

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 284

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Emerging Slowly from 'Hibernation'

Today, 12 April, is an important day in the life of this country, never mind our Parish. It is the first day of the second stage of the government's 'road map' out of Lockdown, which in its original form started almost 13 months ago. We don't have all our freedoms back by any means, and those that have returned have to be respected and cherished so as not to step backwards again.

But as well as enjoying the return of some personal liberties, we can all now raise a glass or have meal, albeit outside, at the Bluebell, Holly Bush, Legion, Frensham Pond Hotel and the Craft Brewery. How wonderful is that! And with shops opening again, we can return to Farnham and other town centres which I know will greet everyone (metaphorically speaking!) with open arms.

As the corset around our life loosens, please remember others not so fortunate, and especially those who have lost income, lost their businesses and most awful of all, lost their lives or are suffering from long Covid, including some in this Parish.

Michael



A wonderfully dramatic rainbow at Batt's Corner photographed by Ben Poulson

Listen out for the Cuckoo

Please listen out for the sound of the cuckoo and let the Newsletter know when and where you first hear it. It's not a race, although it's always interesting to learn when the first one is heard. But it's equally interesting to know the different times at which the cuckoo appears in the four corners of the Parish. It's also interesting to know when the cuckoo is first heard if you live *outside* the Parish. Just email michael.foster66@btinternet.com with your news and I will print the details in the next DNL.



Crosswater Farm, a five-acre woodland garden is open in early May as part of the National Garden Scheme. See page 2. Photo by David Millais

Found: item of jewellery

On a recent walk in the Dockenfield area, I found an item of jewellery which someone will undoubtedly be upset to have lost. I would very much like to reunite it with its owner. If you think it may be yours, please email Jo at a.turner21@ntlworld.com with a full description of the lost item. Thank you.

Please check before you plan

With the continuing Coronavirus crisis please make sure that it is possible, safe and sensible to do so before attending any of the events announced in this edition of DNL.

See page 15 for the updated Business Directory

Carry on being Terrific!

In the last edition of DNL I announced that during one week at Christmas time we were able to deliver a terrific 257 items of food to the Farnham Foodbank. Well, thanks to the generosity of DNL readers, in one very special week in March we exceeded that with a truly wonderful 330 donations delivered. In all we have now collected a remarkable 5,000 items since we started last May.

Not every week is like that of course, far from it. Meanwhile the need for food parcels grows. So, I am going to appeal to you all to please keep going and to continue to donate food, or when it is more convenient to do so, cash for us to buy the food for you.

If you are able to help, please leave any contributions on the table in our (open) front porch at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Docketfield 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. 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 shopping.

Whilst we manage to meet and thank a number of you as you leave your donations, many of you leave them anonymously. So please, all of you, please accept our grateful thanks and those of the Foodbank manager and volunteers.

And here's a lovely little tale to end on. Heather was shopping for the Foodbank in Tesco and a lady came up to her at the till and said, *'If that's for the Foodbank may I pay for it please? Because of Covid I haven't been able to do my normal charity giving and so I would love to pay that bill.'* Isn't that just wonderful!

Michael and Debbie Foster



Crosswater Farm open in aid of National Gardens Scheme

Sunday and Monday 2-3 May, 10am-5pm daily

This 5-acre woodland garden with a plantsman's collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias will be opening in aid of National Gardens Scheme on Sunday and Monday 2-3 May. There will also be homemade teas in aid of Christian Aid. David and Susanna Millais have been busy with lots of redevelopment in the gardens, and this will be its first re-opening after a 5-year break.

You'll find us at Crosswater Farm, Churt, GU10 2JN. For more information and to book your tickets, please see the entry on the NGS website: <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/10772>

David Millais



'It's easy to experience the natural world'

Not my words, but the words of Sir David Attenborough. And he of all people should know. His advice is to take the following action:

Stop - Sit down - Don't move - Keep quiet
Wait for 10 minutes keeping completely still.

In that time, he says that *'it would be very surprising if something extraordinary didn't happen, especially if you happen to be in a wood.'*

In other words, the sounds and actions of the natural world will come to life around you. and of course, living where we do, we are perfectly placed to do exactly what Sir David says and experience it for ourselves.

Spot the difference. The ridge, viewed from Innums footpath (aka the 'coffin route') as winter turns to spring. Pictures by Michael Foster

Sunday Pudding Service

My name is Thomas and I am trying to find ways to raise £2,000 to travel with World Challenge and my school, Churcher's College, to Romania in July to help with community charity work there.

I can bake you a pudding for your Sunday lunch or dinner for a fee of £10 per dessert. I can bake 6 puddings every weekend so if you're interested please get orders in quickly as I have a limited number of slots.

Puddings on offer:

- Sticky Toffee Pudding
- Treacle Tart
- Chocolate Brownie Cake

The puddings will change depending on popularity and each could serve approximately 10 people.

For further information please contact:

Jane email: j.lemarchant@gmail.com or Tel: 07779576930

Surrey Artists Open Studios

This event is planned for the usual time this year, running from **5-20 June**, with studios throughout the county open on certain days within this period. There is a 'Frensham and Dockenfield trail' again this year, linking with Pierrepont Farm. In Dockenfield:

Lynne Thomas, wildlife artist, will be showing both animal and landscape original paintings, prints, cushions, coasters and cards in The Oaks, in The Street open **5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20 June**, 11am-5pm each day.

Alison Ellen, will have a group of artists with her at Jeffrey's Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, showing her knitwear with **Vicki Nigoumi**, painting; **Shirley Stephens**, printmaking; **Ruta Brown**, jewellery; and **Justine Jenner**, pottery. Open **12, 13, and 17-20 June** from 11am-5pm each day.

Alex Potts is a Dockenfield-based nature photographer and is exhibiting at The Kiln Photo Workshops at 38, St Georges Road, Badshot Lea, GU9 9LY, **open all three weekends**. All photographs this year have been taken in Frensham and Dockenfield.

It's a great event for seeing both the finished work and the working methods, and because of all the ups and downs of the past year, the best way to check out dates and times is to go to the website nearer to June, where you can also see examples of the artists' work.

For more information visit

<https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk> **Alison Ellen**

Money for nothing?

In February, serious lockdown time, we had to renew our annual car and travel insurances. For cars that weren't allowed to drive anywhere much and holidays we aren't permitted to take!

Vegetable Plants for Sale

Dockenfield Day will not be taking place again this year (*see page 11*) but I shall be growing plants for sale and aim to have these ready by late May. This year I will not be taking precise orders, seeds do not germinate to order! Let me know from the list of plants below which you wish to buy and approximately how many and you will be contacted nearer the time for arrangements for purchase from a stall on the drive. Collection times will be allocated in order of when you contacted me, so it will be first orders, first served.

Winter Greens (P)
Purple Sprouting Broccoli
Curly Kale
Kalettes (Flower Sprouts)
Brussels Sprouts
Swiss Chard (T)
Courgettes (I)
Marrow (I)
Winter Squash (I)
Crown Prince
Uchiki Kuri
Butternut
Cucumber (I)
French Beans (climbing) (T)
Runner Beans (T)
Sweet Corn (T)
Chilli (I)
Tomatoes (I)
Cherry
Standard
Beef
Redcurrant (£3)
Blackcurrant (£3)
Tayberry (£3)

(P = pot of six @ £1.50 per pot, T = tray of 6 @ £1.50 per tray, I = individual 3" pot @ £1 each). In addition, Leeks will be available (bare rooted) in late June/early July.

All proceeds will go to The Vine Centre Aldershot (Covid-19 Response and Re-Open Programme). Please send requests by email (dwbosence@btinternet.com) or by phone (01252 792442). **Dan Bosence**, Jeffrey's Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield, GU10 4HS.

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 7 May when due to government legislation we must 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 at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk. Alternatively, any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact the clerk at: dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

The **Annual Parish Meeting** this year will be earlier and held via Zoom on **Tuesday 4 May**. The Parish Council feel it would not be safe to hold such a meeting in a public space at present. We will have more information soon regarding the agenda for this meeting. Please contact the clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk for the Zoom meeting ID and password. There will be a Q & A session in the meeting. All questions need to be submitted to the clerk before the meeting.

