

DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 288 Published 9 February 2022

New Year; new optimism?

I don't want to tempt fate, but I do want to say how lovely it is to publish a DNL that is packed to the gunnels with delightful things to do. The societies and clubs are getting back into full swing; plans are being made for fetes and jubilee celebrations; our lovely pubs have weathered the storm and can welcome you with a big smile. The freedom to enjoy our lives, taken for granted over so many years, now feels especially precious having been denied us for 24 months.

Having said all that, please, please continue to be sensible and take care as there may yet be a sting in the tail. And that's a thought that nobody really wants to contemplate. **Michael**



Hold the date: Jubilee themed D-Day: Saturday 4 June, 2pm to 6pm

Hold the date as the Activities Committee (whose last D-Day was in 2019), have started planning and organising this year's 'Jubilee themed' D-Day. We are hoping to include some fresh ideas to make this year's fete extra special. As always for the fete to be a success we really need lots of volunteers to help with setting up, running stalls and clearing up at the end. For the new families that have moved into the village this is a great time to help you get to meet your neighbours and be part of a truly unique village event. If you are available to help, it only needs to be for an hour or so, please can you email: Dockenfield.Activities@gmail.com and let us know how long you can help for and approximately what time.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all on our return to normality. **Dockenfield Activities Committee**



**Daffodils: The harbinger of spring.
A small smattering of snow on the fields
around Dockenfield - all that has fallen
on the village this year so far
Photos by Ronnie Bennett**

Dockenfield Speed Watch

Would anyone like to join the Speed Watch team? I would like to pass on the leadership soon if I can as I simply don't seem to be able to find the time to do it - which is why you haven't seen us out there in ages! I'm happy to remain on the team but would rather someone else do the organising. There isn't much to do; it is easy enough, but I have taken on too much already and it's just one more thing to think about! Please contact me on nicolagodden@aol.com or 07956 532202. **Nicola Rutherford**

Hear Dan talk at the Good Shepherd

Dockenfield's very own Dan Bosence will be giving a talk on 'vegetable growing throughout the year' at the Good Shepherd on **Thursday 24 February**, 7.30 for 8pm. Dan is something of an expert on the subject having won the Stephens Cup (most points in the vegetable classes at the Autumn Show) more times than anyone else in the Hort and Prod's long history. Non-members warmly welcome. Full details on page 10.



‘Gordian Knot’

A murder mystery play at the Good Shepherd, 15-18 June

Snowdrops have appeared and that means that Spring is on its way and it’s almost time to start rehearsing for our Murder Mystery which will take place in June at Dockenfield Church. Its title, ‘Gordian Knot’ comes from an ancient Greek legend, the unravelling of the knot was extremely complicated. The play does indeed present the audience with a challenging problem and if you and other members on your table can solve it, you will win a prize. The fact that it’s a Greek legend is appropriate as it is set in Greece on a cruise ship in the middle of the Aegean Sea.

It’ll be an evening packed with fun and all are invited to join in the ‘Charleston’ at the end of the evening. Everyone can come along in 1920s costume if they wish, but only if they wish. The first evening (Wednesday) will be the play only and no food will be served but if you would like to have a good night out with dinner, then come along on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. All diets will be catered for – just let us know when booking.

All I have to do is finish the play, find a cast and direct it – no problem at all...???

Hope to see you there.

Hilary Lee-Corbin

This play will feature many of the same actors/actresses that put on those quite wonderful Noel Coward plays at St Mary’s before Covid kicked in. The director is the same too; the incomparable Hilary Lee-Corbin. So, whilst tickets aren’t on sale yet, I would urge you to reserve the dates in your diary now

Dockenfield Reunited

Dockenfield ‘Reunited’ in the Good Shepherd on the evening of 4 December - and didn’t it feel good! After missing two D-Days in a row, the Activities Committee felt it was high time to get the village back together. It was wonderful to see so many old faces catching up and nice to welcome a number of recent arrivals to the village, including from the new Dockenfield Farm houses.

The church’s winter wonderland lighting - including high-tech effects courtesy of Morgan’s projector - seemed very fitting for a cold December night, while the hog roast and an impressive run on the Prosecco and Hog’s Back TEA provided some much-needed cheer at the end of another difficult year for many. Thanks to all the helpers on the night for putting on an evening that added a spring to the village’s step. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for D-Day 2022 - three in a row is great when it involves the human fruit machine but not when it involves village fete cancellations!



Dockenfield Activities Committee



So, who believes in Santa?

Well, if you didn’t before you must do now. And here’s the proof: Santa in full festive outfit seen after delivering parcels at Batts Corner.

By the light of the silvery moon

On 17 January at around 9pm, the lights went out in Dockenfield, and for Bealeswood Lane, anyway they stayed off for very nearly 12 hours. It just so happened that it was the night of the full moon; the ‘Wolf’ Moon. And with a clear sky the light outside was just wonderful, positively ethereal. I couldn’t see across the kitchen, but I could see all the way to the horizon.

Thought for the day

‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’

‘Still here, said the polar bear’.

Coffee Stop: Dockenfield

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

The Coffee Stop continues to be a huge success and is very well supported. In the weeks leading up to Christmas there were three stalls selling jewellery, decorated candles and jars, Christmas cards and much, much more. After the success of these stalls, we are hoping to have some more stalls selling Easter goodies in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Coffee Stop continues to grow and I'm very grateful to the volunteers and for the homemade cakes that they bring along.

If you are free on a Friday morning from 10am-12pm please pop along and enjoy a coffee, cake and a chat with friends.

Barbara Potter

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.

Wi-Fi at the Good Shepherd

We now have WIFI at the Church of the Good Shepherd and will soon be installing a Collectin card reader for collections and donations for the church. So many people don't carry cash anymore, so we have to move with the times! We are looking into having an audio/visual system and hearing loop system installed to help those who have hearing difficulties. All this will make the Good Shepherd a very useful building and I encourage more people to make use of it. Contact Barbara Potter at: randbpotter@gmail.com to book.

Rev'd Jane

Millbridge WI

We had two unusual guests at our meeting in January: two very lively chickens. Our speaker Lizzie Gatherer spoke to us about her passion for re-homing battery hens after their useful egg production life is over. They are collected on Saturdays and dispatched to various collection points; they are bedraggled and shy but with lots of TLC are soon happy and contented. Lizzie has a hen hospital in her home and tends sick hens from Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire. After refreshments we had our business meeting where we voted on the resolutions for this year's AGM.

This month's meeting (17 February) has the interesting title 'Love and Ardour'. It's near Valentine's Day, so.....!

