

DNL *Dockenfield newsletter*

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 298

Published

29th November 2023

Christmas. And once again, just like that, Christmas is looming on the horizon. Where did the year go, we ask ourselves, as we rush around getting everything ready to entertain, to see family and friends and, prepare for the festive season? To enhance our excitement there is plenty going on in the village throughout December and a few more things to look forward to in the New Year too, bringing welcome respite in these continuing difficult times. Read on for loads of things to do; things you don't have to spend very much money on, if any; an urgent request for help from DPC; dates for your diary and a chance for everyone to put aside their worries if only for a moment and enjoy the glow of the festive season. Grab a comfy chair and a cuppa and check out what we have wrapped in the pages of the DNL for your seasonal delight.



A Message From Father Christmas. Santa's Christmas Day Tractor Run will be doing a couple of laps of Frensham and Dockenfield on Christmas Day (weather permitting due to other deliveries he needs to make around the world) on a tractor, to give the reindeer a little rest. It will start at 11am and there might be a few treats given to those he and his helpers see and don't worry if you miss him the first time as he will do a couple of laps of the villages. Please see the map for the route details!





Christmas 2023 in Dockenfield

Xmas Tree: Sunday 10th December

10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

Come along and have fun as we lift the village Xmas tree into place and decorate it with baubles and lights. Everyone is welcome.

Xmas Party: Saturday 16th December

6.30-10pm at the Good Shepherd

- Complimentary Hog Roast
- Pay bar (**No Cash** – We have gone cashless, card only payments please)
- Residents of all ages, both adults and children, are warmly welcome.

This is a chance to come to our hugely successful Dockenfield Xmas drinks night for everyone in the village, whatever age group. Raise a glass and enjoy a relaxed evening together. Email us to **confirm your attendance at dockenfield.activities@gmail.com** (by 9th December latest) stating number of guests and meat/veg preference.

As with all Dockenfield events these can only function if we get enough villagers to help with the setting up and clearing away, so please can you confirm in your e-mail which of these you can help with.

Christmas Carols: Monday 18th 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.





2023 Dockenfield Skittles Night at The Jolly Farmer.

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:- The Elegant Swans - captain Michael Foster

Team 2:- The Wallbangers - captain Harvey Ricketts

Team 3:- The King Pins - captain Gary Armstrong

Team 4:- The Alley Cats - captain James Wigfull

Two games took place before and after supper and the top two teams tied, the Alley Cats and King Pins on 68 each. There was a bowl off between the captains, 1 ball each to establish the winning team which was the "Kings Pins". There was a tie for top man, Norman Taylor, and Chris Thayer, once again another 1 ball had to be bowled and Norman was established as the winner. Katy Poulson led the ladies and there was a fight out for the lowest score as three people drew, it was now the highest score counted to win the title.

Many congratulations to :-

Team Winners:- The King Pins (Gary Armstrong, Linda Poulson, Maggie Attfield, David Poulson, Mary Mackinnon, James Hadfield)

Top Lady:- Katy Poulson

Top Man:- Norman Taylor

A prize for the lowest score of the evening went to:- Clare Armstrong. The last game of the night was a knockout event. With three lives established and throwing one ball at each turn, if you missed the skittles, you lost a life. After a close fought battle, the last person standing won the "Mansell Cup". The 2023 winner of the cup goes to :- Gary Armstrong

Many congratulations to all of you. I would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Katy

Frensham and Dockenfield Village Lunch

Frensham and Dockenfield hold a Village Lunch on every fourth Wednesday from January to November at the Royal British Legion in Shortfield, Frensham, and it is growing each month and will soon reach capacity.

The Village Christmas Lunch sold out at 72 people, together with the members of the WI doing the Charity Stall, and the Volunteers we certainly had a full hall. There is no Village lunch in the month of December, but we resume on Wednesday 24th January 2024 with sausage casserole and a vegetarian alternative and with the wide choice of puddings. The Charity for January is the British Legion.

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Pam Watmore

Frensham Peddlars

The Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars have been exploring new tracks around the area since mid-April.

We are a friendly bunch who cycle for fun - setting out from Hollowdene Rec at 6pm on a Thursday evening - we cycle for around 15km - 2 hours and refuel along the way or back in Frensham - all welcome.



Contact Vicki Hinde vicki.hinde22@gmail.com for more information.

Benefice of Frensham Christmas Festival

After 4 years, the Frensham Christmas Festival at St. Mary's Church, Frensham, is back!

The festival will be held on 9th and 10th December from 10am - 6pm on Saturday 9th and 10am - 5pm on Sunday 10th and will include the Christmas Tree competition, various Christmas stalls with Christmas gifts, musical entertainment, bell ringing, fabulous food, and drinks.

We will also have a 'Carols by Candlelight' on Saturday from 7pm with your favourite carols and mulled wine, and the festival will culminate with our Christingle service for all families and children at 5pm on Sunday.

