

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 283

Published 8 February 2021

## Don't unfasten your seat belts just yet

This edition, 12 months ago, was the last time I published what you may describe as a 'normal' DNL. Since then, there has been a 4-page 'emergency' edition; a 13-page email only edition; a 20-page 40<sup>th</sup> birthday edition and two others. And the one thing they have in common? They were light on the news and events that is the normal meat and drink of DNL; because, since Covid kicked in, there really hasn't been very much. And now, hey ho, whilst we are waiting for the vaccine to weave its magic, you might almost say we have come full circle and back into lockdown again.

You won't need reminding that the pubs and churches are shut and most activities have either been cancelled altogether or migrated to Zoom. But whilst this edition is again shorn of a lot of its normal content, I hope you will enjoy it anyway, and maybe it will put a smile or two on your face. An alternative entertainment perhaps to staring out of the window at the rain; to watching too much TV; and to talking to the fridge?

Please continue to stay well and as safe as you possibly can.

**Michael**



**Old Lane in the January snow**  
Picture by Ronnie Bennett



**Adult male blackbird feasting on holly berries**  
See page 9. Picture by Alex Potts

## Dockenfield Litter Picking in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

At the beginning of February we are replacing our daily lockdown exercise with litter picking trips around the village - in groups of two and suitably distanced of course! We hope to clear all the ditches and hedgerows of unwanted rubbish that has accumulated over the last few months. As charity fundraising has been impacted badly by the pandemic, we thought we would advertise our efforts in the hope that some readers might like to sponsor our efforts. Whilst not as exciting as jumping out of an aeroplane or as challenging as a marathon it does at least have the advantage that everyone can enjoy the results. If you would like to make a contribution, please visit our JustGiving fundraising page or drop off at any one of our houses.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Anne-Tutt3>

**Sarah Creegan, Sarah Watson, Anne Tutt,  
Natalie Griffiths and Heather Britton**

## Beware the black ice

Some parts of the road system round Dockenfield and Frensham suffer from black ice when the weather is freezing. So do take care whether you are walking, cycling, riding or driving. I already know of one friend that fell and hurt herself quite badly, so please don't do the same.

## Easter Bunny Competition

### Easter Sunday and Monday, 3 and 4 April

*The village of Frensham are running an 'Easter Bunny Competition' for everyone to enjoy, and to bring some much-needed cheer into our lives. And kindly they have invited Dockenfield residents to take part too. Here's what is happening, and how Dockenfield can take part in this family-friendly competition.*

We would love as many people as possible to make a home-made Easter Bunny, which should be a maximum height of 1 metre and can be dressed in any outfit or character of your choice. Think outside the box! Your bunny needs to be displayed outside your house, gate or entrance on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April, where judging will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**In Frensham:** the judges will travel round and look at all the entries.

**In Dockenfield:** *Could participating residents please email Sharon, as below, to advise their address (including their post code) so that the judges know where to visit.*

There will be a prize for both first and second places for the best dressed costume and imaginative bunny, kindly donated by the Village Shop.

During the lockdown, we are sure families will enjoy making their rabbits between now and then. Have fun and enjoy. And we hope people enjoy walking around to see them during these difficult and challenging times

**Sharon Turner-Mumford and Bridgette Wilson**  
**sharonturner@hotmail.co.uk**



### **Snow, snow, quick, quick, snow**

I received this email from Diana and Harold Parratt the day after the snow came to Dockenfield 24 January).

Many readers have commented how quickly the snow fell from the sky, and their experience sums up how it happened brilliantly. *'What a shock! Harold went in for his job at 8.05am on a frosty Sunday morning and came out at 8.40am to 3 inches of snow! Awful run home but so pleased he had an early appointment.'*

### **Then there it was, gone**

The snow fell on the Sunday, lasted despite some thawing through Monday and Tuesday, and then we all awoke on Wednesday morning and, well, an overnight thaw and there it was gone. It left the way it arrived....suddenly.

### **Here we snow again?**

It's Sunday 7 February, I am proof checking this DNL, and it's trying to snow outside. If it persists it might make life tricky for our lovely distributors tomorrow. So if its late, you know why!

### **Sheep before, and horses after, the January snow.**

**Pictures by Ronnie Bennett**

## **DNL Readers: you are ‘Amazing’. And that’s official!**

Regular readers of DNL will know that last May, Debbie and I started collecting for Farnham Foodbank and in the 9 months since, we have collected 3,311 items of food including one incredible week just before Christmas when we were able to deliver a terrific 257 items (see pic on page 15). That week inspired a message from Fiona (the lady to whom we deliver) describing DNL readers as ‘Amazing’.

Well, Amen to that. We want to thank everyone who has been generous enough to donate food, or when it is more convenient to do so, cash for us to buy for you.

The sad truth is though, despite this the situation is getting worse rather than better. The accumulating impact of Covid on businesses, jobs and income in this area is making ever more people dependent on the Foodbank, whilst at the same time the supermarket collection points, usually such a fruitful source of supply, are proving less successful because less people are out shopping.

So, as well as saying ‘thank you’ to everyone, this is also to say ‘please’ can you keep going with renewed efforts to keep the Foodbank supplied? 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 morning. If you live at or near Great Holt, then please take your donations to Heather Britton, The Coach House, Great Holt, Old Lane, GU10 4HQ, who will then deliver on to us. To find out what Farnham Foodbank is currently in need of please go to <https://farnham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> . But all contributions of non-perishable items are hugely welcome provided they are within date. Or, if you prefer, put cash donations through our door and we’ll do the foodbank shopping for you.

We can’t tell you how much your help and generosity is appreciated. Thank you.

**Michael and Debbie Foster**

*See also the letter from the Foodbank Manager on page 7 and also the picture on page 15.*

## **Be Part of Dockenfield Business Directory**

The Business Directory is a list of residents of Dockenfield who own and run their own businesses. It appears all the time on the Dockenfield Parish website and approximately once a year in DNL. The plan is to update it on the website and re-publish it in DNL as soon as possible after the lockdown has been lifted and normal trading can resume, and so give a shot in the arm to the village’s businesses at the very time they are likely to need it most.

With this in mind we want to check that the existing information is complete and accurate; and to make sure that any other businesses that are not currently included have the chance to participate. The 25 businesses currently appearing will shortly receive an email asking them to please check and update their entries. Please respond to this within the timeframe mentioned in the email.

