

DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 287 Published 24 November 2021



And so this is (an almost normal) Christmas

After what is surely the oddest 18 months for many a long year, here we are spiralling, almost unexpectedly, into Christmas. And boy, does it look like being an improvement on what was possible last year. Many of the traditional seasonal events have returned. So please come along to help raise the tree; to sing (or mime!) heartily at the carols; and if you don't have an office party, then check out the 'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch. Plus, and here's a bonus, there's a special 'Dockenfield Reunited' party at the Good Shepherd, with a free hog roast. What's not to like?

Talking of the Good Shepherd, it's been going through something of a resurgence this year. Do help maintain that momentum by filling in the survey that will help shape its future.

Above all else, may I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2022. And continue to take care.
Michael



Two of a set of five beautiful pictures available as a collection of Christmas cards from Frensham Village Shop. Profits to Friends of Frensham Churches. See page 9. Photos by Simon Claident

Dockenfield reunited.....

.....and it feels so good!

Please join us for the **Dockenfield Village Party Saturday 4 December, 6.30-10pm at the Good Shepherd**

- Complimentary Hog Roast • Pay bar
- Residents of all ages (adults and children) are warmly welcome

RSVP dockenfield.activities@gmail.com stating number of guests and meat/veg preference. (You may have read on the posters that the closing date for responding is 26 November, but DNL only came out on the 24th, so if you are only just reading this, do get in touch and we will try and fit you in!)

*Just for clarity, this event has been organised to give something back to the village post the fairly uncomfortable 18 months we've all endured. A chance to raise a glass and to enjoy a relaxed collective evening as we approach the festive season. It's a party for **ALL** so please don't assume it's only for families and children! It's a free event and the food is complimentary! So drop us an email and confirm your attendance, even if just for an hour or so. Support your village and meet up with your neighbours and friends.*

'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15 December, 12.30pm at the Bluebell

After the enforced hiatus last year, the Dockenfield 'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch will take place on 15 December at the Blue Bell. This lunch is open to anyone in the village who works from home and doesn't have an office Christmas party.

It's a pretty relaxed and informal occasion and a great way to really get into the Christmas spirit! If you would like to attend, please contact me on the email below.

Sebastian Fox (sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk)

Poppy Appeal 2021

I am delighted to report that, as many Covid restrictions have been lifted this year, we were able to revert to the usual number of poppy collectors including house-to-house, shops, pubs, schools and manned collections outside two Farnham supermarkets and the Village Shop.

The early indications are that Dockenfield has once again generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our thanks go to our Dockenfield house-to-house collectors of Jack Bessant, Jason Griffiths, Annabelle Sutton, Sandy Taylor and Sarah Stirling. Interestingly, we have had the use of a card reader for the first time, which has proved to be extremely popular and successful for our fundraising as so many people no longer carry cash.

Remembrance Sunday at the Dockenfield Memorial was well attended with over 70 people present despite the rain. Our thanks go to Jessica Hobday and Paul Wood for acting as the very efficient Traffic Marshals in the Street. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial by Eleanor Bentley on behalf of the RBL, Jason Griffiths on behalf of the REME, Hannah Wigfull (nee Poulsom) on behalf of DPC and Archie Allingham and Jack Williams on behalf of the village youth. John Stirling gave the exhortation and our bugler Tony Adie played 'The Last Post' preceding the two minutes' silence followed by Reveille. The Reverend Jane Walker conducted a very poignant service, reading out the names of those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

Thank you to all those of you who have helped run this year's appeal and to those of you who have so generously donated to such a worthwhile cause.

At the time of writing, we do not know the amount raised but the early indications are that people are being extremely generous with their donations.

Peter James, Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

Thanks also to Peter for working so hard every year to ensure such a vital cause is so brilliantly supported. See also page 17.



Marching to the Dockenfield Remembrance Service; the service at the War Memorial; Barbara Potter's inspired 'Poppy altar frontal' commemorating the RBL's 100th anniversary. Photos by Simon Claident

Please help the Foodbank this Christmas

The last week of September saw Farnham Foodbank distribute a record number of food parcels to struggling families, couples and individuals in the area. Now with Christmas just around the corner, can we please ask you to help once more with supplies, however modest, for those in need. And if you can include a few Christmassy items like chocolate, cakes and puddings it would be doubly wonderful and help make Christmas just that little bit more special for the many who depend on your support. Please leave any contributions:

- On the table in the (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, now each Wednesday 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.

All contributions of non-perishable items are hugely welcome provided they are within code. Or, if you prefer, put cash donations through the door and we'll do the shopping. Finally many thanks to all of you who have donated so generously over the past year.

Michael and Debbie Foster and Heather Britton

Thought for the day

The trouble with being retired is that you never get a day off.

Christmas in Dockenfield 2021

Gosh isn't this lovely? After last year's covid wash out we are back to holding our traditional village festive events. Please don't miss either of the following:

Help put up the Village Christmas Tree

Sunday 12 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

Come along and have fun as we lift the village Christmas tree into place and decorate it with presents and lights. There was a very good turn out last time and we are hoping for even more residents to come and help this year. Children, please bring along wrapped empty boxes to put on the tree.

Village Christmas Carols

Monday 13 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street

Join in our traditional family carol singing, a highlight of the village Christmas calendar, with free mulled wine, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

Coffee Stop: Dockenfield

10-12 midday, every Friday at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Barbara Potter's super idea is going from strength to strength. And just look what is happening for Christmas! On every Friday in December there will be gift stalls at Coffee Stop with Christmas cards, decorations and jewellery for sale. The last Coffee Stop before Christmas will be on **Friday 17 December**,

December, where you can enjoy mulled wine, mince pies, coffee and cake. Coffee Stop will be back on **7 January 2022**.

If you would be happy to help Barbara on one or more Friday mornings, do please call her on 01252 794727 or talk to her at the Coffee Stop.

Men's Night at the Bluebell:

Christmas Men's Night: Thursday 9 December

Anniversary Men's Night: Thursday 13 January

The next Men's Nights are two of the highlights of the year. Firstly, on Thursday **9 December**, it's the wholly unmissable Christmas Men's Night. The pub will be all decked out in its glorious Xmas colours and it has become something of a tradition that you will be too. It's by no means obligatory, but do please try and wear a festive jumper to add to the atmosphere. You'll raise a glass to that, surely?

Then the first meeting of the New Year is also very special as it's the anniversary of Men's Night. So please come along on Thursday **13 January** to celebrate the 13th anniversary of Mark Rosling's splendid idea.

For more details or to get onto the regular Men's Night reminder list details just email **Mark Rosling** (markrosling@outlook.com).

Award to Dan Bosence

Dan visited Kensington Palace on 16 November to give a short presentation and to receive the Duke of Cambridge's SCUBA Prize award. This is an annual award for the best science-based scuba project that was awarded jointly with the Isle of Purbeck Scuba Club based in Swanage. The project involved collecting sea-bed samples and taking measurements on extraordinary, large circular geological structures in Jurassic limestones offshore in Weymouth Bay, discovered by Dan and his colleagues from the University of London. Details at: <https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/bsac-members-receive-duke-of-cambridge-scuba-prize/>

Tea @ 3

Mondays, 6 December and 7 February at St Mary's Hall

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with your old friends and make new ones. Everyone is welcome for tea, sandwiches and cakes and excellent conversation. Do join us: there is no need to book. Other than January when there is no Tea, it is always on the first Monday of the month so the dates for Christmas and into the New Year are **6 December** (for some special festive cheer) and **7 February**. There is a suggested donation of £2 per person. Please call **Sandy Taylor** on 01420 478278 for further information.

Xmas in Farnham: two dates for your diary

Farnham Christmas Market and Farmers Market

Sunday 12 December, 10am-4pm.

Late Night Shopping with live street entertainment

Thursday 16 December, 4-8pm.