We have our own website (www.millbridgewi.co.uk); so if you want to know more, please visit it or come to a meeting. We'd love to see you on 3rd Thursday of the month, 7.30pm at The Marindin Hall.

Diana Parratt

Dates for the diary

Sunday 1 May: Celebrate 'International Dawn Chorus Day' with a walk around village lanes listening to birdsong. Meet at 6am outside The Bluebell.

Thursday 12 May. A talk by Steve Lockett at Tilford Institute about heathland birds followed by a walk at RSPB Farnham Heath with a chance of seeing and hearing nightjars. 7.00-9.30pm Booking details to follow. **Steve Lockett (07530 044278 (posteve@hotmail.co.uk))**

Village Lunch

Wednesdays 23 February and 23 March, at the British Legion

Village lunch is the place to go on the 4th Wednesday in each month. The February lunch will be chicken and tarragon casserole with a choice of seven puddings. The charity stall and raffle is in aid of the Kingsley Centre. The March lunch will be barbary lamb plus puddings with tea or coffee and the charity is Helen Arkell.

Where else can you get such delicious home cooked food for £5 and the bar will be open at the British Legion. Lunch is served with table service at 12.30pm prompt but the Legion is open from 11.45am so people can have a drink and peruse the stall and obtain their raffle tickets.

Pam Watmore

Cherubs Toddler Group

Thursday mornings 9.30-11.30am, at the Good Shepherd

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.

A worrying fact

Did you know that there are more than twice as many Foodbanks in the country as branches of McDonalds? That's around 2,600 v 1,300. And the demand for foodbanks is likely to increase in the coming weeks because of the fuel price increases.

Monthly Organ Recitals at St Mary's

The monthly Organ Recitals in St Mary's Church, which started up again in September last year, take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month with visiting organists presenting varied programmes of organ music.

The series continues with Alan Rapley on Tuesday **15 February**; Mike Smith on **15 March**; Mark Brafield on Tuesday **19 April**; and Anthony Gritten on **17 May**.

There will be rolls and soup for all available from 12 midday in the church hall, with the recital between 1-2pm. There is no charge for anything but donations to offset the series expenses, either cash or using the card reader by the main door, will be most welcome.

Mike Smith

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, please advise the Clerk beforehand. The agenda can be found on the Parish Council Website a week before the meeting: www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk.

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

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates

Tuesday **15 February** 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Tuesday **15 March** 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Boundary Review

Natural England is undertaking a review of the Surrey Hills AONB. Dockenfield falls just outside the current AONB – most of Frensham is inside. Dockenfield is in the Waverley AGLV (Area of Great Landscape Value) and there is the opportunity to extend the AONB area to cover Dockenfield. The AONB boundary review call for evidence consultation closed at the end of January and the Parish Council submitted evidence on behalf of the village. Our strong view is that the Dockenfield landscape is indistinguishable in quality from the AONB landscape and the boundary should be extended to include Dockenfield. There are a number of benefits, not least the pandemic has demonstrated the importance of the natural environment and the health and mental well-being benefits of access to green space, something which the AONB landscape designation can help to protect.

A special thanks to Dan Bosence, Colin Hall, Alex Potts, Nicola Rutherford and Roger Trout for all they have done to help the Parish Council with the AONB boundary review call for evidence submission.

Waverley Planning

There was a meeting of Waverley Western Villages parish councils with Zac Ellwood, Head of Planning at Waverley Borough Council and Sally Busby, Business and Performance Manager. The time to decision on planning applications has been unacceptably poor; Zac and Sally discussed the changes they have been making to address this and the key performance indicators they are managing to. The planning application backlog has reduced significantly. We also shared concerns about the slow response time and other issues with the on-line Waverley Planning Portal which makes reviewing plans on-line more difficult than it should be and some ideas for improvement. We plan to meet on a three times per year basis with Zac Ellwood and his team to improve engagement with parish councils in the planning process. You may be wondering where the yellow notices which used to be displayed on the site of a planning application have gone - these are no longer required by Waverley Borough Council planning department. The Waverley Planning Portal website needs to be searched for planning applications and they also appear in the Farnham Herald.

Pauline Baynes

Pauline Baynes was a famous artist who lived in Dockenfield best known for her illustrations of works by J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. The centenary of her birth is in September this year and we have met the curator of Farnham Museum who is positive about the idea of the museum hosting an exhibition of her work to mark the centenary. This could also tie in nicely with the Farnham Literary Festival in March. Some residents will have received a communication from Pauline Baynes' son-in-law regarding exhibiting paintings, drawings and letters and we have connected Pauline's son-in-law to the Farnham Museum curator.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

With the increasing adoption of electric vehicles – the Tesla Model 3 was the second-best selling car in the UK in 2021 – the Parish Council is exploring installing two charging points on the land near the telephone box adjacent to the church. The charging points will be for public use – residents and visitors – pay with contactless card; in particular we feel it will be of benefit to visitors with electric vehicles and to residents who do not have a domestic charging point. We are currently obtaining quotes for installation; more news to follow shortly.

Parish Council Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a councillor on the Parish Council. It is an interesting role, not too onerous with one parish council meeting a month and a chance to be engaged in local community matters. If anyone is interested, please contact Paul Wood or Jessica Hobday for more information.

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

Beware the black ice

Some parts of the road system round Dockenfield and Frensham suffer from black ice when the weather is freezing. So do take care whether you are walking, cycling, riding or driving.

Be part of the Dockenfield Business Directory

The Business Directory is a list of residents of Dockenfield who own and run their own businesses. It appears all the time on the Dockenfield Parish website and approximately once a year in DNL. with the pandemic (hopefully) in retreat the plan is to re-publish it in the next DNL and so give a shot in the arm to the village's businesses.

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

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

(Dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com).

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

Finally, just to say this can be a really worthwhile (and free) exercise. I know of a number of local residents who use the Business Directory regularly, so they could be calling you.

Tea @ Three 2022 St Mary's Church Hall

After what has seemed an incredibly long break of our very well attended and popular Tea @Three, it was not until September 2021 we were once again able to invite our many regulars and friends to start coming along to enjoy tea and a chat, not to mention the delicious home-made cakes.

Our December Christmas Tea @ Three felt we were back to normal. It was good to see so many people attending.

The dates for the coming year are as follows 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December. We offer a very warm welcome to all, please do join us if you can.

A very big 'Thank You' to our many supporters who come along to help serve at Tea @ Three and who provide many of the delicious homemade cakes we all enjoy.