And this announcement in DNL is intended to invite other businesses to make themselves known to us so that your details can be included. All locally owned and run businesses, large and small, are invited to participate. There is no charge for these entries as the Parish Council is keen to support businesses that are owned and run by village residents. The only criteria for entry is that you must live in a house that receives a hard copy of DNL delivered through your door; so, when submitting entries always remember to give your full home address although this will not be published. Please send the following information to Paul Wood ([dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com](mailto:dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com)).

- Business name
- Description of services (max 2-3 lines)
- Contact name
- Tel/email/website

Finally, to say this can be a really worthwhile (and free) exercise. I know of a local resident who got the name of a local business through the directory only recently and gave them a good and continuing amount of trade.

## **How to support other local businesses**

In this continuing lockdown it is surely important to support as many local (as well as village) businesses as possible. There are of course the Village Shop, Country Market and others that are immediately local, but for a more general view of what is available visit [www.WeareFarnham.co.uk](http://www.WeareFarnham.co.uk) and find out about what is available plus the delivery and collection options.

## Dockenfield 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.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk). Alternatively, if you have any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact the clerk at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk). The **Meeting Dates** are: Tuesdays 16 February 8pm and 16 March 8pm, both via Zoom

**Hatch Pond:** Following restoration of the pond on the eastern approach to the village, the pond has now been fenced with chestnut post and rail fencing. Many thanks to Dan Bosence and the open spaces management sub-committee for arranging the work and to Phil Hames for doing the fencing.

**Telephone Box:** The telephone box near the church is in very poor condition and something needs to be done. The telephone box does currently house the village defibrillator but this is in a waterproof box and could be located in the adjacent bus shelter. I have had a diversity of opinions ranging from 'it is a classic part of British history which we should fully restore' (a full restoration would be likely to cost £3,000+) to 'the world has moved on with mobile communications and we should dispose of the telephone box'. What do you think? Please let the clerk (Jessica Hobday) know your views.

**Waverley Local Plan Part 2:** Waverley Borough Council has been consulting on the Local Plan Part 2. This, together with Local Plan Part 1 which was adopted in 2018, replace the local plan that has been in place since 2002 and governs development in Waverley through to 2032. The Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) provides the more detailed 'Development Management' policies, reviews a suite of local designations and allocates sites for housing and other uses in certain areas of the Borough. Dockenfield does not have any specific housing allocation due to its small size and rural location, however, as in the past, there will be some level of "windfall" new development. The Parish Council has reviewed LPP2 and responded to the consultation from the perspective of policies that strike a balance of retaining and enhancing the rural character of the village and parish whilst allowing appropriate, in-keeping, small scale development.

**Paul Wood** ([dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com](mailto:dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com)) **and Jessica Hobday** ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk))

## How councils can make sensible decisions

The Greek historian Herodotus, born in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, in describing the lives of the then all-conquering Persian empire, reported on how their leaders made important decisions:

*'If any important decision is to be made, they discuss the question when they are drunk, and the following day the Master of the House... submits their decision for reconsideration when they are sober. If they still approve it, it is adopted; if not, it is abandoned. Conversely, any decision they make when they are sober is reconsidered afterwards when they are drunk.'*

Is this the way forward for governments? For County and Borough Councils? Perhaps even for Parish Councils? Answers on a postcard, please.....

I am indebted to Andrew Marr's 'A History of the World' for this enlightenment.

## 'Imagine if you will' (Part 2)

My introductory article to the February 2020 edition 277 of DNL came with the above headline, and considered just how life would be in our parish without so many of the things that glue the community together...the pubs, churches, shop, clubs and societies and of course the fetes and other special events.

Little did I know when I was writing it, just 12 short months ago, that Covid was about to intervene and that the very things that I was inviting you to cherish would be put on hold, with, at the time of writing, no immediate prospect of their return. There are other things for which the last 9-10 months have been pretty much a calamity of course, not least of all the businesses that our residents own, manage and work in.

Right now the vaccine is continuing its long-awaited roll out. So maybe, even if there isn't yet bright light at the end of the tunnel, it may be that at least we have actually found the tunnel. So, please, when this unhappy episode is finally over, do remember to value everything that has been (we hope temporarily) suspended. I am sure you agree with me when I say that we are enduring an unwelcome taste of life without those vital ingredients of our community; and frankly it just isn't the same.

## **Hello from the Bluebell**

Hello all, from another lockdown. We are ok and feeling positive about the future, just very fed up this time around (like most of you!) After firing ourselves up to open and comply with ever changing guidelines, to be shut for a third time was soul destroying. We have no idea when we will be allowed to open, but hopeful that it will be April/May time.

So, we are back with our Friday takeaways (5-8pm) and bowled over by so many people's support. For now, the menu will stay the same, but as the weather warms up, there will be changes that I will add to our website/social media and send to Michael!

Right now, we are looking forward to the warmer weather, the buzz of people sitting in the garden and hopefully a celebration that things are on the up!

Sending love to you all

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

## **How to order your takeaway from the Bluebell**

Pre-orders by email: [bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com](mailto:bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com); through their website <https://bluebell-dockenfield.com/>; or by phone 01252 792801 between 4-6pm on the day (as long as there is still space!). Collect your takeaway from the small window at the front of the pub, close to the front door at the time you have arranged. Or Lucy and the team are happy to bring your meal out to your car if you prefer.

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

The next two Men's Night evenings are as always on the second Thursdays of the month, **11 February** and **11 March**, starting at 8pm. Because we are still living in uncertain times it is almost certain that these will take place on Zoom, rather than at the Bluebell. For final confirmation of the arrangements **Mark Rosling** will email everybody on the Men's Night mailing list ahead of the date. To be sure you hear from him, please check you are on his list by emailing: [markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com)

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

There is still no fixed date for the next Ladies Night 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)

## **Expensive bottoms up**

You might imagine that one of the consequences of lockdown, with pubs and restaurants and all hospitality shut, would be that the total amount of money spent on alcohol would fall. But not a bit of it. Not surprisingly increased sales for drinking at home have made up some of the shortfall. But whilst overall sales by volume remain lower than before, total expenditure is actually up.

According to Diageo, the British multinational beverage alcohol company with famous names such as Johnny Walker, sales of the premium brands have sky-rocketed as people are spending the money they are saving by not going out, on higher quality drinks to consume at home.