Farnham's Historic Deal with Dockenfield

This happily went full circle. The original question of how Dockenfield came to have a water supply agreement in 1908 was raised in the Farnham Herald; picked up by DNL; answered by reader David Harmer in a subsequent edition; and then that answer appeared in the recent Farnham Herald.

Wreath Making

We're back making wreaths in St Mary's Hall on Monday 13th, Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th of December 7-9pm. £18 per person. Book your place early to avoid disappointment. Contact **Barbara Potter** on 794727 or email: randbpotter@gmail.com

News from Frensham Village Shop

Hello everyone,

It's been another year of great change for us all, and I can't believe its time to start thinking about Christmas presents and New Year's celebrations again! Whilst things might not be quite back to how they were, we are looking forward to spending time with friends and family and to a happy and healthy 2022 for everyone.

It's been over a year now since our "new" manager Ollie joined, and he's still making some changes to the shop – keep your eye out for some of the new ranges, and if something has moved around, please ask us to help you find it! We have also said goodbye to a few longstanding supporters of the shop and members of the committee in Mayonne Caldicott, Len Davis and Harry and Liz Glover. We are all grateful for their service over many years!

Our opening hours over the Christmas period are shown below, but please keep an eye on the website and shop notice board for any changes. We are open until 5pm on Christmas Eve for anyone who needs some last-minute veg, wine or other essentials, and back open on Boxing Day morning for those looking for help using up the Christmas lunch leftovers – turkey curry is always a favourite of mine!

If anyone wants to help their local community as part of a New Year's resolution in 2022, then please let us know if you want to join our volunteer panel, as the shop simply wouldn't exist without the goodwill of our loyal and hardworking team.

For now, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in the shop soon.

Frensham Village Shop and Post Office Christmas holiday opening hours

Please see below the current plan for our opening hours over the Festive period, and always check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Friday 24 th	Shop and Post Office	8.30am – 1pm
Saturday 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED ALL DAY
Sunday 26 th	BOXING DAY Shop only	9 – 11am
Monday 27 th	BANK HOLIDAY Shop only	9 – 11am
Tuesday 28 th	BANK HOLIDAY Shop only	9 – 11am
Wednesday 29 th	Shop & Post Office (to 5.30)	8.30am – 7pm
Thursday 30 th	Shop & Post Office (to 5.30)	8.30am – 7pm
Friday 31 st	NEW YEAR'S EVE Shop & PO	8.30am – 5.30pm
Saturday 1 st	NEW YEAR'S DAY Shop only	9 – 11am
Sunday 2 nd	Shop Only	9 – 11am
Monday 3 rd	BANK HOLIDAY Shop Only	9 – 11am
Return to Normal hours: -		
Tuesday 4 th	Shop & Post Office (to 5.30)	8.30am – 7.00pm

Post early in December to avoid the rush

UK latest recommended posting dates: -

18 December	2 nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For (2 nd)
21 December	1 st Class and Royal Mail Signed For (1 st)
23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed

For overseas postage dates, please come and collect a leaflet from the Post Office.

Callum Keaveny www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk Tel: 795240

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

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, for any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact the clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk.

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates: Wednesday **15 December** 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd. Tuesday **18 January** 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Village Flag: The village flag has recently been replaced, kindly donated by Jason Griffiths who has recently moved into the village. Many thanks Jason, the old flag was in need of replacement and the new flag is much appreciated.

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

Music in St Mary's

Two lovely Carol Concerts: 10 and 18 December

May I encourage you to come and support two Carol Concerts that will be happening in St Mary's? The first is on **Friday, 10 December**, at 6.30pm with the Choir of Hope from All Saints Church, Tilford. The second is on **Saturday, 18 December**, at 6pm with the Vivaldi Singers and Vocal Point (tickets from www.vivaldisingers.com). Both concerts will include festive refreshments!

Festival Service of Readings: 19 December

Also make a date to celebrate the run up to Christmas Day at the Festival Service of Readings and Music for Christmas on **Sunday 19 December** at 6pm in St Mary's. The service will include well-known Christmas hymns for the congregation and carols sung by the choir. Mince pies and festive refreshments will be served after the service in the church hall.

Organ Recitals: 21 December and 18 January

The 3rd-Tuesday-of-the-month organ recitals started again in September and have been attended by a pleasing number of St Mary's folk and visitors. The newly-cleaned and overhauled organ is sounding really great and a wide variety of entertaining organ music has been performed. The next recital will be given by Brian Cotterill on 21 December at 1pm. Brian's programme will include music by J S Bach, Pachelbel, Charpentier, Walther, Karg-Elert, William Lloyd Webber and David N Johnson. The recital will be preceded by soup and bread from 12 mid-day in the hall. Do come along if you can and be entertained by some excellent organ music for the festive season!

The first organ recital of the New Year will be given on **18 January 2022** by Geoff Tuson (Organist of the Garrison Church, Aldershot) at 1pm. Soup and bread will be available for everyone in the church hall from 12 mid-day.

Mike Smith

Christmas Services at St Mary's and the Good Shepherd

Here is a list of the **Christmas services** – everybody is always welcome to any of the services irrespective of faith.

28 November - Advent Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)
10.30am Parish Communion (St Mary's)
6pm Advent Carols (St Marys)

5 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (St Mary's)
10.30am Worship and Fellowship (Good Shepherd)
6pm Choral Evensong (St Mary's)

12 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)
10.30am Parish Communion (St Mary's)
4pm Christingle (St Mary's)

19 December - 4th Sunday of Advent

8am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)
10.30am Choral Matins (St Mary's)
6pm Christmas Carol Service (St Mary's)

24 December - Christmas Eve (Friday)

2pm Crib service (St Mary's)
4pm Crib service (Good Shepherd)
11.30pm Midnight Mass (St Mary's)

25 December - Christmas Day (Saturday)

9am BCP Holy Communion (Good Shepherd)
10.30am Parish Communion (St Mary's)

26 December - Boxing Day - St Stephens Day (Sunday)

9am Said Parish Communion (St Mary's)

Let's hear it please for DNL's unsung heroes and heroines

Who would have thought, 21 months ago, that the world was going to spin off its axis in quite the way it has? To say 2020 and 2021 have been unusual years is something of an understatement. But throughout it all DNL has done its best to keep you informed and entertained. Many people thank me for my efforts as Editor, but I am not alone. DNL only becomes possible because we have the most wonderful, reliable band of distributors. So, this is my annual 'Shout Out' for them and comes with a big thank you for everything they do. During the last 12 months your DNL has been delivered to you, come rain or shine, by:

Mark and Sally Vardy, Jack and Marjorie Bessant, Gerry Davy, Anne Tutt, Jean Elkes, Diana and Harold Parratt, Gail Atkinson, Debbie Foster, Karen Wake, Suzanne McLean, Mark and Karen Giles and Felicity Blackburn.

A thank you also to DNL's contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a good read; and to my wife Debbie who is a huge help when it comes to laying it all out. Also, to Ian McLean and Richard and Felicity Blackburn who proof read my final effort and remove any mistakes and typos. And last but not least, to the Parish Council for stumping up the money to make all this possible.

This year DNL has unexpectedly needed to change printers. So, thanks to both Treloar Print of Alton and Imprint of Aldershot for their help and service in the last 12 months.

Letters to the Editor

A 'joined up' Community

Thank you for sending me the latest DNL - so beautifully compiled and informative and so very impressed with all that goes on in Dockenfield and Frensham. A truly 'joined up' community doing so much good work. Well done and keep up the fantastic compilation with such amusing anecdotes to raise a laugh.

Diana Jeffrey (former Dockenfield resident)

In praise of DNL's very special photographers

Yet another very special Dockenfield Newsletter. The colour photographs are particularly beautiful. Worth all the effort!

Gerry Davey

Heading south?

Wow, wish I still lived down that way.