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates:

Tuesday **20 April**, 8pm: via Zoom

Tuesday **4 May**, 7pm: Annual Parish Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday **15 June**, 8pm: The Church of the Good Shepherd

Telephone Box. In the last edition of the DNL we called for views on the future of the telephone box which is in very poor condition. Thank you to all those who expressed their views. We received a range of views from the “*in favour of keeping the phone box in its village situation*” type of views at one end of the spectrum to “*it is a piece of classic British history but to save the village from long term upkeep and maintenance perhaps the Parish Council should consider its disposal.*” type views at the other end. If there is one consistent theme it is that something needs to be done. The good news is that a generous donor has come forward with an offer to fund the renovation of the telephone box and keep it in its current location; we are currently working out the details and hope to have further announcements shortly.

Dockenfield is mostly outside the **Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) but inside the local Waverley Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). There is a proposal to extend the Surrey Hills AONB to include the AGLV where it is not already in the AONB – Surrey Hills was only the second landscape to be designated in 1958 and has not been reviewed since. It has been reported that the Surrey Hills AONB Boundary Review is about to start which, in due course, should see Dockenfield included in the Surrey Hills AONB. This was something that we raised with Jeremy Hunt MP when we met with him last year and good to see some progress. This is a good opportunity for you to remind Jeremy of the deep support you feel for this extension of the AONB coverage in the Parish. Every little message helps.

Talking of Surrey Hills, did you see that the Times newspaper has named Surrey Hills as the best place to live in the Southeast 2021.

The Village Website has been updated and given a new, fresh look. Check it out at: www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk
Paul Wood (dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com) and **Jessica Hobday**
(dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Two campaigns worth supporting

During this pandemic, people’s generosity has been called upon like never before, both in terms of financial help and time given to the community. Nevertheless, I do hope that you will be interested to learn of two further causes that you might consider supporting as they both go to the very heart of the enjoyment that can be gained by living in and around Farnham.

The first is a campaign to help **Farnham Maltings**, a quite wonderful resource for us all. They have launched a fundraising campaign which sets out to raise £100,000 to offset the devastating cost of the pandemic and to help secure the Malting’s future. The pandemic has hit them especially hard with their ability to generate income from any source severely curtailed, so if you are able to help them, I know they will be very grateful. For more details visit: farnhammaltings.com or email: boxoffice@farnhammaltings.com.

Please also keep an eye out for what is happening at **Tice’s Meadow**, that precious nature reserve, a delightful mix of land and water, not far from Runfold. The Meadow is currently up for sale, and the fear is that a property developer may buy it thereby denying the wonderful free access that is so enjoyed by the wider community at present. There isn’t yet a formal fundraising effort as it isn’t known exactly what funds might be needed and by when, so currently it’s more a case of keeping the issue live and in the public eye. For the moment, if anyone would like to help, with publicity and pressure on local politicians that would be great. For more information please visit: www.ticesmeadow.org

We are just *so pleased* to have you back!

The biggest ‘welcome back hug’ to all the pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish

As part of the government’s ‘road map’ to recovery we can now eat and drink outdoors at pubs and restaurants. DNL has emailed the Bluebell and all of the other pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish to ask for news of their re-opening plans and what they have said is listed below. Do support them as much as you can as they are such a big part of the beating heart of this Parish.

The Bluebell, Dockenfield: (Tel: 792801; www.bluebell-dockenfield.com)

We are so happy that we are able to open from Monday 12 April, for garden bookings! With the weather being ‘a bit’ temperamental at the moment, it will be an interesting 5 weeks, but it’s better than being closed! We have our covered pergola with heaters, but this is getting booked quickly.

We do have the option of borrowing some marquees from some lovely customers, but to be classed as outside 50% of the sides need to be open- so probably not much warmer than outside! But if it’s looking like non-stop rain this will probably be the route we go down!

Opening Hours

Monday: Closed (except 12 April and Bank Holidays)

Tuesday: 12 midday-3pm (food 12 midday-2.30pm) and 5.30pm-10pm (food 6pm-9pm)

Wednesday: 12 midday-3pm (food 12 midday-2.30) and 5.30pm-10pm (food 6pm-9pm)

Thursday: 12 midday-3pm (food 12 midday-2.30pm) and 5.30pm-10pm (food 6pm-9pm)

Friday: 12 midday-3pm (food 12 midday-2.30pm) and 5.30pm-11pm (food 6pm-9pm)

Saturday: 12 midday-11pm (food 12 midday-9pm)

Sunday: 12 midday-6pm (food 12 midday-3.30pm)

Booking is essential!

This can be done via our website: <https://bluebell-dockenfield.com/>,
by email: bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com or by calling 01252 792801.

Safety is a must!

- ✓ Bookings can be made either as a group of up to 6, or for up to two households (max 10), outside only until (fingers crossed) 17 May
- ✓ All service will be to the table
- ✓ Face coverings will still be mandatory (unless exempt), when not at your table
- ✓ Every customer over 16, must either check in via the NHS Covid-19 app, or fill out a form with their contact details (previously, we could just accept lead booking contact details)
- ✓ Hand sanitiser will be available at entrances/by toilets etc
- ✓ The playhouse will remain closed
- ✓ There may be further official government guidelines to follow, but at the time of writing this (8 April) we have not received them

Takeaways

Friday Takeaways were available up to and including Friday 9 April. After 12 April, when we are open, we hope to keep our takeaways going Tuesday- Saturday, but depending on how busy we are, we may not be able to accept orders at certain times. It’s always worth getting in touch to ask- if we are able to, we will do it! The menu, will be based on the main menu of the pub.

Menu

Please visit our website to view our lovely new menu.

Thank you!

To all of you who support us and to an amazingly loyal group of Friday takeaway orderers, who have kept us going through this weird time.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell Team xx

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

We’re very excited to say that we will be re-opening on Monday 12 April. Please phone 01252 447060 to speak to a member of staff or keep an eye on our Instagram page for important information. We can’t wait to see you all very soon!

David and Sally xx

Cont/d

Cont/d

Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch (Tel: 793014; www.frenshamrbl.org.uk)

We are very pleased to say that, unless anything happens to change the government's plans, the Legion will be able to welcome members again in April for a drink and a chat with friends. In accordance with regulations, this will be for outdoor seating only with table service.

The plan is to reopen on Friday 16 April with the following opening hours:

Friday 16 April	12 midday – 3pm and 6pm-10pm
Saturday 17 April	12 midday – 3pm and 6pm-10pm
Friday 23 April	12 midday – 3pm and 6pm-10pm
Saturday 24 April	12 midday – 3pm and 6pm-10pm

From Friday 30 April we are planning to resume daily opening, at the same times as listed above.

From Monday 17 May, under the current “roadmap” we should be able to open for indoor drinks, again with table service and with the rule of 6 (or two households, if bigger) applying. However, all these plans are subject to change depending on circumstances, so do check before coming by phoning the club during opening hours on 01252 793014 or by contacting our Secretary, Sarah Nash on frblsecretary@gmail.com

Janet Caiger

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

The Frensham Pond Hotel is delighted to be re-opening its doors for outside dining from Monday 12 April. We will be open daily from 11am till 9pm, however pre-booking a table in advance is required. The Spa will be open for treatments only but for no other facilities.

From 17 May the hotel will open for leisure guests staying over as well as both inside and outside dining. Spa wet facilities will also be open from the same date.

We look forward to welcoming our local residents.

Mala Dowd, Operations Manager

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

Please check our website and social media for our reopening date and opening hours.

Joe Wood

An Ode to Men's Night

On the second Thursday of each month, Gentlemen who dwell
In Dockenfield's neighbourhood, meet up at The Bluebell
The beer and wine are excellent, the burgers thick and juicy
The staff are nice and welcoming, our hosts Robin and Lucy
Sport and news and politics, are all on the agenda
We have to put the world to rights, we're not just on a bender

We gather in the cosy bar, but if the weather's fine
We gather up our plates and pints, and in the garden dine
For more than ten years this went on, until Coronavirus
Meant virtual meets on zoom instead, these things are sent to try us
But hopefully as you read this, the end is now in sight
And we will raise our glasses soon, in person at Men's Night.

Steve Lockett

Men's Night....