We anticipate having about forty decorated trees in St Mary's church. To enter a Christmas tree, with the name 'tree' in the title (for example pan-tree or tea-tree), please email for the form to enter the competition.

If you would like to assist with or sing/play at the festival, or enter the tree festival on-line please contact parish.admin@frenshamchurches.org.uk

Rainfall Totals

Dockenfield's resident amateur meteorologist Jack has sent in the rainfall totals for September and October. Do you remember what you were doing on the 19th of October? Whatever it was, let's hope it was indoors!

Amanda Adolph

Rainfall for Sept 2022 129.3mm. October 2022 108.9mm

Sept 2023 60mm. October 2023 126.6mm

October's wettest day was the 19th with 16.5mm

Jack Bessant

Cherubs Toddler Group

Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30 (term time)

at the Good Shepherd

A great space for all with fun; refreshments; sociability and singing.

£2.50 per family per session

Coffee Stop

Enjoy a hot drink and homemade cake and a chat at

Coffee Stop at the Good Shepherd every Friday

10am - midday.

Barbara Potter

Art and Craft of our Parish 2024

Calling all Parish Artists and Craft Makers

You will have read in the last edition of DNL that we are running a second 'Art and Craft of our Parish' next year on the weekend of **18/19/20 October 2024**. Last year's show was an enormous success with 20 exhibitors, lots, and lots of sales and over **£5,000** raised for church funds. If you are an artist or craft maker that lives within our parish boundary and would like to be part of this exhibition next year, please email an initial expression of interest to Sarah Watson. She will acknowledge your interest and get back to you later with details. Just email: dockenfieldartsandcrafts@gmail.com giving your name, address, contact number and an idea of what you would like to exhibit.

Please note that space is limited by the size of the Good Shepherd, so about 20 exhibitors in total are possible and we already have interest from about 50% of that number. We would love to hear from both those that exhibited before and from others in the Parish who were disappointed not to feature last year as we were oversubscribed. In 2022 it was lovely to see such an eclectic range of displays and we are hoping that the same will happen again in 2024, ideally with people that we didn't know existed popping out of the woodwork!

You are all probably in the process of buying your 2024 calendars now (ideally the 'Natures Seasons calendar available from the Village Shop). So please pop these dates in your diary now so you can join the 600 people who enjoyed the show last year: **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 18/19/20 October 2024**.

Michael Foster

The Foodbank needs you as much as ever....but now please deliver to another address.

We began collecting for the Farnham Foodbank in May 2020, as a direct response to the pandemic. It seemed to us a valuable way in which we could recognise our good fortune of living in such beautiful circumstances whilst others were not so lucky.

Since when the good people of Frensham and Docketfield have donated the fabulous total of very nearly 18,000 items, which has made a colossal difference to those in the area who are in real need. From the bottom of our hearts, the biggest thank you to all of you who have been so generous.

The pandemic may be a bit of a distant memory now, but another emergency has replaced it in the form of the 'cost of living crisis,' so residents in the Farnham area continue to struggle to afford food and basic hygiene products. So do please continue to donate. Or start to donate if you don't already do so.

However, there is one minor change. Effective immediately, Steve and Fiona Jones have kindly agreed to take over from us as collectors for Docketfield and Frensham. Their address is: Keepers Cottage, Bealeswood Common. You can walk there via Bealeswood Lane, or if driving, postcode GU10 4EX takes you to the Bluebell pub. Leave the pub on your left and drive down the bridlepath to an electric wooden gate. The button for access on is on the right-hand pillar. Drive/walk in and keep to the left. There is a garage with 'lean to' ahead. Please place any donations **in container in the 'lean to'**. For cash donations please use post box located at the main entrance to the property. 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 Steve and Fiona will do the shopping.

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the Foodbank and a huge welcome and thank you to Steve and Fiona. You are stars and we are very grateful.

Michael and Debbie Foster

PS. Please would residents at Great Holt who have kindly donated via Heather Britton also please now deliver to Steve and Fiona. And thank you, Heather, for all you have done.

Firstly, we would like to share our thanks to Debbie and Michael for all the work they have done in raising awareness and supporting the food bank on behalf of the village. They are certainly a tough act to follow but hope that we will be able to continue with their success!

We know that Michael has already passed on information on how to donate via our property, but should you have any difficulty in finding us, please do contact us on 07710294690 or email Jonessf@btinternet.com .

Once again, thank you to Debbie and Michael and we look forward to taking on our new role in the village!

Stephen & Fiona Jones

A message to residents from the Farnham Food Bank.

We wanted to thank you for your generous support throughout the past year, through donations for the Farnham Foodbank. Your support is so important to our ability to provide emergency food and other essentials to struggling individuals and families in the area, as well as to help them access support to address the wider issues that cause them to need the Foodbank.

Christmas can be a time when many people struggle more than usual due to the additional costs associated with the festive season. We are therefore glad to be able to bring some joy in December to many of the families we support by providing a Christmas hamper full of seasonal food and selection boxes for their children.