Rosemary Steel, DNL reader in Peterborough

(on receiving the last edition)

Comings...

A warm welcome to Dockenfield to:

- Clare and Gary Armstrong and their children Thomas (11), Hannah (9) and not forgetting Benny the dog who have moved into Tudor House, Batts Corner.

and goings...

- Peter and Karen Barrett want to wish all their friends in Dockenfield a fond farewell. They have left the Oast House after 24 years to move to the Cotswolds.

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

Windhover

To which bird would you give the country name Windhover? (Try this at your next quiz.) It's the Kestrel, the rufus and grey little bird of prey we often see hovering over road-sides, looking for its next meal.

How many Windhovers have you seen recently? Not as many as you used to? Me, too. Kestrels, which we have long regarded as our most common bird of prey, are not as common as they were. In recent years Buzzards have greatly increased their territories and now apparently outnumber Kestrels. The reasons may include the decreasing numbers of small mammals, particularly voles, which Kestrels like to eat, and the increasing numbers of Buzzards, which eat Kestrels, among other creatures of similar size.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, in his poem *The Windhover*, marvels at the bird's skilful hovering, '*the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!*' How on earth does it do it? Apparently, it flies into, and at the same speed as, the oncoming wind, so that it seems to be still. The current of air passing over its wings gives the lift it needs. To maintain the lift the Kestrel extends the tips of its wings and fans out its tail feathers. If the wind drops it flaps its wings to increase air movement. It copes with the effort of doing this with tiny pauses, and stretching its neck forwards to offset being blown backwards, while keeping its head in the same position. The 'stillness' achieved by its hover was tested on Radio 4's *Living World*. A theodolite showed that the Kestrel could hold its position to within a centimetre for an impressive 28 seconds.

Aircraft engineers have learned a thing or two by studying birds. In the 1960s Hawker Siddely paid their respects to the Windhover by naming their new vertical take-off jet fighter the Kestrel. And here's another intriguing fact about Kestrels. Like many birds, they can see ultraviolet, a colour which humans can't see. The urine trails of rodents such as voles look ultraviolet to Kestrels, making it possible for them to track their next meal. Isn't Nature amazing?

Val Lewis

Some years ago, I came downstairs in the morning, turned into our lounge (where we have an inglenook fireplace) and there, sitting by the door, was a kestrel. It was patiently waiting to be let out having inadvertently come down the chimney. I opened our front door and, with a polite nod of the head, it took its leave. I have loved kestrels ever since. Ed

Your used postage stamps

We would like to start off by saying thank you to all the people who have saved the stamps for charity for us through the year. It is so very much appreciated. We are now coming towards Christmas, hopefully we will get more. So we will look forward to receiving your used stamps. All stamps welcome, in whatever condition. Thank you very much.

**Marjorie and Jack Bessant
No 1 Beales Cottages, The Street, GU10 4JH**

The Farnham Repair Café needs volunteers

The Farnham Repair Café are particularly looking for volunteers with electrical repair skills/experience/expertise - if you could put a call out to your network, it would be much appreciated.

Martin Charter (MCharter@uca.ac.uk)

Christmas at our Parish Hostelries

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

We can't believe it's nearly Christmas again and nearly 9 years since we took over The Bluebell! Hopefully this year we will stay open past Christmas Eve!

We have an exciting new addition to our front patio, in the form of a custom-made stretch tent, which has been really popular amongst those who still don't feel comfortable being inside. We have been making new tables for Moira's room; and building a poly tunnel so we can hopefully start to grow our own veg for the pub for next year.

It's been lovely to see many of you in the pub and your support is hugely appreciated.

Christmas Menu

We will be running our 2 and 3 course Christmas Menu from 1-22 December, which is available on request and by pre-order only.

Christmas Opening Hours

Our Christmas opening hours will be on the website from 1 December, when hopefully we will have more of an idea about any restrictions and also staffing levels. We will be closed on Christmas Day.

Regular 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 hosts the ever-popular Men's Night that takes place on the first Thursday of every month, from 8pm. The next two dates are Thursdays **9 December** (the unmissable Christmas Men's Night) **and 13 January**. See page 3 for more details.

Takeaways

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

Thank you as always for your support!

Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell Team xx

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

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Christmas Eve: *Pub*: 9:30am-late; *Kitchen*: 9:30am-8pm

Christmas Day: *Pub*: 11am-2pm for drinks only

Boxing Day: Closed

27-30 December: *Pub*: 9:30am-late; *Kitchen*: 9:30am-9pm

New Year's Eve: *Pub*: 9:30am-10pm; *Kitchen*: 9:30am-8pm

New Year's Day: *Pub*: 9:30am-late; *Kitchen*: 9:30am-9pm

We'd also like to take the opportunity to wish all of our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

David, Sally and everyone at the Holly Bush

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

We are pleased to say that we are planning a near normal programme of events over the Christmas period:

Friday 3 December, 8pm: **Club AGM**. All members are welcome to come along to ask any questions or make any suggestions you have regarding the running of the club.

Saturday 4 December, 7.30pm: **Quiz** run by Harry Glover in aid of the church bells repair fund (see also page 16)

Saturday 11 December, 6pm: **Carol Singing**, led by the Rev Jane Walker with the choir and organist from St Mary's Church (outdoors if the weather permits, otherwise inside). This was a great success last year, so do come along and get your Christmas off to a good start. All are invited into the club for drinks and light refreshments afterwards.

Saturday 18 December, 7.30pm: **Grand Christmas Draw**. Make sure you come into the club beforehand to buy plenty of squares at 25p each, to give yourself a chance of winning some great prizes. A fun evening is guaranteed.

Cont/d

Frensham Royal British Legion Club (cont/d)

Friday 24 December, 8pm: **Christmas Eve Party** - fun and games for everyone.

Christmas Day 12 noon - 2pm: Meet your friends and bring your family for a lunchtime drink.

Friday 31 December, 8pm: **New Year's Eve** – with our in-house disco.

Janet Caiger

Craft Brews Brewery and Taproom (Tel: 07774 982174; www.CraftBrews.uk & @CraftBrewsUK)

Friday 12 – 7 pm; Saturday 12 – 7 pm; Sunday 12 – 5 pm.

We are open with seating available in our Taproom, Marquee and on our Terrace. Additional opening hours are posted weekly to our website / social media as are the food events we frequently host. Check out our website /social media for available dates for “Pizza & a Pint”, “Indian Street Food & a Pint” and “Curry & a Pint” nights.

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

If you want to check information with the Frensham Pond Hotel, please contact them direct.

Welcome to The Binsted Inn

Do you remember how thrilled we all were when the Bluebell reopened after 12 years of sad closure? We had all feared it was a goner. Well, the same has just happened in Binsted. The old pub, ‘The Cedars’ fell on hard times, flirted briefly with being an Italian restaurant and then gave up the ghost altogether. But now it has risen again in the new guise of the Binsted Inn. Haven’t been there yet, just driven past, but thought you might like to give it a try. Google it or Tel: 01420 446454.

Tectonic Plates at the Good Shepherd

Making use of the potential of the village church has been a topic of note in the last few issues of the DNL, and I had a wonderful time doing just that on Friday 12 November. Having used the Good Shepherd as a rehearsal space for my Edinburgh Fringe musical in 2019, it seemed no great leap to use it as a performance space!

I work part-time as a writer and performer, and wrote a new one-woman show during lockdowns. *Tectonic Plates* is set over the course of a single Year 10 geography lesson and explores the hilarity and hurt of our schooldays. The play was selected as one of 18 shows to go up at The Chelsea Theatre in August following its reopening, and I performed it for a second time in London last month, too.

It was somewhat daunting when it came to putting it on in the church, and myself and the designer, Amberlilly Ewbank, were slightly terrified about how it would all come together. However, after a few frantic hours of wine collecting, projector focusing, and chair setting, we had a delightful time presenting it to the lovely local audience who had given up their Friday evening to watch me talk at them for an hour! Thank you so much to everyone who came – I hope you all enjoyed it.

