

DNL Dockenfield *newsletter*

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 285

Published 28 June 2021

Who cares about **The Good Shepherd?**

Well, we are rather hoping that you do.

There are only two 'public' buildings in Dockenfield where we can all meet up: The Good Shepherd and The Bluebell. Under the astute and loving management of Robin and Lucy Catchpole the pub is experiencing a renaissance, popular with residents and visitors alike.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of The Good Shepherd, where today's harsh economic realities threaten its very existence. Oh, the loving management is there alright, in spades, in the form of Revd Jane Walker. But we need to encourage people to use The Good Shepherd more for both ecclesiastical and secular reasons. Jane outlines her vision for revitalised services on page 6, together with details of their regular times. Cont/ on page 3



The History of the Good Shepherd

In 1909 Dockenfield (then more often referred to as Batts Corner) had a population of 246. It had a pub (the Bluebell, thankfully still with us), a smithy, an edge tool maker, a carpenter, a post office, a Methodist chapel, an infant school and a Quaker Meeting House. But no church.

In February 1909 a public meeting in Frensham School proposed the building of a Chapel of Ease in Dockenfield. The land was offered by Richard Combe of Pierrepoint and plans for a church to hold 250 people were drawn up, although this was subsequently reduced to a capacity of 130, including the choir.

The Good Shepherd is an early work of an architect who went on to have a distinguished career as the designer of some grand buildings in the Neo-Classical style in London and beyond, including the Dorchester Hotel and New Scotland Yard. William Curtis Green was born in Alton, Hampshire, but at the time was living in The Bourne. He won prizes for garden design and best houses in a prestigious garden suburb exhibition in 1910. In the same year he was contracted by the Parish to build a church for Dockenfield. The church was modest in size, constructed of Bargate (a local stone no longer quarried), rather than brick or dressed stone, and built by craftsman working for local builders Chuter and Sons.

In April 1910, building began. On 28 May the foundation stone was laid (see picture below) and by December, just 8 months after work started, the church was in use. A remarkable feat given that there were no cement mixers, modern scaffolding or cranes in those days.

Though it was originally intended that the interior should have had plastered walls it was decided that the Bargate stone should also be used for the interior walls to match the exterior and interior detailing into a coherent simple but satisfying whole (see picture on page 15).

The builder's quote for the project was £1,350 with a further £10 for the work and material needed to extend the use of Bargate to the interior walls. The architect's fee was £75. All the money was raised by public subscription. There was however insufficient money available to build a tower, which is why the Good Shepherd has its rather unique turret in the west wall to house the bell (see also page 15). The turret cost £4, the bell £16 10s, and the wooden vestry £22. That vestry has been updated a number of times down the years with the current version, complete with kitchen and toilets, opened in 2006.

When it was completely finished, with all furniture and necessary equipment, the venture cost the Parish £1,628 16s 8p. To put that into perspective, £100 in 1910 is worth a little over £12,000 now.

Curtis Green is not the only famous figure associated with The Good Shepherd. For some 60 years Dockenfield was the home of the internationally famous illustrator Pauline Baynes, celebrated for her work for CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien. In 2001, she donated a millennium picture of a medieval shepherd which is hung in the church and she also designed the millennium window you can see in the west end of the church.

Dockenfield is fortunate to be the location of this very special example of a church in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. Although there are some larger houses locally built in the same style (Great Holt is one), there are few examples of public architecture on a modest scale, so the Marindin Hall and The Good Shepherd are unique in this respect. Indeed, The Good Shepherd is widely regarded as the finest Arts and Crafts church in Surrey.

With thanks to Revd Jane, Morag James, Jack Bessant, Norman Taylor, Simon Claiden, Jill Trout and Maureen Stone for their help in creating this and all other Good Shepherd articles in this edition.



The foundation stone being laid in 1910; and showing the church's prominence in the village shortly after. Pictures kindly provided by Jack Bessant. Front cover picture. The Good Shepherd and wild flower meadow in June 2021. Picture by Simon Claiden.

Who Cares About The Good Shepherd? Cont/

Beyond that, let's cut to the chase: for The Good Shepherd to survive as a public building, it needs not only growing congregations but greater community use. And greater income. The past 15 months have been really tough for everyone, including The Good Shepherd where income has pretty much dried up. Perhaps surprisingly though, we aren't asking you to put your hands in your pockets. But we are asking for help. Everyone's help.

First of all, we have a question. Do you want The Good Shepherd to survive as a public building for ecclesiastical and community use? Or do you view it as a potentially valuable piece of real estate that the village can afford to lose? Always remembering that the value of any sale would *not* accrue to the Parish.

If, as we hope, the answer to that is that you would prefer to keep it, then we have good news. The seriously uncomfortable and very cumbersome pews are being replaced with new, comfy, stackable chairs. At a single stroke the church will become a truly valuable and very flexible community space (as well as being infinitely more appealing for congregations).

This opens up completely new horizons for public use. Already there are things in the pipeline. Starting on **Friday 2 July** and happening between 10-12 *every Friday* there is going to be **Coffee Stop: Dockenfield**, when tea, coffees and cakes will be served. A perfect (and mouth-watering) opportunity to meet up with friends and neighbours, and for walkers, cyclists and passers-by to call in. So do come along and bring your pals. Then there will be the return of Pilates, DPC Meetings, Parish and Harvest Suppers and Cherubs; plus, there are ideas in the pipeline for an Alpha Course, an Art Show, Musical and Film Evenings. And The Good Shepherd will be available for hire for private use. Plus, the garden is a wonderful space for community engagement.

Of course, none of this happens without your help.

Helping is easy. Please just email Jill Wright *

(treasurer@frenshamchurches.org.uk) with answers to the following three points:

- Do you want The Good Shepherd to survive as a church/public building? We really do encourage your feedback on this vital point.
- We have outlined the first green shoots of new plans, but we'd like a lot more. So, we'd love to hear your ideas for its future use both for the community use and for church services.
- Are you prepared to volunteer to help out at all? This is *critical*, but it doesn't have to be onerous. Many hands make light work. But we do need you on board if we are to succeed. So please put your name forward.

Please don't just pass this article by. If you do, then the future of the Good Shepherd becomes very uncertain. And as they say in the supermarkets: *'when it's gone, it's gone'*.

* Jill is the PCC Treasurer, who is happy to collect and collate all the answers, opinions, ideas and offers of help you send in.