Because we continue to live in uncertain times the best way to establish details of forthcoming Men's Nights is to join the dedicated mailing list held by **Mark Rosling** (markrosling@outlook.com).
The next dates are Thursdays **15 April** (one week later than usual) and **13 May**.

....and Ladies Night

There remains no fixed date for the next Ladies Night so 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.

Why you should be drinking more beer....

We sent a birthday card to a friend last month that put forward the case that beer is healthy because:

- i) Beer comes from hops and barley
- ii) Hops and barley are plants
- iii) That makes beer a salad!

....and maybe more wine as well?

Another card we saw said *'When I read that wine was bad for you, I gave up reading.'*

Letters to the Editor

We can do magic?

The latest issue (edition 283) is sheer magic! Given that there is not much out there to report on, you have produced a really good read again. The colour pictures are beautiful too. So well done you. **Gerry Davey**

A good number of people have written in to say how much they enjoyed that edition. Special thanks to all the contributing photographers who made that edition so lovely to look at...do please keep them coming

Hello from the Wernicks

Hope you and your family have remained well and healthy during this past year. I attach a letter with a brief update on our lives this past year. Just thought it would be good to let you know how life has been on the other 'NHS' side of this pandemic and why we've kept our heads down working away.

I should add that the Tutt, Britton and Harris families in particular from Great Holt have been so wonderful in keeping us going with support by way of messages, goodie treats and general love towards us.

Also forgot to add I successfully completed 'dry January'! (see page 14 of the last DNL, edition 283) Although my tolerance of alcohol has drastically reduced in this past year as the thought of even having one glass of anything the evening before treating patients scared the life out of me.....more like a dry six months! Lol!

I have been following the Foodbank journey and it is incredible how generous everyone has been...long may it last.

I love reading the DNL and catching up on the positive lovely articles; it has helped keep me sane. Thank you for all the hard work you put into creating, editing, publishing and delivering the DNL. Best wishes.

Priya Wernick

See also page 14

A host of Golden Daffodils

*'As we progressed along The Street,
A yellow profusion we there did meet,
Of daffodils erect trumpets a-flair,
Many thanks to the Rutherfords for planting them there.'*

I think they look absolutely great; a real village scene.

Jill Trout

Thank you for the stamps

Thank you for all the stamps that we have received since the last Newsletter; everyone has been so kind. I have been asked by several people if we are still collecting the stamps, and the answer is 'yes we are', so please keep them coming. Thank you so much.

**Jack and Marjorie Bessant, 1 Beales Cottages,
The Street, GU10 4JH**

Information on Dockenfield Manor please

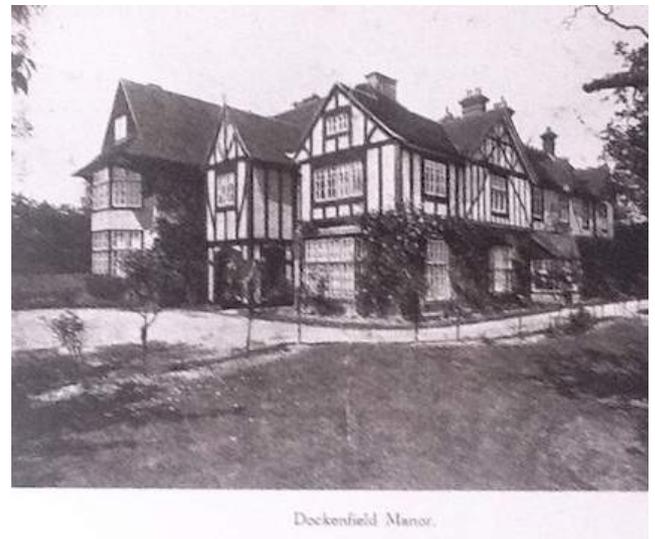
I wonder whether you can help me with my research project. I am trying to track down some photos of Dockenfield Manor School, which was running in the 1940s somewhere near you.

Do you happen to know whether the village archivist has any photos, memories or map locations he can share with me? I have heard about a fire at the school (date? post 1947), about its headmaster and about some of the boys' memories who attended the school in the 1940s. It seems from one of the boys who revisited the site of the school recently, that the building was barely unrecognisable and had been turned into a chicken broiler farm! Can you help?

Peter K. Smith

**Family and House History Researcher
The Netherlands**

Back in 2011 DNL received an enquiry about Dockenfield Manor, that used to house a school but has long since been demolished. With help from a number of residents I wrote an article about the Manor in Edition 227 dated September 2011, and as a result this photo was sent to DNL. If anyone wants a copy of that edition to tie in with this picture, let me know. Or if anyone has further news please email DNL.



Dockenfield Stores

We've lived at 4 Abbotts Cottages for almost 22 years now with our two children (I was pregnant when we moved in with our eldest son, now at uni) and there was a photo hanging in our downstairs bathroom when we moved in that we still have in there!

It's of Dockenfield Stores - now identified as being the white house (*Hampton House*) on The Street, that used to be a part of Batts Corner and was previously Jessop and Son's General Store and Post Office.

Mel Luff, Abbotts Cottages

Cont/d



Dockenfield Stores through the ages, now Hampton House in The Street. See Mel Luff's letter on page 7

A little snippet of recently discovered local History (continued)

In February I wrote a short piece for the DNL (edition 283) about the signature of 'D Taphouse Sept 10th 1903' inscribed into the lead flashing on the big chimney at Great Holt, discovered over one hundred years later by a local craftsman working on our roof. What a chance find! It moved me to think that this local craftsman's signature had been hidden away for a over a century.

Wondering if there were still any village connections, I was interested to find out if Mr D Taphouse and his family were remembered in Frensham. Three responses to my short article came within a day or two of the DNL being published. One of them was from Jill Trout who grew up in Frensham knowing the family well and has many memories, which she is happy to share with readers of the DNL.

'D Taphouse is in fact David born in 1881, the fourth child of William and Hannah Taphouse. William, a plumber, is thought to have worked for the Chuter family. David and his wife Annie lived in one of the semi-detached cottages Nightingale Villas in Fifield Lane built by Chuter & Sons in 1910. David died in 1940 and is buried at St Mary's Frensham. David's wife Annie lived in the family home 2 Nightingale Villas until she died in 1969.'

Jill Trout's memories of the family go back to her early childhood. She remembers Annie Taphouse as Granny Taphouse. Jill's parents knew David's son Frank and his wife Grace, who lived next to them when they lived at Kiln Cottage, West End Lane, where Jill grew up.

So, a signature found just by chance by a very keen-eyed craftsman working on our roof, has uncovered a host of information about this local family.

My thanks to Jill Trout, Ian McLean and Neil Mumford who responded so quickly with memories and information about David Taphouse and his family.

Sandy Taylor

News from Frensham Village Shop

Hello everyone. Hopefully by the time you read this the last cold snap of winter is behind us, and spring is fully underway.

At the Shop so far this year we have introduced some new deals on our Sprinkle of Saffron curry range (meal deal for £20) and a coffee and pastry for £3 as well. There will be more of these to come, so do keep an eye out! For those of you with dogs we also now stock Marshfield Farm Doggy Ice Cream, if you don't want them to feel left out whilst you enjoy your Meadow Cottage Ice Cream when summer arrives!

We held our AGM in early April, having had to postpone the 2020 one due to the events of last year. If you weren't able to join, then please let Ollie (Shop Manager) or one of the committee members if you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can better serve the local community. All details should be on the website.

We are hoping to have a more social event later in the summer to celebrate our 25th year of trading, as well as 10 years in our current location. Once we have more details on this, we will let you know but we hope to see you there.

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

Callum Keaveny www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk 01252 795240

Post early for Christmas?

It's Friday 26 February, and in our post for the day is...our last Christmas card for 2020, arriving almost exactly 2 months after the event. Admittedly, our address was incomplete, missing the Lane and the postcode, but the remainder was accurate. It came all the way from.....the Ridgeway, some 3-4 miles away.