I've got a number of shows in the pipeline, so there may be more theatrical goings-on at the Good Shepherd in future...!

Helena Fox

Helena asks if we all enjoyed it. Well Debbie and I certainly did. And judging by the words below, sent to DNL, others did too. A quite remarkable performance by Helena.

‘What a thoroughly enjoyable evening – thank you so much for alerting us to this splendid event.

From the moment Helena walked on to the stage, she had me hooked. She was soooo authentically ‘15-year-old girl’, and our recent conversations with granddaughters and a trans grandson (who has just left a girls’ grammar school) were coming at us from the most enjoyable geography lesson ever!! Her rendition of ‘Shine’ was courageous, and the finale, spectacular.

What a wonderful performer, with great stage presence.’



FOFC Wine tasting and 2022 Events



Above: Christina imparting her considerable knowledge of wine to a captivated audience

Right: It's true. Being editor of DNL does drive you to drink!
Photos by Simon Claiden

It was a great joy to be able to hold the deferred fund-raising wine tasting for 'Friends of Frensham Churches' (FOFC). Christine Rasmussen had chosen the theme of "Sustainable British Wine" and guided us expertly through a range of English and Welsh organic wines alongside a comparison to wines from our more traditional wine producing neighbours. A blind tasting of champagne vs an English sparkling wine came out as a 50:50 draw. We were also helped by the generous gift of wines for the silent auction. Congratulations to Pat Telfer in winning the most interesting contribution. And what a fun way to raise a superb £2,600 from the evening that will go towards supporting the wider use of The Good Shepherd. In the attached picture you can see Christina Rasmussen leading the tasting.



Looking ahead, in 2022, we will be re-instating our main fund-raising event for the year, the '**Safari Supper**', that was very successful in 2019. We even have a date – Friday evening **4 March 2022** – do mark it out and even better if you would consider being a host. We plan to run the same format as last time, so we will have starters and main courses with different hosts and then join together at St Mary's Hall for puddings, cheese and coffee... even if we have to pinch ourselves to imagine that such things will be possible again!

Then we intend to continue the sustainable theme with an event dedicated to '**Renewable Energy in our Homes**' – helping us all be informed on how to make our homes kinder to the planet with questions like what happens when my gas boiler/ central heating needs to be replaced? Could I install solar panels? Does battery storage open up new possibilities? What financial and other support is available? We will be looking for ideas that will make it engaging for all the family and it will also mark the 10th anniversary of the mini hydro-electric installation at the old mill site. Less of a fund-raising event, but we still hope to raise money on refreshments and even better if we can identify sustainable energy solutions for our homes as well as our church buildings. 10am - 4pm **Saturday 14 May** at The Mill House, Frensham.

The Trustees of Friends of Frensham Churches

Buy these lovely Christmas cards...and raise money for our churches

The photographs on page 1 are part of a collection of five beautiful Christmas cards which are now available to buy in Frensham Village Shop. For every £5 spent (10 cards, or just 50p each), £3 will go to the Friends of Frensham Churches. If you would prefer a personalised card with your own address, please contact rogerholmes@mac.com. These cost £1 per card, with a minimum order of 150.

News from Helen Arkell

Since the start of the academic year, we have been working at full throttle here at Helen Arkell. Not only are we booking lots of courses and assessments to meet the increase in demand since the first lockdown, we are also enjoying getting back to hosting and attending events and meeting people face to face.

Just since September, we have hosted events to raise money, showcase our services, pass on and receive knowledge and skills, explore possibilities and say thank you to our wonderful supporters. One of these events was our Big Frensham Walk; it was fantastic to see so many families turn out, thank you for coming!

Christmas approaches and another event we are really looking forward to is our **Christmas Drinks Evening**. We didn't get to do this last year *and* this is our 50th Anniversary, so this one will be extra special. We would love it if you could come along – it's on Wednesday **1 December** from 6 to 8 pm and is free; everyone is welcome! If you'd like to come, details and a link to bookings are at www.helenarkell.org.uk/event/christmas-drinks-2021. See you there! Whether you can come along or not, you may still like to support us with our Christmas cards.



This year's card features a lovely little robin in the snow. He has been very kindly designed by artist Alice Kell who is a student at the Royal College of Art in London. The cards are available to order at www.helenarkell.org.uk/shop/christmas-cards.php.

We are excited and optimistic about 2022, with all sorts of plans!
Helen Mortimer

How old is that oak tree?



Many people wonder about the age of the large oak trees in the village and we know that some oak trees in the country are very old indeed. Some are thought to be over 1000 years old. But what about our village oaks? The true age can only be established when a trunk has been cut and the annual growth rings counted, but this is a rare event. However, if an oak tree is blown over, as happened recently in Bealeswood Lane, and has to be cut up to clear the road then this presents the rare opportunity of finding out how old some of our big oak trees are.

The Bealeswood Lane tree, opposite Farm Cottage, has a chain saw cut through the lower part of the trunk that measures 1.27 metres (4 feet 2 inches in old money) in diameter, with a circumference, or girth, of 3.9 metres (12 feet 10 inches). Counting growth rings should be done with care, and at different places on the cut surface. We chose two segments from the centre to the outside of the tree where the annual rings were fairly clear (they are never that obvious!) and we both came up with the figure of between 150-160 annual rings, giving us the age of this tree. The early rings were very clear and widely spaced but as the tree grew into old age the spacing of the rings became much closer and they were harder to differentiate. This information means the tree started its life on that hedge after many of the houses in Bealeswood Lane were built (*Farm Cottage, for example, which the fallen oak tree just managed to miss, is supposed to have been built in the 1650s-Ed.* Pictures by Debbie Foster).

But what about all the other old oaks in the village, or maybe one somewhere else you are interested in? There is a rule of thumb method that anyone can use that was established by Alan Mitchell (former tree expert at Alice Holt, Forestry Commission) and described in his Collins Field Guide to the “Trees of Great Britain & Northern Europe”. All you need is a tape measure and access all around the base of the trunk of the tree. Measure the girth (circumference) at about shoulder height at a place that avoids any branches or burrs.

This should be done in inches because Alan’s rule of thumb is that the age of the tree is the same number as its girth in inches. An extraordinary coincidence. But it only works if the tree is healthy and in full leaf in summer. A fallen and cut tree allows us to test this rule of thumb. The Bealeswood oak was measured to have a girth of 3.9 metres which is 154 inches. Midway between our counts of 150-160 annual rings! This test gives confirmation of the “Mitchell rule” which means that anyone can use a tape measure to find the age of any other oak trees you might be interested in. Give it a go! (If you are interested in the age and size of our trees then go to <https://www.treeregister.org>)

Dan Bosence and Colin Hall

The bells of St Mary's

We are about to embark on a once-in-fifty-years overhaul, and I would like to provide an update as to where we are in respect of the proposed work and fund-raising, ...and tell you about a proposed visit to the bellfoundry.

What's going to happen?

In early January all eight bells will be removed from the church and transported to Taylor's Bellfoundry in Loughborough. During the previous week (so starting on 2 or 3 January) ringers and other volunteers will spend time in the belfry removing and labelling the ropes, stays, sliders, pulleys and clappers, and dismantling the wheels. If you would like to help in the preliminary work your support will be very welcome – please get in touch.

It is anticipated that the bells will be returned to Frensham in mid-March, and there will then be further opportunities for volunteers to help when the bells and fittings are re-instated.

Much of the work that will be undertaken at the bellfoundry is a bit technical to describe in the Newsletter, but if anyone would like to know details, again please contact me and I will be happy to explain.

How much will the work cost?