COFFEE STOP: DOCKENFIELD

come along for
REFRESHING COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE
THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 2 JULY

Opening Times: 10am – 12pm, £2 for drink and cake

ALL WITHIN COVID GUIDELINES

Interested in hiring
The Good Shepherd
for private use?

Call Barbara Potter
Tel: 01252 794727

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

All Parish Council meetings are now being held in The Church of the Good Shepherd. 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. Alternatively, if you have any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, then please contact the clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates

Tuesday 20 July 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd

Tuesday 21 September 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting was held on 4 May on Zoom. Paul Wood summarised the past year which, whilst impacted by the pandemic with the cancellation of D Day, the Christmas party and many more events, also saw good progress on the restoration of Hatch Pond, fencing New Field, more frequent cutting of Fritz's Field to control the horsetail, a new bench on Bealeswood Common and refurbishment of footpaths at the bottom of Sandy Lane and the top of Lake Lane. The Bealeswood Common Wildlife Group produce great monthly reports with some fantastic photos of the flowers, butterflies and birds seen on the Common. The reports can be found on the Bealeswood Common noticeboard and on the village website (<http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife.html>). Thank you to all the volunteers who make these things happen and to Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council Highways for the bench and footpath renovations respectively.

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Revd Jane Walker attended the June Parish Council meeting to discuss the situation with The Church of the Good Shepherd. Given that the Church and the Bluebell pub are the only community buildings in the village it is concerning that the future of the Church is in question. This really is a case of "use it or lose it". Please see the other articles in this edition of the DNL on the Church and come forward with ideas for how the community can use the Church in new ways. **Paul Wood (dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com) and Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)**

Traffic Calming

Just recently Michael and I put up the little speed signs, that were up once before, at either end of the village, saying '29 is Fine', '28 is Great', '27 is Heaven' and 'Thank You', in the hope that they would remind people to keep to the speed limit. The plan was to have them there for only 3 weeks, as after that people stop noticing signs apparently. However, someone complained almost immediately and the Council came out and took them away.

It is a shame that whoever objected to the signs didn't call one of the Parish Council members, or even Michael Foster, all of whom knew about this temporary measure. Perhaps whoever objected would like to volunteer to be a part of the CSW (Community Speed Watch) scheme, we could do with some new volunteers, or get involved in the rather thankless task of trying to do something about the traffic through the village. Those of us who live on The Street are very aware of the speed of some vehicles.

Over many months a young man was driving his motorbike through the village early every day with an exhaust problem. The bike was so noisy it woke many people up at some point between 6.30am and 7.15am each day. After a few attempts we managed to get out and stop him on his way home one day. We found out that he had no idea his bike was so noisy and he was very apologetic and promptly got his exhaust changed! I hope this has been noticed and appreciated by people on The Street who were being disturbed each day!

I'm sure many people are aware that at the Rowledge end of the village one of the 30 signs has been missing for years! It has been reported to the Council but nothing has been done which is why we rather took things into our own hands and made up the temporary signs.

We have recently painted the bollards at either end of the village by the chicanes as another method to calm the traffic.

Nicky Rutherford, CWS co-ordinator

Please check before you plan

This edition of DNL was planned to come out a week after the final coronavirus restrictions were lifted on 21 June, so that pubs, churches and everyone else knew exactly where they stood within the regulations. But it hasn't quite worked out that way has it, with 'Freedom Day' being postponed by 4 weeks until 19 July. So 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.

Have you heard about Frensham Peddlers?

This sounds an absolutely wonderful idea and I am very grateful to Vicki for bringing this to DNL's attention. Just perfect for a summer evening, with a 'refuelling stop' thrown in for good measure. Here's what she wrote to tell us:

I am not sure if you have picked up on the Frensham Peddlers. This is a cycle group which I initiated in mid-April to provide a social summer evening cycle ride. We cycle approximately 12 -15 miles on country lanes, byways, and bridle paths and have crossed the odd ford.

We meet at Frensham Recreation Ground at 6pm every Thursday - we have around sixteen people signed up but welcome more from Dockenfield; averaging 6-8 people each week. The rides are led by myself and other members of the group.

You will definitely need a mountain/hybrid or electric bike - this is not suitable for road bikes and is certainly not a race. We also have a mid-ride pub stop or when we arrive back in the village. A great way to meet your neighbours and enjoy our beautiful countryside.

I would be grateful if you could put a notice in the Dockenfield Newsletter and if anyone is interested, please contact me by email.

We have had six rides so far and will continue until mid-September - no commitment to come every week.

Vicki Hinde

Email: vicki.hinde@btopenworld.com Tel: 01252 246491

Our Parish and the Farnham Foodbank: one year on

On 9 May we completed a year as a collection point for Farnham Foodbank in Dockenfield and Frensham. Amazingly in those 12 months we collected 5,547 items of food and toiletries. That fabulous total is way, way above our hopes and expectations when we started off. So, the hugest of 'thank yous' to everyone who has donated. At the time of going to press on this edition the total has reached 6,625.

The Foodbank themselves tell us that our Parish has made a colossal difference, but sadly that doesn't mean that the need has gone away so, if you are still 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 week. 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 code. Or, if you prefer, put cash donations through our door and we'll do the shopping.

Michael and Debbie Foster

Summer Walks

16 July: Nightjars. Meet at Frensham Common corner car park, just before the National Trust Little Pond car park. 21.30. A walk on sandy tracks to hear and possibly see this secretive nocturnal summer migrant.

20 August: Bats. Meet at Bealeswood Common noticeboard. A walk to Frensham Mill to see bats and other night life.

Would you like to run the Village Lunch?

The people running the Village Lunch feel they are unable to continue when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. If anyone one is interested in taking it on, please get in touch with **Pat Clough**. Tel: 792468 or email pat.clough32@yahoo.co.uk

Millbridge W.I.

Millbridge W.I. have been holding Zoom meetings over the last few months. May's talk was on cheese making and tasting, which was very interesting. Our June talk was by one of our members Val Lewis talking and showing slides on birds: having heard Val before we know how good she is.

We've also been meeting up for tea and cakes in members' gardens; keeping to 6 members and social distancing of course. Margaret Moore has been taking us for walks once a month; you may have seen us walking round Dockenfield. It was lovely seeing the lambs in the fields; then back to Margaret's for some delicious tea and cake.

