

# DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 292 Published 22 November 2022



## Christmas: a time for joy in troubled times

It's not been the easiest few years, has it? The unwelcome arrival of Covid followed by the unnecessary, indeed completely unforgivable, war in Ukraine have combined to contribute to difficult economic times for all. And then up pops Christmas. I know it shouldn't be a surprise: it's the same date, every year after all! It just seems to have crept up on us ever so quickly this time around. And, in a close-knit community like ours, that can bring welcome joy in the middle of difficult times. Read on for loads of things to do; things you don't have to spend very much money on, if any at all. A chance, I hope, for everyone to put their troubles to one side for a moment and enjoy the glow of the festive season. **Michael**

## Santa's Christmas Day Tractor Run Santa will travel through Dockenfield and Frensham between 11-11.30am on 25 December

DNL has just had word from the North Pole that on Christmas Day, Father Christmas will be doing one last lap of Dockenfield and Frensham! Between 11am and 11.30am Santa and some of his helpers will be travelling on his tractor through the parish (the reindeer will be resting after a hard night's work).



There is a possibility that those who come out and wave might get an extra treat from Santa as he goes by.

*See the map below for details of Santa's route and timings*



## Stop Press: New Editor for DNL

Dockenfield Newsletter has a new Editor. *See page 5*

Last year's event was such a success, we are hosting another

## Dockenfield Village Party

Please join us on Saturday **3 December** from **6.30-10pm** at the **Good Shepherd**

- Complementary Hog Roast
- Pay bar
- Residents of all ages, both adults and children, are warmly welcome

RSVP [dockenfield.activities@gmail.com](mailto:dockenfield.activities@gmail.com) stating number of guests and meat/veg preference.

*This is 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 complementary! 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.*

## Wreath making at St Mary's Church Hall

Barbara Potter will once again be holding her Christmas wreath making classes in St Mary's Church Hall on Monday **12 December, 7-9pm**; Tuesday **13 December, 2-4pm**; and Thursday **15 December, 7-9pm**. These classes are immensely popular so please book as soon as you can. Tickets at £20pp from Barbara, Tel: 01252 794727 or email: [randbpotter@gmail.com](mailto:randbpotter@gmail.com)

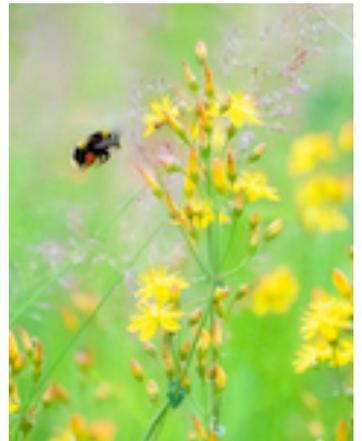
## Nature's Seasons 2023 Calendar

### More copies available after initial print run sells out quickly

At the start of the Covid pandemic several local naturalists banded together to keep records of all sightings on Bealeswood Common. It is at the centre of Dockenfield's wildlife with an impressive sward of seventeen species of grasses that host many butterflies, moths, grasshoppers and more. Over two years have passed by and Dan Bosence, as General Editor, has posted more than 30 monthly bulletins on the Common's noticeboard, including many photographic miniatures to illustrate our flora and fauna. Alex Potts, Claire Jackson and I exhibited some of these photos, on a grander scale, at the Good Shepherd Arts and Crafts weekend (21 – 23 October); also including other images from wider afield, albeit mainly within an hour's walk of Dockenfield.



Our theme was the diversity of nature through the seasons. Local tree-lined grasslands are an outstanding natural environment, literally on our doorsteps. We wish to see all our wild areas conserved for posterity. A calendar we thought would be the natural medium to promote further awareness and a daily reminder of nature's beauty. Pictures include one of our numerous Nuthatches, on a rare snowy morning in January; and an Alex portraiture, highlighting her fascination with bumblebees, seen here collecting pollen at Bealeswood Common on a dreamy summer's day filled with the aroma of wildflowers.



Such images, once compiled, evoked nature's year in Dockenfield and Frensham. A hundred calendars were placed on sale at the Art and Craft exhibition at the Good Shepherd. All proceeds (less printing costs) have been included in the donation to the Parish churches as described on page 11.

With further sales at the Village Shop, our stock sold out in about three weeks and so we are reprinting with the continuing aim of donating profits to the Parish churches. We will deliver locally, and orders can be placed by emailing me. Purchases can also be made at Good Shepherd Friday 'Coffee Stop' and at Frensham Village Shop, once restocked. If readers have contacts with retailers in the area where sales could be furthered, please let me know.

**Alan Cox** [alanfjcox@gmail.com](mailto:alanfjcox@gmail.com)

## Poppy Appeal 2022

I am delighted to report that this year as all Covid restrictions have been lifted 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 Jason Griffiths, Annabelle Sutton, Sarah Stirling and Sandy Taylor. Interestingly, we have had the use of a card reader again and this 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 in glorious weather (picture below by Simon Claiden). Our thanks go to Charles Pamment and Richard Wood for acting as the very efficient Traffic Marshals in the Street. Wreaths were laid at the Memorial by Jason Griffiths on behalf of the RBL, Mark Rosling on behalf of DPC and Archie Allingham and Joshua Wernick on behalf of the village youth.



John Stirling gave the exhortation and our bugler Tony Adie played 'The Last Post' preceding the two minute 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 have been extremely generous with their donations.

**Peter James, Local Poppy Appeal Organiser**

## **Christmas in Dockenfield 2022**

*Mark the start of the countdown to Christmas in Dockenfield with these three events to pop in your calendar:*

### **Dockenfield Village Party**

**Saturday 3 December 6.30-10pm at the Good Shepherd**

For details see page 1.

### **Help put up the Village Christmas Tree**

**Sunday 11 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 baubles and lights. There was a very good turnout last time, and we are hoping for even more residents to come and help this year.

### **Village Christmas Carols**

**Monday 12 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 mince pies and mulled wine, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

## **Men's Night at the Bluebell**

**Thursdays 8 December (Xmas Men's Night) and 12 January, 8pm at the Bluebell**

Join us every second Thursday of the month at the Bluebell from 8pm for a convivial evening of chat, laughter and food with neighbours and acquaintances. Our next gathering is on **8 December** when there will be the usual tradition of turning up in dodgy Xmas jumpers. Meetings in the New Year will start on **12 January** and subsequently on **9 February** and **9 March**.

If you are new to the village, this is a brilliant way of getting to know people. For full details please contact **Sebastian Fox** ([sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk)) or just pitch up at the pub. You will be made very welcome.

## **Christmas services at St Mary's and the Good Shepherd: all welcome!**

**27 November - Advent Sunday**

8am: BCP Holy Communion (GS))

10.30am: Parish Communion (SM)

6pm: Advent Carols (SM)

**4 December -2nd Sunday of Advent**

8am: BCP Holy Communion (SM)

10.30am: Worship and Fellowship (GS)

6pm: Choral Evensong (SM)

**11 December -3rd Sunday of Advent**

8am: BCP Holy Communion (GS)

10.30am: Parish Communion (SM)

4pm: Family Christingle (SM)

**18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent**

8am: BCP Holy Communion (GS)

10.30am: Choral Matins (SM)

6pm: Christmas Carol Service starting

outside with candlelit procession into church (SM)

**24 December - Christmas Eve (Saturday)**

2pm: Crib service (SM)

4pm: Crib service (GS)

11.30pm: Midnight Mass (SM)

**25 December - Christmas Day (Sunday)**

9am BCP Holy Communion (GS)

10.30am Christmas Communion with carols (SM)

## **'Not-the-Office' Christmas Lunch**

**Wednesday 14 December at the Bluebell, 12.30pm**

After a two-year hiatus, we will be holding the village Not-the-Office Christmas lunch from 12.30pm on Wednesday 14 December at the Blue Bell. This is an opportunity for anyone working for themselves and who's based in the village to have a convivial Christmas get together in lieu of a formal office party. If you're interested in joining us for lunch, please email [Sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk) by Friday 25 November. **Sebastian Fox**

## **Please spare a thought for the Foodbank at Christmas**

Farnham Foodbank is receiving ever increasing requests for help from residents in the area who are not able to buy enough food for themselves or their families. That is a very sad state of affairs at any time of the year, but at Christmas it is especially worrying. So it would be just lovely if you could help with donations to assist those in real need. And better yet, if you could add in a few Christmassy items such as cake, biscuits, chocolate and puddings that would help make somebody's festive season very much brighter. You can leave your donations:

- 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 each week.
- If you live at or near Great Holt, then please take your donations to Heather Britton, The Coach House, Great Holt, Old Lane, GU10 4HQ.

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. Thank you so much.

**Michael and Debbie Foster and Heather Britton**

## News from Frensham Village Shop

**Hello Neighbours:** Frensham Village Shop is in full flow for Christmas!

Our Christmas offering will include traditional seasonal favourites such as delicious mince pies and Stollen from Loseley bakery and new Christmas chocolate bar cakes. To accompany these treats we can offer local Hattingley Valley wines - the classic cuvee and classic reserve cuvee sparkling wines and their delicious Chardonnay plus other wines, beers and spirits for Xmas and New Year's Eve.

We stock locally produced Jane's frozen ready meals and Catch frozen fish products together with our Chalkstream trout chilled fish range and meat products from Hand's of Rowledge, alongside household essentials and fresh fruit and veg.

We would also like to support everybody to have as good a Christmas as possible and remind you that we have a donations collection point for the Vine Centre in Aldershot if you'd like to share a bit of festive happiness.