The work is expected to cost about £33,000 and thus far some £30,000 has either been raised or pledged – so ‘only’ £3,000 or thereabouts to go! We have more fund-raising activities, including quizzes, (see page 16) planned, but are always very grateful for donations too. The DIY aspect of the project will save us nearly £6,000 – so it’s well worthwhile.



Visit to Taylor's Bellfoundry in Loughborough?

While our bells are at the bellfoundry we will be able to pay a visit to both the bellfoundry and museum. Whether or not we will be able to see bells being cast

The bells of St Mary's
Photo by Matthew Birch of
Frensham Studios

Eye of newt and toe of frog: Village Ponds, new and old

New:

BBC Radio 4 Breakfast Show, 30 September 2021: '*... And the best way of increasing the biodiversity of your local area is to establish a pond...*'

9am, on the same day: a digger arrives at Village Field, Dockenfield to begin excavating our new pond near to the road hedge. The expert digging by Andrew had soon scoured out a hollow down into the clay – the waste soil was piled up in the corner of the field to be planted as a wildflower and insect habitat. Although sited with some care, we were delighted to uncover a clay drainage pipe in the lowest part of the 'pond to be'. This was rodded out and, although clogged with clay, it was found to drain down through the cut area of the field. Later that week it rained and the pond filled. Job nearly done. An overflow needs to be installed and the margins of the pond are to be planted with native plants.



Please do NOT add any plants that you have spare in your garden pond. They may be non-native and invasive. They will do little for biodiversity and may be difficult to remove. In the meantime, do let us know if you see any wildlife using the pond. It is already enjoyed by many dogs, a few deer and a resident mole.

Old:

Meanwhile...one bright Autumnal morning (6 November), several grown-up children gathered at Hatch Pond to embark on an aquatic micro-safari. The watery adventure had been organised by Steve Luckett, who guided the group through observation of some of the species that can be found in Dockenfield's newly restored pond. As well as being great fun, the activity was a chance to see how the restoration work undertaken by volunteers over the past year has supported biodiversity. The first dip yielded the usual suspects: water boatmen; water lice and minuscule snails. Steve transferred a Mayfly nymph into a smaller vessel for those who wished to have a closer encounter. It is astonishing to think that these creatures will stay in that form for years before developing wings and enjoying a few hours of freedom.

Several members of the group had been keen dippers during both childhood and various careers, and the less experienced benefitted from their varied expertise. Further dips brought forward some beautiful plants (Duckweed, Broad, Leaved Pondweed and Fennel Pondweed, but the latter needs confirmation when flowering next year) and, thrillingly, a tiny smooth newt. This adorable amphibian, although less at risk than its fellow crested-newt, which has also been spotted in the village, is suffering from habitat destruction, like so much wildlife. Uncovering a broad range of insects, animals and plants is a good indicator that Hatch Pond is in recovery. ('The last time we did a pond dip there, all we found was three bags of dog poo,' recalled one villager.) The list of animals found includes: three different sorts of Mayfly larvae, water boatman, water flea, Cyclops, water hoglouse, ramshorn snail, midge larvae, smooth newt, diving beetle). Many thanks to Steve for facilitating such a wholesome and educational morning. Further pond dips are planned for the spring; details to follow in a future DNL.

Claire Jackson and Dan Bosence

**Pond dipping at Hatch Pond with (left to right):
Jill Trout, Dan Bosence, Roger Trout, Steve Luckett,
Claire Jackson and Phil Nangle**



The Bells of St Mary's cont/ from page 10

depends on whatever work is going on in the foundry at the time, but the process will be clearly explained, along with all the other activities that go on there. More information about the foundry and visits can be found at: www.taylorbells.co.uk and <https://loughboroughbellfoundry.org/visits/>

If you are interested in making a visit to the bellfoundry and seeing other Loughborough attractions (for example, The Great Central Railway, the UK's only double track, main line heritage railway) please telephone or send an email.

Harry Glover / Tel: 01252 797827 / Email: harry.glover@btinternet.com

In memory of Pat Clough MBE

10 June 1933 -20 September 2021

When a community loses somebody as vibrant, as energetic, as resourceful and as giving as Pat, it is hard to put the sense of loss into words. Quite simply, a light went out in the Parish when Pat died in September.

As well as special words from her children, Sarah and Ben, DNL has received some beautiful tributes from some of her closest friends and neighbours; heartfelt memories of a very special lady who meant so much to them. They appear on these pages and you can find more in the November Parish Magazine; they speak volumes of the respect and love in which she was held. It is tough in a village to be universally loved, but I think Pat achieved that status. On behalf of everyone in the village DNL sends love and warmest best wishes to Sarah and Ben and all her wider family.

Pat was a stellar force for good in the community with a colossal capacity for love and friendship. For many years, of course, she was Editor (and more besides) of the Parish Magazine. So farewell, fellow Editor. Debbie and I will miss you so very much.

Michael

Mum (and not forgetting Dad)

Mum and Dad moved into Batt's Cottage in the late 1960's, the exact date I am unsure of, but they were married in May 1967 and it would have been soon after that. Batt's Corner, Dockenfield and Frensham were where we grew up but we now realise what a special community it is and how big a part of that community both Mum and Dad were and how important it was to them both. Lots of people that I can remember from growing up are still living in the village and that's part of what makes it so special.

The church was also a large part of our upbringing and Sundays consisted of church in the morning followed by a roast Sunday lunch followed by dog walks and in the winter months probably watching rugby on the TV with Dad.

I tried to persuade Mum to move to Rowledge when Dad died – better public transport, near the doctors, a shop etc – she would not be persuaded and her reason was that she would be leaving all her friends behind. I'm so glad she didn't listen to me!

In the last few weeks of Mum's life I got to experience a taste of the community again. I would come back from walking the dogs and Mum would say "you must have gone a long way" and I would tell her that we hadn't gone far at all but would tell her who we had seen and stopped and chatted with – nobody recognised me but everyone knows 'Puzzle'!

I still have her phone and look at it every few days to see what's going on with the Batt's Corner WhatsApp group – I think I might have to ask to join as an honorary member! She was just our Mum; she was a lovely lady as so many have told me!

Sarah and Ben

What a splendid Remembrance Sunday tribute service on 14 November with some 72 villagers attending. This caused me to reflect on the immeasurable contribution Pat made participating in so many aspects of village life.

She would have been there that day, as at all Village Lunches, WI events, totally involved in Church and Civic life. She took leading roles in the Parish Magazine, DNL, Farnham Youth project, Dockenfield Parish Council, PCC, Dockenfield Day, Village Fayre, Village shop, Parish Friends and much more all with that winning smile and characteristic logic. No wonder she was honoured with an MBE.

On a personal note, we miss her popping in most days with the galloping 'Puzzle'. The unfailing generous friendship over nearly five decades of being neighbours. Her enthusiasm, honesty, energy, coupled with an outrageous sense of humour, lover of hedgehogs, feeder of wild birds, competitive twitcher and quite an expert on garden plants, trees and of course fast cars and dogs!

Pat leaves an infinite void and enduring legacy.

Jill and Roger Trout



Sarah only found the first of these two pictures last week in an envelope her mother gave her several years ago and which she had forgotten about. It was marked 'for my funeral service - I like this one!'

We've been friends with Pat for over 50 years: she was a true friend, always there when needed whether to listen or act. We have so many memories: swimming in their pool with the neighbours during the summer, walking her dogs and having coffee afterwards. When Harold had his stroke late one night she came at once and sent me in the ambulance telling me she would pick me up from Frimley Park hospital whatever time of the day or night; and she did.

We had lots of happy meals together, and worked closely on the Village Lunch, which mostly ran like clockwork. Once someone said something to upset her, she went outside to calm down, I followed and told her not to be such an idiot and take it to heart. Not the right thing to have said! So, I went back inside. A few minutes later she came in laughing and said, in her anger she kicked her car tyre, a man asked what was wrong, she said "my friend has just called me an idiot". He replied "that's terrible" and also kicked the tyre!

