

# DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 293 Published 09 February 2023



## Welcome to the first edition of DNL for 2023

With Valentine's Day (February 14 2023) fast approaching, feel the love with beautiful pictures of some of the 'Dogs of Dockenfield'

Dogs are after all 'man's best friend' (and women's too come to that!).

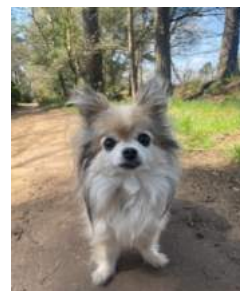
### Trivia....

Who did these dogs belong to?

- Toto
- Nigel
- Lassie
- Nana
- Perdita
- Snowy



*Fun at the Beach*



### Did you know.....

Dogs' sense of smell is at least 40x better than ours and they can sniff at the same time as breathing !



*Toto Competing ....see page 10*



*Answers somewhere in DNL!*

**The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** took place 27-29 January 2023. We await the result at the point of going to press, but last year RSPB reported that 697,735 people counted 11,556,046 birds.

However, the RSPB report that we have lost 38 million birds from the UK skies in the last 50 years which underlines that nature is in crisis.

They also report that Greenfinch numbers have massively dropped due to a disease that spreads around contaminated feeders and water bowls (trichomonosis) and also reports that Chaffinches are now struggling. The RSPB have put together useful information/guidance on their website on cleaning bird feeders

**DON'T FORGET** .....the Great Backyard Bird Count takes place 17-20 February 2023

**Ten sailors from Frensham Pond Sailing Club** travelled to Melbourne, Australia over Christmas and New Year to take part in the 2022 Cadet World Championship. One of them was Dockenfield resident, Amelie Whitehouse.

The sailors were selected to compete for the GBR team back in May 2022 at three selector events in Weymouth, Pevensey and Grafham. Since being selected, there have been a lot of preparations and fundraising going on to get the sailors and their boats to the other side of the world.



The team flew out to Melbourne in mid-December. From the 19th to the 24th December they took part in the Australian Nationals, which they used as a training event before the World Championship began on Boxing Day. The Championship was a series of 10-races over five days in some pretty crazy conditions, 2m high waves and nearly gale force winds on some days and then no wind at all on others in beautiful Port Phillip Bay.

*Amelie says* “What an amazing experience sailing with sailors from all over the world in a place I’ve always dreamed of going to. I learned so much from all the training sessions with sailing legend Mike Mac before we left and our Australian trainer in Melbourne.

I started sailing at the age of eight on a course at Frensham Pond and have sailed nearly every week ever since but I could never have imagined when I first started that I would have the chance to compete in a world championship and represent my country.

The championship was hosted by the Royal Victoria Yacht club in Williamstown, just across the bay from the city of Melbourne, which was the backdrop to the race area.

The GBR team had a great two weeks. Frensham sailors Will and Annabel Shepherd took first place in the Australian Nationals and second place in the World Championship. GBR team-mates Toby Bush and Kemmel Thorogood won and are 2022 Cadet World Champions. There was also a British boat in fifth and ninth.

It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for these young sailors to represent their country doing what they love and very different to sailing on a little pond in rural Surrey. It was a chance to make new friends from all over the world and escape the British winter for a few weeks!

The Cadet is the world’s most successful two-person training dinghy, specifically tailored towards children and young people aged 8 to 17 years old. The Cadet is an International Class, which is the highest status awarded by World Sailing. Originally designed by Jack Holt in 1947, there are around 900 Cadets actively sailed with fleets in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, the Czechia, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and Ukraine.

Frensham Pond Sailing Club has a history of success at the Cadet World Championship: Antonia Wilkinson crewed in the winning boat at the 2016 World Championship in Argentina, and Charlotte Videlo and Tom Shepherd were third in Germany in 2018.



**Amelie Whitehouse and Maddy Sherwood**

## **‘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.

**Barbara Potter**

## **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.

## **21 February 2023 is Shrove Tuesday**

Do you use baking powder or sunflower oil.....or just flour, milk and eggs?

Do you leave the batter to stand in the fridge?

Why not share your recipe and tips for the perfect Pancake !!