### Christmas opening hours:

The shop will be open as normal until:

- Christmas Eve – Closing at 12 noon
- Christmas Day – Closed
- Boxing Day – Open 9am - 11 am
- 27 December – Open 9am - 11 am
- 28 December – Open 8.30am - 5.30pm
- 29 December – Open 8.30am - 7.00pm (post office closed 5.30pm)
- New Year's Eve – Open 8.30am - 5.30 pm
- New Year's Day – Closed
- 2 January 2023 – Open 9am - 11 am (post office closed)
- From 3 January normal hours resume

### Last posting dates for Christmas:

#### UK

2<sup>nd</sup> Class 19 December  
1<sup>st</sup> Class 21 December  
Special Delivery 22 December

#### Abroad

Various but start from 9 December for Europe. A leaflet with full details of posting dates for each country is available at the Post Office. Please ask.

**Bruce Milne** [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk)

## Exploring Christianity

Throughout this year there have been a series of absolutely fascinating lectures under the heading 'Exploring Christianity' held at St Mary's Church.

Debbie and I (along with many others) have attended as many of them as possible, and I believe I speak for all the audiences when I say they have been superbly presented. The two very accomplished speakers are Richard Walker and Roy Waight, who have researched the lives of such famous historical figures as William Wilberforce, Florence Nightingale, J S Bach, Elizabeth Fry and many others. Each lecture lasts about 30 minutes and provides an insight through words and pictures into the extraordinary lives of major figures whose work and courage has shaped our futures.

The new programme was not available at the time DNL went to press but I do urge you to attend the upcoming talks if you can as they really are truly excellent.

They take place on the third Sunday of every month and are followed by a glass of wine and some light bites. Admittance is free although there is a collection for one or more charities if you care to donate. Do look out for details of the future programme in DNL, the Parish Magazine, the church website and elsewhere.

## Farnham Christmas Market

### Sunday 11 December 2022

Farnham's Christmas Market makes a welcome return this year. There will be over 150 stalls in Castle Street, The Borough and the Conservative Club in Ivy Lane selling gifts that are a little different, crafts, accessories, Christmas items, food, drink and more. The emphasis will be on local produce and gifts.

## **So, it's goodbye from me....**

I first put on the DNL editor's hat with issue number 193 in May 2006. One hundred editions and nearly 17 years later I have decided that it's time for me to hang that hat up and hand over to somebody else.

During that time DNL has done its best to report on everything that has happened in the village, indeed the wider parish. One of the most notable events, of course, was the arrival of crooks at the Bluebell. This very nearly saw the demise of the pub until firstly DNL inadvertently unmasked them and helped send them to jail; and then Robin and Lucy took over and built the pub up to the success it is today. More recently we had the unwelcome arrival of Covid, with DNL and the village springing into action to support the community.

These events and the many others over the last 17 years help to illustrate one of the loveliest things about Dockenfield: whilst things around are changing all the time, the village itself appears to change very little. It's why people move here and, having arrived, often stay for way longer than they ever expected, ourselves included. I just hope that, under my editorship, DNL has managed to reflect the inner beauty and enduring spirit of this very special village.

## **Lots of people to thank**

It may have been my name on DNL, but it takes lots of people to make it happen. So big thanks from me to all its lovely contributors without whose articles and photographs DNL would be a much poorer offering; to its faithful team of distributors, some of whom have been delivering DNL since its very first issue; to the proof readers who save me getting too much egg on my face; and (if you will allow me) to my wife Debbie who has helped me lay out every one of the 100 editions. But most of all my thanks go to you for being such faithful, interested readers. Without you there would have been very little point!

## **What happened next?**

I told the Parish Council in September last year that I wanted to stand down at issue number 100. And since that news became public there have been two recurring themes to my 'post bag'. Firstly, lots of kind comments (thank you); and secondly how much you enjoy reading DNL and don't want to lose it. It has, after all, been published uninterrupted since April 1980 and in that time has built up a large following of hard copy and email readers, both locally and (more surprisingly) around the world.

As time went by those readers began expressing ever increasing concern for DNL's future, but there was no sign of anyone stepping up to take over. In the last few weeks three people put their names forward, not to take over as Editor, but to maybe contribute to DNL in some way, so many thanks to them. Then came an email from Jacqui de Silva, expressing interest in the editorship itself which was wonderful news. Last week Jacqui met with Paul Wood, Chairman of the Parish Council, after which she and I sat down together and chatted about what it takes to make DNL happen and her ideas for the future.

## **Welcome to Jacqui de Silva, DNL's new Editor**

Perfectly timed to coincide with an announcement in this edition, Jacqui has agreed to become DNL's new Editor and both I and the Parish Council could not be more thrilled. Prompted perhaps by the fear that it might disappear altogether, the village (indeed the parish) have shown how much they value having DNL as part of their lives. The warmest of welcomes to you as DNL's new Editor, Jacqui. Her first contribution is below. **Michael**

## **'D' is for Dogs of Dockenfield....**

Many of us spent the summer wishing it would rain ..... and the rain finally came; not only came – but poured and continues to do so! You may have seen me out on Pitt Lane with my trusted rake unblocking the storm drain. You may have also previously seen me walking/running with my wonderful Dalmation dog Douglas who sadly passed away a couple of months ago aged 13. Doug refused to walk in the rain, nor would he walk through puddles when the rain had stopped preferring to keep his paws well and truly dry. We have special memories of Doug not least the moment when he decided to eat the whole fresh cream birthday cake that I had baked for my mother – she never believed I had made it when I tried to explain what had happened.

In celebration of all the dogs of the parish please email the cutest picture of your pooch or funniest story. If space permits, we will try and publish several of them in the next edition of DNL. January is 'Walk your Dog' month and the inclement weather has certainly not deterred us ambling through the most beautiful countryside we are privileged enough to be surrounded by. The new year also sees two 'bird watch' counts with Bird Garden Birdwatch 27- 29 January 2023 and the Great Backyard Bird Count 17-20 February 2023. Do get in touch **jdslm66@gmail.com** (see also page 24) and I look forward to keeping you abreast of the events and news in the parish in 2023. **Jacqui**

## **Dockenfield's Open Spaces group**

This is a group of people with interest in helping to look after the open spaces in the village such as Fritz's Field (last field on left on way to 'Three Ways' to the west of the village); the newly acquired Village Field adjacent to the Rec; and Bealeswood Common. We report to the Parish Council (DPC). At present this group comprises Jill Trout (informal chair and representing DPC), Dan Bosence, Nathalie Griffiths, Roger Trout, and John Stirling but is joined by many other volunteers for large projects like planting new the hedge around the Village Field in February this year. Despite last summer's weather the hedge plants have survived and grown well but we will need some volunteers to weed it and reset the deer fencing over winter. If you feel you could help with projects such as this, then please contact Dan Bosence to add your name to our list of helpers. Age is no limit and several teenagers have joined us for projects which would then count towards their DoE, community involvement etc.

Recently, we have had success in being awarded a grant to buy plug plants of wildflowers for our "Butterfly Bank". This is still work in progress as a bank of earth and subsoil that was excavated out when the new ephemeral pond was dug and piled into a bank in the bottom corner of the village field. Waitrose and Partners in Farnham have awarded us money in their snappily titled "Give a Little Local Love Supporting the Environment" scheme. Our plan is to order a large number of plugs (small plants growing in compost) of native wildflowers that will be ready for planting in September/October next year. These will be chosen from those we know will grow in our heavy clay soil and will provide nectar and food for our local butterflies and their caterpillars. This will require an equally large number of small holes for the plugs to be planted into. We will be seeking a working party for this exercise in the late summer of 2023, and then we would like to recruit someone who could keep a record of the butterflies (training can be given on identification if required) that visit the bank the following years.

Hatch Pond, which had 50% excavated and deepened last year, has survived the incredibly dry summer with the deep sump area and even part of the remainder retaining water. It has now been refilled from the feeder ditch to the south.

Finally, we bid a sad farewell to Steve Lockett from Gardener's Cottage, Bealeswood Lane who will be leaving the village for new pastures. Steve has been very proactive in organising wildlife events in the village as well as recording the different species of birds, fungi, bats and other mammals that live on Bealeswood Common. Over the years he has organised dawn chorus walks for National Dawn Chorus Day, fungal forays in autumn, butterfly walks (with a triumph this year, watching Purple Emperors in Alice Holt Forest), evening walks for bat recording and identification (with his trusty bat detector), and evening nightjar walks. All of these organised in his typical informal, entertaining and informative style. Both residents and our wildlife have benefitted considerably from his knowledge and commitment. We wish him and Linda best wishes for their new future.

**Dan Bosence (792442, [dwbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbosence@btinternet.com)) and Roger Trout**

## **Frensham and Dockenfield History Group**

The AGM will take place on Tuesday, **14 February 2023** when the annual subscription may have to take a sudden hike to £15 due to falling membership and increased costs! The speaker for this meeting will be Steve Priestley who will talk about 3 Frensham Men (3 members of the Chuter family who were sent to the penal colony of Australia).

Andrew Negus will return on **14 March '23** for the third time with 'The History of Portsmouth Part 3'. Always a good evening! Janet Caiger has agreed to give a picture show on **11 April '23** about the 100-year history of Frensham Royal British Legion Club. John Grimmond will return in November (14<sup>th</sup>) with more 'Interesting Artefacts'.

The meetings for May (9<sup>th</sup>), September (12<sup>th</sup>) and October (10<sup>th</sup>) are as yet not booked but Chris Bonner will at some stage provide a selection of postcard pictures of Frensham and surrounding area. The year will end with a Christmas Party at the Frensham RBL Club on 5 December.

**Chris Bonner**

## **Do you realise the scale of animal road deaths?**

Last month the cat protection charity 'CatsMatter' revealed that around 630 cats are hit by cars every day in the UK, with 25% of the incidents proving fatal. The charity went on to say that there are an estimated 100,000 foxes, 50,000 badgers, 50,000 deer and (wait for it) 30 million birds killed annually on Britain's roads. That is a truly awful statistic and a sobering thought as we approach the festive season.