## **The Bluebell Friday Night Takeaway Menu (5-8pm)**

### Starters and Sides

#### **Whitebait £5**

garlic mayonnaise

#### **Halloumi Bites £5**

sweet chilli sauce

#### **Garlic Bread £2.50**

add cheese £1

#### **Cheese and Bacon Fries £3.50**

### Mains

#### **Chicken & Tarragon Pie £12**

mash, gravy & broccoli

#### **Beer Battered Haddock & Chips £12**

triple cooked chips, peas, tartar sauce

#### **Thai Green Vegetable curry £10**

With rice & naan bread

add king prawns £4

#### **Chicken Katsu Curry £12**

rice & chukka-fu cabbage

#### **Bluebell Burger £12**

Sourdough bun, whisky glazed onions, relish, cheese, bacon, lettuce & tomato with fries, sweet potato fries or triple cooked chips

#### **Chicken Burger £12**

Sourdough bun, mayonnaise, sweet chilli sauce, lettuce & tomato with fries, sweet potato fries or triple cooked chips  
add cheese and bacon £2

#### **Halloumi Burger £11**

Sourdough bun, sweet chilli sauce, lettuce & tomato with fries, sweet potato fries or triple cooked chips  
add bacon £1

### Children

**Chicken goujons, Sausages, Burger & Fries,  
Macaroni Cheese £6 each meal**

### Desserts

#### **Sticky Toffee Pudding £5**

**Chocolate Brownie £5**

## News from Frensham Village Shop

Hello everyone, we hope you are having a good start to 2021, and what we all hope is a better year than last year!

Our new Manager, Ollie, is now up and running, with the full support of the vital staff and volunteers of the shop, and a helping hand from Paul when Ollie had to self-isolate. It does highlight that due to current circumstances, there are occasionally times when we need to alter our post office hours, so please check the website or social media for the most up to date opening hours. So far, and due to the generosity and adaptability of the shop staff, we haven't had to make any changes to shop opening times and we are hopeful that this will continue to be the case!

We are celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the shop this month, and we are working on plans (which are ever changing due to the current situation!) to help celebrate this over the year.

With the recent cold weather, and even some snow as I write this, it's the perfect time to try some of the new "Grab & Go" freshly prepared soups from The Real Soup Co. if you haven't already; perfect winter warmers!

For those looking to "take the edge off" lockdown in the evenings, our supply of local gins are well worth checking out. We have Silent Pool from Albury, and even closer to home Thundry Hills from Elstead Village Distillers.

Whilst none of us can be sure what 2021 has in store, we look forward to playing an even bigger role in the Dockenfield and Frensham communities in 2021. We look forward to seeing you in the shop, with your masks and two at a time; and please let us know if there is anything we can do to better serve you!

Please stay safe and support your local shop by shopping locally! We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Callum Keaveny** [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk) Tel: 01252 795240

## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society (FDHS)

### Zoom meetings on 28 February and 28 March

Well as we move towards Spring it is interesting to see just how quickly the weather forecasts are changing. As I write this the sun is out after a fantastic frost this morning which followed the first Wey flood of this year courtesy of Storm Christoph. The next few days are forecast to have sunshine, snow and heavy frosts again. Perhaps Winter really has finally arrived, certainly our snowdrops are bursting into flower which is really encouraging.

The FDHS Council has been busy working out what can and cannot be done given the similarly changeable Covid situation. We will be holding a number of meetings via Zoom over the next few months and are planning on various ways of becoming more social in person as restrictions are lifted. We are also setting up a socially distanced seed swap. Many members saved seeds from their gardens through last Summer and Autumn and we will be arranging for these to be shared between members during February. Hopefully this will lead to some very colourful and productive gardens this coming year.

The Zoom meetings and presentations started on 28 January with a presentation by Claire Brown of PlantPassion on flower farming. PlantPassion produce seasonal, scented and sustainable flowers for events such as weddings and for flower arrangers and home use. This was a change from the original plan, which was for Claire to talk about herbs, as something would be lost by not being able to touch or smell the herbs via Zoom! Hopefully that talk will take place another time.

On **28 February** at 8pm there is going to be a Zoom session with a number of FDHS members sharing photos and stories of their gardens through 2020.

Next, on **28 March**, also at 8pm, Jackie Currie will talk about Alliums – again by Zoom. Jackie is a holder of a National Collection of Alliums and a garden designer.

Later in the Spring or Summer we will be arranging small garden tea and tour opportunities as and when social distancing measures allow this. This is based on the excellent similar tea parties held by the WI last year.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the FDHS, do direct them to have a look at the website [fdhs.org.uk](http://fdhs.org.uk) or contact me for more information on 792993 or [bleachsharon@gmail.com](mailto:bleachsharon@gmail.com) Membership is just £20 for the year for an individual or £35 for joint or family membership. With membership comes the opportunity to attend meetings and presentations, meet a great group of local people and even for discounts at a number of local garden suppliers.

**Sharon Bleach**

## Letters to the Editor

### A big 'Thank You' from the Foodbank

On behalf of Farnham Foodbank, I'd like to say a big thank you to all Dockenfield Newsletter readers who have so generously contributed to the Foodbank's work these past nine months. Your support has helped us to meet the needs of many of the area's poorest families during a very difficult period when demand for emergency food has been running significantly higher than in previous years. In December we saw a 145% increase in demand for food parcels compared with the same time last year.

Although the roll out of the vaccine is good news, we know that the economic consequences of the pandemic will be with us for some time and that the services provided by the Foodbank will remain critical. Your continued support is a great blessing and encouragement as we face the uncertain times ahead. Thank you.

**Harriet Lanyon, Farnham Foodbank Project  
Manager**

*See also pages 3 and 15*

### Thanks from John, the village postie

Hello to all DNL readers wherever you may be. I do hope that you had the best Christmas and New Year that you could despite the trying times we find ourselves in, and that we can all look forward to a *brighter* 2021 in the very near future.

Thank you so much for all your good wishes, support and generosity over the Christmas period. Wishing you all a happier year full of promise and joy.

Take care all,

**John**

### Dockenfield Pathways

Regular walkers within Dockenfield will have already benefited from Katy Poulson and her crew improving several pathways within Dockenfield. These improved pathways at the bottom of Sandy Lane and at the end of Lake Lane leading to the Bluebell and Bealeswood Common have made walking around Dockenfield safer and more enjoyable.

I would like to thank Paul Wood, chair of the Parish Council and Jessica Hobday the Parish Clerk for liaising with Surrey County Council to ensure this work was carried out. Also, thanks to Lloyd Jones and Michael Livingstone for their lobbying to the Council, bringing attention to the Council for the work needed to improve these paths. Also, thanks should go to Katy Poulson and her dedicated crew for doing the actual work which makes such a difference to us all.

**Guy Jackson**

### Mark Rosling's Virtual London Marathon – outcome and thank you

I accidentally missed the deadline for the last DNL so this update is a bit late! Thank you to so many people in the village who kindly sponsored me for my marathon run on 4 October. The total raised for Water Aid was £6,465, which included donations from friends and family all over the country and around the world. Water Aid were very grateful. It was an extremely wet day and the towpath beside the Wey Navigation and the Thames was quite waterlogged in places but I managed to finish in just under 4.5 hours.