## **Men’s Night at the Bluebell**

**9 March 8pm**

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

You will be made very welcome. Our next gatherings are on **9 March, 13 April and 11 May.**



## **Happy New Year to all the ladies of Dockenfield**

Following the relaunch of ladies night at the Bluebell, about 30 of us enjoyed a fantastic evening, catching up with familiar faces and meeting new ladies. Many enjoyed the food at the pub whilst others enjoyed a few festive drinks - but either way it was a very successful evening with lots of laughter and a definite feeling of wanting to do it again more often.

So the next ladies night is scheduled for **Thursday the 16th of March, from 7.30pm** onwards. As before, you can order food on the night if you wish.

Please do email Joolz Miles at [joolzmiles@aol.com](mailto:joolzmiles@aol.com) if you'd like to find out more, or WhatsApp/message on 07833355359. We have a whatsapp group to share reminders about the evening.

p.s If you can't make this one, then make sure you get the next two in the diary: - Thursday 29 June and 23 November.

## **Village Lunch**

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**

## Tea @ 3

### St Mary's Church Hall

**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**

## 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**

## Jazz concert at the Good Shepherd

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.



## Millbridge WI Programme 2023

**February 16** My Family Tree  
'Surprises and Skeletons'  
*Mr Jon Savage*

**March 16** Britain's traditional Feasts and Seasons  
*Mrs Joanna Bogle*

**April 20** Dance and Fitness 'Bollywood'  
*Annabel Brash*

**May 18** Britishness – a look at some British traditions  
*Christopher Hutchinson*

**June 15** Hats off to Millinery – history, making and designing of couture millinery  
*Mrs Sophie Fryer*

**July 20** Garden Party

**August 17** 'Oh for a slice of naughty, but nice cake'  
*Mrs Kate McBain*

**September 21** Mane Chance Sanctuary – the charity that rescues and rehabilitates abused, abandoned and old horses  
*Abby Smart*

**October 19** Cheese Please  
*Mrs Rosemary Horton*

**November 16** AGM

**December 14** Christmas Party – Magic  
*tba*

## **A message from Farnham Foodbank**

We have received the following message of thanks from Farnham Foodbank:

*'At Farnham Foodbank we have seen an increase in demand for emergency food support over the past year, with the rising cost of living making it harder for many people to afford even the essentials for daily life. This winter our focus is on meeting this growing need for food while also working with others to help address the underlying causes that bring people to the Foodbank in the first place. Thanks to generous donations of food and finance from supporters like yourselves we are able to help make life for these struggling individuals and families a little easier and for that we are truly grateful. Many thanks.'*

**Harriet Lanyon, Farnham Foodbank Project manager**

A huge thank you also from us to all the wonderful residents in Dockenfield and Frensham. We do hope that you will continue to support the Foodbank in 2023. If you are able to help, in however small a way, please 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**

## **Beetles and Bhajis!**

On Saturday 11 March 2023 at Frensham Royal British Legion Club

***Do you remember Beetle Drives of old?***

Jane Walker and Harry Glover are organising one on 11 March, to be held at Frensham Royal British Legion Club, starting at 7:30pm. The evening will include great food - Indian Curries (incl. Veggie options) with all the trimmings!

It promises to be a fun evening with bar and raffle too; donations of raffle prizes always welcome!

The rules are very simple and will be explained at the start of the evening.

Tickets are £12 and are available from Harry Glover:

Tel. 01252 797827

Email [harry.glover@btinternet.com](mailto:harry.glover@btinternet.com)

All proceeds will be donated to St Mary's church.

We look forward to seeing you!

## **Do consider the Good Shepherd for your event**

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

## **An unforgettable evening with The Royal Family, by Vickie Kennish**

The first big excitement was receiving a beautiful card invitation to the Royal Carol Concert in an envelope marked "Buckingham Palace". I had been lucky enough to win one of the five tickets that Princess Beatrice had donated to Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity, for supporters of the charity to attend this amazing event at Westminster Abbey. My name had been put in the hat because I'm a 'Friend of Helen Arkell'. By the time the important day arrived, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022, I was like a child on Christmas Eve.