## **Royal thought for the day**

*'It is worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.'* Queen Elizabeth II

## **News from our Parish hostelrys**

### **The Bluebell (Tel: 792801; [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com))**

We are gearing up for Christmas here and hoping that this year, no covid shaped spanners get in the way!

#### **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)

#### **Christmas Opening Hours**

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve): 12-10pm (food 12-3pm and 5-9pm)

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day): Closed

Monday 26 December (Boxing Day): 12-6pm (food 12-3.30pm)

Tuesday 27 December: 12-6pm (food 12-3.30pm)

Wednesday 28 December: 12-6pm (food 12-3.30pm)

Saturday 31 December (New Year's Eve): 12-6pm (food 12-4pm)

Sunday 1 January (New Year's Day): 12-6pm (food 12-3.30pm)

Monday 2 January: 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](mailto: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 two dates are Thursdays **8 December (Xmas)** and **12 January**. See page 3 for more details.

#### **Ladies' Night**

A new series of Ladies Nights began last Thursday and will take place approximately every 3 months. The next one is scheduled for Thursday **16 March**. See page 10 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**

*See also page 17 for an interview with Robin and Lucy to celebrate their 10 years at the Bluebell*

### **The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060, [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk))**

The Team at The Holly Bush would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all the support you have given us, particularly through these turbulent times.

A huge thank you to all of our customers who have donated to our 'Help Out to Eat Out' campaign. The donations allow our local Ukrainian guests to come in and have coffee and cake paid for with those donations. We have had little notes of gratitude left by the recipients, which is heart-warming given their situation. It really does make a difference.

Finally, a big thank you to Michael for his unerring support for The Holly Bush and The Bluebell throughout his time as Editor of the Dockenfield Newsletter. Michael fully understands the relationship between a pub and the community it serves, and the importance of that relationship. Michael has always been there cheering us on from the side lines. Michael you will be greatly missed.

#### **Our Christmas and New Year opening hours are:**

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

*Christmas Day.* Pub: 11am-2pm. Drinks only

*Boxing Day.* Closed

*Tuesday 27-Friday 30 December.* Pub: 9:30am-late. Kitchen: 9:30am-9pm

*New Year's Eve.* Pub: 9:30am-6pm. Kitchen: 9:30am-11:45am / 12:30pm-4pm

*New Year's Day.* Pub: 9:30am-6pm. Kitchen: 9:30am-11:45am / 12:30pm-4pm

**David, Sally and Team HB x**

**Cont/d**

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

We have the following events coming up:

**Saturday 3 December 8pm: Fundraising Music Quiz.** We are hoping to raise as much money as possible for a good cause personal to one of our members, so do come along.

**Monday 5 December 8pm: Club AGM.** We hope as many members as possible will come to hear the committee's report on the past year, elect the committee for next year and ask any questions you may have. Members please also note that if your club subscription is outstanding (ie you do not have a club sticker on your latest membership card), this is now due. The rate remains at £10, which can be paid to Mick, our bar manager.

**Thursday 15 December 8pm: Open Mic Night.** Anyone is welcome to come along and perform, or just turn up to listen to a variety of live music. (Note the change in date this month from the normal fourth Tuesday.)

**Saturday 17 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.

**Saturday 24 Dec 8.00pm: Christmas Eve Party.** Fun and games evening with quizzes, music, etc.– something for everyone.

**Christmas Day 12.00 – 2.00pm.** Meet your friends and bring your family for a lunchtime drink.

**Saturday 31 Dec 8.00pm: New Year's Eve.** With our in-house disco playing music from all eras to welcome 2023.

**Saturday 14 January 8pm: General Knowledge Quiz.** All welcome – teams of up to six, or if you do not have a team there is bound to be one you can join on the night. This is to raise funds for the Legion Club.

**Janet Caiger**

**Craft Brews Brewery and Taproom**

Two days after the 11 October edition of DNL was printed, I received the following email from Joe at Craft Brews. It's old news now of course but I thought I would reprint it here as it contains some important emotions and messages.

*'We are saddened to announce that Craft Brews Brewery & Taproom will be closing on 16 November. Our landlord, The Countryside Regeneration Trust (CRT), has terminated our lease and seem to have undisclosed plans for the buildings we use.*

*We would like to thank all of you for your support and loyalty over the years. We have had a great journey through some difficult years, however what is crystal clear is that without you, our customers and friends, the business would not have grown into such a thriving hub for all to enjoy. I have especially enjoyed the conversations / interactions with you and will miss this above all else.*

*We had hoped to be able to relocate locally so that we can continue to serve and work with the local communities, although finding a suitable location is not so simple. If you know of somewhere or any temporary storage, please let me know. Our website will be updated with the dates/times we will be open until the end. If you have any queries, please contact me directly. Thank you for being with Craft Brews through all our ups and downs! I hope and will endeavour that this is not the end for Craft Brews.'*

A petition was then launched via Change.org to try and save Craft Brews and reached in the region of 4,300 signatures. However, according to a report in this week's Herald, the CRT have refused to reverse their decision to evict Craft Brews from Pierrepont Farm, and that the business will have to leave by the end of November.

**A new craft brewery for Pierrepont Farm**

CRT have subsequently released a statement which includes the words: *'We are delighted that a local business, whose owners are rooted in the community, will be taking over the lease for the site and setting up a new craft brewery.'* They did not however divulge any names or a date for a new business to open its doors.

**What a difference an edition makes!**

The last edition of DNL headlined the fact that July was 'The driest month since our records began'. Now we can announce that, just two months later, September was the *wettest* month since our records began. Thanks to **Jack Bessant** for compiling these monthly figures for us. The actual details are:

Rainfall for 2021: September: 41.4mm; October: 127.05mm

Rainfall for 2022: September: 129.3mm; October: 108.9mm

**Thought for the Day**

I read this quote in a recent Sunday Times, and it chimed with my approach to life so I thought I would share it with you: *'The ship is safest in the harbour, but that is not where it is supposed to be'.*

## **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, but please advise the Clerk beforehand. The agenda can be found on the Parish Council website a week before the meeting. [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk). Alternatively, if you have any questions you would like to be discussed at the meeting, please contact the clerk at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Future Parish Council Meeting Dates**

Tuesdays **10 January and 21 February 2023**, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd

### **Road Safety on The Street**

We reported in the last DNL edition that a speed survey found that the average speed of vehicles in The Street is 30 mph, 15% of vehicles at 36mph or greater and a maximum recorded speed of 62mph. In order to reduce speed, we have a VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) on loan from Surrey CC Highways. We are also looking into buying our own VAS to provide a longer-term solution. We will periodically rotate the position of the VAS for vehicles travelling east and west.

### **Open Spaces Group**

The Open Spaces Group has obtained a grant from Waitrose Community “Give a Little Love” campaign. This will be used to plant wildflowers on the south facing bank of the soil excavated to create the ephemeral pond in New Field. Thank you to Waitrose for their support. See also page 6.

### **DNL**

A huge thank you to Michael Foster for his work as Editor of the DNL over the last 17 years and 100 editions, also to Debbie Foster who has ably assisted with laying out each edition. Your work on the DNL will be missed but you both deserve a very well-earned rest. It is also timely to thank the many deliverers who ensure that a copy of the DNL is delivered to everyone in the village. Thank you to all who make this happen.

We are very pleased to be able to announce that Jacqui de Silva has stepped forward to be editor of the DNL. This is great news for the village; we thank Jacqui and wish her all the best. Michael will assist with the transition to ensure continuity. Please see page 5 for Jacqui’s first contribution to DNL and for her contact details.

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

## **Assistance with the Rising Cost of Living**

The cost of living is skyrocketing. We all know it; we are all affected, and we are all doing our best to manage. Most of us have considered and are implementing some of the more obvious measures that we can take to mitigate soaring everyday expenses.

Budgeting a bit more carefully; considering whether we need that certain extra item or two when we shop; thinking about how many car journeys we make or amalgamating our trips; turning out lights when we leave a room and perhaps not putting the heating on for quite as long. All seem sensible and relatively easy measures that are achievable and (let’s face it) are good for the planet.

But not everyone is managing, nor can reduce their spending by following the above, somewhat trite, measures. Some of us are in the situation of having to choose whether to eat or feed the children, whether to wash in warm water or heat the house, or even part of the house for an hour, some of us are struggling to keep our heads above water in an ever-rising tide of costs and expenses.

### **Help is available**

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to ask for help, it takes courage to say “I’m not OK”, so if you or someone you know is struggling there is help available from several sources.

The County Council, local welfare schemes and a dedicated helpline all of which are designed to get you the help and advice that you need have been set up within the county. Below is a list of useful numbers, websites and local schemes that may be of use.

Everyone in Surrey should have received a leaflet through their door in the last week or two entitled ‘Surrey County Council Directory of Support’ which is full of useful information and resources. It contains information about financial support, welfare support, health and mental wellbeing advice and support, foodbank information and details of warm hubs, if you haven’t received it yet or have inadvertently recycled it (we’ve all done it), you can access an online version at [surreycc.gov.uk/welfare](http://surreycc.gov.uk/welfare), the telephone number for their helpline, if you can’t find the information you need, is 0300 200 1008. Calls to this 03 number cost no more than standard 01 or 02 numbers and count as part of any call package.

**Cont/**

### **Help is available (cont/d)**

Our Borough councils are doing their bit too. Waverley Borough Council have a dedicated section on their website at [waverley.gov.uk](http://waverley.gov.uk), click on the Cost-of-Living Support – ‘find out more’ button and scroll down.