News from our churches

We say goodbye to our Church Warden Eunice King with grateful thanks

After 6 years of devoted service, my Church Warden Eunice King is stepping down at the end of April. I am so thankful firstly for her friendship – she has journeyed alongside me enabling people to know the love of God by caring for both church buildings and grounds; she has helped to facilitate worship, prayer and learning; her professional skills with communication, IT and PA skills which are exemplary, have brought all health and safety, risk assessments and church ‘paperwork’ completely up to date – no mean feat! All this she has done and more since my parish administrator left over 2 years ago. On behalf of myself, the PCC and everyone in the Benefice I give most hearty and loving thanks for all she has committedly given and give all blessings for a much more restful future.

The future of the Church of the Good Shepherd

You may have seen a brief view of the inside of the Church of the Good Shepherd on BBC ‘Countryfile’ on Easter Sunday. If you saw the programme you will have also heard of my sincere intention to keep BOTH the churches in the Benefice open. In the past Dockenfield church has been used for services, festivals, special meals, Parish Council meetings, Cherub’s toddler group, and other activities such as Pilates, cello lessons, Government election voting, etc. I would like to not only restart all these activities, but also try to develop its use further – one thing that came to me was a Wednesday Country Church café? This year we will be promoting further the meadow garden and planting more bulbs during the Harvest festival service. But do you have any other ideas? I would be so glad to hear that the local community would like to use the church building more fully.

I am looking to reopen the Church of the Good Shepherd initially for services towards the end of May, but I need your help please. The church needs thorough cleaning throughout to bring it back to use and I need volunteers to work as a team to do this. It will probably take a day’s work if I have enough help. Please contact me directly on **vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk** if you are willing to help.

I am so thankful that Rob Cregeen and Olly Griffiths have agreed to take on responsibility for the maintenance of the GS churchyard, which is a weight off my mind. But is there anyone local in Dockenfield who could also oversee the care of the building with me please? Once it is open, we can then see what needs to be done to improve it and make it even more serviceable and usable. It’s a great space which is very adaptable and could be used for more creative things. How about a Dockenfield painting group, for example?

I hope this puts people’s minds at rest regarding the building. It is after all the only community building left in Dockenfield and it would be such a shame to lose it. However, I must say if there isn’t the local support to keep it in use, we may have to look at other options.

With love, concern and blessings.

Revd Jane

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 25 April at St Mary’s at 11.15 am, or via live stream

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held after the service on Sunday 25 April at St Mary’s church at approximately 11.15am to 11.30am. We shall be putting all the paperwork for the meeting on the church website. Please do visit <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/apcm2021.htm> to view or download the documents. We shall be live streaming the meeting for those people who are unable to attend. Not all the church officers will be attending the meeting so if you would like to ask a question about any of the reports, please email your question(s) to pccsecretary@frenshamchurches.org.uk by Friday 23 April. These will then be raised and answered in the meeting. Voting can only be by those who are on the church electoral role and are present at the meeting.

I shall be retiring from my role of Churchwarden at this meeting. At time of writing this message, no-one has offered to fill either of the posts available from 25 April 2021 for Church Warden, so going forward this will be the first time in memory that the churches will not have a Churchwarden. If you would like to help Revd Jane with the running of the churches, please do get in touch with me or Revd Jane. Thank you. **Eunice King, Churchwarden**

‘White Van Man’ cometh

It wasn’t so long ago that, outside of the commuter and school runs, you were more likely to be run down by a horse in the lanes of our village than you were by a car. Not so in the last 12 months. Whilst school and commuter runs have diminished, deliveries by ‘White Van Man’ have increased the traffic throughout the Parish and indeed the nation. I read that on-line sales having crept up gradually over the years to about 11% of retail purchases have now leapt to 36% during the pandemic. Let’s hope they reduce again to give town centre shops a fighting chance.

Spring!

After a miserable winter the daffodils are out, and nothing can stop the arrival of Spring. The birds are singing and calling increasingly early as the daylight hours steadily increase.

It is usually the males who sing from their chosen perches, announcing their presence and establishing their territories. This is followed by the usual business of displaying - showing off - as successful birds pair off through March and April. Then begins much to-ing and fro-ing of birds with beaks full of moss, hair, fur, feathers, grass, mud, and cobwebs as they build their nests.

Coal Tits often choose holes at ground level. Nuthatches, Starlings and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers go for holes in trees. Sparrows nest in the eaves of buildings, or in noisy communities in hedges. Dunnocks, Finches and Thrushes opt for trees, hedges and shrubs. Wrens, Robins, and Swallows often like to nest under the cover of garages, porches, sheds, or stables. If you find yourself hosting these visitors, you will have the pleasure of seeing their nesting activity at close quarters, so long as you keep a respectful distance.

From April and May the birds focus on laying and incubating their eggs. The eggs must be kept warm, and this is usually done by the female, using her body warmth. She moults a few feathers from her belly to produce a 'brood patch' of bare skin and makes sure that all the eggs are exposed to that warm place. She shifts about, sometimes moving the eggs with her feet or her bill, to ensure that her warmth is distributed equally.

Although the female usually lays her eggs one by one on successive days, she begins to incubate them only when she has laid them all. This ensures that they will hatch at roughly the same time and can be cared for as a brood. They will be fed together and will eventually leave the nest at about the same time. Once the clutch is complete the female will incubate them for an average of 13 - 20 days. (Owls begin incubating their eggs as soon as they are laid, so their owlets mature at different rates.)

Most birds' eggs are the familiar oval shape with a round end and a more pointed end. Owls lay almost round eggs, and Swallows, Swifts and Martins lay long, elliptical eggs. The colouring of the eggs often provides camouflage against predators. Eggs laid by birds which nest on or near the ground, such as Lapwings, are dark, with speckles or spots. Those laid by tree-nesting birds such as Starlings, Thrushes and Blackbirds are often blue or cream with coloured speckles or streaks. Great Spotted Woodpeckers lay light-coloured eggs.

Blue Tits and Great Spotted Woodpeckers usually have one brood of chicks. Blue Tits may lay as many as ten or twelve eggs in a brood. Wrens, Thrushes and Blackbirds, may have two, three or even four broods of between three and six eggs each. Multiple broods mean a long breeding season, so there may still be newly fledged youngsters in your garden in July or even August, together with some worn-looking parent birds. Much depends on weather conditions, food availability, and the presence of predators. There are always losses during the egg and chick stage, and the RSPB estimates that on average only about 57% of eggs result in fledged youngsters. This may seem harsh, but Nature is prolific, and in most years enough birds survive to produce the next year's generation of garden birds. And so, the seasons roll on.

Val Lewis

St Mary's and the Good Shepherd on TV

On Easter Sunday 4 April, the Rev Jane Walker was on TV being interviewed for the BBC1 programme 'Countryfile'. Jane spoke passionately about the impact that Coronavirus is having on the finances, and indeed very future, of rural churches and also how the inability to visit parishioners is such a painful part of a vicar's life during this pandemic. There were some beautiful shots of St Mary's whilst the interior of the Good Shepherd got a quick showing, albeit without introduction. It's very much worth watching and if you missed it, I am sure that you will be able to see it on 'Catch up'.

A Star in the Making?

I emailed my pals Andrew and Karen of Rowledge ahead of the broadcast to tell them that their friend the Rev'd Jane was going to be on TV. They duly watched the programme and were astonished to see Andrew in the background, cycling along in front of St Mary's Cottages whilst Jane was being interviewed. Andrew promptly wrote to say, *'I guess that is the start and end of my (media) career unless I do something outrageous or notorious.'* Well not so, Andrew. Now you are in Dockenfield Newsletter!

Does one swallow make a summer?

Well, at least for one day at least! On Tuesday 30 March, Roger and Jill Trout saw their first swallow arrive at Batt's Corner, which coincided with it being the hottest spring day in the UK for 53 years. Exactly a week later it snowed, at least a little bit. Proof, if proof were needed, that you need more than one swallow to guarantee a summer!

Congratulations to Diana and Harold Parratt

Many, many congratulations to Diana and Harold Parratt on their very notable 65th Wedding Anniversary which took place on Wednesday 17 March. Regular readers may recall that in September of last year, they won a meal for two at the Bluebell for being the couple in the village who had been married the longest. An article in the December DNL (edition 282) carried a photo of them leaving St Mary's Church Frensham on their wedding day, and a second picture of them enjoying their lunch at the Bluebell, which coincidentally is where they held their wedding reception.