We are hoping to hold our Garden Party in July; it will be great to all meet up again.

Diana Parratt

New owner wanted for two really well-made wooden ramps

We have two, very well made, genuinely robust wooden ramps, that we had specially made for ease of travel up steps, into barns for motor mowers, heavy trolleys and suchlike. They have two different sizes:

- 160cm long x 150 cm wide, rising from nil to 15 cm high
- 220cm long x 125 cm wide, rising from nil to 20cm high

They were made for us by Rookery Barns and are very solid and extremely well manufactured. They are yours for free if you have a use for them. Just email: michael.foster66@btinternet.com.

Developing a new ‘spiritual’ vision at the Church of the Good Shepherd?

When I met Michael Foster to discuss the future of the church of The Good Shepherd, after being commended by Dockenfield Parish Council to put an article in the next DNL, one thing he quoted to me was, “*Religion is the best product in the world but the worst marketed,*” to which I added, “*and sadly often poorly and painfully actioned...*”

To be utterly honest, I am probably as fed up with ‘marketing the Church or marketing Christianity’ as you all are of hearing/reading about Church or Christian marketing (or other faith systems for that matter!) Please forgive me if I have made assumptions here that are not true for you. However, *being* eternally and infinitely loved *and* having hope for the future both in this world now and the ‘next world’ beyond this life, *is* a very good ‘product’ (if I dare to call what I believe in ‘a product’ – a word that is a reflection of the consumerist traits of the 20th and 21st century and really does not represent what faith in the Trinity has to offer). Nonetheless, it is quite apparent that some sort of divine love and hope *is* a product that we (even if we don’t realise it) desire intrinsically so that humans have been trying to access and connect with it in various forms via different methods. As an ordained priest, my call is simply to love all as I believe God loves us – unconditionally, and to help people live, connected in that amazing love sharing that love.

To that end, I wonder what you might think if we developed the Church of the Good Shepherd into a pioneering ‘Space for Grace’? Could it be a hub for new learning and Spiritual experience? Where welcoming people of ‘all faiths and none’ (which has been our mantra for many years now) can truly be explored?

What I am envisioning is a new way forward that acknowledges current values of life, and then, using the secular value system of Spiral Dynamics by Don Beck and Christopher Cowan (which interestingly Richard Dawkins was involved with (writing the ‘memes’)), melds learning and development in body, mind and spirit. I have taught on Spiral Dynamics for some time and it has given me insight to help people who have emotional, and mental problems such as depression, and spiritual disconnection. Using this tool and no doubt others such as meditation, yoga, breathing and contemplation techniques, I believe we can really enrich our understanding and spiritually develop both as individuals and as a community in a totally loving and inclusive way. How do you feel about the Church of the Good Shepherd becoming a ‘Space for Grace’?

Please let me know. With love and light.

Revd Jane

The pattern of services for the Church of the Good Shepherd going forward

| Day of the month | Service |
|---|---|
| First Sunday | 10.30am: Worship and fellowship (lighter for all ages) |
| Second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays | 8am: Book of Common Prayer (traditional) Holy Communion |
| First Wednesday | 10am: Book of Common Prayer (traditional) Holy Communion followed by refreshments |

News from our churches

The re-opening of The Church of the Good Shepherd

It was a great team effort to thoroughly clean the inside of the church on Friday 4 June to get it ready for re-opening. The bats and spiders had obviously been having a field day over the last 15 months! On behalf of myself and the PCC, I give appreciative and huge thanks to Barbara Potter, Nathalie Griffiths, Alison Bosence, Debbie Foster, Penny Hearn, Rob Cregreen, Mark Vardy, Jean Elkes, Sally Rafferty, Margaret Moore, and Nicola Rutherford for helping on the day or offering to help. My thanks also to Morag James and Debbie, who went in the week before to dust and vacuum the curtains and drapes.

Our opening service started with the popping of prosecco corks and with a fizzing ‘Come on and Celebrate’ song, sung by our newly put together singing group with Mike Smith on the keyboard and Al Bird on the guitar. The emphasis of the whole service was on being together in God’s love and love for each other. In the ‘sermon space’ we all joined in with a discussion called the ‘Future of the Good Shepherd’ – reflecting both on faith in Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd (which may have changed during the pandemic) and also the actual church building of The Good Shepherd. We sang the more modern song, ‘In Christ Alone’, had Bible readings of Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd, and from John’s Gospel about Jesus the Good Shepherd – so there was quite a theme going on...! We ended with prayers and a rousing ‘Great is thy faithfulness’. Then had more fizz afterwards out in the sunshine! You can watch the service on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W70ECVgvdP8> and I point you particularly to the discussion which I hope you find interesting.

Thank you for all your continued support, with love and prayers.

Revd Jane

Letters to the Editor

A big thank you to Cheila

The last edition of DNL carried the story (on page 18) of how Cheila Rose-Burns of Abbots Cottages found a drone that had gone missing three years ago whilst being used by a wedding photographer at the Bluebell. Cheila remembered the DNL article from the time of its disappearance and returned the drone to its owner, Charlie of Charlie Davies Photography. Charlie has responded with the following letter.

Dearest Cheila,

Thank you so much for finding my drone. It really did surprise me that it actually turned up in the end. You finding it helped me to finally find peace of mind.

Using my emergency landing equipment, I knew I had landed the drone safely in a field but sadly the drone's emergency GPS signal did not guide me to the drone. It really was like finding a message in a bottle.

And I'm so grateful to Chelia, I've put some money behind the bar at the Bluebell for her, to say thank you. Losing the drone was heart-breaking but I fortunately didn't lose the footage as it was stored on the drone's controller.

Sometimes your mind always wonders what ever happened to that drone and now the mystery has been solved. Thank you so much.

Charlie Fisher

DNL: better than the New York Times?

New York resident and DNL reader Michael Schau wrote to the Newsletter on receiving the last edition.

If I waited to write to you until I had something to say or newsworthy of report (*in New York*) I could be considered 'missing in action' until much later this year. And even then only if I am lucky or more enterprising. Cont/

But, luckily, along came DNL 284 and I am moved to take fingers to keyboard to congratulate you on a terrific issue. I am especially in awe of your varied and wide-ranging news sources. So much local news and so much of it practical as well as entertaining. You must be beating the bushes for news ranging from retail openings and Sunday puddings to a leek soup recipe and Val's (wonderful) birdy articles. Plus some very fine photos.