Sandy Taylor (Tel: 01420 478278)

How many cards did you get from nobody?

The answer for us this year is one. Lovely card but no signature, and we couldn't recognise the handwriting. Easy mistake to make of course, but such a pity.

Also, and this was strange, all our cards were received before Xmas, apart from a sudden burst that all turned up on 12 January and again on the 18th, like the post office had suddenly spotted a sack or two of cards that had got hidden away in a corner somewhere. Odd. We weren't the only people this happened to, apparently.

Frensham RBL Bowls Club Open Days Saturday and Sunday 23 / 24 April

The Bowls Club, who play at Hollowdene Recreation Ground will hopefully be back to playing their normal fixture list this year after a couple of seasons upset by the COVID situation.

There will be a full Friendly fixture list as well as League matches in the Farnham and District and 3 Counties Fellowship. Frensham's own Hunter Cup, competed for continuously since 1939 will return after an absence of 2 years along with all the normal in-house Club Competitions. The Rita Plant Trophy and Chris Ling Shield matches (both raising money for local charities) will again take place as well as President's Day. All details can be found on the Club's newly updated website: www.frenshambowls.co.uk

The Green opens to member for play on Sunday, 17 April and the following weekend (23/24 April) there will be two **Open Days** from 2 pm to 5.30 pm when anyone can come along and try their hand at bowls. All that is requested is that you wear smooth, flat shoes so as not to damage the Green; all bowls and other equipment will be provided. Refreshments will be available. Membership fees are very reasonable and anyone who would like more details can contact our Membership Secretary. Pat Pearce on Tel: 01252 793439 or via the website.

Chris Bonner, President

A big 'thank you' from Farnham Foodbank

Just before Xmas we received this email from the manager of the Farnham Foodbank, and we all want to pass on her thanks to the enormously generous residents of this lovely Parish of ours.

'Thank you for all the amazing work you do collecting donations from your parish. The residents of Dockenfield and Frensham are very generous and supportive of the Foodbank, and it is very much appreciated.'

Over the past 20 months we have seen the biggest increase in need for emergency food parcels we have ever experienced locally. Initially this increase was driven by families and individuals impacted by the pandemic and now we see the additional effect of rising energy and living costs, coinciding with the withdrawal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift. We are able to help these families because of food and financial support generously donated by local communities like yours.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Harriet Lanyon

But the need continues

And in mid-January came this announcement, also from the Foodbank:

'This Christmas was the busiest time for the Foodbank on record! On the last Friday our distribution centre was open in December we gave out almost three times as many food parcels as is typical at this time of year. Over the past 20 months we have seen the biggest increase in need for emergency food parcels we have ever experienced locally. While this was mainly driven by families and individuals impacted by the pandemic, we are now seeing the additional effect of rising energy and living costs.'

So, if you are able to help, 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 so far. We can't thank you enough.

Michael and Debbie Foster and Heather Britton

Frensham Peddlars

The Frensham Peddlars had their first season last year. We meet every Thursday evening at 6pm at the Hollowdene Recreation Ground and head out on bridle paths, country lanes and through the odd water ford!

We cycle for approximately two hours and there is often a re-hydrating stop! The rides are suitable for hybrids, gravel and mountain bikes and e-bikes - the bridle paths can be muddy so be prepared for a dirty bike! Last year we went out in all weathers which added to our enjoyment!

The group was set up to connect cyclists from both the parishes of Dockenfield and Frensham. It is a lively ride with lots of fun and led by different group members. For more information, please contact **Vicki Hinde** at vicki.hinde@btopenworld.com

Did the earth move for you?

You must have all seen reports of the volcanic eruption in Tonga, especially the atmospheric shock wave which could be seen from space spreading across the Pacific. A colleague of Dan Bosence, from the University of London, could actually see this pressure wave as a dip in the atmospheric pressure on his barometer in nearby Farringdon.

The eruption happened over the Friday/Saturday 14/15 January and was reported to have occurred at 0410 UTC (local time) and the first big pressure wave arrived in Farringdon at about 18:40 on Saturday evening, peaking about 40 minutes later. A second pulse arrived at 1:40 on Sunday morning and numerous smaller waves continued to arrive for a further 12 hours. The great circle distance from Tonga to the UK is about 16,200 km. The elapsed time from eruption to the first wave was about 14 hours 30 minutes, indicating an average speed of 1,120 km/hour or 696 miles/hour, close to the speed of sound (which is approximately 767 miles/hr).

It's a small world, isn't it?

Letters to the Editor

A fond farewell from Gary and Elaine

It was 1996 when we moved to this lovely village. It was a perfect place to bring up our two children and when Monty the Labrador joined us, he thought he had died and gone to heaven. We have been very happy in Dockenfield, made some lovely friends and acquaintances, have experienced an active social life and have relished life in the country. How fortuitous to have had such fabulous neighbours too.

Over twenty-five years later we have decided to become 'townies' and live within 5 minutes of a train station and Waitrose! Time will tell if we will be able to sleep with street lights overhead and with animal sounds replaced by more urban noises. We are moving to Alton, not that far away, and fully intend to return to see friends, attend Dockenfield Day, visit the pub and go for long leisurely countryside walks.

We are blessed and grateful to have been part of this wonderful community for over quarter of a century. Farewell.

Gary and Elaine Allen

Thanks for the party

Could I please put a piece in the DNL to say 'thank you so very much' for the Dockenfield Village Party on 4 December at the Good Shepherd.

It was such a lovely idea, which we were so very lucky to be given. A free hog roast and trimmings for everyone, which was all really lovely. Also, a pay bar was made available, so something for everyone. We so enjoyed the lighting effects behind the altar going up to the ceiling, very special. So 'thank you so very much everyone' for making this possible for everyone to enjoy.

Marjorie and Jack Bessant

See also page 2

In memory of Pat Clough

It is with great sadness that I hear Pat Clough MBE died in September 2021. I have only come across this news in the last few days from reading the Dockenfield Newsletter.

I have childhood memories of Pat, Simon, Ben and Sarah from the times I spent during school holidays in Batts Corner in the 1970s and early 1980s when visiting my grandparents. The Clough's were neighbours to my grandparents Nan and Fred French who lived at 'Oakleigh'. I pass on my condolences to Sarah, Ben and the rest of the family.

The reason I know about the Newsletter is because my grandfather was one of the early editors when he lived in Batts Corner. I am sure his name was in the list that was published in the 250th edition. When I remember, I google the website to look at the latest newsletter and that is how I came across Pat's passing.