Diana and Harold have lived very nearly all of their married life in Dockenfield and have two children: Helen (married to Andy) and David (married to Louise) and two grandchildren, James and Thomas. They remain immensely active in village life, with Diana very involved in both the WI and Village Lunch, whilst she and Harold are distributors of Dockenfield Newsletter and the Parish Magazine. And let's not forget that it was Diana that came up with the idea of Dockenfield Day with the first fete taking place in May 1981.

On behalf of the village, DNL sends you both much love and many congratulations.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Next Zoom meetings scheduled for 22 April and 27 May both at 8pm

So proper Spring weather (at least for a few days) and spring flowers brightening many gardens. It is incredible to see just how quickly nature responds to some warmer days and nights and even just a little sunshine. We have a wonderful variety of spring flowers showing around the garden and frog spawn in our pond, hence the heron's interest in the pond!

So far this year FDHS held 3 speaker meetings via Zoom. We started in January with a talk about flower farming by Claire Brown of Plant Passion, worth looking at her website to see what a local flower grower can provide, not just flowers! Then in February a number of members talked about their gardens and the way in which they had evolved and some of the plants they include. In March we had Jackie Currie talk about Alliums. Amazing what a variety there are and just how long the season can be with the right plant choices. Ruth Murphy also hosted a Zoom seed sowing workshop which was very helpful and should ensure we all benefit from the seed swap which took place in February.

Over the next few months, we have more Zoom talks lined up. On **22 April** Caroline Plant talking about Bark; on **27 May** Adam Pasco (he launched and then edited 'Gardeners World' magazine) on Gardening the Natural Way. We are still hoping to hold the Autumn Show in September and to arrange some garden visits in the next months or so.

Do take a look at the information on the FDHS website www.fdhs.org.uk It includes membership application information, copies of newsletters and profiles on the Council members just in case you want to see who is who!

Sharon Bleach (www.fdhs.org.uk)

The Fate of the Fetes

Dockenfield Day: The Activities Committee reports that *'there will definitely not be a D Day this year sadly. Fingers crossed that next year will be back to normal!'* This is a particular pity as I believe 2021 would have been the fete's 40th anniversary.

Unfortunately, the same is true of other local fayres, fetes and carnivals with **Frensham, Wreclesham** and **Hale** all being cancelled. However, there is more positive news about **Rowledge Village Fayre**, which has only been postponed from early May to the later date of Bank Holiday Monday 30 August. For more information visit: <https://rowledgevillage.uk>

Decisions are outstanding regarding the **Bourne Show** and **Farnham Carnival**.

The first rain report of 2021

Here is the rain record for January and February 2021:

January 2020: 87.9mm; 2021: 107.4mm

February 2020: 186mm; 2021: 52.2mm

Jack Bessant

Millbridge W.I.

We've just had our 2nd Zoom speaker, Mr David Allen talking on 'The Weird and Wonderful World of the Law'; he was very amusing, which is what is needed at these times.

We are continuing with the monthly flower count which is proving very interesting. We are still doing our Flower of the Month competition on-line as well the Book Group, Craft Group and Scrabble.

Our next Zoom meeting is on **Thursday 15 April** when Major Whittle will be speaking about 'The Lady with the Lamp'.

We are planning to have our Tea Parties for six and our walks in April if Covid plans go ahead.

Hoping our first face to face meeting will be our Garden Party in July, what a celebration that will be.

Diana Parratt

The joys of negotiating our stiles

Since arriving in Dockenfield 6 years ago, we have enjoyed exploring most of the local footpaths. It's been such a blessing for the last year or so of lockdown to be able to get out of the house and enjoy the wonderful countryside and amazing views especially up on the ridge overlooking the village.

Unfortunately though, I have, with the increasing years, become a little less agile and instead of viewing the occasional stile as a fun challenge, my heart sinks! Being only 5 foot tall (or maybe less now, one of the many joys of old age), and being slightly less supple, I'm finding climbing over a stile is something I do not relish! Before attempting the climb, I check there is no-one around to see me making a fool of myself, work out where I can put my feet and what rails I can hold on to, I then send Adrian over first to check the strength of the steps and then slowly attempt to pull myself up with him telling me where to step next, and sometimes even having to help lift my foot over the top! I then have to navigate the way down, making sure there are no puddles to land in. Oh, the joy of a successful climb up and down! But then the realisation that I will probably have to do it all again on the way back unless we go home the long way round.....!

One summer when our daughter was visiting, we found a new path down one of the hills but yes, there was a stile. But I thought I had a good plan - go under the top rail! I checked the size out and the other two thought it was a good plan, so I attempted the climb through only to get stuck halfway and we all got the giggles which made extracting myself even harder!

So, I appeal to whoever is responsible for the upkeep of these wonderful contraptions to think about the old folks like me and make them old folk friendly!

Brenda and Adrian McCarthy

What3Words

I was walking with a friend on a footpath somewhere between Frensham Little Pond and The Devils Jumps. We were unsure precisely which path to take, and so he said what we need is the App called 'What3Words'. I was fascinated by his explanation that it is way, way more accurate than postcodes that can cover quite a wide area. So, I asked him to write a short piece about it for DNL, in case like me you hadn't heard about it either.

Street addresses were designed a very long time ago. They do not accurately specify precise locations in places such as Dockenfield. This can make it hard to find individual houses especially in the dark and prevents people from describing exactly where help is needed in an emergency.

So, some clever people have divided the world into 3 metre squares and have given each square a unique combination of three words. Using a 3-word description has become an easy way to find and share precise locations.

The App is called What3Words and can be downloaded onto a smart phone for free. Once you have the App, you can enter a place name or street address into the search bar and chose the correct one. If you switch to satellite mode and zoom in, you will see a grid. Tap on a square to see its what3words address.

To view the address wherever you are, you tap the icon above satellite mode. Again, you can zoom in to see the grid so you can tap the precise square. You can give the 3 words to someone who is trying to find you and by entering them and pressing navigate that person can use systems such as Waze or Apple Maps to come straight to the desired location. The system is already being used by the emergency services and car manufacturers are allowing voice commands in their latest vehicles to permit you to speak the 3 words into the navigation system.

Dockenfield Lockdown Sponsored Litter Pick

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Sarah Creegan, Natalie Griffiths, Sarah Watson and Heather Britton the hedges and ditches around the village were cleared of litter and fly tipping in the early part of the year. We estimated that we had collected twenty sacks of rubbish and unearthed countless tyres and building supplies hidden in the undergrowth. There were some interesting finds and we all were particularly perplexed as to how 60 empty bottles of vodka came to be lying in the ditches either side of the road running down to the A325 from Cradle Lane. A scary thought!

On a happier note, we came across a few likeminded folk on our litter picking missions and realise that there are unsung heroes (and dogs) helping with the effort on an ongoing basis. Thank you to those readers who have made a contribution to the JustGiving page. Phyllis Tuckwell requires £20,000 a day from non-government sources to run their amazing hospice and since the beginning of lockdown most of their normal income streams have been frozen. The page is still active for a little longer if anyone else wishes to make a contribution. Thank you.
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Anne-Tutt3>