As that Thursday was a day between two days of rail strikes, we decided to go up to London mid-morning, in order not to be held up by transport. I had arranged to meet another lucky winner on the train – Samantha, one of the admin team at the charity - and we decided to find the correct entrance to Westminster Abbey before we had a look round. There was already snow on the grass and everything was sparkling in the sunshine. We found somewhere nearby to eat until it was the time we were supposed to take our seats, and we spent a very pleasant time eating and people-watching in the Methodist Centre. We managed to meet up with the other lucky winners – one of the charity's dyslexia assessors, one of their teachers, and a trustee.

We had to wait quite a while in the queue, but we were offered mince pies and all the guides were very cheerful and chatted to us. We had been told that the Prince and Princess of Wales would be attending the concert, but were very excited to learn that, at the last moment, all the Royal Family had decided to attend. We had to wait whilst a car dropped off a member of royalty, and then, after passing through security, we made our way into the Abbey.

It was very crowded, and I sat at the back of a large block of people but right at the end of a row. As I am very tiny, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to see much, but as soon as the King and Queen Consort arrived, everyone stood up and I crept into the gap between the blocks and saw King Charles, Queen Camilla, the Princes and Princesses and Dukes and Duchesses, walk past right in front of me.

I had no idea that the programme would include so many famous people, including Mel C, Hugh Bonneville, Alfie Boe and Craig David. Those that were too far away for us to see were filmed on large screens all around the Abbey, so we did not miss anything. The service was a beautiful mixture of readings and songs, including Away in a Manger, sung by a choir of Ukrainian children.

It was all over far too quickly and, instead of making our way out of the doors, we were rather naughty and made our way to the front of the Abbey, where we saw the Royal Thrones, The Christmas Tree decorated with Paddington Bears and the Nativity Scene and we took the opportunity to take lots of photos.

This was one of the most exciting days of my life. I felt like a child in a sweet shop, and so fortunate to have been present.

When all the excitement was over, we made our way back to Waterloo and were lucky enough to catch a train almost immediately and travelled home very tired and aware of the fact that we had shared an important moment in history.

**Vickie Kennish**

### **Rainfall figures**

**November 2021 20.7mm**

**November 2022 189mm**

**December 2021 85.8mm**

**December 2022 110.7mm**

**Jack Bessant**

### **Answers to Trivia !**

Toto (Dorothy – Wizard of Oz)

Nigel (Monty Don – Gardeners' World)

Lassie (Joe)

Nana (Wendy, John and Michael – Peter Pan)

Perdita (Anita – 101 Dalmations)

Snowy (Tin Tin)



## **FRENSHAM & DOCKENFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

As gardeners we had to deal with every type of weather in 2022, from the long dry spring, the driest summer since 1995, the third warmest autumn on record and a weeklong spell of one of the hardest frosts we have had in a decade. No doubt 2023 will throw us more challenges.

Several people have asked me what to do about the severe frost damage. In my own garden, the normally evergreen Pittosporums have lost most of their leaves, my six-foot high Phormiums have collapsed and will need cutting back and we have lost all the flowering buds from some of our camellias. I also know that Dan Bosence lost all his leeks to the frost. Sometimes, the best thing to do is nothing. Plants have a great ability to adapt to the challenges of our weather and apart from basic tidying up, I would wait until the spring to see what comes back. I will not be cutting back any of the leaves until then, because this will help protect from further frosts we have experienced. There will no doubt be casualties, but you may find plants you have given up on, suddenly spring back into life in March or even April.

If you are a vegetable grower, you should be looking to start your onions, tomatoes, and pepper seeds indoors. They all need warm temperatures to germinate and a long growing season. Garlic cloves, Shallot sets. Broad Beans and Spring Onion seeds can be sown or planted in beds outside during February and March.

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Meeting- Marindin Hall 7.30pm**

We welcome one of our regular show judges Belinda Allen, who will be advising members on 'showing tips' using examples from last year's shows, to advise on how best to present your flowers and vegetable exhibits for showing.

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

One of the benefits of being a member of the society is the ability to visit other gardens and also even if you are not a RHS member, to be able to have a guided tour of RHS Wisley. This tour is available to all members and details to be advised by email of the arrangements.