Nick Clarke, Bourne, Lincolnshire

Tice's Meadow saved

You will be pleased with this news which we helped publicise through the Farnham Herald and Dockenfield Newsletter. Thank you to all of you that signed the petition or made other contributions.

Alan Cox

Thanks from your 'Postie'

This is just a quick note to say 'thank you' to everyone for the warm wishes I received over the holiday period and how much they were all appreciated. A little late but I would like to take this opportunity to wish one and all a 2022 that is full of sun and laughter.

John, your 'Postie'

Frensham and Dockenfield History Group

We started our 2022 programme on 8 February when we held our AGM and the speaker for the evening was Andrew Negus who gave his talk and picture show on 'The History of Portsmouth, Part Two'. This was a long-awaited follow up to Part One which had been delivered in 2019 but COVID had not permitted him to return until now.

The rest of the year will pan out as follows:

On 8 March Mel Rees will entertain with 'My Family and Other Setbacks!' April's speaker is a return visit for David Rose with 'Guildford in the 50's and 60's'; Dr Marion Dell will speak in May about 'The Rise and Fall of England's Switzerland' (about Hindhead!) There will be an extra meeting in July (on the 12th) which will take place outside and be a purely social event: further details will be forthcoming at April/May meetings.

After the summer break Alan Copeland will again enthral with his 'Curiosities in the Chilterns!' October's meeting will be about 'The Social Life of an English Civil War Soldier' by Alan Turton; and in November a talk about Flora Thompson will be given by John Owen Smith from Headley History Society.

The Christmas Party will take place at the Royal British Legion Club on Tuesday, 6 December. All meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Marindin Hall unless otherwise stated above.

Chris Bonner, Chairman

News from the Churches

Christmas Services: Well...it was all a bit of an experiment this year! We didn't know who would come to the services because the Omicron variant had made most people even more wary of attending gatherings indoors. There was a good crowd for the carols round the Dockenfield bus stop though! It wasn't too cold this year but the mulled wine and mince pies were well received....

We also moved the Christmas carol service outside St Mary's Church on 19 December and were overwhelmed with the numbers of people who came – with chairs, blankets, and torches. We actually ran out of mulled wine and mince pies! It was very twinkly and magical I think we will keep this outside in future years. Everyone loved it!

In 2020 we couldn't do crib services in either church on Christmas Eve so we organised a Nativity Nature Trail between the churches to run throughout the Christmas Holidays instead. This year on reflection, I wonder that it might have been better to have done that again as comparatively few people attended the crib services. In 'normal years' we are generally packed out with 180 adults and children! However, those who came this year sang lustily and celebrated the original story of Christmas joyfully. Perhaps we might do both next time!

The Alpha Course: The Autumn course went really well and I think everyone got something out of learning more about the Bible, the whole Trinity of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; prayer, church and much more. Everyone was well fed and enjoyed the sociability, all within Covid guidelines of course. Our **Spring course started on Wednesday 2 February** in St Mary's Church Hall and will mainly run on Wednesdays with the usual format of a two-course meal, video and chat. Do contact Rev Jane if you'd like to come along!

2022 Lent Course: This year we will be using the 'Living in Love and Faith' course which teaches and explores relationships, learning more about gender experiences and inequalities, sexuality, and marriage. It seeks to raise our awareness by giving information, and we hear from those of the LGBTQI community, which I am sure will be illuminating. The course allows us to safely express our feelings or anxieties about relationships, and reassess our attitudes towards those we consider different. I believe it may be quite challenging, but, as each person is a child of God and we need to learn to live peaceably with each other, then somehow, we must address why we find growing in relationships difficult and try to find a way forward positively. The course will run each week on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from 3 March for 5 weeks. At present it will be in St Mary's Church Hall, but if numbers are high, I'll will move it to the Good Shepherd, so that we can have enough room. See posters for details nearer the time and contact Rev'd Jane to attend.

Good News! Now that the pews in the Church of the Good Shepherd have mostly been removed, we are able to have more informal seating for the Worship and Fellowship service on the first Sundays of the month. Numbers of attendees are increasing which is really encouraging and hopefully means we are moving in the right direction bringing people into the love of God. It is great to have more flexibility so that people can feel comfortable, more confident in joining in with the chat and enjoy the more modern singing.

And... we have ordered the new chairs! We are extremely grateful to Dockenfield Parish Council for purchasing 20 of the chairs which means we will have 60 in total. As well as matching the arts and crafts style of the church, they are very comfortable. They can be stacked and will have covers to protect them from the many bats which reside in the church.

As we start 2022, may I thank in advance all who will help with the building and grounds this year. And may I really encourage those in Dockenfield to come to the church for any of the services, to come and learn more about the wonderful arts and crafts building in their midst, to enjoy Dockenfield Coffee Stop which is on every Friday morning, and, if you have young children to come to Cherub's parent and toddler group on Thursday mornings.

As we come out of the pandemic, please be careful and stay healthy. God bless you all.

With love and prayers,

Rev'd Jane

The Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre

Many of you have joined us for our Big Dyslexia Walks and it was lovely to see you all in October. We are moving the walk back to the spring so please save the date of **Sunday 22 May** to come and join us and to help us support adults and children with dyslexia. More details to follow. It should be a great day – fingers crossed for some spring sunshine!

Helen Mortimer

Thank you, Steve

A big thank you to Steve Luckett who has taken over as distributor of DNL for the area in and around Dockenfield Farm.

News from our Parish hostelrys

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

Another new year and we are heading towards 10 years of being at The Bluebell! We are so pleased with how things are going and January has started really well for us. It feels like people are starting to relax and be able to go out with less worry.

One positive outcome of the pandemic has been the success of table service and this will be something we will continue with moving forward. Thank you for adapting with us, whilst there have been so many changes and for supporting us even though it's been a rough couple of years for so many.

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 second Thursday of every month, from 8pm. The next three dates are Thursdays **10 February**, **10 March** and **14 April**. The Men's Nights are really great fun, so do come along. See page 11 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

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

We have exciting plans for a grand open event on **Friday 3 June** to celebrate 100 years of Frensham Royal British Legion club and branch and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Briefly, this will involve stalls, children's games and activities, Morris Dancers, afternoon tea, barbeque and a band in the evening (Brobed Stils, one of the most popular bands in the Farnham area). All are welcome: there will be more information in the next DNL, but put the date in your diary now.

There will also be a photographic display commemorating the history of the Legion in Frensham and the various activities that have taken place over the years. Does anybody have any old photos of events at the Legion, and in particular photos showing either the public bathrooms that were once part of the club, the stage or the lounge in the days when the snooker table was located there?