East Hampshire District council have a similar resource that can be found at [easthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support](http://easthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support)

### **Community Warm Hubs**

You will find a warm welcome at the following places in the local community. Some of our local warm hubs include:

**The Coffee Stop** at The Good Shepherd in Dockenfield, where for just £2 you can get a cup of tea or coffee, home-made cakes and company in a warm and friendly environment. The Coffee Stop is open every Friday from 10-12noon.

**Farnham Library** at Vernon House, 28 West Street, Farnham, GU9 7DR, offers free access to books, computers and Wi-Fi along with several helpful services. It is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9.30am to 5.30pm, Tuesday: 9.30am to 7pm; Saturday: 9.30am to 5pm; Sunday: 11am to 5pm. Tel: 0345 600 9009.

**Alton Library** at Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 1HT offers a warm space to read, work, relax and socialise. It also offers free Wi-Fi and public computers, national papers, magazines, boardgames and jigsaws. It is open: Monday 9.30am to 1.30pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm. Tel: 0300 555 1387.

**Alton Community Centre** at Amery St, Alton, GU34 1HN open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm and Saturday 10am to 12.30pm. No need to book everyone is welcome, alone or with family or friends. There are comfy chairs, free Wi-Fi, you can charge mobile phones or laptops and there are board games and books available and complimentary refreshments. Tel: 01420 85057.

### **Village Help and Support**

The Parish Friends are a group of people from within the Benefice of Frensham (the villages of Frensham and Dockenfield) who are authorised by the Vicar, to offer their time, energy, help or a listening ear. Just call the Coordinator, Claire Hughes on 01252 795192 for friendly practical help and advice.

**Dockenfield Parish Council** are also available to help and support our community. If you need to contact DPC please email the Parish Clerk on [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk) or call me, Amanda Adolph on 01252 795909.

Remember you are not alone and there is help available; please ask.

**Amanda Adolph, Dockenfield Parish Council**

### **Preparing for winter in Dockenfield**

With winter upon us, may we remind you that the Parish Council have prepared a detailed Plan of Action in the event of any emergencies occurring. These are mostly weather-related topics, but the Parish Council is participating in a review of other emergencies (“warm spaces” and the like) under the auspices of a wider Waverley Borough Council initiative. You will find the Plan on the DNL section of the Parish Council website ([dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://dockenfieldpc.org.uk)), or you can also request a copy from Jessica, the Clerk. **Ian McLean, on behalf of Dockenfield Parish Council**

### **Ladies’ nights**

We have had an unprecedented response to the pre-Christmas Ladies night! At the time of writing, it is yet to happen, but we’ve certainly captured the interest of a huge number of ladies, old residents and new! So thinking ahead, and not wanting to get ahead of ourselves here, it’s proposed that we have one ladies meet up just before the end of each term - being a teacher myself, that seemed a logical pattern!

So, the dates for spring and summer meets are **Thursdays 16 March** and **29 June**. And then Autumn again on **Thursday 23 November**. Hopefully these dates are early enough to avoid the madness at the end of terms! I’ll be there from 7.30pm and as usual people can decide to eat or not on the evening itself. Pop those dates in your diaries now folks. There may also be the odd impromptu one and we can add that to the WhatsApp and email groups.

We’re hopeful the ladies will give the Men’s Night a run for their money – we’re going for the ‘Tortoise’ approach in the hope that ‘slow and steady wins the race’. So, watch out all you fellas (and encourage your ladies to join in!)

Phone numbers and contact details for more information or to be added to the email list / WhatsApp group are:  
**Joolz Miles** Tel: 07833 355369 or email [joolzlmiles@aol.com](mailto:joolzlmiles@aol.com)

## The 'Art and Craft of our Parish': a phenomenal success

'You smashed it'; 'Phenomenal'; 'The atmosphere was simply magical'; 'We never knew there was such talent in the parish.' These were just a few of the universally favourable comments following the 'Art and Craft of our Parish' exhibition held at The Church of the Good Shepherd on 21-23 October.

And those quotes really do tell the true story of a weekend that surpassed all expectations. Over 600 people attended; there were exhibitor sales of over £7,000; and over £5,000 was raised for church funds, a fabulous sum.

The weekend began with a ticketed Gala Evening on the Friday night with canapes, drinks and musical entertainment by Mike Smith on piano and organ, accompanying the singing of Mared Morant and Tracy Smith. Plus of course a first look at all the exhibits.



And the exhibitors served up an absolute treat for all the visitors on the Saturday and Sunday. The atmosphere was amazing as everyone really appreciated the work displayed on 19 different stands, showing 11 different types of arts and crafts. There were paintings, sculpture, photography, weaving, pyrography, candle making, flower arranging, needlework, knitwear, and ceramics, whilst the path to the church was decorated with the most amazing mosaics. And every one of the artists and craft makers live within the parish boundary of Dockenfield and Frensham.



The 2023 calendar 'Natures Seasons' was launched at the show and has already sold out with more being printed (see page 2). It features exquisite pictures of local wildlife, all photographed by Dockenfield residents Alex Potts and Alan Cox.

A special feature was the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Pauline Baynes, who lived in a small cottage in Dockenfield for over 50 years. It was there that she created her magical illustrations that brought to life 'The Narnia Chronicles' by CS Lewis and 'The Lord of the Rings' by JRR Tolkien and many other books beloved by millions across the world.

Pauline's step son-in-law, Alberto Ceccatelli accompanied by his nephew Andrea Petrella and Massimo Mocali his cousin, flew in from Italy specially for the show and brought with them many wonderful examples of Pauline's work plus stories, letters and photos from her life. Other, more local, friends and relatives of Pauline also attended along with many admirers of her work.

The weather was generally kind over the weekend, especially on the Sunday when the forecast had been pretty dire. Happily, the rain stopped at almost exactly the 10am opening time. It then stayed dry until 4pm precisely when there was an enormous clap of thunder as the gods declared the exhibition closed.

The organising committee for the exhibition was Michael Foster, Alison Bosence (Ellen), Alex Potts, Alan Cox, Jill Billings and Lynne Thomas with an amazing amount of help from Barbara Potter and her 'catering team'. The committee would like to thank them and all the volunteers who helped make the event such a huge success.



There seems to be unanimous support for the idea of another exhibition, and in the New Year the committee will consider what frequency and format might be best.



**From top: Alison Ellen Knitwear; Lynne Thomas paintings, prints and cards; Jill Billings weaving; Pauline Baynes' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary display; crowds enjoying the exhibition and the refreshments.**

**All pictures by Simon Claiden**

## Christmas cards from the Friends of Frensham Churches



These photos of the Good Shepherd and St Mary's churches are two of a range of four beautiful Christmas cards that are available to buy now at Frensham Village Shop.

Each card features Simon Claiden's wonderful photography and are priced at just 70p each or 8 cards for £5 of which £3 goes to the Friends of Frensham Churches (FOFC).

The greeting inside is "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year".



It is possible to personalise the greeting with your address or a special message. The minimum order for personalised cards is 100 cards at £1.50 per card, with 60% again going direct to FOFC. Please contact **Roger Holmes** (rogerholmes@mac.com) for details.

It is also possible to choose your own design/picture and greeting and include the same back page of support for FOFC. Pricing is the same as for personalised cards, ie minimum of 100 cards at £1.50 per card. Again, please contact Roger for details.

## 2022 Dockenfield Skittles Night at The Jolly Farmer

After a long three-year break, a bunch of jolly neighbours and friends turned up for an evening of fun, laughter, food and the all-important skittles competition. Teams and team captains were selected before the event and team captains chose their names:-

- Team 1: Four Leaf Clover - captain Michael Foster
- Team 2: The Gutter Ballers - captain Gary Armstrong
- Team 3: The Truth is Out There - captain Paul Cushing
- Team 4: Against the Wall - captain Annette Cushing
- Team 5: Hopefuls - captain Stephen Jones
- Team 6: Fireworks 4 - captain James Wigfull

Two games took place before supper was served. The scores were very close with three teams on 40 points, 2 on 41 points and the lowest on 31. Another round followed after everyone had eaten. This was the deciding factor in establishing the team order; the top lady; the top man plus the lowest team and scorer.

Many congratulations to:

Team winners: The Hopefuls (Stephen Jones, Maggie Attfield, Roger Trout and Hannah Wigfull)

Top Lady: Claire Armstrong (after tying with Hannah Wigfull and Mary Somerville)

Top Man: Paul Cushing (after tying with James Wigfull)

A prize for the lowest score of the evening went to: Valerie Hoskins



The last game of the night was the knock-out event. With three lives established and throwing one ball at each turn, if you missed the skittles, you lost a life. After a very close fought battle the last person standing was James Wigfull who won The Mansell Cup. **Katy Poulson**

*Many thanks to Katy for organising such an enjoyable village event. She forgot to say that the close fought battle for the Mansell Cup was between herself and her son-in-law! Very brave (some might say foolhardy) of James to beat his own mother-in-law in the final. Perhaps wisely I gather he has granted Katy visiting rights to view the cup! For those new to the village, the Mansell Cup is named after Ian and Pamela Mansell, late of Tudor House, who were tragically both killed, along with Pamela's sister Marlene, in a car crash in The Cayman Islands in 2017. Ian in particular ran the village skittles evening for many years. Ed*

**Previous champion Harvey Ricketts (right) handing over the Mansell Cup to James Wigfull**

**Picture by Jon Hampson**

## Letters to the Editor

*A post bag full of thank you letters.....*

### Thank you

Multiple thanks are due to you, Michael (and to Debbie) for the years of work you have put into developing and maintaining the DNL. It has been a masterpiece of communication within the village.