### **Spring Show – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March- Marindin Hall – 2.30pm – 4pm**

We hope that as many members and non-members can exhibit this year, full details of all classes are now available on our website; [www.fdlhs.org.uk](http://www.fdlhs.org.uk), under the show page/spring show. Open classes allow both members and non-members to participate and we would love to see a lot of entries particularly in the Flower Class 3, aptly named 'Easter Bonnet', let your imagination run wild and enter please.

Details of all the open classes, which includes junior's\* classes, are as follows:

#### **Flower Section**

**3. Open class:** Easter Bonnet - Not to exceed 60cm in width and 80cm in height.

**4. Open class – Juniors:** Daring Daffodil Delight – an imaginative arrangement of daffodils - can include some foliage and accessories – Not to exceed 30cm diameter.

**25. Open class:** A vase of garden flowers, one or more varieties.

**26. Open class – Juniors:** Spring bulb grown in an upcycled container, not to exceed 30cm in diameter.

#### **Home industries**

**32.** A jar of marmalade, (named and dated – day/month/year).

**33.** A jar of chutney, (named and dated – day/month/year).

**34.** Buttermilk scones with Cheshire cheese and chives – three on a plate

(Following the recipe on our website [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk))

35. Victoria Sponge (following the recipe on pages 16 and 17).

36. Coronation themed napkin and napkin ring.

**37. Juniors:** Papier Mache bowl – for ages 8 – 15.

**38. Juniors:** Pom-pom Easter Bunny – for ages under 8.

**Photography section (not to exceed A4 in size):**

**39.**Winters End

**40.**Host of Golden Daffodils

**41.**Dark Skies

**42.Juniors:** Boots.

*\*Juniors – 15 years of age and under*

**If you wish to enter please complete the attached form**

**FRENSHAM AND DOCKENFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
ENTRY FORM - Spring Show - Saturday 25th March 2023**

Please complete this form and either drop it into Frensham Village Shop or email [caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.tonkinxxx@gmail.com). The deadline for submission of entries is 12 noon on Thursday 23rd March 2023. Any questions call Caroline on 01252 793991

**Please place class numbers in boxes that you intend to enter**

Class	Class	Class	Class	Class

Name..... If junior, please specify age

Address.....

Number of entries.....

If you have any questions on the show or about joining society please contact me Neil Mumford Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society either [marketing@fdhs.org.uk](mailto:marketing@fdhs.org.uk) or 07894 471000



## CALLING ALL KNITTERS !

With the long dark (and cold) evenings still with us, knitting for charity is an excellent thing to do if you have the means and time to do so. There are many charities across the UK who are in need of homemade blankets. And it isn't just humans .... spare a thought for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home who are always in need of pet-safe blankets and the Donkey Sanctuary is looking for knitted donkeys to sell in their gift shops to raise funds. These are called 'Whoolly' and if crochet is your thing it is 'Neddy'

## 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit



which began on January 22<sup>nd</sup> symbolizing longevity, peace and prosperity – it is also known to be the luckiest of all the twelve animal symbols in Chinese culture.

They also symbolize mercy, elegance and beauty. People who are born in the year of the rabbit are calm and peaceful

## Bealeswood Common wildlife; How did it cope with our hottest year on record? (Dan Bosence for Bealeswood Wildlife Reporting Group and Open Spaces Group, DPC)

With the UK's average temperature for the year topping 10<sup>dc</sup> for the first time since 1884, how did the village's wildflowers and butterflies cope? Casting our minds back to August on Bealeswood Common we would have seen the effects of three months of hot and dry conditions; the grassy areas of the Common were brown and with very few flowers out as many had gone to seed earlier in the month. In the damper areas plants fared better and 33 species were recorded flowering. However, this compared with 42 species at the same time in 2021.

The period that flowers bloom on the Common has been recorded since 2009 so it is now possible to compare flowering times over the years. If we take 10 common summer flowering species on the Common: Red Clover, Wood Dock, Nipplewort, Selfheal, Harebell, Lesser Stitchwort, Meadow Buttercup, Bush Vetch, Red Champion and Pig (or Earth) nut, we can compare 2022 flowering times with those of the previous 10 years. For our 10 species *the length of flowering in 2022 was 6 weeks shorter, on average, than the previous 10 years*. This short flowering season was also reflected in the last flowering date recorded in 2022, compared with previous 10 years. This was 5 weeks earlier, on average, for our ten species than their last flowering date of previous years.