There are three of our ever-popular quizzes coming up:

Saturday **19 February** 7.30pm – Quiz run by Jill Hannan in aid of the Legion club funds

Saturday **5 March** 7.30pm – Quiz run by Diana Parratt

Saturday **2 April** 7.30pm – Quiz run by Jill Hannan in aid of Farnham Swimability

Janet Caiger

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

Opening Hours: Friday 12 – 6 pm; Saturday 12 – 6 pm; Sunday 12 – 5pm. Additional opening hours are posted weekly to our website / social media. Enjoy our beers (or tea, coffee, wine, spirits, soft drink) on our beautiful Terrace or in our Taproom / Marque.

Six Nations Rugby matches will be shown on our big screens. Check out our website for details & to reserve your space. Pizza or Indian Street Food will be available on England Match Days.

Joe Wood

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

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

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

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

By the time you read this, we will be firmly into the new year and for some of those that like to stay ahead of the game, the first tomato seeds are probably in their trays.

Despite the ongoing challenges with Covid19, we were able to celebrate the end of 2021 with our annual supper, now known as 'The Members' Supper', which was supported by 48 members and partners. We would like to congratulate Penny Hearn who was awarded the Banksian Medal for most points at the autumn show.

The Society also awarded Dan Bosence, the 'Anniversary Cup', to recognise the work he has put in as a council member over many years, steering the society in his roles as President and Chairman from 2005 to 2019. Dan a well-deserved accolade.

The next two meetings are worthy of attendance for both members and non-members.

February Meeting

On **Thursday 24 February**: Dan will be giving a talk on '**vegetable growing throughout the year**'. Dan has won the Stephens Cup (most points in the vegetable classes at the Autumn Show) more times than anyone else in the society's 74-year history. He will be speaking from his own experiences and will cover the following areas.

- Extending the cropping season- successional sowing
- Extending the cropping season- choice of varieties (frost resistant salads etc)
- Forcing and blanching winter salads
- Autumn, winter and spring use of the greenhouse and cold frames
- Cropping plan for fresh veg throughout the year

We have decided to host this meeting at **The Good Shepherd, Dockenfield**, to support the church and to attract more new potential members from Dockenfield to join the society. Therefore, members and non-members are both very welcome.

March Meeting

On **24 March** at the **Marindin Hall, Frensham**, we welcome Brigitte Kaltenbacher, with a talk entitled 'From Sting to Spin'. Who will talk about the history of nettle cultivation and harvesting for fibre and why it is considered sustainable for textile production.

The venues will be open from 7.30pm, for 8pm start.

Spring Show – Saturday 26 March at the Marindin Hall, 2.30pm – 4pm

It's back after a two-year absence and we hope to make it one to remember. The Autumn Show was the most successful for 40 years, so please think about entering your daffodils and other spring flowers. There is also the very popular home industries section.

You can check out the classes on the '**Show**' page of our website: www.fdhs.co.uk. As usual we have a number of open classes for non-members as well as members.

New members

We welcome everyone into the society and if you would like to join, please contact me on 01252 793591 or Jilly Steventon, our membership secretary by email on: membership@fdhs.org.uk.

Apart from the shows and meetings, our benefits include discounts from organisations including Kings Seeds (50%), Harrod Horticultural (up to 15%), Lindsey Clarke and Avalon Garden Centre.

Neil Mumford www.fdhs.org.uk

Ending the year on a high

New Year's Eve was the warmest since records began in the UK, with temperatures reaching an astonishing 16.2 degrees. Meanwhile, more locally, November 2021 was the driest month in the village since Dockenfield records began. Here are the full rainfall figures for November and December.

November: 2020 62.1m; 2021 20.7mm

December: 2020 109.2mm; 2021 85.8mm

These figures compiled for the village by **Jack Bessant**.

News from Frensham Village Shop

Hello everyone,

We hope you are enjoying your start to 2022, and if we haven't seen you in the shop recently we hope to do so soon. If you have been in, hopefully you will have seen our new Refill section, where you can now buy mixed fruit and nut, porridge oats, red lentils and bird seed in a more sustainable way, significantly reducing the amount of packaging that needs to be used.

We also welcome Lydia as the newest staff member to the Shop, and she has kindly shared a few words with us:

"I'm really looking forward to working at Frensham Village Shop and Post Office, and, as the hub of the village itself, being involved in the local community. I've always been a strong supporter of independent businesses and am excited to try the array of fabulous local produce on offer – from fresh breads and pastries from Hungry Guest to Mrs Darlington's jams and chutneys, and delicious coffee from Cupsmith's, there's lots to try! I've felt so welcomed the past week, and can't wait to meet and the rest of our lovely customers; do pop in and say hello!"

Although it's a new year, and we have some new ideas you will start to see over the next few months, we still have a fantastic range of fresh produce, baked goods, meats, as well as frozen and chilled products. For the bakery and butchers products we can often order in if you have specific requests, and always ask if we don't have something that you would like and we will see what we can do.

Finally, we have also introduced a new 'Meal Deal', where you can buy a Nellys Farm traditional pasty or pure pork sausage roll, a 500ml soft drink and a pack of crisps (Walkers ready salted, salt and vinegar or cheese and onion) for £5.

Thank you for all of your support in 2021; and we look forward to it continuing in 2022 as we continue to serve the Frensham & Dockenfield community!

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

The number 13. Lucky for some

Thursday 13 January saw the 13th anniversary of the Men's Night at the Bluebell. And the man whose brainchild it all was, Mark Rosling, was the 13th to arrive, to be greeted with a round of applause. And so I should think as the Men's Night continues to be a huge success. One person said that it was always the first event he entered into his calendar at the beginning of the month.

Meanwhile I think we can safely declare Roly 'King of the Chicken Burgers'. Everybody knows how delicious the Bluebell beefburgers are. Well, the same can be said of their (enormous) chicken burgers. Roly was the first to try one at Men's Night and declared them 'scrummy' and on that Thursday everybody on one table was following his example. Always knew you were a trendsetter, Roly!

You've not tried the Men's Night yet. Well, don't delay. The next three are on **10 February**, **10 March** and **14 April**, starting at 8pm. For more details or to get onto the regular Men's Night reminder list details just email Mark Rosling (markrosling@outlook.com).

Meanwhile at the brewery

Went with pals on Hogs Back Brewery tour. There was a slight complication with the booking, as we reserved for four and they recorded it as two. The tour guide, honesty personified, said: *'Truth is we couldn't organise a p**s up in a brewery!'*

That same tour guide, something of a commentator on social behaviour, went on to observe: *'Put two residents of Surrey as the sole occupants of a desert island and they won't talk to each other as there is nobody there to introduce them.'*

Want to know about wine?