By comparison, I noticed that today's New York Times arts section was a mere six pages and those six were made up of about two-thirds photos. Not enough news for columns of copy so you have to fill two broadsheet pages with big-big pictures. Ronnie's pics and the archival material stand out — as does your roomscape (for the Foodbank) looking like the back room of a grocery store.

Michael Schau, New York

Rewilding Dockenfield?

Is it my imagination or are there more gardens and fields in the village exhibiting wildflowers and long grasses? Having just read the amazing and thought changing, book 'Wilding', by Isabelle Tree, I am seeing the countryside in a completely different light. Whereas I might once have been bothered by the unkempt look of an unmown field in the past, I am delighting in them now. It's wonderful that our village seems to be taking nature seriously. I have seen completely new birds in the garden this year, whether that is because we have made a small pond and that is what is attracting them, I don't know. I wonder if other residents have experienced the same?

Nicky Rutherford

Comings...

A warm welcome to Dockenfield to

- Tom and Sophie Clayton and their dog Ted, who have moved into Strawberry Cottage, The Street.

...goings...

None that I have been told about for this edition

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

Sunday Pudding update

Thank you so much to everyone who ordered my puddings. Your support has helped me raise nearly £1500, which will now go towards a trip to Croatia with World Challenge at Easter in 2022. Unfortunately, the trip to Romania was cancelled due to COVID. I enjoyed baking for you all and really hope that you enjoyed your puddings!

Thomas Le Marchant

If you didn't have one of Thomas's puddings well, dear reader, you missed a proper treat! Debbie and I ordered a sticky toffee pudding and a treacle tart. They were spectacular. Well done Thomas for creating such a creative (and jolly tasty!) service for the village, and for raising so much money.

Thought for the Day

'What will you do now with the gift of your left life?' Carol Ann Duffy.

DNL's one and only Cuckoo Clock

Last year the first cuckoo was heard on 10 April over Bealeswood Common. Let's see what happened this year, and whether the cuckoo has got confused at all by all this lockdown business

26 February: Well, what a start this is. Ben Poulson is in touch to say, *'I heard the cuckoo today at around 5pm around the Bluebell. With the unseasonably warm weather, one cuckoo must have got confused and thought it was spring already; unless it managed to sneak into the pub for a lockdown tippie and wanted to sing about it!'*

1 April: and its Ben again, *'I have heard the cuckoo many times today from our garden. Think it is on the Common'*

10 April: Sue Hobday hears her first cuckoo near Temple Pool at 4.30pm. She says it's *'not her normal cuckoo.'* Clever of her to know.

14 April: And things are hotting up. Jane Kenny hears it on Kings Ridge at 8.15am (she's out walking early!); Then in the afternoon Pam Hibbert hears it whilst in her garden in Old Lane, although she's *'not entirely sure exactly where it was hanging out.'* And that's not all as Jason gets in touch to say he's just heard its dulcet tones in Abbots Cottages at 3pm.

17 April: Andrew Butcher is up before most of us and reports, *'Lovely light at 6.30am this morning to welcome the first cuckoo in our part of Old Lane, at least to our ears.'* He's even sent in a lovely picture to prove his point about the light. See page 16. It's not quite as early when Margaret Moore hears the cuckoo at noon, just south west of their house on The Street.

18 April: Again, a cluster of people reporting in. *'Happy to report hearing the Cuckoo on 18 April at half past three, somewhere to the south of us in the Green Lane vicinity,'* says Karen Arnold of Goose Cottage. *'It has always been such a landmark to me in the spring calendar, so glad my sentiments are shared here in Dockenfield.'* Meanwhile Stuart and Joanne Carter from Stannards West say *'We heard our first cuckoo at 6.45pm today'*. And Diana and Harold Parratt heard it two days in quick succession, *'We heard it several times yesterday (18th) afternoon over Manor Farm way and again today (19th) in the afternoon, at the top of Abbots Cottages.'*

19 April: *'I have just heard the cuckoo for the first time this year, at 8.37am.'* says Gerry Davey at Frith End. And nearby in Great Holt, Sandy and Norman Taylor hear the distinctive call in their garden. The cuckoo now gets busy in Bealeswood Lane with Steve Luckett hearing it today. He goes on to say, *'Since living here I've first heard one on 23rd, 21st, 16th and now the 19th.'* Near neighbours Alison and Dan Bosence arrived back from Cornwall that same day, opened their car door, and the cuckoo was singing away. Alison goes on to say, *'I'm fascinated by the different individual bird songs. Blackbirds in particular; we have a different song from our resident this year from last year. People expect cuckoos to sing an interval of a major third. For years we had one that sang a minor third: this one on Monday was singing a major second!'*

20 April: Debbie Foster out walking with friends at Moat Pond near Elstead, clearly heard the 'resident' cuckoo, known locally as 'Colin' apparently.

21 April: *'Hi we live in Cradle Lane just a hedge away from the parish. We heard the cuckoo today, coming from Alice Holt across the road'* reports Gill German.

27 April: Its 6pm and Janette Platt hears the cuckoo coming from south of Bealeswood Lane, towards Abbots Cottages. And five minutes later, Michael Foster (alerted by Janette) heard the same cuckoo.

6 May: *'Just thought I would let you know we heard our first cuckoo of the year today, on the Farnham Heath/Bourne Wood border'* says Callum Keaveny. Meanwhile, John Reyersbach is walking the dog at Hankley Common when he hears it.

9 May: *'Jack and I were on our walk today and heard the cuckoo; we heard it down by Hatch Pond while we were watching the ducks on the pond. Lovely to hear it again this year.'* Marjorie and Jack Bessant.

Thanks to everyone who has taken the trouble to send in their Cuckoo Clock reports. Sadly no sightings this year, but boy didn't he pitch up early! Wait a moment, stop press: Anne Tutt at Great Holt has just emailed to say *'The cuckoo has been very evident in Old Lane this year - very vocal and sometimes visible. I forgot to make a note of when I first heard him. You could not miss him once he started! The last time I heard him was Sunday 6 June.'* So he has been seen. Yippee!

Men's Night....

At the time of writing there is no fixed date for the lockdown restrictions to be fully lifted, as was hoped for on 21 June. So, 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). As things stand, the next dates are Thursdays **8 July** and **12 August**.