Anne Tutt

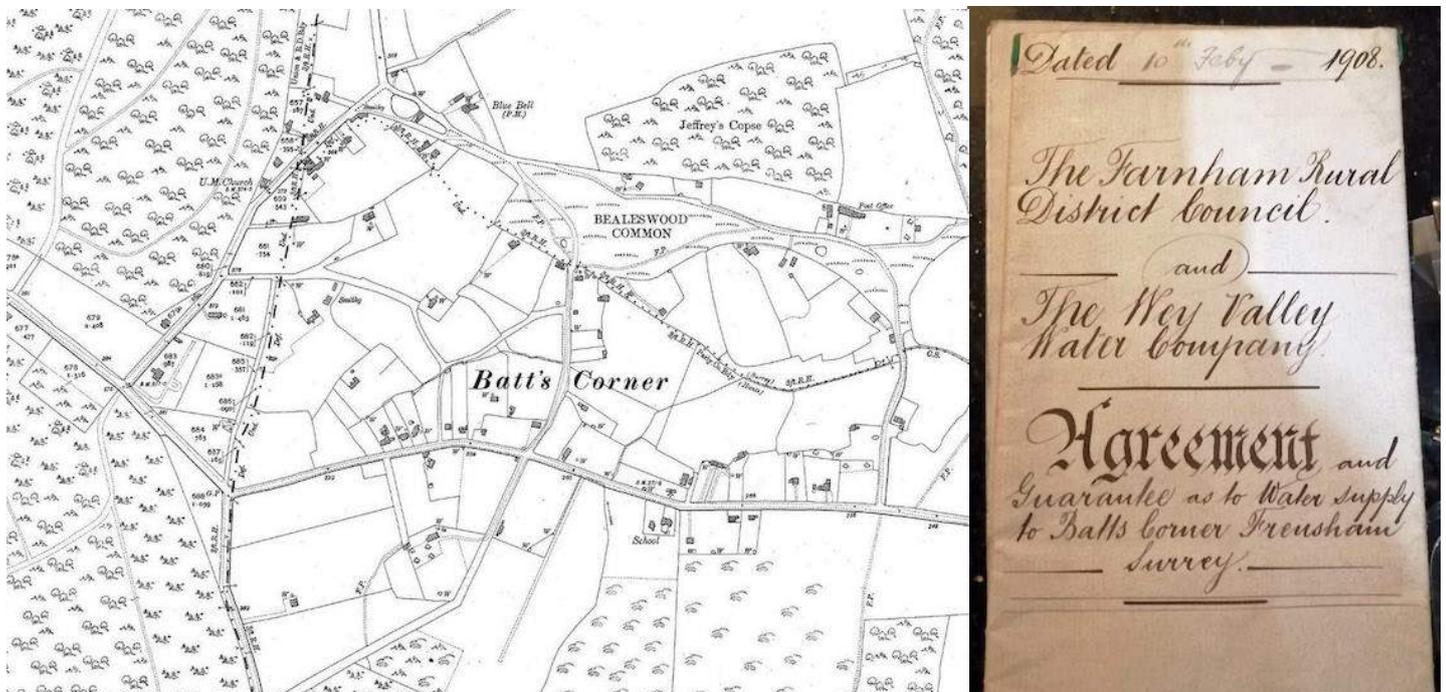
'Farnham's Historic Deal with Dockenfield'

The article below first appeared on page 10 of the Farnham Herald dated 25 March, under the headline above, as part of the paper's 'Peeps into the Past' feature. I contacted Chris Shephard who writes the feature for the Herald and suggested that it would be of great interest to DNL readers, and they may even be able to throw some more light on the matter he is investigating, and he kindly gave permission for it to be reproduced here. If you have any thoughts or information about this, we'd love to hear them so please email DNL (michael.foster66@btinternet.com) and Chris Shephard (peeps@chrispics.co.uk).

'This wonderful old document has come to Peeps from Alex Wilkinson via Madeleine Howard of Elstead. It is the front of an agreement between the Wey Valley Water Company and Farnham Rural District Council from July 1908 to supply water to the hamlet of Batts Corner, near Dockenfield (shown in this 1910 map extract).

Presumably the contract would have included Blue Bell public house, near the top of the map extract, shown in a photograph of probably similar vintage.

Two things strike me about this agreement: For somewhere then well off the beaten track was this very early to get a piped water supply? Also, it's interesting to see that the supply is being provided by the local authority, not direct between residents and the water company. Unfortunately, we don't have access to the contents of the document, but I would be interested to hear any further information and readers' thoughts on early water supply in this area.'



Map:

This caption written by DNL. Take a careful look at this map. See how few houses there are; note the name of the pub; the location of the post office; look for the two smithies, the school, the parliamentary/county boundary and where the only church is; and see where the footpaths lead.

Bluebell:

This caption written by the Herald. Though the building dates back to the 17th century, evidence suggests that the Bluebell pub achieved its first alehouse licence in 1855, just 15 years before the hamlet gained its first water supply.

Life on the NHS front line, with the Wernick family of Dockenfield

I was having my morning cup of tea and catching up on the latest from DNL (which has been so lovely to read during this difficult time, as well as the last 11 years of living in Dockenfield). I came across your request to inform you of any other South West Surrey Heroes Award (congratulations to Dan Bosence) and it struck me that I probably should have let you know about Ed's award too.

Ed and I have been pretty flat out the last 11 months, what with Ed leading the Covid-19 response and Vaccination program for Farnham and myself working for Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust. As hard as it has been for us and our three boys attending key worker school daily without the familiarity of their 'normal', we are grateful for our health and the health of our families and loved ones.

Ed received an email from Jeremy Hunt in the new year to say he had won the same award for all his services towards the NHS and local area over the last 10 months. Ed was humbled at receiving the award and the four of us incredibly proud of him. We thought it would be nice to share his news with the village. Our friends and neighbours at Great Holt have been amazingly supportive as have our friends in the rest of the village and Farnham.

We continue to do our bit for the NHS, as do our incredible colleagues for whom it has always been a privilege to work beside. This last year has made us even more proud to be part of the NHS workforce and family. Everyone is exhausted but somehow continue for the greater good of people, all people, it really is quite extraordinary.

Please do not feel you have to copy and paste this letter exactly or add any of it – please do write in your own words what you feel is best, but recognizing Ed's award I'm sure will keep him ticking along with some positivity.

We hope all the villagers of Dockenfield remain healthy, safe and well. We will all get there.... together.

Priya, Joshua, Ethan, Cameron and Ed Wernick xx

News from Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

We are back! Having shut along with the schools at the beginning of the year, we re-opened the Centre on the 8 March to begin catching up on postponed assessments. This is the service that is easier to do face-to-face as many of the tests we do are very practical. We are also busy helping children whose parents have struggled with home-schooling and have realised (or had it confirmed) that something is not quite as it should be.

Re-opening meant getting the Centre out of its wintry hibernation. The heating was cranked up (it's quite a chilly building) and we set to sweeping up leaves and planting some spring flowers so that the place felt chirpy and welcoming. Our visitors are still being assessed across see-through screens and we continue to spray and wipe after each client. This is a practice we may be continuing for some time! Hopefully, later in the year, the Centre will be back buzzing and busy with lots of people coming and going.

The lockdown has also meant that lots of our 50th Anniversary celebrations are still just plans for now. We are very excited to be welcoming Professor Maggie Snowling CBE of Oxford University to deliver our 50th Anniversary Lecture entitled 'Dyslexia and Developmental Language Disorder' which will be online on 24 April. We are celebrating with a **Golf Day on 14 October** at Worplesdon Golf Club (<http://www.helenarkell.org.uk/event/50th-anniversary-golf-day-2021.php>). We are keen to celebrate in other ways but will have to make decisions when the Covid situation is clearer.

Thinking about the anniversary has given us an opportunity to reflect on what Helen aimed to do when the charity opened back in 1971 and take stock of the differences we've made to so many people with dyslexia, their families and their teachers. It feels like a celebration of Helen as well as the work.

So, onwards and upwards once again!

Helen Mortimer

The shape I'm in!

When a friend's mother died, we were given many hundreds of incontinence pads, originally intended as a donation for the Foodbank, but in fact given to a care home which had greater need of them. We stacked the boxes, about 5 feet high, in our conservatory before taking them to our car for onward delivery. At that moment Stephanie, who helps in our garden, came round, saw them and said 'Jeez, Michael, you're in worse shape than I thought!'

Leek and Celery ‘Lockdown’ Soup

I imagine like lots of residents of Dockenfield and Frensham, we have been entertaining ourselves with lots more cooking from scratch this last year. I have always liked making soups, and it’s so satisfying when you get it right!

This Leek and Celery ‘Lockdown’ soup is a very a simple recipe and is good for lunch or a light supper. It has become one of our favourites and freezes very well.

Ingredients

2 large leeks
 half a head of celery
 4 good sized echalion shallots
 half a medium sized baking potato
 home-made chicken or vegetable stock
 or stock Cube, one of the two,
 Bay leaves, salt and pepper to taste.

Method

Chop cleaned veg into chunks and just cover with water/stock, I use a pressure cooker or a lidded saucepan will do. Cook until vegetables are just soft. Leave to cool, then liquidise.

This amount will make enough for six portions. It is a very simple recipe and has a very fresh flavour. It can be dressed up with a little cream before serving and a sprinkle of chopped chives to finish.