Try Littlewine

The last edition of DNL included an article on a wine tasting event that was held at the Good Shepherd, with Dockenfield's very own Christina Rasmussen giving her expert guidance on the wines on offer. You might be interested to know that she runs a company called 'Littlewine' with the website www.littlewine.co. You can find interesting articles about wine; sign up to her newsletter or buy wine for yourself.

Important dates

Get your calendars at the ready, as here are some dates you just mustn't forget

14 February: **Valentine's Day**. Can't use Covid as an excuse now fellas. Get something planned

1 March: **Shrove Tuesday**. Is there anything better than pancakes?

1 March: **St David's Day**. There are a number of Welsh people in the village who will celebrate

6 March: **First day of Lent**. What are you giving up?

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

20 March: **First day of Spring**. What a wonderful time of year

27 March: **British Summer Time begins**. One hour less in bed, sadly

27 March: **Mothering Sunday**. A card and a good lunch out: the barest minimum, surely

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

17 April: **Easter Sunday**. It's about more than the chocolate remember

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

23 April: **St George's Day**. Often overlooked, which it shouldn't be

Will you help raise funds for a new Cancer and Surgical Innovation Centre?

Jeremy Hunt, the MP for SW Surrey, has recently launched a campaign to raise funds for a new Cancer and Surgical Innovation Centre at the Royal Surrey Hospital. His office has been in touch to ask DNL to run the following article which appeals for funds to move the project forward.

In mid-September we had the long-planned launch of the campaign for a new Cancer and Surgical Innovation Centre at the Royal Surrey attended by many distinguished consultants and Royal Surrey Chief Executive Louise Stead.

The main news of the event was that the NHS has now approved £25 million of funding to get the centre started. The whole project costs around £30 million, of which the aim is to raise £5 million across Surrey. But in order to spend £25 million from its capital budget the Royal Surrey had to first get approval from NHS England. I met Simon Stevens, outgoing Chief Executive, in June to press the case which was not easy because there are many different priorities for NHS capital spend. But Simon listened carefully, and approved it as pretty much his last action as NHS Chief Executive.

At the event we also heard useful presentations on the prevalence of cancer in Surrey and the need for early diagnosis. The NHS currently diagnoses just over half all cancers at the early stages and is aiming to raise that to three quarters by 2028. In Guildford and Waverley, interestingly, we have a slightly lower incidence of new cancer cases than the national average (because people are slightly healthier around here) but slightly higher overall numbers living with cancer (because we have more older people living longer).

Overall, the two cancel each other out - so we share the UK-wide need to get more diagnoses happening earlier. Currently only 53.5% of cancers are diagnosed at stages one and two in Guildford and Waverley - which means nearly half are diagnosed at a stage when it will be more difficult to stop them being life-threatening. That means there is a big job for the NHS locally - but also for all of us individually to make sure we are up to date with our cancer screening. If in doubt, contact your GP. That is where a new Cancer and Surgical Innovation Centre can make a huge difference!

At the public meeting surgeon Simon Butler-Manuel showed us an extraordinary video of him operating a robot to deliver high precision surgery to remove a cancer. We have world-class surgery right on our doorstep. But the surgeons desperately need more space in order to increase the number and quality of operations done. Colin Stokes and many others did a wonderful job raising funds for the Stokes Urology Centre which was opened in 2018 - and this new centre is the next step to help turn the Royal Surrey into the leading cancer centre in the South East.

The new funding will allow more precise surgery done more quickly and in a way that allows people to go home more quickly with a faster recovery. However, each Da Vinci robot costs £2.4 million, so this is not going to be cheap. The hard work starts now.

Professor Chris Marks, who worked at the Royal Surrey most of his working life, has agreed to co-chair the fundraising committee with me. Chris and I worked together on the campaign to save the Royal Surrey when it was threatened with closure, and he personally has raised millions for the hospital through a charity he set up called GUTS so there is no one better. Our initial objective is to raise £1 million towards to £5 million.

The campaign will last several years and although we are starting it in South West Surrey, we will also be launching it in other parts of Surrey. Guildford's MP Angela Richardson has been closely involved and is being strongly supportive. So please help in any way you can. If you are able to support the campaign financially, you can donate through the Royal Surrey's own charity - and please tell your friends to as well!

www.royalsurreycharity.org.uk/Appeal/cancer-and-surgical-innovation-centre or call the Royal Surrey Charity on 01483 464146.

Jeremy Hunt

Phyllis Tuckwell needs volunteers

If you have some spare time, could you be a volunteer driver for Phyllis Tuckwell? With various and flexible hours available, the role can fit around your other commitments, and you can use either your own vehicle or Phyllis Tuckwell's wheelchair adapted vehicle.

As well as patient drivers, Phyllis Tuckwell is also looking for retail volunteers to help in its 17 shops, which are located across West Surrey and North-East Hampshire. If you like meeting and chatting to new people, and have a knack for creating eye-catching displays from the interesting and varied second-hand items which are donated to the shops, this role will be right up your street! Again, flexible hours mean it can fit around you, and knowing that you're helping to raise money for such an important local cause will give you a heart-warming feeling.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Phyllis Tuckwell volunteer, please contact its Voluntary Services team on Tel: 01252 729400 or email: voluntary.services@pth.org.uk.

Jen Barnes

Bird Flu

You may recently have seen an item on *Countryfile* about outbreaks of bird flu in parts of the UK. Bird flu, also known as Avian flu, is a type of influenza which can spread among birds. The virus can spread among waterfowl, including some ducks, swans, geese and gulls. It is sometimes transmitted from waterfowl to domestic poultry. It can be deadly in poultry farms, and leads to the slaughter of all poultry in infected premises, in strict measures to control the disease.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has currently placed an Avian Prevention Zone across the whole of the UK. When the virus is suspected or confirmed in poultry or other captive birds, strict Control Zones are put in place around the affected premises to prevent the spread of the disease. At the time of writing no cases have so far occurred in Surrey or Hampshire, and poultry keepers are advised to observe strict hygiene precautions.

Avian flu is only extremely rarely transmitted from birds to humans. One individual living in South-West England has been infected, *'probably from very close, regular contact with a number of infected birds which were kept in and around their home. The person is currently well and self-isolating, all close contacts are being monitored and there is no evidence of any further spread'* (DEFRA).