**Val Lewis**

### Thank you

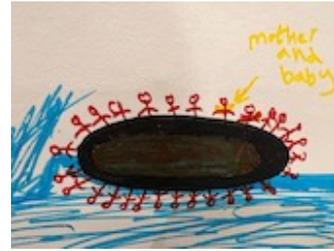
Especially today we want to thank you so very much for all the DNLs you have produced for us all over the last 17 years. You have worked so hard on this for us all through these years, so much information always at hand to help us all. Thank you so very much Michael.

**Marjorie and Jack Bessant**

*The above are just two of many 'thank you' letters I have received in the past few weeks. So, a big thank you from me, in return, for taking the time to do that. It seems to me that these sentiments show the very real affection in which DNL is held, and long may that continue....*

### Thank you on behalf of the asylum seekers

I am just writing a very brief thank you message on behalf of the asylum seekers who arrived in Aldershot in August. Amongst them were 85 children. They had all arrived in boats across the channel.



The people of Frensham and Dockenfield were so incredibly generous with gifts of clothing, toys books and even a cot. I can assure you that this made a huge difference to the people in the

hotel, and assisted them to feel welcome and safe.

THANK YOU.

**Lesley Rosling**

*Lesley sent in these very poignant pictures drawn by the children*

### And now a thank you from 'Sausage'

Thanks to a steady supply of surplus fruit and acorns, Anita at Orchard Farm was able to feed all of her pigs on donations for several weeks this autumn saving her considerable feed bills. Anita is very grateful to everyone who has helped in this way as it makes an enormous difference.

This is the youngest of the pigs, Sausage, enjoying an acorn treat. Sausage lives with Marley, Margot, Ernie Winston and Dotty at the farm. Thank you.

**Anne Tutt**



*This refers to a letter from Anne in the last DNL asking readers to deliver acorns and apples to feed the pigs at Orchard Farm*

## Village Lunch

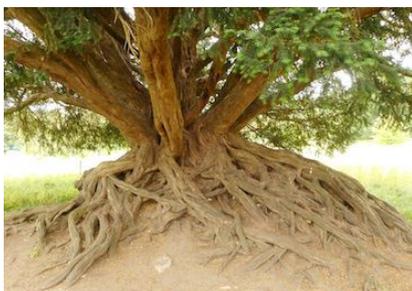
The Christmas lunch is on Wednesday 23 November and is fully booked. This is the only time you have to book in advance, normally you can just turn up. The charity stall and raffle will be run by Millbridge W.I.

There will be no Village Lunch in December, but we recommence again on **25 January 2023** with sausage casserole and the charity stall and raffle being run by the Legion.

The Village Lunch is getting more popular each month and it is lovely to see so many people coming. 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 and socialise beforehand.

The Hearing Champion, Eunice, will be back between 11.30am and 12.30pm in the committee room to assist people with their hearing aids, batteries and cleaning etc.

**Pam Watmore**



## Waverley Abbey yew tree wins the Woodland Trust 'Tree of the Year'

An ancient yew tree at Waverley Abbey has won the Woodland Trust 'Tree of the Year' Competition, winning some 16% of the public vote. The tree is thought to be more than 500-years-old.

The yew will now go on to represent the UK in the 'European Tree of the Year' competition.

## Walking Together



Can you imagine a less favourable restart for ‘Walking Together’ than the continuous heavy rain we experienced on Tuesday 15 November? The Famous Five of Dockenfield and Frensham came equipped with boots, wellies, red capes from Spain, over trousers and coats made of fake rainproof materials – and broad smiles and bold intentions. We walked through puddles galore and splashed about on the edge of the Big Pond and through the woods to the King’s Ridge – and still it poured with rain.

And we laughed and we laughed, and we embraced the two trees that had fallen in love many years ago (see picture, left). And we talked about everything: adventures along the South Downs Way and the Camino de Santiago trail in Spain; holidays of a lifetime; today’s world; the environment, dogs – and we forgot all about the weather and just enjoyed each other’s company and the ever so wonderful countryside. And when we arrived back at St Mary’s Church, we were welcomed by Mike Smith and his generous smile and lots of soup and we ate Laura’s freshly baked apple cake and flap jacks, and we said a fond farewell to Lesley.

Come join us on future walks on 3rd Tuesday of the month – we meet at St Mary’s at 10 am with the prospect of another walk in the rain or the snow or the bright sunshine of Nature’s kindnesses. And, perhaps, after a walk followed by a refreshing bowl of soup you will be tempted to listen to an organ recital – Mike is playing his Christmas collection on the **20 December** (see below). Contact Laura or Jeff ([laura.m.ramsay@gmail.com](mailto:laura.m.ramsay@gmail.com) or [jeffreypowell@roughwsy.com](mailto:jeffreypowell@roughwsy.com)) or just turn up at St Mary’s. We would be delighted.

**Jeff Powell**

## Organ Recitals in St Mary’s Church

**Tuesdays 20 December and 17 January from midday**

The monthly Organ Recitals in St Mary’s Church take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month with visiting organists presenting varied programmes of accessible organ music on what is one of the best organs in the area. The series continues with the recital on Tuesday **20 December** when our very own Mike Smith will be playing a selection of his favourite music for Christmas.

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.

The first recital of the new year is on the **17 January**, 2023. Details of the organ recitals are also available on St Mary’s Church website: <https://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk/organrecitals.htm>

**Mike Smith**

## News from the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre

Life has been very busy here at Helen Arkell. We are helping more children and adults with dyslexia than ever, and this means growing our team of specialist teachers and assessors. It also means that there is more demand for financial help to get support, so the fundraising team are busy applying for grants and with fundraising events. Just in the last few weeks, we had fundraisers running the London Marathon, the Royal Parks Half Marathon and – much more fun to join in – we were the chosen charity for the Hogs Back Brewery’s monthly quiz night!

Talking of fun, we would be absolutely thrilled if you would join us at our Christmas Drinks evening at the end of November. If you haven’t had a chance to pop into our new home yet, please do come along for a look around.

**Christmas Drinks:** Wednesday 30 November, 6 to 8 pm. 24 West Street, Farnham GU9 7DR. Please email [events@helenarkell.org.uk](mailto:events@helenarkell.org.uk) to let us know you are coming. There will be plenty of mulled wine and mince pies!

Being in the town centre means that people can pop into the shop without having to make a special trip – great for those who use public transport! This means we get to meet people from all walks of life and they are spreading the word about us.

We have a couple of particularly interesting workshops coming up in the new year; neurodiversity expert Fintan O’Regan is presenting a course in March on autism and ADHD and another in the summer on children with socialisation and behavioural problems. If you know anyone who might find these helpful, please encourage them to look on the Courses page of our website at [www.helenarkell.org.uk](http://www.helenarkell.org.uk).

Happy Christmas, everyone, and we wish you well for 2023!

**Helen Mortimer**

## **News from the Churches:**

### **The 'Art and Craft of our Parish' exhibition at the Church of the Good Shepherd**

I'm sure there will be much more information about this amazing event in the DNL, but on behalf of Frensham PCC I give *huge and heartfelt thanks* to all who made this happen in the Good Shepherd in October. I was so sorry to miss it as still away on sabbatical, but *really* hope it can occur again sometime! It is fantastic that Michael Foster initially came up with this brilliantly appropriate and creative idea to showcase the building, make more people aware of its potential for different uses and raise funds to contribute to its future upkeep. Michael, then together with an organising committee of Alison Bosence, Alex Potts, Alan Cox, Lynne Thomas and Jill Billings, pioneered this unique fundraiser.

This home-grown vibrant event *so* melded with and illuminated the Arts and Crafts style of the church building, bringing to the fore the imaginative and diverse talents of so many of our local villagers. The committee; stall holders; those who worked so hard greeting everybody, selling raffle tickets and merchandise; and Barbara and her team on refreshments put in a great amount of labour and time, sharing their artistic passions to bring it to glorious fruition. The whole weekend achieved far more than its original aims, for which we are truly grateful. THANK YOU xxx

### **Harvest Supper on 7 October in the Church of the Good Shepherd**

Grateful thanks to Barbara Potter and her team, Mike and the choir and all who managed the Harvest Supper this year. Overall, we raised over £600 for church funds with less people present than last year! Having missed this year, I am so looking forward to next year as this lovely fundraiser brings a warmth and community spirit just before we head into the more wintery months, and I love it!

### **Remembrance Sunday, 13 November**

Remembrance Sunday is a poignant, serious and deeply moving day for us all as we stop and stand silent and still for those who gave their lives for our freedom. I know everyone who attends keenly feels connected and have grateful hearts to all those who died. This day of special services takes a great amount of time, organisation and management and so I am indebted to Peter James who quietly and efficiently sorts everything for us all: everything regarding the Remembrance services at the memorials, St Mary's Church and at the Royal British Legion. Thank you also to all the marshals, readers, trumpeter, and helpers.

### **2022 Advent Course**

This is run on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30pm on **1, 8 and 15 December at the Forum in St Mary's Church Hall**. This year we will be exploring something I learnt on my Wisdom Course while on sabbatical that I would like to share - 'Three Centred Knowing' – looking at this ancient tradition to connect more intrinsically with God, life, the season of Advent and more! All welcome – just come along.

### **Saturday 10 December: Village Carol Singing outside the Royal British Legion**

Come along for a good old singsong! Wear warm clothes and bring a brolly just in case of cold or rain. Hot sausage rolls and mince pies afterwards. All welcome! Starts at 6pm.

### **Covid – 19**

I only mention this because, on return from sabbatical one of the first things I did was contract Covid again! Very frustrating especially as I had had my booster...and meant that I couldn't be personally available for critical community support and essential meetings for over a week. So, conscious that infection numbers are still going up and that we still have vulnerable people in our community, *please can we all protect each other* this Advent and Christmas by testing if we feel ill with what seem like colds and coughs, and if symptomatic, staying away from gatherings until you have a clear test. People will be encouraged to continue using hand sanitizer and are welcome to wear masks and/or socially distance if they would like for church services. I know it seems a bit bar-humbug but care for the susceptible and vulnerable must be our on-going community priority – we are not out of the woods yet... Covid – 19 is a tricky bug...