**Mark Rosling**

### Comings...

A warm welcome to Dockenfield to

- Mike and Karen Arnold who have moved into Goose Cottage in Green Lane
- To Sue and Mark Connolly who have moved into Fairfield House, also in Green Lane
- And to Emma and Bob Campbell who have moved into Three Oaks Cottage in Sandy Lane. They email to say '*We're enjoying life in Dockenfield already, especially with the snow today (24 January)!'*

### ...goings...

None that I have been told about for this edition

### ...and congratulations to

- Jasmine and Luke who are very pleased to announce the birth of their son Teddy William, born 16 November 2020 and weighing in at 6lb 12ozs.

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

### Would you like some raspberry canes?

We have a few spare raspberry canes that are looking for a good home. They are called 'Autumn Bliss', red raspberries that have behaved very well for us, are easy to look after and have produced an abundance of fruit down the years. They have multiplied in our fruit plot to the extent that we now have an excess. Now is the time to move them, so if interested please email michael.foster66@btinternet.com

## News from your churches

### Thank you

To everybody who came to the services over Christmas either in person or virtually. Despite all the Covid restrictions we were able to safely enjoy a lovely atmospheric Carol service in the churchyard at St Mary's as well as a good sing-a-long at the Royal British Legion.

The Good Shepherd will have been closed for a year in March and it is looking unlikely that it will re-open any time soon. The dreaded virus has been the reason for this but finances and human resources are very challenged as well. Hopefully, we will be able to open St Mary's soon – we had hoped to open for Palm Sunday but this is looking less likely at the time of writing. We shall continue to post services online until it is safe for us to re-open. If you would like to get involved with the online services, please don't be shy – we would love to hear from you.

Revd Jane is recovering from a fall after slipping on some black ice. She has concussion and whilst she has been told there is no lasting damage, she will be unable to return to her full duties for a while. I am sure you will all join me in sending her love and prayers for a full recovery.

### Lent

*Lent officially starts on Ash Wednesday (17 February) and we shall be offering the following:*

**The Forum Group** will be running an online Lent Course starting on 25 February for 5 weeks – more details on the church website <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/forumprogramme.htm> or contact me for more information and details of how to join in.

**Weekly Reflections:** We are hoping to post some weekly reflections throughout Lent on our YouTube channel – do subscribe to the channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKSbQT7FJs4vZdtPEM9pM0A>

**Lent jars for the NHS:** This year we are asking everybody to fill a jar with their loose change throughout Lent. Of course, you can add notes too! The jars will then be collected at St Mary's church, hopefully on Palm Sunday but maybe at a later date, and all money raised will be given to charity.

We have chosen NHS Charities Together – a charity that supports more than 240 NHS charities across the UK. Their Covid-19 Appeal was launched by NHS Charities Together in March 2020 to acknowledge and support NHS staff, volunteers and patients impacted by Covid-19 across the country. The campaign was put together in liaison with health bodies, NHS Charities Together member charities and national giving platforms. The money raised is funding grants to help NHS charities support NHS staff, volunteers and patients in ways above and beyond what NHS funding can ordinarily provide, from meeting immediate and urgent needs to supporting the long-term recovery from the impact of the crisis. They have raised over £140m so far.

Please find a jar and fill it with what you can to help support this wonderful charity. Captain Tom raised over £32m for this charity – let's do our bit in the Benefice of Frensham! [www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk](http://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk)

Of course, we all pray that we will be able to worship together safely soon. We particularly hope that we can be back in church for Holy Week. Whatever happens, we will still be posting our services online. If you have difficulty in getting online and want some help, please do let me know and I will do all I can to help you.

### Vacancies

If you want to join me as a churchwarden to help look after our churches then please get in touch. It is a great way to get to know lots of new people and learn about the history of the churches and communities. We are also looking for a person (or persons) to manage the Parish Magazine - advertising and distribution.

### Gardening

If you enjoy getting outdoors and can spare a couple of hours a couple of times a year, please do consider joining our mowing team at The Good Shepherd. We shall soon be seeing the bulbs that we planted in 2019 and of course have the wildflower meadow to look forward to in the summer. Many hands make light work, so any offers of help would be gratefully received.

And finally, in these difficult times, do remember that your Parish Friend is there to help you. They will probably enjoy a chat as much as you will! Stay safe everybody.

**Eunice King – Churchwarden**

**Tel: 790690; [eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:eunice.king@frenshamchurches.org.uk); [www.frenshamchurches.org.uk](http://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk)**

## Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group

A New Year meant the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group needed to reset the log for a clean start. The 2nd was a nice day to confirm what birds were wintering. Quite a surprise to see a flock of Redwings searching the ground for worms, or insects, by the new bench – this, oddly occupied by a Jay apparently overseeing operations. Presumably, with mindful intent to rob one from the flock of their meal. Redwings are one of five thrush species present this January and perhaps the most noticeable. First arrivals were in October, attracted by holly and yew berries. Now, around thirty strong, the flock sallies forth between the horse paddocks and the Common's vegetation to feed on any remaining berries.

Singing above on a lofty perch was a Mistle Thrush together with a rival at the far end of the Common. As Chris Packham noted, on BBC Winter Watch, it is almost mystical how in its song phrasing there are long pauses which seem to emphasise the purity of each note. The ancient vernacular for the Mistle Thrush is Storm Cock because of their propensity to keep on singing on the windiest of days when everything else has run for cover. Song Thrushes were heard again mid-month; their song cycle had started back in November, but a dreary December had muted their territorial proclamations.

Where the apple crop had been allowed to lie on the Common in the past it was often possible to see Fieldfares. Now, with no fallen apples decaying to lure them, their only presence has been in larger adjacent gardens where fallen fruit has been left out for them. Overhead their *chack! chack!* calls have announced their presence since November but like the Redwings they will return to Scandinavia by March. Finally, the Blackbird, as illustrated on the front page by Alex Potts, also began to sing this month but it will be a while before they reach full flow. Nevertheless, adult males are quite startling today with their yellow eye ring and day-glow orange bill posing a striking contrast with the snow.

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group will be offering a series of wildlife walks when social gathering is allowed and safe again. See future copies of DNL for details. Monthly wildlife reports from BWRG can be found at: <http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/index.php/bealeswood-common-wildlife>; some 40 bird species have already been seen this year.