She loved her garden and dogs. Once she took me to check out a kennels where she was thinking of leaving 'Max' while she was on holiday. Suddenly she laughed and said "*fancy bringing you with me, you're not a dog lover!*"

When she was ill she was still cheerful; we always had a laugh. Now she's gone and something funny happens, I still think "I must tell Pat that".

Diana and Harold Parratt

I first met Pat 55 years ago when she came into the shop where I worked; she was with her mother. She purchased some curtain material and paid by cheque. Because she wrote her name and address on the back of the cheque, I realised she was my neighbour!

It took us about 6 months to meet up again. I had Christopher and she had Ben as babies and most afternoons we would walk in Alice Holt. Pat went on the have Sarah, whilst I had Richard. The children all got on well together.

Pat and I never stopped talking, whatever day it was. We went on to have a long and happy friendship.

I am already missing Pat.

Mary Embling

Not only are the evenings drawing in, Dockenfield will be even darker this year with the recent passing of Pat Clough, a beacon of light within the parishes of Dockenfield and Frensham. Pat was simply a lovely lady who would create a lasting impact on anyone who was fortunately enough to know her or met her in passing.

Pat had the smile of a lottery winner, the compassion of mother Teresa and the energy of a FTSE CEO. I would pass Pat's house on my daily dog walk and if I was fortunate enough to meet her, there was always time for a chat and catch up. Pat was a colossus within the local community and something I did not know until today, was that she was awarded an MBE in the 1999 New Year's Honours list for services to Dockenfield and Frensham.

We will all miss seeing Pat around Dockenfield and most recently zooming around the village on her mobility scooter. Our thoughts go out to Sarah and Ben for the passing of their mum and it's good to know that Simon and Pat are now reunited in the place upstairs.

Guy Jackson

I have known Pat for quite a while, initially through Millbridge WI and when I lived in Dockenfield, as well as becoming involved in the Village Lunch. I was also lucky enough to take many holidays in her company. Over the years we have, with other friends too, spent our New Years in Amsterdam, Iceland, on a Rhine cruise, in Morocco and Spain. We also took trips together to Transylvania and Egypt.

Always a good companion, I remember sharing such happy times with Pat, particularly when not everything went to plan – so much laughter and sense of the ridiculous made those events the most memorable. I could just about fill a book with all the things we did and saw, but for now I can only say that I shall miss her more than I can express, but feel privileged to have such wonderful memories of real quality time in her company.

Janet McFadyen

The story of the travelling chocolate cake

Talk about farce on the day of the funeral. Due to some miscommunication between friends (and my sleep deprivation due to a massive oak tree crashing into our garden at 1.30am that morning) Brenda Farrant's yummy chocolate and raspberry cake ended up being delivered to us instead of to the church kitchen! The lovely WI ladies were providing cakes for Pat's funeral tea, and Brenda's cake was supposed to be part of that. But knowing how generous Brenda had been in the past (she'd recently baked a chocolate cake for Michael when he was unwell) I assumed she'd made two! Unfortunately, Michael couldn't attend Pat's funeral as he was busy helping the tree surgeons who were clearing the tree from the lane and that continued to threaten our house. So all three of them had a slice. After the mystery had been solved, the remainder was shipped to another friend of Brenda's who couldn't make the funeral either. All in all, the cake managed to travel between 7 pairs of hands before it arrived at its final, if unintended, destination. Pat would have loved it!

Debbie Foster

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

As the leaves fall and we move towards the end of the year and all the festivities that brings, it is good to reflect on the many different activities that the Society managed during 2021.

We started the year with a ‘seed swap’ (really a seed share) as seeds gathered from members gardens were shared with members and the wider community via the Village shop.

Presentations. We had a number of presentations through the year. We heard about flower farming from Claire Brown from Plant Passion, very interesting to hear about the focus she places on enhancing her arrangements through use of scents by combining flowers and herbs. Jackie Currie, (holder of a national allium collection) talked to us about (not surprisingly) alliums. She spoke about extending the season for these fabulous plants through selection of the varieties grown. Adam Pasco did an interesting Zoom talk about natural gardening. He showed how he uses natural resources such as companion planting and encouraging specific insect groups into his garden to ‘manage’ the pests that inevitably also find their way there. Our very own Caroline Plant talked about Fascinating Bark and showed how we can add tremendous colour variety without flowers. A Winkworth Arboretum presentation by Peter Herring, was a great prelude to the guided tour of the arboretum.

Workshops. Ruth Murphy hosted a Seed sowing and growing workshop via Zoom from her garden. Dan Bosence a socially distanced compost workshop in Dockenfield.

Our **tea and garden visits** were such a success, they will be welcomed back in 2022.

The **Autumn Show** was amazing – so many entries that the Marindin Hall was packed with colour. A fabulous return to showing both by experienced members and also by some first timers who have recently joined the FDHS. We had some fun Sunflower entries from the seeds that were distributed earlier in the year. We are looking forward to being back to two shows per year with the return of the **Spring Show on Saturday 26 March 2022**.

Garden Outings. We had two very interesting garden outings during the year with a guided tour around Wisley and a guided tour around Winkworth Arboretum by the Head Gardener. More outings are planned for 2022 and details will be available when the membership booklet comes out in January.

The **Members Supper** at the Marindin Hall is the end to our social season and as usual a great time will be had by all who attend – how about joining us next year?

Joining FDHS. if you would like to join FDHS, contact the membership secretary for more information (email: membership@fdhs.org.uk) – members get a range of discounts at a range of local and national suppliers and you get to join a great group of local people who enjoy different aspects of gardening. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

Sharon Bleach

Murder Mystery at the Good Shepherd in June 2022

We'll be turning the Good Shepherd into an ocean liner where you'll be wined, dined and entertained. So, get out your flapper dresses ladies and men come along in DJs, wing-collar shirts or anything else you think suitable, ready for a glamorous night enjoying the buzz of the 1920s.

‘Aegian Enigma’ is set on board a cruise liner in 1920 when cruising was just starting up again after the Great War. The glamour, excitement and music of this age were at their height after the dark days of the war. The First World War brought about financial difficulties for all including the landed gentry. Lack of funds meant that country houses were sold off and staff were difficult to get anyway, as those who had been ‘in service’ before wanted different lives. Some of the rich though, were still intent on ‘living it up’ and cruising, especially to the Mediterranean, became popular and a way of escaping the cares of the times.



In the play, a group of people come together because they've been invited to sample the delights of cruising in order to verify the ship's credentials as a cruise liner.

When a high society columnist is murdered, however, the atmosphere becomes tense. Who did it? Are they all now in danger? Chief inspector Featherstonehaugh, from Scotland Yard, is summoned to solve the mystery. All on board are suspects. Can you decide who did it?

Hope to see you there.

Hilary Lee-Corbin

News from the Churches

The Harvest Supper on 8 October in the Church of the Good Shepherd was a wonderfully warm and enjoyable evening with steaming hot food, wine to complement, superb entertainment and a huge raffle! Overall, we raised over £1,100 for church funds with only 60 people present! Amazing... I am so looking forward to next year (assuming we are well beyond this pandemic) when we can have our usual 80 – 90 people – it'll be buzzin'!

Remembrance Sunday on 14 November. I would like to give thanks on behalf of everyone to Peter James who organised, as he always does so quietly and efficiently, everything behind the scenes regarding the Remembrance services at the memorials, St Mary's Church and at the Royal British Legion. This year was particularly arduous for various reasons but overall, it was a tremendous day with very good attendance, especially at Dockenfield, where for the first time in 11 years since I have been doing it, it rained! I'd also like to heartily thank Barbara Potter who made the most amazing altar frontal to commemorate 100 years of the Royal British Legion (please see page 2).