### **An update on the Church of the Good Shepherd**

2022 has been a great year for the Church of the Good Shepherd. Not only have people of the community become more interested in it, but also have utilised the building far more effectively now that the pews have gone, and we have beautiful, movable, comfortable chairs. The money raised at the Arts and Crafts exhibition will contribute towards updating light fittings, repairing the roof in the chancel as water is coming in, adding more electric points and hopefully putting in a hearing loop and audio-visual equipment in the future.

**Cont/**

## Cont/

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 now much more in people's sights and consciousness, not only as a Christian spiritual centre, but also a beautiful building and a great asset for the villagers and all to use. I am sure that if church and community continue to work together, its future will not only be secure but all will thrive.

May 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**

## Do consider the Good Shepherd for your event

Anyone who came to the Art and Craft exhibition at the Good Shepherd last month will know that the church is, ahem, a hell of a good place to hold an event. In fact, the evidence for this has been mounting rapidly. In the last 18 months or so the church has successfully staged a wine tasting; two separate plays; a children's party; and the village Christmas party that will be held there again on 3 December. These events of course are in addition to the regular events such as Pilates, Cherubs and the hugely successful 'Coffee Stop'. Next year a jazz concert is planned for **9 September** (see below).

The church has been transformed by the departure of the bulky pews, being replaced by comfortable stackable wooden chairs. Plus, it always has been the most delightful building, built in the Art and Craft style, with a vaulted wooden ceiling, kitchen, and toilets, including for the disabled.

So, if you are considering an event/party of your own; or are interested in putting on a fundraiser such as those listed above, just get in touch with Barbara Potter on Tel: 01252 794727, or email [randbpotter@gmail.com](mailto:randbpotter@gmail.com)

## 'Coffee Stop'

This winter come and enjoy a hot coffee/tea, homemade cake and chat at 'Coffee Stop' at Good Shepherd in Dockenfield every Friday 10am – 12 midday. There will be the Vine Centre Christmas Bags available for filling with your gifts. The last collection day for them is Sunday 11 December.

The last 'Coffee Stop' of the year is **16 December** and it restarts on **Friday 6 January**.

Happy Christmas everybody.

**Barbara Potter**

## Tea @ 3

### St Mary's Church Hall

Dates for your diaries:

Monday **5 December** is the last date in 2022, when we will be holding our Christmas themed Tea @ 3. Always a lively and enjoyable get together, with Christmas cake, mince pies and our Christmas raffle to look forward to.

**Dates for 2023** are as follows:

The first Monday of each month except for Bank Holidays. Tea @3 will be on:

6 February, 6 March, 3 April, 5 June, 3 July, 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November and 4 December.

We will not meet in May 2023 due to the Bank Holiday.

Please do come along and join us, we always have a relaxed and enjoyable time. New residents to our villages are most welcome. There is a suggested donation of £2pp.

Thanks to our many volunteers for their continued support and of course making the delicious home-made cakes we all enjoy.

**Sandy Taylor**

## Jazz concert at the Good Shepherd

I know, I know. We aren't through with 2022 yet, but here's an event you will certainly want to put into your new calendar. On Saturday **9 September 2023**, there will be a jazz concert at the Good Shepherd in aid of Friends of Frensham Churches. Now that is something to look forward to.

## **Robin and Lucy celebrate 10 years at the Bluebell**

*'Doesn't time fly when you are having fun'*. So said Robin and Lucy Catchpole when I met them earlier this month to discuss their 10 years at the pub. There have been some serious highs and unwanted lows.... think lockdown especially, whilst current circumstances can't be easy. So, what's it been like on 'the other side of the bar' and what are their plans for the future?

**DNL:** You took over from a calamity, didn't you? The pub had been closed for 12 years, then the tenure of the first landlords ended in tears. They were followed by landlords who turned out to be crooks, defrauded the DWP of nearly £2 million, ended up in jail for eight years, and who had reduced the pub to its knees.

**Robin and Lucy (R & L):** That's true, but the moment we walked in, it just felt right. I (Robin) have been in the business for 26 years and have experience of launching pubs for a large organisation. In fact, Lucy and I met when I was launching a pub in Guildford, and she was at uni there.

**DNL:** So, you were faced with quite a task when you took over. What were your first moves?

**R & L:** We didn't have a big pot of money to throw at it, and in our experience chucking money around in a one-shot hit is not a good long-term solution anyway. So, we decided to grow the pub from the bottom up, focusing hard on looking after both staff and customers. It is so important to get the welcome right, to create the right atmosphere. The 'feel' of a pub counts for so much.

**DNL:** You have been rewarded with an unusually high level of staff loyalty, haven't you?

**R & L:** Typically, staff turnover in pubs is pretty high, maybe a change every few months. But we try very hard to make the Bluebell a happy place to work as well as visit, and we do our best to employ local staff whenever possible. We teach them to be genuine when serving customers, not just automatons. One of our team, Molly, has been here nearly eight years (*if you go to the pub, you will surely know Molly, she is nothing short of amazing-Ed*). Staff training and involvement is key to that. For example, we are just about to take our chefs on a 'fresh pasta making' course.

**DNL:** Do I gather that an increasing amount of the what you serve is home-grown as well?

**R & L:** Yes, it's true, more and more of our salads and vegetables are grown right here, and we are already self-sufficient in herbs. We are very proud of our progress here.

**DNL:** Yes, but over the years you have also invested a lot of money haven't you

**R & L:** As we learned more about what was needed to build the pub up, we began a programme of annual improvements. The most recent example is the outside covered area, which was result of Covid, but works well in both summer and winter and has been welcomed by customers. It's a matter of staying true to your core values, whilst investing sensibly as needed. We don't always move with the times though. Quite deliberately we have avoided installing an automated booking system. Doing it 'The old-fashioned way' means it can be frantic at busy times keeping abreast of bookings, but it also means we know people's needs in a much more personal way (favourite tables, disability requirements and the like) and so can look after them better.

**DNL:** Talking of Covid, lockdown must have been a bitter pill to swallow? Just when you had got the pub really buzzing.

**R & L:** Can't deny it was a body blow, but we try and take the positives from everything. By following the Covid rules precisely, we made the pub safe and learned a lot about our customers' needs, and what works best for them. It was really heartening to see the queues of customers for our Covid takeaways.... we made a lot of friends talking to everyone at our 'take-away window'. We kept the business ticking over rather than mothballing it and that was important. It's true to say, if Covid had happened a few years earlier, we might not have weathered the storm. But government help and the support of our staff and the community helped us through.

**DNL:** And now, crash, bang, wallop here we are with a 'cost of living crisis.' It never rains but it pours, huh!

**R & L:** Yes, tricky times for sure. We have had no alternative but to put our prices up: all our food and drink costs have increased, and energy prices are a real concern. But, you know, people are sticking with us. Bookings are very healthy for this Christmas, unlike last December when the renewed Covid scare frightened a lot of people away.

**DNL:** In your ten years here, you have built a very popular and well-regarded pub. But what the village wants to know is this: are you going to stick around?

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**R & L:** We aren't going anywhere. We love living here; it's such a friendly community and a safe and happy place to bring up our family (Maisie, 15 and Will, 12). We have a very good relationship with the owners of the building and are entirely comfortable with our lease and are very glad that we are free of any tie to a brewery. Yes, of course we would like to buy the pub one day, but Covid seriously put us back on that. We will see what the next few months bring and plan from that. We are proud to be a family run business with family values. Over the years we have 'come to know ourselves' really well; what is important to us and how we should run the Bluebell. That's a policy that seems to chime with our customers, and we want to thank everyone for their loyalty and support. It means so much.

**DNL:** Thank you.

## Are you a 'moonaholic'?

If, like me, you like to remember the dates of all the full moons so you can view them in their full glory, you will find the following list for 2023 invaluable.

6 January:	Wolf Moon
5 February:	Snow Moon
7 March:	Worm Moon
6 April:	Pink Moon
5 May:	Flower Moon
4 June:	Strawberry Moon
3 July:	Buck Moon
1 August:	Sturgeon Moon
31 August:	Blue Moon
29 September:	Harvest Moon
28 October:	Hunters Moon
27 November:	Beaver Moon
27 December:	Cold Moon

## Cherubs Toddler Group Thursday mornings 9.30- 11.30am, at the Good Shepherd

Takes place 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.

Only £2.50 per family per session.

## An important message from Santa

'Twas the week before Christmas  
And all through the North  
The elves had been mustered,  
And 'extras' brought forth.

More sleighs had been built  
And more reindeer brought in,  
And an area made for recycling bins.  
A radical change had occurred at the Pole,  
And Santa had issued instructions to all

That they would have to work hard as the earth needed help;  
It was wrong that the sea had more plastic than kelp.  
So he issued a notice to send round the world,  
And had it delivered to all boys and girls:

*"Please fill up your stockings with toys you've outgrown,  
And I will collect them, and find them new homes.  
My elves will: repurpose/ recycle/repair  
And I'll redeliver to children who care.*

*If we all pull together and try to succeed  
We can banish this world of its waste and its greed.  
You can learn to enjoy what you have even more  
If you follow the 'Santa Recycling Law'.*

*And so boys and girls, let our Christmas begin;  
Just remember to use the recycling bins.  
Then the gifts you unwrap can have more than one life.  
Happy Christmas to all; and to all a good night."*

### Santa

This is a cute festive poem, but with a serious message. Before Christmas do search to see if you have any good quality unwanted toys, books etc and take them to charity shops in good time for others to buy them as Christmas presents.