**Alan Cox for BWRG (24 January 2021)**

## A little snippet of recently discovered local history

Great Holt was constructed in 1903 by Andrew Chuter and Sons Builders and Contractors of Frensham. There is a mention and photograph of Great Holt in the booklet about Andrew Chuter and Sons published by the Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group.

While some work on our roof at Great Holt was being carried out this Autumn, a beautifully scribed signature and date was noticed on the lead flashing of the main chimney. An original employee of the Chuter company leaving his mark “*To say I worked here*” perhaps for a future craftsman to discover; and indeed it was one hundred and seventeen years later. As you can see the inscription says: “D Taphouse” Sept 10th 1903”



Mr D Taphouse was likely to have been a plumber as lead work on houses of that period was carried out by that profession. D Taphouse is listed as one of the Chuter Company employees and is mentioned in the list of attendees of the funeral of Andrew Chuter at Frensham St Mary's in 1927.

I am interested to know if Mr D Taphouse and his family are remembered in the village, and if indeed there are still family members living here in the Frensham or Dockenfield area.

**Sandy and Norman Taylor**

## Well done, Dan

Dan Bosence has been awarded a **South West Surrey Heroes Award** following the campaign Jeremy Hunt launched with Tindle Newspapers at the end of last year to recognise the regions 'local heroes.' In Jeremy's words, '*This means someone recognised your extraordinary work and nominated you for the amazing work you have done and contributed during the Covid pandemic.*' DNL has been told that Dan was nominated because of the money he raised for the Vine Centre Aldershot (Covid-19 Community Support Response).

Are there others in Dockenfield who also got this award? Do let DNL know if so.

## Choose your Valentine

What a tough winter, worrying, lonely, but now the vaccine is rolling out and many have had the magic shot, so there is hope. Evenings are getting lighter, spring is on its way, and there must be *something* we can look forward to in February?

Nil desperandum. I have found some enticing ideas. Perhaps you might enjoy the occasional National Day or so. Or perhaps 'National Freedom Day'; and whether you're alone or bubbling, a little snack on 'National Dark Chocolate Day' will definitely motivate your mojo. I am sure you would enjoy 'National Do not Bother to Get up Day', 'Housekeep your Computer Day' and 'National Drink Wine Day'. And for the more energetic try 'Kite Flying Day' or 'Hunt for Hedgehogs Day'. The sentimental amongst you mustn't miss 'Send a Friend a Card Day'; and most importantly of all you must remember 'St. Valentine's Day'.

But which Valentine, and which day? Did you know that there were up to a dozen St. Valentines? One of them even became Pope – but alas for only 40 days.

The one we remember was St. Valentine of Rome. The emperor Claudius realised that soldiers lost the will to fight when snuggled up with wives, so decreed that henceforth marriage would be abolished. Valentine felt the path of true love should be encouraged not banned, defied the edict, and clandestinely conducted scores of weddings. Claudius got wind of what he was doing, arrested him and he was executed for defying the Emperor.

In 496 AD Pope Gelasius chose 14 February to be the Feast Day of St. Valentine, maybe to honour the saint on the anniversary of his death, or perhaps to Christianise the rowdy pagan festival of Lupercalia which fell on the same day. If you forget to send a card to your best beloved, don't despair. Remember the other Valentines. You could send one on the 7<sup>th</sup>, a date to fete St. Valentine of Raetia, The Bishop of Interamna on 30 July, St. Valentine of Viterbo, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, or Santa Valentina martyred on 20 July.

Or on the 25<sup>th</sup> for the Welsh St. Valentine - St. Dwynwen, who fell madly in love with a handsome swain, Maelon Dafodryll. Sadly, her father forbade the marriage, so she prayed to God. He whizzed down a magic potion for her to give to Maelon to cure his heartache. But it backfired, and instead turned him into a block of ice. 'Oops', said the Lord. 'Sorry about that - though it certainly cooled his ardour, and to make amends I shall give you three wishes'. 'Okey dokey', said the Welsh Valentine. 'First, can you thaw out Maelon'. 'Done deal' said the Lord. 'Second?' 'Can you please protect true love forever'. 'Righty ho' said the Lord and third? 'I never want to marry'. So, God gave her the postcode for the nearest nunnery and that's where she spent the remainder of her life, praying and performing miracles.

And who first highlighted the day? Possibly Chaucer, who wrote a poem to mark the arrival of spring: "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's Day, when every byrd comyth there to choose his mate". One of the first Valentine cards was sent by Charles, Duke of Orleans in 1415 when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London, to his wife in France, 'my very gentle Valentine'.

Our St. Valentine is busy busy in the afterlife: his holy duties include listening to prayers and petitions; he is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, of fainting and travellers, is asked to intervene when there is a plague, and of course, he's called upon to protect and watch over the lives of lovers, and marriages and thus our hopes for the future.

**Jane Pearson**

*Jane is DNL's 'Overseas Correspondent', a former resident of the village and an early Editor of DNL, now living in the Isle of Wight*

## Just how 'Overseas' is the Isle of Wight?

I was telling a friend that DNL had its own Overseas Editor, based on the Isle of Wight. And he said, '*Quite right too. I have cast iron proof that the Isle of Wight is most certainly overseas*'. He then referred me to an episode of 'Only Fools and Horses' in which Uncle Albert is in court being questioned by a QC. That QC was telling Albert that his claim to be overseas during the war was spurious as he was only stationed on the Isle of Wight. To which Uncle Albert responded, '*You want to try walking it, pal*'.

## It's a dog's life?

Quebec in Canada has introduced a curfew between 20.00 and 05.00 in order to help curb the spread of Covid. One of the very few permissible reasons for being out between those hours is to walk your dog. The police who were enforcing the curfew were amazed that one of the first culprits they arrested was a woman out "walking" her husband on a leash!

## A lesson learned

I am writing this on a grey January day during Lock-down Stage 3 (or is it Stage 4? I forget). There is still a way to go before winter and Covid are done with us, and the inclination to gloomy thoughts is strong. Yesterday, however, I had a jolt to my sense of proportion. Outside the kitchen door I found the tiny corpse of a Coal Tit. It had probably died of cold. It was a reminder that if I am finding the winter trying, the birds are having a far tougher time.

However, the shortest day is well behind us. A week or two ago a Mistle Thrush was singing from the top of a nearby tree, living up to its old country name, Storm Cock, given because of its habit of singing through wild weather. Tawny Owls have been calling to each other at night. Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been drumming on trees in the woods, to feed on the small invertebrates behind the bark. Soon they will be using their drumming skills to signal their presence to potential mates, or rivals.