Sandy Taylor

Dockenfield Business Directory

The business directory is a list of residents of Dockenfield who own and run their own business; it is a slightly abridged version of the list which appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk); for updates please contact **Paul Wood** at pdw65@btinternet.com

All businesses, large or small, full or part time 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 the door: so please when submitting entries always remember to give you full home address although this will not be published.

Business Name	Services Offered	Contact	Tel/ email/ website
J C Aldred Services	Groundworks, drainage and hard landscape	Dan Aldred	07808 781794 johnaldred@btconnect.com
Alison Ellen Knitwear	Short courses and books on designing knitwear; custom made knitwear. Open to public with Surrey Artists Open Studios. https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk	Alison Ellen	01252 792442 / 07896 124418 alison@alisonellenhandknits.co.uk www.alisonellenhandknits.co.uk
Allen Warren	Shooting coach/instructor game (on the peg) clay shooting. Beginners to pro.	Allen Warren	07808 581131 allenwarren1@hotmail.com www.shootinginstructor.com
Bluebell Pub	The only public house in Dockenfield	Robin/Lucy Catchpole	01252 792801 bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com https://bluebell-dockenfield.com
Brown Fox Consultancy Ltd	We coach leadership teams to maximise their full potential and performance and also individuals around business development	Sebastian Fox	07930 986677 sebastian@brownfoxconsultancy.com www.brownfoxconsultancy.com
Bushbaby Travel Ltd	Bespoke holidays and adventures around the world including safaris, road trips, cruises and beach flops! Tour operator only dealing direct with clients to enable us to offer the best prices	Abigail and James Shaw	01252 792984 info@bushbaby.travel https://bushbaby.travel
Charterlith	Artwork, design, printing, copying, presentations, dissertations, business & personal stationery, posters, plan copying and printing	Adrian Wilkins/John Wilkins	01252 614406 theprinters@charterlith.co.uk www.charterlith.co.uk

Business Name	Services Offered	Contact	Tel/email/website
Dockenfield Dog Care	Dog walks; day care; home visits	Susan Slinger	01252 795704 / 07798 657954 susanslinger@gmail.com
Hames Homes Maintenance	A family-run business specialising in handyman and home improvement services for local households and businesses across Surrey and Hampshire	Phil Hames	07885 263077 enquiries@hameshm.com www.hameshm.com
Hannah Poulson	Soloist available for event singing; any occasion	Hannah Poulson	07776 332209 hannahpoulson@hotmail.co.uk www.hannahpoulson.com
In a Scent Aromatherapy	Aromatherapy and deep tissue massage and consultation; crystal therapy; and reiki (master teacher)	Amanda Adolph	01252 795909 / 07867 808918 amandaadolph@gmail.com
Jean Heathcote	Painter in oils, landscapes, local scenes and seascapes. Open Studio in June every year	Jean Heathcote	01252 793251
Learn Guitar Farnham	Guitar teacher for all ages and styles. Lessons via Zoom offered	Mark Gardiner	01252 794088 59bassman@tiscali.co.uk www.rockriffs.jimdo.com
Milestones Clinic Ltd	We provide a comprehensive and specialist service by professionals who have the right set of skills to address the complex needs of people who have a need for neurological rehabilitation such as post brain injury, spinal cord injury, stroke and Covid-19	Sally de la Fontaine	01784 457520 sally@milestonesclinic.co.uk www.milestonesclinic.co.uk
Nicola Godden Sculpture	Sculpture in bronze for gardens and interiors	Nicola Godden BA MRBS	01252 795547 nicolagodden@aol.com www.nicolagodden.com
Penny Heath	Suzuki cello teacher. An incredibly successful and stimulating method of teaching small children	Penny Heath	01252 795358 / 07891 710652 pennyheath5@gmail.com
Pilates Training Solutions Ltd	Pilates providers level 3 Pilates qualification, level 4 back pain management, Pilates matwork classes, one to one equipment and rehabilitation sessions	Belinda Buttery	01252 719429 / 07734 426757 belindajbuttery@hotmail.com www.pilates Trainingsolutions.co.uk
Pure Imagination Jewellers	Bespoke jewellery; commissions; repairs; cleaning and gemology	Ben Poulson	07789 798463 benpoulson@hotmail.co.uk www.pureimaginationjewellers.com
Roak Ltd	Quality trusted builders; refurbishment; new-build; extensions	David Epps	01252 820328 / 07768 510055 david@roak.co.uk www.roak.co.uk
Ronnie Bennett Photographer	Professional photographer specialising in portraiture, particularly in black & white. Over 40 awards including from Kodak and Fujifilm. Also specialising in Family Lifestyle Books including portraits, pets, homes, gardens & cars	(Mrs) Ronnie Bennett	01252 794258 ronnie@ronniebennett.com
Shooting Simulator	For all abilities. A camera-based system to use on your gun or on our dummy gun. This system provides gun movement and shot analysis for a rapid learning experience. Disciplines offered: Shotgun and Rifle	Katy Poulson	07703 519488 katy.poulson@btconnect.com www.shooting-simulator.co.uk
Strawberry Signs Ltd	Sign-writer offering banners; vehicle graphics; pavement and shop signage; logos and much more	Paul Edwards	01252 319474 / 07824 439344 info@strawberrysigns.com www.strawberrysigns.co.uk
Tim Lediard	Interior and exterior painting, pressure washing, hedge cutting and grass cutting, carpet and upholstery cleaning	Tim Lediard	01420 472285 / 07900 895667 tlediard@aol.com
UCAN Training Ltd	Executive coaching and management training. Specialises in personal development and coaching of women.	Sharon Jackson	01252 792811 / 07887 767705 sharon@ucantraining.com www.ucantraining.com
Walker and Walker Int Ltd	Architectural and interior design business, building and decorating residential houses	Louise Walker	01252 703415 louise@designwalker.co.uk www.designwalker.co.uk

Wildlife on Bealeswood Common

Flowers: The spring flowers became more prominent in the last two weeks in March. Many could be seen on the sides of the path and in ditches down the hill below the Common's noticeboard. The first Wood Anemones were spotted on the path leading up from Lake Lane, this is a week later than last year's flowering time. Many other spring flowers are also about a week later than last year. If you look carefully you will see about 13 different flowers out on the Common. In April look out for the Bluebells and see if you can spot the difference between our native sort and the rather invasive, bigger, Spanish variety. As you walk up to the pub you may notice that their picture of a Bluebell is actually what in England, is called a Harebell, but in Scotland and America is also called a Bluebell. And then in mid-late May when up to about 40 flowers are out, look out for the star of the year, the Common Spotted Orchid.

Birds: As we write in late March our characteristic spring birds, the Chiffchaff and the Blackcap, have just been heard on the Common and hopefully will be joined in April by the Garden and Willow Warblers. These will add to our rich birdsong of resident choristers; the Blackbirds, Mistle and Song Thrushes. All six of our corvids (crow family) are seen on the Common; Rooks are the least frequently seen but 12 were spotted in a field adjacent to the Lower Common (off Bealeswood Lane). Ravens are becoming more frequently seen flying over the Common and the remaining corvids are often seen; Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie and Jay. Patient watchers could be rewarded with the sight of a Treecreeper on the mature stands of oaks.

Moving into April the Cuckoo should be heard early in the month (*see page 1*) and in May we are hoping that the Spotted Flycatcher will arrive; last year was the first time it had bred on the Common for many years.

Butterflies: The butterflies on the Common are surveyed along a set number of transects each year so that a semi-quantitative record is kept, and this has been continuing for about 10 years on the Common. The transects start on the first week in April. However, the following were seen during warm days in mid-late March: Peacocks, Brimstones and Commas. In April, as the weather warms up look for "the whites" (Small and Large, Green Veined, and the Orange Tip), Blues (Common and Holly), Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Silver Washed Fritillary. In total, we are very fortunate to have 24 out of a total of 59 of Britain's butterflies on the Common.

Dan Bosence (on behalf of Bealeswood Common Wildlife Recording Group)

Wildlife Walks: hold these dates

Steve Luckett has been in touch about wildlife walks he is planning on behalf of the Bealeswood Common Wildlife Recording Group. They will of course only happen if lockdown restrictions are eased on 21 June. So they are all subject to confirmation nearer the time, but you might like to hold these dates in your diary for now and keep your fingers crossed. Why not check with Steve as the dates approach.