## New Farnham walking app

Farnham has a brand-new, easy to use walking app. The app will take you on self-guided walks around the town and incorporates commentary to tell you about what you will see along the route. The walks are themed around history, culture, the town's beautiful trees and a ghost walk. More walks will be added over time. Download 'Discover Farnham' from the App Store or Google Play Store.

## Another thought for the day

*'Maybe if we start telling people the brain is an App, they'll start using it'*

## **Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society**

For the last few years, I have been researching the history of our Society which celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 and I am currently in the final preparations of preparing the draft of a book covering the history, which will be published next year, and I felt it appropriate to share a brief summary.

Gardening shows have a long history in Frensham, with the first one, the Churt and Frensham Cottage Garden Society being held in 1895. Starting off as a Vegetable and Flower Show it quickly incorporated home industries and sports such as an egg and spoon race, pole jumping, a costume race and in 1908 a 'marathon' race of 8 miles. The shows stopped in 1914 for the Great War and currently it is unclear if they started again between wars.

The Frensham Flower show was held in both 1946 and 1947 and after the committee retired, the Frensham Horticultural and Produce Society was formed at the Marindin Hall on Monday 2 February 1948.

Mr Theo Stephens became our first President and Rowland Hill Chairman. We held our first ever show, the summer show, on 24 July 1948. At that time the society only awarded two cups the 'Atherton Cup' which had been given to the Frensham Flower Show in 1946 and the 'Earle Cup' being awarded for the first time.

The society thrived throughout the 1950's and by 1955, we had a membership of 248. We held a Spring, Autumn, and Summer Show. The Summer Show was the village event of the year and forerunner to the Frensham Fayre because it included flowers, vegetables and home industries and stalls such as coconut shy, hit the rat, roll-a-penny, and prize golf. There was also regular entertainment from the Royal Navy or Armed Forces

It became increasingly popular and the 1966 show included a display by the Surrey Constabulary police dogs, children's races, mothers' egg and spoon race and a grand draw first prize of a return ticket for two for a weekend in Paris. In 1973, and due to constraints, the society decided to just hold a flower show in the summer and the stand alone Frensham Fayre was born in 1974.

Our members supper (originally known as President's supper) has been run every year since 1977. To reflect the growing membership and its close association the society changed its name to Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society in 2005 and continues to thrive, with the society receiving 329 entries from 47 entrants for the 2021 autumn show, the best for over 40 years.

On another note, December seems to be the time when you start thinking about what seeds to buy particularly for the vegetable garden and it can become a bit bewildering with so many varieties to choose from, so I asked some of the society's top growers for their tried and tested favourites to help.

This is Penny Hearn's advice "*Without doubt my most productive veg this year was my Turk's Turban squash. I got 11 fruits from 3 plants. One of the plants grew plain fruits the other two stripey orange and green fruits. They look amazing and they are very tasty too, especially the plain ones which have a great texture like butternut squash. Because my garden is relatively small, I trained these to grow along the fences, so they didn't take up valuable ground space and they seemed to like that*".

Colin Hall mentions a number of vegetables "*I do not think anyone can go wrong with courgette 'Defender', climbing French bean 'Cobra', Brussel sprout 'Content' and in the greenhouse tomatoes 'Sungold' and 'Honeycomb'. They are all heavy croppers and, in my case, disease free*"

Lastly, Dan Bosence provided me with a number of reliable vegetables which include 'Orkado F1' for a heavy cropping standard tomato with good flavour. Courgette 'Romanesco' for flavour, good enough to be eaten raw in salads; strongly ribbed and gives star shaped secretion when sliced. 'Chantenay' red cored carrot, short rooted, good crop and very tasty. For his potatoes: first earlies- 'Belle de Fontenay' which are very quick to grow and have a very good flavour. Plant first or second week of March and harvest by Dockenfield Day. Second earlies- 'Charlotte'. Great flavour from waxy yellowish tubers. And main crop- 'Pink Fir Apple' or 'Ratte' for flavourful waxy spuds.

I would agree that squashes are great value and would recommend 'Hunter' which is a real tasty butternut squash. We also grew 'Sungold' tomatoes, not only very productive, they also have a beautifully sweet taste. If you like beetroot, try 'Red Ace' sweet oval tasting roots.

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If you are interested in joining the society, please check out our website [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk) or contact us on [membership@fdhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@fdhs.org.uk).

Lastly, we would like to thank a long-term friend of the Society, Michael Foster. Thank you for the support you have given us over the years with the publication of our articles and your complete devotion to this Newsletter. We hope that someone does come along to take over this legacy from you. **Neil Mumford**

## **Millbridge WI**

### **The third Tuesday of every month at the Marindin Hall**

Millbridge WI's October meeting was an evening of pampering and indulgence, as we were treated to some of Neal's Yard's lovely products. Our hands have never felt so cleansed, exfoliated and moisturised! November brings our Annual General Meeting, when the Committee and President for the coming year are chosen, and members can enjoy a jacket potato supper. December of course is time for the Christmas get-together, and this year we have a singer as our entertainment. This will be our first Christmas party since December 2019 due to various Covid lockdowns, and a chance for members and their guests to enjoy the build up to Christmas.

In the New Year the January meeting will, as usual, be the Resolutions meeting, where the proposed campaign suggestions from National Federation are discussed and choices made.

The regular Craft Afternoons and Book Club meetings are continuing on a monthly basis and the inter-WI annual competition between ourselves and neighbouring WIs is now complete, and a skittles evening is taking place in November, with an accompanying fish & chip supper. Millbridge WI run the sales table and raffle at November's Village Lunch and also host a quiz night at Frensham Royal British Legion this month.

Monthly meetings take place in the Marindin Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm, and new members and visitors will be most welcome to come and hear our speakers. Our website, Facebook and Instagram pages (see [millbridgewi.co.uk](http://millbridgewi.co.uk) for more details) provide a showcase for our many activities.

**Janet McFadyen**

## **Nearly the end-of-the-year Quiz**

### **Saturday 10 December 2022, from 7.30pm at the British Legion**

Harry and Liz Glover will be running what will probably be the final quiz of the year at Frensham British Legion Club on Saturday 10 December. We plan to start at 8pm, but please arrive for about 7:30 so you can get settled with drinks from the bar and decide your team's name (and buy raffle tickets!)

Everybody is welcome and the entry fee is £4 per person in teams of up to six people, and all proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Frensham British Legion Club.

Donations of raffle prizes will be very welcome, by the way, so if you have any unwanted presents, we can find a good home for them!

Having looked through our records, we realise that this will be the 13<sup>th</sup> Quiz we have run, our first one being in July 2015. What a lot has happened since then!

We hope to see you on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Harry and Liz Glover, Tel: 01252 797827**

## **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).

## **T Shirt weather**

Incredibly the temperature in west London on 29 October was 22.9 degrees. Very much T shirt weather, after a long hot, and extraordinarily dry summer. I wonder what the winter has in store for us? With fuel prices sky high because of the war in Ukraine, we could do with it staying on the warm side.

## Winter Migration of Birds

Bird migration is a fascinating and mysterious phenomenon. In northern regions such as North America, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia most species migrate to escape the cold winters, and to find food and roosting places more easily. Even in the UK, where conditions are usually milder, about half our indigenous birds migrate.

**Winter migrants** from Europe which regularly visit the UK include Fieldfares, Redwings, and Bramblings. Waterfowl from northern and eastern Europe, including many kinds of ducks, geese and waders, arrive around our coasts and inland waters in the autumn. Whooper Swans fly in from Greenland and Iceland, and Bewick's Swans and Brent Geese fly all the way from Siberia.

Some birds arrive here as **passage migrants**, stopping off for a few weeks to feed and rest before continuing to their breeding grounds in eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. The supreme passage migrants are Arctic Terns, which breed on the fringes of the Arctic circle and also in more temperate areas such as the Farne Islands. They then fly south to the edge of the Antarctic to winter, and back again for the spring, a round trip of about 40,000 kilometres! An astonishing feat for such small birds.

**Irruptions** are occasional sudden invasions of birds. Best-known here are irruptions of Waxwings, which sometimes move in their thousands from Scandinavia and northern Europe, when the rowan and other berries in their home areas are insufficient. They then appear in our car-parks and other areas which are planted with berry-bearing trees. The last major irruption of Waxwings occurred here in the winter of 2016/17. Bird watchers in East Anglia were already noticing numbers of Waxwings arriving in late October, so perhaps we may also see these colourful birds here this winter.

Then there are the **partial migrants** which migrate in some places but not in others. Most Starlings which breed in the UK stay here for the winter. Large numbers of Starlings which breed in Europe migrate here for the winter, so the numbers of Starlings in the UK in winter are much higher than in summer. European Blackbirds, Chaffinches, Robins and Lapwings may also migrate here for the winter, especially in harsh weather.

Some of our native birds, including Tits, Wagtails and Wrens, move from the countryside into towns and cities, which tend to be warmer. Some Thrushes fly from northern Britain to southern areas.

How do migrating birds know when to take off? If they leave too early they may not have built up sufficient reserves to last the long journey. If they leave it too late, they may encounter harsh weather. Birds prepare for migration by eating more, to build up their fat reserves. Some will double their body weight and complete their migration in one non-stop flight. Others will stop en route to feed and rest. Some species moult their old feathers before they migrate. Others moult when they reach their destination.

It is a mystery that young birds manage to migrate successfully. Young Cuckoos make the journey without ever having seen their natural parents. Young Swifts, once their flight feathers have developed, tumble out of their nests and take off without their parents, remaining airborne for two years. Parent birds of some species fly with their young, but not all. Adult Swallows, which may have had a second or third brood, take off without their latest brood if they are not fully fledged, and the young birds must then take their chances.

