, Frensham 3099.

Child's Desk with Chair - £5 o.n.o. Mrs. P. Clough, Frensham 2468.

WANTED: Small Hen House for 6 Hens. Mrs. P. Clough, Frensham 2468.

COST FOR EACH ADVERTISEMENT - 20p.

Please let us have your letters, views, news and advertisements, to:

Lyn Doherty (Editor at present)  
Neasham Hill, Green Lane,  
Dockenfield. Tel: Frensham 3099.

## Cont/

- In December 1981 it 'bid farewell to the Convent of St Teresa'. Now of course the area of the village known as 'Great Holt'.
- In 1988 DNL helped with the (successful) fight against the proposed sandpit at Great Holt Farm.
- Led the village fight against both the conversion of part of Alice Holt Forest to a holiday village (in 1996) and 'the toxic tip' (in 2000).
- DNL has in turn reported on the closing of the Bluebell by Moira Yells, and then its reopening in 2006, more than ten years later. More surprisingly it played a significant (and completely inadvertent) role in the unearthing and subsequent conviction and imprisonment of two fraudsters who sought to hide from the law by running the village pub. Odd decision that; why would anyone believe that they could hide in a village, much less hide in the village pub? As Editor, I ended up being in the witness box at Southwark Crown Court for over an hour as part of the prosecution case.
- On an infinitely happier note, DNL played a part in the bringing together of Robin and Lucy with the freehold owner of the pub. Out of the blue I had an email from Robin, asking if I could possibly put them in touch. And the rest, as they say, is history.

## DNL's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday 'Honours List!'

In celebration of the Newsletters 40 birthday, I thought it would be nice to list all the people who were living in the village at the time of its launch in April 1980 and who have been here ever since. This list also appeared in editions 200 and 250, and I have updated it to take account (I hope!) of any changes. The new list is below and I really hope that I have managed to include the names of everyone who has been in the village for the last 40 years. But if I have missed anyone out, then firstly apologies and secondly please let me know and I will correct the omission.

Jean Heathcote

David and Mary Embling

Pat Clough

John Tussler

Mark and Sally Vardy

John and Celia Wilkins

Nancy Taylor

John and Teresa Aldred

Pam Fullbrook

Harold and Diana Parratt

Brian and Kathy Cripps

Jack and Marjorie Bessant

Roger and Jill Trout

Jean Elkes

David and Linda Poulsom

Tony and Linda Martin

I have to say that for a village as small as ours that's a pretty impressive list. Dockenfield must be doing something right!

**The very first edition of Dockenfield Newsletter is reproduced here. Just two pages, printed on yellow paper**