....and Ladies Night

There's no fixed date either 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.

Never was a truer word spoken....

Friends had their heating fixed. When the job was completed, the invoice came in with an accompanying letter ending, rather appropriately, with the words *'Warm Regards'*.

Hello from the Bluebell

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

It's been a rollercoaster couple of months for us here at The Bluebell. From outside only dining, to inside and outside, snow, rain, 27-degree heat and a set of rules and regulations that we'd be lying if we said we aren't fed up with. But, within the last two months, we have had two of our busiest weeks since we came here 8½ years ago and we are so happy that we are open and grateful to be so supported.

It's all very much business as usual and until there is a confirmed 'Freedom Day' we don't have any events planned.

Opening Hours

Monday: Closed (except bank holidays)

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

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

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

Friday: 12-3pm (food 12-2.30pm); 5.30-10pm (food 6-9pm)

Saturday: 12-10pm (food 12-9pm)

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

Booking is essential!

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

Men's Night

The Bluebell is pleased to host the Men's Night that takes place on the first Thursday of every month, from 8pm. The next two dates are Thursdays **8 July** and **12 August**. See page 8 for more details.

Safety

- ✓ Bookings can be made, inside as a group of 6, from any number of households or from two households, if more than 6. Bookings can be made outside for up to 30 people.
- ✓ All service will be to the table.
- ✓ Face coverings will still be mandatory (unless exempt), when not at your table.
- ✓ Every customer over 16 to 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 play house will remain closed.

Takeaways

Whilst we aren't advertising takeaways, we will still always take orders as long as the kitchen isn't too busy!

Thank you for supporting us!

Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell Team xxx

The latest news from 'The Legion'

Frensham Royal British Legion Club (Tel: 793014, www.frenshamrbl.org.uk)

The Legion is open every day, lunch times and evenings (closing at 10pm) and awaiting the next government news. We are showing evening European Championships football games. As the rule of six currently applies indoors, it may be necessary to limit popular games to members only. One snooker table is available for members - please book if you want to use this.

Janet Caiger

Craft Brews Brewery and Taproom

(Tel: 07774 982174; www.craftbrews.uk and @CraftBrewsUK)

Opening hours:

Friday 12 – 8 pm; Saturday 12 – 8 pm; Sunday 12 – 7pm

We are open with seating available on our terrace and marquee and taking reservations for tables via WhatsApp (07774982174). Check our website/social media for changes to opening hours and events listings.

Joe Wood

Contact information for the Holly Bush and Frensham Pond Hotel

If you want to check information with the Holly Bush and the Frensham Pond Hotel, please contact them direct:

- **The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060, www.thehollybush.co.uk)**
- **The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa (Tel: 795161, www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk)**

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

So last time I wrote spring had just arrived and here we are well into summer temperatures. What a strange start to the year with so many frosts and dry, then wet and now dry again weather. Good thing we have the weather to talk about rather than just Covid!

Zoom presentations: We have continued to run members meetings by Zoom and these have been very well received with a good variety of topics. Caroline Plant gave us a very interesting talk about Amazing Barks (slides are available on the FDHS website www.fdhs.org.uk). Fabulous ideas for adding colour into your gardens using bark. We also had a presentation by Adam Pasco, the editor of the BBC Gardeners World Magazine for over 20 years. Adam talked on gardening the natural way and showed some great pictures of his garden and how he encourages wildlife and uses companion planting to control pests.

Tea and Garden visits: We are holding a series of tea and garden visits for our members. The first of these was on 23 June. We plan to hold another couple along the same lines in July and August. Any members who would like to attend in future, please contact me.

Autumn Show: The good news is that we should be able to hold the Autumn Show and are working towards doing that on **Saturday 4 September** in the Marindin Hall. There are a lot of opportunities for non-members to join in with open classes as well as members only classes. All the junior classes are open classes and we have space for the heaviest pumpkin and most misshapen fruit or vegetable too! Information on the FDHS website.

Please take a look at the photography classes and bear them in mind when you are taking photographs over the coming months.

A sunflower class has also been added for children. Seeds are available via the village shop and the tallest, the biggest diameter head and the weirdest/wackiest or most strange sunflower will win prizes – we are looking forward to seeing the photos...

FDHS Council: We are also looking for new members of the FDHS Council or Committee. Our long standing Dockenfield council members have both retired from their roles in the past few months and we would very much like to have more Dockenfield representation – how about contacting Caroline Plant to find out more; it is a good opportunity to help shape the FDHS for the future (email: caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com)

Garden Outings: we are arranging a few FDHS members outings to local gardens of interest to take place over the next few months. Currently in plan are: a guided tour of Wisley (Monday 12 July) and Winkworth Arboretum (October, date to be confirmed).

Joining FDHS: if you would like to join FDHS contact me for more information (email: bleachsharon@gmail.com) – members get a range of discounts at local suppliers and you get to join a great group of local people who enjoy different aspects of gardening.

Sharon Bleach

News from the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

We are back in the rhythm at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity, having waved goodbye to team bubbles and welcomed everyone back from furlough. It's splendid to have the Centre a buzzing place full of staff again – it really helps the creative juices.

And we'll need plenty of positivity when we embark on our 500 for 50 Challenge over the weekend of 9 to 11 July, celebrating our big 50th birthday. We have a target to cover (on a bike, on foot, swimming, climbing, jumping or wheeling) 500km over the weekend. This is just about the distance between the Centre and our hubs in Salisbury, Oxford and London.

Staff are doing their bit and others have signed up. It would be lovely if you could sponsor us and even lovelier if you could take on your own Challenge – all (!) or any part of the 500km, in miles if you prefer (or metres!), as long as the number contains a 5. There's information at www.helenarkell.org.uk if you are interested.

We're also on a bit of a recruitment drive so that we can keep up with the increased demand for our services – get in touch if you fit the bill or please pass on the details if you think of someone suitable. On the fundraising side, we're looking for an Individual Giving/Digital Fundraising Officer and a Trusts Officer; we're also after education professionals in the shape of Specialist Assessors and Educational Psychologists. Details for all these posts are on our homepage.

As ever, onwards and upwards!