There is a small flock of visiting Redwings hereabouts. They are winter visitors from Europe, and frequently migrate here from Scandinavia and western Europe for our milder winters and better chances of plentiful feeding opportunities. They belong to the Thrush family and look like slightly stocky Song Thrushes, with pale eye-stripes and red flanks and under-wings. You may see Redwings feeding on the berries they find on trees and shrubs in gardens and parks.

Many birds adapt their behaviour to cope with winter conditions. Robins and Blackbirds, which are usually territorial, will tolerate others on their patch in an uneasy truce when they are hungry. Their numbers are often increased during the winter by an influx from the colder conditions in Europe. If you notice increased numbers of Blackbirds or Robins many of them may be temporary immigrants. You may see more Starlings flying about in foraging flocks, too, and many of these will have flown in from Europe.

As increased daylight registers in birds' brains it stimulates the hormones which will eventually prepare them for the breeding season. Pairs of Blackbirds and Robins forage and perch together. Robins never quite stop singing, even in winter. Blackbirds, Dunnocks, Wrens and Great Tits begin to strike up intermittently, too.

Spring, and better times, will come. Let Emily Dickinson's poem encourage us:  
*'Hope' is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all –  
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –  
And sore must be the storm –  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm.*

**Val Lewis**

## Millbridge WI

Millbridge WI continues to hold committee meetings via Zoom including one on 21 January; although not perfect it was good to see each other and chat again. Plans for an outing to Winchester were discussed for late summer after the Book Group had read the book 'Single Thread'. We are also holding craft meetings and quizzes by Zoom. Unfortunately, our walks have had to be stopped. We have still managed to vote on our Resolutions, sent to us from WI HQ, by phone and emails. We took part in a 'flower count' the first week in January which proved very interesting; over 50 different blooms were recorded.

We are looking forward to more tea parties as soon as we can meet up again. We do have a couple of talks lined up so we are able to hit the ground running as soon as we get the go ahead. **Diana Parratt**

## What a waste

Just read in the 'Tesco' Magazine that 130 million sprouts, 2.2 million kilos of cheese and 91 million slices of turkey (that's approximately 3 million turkeys) are all thrown away after Xmas. Why don't people use them? Have they never heard of cold cuts and bubble and squeak?

## An expensive snack

We were rewarding ourselves during a long walk with a (socially distanced, outside) snack at the Great Pond. A coffee, a hot chocolate and a (naughty) bacon butty and chips with lashings of ketchup. Total cost £14.50. Paying by card, I entered my pin number and then noticed that before handing the card machine to me, the assistant had omitted to press the 'now enter pin' button. So, my pin number simply added to the cost which had risen to over £145,000!

## 2020 Rainfall report

Rainfall for:

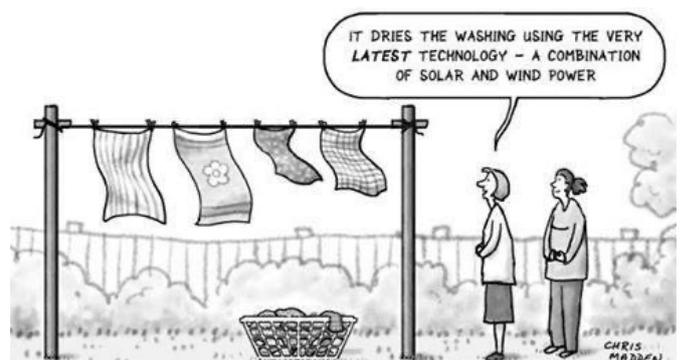
2019 November: 93.3mm; December: 144mm

2020 November: 62.1mm; December: 109.2mm

In 2020 February was the wettest month with 186mm and May the driest month with only 0.6mm

Total rainfall for 2020 was 934.5mm at an average of 77.88mm per month

**Jack Bessant**



## Do you get suspicious emails?

I don't know about you, but I get loads of suspicious emails every week, pretending to be people like BT, PayPal and the like, invariably asking you to take urgent action to prevent the loss of an email account, a delivery or a payment. But in reality of course they are doing nothing of the kind. It's just an opening gambit in their bid to get you to reveal private information to their advantage. When this happens, here's what to do: forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): **report@phishing.gov.uk**

If you are suspicious about any kind of email, you should report it. Your report of a phishing email will help SERS to act quickly, protecting many more people from being affected. As of 31 January, there had been more than 4,500,000 reports culminating in the removal of over 30,000 scams and 55,000 URLs.

You can do the same with suspicious text messages. It's best to consult your provider, but with Vodafone you can simply forward spam texts to 7726 and then follow the brief and clear instructions you get in reply.

Please also be aware that there have been fraudulent calls and text messages offering Covid 19 vaccinations, which can look or hear very convincing. Remember, the vaccine is only available for free on the NHS. Never give any bank account or card details. Anyone asking for payment is committing fraud. If you inadvertently give card details to scammers, contact your bank immediately. In this case, also report it to Action Fraud at **www.actionfraud.police.uk** or call 0300 123 2040.

## News from the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

In this third lockdown, unlike in November, because schools have closed, we have closed the Centre again. We are in a much better position than last March; we learnt many lessons in the Spring about how much we can achieve remotely. We're offering online courses and one-to-one services for consultations, tuition and workplace evaluations plus lunchtime lectures for workplaces and to share research.

Sadly, we can't offer assessments as they have to be done face-to-face. We managed to assess around two hundred people over the summer and autumn and had a diary full of bookings, so it was heart-breaking in January to contact so many parents to postpone their children's much-needed assessments.

Closing the Centre affects our income. Our staff are now on part-time furlough and working from home. We've been fortunate to have received some funding – including money from National Lottery Awards for All to allow low-income families access our HELP for Parents course – and we're doing everything we can to keep going.

One thing that may help us this year is that we're celebrating our 50th birthday! We had big plans for celebrations, many of which we hoped would include you, our neighbours. Look out for our Anniversary Lecture with Professor Maggie Snowling CBE, a world-leading expert in language difficulties, on 24 April. We are pondering other events but will have to wait and see. We'll let you know as soon as we have news to share.

**Helen Mortimer**

## Exhibition at 'Sculpture by the Lakes' From 30 March- 16 May at Pallington Lakes, Dorchester DT2 8QU

There is a wonderful place called 'Sculpture by the Lakes' in Dorset and it has some of the biggest names in sculpture showing there in late spring and early summer.....and me! The park is set in 26 acres of Dorset's glorious countryside and is an oasis for art lovers as well as a haven of peace and tranquillity. As soon as I saw it, I wanted to exhibit there.