As for the trees, the drought and exceptional heat through July and August caused many trees to drop leaves while still green, and the autumn colours appeared late, with some oak trees remaining green for longer than usual: even when they had finally turned brown, some held their leaves until Christmas and even the New Year.

This recording backs up our perception that 2022 was a tough year for our wildflowers and we expect this will have a knock-on effect for the insect, bird and mammal populations in subsequent years.

Butterflies have also been recorded over many years and numbers are counted along defined transects around the Common by a team coordinated by Philippa Hall. Numbers have generally decreased over the last few years. However, a comparison of the 2022 counts with the average over the last 5 years of six common species indicates a significant drop last year. Common Blue, Meadow Brown, Marbled White and Gatekeeper all saw their numbers drop to nearly half of their 5- year average, whilst a couple of species remained fairly stable: Orange Tip and Speckled Wood. The first group, apart from Common Blue, are all butterflies whose caterpillars feed on a variety of native grasses and it is possible that the longer, hotter summers dry the grasses out before the larvae have time to complete their life cycle.

Recording for butterflies starts again in April so it is not until then that we will see the true effects of our "hottest year ever" on the Common.

Monthly details of the plant and animal life on our Common are posted on the notice board at the top of the bridleway from Bealeswood Lane and these are kept for posterity on the Parish Council website <http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife.html> together with yearly checklists of all our sightings compiled by Alan Cox.

Finally, the Village Field needs your help again. Last year we had a very successful working party that planted a boundary hedge which now needs some maintenance, and our Butterfly Bank needs some preparation for planting wildflower plug plants later in the year (that will be another working party in autumn!). Please let Dan know if you can join a working party on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. 10.00 am in Village Field, through the new gate from the recreation ground (tel 792442, or [dwjbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwjbosence@btinternet.com)).

**HELP NEEDED .....**We are hoping that this wonderful community may be able to help. As Dockenfield residents and successful dog agility competitors we are seeking a local indoor venue to support our on-going training. We have been competing at the top level in Kennel Club agility for many years now including successfully at Crufts, Discover Dogs and Olympia finals. We are hoping to find a local indoor barn or equestrian location that is available all year round to hire on a regular basis where we can focus on training our dogs. We are very respectful to the training venues we use and politely aware of owners and other users. We are not looking to set up a large club, but instead a small focused private training capability for ourselves and training partners.

If you think that you may be in a position to explore this further with us and support a local team, then we would be very grateful if you could contact us on [Ian\\_armstrong101@hotmail.com](mailto:Ian_armstrong101@hotmail.com)

We thank you for your time

**Jayne and Ian**

### **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 **21st February and 21st March 2023**, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd

#### **DNL**

We are very grateful to Jacqui de Silva for taking up the baton of DNL editor with this being Jacqui's first edition. The parish council has worked with Michael Foster on transition to Jacqui to ensure the continuity of what has become valuable glue towards fostering community spirit in the village. We look forward to Jacqui putting her own stamp on the DNL going forward.

Delivery of the DNL to each house in Dockenfield does rely on a group of distributors. We do have a few vacancies for distributors, in particular for the Dockenfield Farm area, Abbotts Cottages and the "outer parts" of the village (e.g. Woodhill Lane, West End Lane, etc). If you would be willing to be a distributor, up to six times per year, please let Paul Wood ([dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com](mailto:dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com)) and/or Jessica Hobday ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)) know

#### **Parking outside the Church**

The good news is that the church is now being used more than ever as a hub of the community, with many events such as the Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Christmas Party to name just two as well as the regulars such as Little Cherubs and Pilates in addition to religious services. An unfortunate consequence of this is that there have been more cases of inconsiderate parking along The Street from the church restricting access to residents' driveways. Please be considerate if parking along The Street and leave plenty of room for residents to get in and out of their properties.

### **Thank you for all the 'Thank You's'**

Since I stepped down as Editor of this august journal at the end of last year, I have received countless expressions of thanks from you lovely readers. I was immensely touched also to be presented with some pastel art materials by the Activities Committee at the Village Xmas Party. Thank you all for taking the trouble to get in touch and for your support and interest over these last 17 years. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to edit DNL on your behalf.