Helen Mortimer

'My Life in Dockenfield' by Diana Parratt

This article first appeared in the May edition of the Parish Magazine. Guy Jackson read it and suggested that it deserved to be read by everyone in Dockenfield and so asked if it could be published in DNL. Diana and the Editors of the Parish Magazine kindly agreed so I am happy to reproduce it here. I should add that since its original publication Diana has updated a few elements of her article. The Parish Magazine's introduction that preceded the article read as follows:

'I think our readers will be fascinated by Diana's biography about her life in Dockenfield. Parents of teenagers today will be astonished that schooling for young people just after the war still ended at the age of 14! Leaving school at 14 seems so young today. talking to Diana recently she was telling us about how Frensham School suddenly had to make provision for keeping their children for another year. I found it fascinating as I hope you will too'

I moved to no. 16 Abbotts Cottages, Dockenfield, when I was 3 years old in 1939.

I went to St. Mary's School, Frensham. I expected to leave when I was 14 years old but the government decided to raise the leaving age to 15 a couple of years earlier. Nobody knew what to do with us and we moved to the Marindin Hall with John Chuter as our teacher. A coach picked up the 14+ from Churt and Tilford schools and they joined us. There were about 15-20 of us.

We started lessons at 9am and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays walked back to St. Mary's School for PE then dinner and walked back to the Marindin Hall for a 2 pm start. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we walked back to St. Mary's for dinner at 1pm. One day a week a coach picked the girls up and took us for cookery lessons, first up the top of Castle Street on the left, and after Heath End Secondary Modern was built, we moved there. The boys were taken for woodwork. We were also taken to Farnham Swimming Baths. One afternoon a week we did sewing and hygiene, the boys did gardening, both at St. Mary's school. We did a lot of walking.

The only thing I can remember in that last year was learning fractions and we spent ages in Frensham Church learning about its history.

Imagine putting new 14+ children/young adults together, the hormones were rampant! We also did Christmas plays on the stage.

When it came to leaving, a Careers Officer came and gave a talk, then interviewed us individually. I was asked what I wanted to do; I had no idea, except on Saturday afternoons I walked Michael, the son of Major and Mrs McCallan who rented a house in Dockenfield, and gave him his tea while his parents played tennis. It was suggested I might like to make it a permanent job, so I asked them and they agreed to pay me £1 a week with lunch and tea. So I became a 'Mother's Help'. Mrs M was a lovely lady and taught me a lot. My Mum took 15/- (in those days, Family Allowance was not paid for the eldest child, so 7/6 stopped when I left school). So, mother needed to replace that 7/6 and needed 7/6 for my keep. I paid 2/4 National Insurance, which left me with 2/8 for myself (or the other way round). After a few months Mrs McCallan gave me another 5/- and told me not to tell my Mum!

I used to cycle each morning, with Michael on the child's seat on the back, to Miss Potts School at The Barn and pick him up again before lunch. I did cleaning and cooking; I remember Mrs M buying a Hoover, we cleaned everywhere, lampshades, sofas etc. Oh, the excitement!

I met Harold a week after leaving school; I got engaged at 16yrs. When Harold went to sign on for his National Service, he came back and had signed on, but for 3 years not 2: was I mad! Mum and Dad said we couldn't marry until he'd done his National Service, so I was a month off 20 years before we were married in St. Mary's Church, Frensham.

When the Major and Mrs McCallan moved, I went to 'live in' at The Dial House, Frensham for Mr and Mrs Starforth Hill, to look after their two children. I don't remember how much I earned. I got up to give Mr S.H. his breakfast then looked after the children and helped with the housework and cooking. I was allowed to go to St. Mary's Church on Sunday evenings as I sang in the choir. When I got back Mr Hill would question me on the sermon, to make sure that's where I'd been.

After the Hills' I went to work at Runwick as a Nanny. There was a live-in butler, his wife was the cook; the gardener and his wife who was the 'daily' lived in a cottage in the grounds. I had my own nursery and one little girl to look after. I was there 'til I married in 1956. We moved to No 5, Abbotts Cottages in June 1960 with our son and daughter, who also went to St Mary's Infant School and sang in St. Mary's Church Choir. Life's gone full circle.

Diana Parratt

Skylarks

The soaring song of the Skylark (like the repeated call by its name of the Chiffchaff) was always associated for me with the coming of summer. Until a few years ago, if I stood in the car park of Country Market during the summer months and looked skywards across the fields I would hear and then see a Skylark. As he soared upwards his insistent, tinkling song lifted the spirits.

One of the nation's favourite pieces of music is Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*. He composed it during the first week of the Great War, when it expressed for many a nostalgia for the English countryside. It was probably inspired by a George Meredith poem of the same title. This part of Meredith's poem perfectly expresses the Lark's liquid song:

*He rises and begins to round,
He drops the silver chain of sound
Of many links without a break,
In chirrup, whistle, slur and shake,
All interwoven and spreading wide,
Like water-dimples down a tide
Where ripple ripple overcurls
And eddy into eddy whirls.*

All this from an insignificant little brown bird with streaky plumage and a small crest, which nests on the ground and hopes to maintain its territory and distract any predators away from its nest by singing with all its might.

Almost twenty years ago it was known that our farmland Skylark population had plunged by three-quarters. Now the situation is far worse. When did you last hear one? The increased use of pesticides and weedkillers, the move away from spring-sown cereal crops and the autumn ploughing of winter stubble have deprived Skylarks of winter food and breeding habitats.

At least we don't eat Larks any more. Mrs Beeton had a recipe for nine Larks (at one shilling and sixpence per dozen), stuffed and baked with beef, bacon and shallots. In 1890, for a dinner celebrating the opening of the Forth railway bridge, an immense pie of 300 birds was on the menu. Some of our European friends still regard Larks and other small birds as a delicacy, although trapping and selling them to restaurants is now illegal.

Dare one hope that the tide of irresponsibility is turning, and that we are realising we must find better ways? The signs are growing.

Val Lewis

News from Frensham Village Shop

Hello everyone,

I had hoped to be writing about the great weather we are having and suggesting the Hands of Rowledge Specials sausages for your BBQ's, with a glass of Hattingley Valley Rosé to drink and some Meadow Cottage Rum and Raisin ice cream to follow. Looking outside, I think The Real Soup Co. might still be more appropriate however!