The exhibition is of indoor and outdoor sculptures by over 30 of the UK's top sculptors. Their work will be on display around the sculpture park, in the Gallery by the Lakes and in The Retreat. An Icarus figure is the largest piece I will be showing. At the time of writing, it is still unfinished but will be ready in time for the show. It was far too big to fit in my own studio, so I worked on it at the bronze foundry (*see picture, right*).

**Nicola Godden BA MRSS, [www.nicolagodden.com](http://www.nicolagodden.com)**

*I agree with Nicola...Sculpture by the Lakes' is beautiful. We were taken last year by friends as a birthday treat, and would recommend a visit, when circumstances allow.*



## **Dockenfield Parish Council wants to tackle litter**

*The amount of litter scattered along the verges and other areas in the village has long been a concern to everyone. So the initiative of a sponsored litter pick announced on the front page is hugely welcome and please do support their efforts in cleaning up the roadsides and raising money for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. But it seems that great minds think alike as the Parish Council have just announced an initiative of their own.*

The Parish Council has noted that in the past the clearing of litter from our roadsides has been largely done by public-spirited volunteers, who have "had a go" from time to time, as their own arrangements permitted. This is not fair, when the unsightliness of litter should be a concern for all residents, and it both trespasses on the good nature of those volunteers, and means litter picking is subject to *ad hoc* campaigns.

In order to get litter picking onto a regular footing, the Council has set aside a budget for the forthcoming year ending 31 March 2022 to provide for a remunerated contract for the gathering up of litter spoiling the roadsides in the parish several times a year. We believe this may be an ideal opportunity for a community group who is looking for both a definable project and one which can provide a regular contribution to their fund-raising. Alternatively, the contract may be of interest to someone undertaking a community-based service project, or a person or group simply looking to earn a little extra on a regular basis.

Please contact the Clerk, in the first instance, if you are interested in discussing this. **Jessica Hobday**  
(dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk) **Dockenfield Parish Council**

## **Charles 1 and the Civil War: The role of Farnham and Alice Holt**

Following my article in the last DNL (Edition 282, page 7) about Christmas being banned following the overthrow of the monarchy in the Civil War of 1642-51, I thought you might be interested to know that Farnham has a special place in the events leading up to the execution of King Charles I on 30 January 1649.

The King had been held prisoner in Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight before being moved to Hurst Castle on the south coast ahead of his journey to Windsor and on to London for his trial and subsequent execution. He travelled from Hurst Castle by horseback, with an escort of some 100 mounted guards to prevent escape or ambush. As night fell, he arrived in Farnham and was in need of somewhere to stay for the night. At the time Farnham Castle was a Parliamentary garrison and so was considered unsuitable for the purpose. And so he stayed that night in the house of a blind friend, Mr Henry Vernon; this building is now called Vernon House and is home to Farnham Library. Indeed, there is a plaque on the outside wall there which proclaims 'Charles I stayed here on the night of 20 December, 1648'

Having no money to pay his friend for his kind hospitality, Charles I left him instead his 'night cap' as a gift of thanks. It is, or was, in the possession of Lord Heytesbury, a descendant of Henry Vernon. The cap in Farnham Museum is a 17th century 'arming' cap (worn under a steel helmet) and it would be nice to think there was a connection with Charles I, but there is no proof of that.

There is an illustration of the cap online: Civil War musket balls and quilted arming cap  
(exploringsurreypast.org.uk)

I am grateful to David and Audrey Graham for giving me the details of this oft-forgotten piece of Farnham History. They go on to say that there is a book about the Civil War period in Farnham, which has a section about another local incident, a fight in Alice Holt Forest:

*'For the next seven days [in November 1643] sporadic fighting continued over the country between Farnham, Odiham and Alton. The Parliamentary army was reinforced by small detachments of county troops from Hampshire and Sussex, swelling the ranks of Waller's veterans, whilst in Guildford a muster of Surrey Militia was in progress. Royalist patrols surprised foraging parties out for game in the forest to the south of Farnham [Alice Holt], not without loss to themselves, and punitive raids were conducted both night and day as the armies felt and tested each other's strength.'*

## **Bealeswood Common**

As you may remember we had a working party booked for 13 February. Unfortunately, due to the present Covid circumstances this has been cancelled. Vicky our WBC Ranger is hoping to suggest new dates for the autumn in the next DNL.

**Jill Trout**

## When Sunday lunch goes wrong

What could be nicer than a long, lingering Sunday lunch with family or friends (remember the days before Covid)? Well, very little you might think. Unless things start to go wrong, as experienced by two sets of friends.

The first lived in Fleet and owned an adventurous cat called Gilbey. Our friends didn't realise that their neighbours had invited friends round for Sunday lunch, but Gilbey's sense of smell told him all he needed to know. The lady of the house next door fleetingly left the kitchen to tell her guests to take their seats in the dining room. She was only gone a few moments, but by the time she returned Gilbey had leaped through the open window and disappeared with the joint, leaving the hostess open mouthed with astonishment but empty handed for her hungry guests.

Elsewhere another friend was busy cooking a roast for the couple she and her husband had invited round. She left the kitchen for only a second, but long enough for her two Labradors to make off with it into the garden. There they proceeded to play 'rugby' with it in the mud of the vegetable patch until it was retrieved by the cook. She washed it down, bunged it back in the oven and told nobody. At the end of the meal, the guests complimented her on the meal, 'How did you make the meat so tender, Annie?' 'Well,' she replied, 'I cooked it for a while, then gave it to the dogs to chew and play with in the mud, then I cleaned it under the tap and finished roasting it'. 'Oh, Annie,' came the reply, 'you are such a hoot.....'

## Important dates

With Covid dominating the agenda, it's difficult if not impossible to celebrate in anything like the usual way on special occasions. Despite that I thought it would cheer you up if I printed a list of upcoming dates to which one can at least raise a glass

Sunday 14 February: **Valentine's Day**. Covid or no Covid, don't forget this one, fellas

Tuesday 16 February: **Shrove Tuesday**. A tummy full of pancakes will surely cheer you up

Wednesday, 17 February: **First day of Lent**. What are you giving up this year?

Monday 1 March: **St David's Day**. We have a number of Welsh friends in the village who I'm sure will celebrate

Sunday 14 March: **Mothering Sunday**. Even if you can't see your mother, don't forget her

Wednesday 17 March: **St Patrick's Day**. Guinness anyone?

Saturday 20 March: **First day of Spring**. The first signs of rebirth? Well, fingers crossed

Sunday 28 March: **British Summer Time** begins and maybe more time can be spent outside. But one less hour spent in bed sadly....