The Alpha Course: This ran from 6 September until 15 November and we then had a celebratory party on 22 November. Mostly we had about 18 people on the course which is an exploration of the Christian Faith wherein anyone can ask questions about anything to do with faith, church, God, etc. We started the evenings with a two-course meal, then watched a recording of Nicky Gumbel talking about different topics such as Jesus, his life and death, the Bible, healing, church and much more. This first course has been such a joy! People have come alive with being totally free to explore where they are with regard to faith and they want to continue learning, which is wonderful. I am hoping some will become helpers on the next course which will be in the Spring. Watch this space for dates!

2021 Advent Course: This is run on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30pm on **2nd, 9th and 16th**

December at the Forum in St Mary's Church Hall. Advent is a time when we look for the coming of Jesus Christ again. It is a time of reckoning and preparing, so we stop and evaluate various thoughts about the Kingdom of God, and what that might mean for us all personally and corporately. Advent is a time of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and giving to charity or good causes. It is an interesting contrast to the over busy, super stressed, hyper -consumerism that occurs and helps to steady the journey towards Christmas. All welcome – just come along!

Covid – 19: The last few months have been a whirlwind of marriages, baptisms and, sadly, funerals as we have been getting back more to normal with regard to having higher numbers of people in church. It is still challenging though, as Covid – 19 has most definitely not gone away. We are and will be continuing to sanitize hands on entry to both churches for the foreseeable future, as well as wearing masks on movement around the churches, and maintaining a minimum of 1m distance during services where able.

All worship services in both churches (communion, choral matins and evensong, worship and fellowship) are happening now. The only exception is that I haven't restarted Family Breakfast yet (9.15am in St Mary's Hall) simply because preparing for filming the 10.30am services at St Mary's takes time and I can't be in two places at once! If anyone has figured out how to do this then let me know!

For the time being, as there are still quite a number of people watching the services on YouTube either directly or through the church website or the church Facebook, we will continue to film and put the services up. Perhaps if you haven't been to church and might like to see what goes on or what sort of message is given, do access the various services via www.frenshamchurches.org.uk

Thank you: May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard with regard to the Church of the Good Shepherd this year in whatever capacity. It is a spiritual centre, a beautiful building and a great asset for the village and I am sure that if we work together, its future will be secure. I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I pray that you are able to see your loved ones and have a special time together. Please be careful and stay healthy. God bless you all.

With love and prayers **Rev Jane**

For an update and questionnaire on the future of the Church of the Good Shepherd please see pages 18 and 19

The use of the Good Shepherd...

.....is expanding week by week, especially now that most of the pews have been removed. In the last few weeks, we have had a perfectly splendid wine tasting, a wonderful one-act play, and coming up shortly, the Dockenfield Reunited celebration with a play already booked for next year. Plus, there are an increasing number of regular events including Coffee Stop, Pilates, Cherubs, and Parish Council Meetings. In short, it's a great space to use, to enjoy and to hire. For more details contact Barbara Potter 01252 794727.

Frensham and Dockenfield Village Lunch

The Village lunch got off to a good start under the new management combining the Community, Church and British Legion and the new time of 12.30 worked well. The most noticeable change from the old format is that the main course was served by table service which allowed the diners to get their food hotter than previously. The diners were encouraged to come and get their own puddings due to the amount of choice.

The lunch was so popular that the Christmas lunch is already fully booked. So, if anybody has to drop out for any reason, could they let me know on the number below as there is a waiting list. Incidentally, the Christmas lunch is the only one that has to be booked due to the amount of extra food etc. We are so looking forward to a full roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings, as well as Christmas pud and custard or brandy butter. The charity for the raffle and stall will be the Millbridge WI.

We could not have done this without the generous start up grant from The Hedgehogs and a later grant from the Frensham Parish Council. We are a “Not for Profit” Group and the “start-up” grants allowed us to obtain the insurance, pay the rent, provide the tabards and gloves, health and safety requirements, rent plus the food itself without this we could not have got off the ground. Unfortunately, due to shortages and delivery problems we are still waiting for our tabards. We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers which has made this happen.

The first lunch of the New Year will be on Wednesday **26 January 2022** and will be sausage casserole and the charity stall and raffle will be for the Royal British Legion Club. Why not come along and bring a friend or two? It's such a warm and friendly atmosphere which helps in the winter months...

We look forward to seeing everybody in the New Year.

Pam Watmore Tel: 793643

Quizzes at the British Legion Club

Saturdays 4 December and 8 January at 8pm

Quizzes have re-started at Frensham Royal British Legion Club, and the next ones are on Saturdays 4 December and 8 January, both being run by Harry and Liz Glover to raise money for the forthcoming refurbishment of the bells at St Mary's church. The quizzes will start at 8 pm, but we recommend arriving by 7:30 (or even earlier!)

All are welcome in teams of up to six people, and entry is £4 per person. Please don't be discouraged if you haven't got a team for there will probably be others short who would be pleased if you could join them. We will not be providing food, so feel free to bring whatever you need to sustain you through the evening. Crisps and other snacks, as well as a wide range of drinks, can be bought at the bar.

For more details of the bell project please see pages 10 and 11. Meanwhile, we look forward to seeing you at one or other or both Quizzes.

Harry and Liz Glover Tel: 797827

Butterflies on Bealeswood Common

An overview of the Butterfly Conservation weekly transect walk.

This spring was bad for butterflies. We only saw 4 x Orange Tips when walking the transect route, compared with 13 in the same period last year. As they only have one brood, they were particularly badly affected by the cold wet weather. Small Coppers, Common Blues, Large and Small Whites were also down, even though these butterflies have more than one brood per year.

Some of the grassland butterflies, however, which emerge later (Meadow Browns, Marbled Whites, Gatekeepers and Ringlets) were more successful and their numbers are up. Others (Skippers and Speckled Woods) remain much the same as last year.

Our most exciting sighting was the Purple Hairstreak which, although it must have been around, hadn't been counted on a transect walk before this year. Now that we know to look up to see them, we hope to record more next year!

Alison Bosence, Philippa Hall, Claire Jackson and Anne Tutt

Millbridge WI

On Thursday **16 December** we are having a party with a lovely hot meal; the entertainment is ‘Songs from the 60s and 70s’. It will be great to be back to almost normal.

Our first meeting of the New Year is on **20 January** at Marindin Hall at 7.30pm when Elizabeth Gatherer will be talking on ‘Eggucation.’

Diana Parratt

The Poppy Appeal in numbers

- £106,000 was raised by the first Poppy Appeal in 1921 (which equates to about £5.2 million in today's money)
- The Appeal is now the world's largest street cash collection and (pre pandemic anyway) raises an average of £66 million each year
- Two Poppy factories make around 45 million poppies every year
- There are 40,000 Poppy Appeal collectors fundraising across the UK
- Since the move to cashless ways of giving in autumn 2019, the average donation has trebled to around £5
- The dated pin is the most popular product in the 'Poppy Shop' with sales reaching more than £157,000

These numbers have been taken from the 'Royal British Legion' magazine, October 2021 edition

'The 12 Days of Christmas' explained

This article originally appeared in a magazine for Crantock Methodist Chapel and has been sent to me by a reader for inclusion in the Christmas DNL. Hope you find it interesting...

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit; Prophesy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

So, there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and now I know how that strange song became a Christmas Carol. So, pass it on if you wish.

Frensham and Dockenfield

History Group

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday **7 December** at Frensham Royal British Legion Club, starting at 7.30pm. The optional dress theme for this year will be 'Fairy Tales!' There will be a raffle and of course the bar will be open. If you are a member and have not yet got a ticket, they are still available at £8 from Chris Bonner (793668) if contacted before 1 December.

The next meeting after that will be the AGM on **8 February**, back at the Marindin Hall. By then a full programme should be in place for 2022 and annual membership will remain at £10. Members, please note the Chairman 'would like to step down' and a new Secretary is definitely required!