Whatever the weather holds, I am sure you will be spending more time at home and in the local area again this year, and we will be doing what we can to help you enjoy the Frensham and Dockenfield area. We have a newly stocked range of sandwiches freshly made each day from Café Coco in Farnham, which are well worth trying. My advice would be not to leave them out on the table too long whilst getting your lunch ready, as we did, in case your dog also wants to try them out. We are also now stocking some more of the wonderful products from Hands of Rowledge, including their 'Ancient Recipe' sausage rolls, which are also proving extremely popular!

By the time you read this we should have our counting system instore for the Frensham Village Shop Give Back. We are supporting 3 causes with the profits from 2020 and need your help on how to allocate the money. The 3 causes are resurfacing of the playground area at Hollowdene Recreation Ground in Frensham, supporting Home Start in Waverley and the restoration of the Church Bells at St. Mary's, Frensham. For every purchase over £5, we will ask you to choose a counter (Green for Hollowdene, Yellow for Home Start, and Red for St Mary's), and put it in the wooden counter below the till.

If you have any suggestions, feedback, or ideas for the shop, then please contact Ollie the manager, or any of the volunteers or staff in the shop and let us know how we can serve you better.

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; Tel: 01252 795240

Green spaces and wildlife reporting in village

A number of people in the village are involved in advising the Parish Council on the management of our Open Spaces and also keeping records of the wildlife, particularly that on Bealeswood Common (Bealeswood Wildlife Reporting Group, or BWRG). These are some notes on recent sightings and events noted for our valuable green spaces in the village.

Hatch Pond

This was cleared and partially dug last year, so this is our first year to observe what effect it has on wildlife. Despite the dry spring the excavated part of the pond has maintained a reasonable water level, and fills to overflow whenever we have heavy rain. The pond is fed from the roadside and field ditches and then overflows into the roadside ditch on the right as you walk towards Frensham. One obvious measure of success was a brood of Mallard ducklings photographed by Jess Barnes. As Mrs Mallard was crossing the road into the village, we believe she was leading her brood of 10 down to the stream across the adjacent field. Well spotted Jess, and please let us know if anyone else has a record of other breeding success of our wildlife.



Village Field

The new village field next to the Rec is having a large area cut for easier access and the remainder left to observe what wildlife is living there. Records of wildflowers are being kept. The Open Spaces group met in the field in early April to assess progress with this light management and to agree on plans for hedge planting along the new fence. This will be native species and we shall be organising a hedge-planting working party later in the year so keep your spade with a good polish and edge as there will be several hundred saplings to plant.

Fritz's Field

This field, on the left out of the village on the way to 3-ways junction, is looking particularly good this year with an unusually good crop of Ox-eye Daisies. Common Spotted Orchids are also to be seen. We have mentioned before the ongoing invasion of the field by the Greater Horsetail from the roadside verge and hedge. Whilst this is a native plant (as is the Bracken and Bramble) we feel it needs some control as it outcompetes other plants that we wish to encourage. However, this is difficult, even using very invasive techniques that we would not recommend. Our current plan is to try and restrict its spread through careful management. Early in the year the plant sends up spore-bearing shoots so an early cut in the field removes these to stop distribution by spores. We are then continuing to cut the paths through the field (thank you Roger Trout) to observe, over the years, if this restricts its spread and to improve access into the field. In addition, we are planning to improve the drainage in the field. This species thrives in damp soils as seen in ditches in footpath leading eastwards near top of Lake Lane. If anyone can help us with this management by carrying out some regular recording, please contact Dan (792442), or Roger or Jill Trout (794284).

Bealeswood Common

This site is managed by Waverley Borough Council as Registered Common Land and a SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest) and monthly reports of the wildlife are posted by BWRG on the noticeboard at the top of the Common. These are also available on the Parish Council website at <http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife.html> where yearly lists of our fauna and flora are also kept for viewing. The highlight at the time of writing (2nd week of June) is definitely the Common Spotted Orchid which frequent visitors to the Common will notice thrives in different areas as the years go by. Interestingly the number of flowers out in May and June is basically the same as for the previous 10 years. The flowers are telling us it is not a late spring, however the butterflies thought it was and both the numbers of individuals and species flying were well down (*see page 14*). With the warmer weather of early June, and now some rain, Philippa Hall's team of transect recorders are hoping for greater numbers.

Dan Bosence (on behalf of Open Spaces group of Dockenfield Parish Council and Bealeswood Wildlife Reporting Group)

The varying state of our rainfall

Rainfall figures for:

2020. March: 51mm; April: 45.6mm; May: 0.6mm.

2021. March: 37.5mm; April: 9.6mm; May: 105.6mm

This April was the driest in the last 10 years and May the wettest since 2003 when Dockenfield records began. You will see from the rainfall that May this year was 105mm wetter than 2020 which only had 0.6mm. Over the last 6 years March has seen a steady drop in rainfall.

Jack Bessant

Frensham and Dockenfield History Group

If there are no further COVID restrictions and we are able to use the Marindin Hall with the numbers we would expect to attend, I predict we will start meetings again on Tuesday **14 September**, when Alan Copeland is booked to attend with his talk entitled 'Curios of West Sussex.'

On Tuesday **12 October**, Dan Allen will give a talk, 'Women in the First World War' and Robert Grimmond will return on **9 November** with more of his 'Mystery Objects'. There may be a Christmas Party at the Legion on **7 December**. All members will be brought up to date by email or telephone during August!

That's as certain as I can be at the moment.

Chris Bonner

More on Dockenfield Manor

Following an enquiry from (somewhat improbably) The Netherlands, the last DNL ran a letter and a picture (edition 284, page 7) of the now demolished Dockenfield Manor in Old Lane. Pam and Steve Hibbert, who live in the replacement Manor House, responded to the enquirer with the following information in a letter which they have kindly agreed can also be published in this DNL as the subject has been greeted with much interest.

'We are the current occupiers of Manor House, Dockenfield..... the replacement dwelling for Dockenfield Manor which was demolished in 1973. I understand that you are trying to source information about the history of the original house. We have lived here for 35 years during which time a number of former pupils have come looking for the building which had become a school for boys. None of them seemed to have had a happy experience there but a couple referred to the apparently splendid rose gardens.

I am in possession of copies of the sale particulars when the whole estate was up for auction with agents Hampton and Son in September 1920. The entire estate comprised 309 acres. Dockenfield Manor, which I believe had 13 bedrooms and two bathrooms standing in 'charming old pleasure grounds' with stabling and garage, Dockenfield Manor Farm, five cottages and extensive farm buildings was sold with 34 acres.