28 June 10.00 Meet at Bealeswood Common noticeboard for a 3 mile walk to Alice Holt forest to see woodland butterflies, possibly Purple Emperor.

16 July 21.30 Meet at Frensham Little Pond corner car park for nightjars and other nightlife. 2 hours.

20 August 20.30 Meet at Bealeswood Common noticeboard for a 3 mile walk to Frensham Mill and River Wey to see bats and possibly owls.

These walks are offered through Bealeswood Common Wildlife Recording Group, rather than by me as an individual. Do use my contact details though.

Steve Luckett (on behalf of Bealeswood Common Wildlife Recording Group)
posteve@hotmail.co.uk

Some spiritual thoughts

Lucy Majury is a local fitness coach who puts Hugh Evans and myself, amongst others, through our paces. As well as being an ace trainer and an all-round lovely person, she has quite a spiritual side. And she has introduced me to the thoughts of Marcus Aurelius Antonius. He was Roman emperor from 161 to 180 CE and a Stoic philosopher. For many he symbolized the Golden Age of the Roman Empire. Anyway, Lucy inspired me to learn more, so I have checked out some of his most famous thoughts and I can't resist sharing four of them with you here.

'What a precious privilege it is to be alive: to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.'

'You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.'

'Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking.'

'Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one.'

A story with a happy ending

Those of you with good memories may recall back in the summer of 2018 the story of a photographer who was taking pictures at a wedding reception being held at the Bluebell who used a drone to get some aerial shots. All of a sudden, the drone got a mind of its own and disappeared from view to the distress of the photographer, and doubtless the happy couple. The photographer (Charlie) hunted high and low for the missing drone, knocked on doors, and put a small piece in DNL offering a reward if anyone found it. Nothing.

Fast forward to last week, nearly three years later and DNL gets the following email from Cheila Rose-Burns of Abbotts Cottages:

'I have found a drone when walking in the fields in Dockenfield and have a memory of someone a while ago asking if anyone had found one? If you feel it is appropriate to put something in the next Newsletter then I am happy if someone wants to claim it to give me a call. I think it may have been lost for some time but still looks in good condition with camera but can't see any ID on it?'

Debbie and I have good memories too and we dug out Charlie's name and number, told Cheila and she gets in touch again:

'Thanks for the number. Well, here's an update. I called him and he has just come over to collect it! He's a very happy man, especially as it's also the groom of the day's birthday today. He didn't mention reward and neither did I as I am just happy it's reunited with its owner. I found it in the field next to the playing field/football area. I was walking towards the part demolished shed to take a look and amongst the new shoots of grass there it was.'

Brilliant work Cheila. What a good memory you have.... I bet you have made Charlie and the groom very happy. The drone had travelled quite a distance from the Bluebell hadn't it.

What's the time?

Had you been looking at your watch at 26 minutes to 1pm on Thursday 4 March 2021, the time could have been shown as 1234 on 4321.

What's the date?

Had you been looking at your calendar on 2 February, I wonder if you would have realised that the date that day was both a palindrome and an ambigram. Which is to say you could have read the date from left to right and from right to left. Or even upside down when written in certain typefaces which sadly I am not using here: 12022021.

Blowing a raspberry

I wrote in the last DNL that we had an excess of raspberry canes looking for good homes. Well, I am delighted to say that those canes are now planted and I hope flourishing in four gardens around the Parish and I hope that their new owners will enjoy an abundance of delicious fruit in the years to come. And after an earlier edition we had a queue of people wanting an old log burning stove we no longer needed.

All of which makes me think that DNL might be a useful way of passing on goods you own but no longer have a need for, thereby recycling and saving waste. Let me know if so.

Thought for the day

Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon or stars.

Call that a diet?

Instead of making food donations for the Foodbank, some people kindly give us money instead and we do the shopping. We discover what is most urgently needed, check it's ok with the supermarket, and then buy that in bulk.

It was my turn to visit Sainsburys and I arrived at the till with about 25 tins of ravioli and macaroni cheese. And, separately, I remembered to stock up with a few bottles of Theakston's Old Peculier, one of my favourite beers.

The checkout lady gave me an enquiring look and said, *'Hope you're not planning to consume all that in one sitting, sir. There could be dire consequences.....!'*

Losing your masculinity

Sometimes the 'red top' tabloid newspapers as they are known, come up with real giggle-worthy headlines, and this I think is a case in point.

In February, it was announced that the cartoon character 'Mr Potato Head' fell foul of the need for gender neutrality and would henceforward be known simply as 'Potato Head'.

The Daily Star responded with a front-page banner headline declaring: *'Mr Potato Head loses his meat and two veg'*.

Have you been enjoying 'sanity sandwiches'?

It seems that 'sanity sandwiches' is the name that has been given to the walk/relaxation/break you take during lockdown, especially for those working and teaching family from home.

Well-named I thought, even for those of us fortunate enough not to have any such responsibilities but just in need of a daily break in the great outdoors.

Farnham Repair Café

Free Webinar, 7-8pm, 22 April

Have you ever used the Farnham Repair Café? We have and it's an absolutely brilliant resource. The repairers there use their skill to give new life to broken items and so save you money and the planet countless tonnes of waste. It's a miniature local version of BBC TV's '*The Repair Shop*', if you like.

They are normally based in the Spire Church but sadly during the pandemic they haven't been able to operate in their usual way. On the recommendation of the Farnham Herald, they have been in touch with DNL to tell us about their free webinar that is taking place on 22 April. First up though, here are a few background facts and figures:

Farnham Repair Café (FRC) was established in 2014 and became a charity in 2017. FRC has organised 60 sessions in collaboration with The Centre for Sustainable Design at the Business School for the Creative Industries at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham Town Council and Spire Church.

Since its launch, FRC has had over 3,000 attendees; completed 1,300 repairs; achieved a 66% repair rate; ensured four tonnes of material have been diverted from landfill; prevented 36 tonnes of CO2 emissions resulting from the waste savings from product life extension through repair. And all in all, made savings for residents of Farnham totalling over £105,000. Quite impressive, huh!

FRC is now looking to recruit new repairers and volunteers in preparation for future sessions after lockdown. Skills and experience related to electrical, mechanical, clothing, bicycles and furniture are being sought. In addition, FRC is looking for people with skills in 3D printing to enable it to continue its pioneering work on customised repairs.

This webinar will provide an introduction to Farnham Repair Café and provide experiences of repairers and other volunteers who are involved. There will be two short presentations, and a question-and-answer session that will be designed to enable those interested in engaging with FRC to learn more – either as volunteer, repairer or a future customer.

The event is free of charge. To register email: rcarruthers@uca.ac.uk with your name and you will be sent instructions to join the webinar.

For more information contact: Ros Carruthers, The Centre for Sustainable Design, Business School for the Creative Industries, UCA Tel: 01252 892772.



The promise of a spring to come. Photograph by Ronnie Bennett



New season; new growth; new hope for the future. Clockwise from top left: blackthorn, viburnum, euphorbia and pink hellebore. Photographs by Ronnie Bennett

Another thought for the day

Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end there are times you wish you had a club and a spade!

The joys of cat ownership

We have two cats, and recently one of them tried to bring a squirrel, a *live* squirrel, in through the cat flap. Fortunately, we were around to stop the idea in its tracks, but can you imagine the chaos if it had been brought in and escaped around the house? Before we had a wire cage put on our chimney, we have had rooks scramble down and fly around our lounge. And even once a kestrel (which was more pleasing than the rooks!). But never a live squirrel. Has anyone else had a similar experience?

It's been the new normal for us....and for our pets

Most of us have had a lot of adjusting to do this last year or so, getting used to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, not least of all being 'confined' to our homes and gardens for long periods of time. Something most of us, even in the delightful setting of our countryside parish, were beginning to rail against.

On the other hand, it's probably been the reverse feeling for our pets, who will have become accustomed to having us around. Regular walks, regular feeding times, regular company. So, if the lockdown continues to ease in the coming weeks and months and we are able to enjoy more freedoms, then spare a thought for all our furry friends as they won't have the same degree of companionship they have recently become accustomed to.

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