Merry Christmas to all members and DNL readers.

Chris Bonner

Carol Singing at the Legion

Saturday 11 December, 6pm

Come along to the British Legion for a good old sing-song! Depending on the weather this may be outside or inside – we will decide on the day – but wear warm clothes just in case.

Cherubs Toddler Group

Thursday mornings 9.30-11.30am, at the Good Shepherd

Every Thursday morning during term-time from 9.30am – 11.30am. A great space for young families and their parents/grandparents/carers where all have fun, refreshments, sociability and singing. £2.50 per family per session.

Preparing for winter in Dockenfield

With winter upon us, it's time to remind you that the Parish Council has prepared a detailed plan of action in the event of any emergencies occurring. This plan was laid out in detail in the pre-Christmas edition (no 282) last year and so it has been decided not to take up space with it here. If you want a copy, you can find it on the DNL section of the Parish Council website (dockenfieldpc.org.uk) or contact the Parish Clerk.

Pilates at the Good Shepherd

There are two classes every Monday. The times are midday-1pm and 7-8pm. Please don't just turn up as they are very popular but contact the tutor, Christine Jason, for information (Tel: 07896 293203).

Full Moon dates

2022

If like me you are a ‘Look at the Moon Person’ then you will want the full moon dates for 2022. So here they are complete with their individual names, given to them originally it is believed by North American Indians:

17 January: Wolf Moon
 16 February: Snow Moon
 18 March: Worm Moon
 16 April: Pink Moon
 16 May: Flower Moon
 14 June: Strawberry Moon
 13 July: Buck Moon
 12 August: Sturgeon Moon
 10 September: Harvest Moon
 9 October: Hunters Moon
 8 November: Beaver Moon
 8 December: Cold Moon

We tick these boxes then

These are some of the requirements of the nation’s dream home, as researched in the last few weeks by Rightmove.

- A home set among a small, friendly community (That’s a given isn’t it!)
- A local pub on the doorstep is the top choice (The Bluebell and the Holly Bush, plus the Legion)
- A local corner shop (Frensham Village Shop)
- A coffee shop (Well, two pubs and the Good Shepherd Coffee Stop)
- A local market (Plenty of those in easy striking distance)

So, it’s easy to see why folk would want to move here. But why would anyone leave?

Rainfall for the last three months

August 2020-125.4mm; September 2020-30mm; October 2020-149.4mm
 August 2021-51.6mm; September 2021-41.4mm; October 2021-127.05mm
 (October’s wettest day was the 20th with 25.5mm)

Jack Bessant

Have you seen the parakeet?

I haven’t seen it yet, but DNL has received reports of a ring-necked parakeet in the village, with sightings by the pub and on the common.

An update on the Church of the Good Shepherd

Most of the pews have now been sold which is great news. Now, the available space can be seen and used much more easily and it is great not to have to move the heavy and damaged pews any more. The difference this makes to Cherubs, Coffee Stop, Pilates and the Worship and Fellowship service on the first Sunday of the month particularly, is amazing! Worship and Fellowship is now run like ‘Café Church’ and is so comfortable and informal – do come along and try it!

We are now in the process of choosing new chairs again for the Good Shepherd because unfortunately the ones we had chosen had fabric seats which became very marked (due to the bats) over time and we have decided that this cannot be an option. So, we are looking at Arts and Crafts wooden chairs to be in keeping with the Arts and Crafts Church. Once we have chosen the new chairs and know the cost, we are very much hoping this can be a joint venture with Dockenfield Parish Council to purchase them, as we will be continuing to work towards the Church building being able to serve both church and the community as a whole.

In the meantime, I encourage you all to please complete the following questionnaire as it will help us develop our future plans for the church.

Rev Jane

Please complete this short questionnaire about the Good Shepherd

Further to the responses we got from the questions posed in the DNL earlier this year, the PCC decided that we needed to ask some more focussed questions to help us move forward with planning how best to use the great asset that we have in The Good Shepherd. To that end, we’ve pulled together 10 multiple choice questions into a questionnaire which is on SurveyMonkey – it should take less than 5 minutes to complete. The link to this is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BS6LKKZ>

We fully understand that not everyone will be able to access the survey online so it is printed in full on the next page. We can accept responses on this form via:

- Email (treasurer@frenshamchurches.org.uk)
- Hard copy – dropped off at either The Good Shepherd or St Mary’s Church, the vicarage or my address – Jasmine Cottage, Fifield Lane, Frensham GU10 3AR.
- Hard copy – delivered to the Editor, Michael Foster, Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield, GU10 4HS
-

Closing date for responses is 31 December 2021.

We are also including the SurveyMonkey link in the Frensham Parish Magazine.

Jill Billings FCCA, Hon. Treasurer, Frensham PCC

The Future of the Good Shepherd Questionnaire

Church Activities						
1. I feel that the Good Shepherd should continue as a church	Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Do you attend the Good Shepherd as a church?	More than 12 times a year <input type="checkbox"/>	More than 6, up to 12 times a year <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 6 times a year <input type="checkbox"/>	Only special occasions eg Xmas, Easter <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Would you be prepared to make a financial contribution to ensure the on-going availability of the Good Shepherd as a church?	Over £20 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £20 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £10 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £5 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>	
Community Activities						
4. Do you go to other regular events held at the Good Shepherd?	Coffee Stop <input type="checkbox"/>	Cherubs <input type="checkbox"/>	Pilates <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. I am interested in using the Good Shepherd to host an event of my own	Extremely interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Very interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Not so interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all interested <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. I am interested in being an exhibitor/stall holder at an arts/crafts fair held at the Good Shepherd	Extremely interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Very interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Not so interested <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all interested <input type="checkbox"/>	
7. I am interested in volunteering to help with the day to day running of the Good Shepherd (ie be involved in a team consisting of Caretaker, Booking Manager, Cleaners, Caterers etc)	Definitely would <input type="checkbox"/>	Probably would <input type="checkbox"/>	Probably would not <input type="checkbox"/>	Definitely would not <input type="checkbox"/>		
8. I would be prepared to sit on a management committee to manage the Good Shepherd community uses	Definitely would <input type="checkbox"/>	Probably would <input type="checkbox"/>	Probably would not <input type="checkbox"/>	Definitely would not <input type="checkbox"/>		
9. Would you be prepared to make a financial contribution to ensure the on-going availability of the Good Shepherd as a community space	Over £20 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £20 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £10 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Up to £5 a month <input type="checkbox"/>	Not at all <input type="checkbox"/>	

Are you a Dockenfield resident?

Yes No

Contact details (optional): Name: Tel:

Email:

NB. All responses will be kept confidential unless you give your explicit permission to share details.

If you prefer to complete the questionnaire on-line, please go to the link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BS6LKKZ>



Old Lane's beautiful autumn colours photographed by Ronnie Bennett

The very best cracker jokes ever?

Christmas crackers are deemed environmentally un-friendly these days, so to save you having to buy any, here (from the internet) are a goodly selection of what are modestly described as 'the best Christmas cracker jokes ever'.

- What do angry mice send to each other at Christmas? Cross Mouse Cards
- What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow
- Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'
- What do vampires sing on New Year's Eve? Auld Fang Syne
- Why did Santa's helper see the doctor? Because he had low elf esteem
- What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days
- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride? A Holly Davidson
- What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas quacker
- What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum... you just can't beat it
- How did Scrooge win the football game? The ghost of Christmas passed
- Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? Santa Jaws
- Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley
- What do Santa's little helpers learn at school? The elf-abet
- What did Santa say to the smoker? Please don't smoke, it's bad for my elf
- What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees? Horn-aments
- What goes 'Oh, oh, oh'? Santa walking backwards
- Did Rudolf go to school? No, he was Elf-taught
- Why did the turkey join the band? Because it had the drumsticks
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite
- What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps

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