2 April: **Good Friday**. And a bank holiday into the bargain

4 April: **Easter Sunday**. Hope the churches will be open. It's about more than the chocolate remember

5 April: Easter **Monday**. Another bank holiday? Surely not.

## Groan, Part 1

*A selection of the best (and worst!) Covid one liners*

- I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it!
- Did you hear the joke about coronavirus? Never mind, I don't want to spread it around!
- My mum always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now! I'm saving the world!
- Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"
- I'm not talking to myself; I'm having a parent-teacher conference!
- What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand!
- I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
- My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said, "Throw this and wherever it lands – that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends." Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge!
- Why didn't the sick guy get the joke? It flu over his head!
- If there's a baby boom nine months from now, what will happen in 2033? There will be a whole bunch of quaranteens!

## Thought for the day

Hands up anybody who had the discipline to stick to a 'dry' January this year of all years?



## Images of Christmas

Here are a few images of Christmas, which amazingly is already 6 weeks ago!

The Nativity Nature Trail from the Good Shepherd to St Mary's devised by Jane Walker, Eunice King and Pat Telfer was a huge success. Just look at the (socially distanced) queue of families waiting in turn at the Good Shepherd to begin the walk (MF).

Freezing their assets? Here we see swimmers at Frensham Great Pond on 27 December. I swam in the Pond in December once as part of the Frensham Aquatic Recreation Team (which gives rise to an interesting acronym). I was told it was 5 degrees in the water that day. Glad I did it; no plans to repeat! (MF).



The wonderful generosity of our parish. Pictured are the 257 Christmas week donations prior to their delivery to the Farnham Foodbank (MF).

The outside Carol Service at St Mary's was also well attended if a trifle chilly (SC).

**Pictures by Michael Foster (MF) and Simon Claiden (SC)**



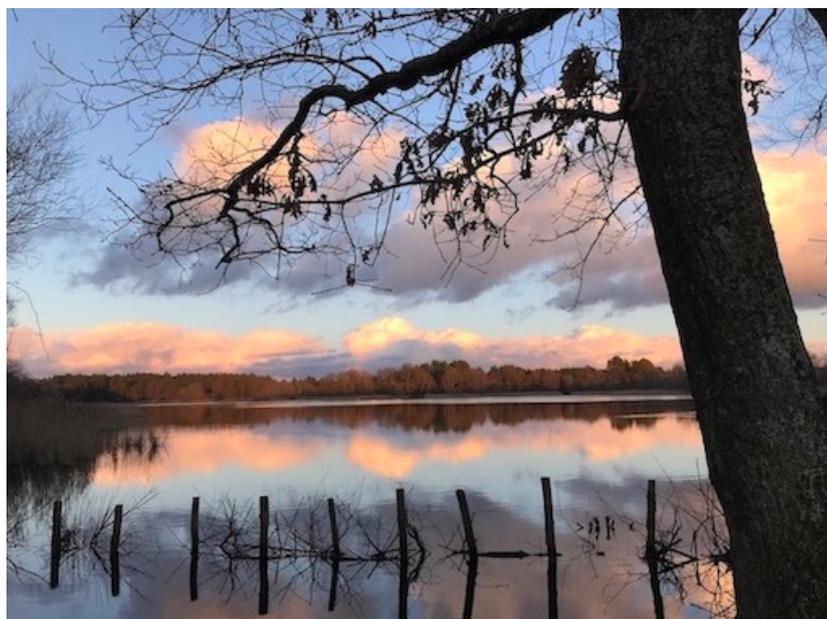
## A good time at the dentist

That may sound like a contradiction in terms, but read on. I had an emergency appointment at the dentist because of a broken tooth. They took X rays to see the extent of the damage and whilst we were waiting for the results, I mentioned to the dentist that we were collecting for Farnham Foodbank.

*'Thank goodness you mentioned that' she said, 'We have lots of sample tubes of toothpaste provided by the manufacturers that we haven't been able to hand out as we have not been seeing nearly as many clients because of the pandemic. When their sell by date expires we would otherwise have had to destroy them, but now I can give them to you for the Foodbank'.*

The upshot was that I came away with 360 sample tubes of toothpaste. Very big thanks to the lovely Kashmira not only for being a great dentist and fixing my tooth but also for the donation to the Foodbank. Also to her employers Castle Street Dentists, now I think part of the MyDentist group.





## Our picturesque Parish

*Top Left:* Here's a view of Frensham Common late last year, with a film crew busy creating episodes of 'The Witcher' which you can see on Netflix.

**Picture by Simon Claiden**

*Above:* Legend tells us that at the end of every rainbow there lies a pot of gold. So one lucky resident of The Street seems to have hit the jackpot!

**Picture by Jess Barnes**

*Left:* Sunset at Frensham Little Pond, just before one of the many startling 'mumerations' that have entranced us this winter. **Picture by Debbie Foster**

## Groan, Part 2

*And now a selection of the best (and again the worst!) Xmas Covid cracker jokes*

- Did you hear that production was down at Santa's workshop? *His workers have had to Elf isolate!*
- Why didn't Mary and Joseph make it to Bethlehem? *All Virgin flights were cancelled*
- Why are Santa's reindeer allowed to travel on Christmas Eve? *They have herd immunity*
- Why did the pirates have to go into lockdown? *Because the "Arrrr!" rate had risen*
- Why is it best to think of 2020 like a panto? *Because eventually, it's behind you*
- Why couldn't Mary and Joseph join their work conference call? *Because there was no Zoom at the inn*
- Why won't Santa lose any presents this year? *He's downloaded Sack and Trace*
- How is the pandemic like my stomach after Christmas? *It'll take ages to flatten the curve*
- Why wasn't Rudolph allowed to take part in vaccine trials? *Because they only wanted guinea pigs*
- How can you get out of talking to your boss at this year's staff Christmas party? *Put him on mute*

**Dockenfield Newsletter** is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the contributors or distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of printing and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered six times a year to all 250 or so households in and around the village. In addition around 200 people, predominantly but not necessarily local, are emailed a copy upon publication. Both services are entirely free of charge and without obligation. If you don't live in the village but enjoy reading the Newsletter, and would like to be added to this mailing list please email michael.foster66@btinternet.com Please be reassured that this mailing list is used to distribute pdf copies of the Newsletter and for no other purpose, and will never be disclosed to any third party. Alternatively, if you are already on this list and wish to unsubscribe at any time, again just email as above and your name will be removed from the list immediately. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully. For the next edition **the deadline is 22 March** with items sent by email please, ideally as a Word attachment, to michael.foster66@btinternet.com. Or through the door at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.