How do migrating birds navigate their routes? Ornithologists believe that birds use three main compasses to help them to fly in the right direction, and for the right length of time. They appear to react to the sun, the stars, and the earth's magnetic field. They may also use their remarkable eyesight to identify landmarks, and their awareness of wind direction to navigate. Some species return to the same location each year, while others take different routes for their summer and winter migrations.

Many birds migrate at night and rest during the daytime. The air is cooler and denser at night, so there is less turbulence from rising thermals. In the cooler night air the birds need less energy to give the necessary lift for flight, and there is also less risk to their bodies of dehydration.

It is not surprising that some migrating birds are blown off course in high winds and stormy conditions, and land in unexpected places. During September a Common Nighthawk, a North American bird which normally migrates from North America to South America, was spotted in an Oxfordshire garden. Also, in September an Icterine Warbler, a species which breeds in Scandinavia, Belgium and France, appeared in coastal Norfolk. In October a Blackburnian Warbler, another North American bird, landed on a tiny island in the Scilly Isles.

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There are many other examples of rare appearances. They provide excitement for twitchers, who like to add rarities to their lists, and flock to see the exotic visitors. Sadly, it is almost inevitable that these birds will die from exhaustion or hunger. (Note: Do not refer to birders or bird watchers as twitchers. They really don't like it.)

Bird migration has fascinated people for centuries, and has given rise to some odd ideas. For example, it was thought by some people that Swallows spent the winter at the bottom of lakes, and that Barnacle Geese spent the summer as barnacles. Scientific and technological advances have increased our understanding, but there is still much we do not know. In recent years ornithologists have fitted tiny satellites to birds such as Cuckoos to track their migration routes, and they have gleaned a great deal of new information. There is much still to learn, however, about the astonishing mystery of bird migration.

Val Lewis

## The wrong side of the tracks

All my working life I was either headquartered in London and/or my clients were largely based there. Perhaps inevitably the daily commute threw up some entertaining incidents.

Before we moved to Docketfield I used to travel to London from Farnborough, leaving my car in the station car park. Perhaps unwisely, I always parked it in the same spot, and returned late one evening, to find it gone. I walked round the car park twice looking for it, before calling Debbie to say that the car had been stolen. 'Don't be daft' she replied, 'You drove to London today!'

The evening train was packed, with the overhead racks brimming with passengers' briefcases and shopping. Seated travellers began to doze as the train chugged its way towards Farnham. And then the lady opposite me woke with a start as a shopping bag, precariously placed above her, unexpectedly deposited three lemons in her lap.

When I was working from home, I travelled at different times of day, including occasionally at midday. A lady on a seat on the other side of the carriage was dressed very elegantly, probably heading to a society lunch. Opposite her was another lady who was reading the programme for her day at Wimbledon tennis. The latter, deciding to tuck into an early picnic lunch, bit energetically into a tomato and a parabolic curve of juice flew with unerring accuracy across the gap between the seat and landed with a splosh on the chest of the smartly dressed traveller and proceeded to drip down her expensive outfit.

## Topical cracker jokes

In an attempt to make cracker jokes more relevant, a list has been published of the top 20 topical jokes that are appearing this year. Sadly, I have had to cull 12 of them as they are overly political and political bias is not something that gets through DNL scrutiny.

*Why are people cutting back on Brussel sprouts this Christmas?* The cost of gas is too high.

*Which vaccine did Father Christmas get?* Mince Pfizer.

*Why did Rudolph's nose have to self-isolate?* It failed the lateral glow test.

*Why didn't Santa replace Comet and Cupid when they left to become HGV drivers?* It was just 2 deer.

*How do you know the heating bill for December is too high?* Dad won't even let you open the windows on your advent calendar.

*Why are we only having broccoli, cabbage and peas as veg this Christmas?* Because 52% of the family said no to Brussels.

*Why does Emma Raducanu get to carry the crystal glasses at Christmas dinner?* They know she's unlikely to drop a set.

*Which vaccine did the Three Wise Men have?* The Wiser Jab.

## How have I avoided these until now?

I have been fortunate enough to go through my life without hearing these two awful jokes, but now they have just reached me, the very least I can do is inflict them on you.

Guest No1: 'What's the number of your hotel room?'

Guest No 2: 'The dentist's chair'

Guest No 1: 'The dentist's chair? I don't understand.'

Guest no 2: '230. Tooth hurty'

Host: 'How do you like your tea? Milk and sugar?'

Guest: 'Julie Andrews'

Host: 'Julie Andrews? I don't understand'

Guest: 'White, nun'

## A mix of topical and interesting extracts from past Frensham & Dockenfield Parish Magazines

Kindly sent to DNL by Jon Savage

It would not be easy to say whether the country and the world is poorer by the loss of King George, or richer by the realization of what such a life and character has meant and means to humanity. As has been emphasized by all who have spoken of him from closest personal knowledge, it was not the greatness of conspicuous gifts which mark genius, but the greatness of one who filled a great position with the simple goodness of devotion to duty, carried out persistently by the power and endurance derived from simple faith in God. Never has a quarter of a century been fuller of difficult national and international problems. If in our smaller spheres we could all use that simple reliance on God to persevere in our duties, what would not the effect be in our Councils, our parishes, our Schools, our homes, in every unit of life where service and responsibility is called for?

It is a matter which may well be remembered in all our prayers that the world-wide appreciation of this wonderful life may help to solve some difficult problems to-day. Thank God, for the present at any rate, there is to be no miners' strike. The widely expressed sympathy with the miners and the readiness to pay more for coal, is a true expression of this sense of persistent service which King George has influenced us with. May we not hope that it will also bring nearer a solution of the international chaos with which the world is threatened?

Let us try to be thorough in every act of duty and service. Lent will soon be here. Make a Lenten rule which calls for this—some duty carried out with more thoroughness by the power derived from more earnest prayer.

February 1936

### A GRADELY PRAYER.

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun,  
A bit o' work, an' a bit o' fun.  
Give us aw—in th' struggle an' splutter—

Eaur (our) daily bread—an' a bit o' butter.

Give us health—eaur keep to make,  
An' a bit to spare, for poor folk's sake.  
Give us sense (for we're some of us duffers),

An' a heart to feel for aw that suffers.

Give us, too, a bit of a song,  
An' a tale, an' a book, to help us along.  
An' give us our share o' sorrow's lesson,  
That we may prove how grief's a blessin'.

Give us, Lord, a chance to be  
Eaur very best; brave, wise, an' free—  
Eaur very best for eaurselfes an' others,  
Till aw men larn to live as brothers.

February 1936

### Nursing.

TO REMOVE RING FROM SWOLLEN FINGER WITHOUT PAIN.—Take a strand of thread or strong cotton. Thread one end between finger and ring. (If this is difficult, thread a needle and pass the threaded eye between ring and finger, unthread it and draw needle back.) Hold the lower end of thread in the palm of hand with thumb, and wind the top end round the finger as evenly as possible and tightly to the top joint; twist over last round to prevent it unwinding.

Take the lower end of thread from under thumb, hold straight up the finger and unwind, when the ring will be carried up, and off, the finger.

(Mrs. CHESMAN.)

October 1941

Needles are going to go the same way as hairpins—scarce, perhaps unobtainable. So we must keep them carefully. Never make the leaves of your needlebook of flannel as this material contains sulphur which rusts the needles. Instead, use fine linen, or better still chamois. This applies to steel knitting needles and crochet needles also. Wrap them in old chamois gloves. (Mrs. V. SMITH.)

February 1936

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆  
WINE-STAINS ON TABLECLOTH.  
—Hold the wine-marked piece of the tablecloth in a saucepan of milk, while the milk is actually boiling on the stove. The milk must boil all the time.  
(Mrs. W. DODD.)  
◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

February 1936

May I at this point remind you of the Intercession Services in the week:—Dockenfield on Tuesday at 3, at Frensham on Thursday at 3.15? My impression is that considerably more people attended these Services a year ago: can that be because we are not so frightened now as we were then?

October 1941

### The Parish Magazine

Frensham and Dockenfield continues to have a monthly Parish Magazine, and it is really rather good. If you are interested in subscribing to it, contact Mayonne Coldicott email: pm.manager@frenshamchurches.org.uk



A rainbow rising above the Ridge photographed from Innam's Path (aka the 'Coffin Route') by Jon Hampson

## Go forth and multi fry

Frensham Great and Little Ponds are areas of stunning natural beauty and we are truly blessed to have them on our doorstep. They are so lovely that it's no wonder that people travel from far and wide to visit. And whilst that can be annoying, it is surely fair enough. But what I never, ever understand is the damage some of those visitors see fit to inflict on the environment and the wildlife whilst they are there.



In the summer particularly huge mounds of litter are left after picnics. I don't understand? Surely if you have the means to bring stuff, you ergo have the means to take it away again. Not to do so is just plain lazy and completely thoughtless. And I don't have words for the fools who light BBQs. Don't they realise that one false move can lead to fires which in dry weather can destroy possibly hundreds of acres of heathland and kill countless numbers of the ever so precious wildlife?

We always walk rather than drive when we visit, and so I hadn't seen this notice on the approach to the Great Pond car park before. I know this is rather out of season, but I thought it rather good, and wanted to share it with you. I just hope and pray that all visitors take due notice.

## Editorial contact details and deadline

Every edition of DNL carries the disclaimer below, along with the contact details of the Editor and the deadline for the next edition. Thing is that I, Michael, have been Editor for so long that most of you will have come to take this information for granted. But I am stepping down and Jacqui de Silva is DNL's new Editor. I know that all readers and contributors will make Jacqui most welcome. So can I flag up Jacqui's contact details, as below, and ask everyone who wants to send in a piece for publication in the next edition to get their articles to her in good time so that her transition to Editor can be as smooth as possible. Many thanks.

**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.

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