Although the main house was demolished, we still have the original game larder which comprises three small 'rooms.' Having already fallen into disrepair I understand the house suffered serious fire damage in the early 1970's and had at one point been used to rear chickens. The replacement Manor House was built in 1974.

Pam Hibbert

Butterflies on Bealeswood Common

| | |
|---------------|--|
| April 15 - 21 | 2 x speckled wood, 2 x brimstone, 1 x holly blue |
| April 22 -28 | 1 x speckled wood, 2 x orange-tip |
| May 6 - 12 | 1 x orange-tip, 1 x comma |
| June 3 - 9 | 1 x holly blue, 2 x common blue, 2 x speckled wood, 1 x orange-tip, 1 x brimstone 1 x meadow brown Day flying moths: 4 x brown silver-line, 2 x silver Y |

A very slow start this year! The bad weather earlier in the year meant that for several weeks it was too cold to try to record butterflies and for some weeks, though the conditions were good, no butterflies were seen. Now, as the weather warms up, the summer grassland butterflies are beginning to put in an appearance.

Alison Bosence, Philippa Hall, Anne Tutt

A positive reaction to DNL 284

It seems that the last edition was very well received. One telephone call I took especially stood out. A good friend, who hasn't been very well, said that '*I got up and was having a bad morning. I made a cup of coffee, put on a classical cd and read DNL, which took over an hour.*' Then adding, '*You saved my life*'. Well, I doubt that, but if DNL helped improve your day, that's absolutely wonderful. Lots of others wrote in and here are a few examples of what they said:

'It's such a brilliant read Michael. I am hoping to join the wildlife walks, which sound really interesting. I am getting my bat detector out in readiness.'

'Absolutely brilliant. So informative and things for all.'

'A tour de force.'

'Lovely newsy copy as usual and I loved your 2 pictures of the coffin route!'

'A delight to read, as always'

'Your Newsletter resonates with joy'

It takes a really long time to put together, so I can't tell you how much these comments mean to me. Thank you.

In Praise of the Good Shepherd

As the future of The Good Shepherd has come into sharper focus these last few weeks, so two long term residents have written to DNL with their views. Norman Taylor is a source of great local knowledge on the 'Arts and Crafts' movement and Jill Trout was Chairman of the Parish Council for many years and remains a Parish Councillor.

Dockenfield is the location of a very special example of a church in the Arts and Crafts style of architecture. It is an early work of a local architect, William Curtis Green (pictured), who went on to a distinguished career as the designer of some grand buildings in the Neo-Classical style in London and beyond.

Although there are some larger houses locally built in the Arts and Crafts style (Pierrepont House and Great Holt are examples), there are few examples of public architecture on a modest scale. The Marindin Hall and the Good Shepherd are unique in this respect. The Church of The Good Shepherd is a valued and respected building by a distinguished architect, located at the heart of the village of Dockenfield.



Norman Taylor

The Church of the Good Shepherd has been a positive and inspirational space throughout my life and doubtless also of those who have lived here for some or all of their time.

Each time you pass The Good Shepherd it catches the eye; different moods of the weather reflecting changing aspects of the earthy stone and proud stance of the place, especially when a lone barn owl swoops past surveying the wildflower meadow.

My first memories of the inside were about 68 years ago when my father's cousin Millie Smith used to play the organ. She lived in Valley Forge and then Willowhoek in Green Lane. There was a solid fuel boiler that huffed and puffed to provide heat and we had fairly plain chairs – no pews. Reverend Allen and I think Reverend Coulshaw came over from St Mary's to conduct the service. Living in Frensham then I attended Sunday School at St. Marys.

Fast forward some decades and John Chuter, school teacher, historian and general fountain of knowledge spoke to a packed audience about the history of the Church and how his builder family constructed the Curtis Green design. Built with love. The more modern wooden parts, designed again by a neighbour and influential architect, John Taylor – long term Chairman of Dockenfield Parish Council.

So, let's support this wonderful asset of our community as it has supported generations of village people in joy, war, happiness and many other times.

Jill Trout



Left: The interior of The Good Shepherd showing the walls of local Bargate stone and current pews. Right: A dramatic picture of the west wall showing the bell turret. Pictures by Simon Claiden

She-who-must-be-obeyed!

On page 20 of the last edition, under the heading of 'Another thought for the day' I wrote as follows: *'Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end you wish you had a club and a spade.'*

One reader, who sensibly wishes to remain anonymous, wrote in to say: *'What worries me on reading this is that she-who-must-be-obeyed has not only had the heart and diamonds for quite some time, but has in the latter years taken delivery of at least one club (well, a mattock to be precise) and a lot of spades. Should I be concerned?'*

Rock on!

This letter was emailed to me on 31 March, and it should have appeared in the last DNL, but my admin system let me down and it got forgotten. So, with apologies, here it is, better late than never.

Just wanted to say how much my 4-year-old daughter and I enjoyed finding all the painted rocks someone had put around Dockenfield; it really made her day to finally see some interesting things on our daily walks, it was like a little treasure hunt! I'm not sure if you know who did it but if not, could you put a note in the next DNL so they know how much we loved it! Thanks.

Kate and Rose Maclean, Courtney House

PS: We found 6! One by The Street sign, one in each bus stop, one by the church gate, one by the war memorial and one by the post box! They had a note on saying hide me when we you find me, but we didn't as we thought it would be nicer for people to spot them while they were walking down The Street.



Early morning, Old Lane

This delightful picture was taken by Andrew Butcher, showing the scene from Shepley Farmhouse across the fields towards Old Lane. Andrew, who was up early, on 17 April, noticed the wonderful colours and wrote to say, *'Lovely light at 6.30 this morning to welcome the first cuckoo in our part of Old Lane, at least to our ears.* Thank you, Andrew for sending this. (See also page 8)



Pilates classes

The Pilates classes run by **Christine Jason** have been continuing on Zoom during the pandemic. The plan is to return to the Good Shepherd when the regulations allow and when it is safe to do so. For more information, please contact Christine on 07896 293203.

Every picture tells a story

2021 is the 40th anniversary of Dockenfield Day, so how sad was it that, for the second year running, it had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus.

The picture shows the scene at the Playing Field on what would have been D Day this year. Looks pretty much the same as the picture I ran last year of D Day 2020, other than the grass is longer. On both those days, incidentally, the sun shone.



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