Some concerns have been expressed about the risk to humans in eating eggs or poultry. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the advice to people in areas with outbreaks in poultry is, *'Cooking poultry at or above 70°C so that absolutely no meat remains raw and red is a safe measure to kill the virus in areas with outbreaks in poultry. At this time people should eat fully cooked chicken and eggs and not raw or partially cooked ones.'* Professor Ian Jones of Reading University, an expert in viruses, has said that there is no risk to chicken meat or eggs, and no need for public alarm.

It is not known whether garden birds have been affected, and testing them has not so far been done systematically. Pheasants have not been tested, either. It does seem that some wild waterfowl may be carriers of the disease, but it is not yet known how it is transmitted to farmed poultry. The advice from DEFRA is that we should inform them of any findings of dead wild ducks, geese, swans, gulls or birds of prey, and if more than five birds of any species are found dead in the same location. The DEFRA helpline no is 03459 33 55 77. **Val Lewis**

The Good Shepherd Survey

Thank you to all those who completed the survey about usage of and support for the Church of the Good Shepherd. The results overall are that people want the Good Shepherd to remain as both church and community building, but sadly do not want to contribute to the finances to keep it viable.

Interestingly, on chatting to some people at the Friday Docketfield Coffee Stop, they were under the impression that we get money from the government to run churches in the Church of England. For everybody's information, Church of England churches do not get *any* financial assistance in any way from the government, either national or local. Everything is paid for through the collection plate and by generous donations. All money that comes in goes to the 'Parish Share' which is set by Guildford Diocese and for our two churches costs almost £60,000 per annum. This pays for me to be your incumbent, my half-time stipend and pension, and maintaining the vicarage. But it also contributes towards education, training new priests, and contributing to the central team at the Diocese which ensures safeguarding, DBS training, clergy wellbeing, and much more. The parish share has to be raised before any funds for buildings maintenance or new projects, so it is a perennial challenge, but graciously people do give so very generously and I and the PCC are truly grateful that you value both churches and your incumbent.

On a positive note, regarding the survey, there were (I think) 5 people who said they would help with some of the day-to-day care and oversight of the building, which is fabulous news; so I look forward to contacting them in due course. **Rev'd Jane**

Will you adopt a hedgehog?

Shockingly, due to habitat loss, the UK hedgehog population has declined by 96% in the last 60 years. But you can help by adopting a hedgehog via the Wildlife Aid Foundation based in Leatherhead. And remember when you adopt a hedgehog, you are not just giving that individual a second chance, but also working to safeguard the species. www.wildlifeaid.org.uk.

Pilates at the Good Shepherd

Pilates classes take place at the Good Shepherd, with 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).

New Organic Milk Delivery Service in Dockenfield

The village has a new green and friendly milk delivery service that is well worth giving a go. It has been set up by husband-and-wife team Tom and Lucy and is based locally in Bentley. Deliveries are made on electric vehicles and are guaranteed to be early in the morning. I have yet to get up before my milk has been delivered!

The milk is sourced from one of the few farms that still bottles milk on the farm which means tankers do not have to transport the milk around the country. The farm is organic so there is no use of artificial fertilisers which have a high carbon footprint and no pesticides meaning a greater biodiversity. The cows are fed a grass rich diet which they forage from the farm in summer and are fed silage in winter made from the mown summer grass.

If oat milk is what you like they sell Toat's Milk which is produced locally in Hambleden and is delicious. Cream, yoghurt, eggs and other groceries are also available.

All milk is sold in 750 cc bottles that can be rinsed and returned. Pay them a visit on www.milk.club or email orders@milk.club. I had a few teething problems setting up my account but now find it quick and easy to log my orders and change them when needed. If I get stuck Tom is always quick to respond. **Anne Tutt**

What's in your 'Man Drawer'?

In one of his early hit stage shows, immortalised for our repeated delectation thanks to YouTube, the comedian Michael McIntyre describes the existence of what he dubs the 'man drawer'. This is a zone where all manner of items – often useless, but deemed too valuable to throw away – are stored.

The list includes leads from unknown appliances, ancient mobile phones, batteries of indeterminate life, foreign currency (if a man calls, wanting to be paid in drachma, McIntyre is ready), radiator keys and takeaway menus. In the sketch, the drawer is curated by males – but actually, most homes tend to have a similar dumping area. However, now is the time for a clear out, because there's a creative use for one of the items that is likely to be found in said drawer.

Chiltern Music Therapy's iPod Pharmacy reconditions old mp3 players that are then loaded with personalised playlists for music therapists to loan out to their patients. Music is used not only to help distract from treatment and procedures but is also widely recognised as helping with cognition and communication in patients with neurological conditions such as dementia.

You can send your unwanted mp3 players (not just iPods) directly to the iPod Pharmacy (PO Box 917, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 9DG) or deliver to 5 The Old Convent where they will be dispatched on your behalf. Dockenfield residents have already submitted several batches since the scheme began and all devices have been put to good use.

Go on, check that drawer...

Claire Jackson

The price of fashion

Did you know that (according to 'Which' Magazine, September 2021):

- The fashion industry accounts for some 10% of global carbon emissions. Aviation meanwhile accounts for 2%
- Cotton farming uses an immense amount of water. Just one pair of jeans requires upwards of 10,000 litres. And that's before you take into account the vast amount used in dyeing the cotton, with manufacturers using aggressive dyes to satisfy the latest fashion trends
- Some 6% of the world's pesticides and 16% of all insecticides are used on cotton
- Artificial fertilisers are used to replenish the soil in which cotton is grown, harming biodiversity
- According to the US Department of Labour the cotton industry is one of the world's worst for both forced and child labour

So, a few things to ponder before you decide to splash out on a new pair of denims.

Some useful information

As people begin to return to public transport, were you aware that if you encounter any trouble on a train (for example sexual harassment) it is easy to contact British Transport Police? Just text 61016 with a note of what has happened and where and they will be on the case.

I'm writing this whilst simultaneously hoping this is information you will never need. But it's better to be armed with this knowledge than not.

Aliens seen on Bealeswood Common

The Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (see below at end of article) record wildlife sightings on the Common and post these as monthly accounts on the noticeboard at the top of the Bridleway. The majority of these records (all posted at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife) record species that are native to the British Isles. However, we also record any non-native, or alien species, that have arrived on the Common over the years and our November notice focused on these:

Ring-necked Parakeet

Spotted and photographed (by Alex Potts) on Bealeswood Lane for the first time in November. The Ring-necked Parakeet is a tropical species that has successfully adapted to the European climate, the current British population of 31,000 is concentrated in Greater London. The first Surrey record was of one shot by the stationmaster at Dorking station in 1857.