Thank you also to Jacqui for agreeing to become DNL's new Editor. Dockenfield Newsletter has been published uninterrupted since 1980 and it is lovely to know that the tradition will continue in such capable hands.

**Michael Foster**

## Help the birds in winter

Wintry weather kills off many birds, and freezing conditions can take a heavy toll. Small birds, such as Wrens, Tits, and Goldcrests are especially vulnerable. Birds lose about five per cent of their body weight overnight when they can't feed. In winter they need readily available food, especially in the morning and before they go to roost for the night.

The RSPB recommends these foods:

Cake, biscuit and pastry crumbs (bread is not particularly nourishing for birds)

Dry porridge oats, *cooked* potatoes and rice

Chopped apples and pears

Dried fruit such as raisins and sultanas (preferably pre-soaked)

Grated mild cheese; suet

Mixed bird food of seeds, fat and dried insects

Peanut fat, a great favourite



**Fieldfare**

Avoid meat or poultry fat. It tends to soil the birds' feathers, which need to be clean if the birds are to remain healthy.

Remove any stale food, especially any mouldy peanuts which can be toxic.

Birds also need a regular supply of clean, unfrozen water, too, for drinking and for washing. Plodding out into the garden in the frost, ice or snow to put out bird food and to break up the ice and refill the birdbath is guaranteed to produce a quietly virtuous glow. Please keep it up, though, until at least the Spring, as the birds will come to regard your patch as part of their patch, too.

European Robins, Blackbirds and Starlings may migrate here when conditions in Scandinavia, Germany and the Netherlands are colder than they are here, so you may notice higher numbers than usual. Many birds modify their behaviour to cope with winter conditions. Robins and Blackbirds, which are usually highly territorial, will tolerate more of their own kind in an uneasy truce when they are hungry.

A winter bonus is that birds we don't usually see migrate here from Europe and northern Britain.

Redwings, Siskins, Bramblings and Fieldfares have all been spotted in our locality during past winters.



Keep a look-out and you may have a pleasant surprise!

**Val Lewis**

**Redwing**



## WALKING TOGETHER..... January 17 2023

The once majestic oak lay fallen across the track: nature's ruthless pledge to uphold her circular economy evident in her display from hesitant beginnings to dramatic endings and the renewal through rebirth and regeneration.

**cont ..**

We set out from St Mary's church shortly after 10am, walking briskly towards the woods and Frensham Great Pond. The cold air provided the shock treatment needed to add purpose to our steps on a beautiful icy winter's morning. No time to stop and stare. The rough ground, shaped in the footsteps of those who had walked before us. The frozen mud, uncompromisingly hard. The frozen sand, surprisingly unyielding. Inexplicably, I thought sand did not freeze at minus four degrees? The pathway stretched and twisted its sandy course through the wooded tangles to the café and beyond.

We passed the frozen margins of the Great Pond: a glistening ice ring of winter stillness. Indifferent ducks skating on the *thin* ice? Unthreatened swans observing our hurried steps in the cold morning air.

Another tangled woodland pathway provided some respite, the trees offering a generous measure of sub-zero warmth. Uncertainly, we continued our journey along the pathway, treading evermore deeply into Frensham's untidy woodland paradise. Waterside reeds, standing proud in the morning sunshine, framed the ever-changing views of the Great Pond: a picture perfect backdrop for our winter's walk. We stopped and stared: enjoying, in this moment, the landscape privilege of Walking Together. No longer chilled by the frozen air. No longer concerned by the step treads of others in the frozen sand. No longer thinking beyond nature's *siren call*.

Hot chocolate? A warming reminder of homely comforts.

**Laura and Jeff**

### **From the Editor...**

Thank you to all the contributors for this first edition of DNL for 2023 and my first 'attempt' at putting all the news and articles together. Please do bear with me whilst I find my feet and do keep in touch with pictures, news and articles. I would love to hear from you all

If anyone has any ideas or is able to support in some way with the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 23 March 2023 please do get in touch.



Also are there any sporting clubs/events out there – please get in touch – be it running, cricket, tennis or cycling.

With the dark evenings still with us, I understand there may actually be four book clubs in Dockenfield/Frensham – again please do get in touch with details and perhaps we include the current books being read and perhaps also thoughts/feedback.

**Jacqui**

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