The subspecies is now feral in Britain and are presumed escapees from South London pet shops – imported in the 1970s from the Indian sub-continent. Numbers began to increase during the 1980s and then to rise sharply; as recorded in annual counts in riverside poplars at the Esher Rugby Club; 1994 (697) to 2002 (3,650). They feed on nuts and fruit and peanut garden feeders are possibly one element of their successful adaptation. They compete with native species for nesting sites.

Other non-native birds on the Common are the Collared Dove (introduced in 1960-70s) and until recently the Little Owl (1880s), but this appears to be locally extinct in the Bealeswood/Lake Lane area at least - their former stronghold. Alien water fowl include the Mandarin duck; they have used the pond from time to time and the stream that flows past the Lower Common (bridge in Bealeswood Lane). To these we add overflies of the Canada Goose, Greylag Goose and, more recently, Egyptian Goose.

Wildflowers

Given the location of the Common surrounded by houses in the village it is not surprising that a number of non-native plants have made their way out onto the Common. The plant recording includes these in the current total of 160 flowering plants (not including grasses) found on the Common. Of these 22 (some 14%) are considered non-native plants. We include those native British plants that are clearly out of their normal habitat in Bealeswood and must have been introduced from elsewhere. After 12 years of surveys their presence is well known and their distribution often gives a clue to how they might have arrived.

There are many different ways in which non-natives are thought to have arrived on the Common:

- 1) Some, such as the pink flowered Geranium, Columbine, Crocosmia, Honesty, Grape Hyacinth, Periwinkle, St John Wort (cultivar) and Snowdrop are distributed close to gardens from which they are likely to have escaped or were tipped with garden waste (not to be recommended).
- 2) Some non-natives are widely scattered on the Common (such as the Spanish Bluebell) and may have been brought in by birds or animals (on their feet, or in faeces).
- 3) A single plant of Cowslip adjacent to the bridleway was likely to have come in on a bicycle tyre, or walkers' boot as the nearest populations are many miles away on the chalk downs near Farnham.
- 4) Corn Mint was recorded for the first time on the Common in 2020. This lives next to a pile of cuttings from the Common and we assume it came in on the machinery used to cut the Common.
- 5) Our agricultural heritage is reflected in one non-native plant the Hop or *Humulus lupulus*.
- 6) Finally, Daffodils must be included as the ones we have are non-native cultivars that were planted in the 1980s in a practice that would not be encouraged today.

Trees

The trees in Bealeswood Common are almost exclusively native, i.e. trees indigenous to the British Isles. It is likely that they are the product of natural regeneration, with no human involvement. The non-natives are limited to the hybrid Apples (the wild crabs hybridising with the domestic apple), Damsons and a few shrubs; the Laurels, Cotoneaster and Amelanchier, that are almost certainly garden escapees. The Sycamores and Sweet Chestnut, being introduced to the UK many years ago, are now widely regarded as "honorary natives".

Dan and Alison Bosence, Alan and Pauline Cox, Philippa and Colin Hall, Claire Jackson, Steve Luckett, Alex Potts, Christina Rasmussen and Anne Tutt



Thought for the day 3

'Holding onto your anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die' Buddha

Listen out for the Cuckoo

Last year the very first cuckoo was heard in the village astonishingly early on 26 February. So this is an earlier than usual call for everyone to listen out for the cuckoo and let DNL know when and where you first heard it. It's not a race, although it's always interesting to learn when the first one is heard. But it's equally interesting to know the different times at which the cuckoo appears in the four corners of the Parish. It's also interesting to know when the first cuckoo is heard if you live outside the Parish.

Just email: michael.foster66@btinternet.com with your news and I will print DNL's unique 'Cuckoo Clock' in the next edition.



Cowslip in the winter frost.
Photo by Ronnie Bennett

'Love is a Many-Splendored Thing'

You don't need me to tell you that next Monday is Valentine's Day do you? I just hope you have got something romantic planned, fellas. In the meantime, to get you in the mood, here are a selection of entertaining quotes on the meaning of love.

"I think men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewellery." — Rita Rudner

"Money can't buy love, but it improves your bargaining position." — Christopher Marlowe

"Honesty is the key to a relationship. If you can fake that, you're in." — Richard Jeni

"The happiest marriage I can picture would be the union of a deaf man to a blind woman." — Samuel Taylor Coleridge

When you're in love, it's the most glorious two-and-a-half days of your life." — Richard Lewis

You can't buy love, but you can pay heavily for it." — Henry Youngman

"Women marry men hoping they will change. Men marry women hoping they will not. So, each is inevitably disappointed." — Albert Einstein

"The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret." — Henry Youngman

The best way to get most husbands to do something is to suggest that perhaps they're too old to do it." — Shirley MacLaine

"Love is like an hourglass, with the heart filling up as the brain empties." — Jules Renard



In search of the eggs of the Brown Streak Butterfly

I am a volunteer reserve officer at Butterfly Conservation Bentley Meadow. Recently I found an egg of the brown hairstreak butterfly, a scarce species which is showing signs of a recovery. With the help of other volunteers, we managed to find more than 40 eggs, always laid on new blackthorn growth (the thorny shrub which sloes are found on).

If you find young blackthorn saplings (old growth tends to be covered in lichen -no good) look carefully at the junction of a thorn and the stem, a tiny white blob may indicate an egg. A hand lens (or binocular turned round the wrong way) may reveal a mini sea-urchin shaped white egg. I'd love to hear of any sightings, they would be valuable records

Eggs are normally laid singly but this lovely cluster of 3 was photographed by Alex Potts. The eggs will hatch in spring and caterpillars feed on fresh new leaves. The adults are the last UK species to emerge in August.

Steve Luckett

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the contributors or distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of printing and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered six times a year to all 250 or so households in and around the village. In addition around 200 people, predominantly but not necessarily local, are emailed a copy upon publication. Both services are entirely free of charge and without obligation. If you don't live in the village but enjoy reading the Newsletter, and would like to be added to this mailing list please email michael.foster66@btinternet.com Please be reassured that this mailing list is used to distribute pdf copies of the Newsletter and for no other purpose, and will never be disclosed to any third party. Alternatively, if you are already on this list and wish to unsubscribe at any time, again just email as above and your name will be removed from the list immediately. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully. The deadline for the next edition is **2 May** with items sent by email please, ideally as a Word attachment, to michael.foster66@btinternet.com. Or through the door at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.