All of us at Farnham Foodbank send you our very best wishes for a blessed and joyous Christmas and for the year to come.

Harriot Lanyon

Christmas Openings and Events at our Local Hostelryes.

The Bluebell: Dockenfield

Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th)

Pub: 12pm -10pm

Kitchen: 12pm-3pm / 4:30pm-8:45pm

Christmas Day (Monday 25th)

CLOSED

Boxing Day (Tuesday 26th)

Pub: 12pm - 6pm

Kitchen: 12pm-3:30pm

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th

Pub: 12pm-6pm

Kitchen: 12pm -3:30pm

Friday 29th

Pub: 12pm -10pm

Kitchen: 12pm -2:30pm 5:30pm -8:45pm

Saturday 30th

Pub: 12pm -10pm

Kitchen: 12pm -2:30pm 5:30pm -8:45pm

New Years Eve (Sunday 31st)

Pub: 12pm -6pm

Kitchen: 12pm -3:30pm

New Years Day (Monday 1st)

Pub: 12pm- 6pm

Kitchen: 12pm -3:30pm

The Holly Bush: Frensham.

Christmas Eve

Pub: 9:30am-10pm

Kitchen: 9:30am-11:45am / 12:30pm-8pm

Christmas Day

Pub: 11am-2pm drinks only

Boxing Day

Closed

Wednesday 27th-Saturday 30th

Pub: 9:30am-late

Kitchen: 9:30am-9pm

New Year's Eve

Pub: 9:30am-6pm

Kitchen: 9:30am-11:45am / 12:30pm-3:45pm

New Year's Day

Pub: 9:30am-late

Kitchen: 9:30am-9pm

If you work for yourself or don't have the opportunity to get together with others in your office to celebrate Christmas, join us for this year's "Not the Office Lunch" on 12th December @ the Bluebell. Email sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to attend or have any questions. **Sebastian Fox.**



Frensham Royal British Legion.

The Big Xmas Quiz: Saturday 16th December. 8pm. £4 per person (maximum of 6 per team). Bumper Raffle (Tickets on sale behind the bar) Non-members welcome.

Xmas Fayre: Sunday 17th December, 12pm - 4pm. Mulled wine, Bottle Tombola, Tea and Coffee, Gifts, Snacks, Crafts and more. For stall holders: to book a table please call or message Sarah: 07881820083 -£10 per table.

Harry and Liz Glover will also be running a **QUIZ** at **Frensham Royal British Legion Club** on **Saturday 6th January 2024 at 7:30 for 8 o'clock.** The Club has a well-stocked licensed bar, and the evening will include a raffle (of course!) for which donations of prizes will be appreciated. Everybody is welcome - in teams of up to 6 people, and entry will be £5-00 per person. All proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society.

Harry and Liz Glover: 01252 797827

Royal British Legion, Shortheath Common, Frensham, GU10 3BJ. What three words:
///hooked.welcome.prominent

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

All Parish Council meetings are held in The Church of the Good Shepherd.

If any residents wish to speak at the meeting or bring any issues or ideas to our attention there is always a slot in the agenda for you, but please could you advise the Clerk beforehand.

The agenda can be found on the Parish Council website a week before the meeting. Our web address is www.dockenfield.org.uk.

Alternatively, if you have any questions, you would like discussed at the meeting, please contact the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

DNL news and an Urgent Appeal From Dockenfield Parish Council

As you will have gathered, this edition of DNL has been produced by Dockenfield Parish Council. Sadly, and due to sudden, unforeseen circumstances Jacqui de Silva has had to step down from her editorship of the DNL. The Parish Council want to take this opportunity to thank Jacqui for her hard work over the last few months, for stepping into some big shoes with enthusiasm and professionalism and to wish her well in the future.

However, we are left hoping that, once again, we might be able to find a willing volunteer, or two, or three to take on the editorship of the DNL. Either as sole editor or as part of a rotating team.

Hoping to prove that anyone with a moderate knowledge of Word and a little patience can produce a newsletter that does the job, I agreed to produce this Christmas edition of the DNL. If I can do it, anybody can. If you are excited by the idea of helping out the community, sharing news of achievements and upcoming events, do please email me Amanda at adolphdpc@gmail.com or Jessica at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk. If you fancy having a go at producing the DNL yourself we would really appreciate your help.

We deliver a hard copy of the newsletter to 250 or so households in and around the village. If you feel that you would like to move to a digital paperless copy instead, please contact Jessica at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk and ask to be added to the email distribution list. N.B. If you choose to have your DNL emailed we will no longer deliver a hard copy to your home, but you get to feel good about helping to save the planet.

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates.

Tuesday 9th January 2024, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

News from the Working party Bealeswood Common, on Sunday 19th November.

Vicky, the Bealeswood Common Ranger, organised a working party to execute essential maintenance on Bealeswood Common, going into the winter. On a clear and sunny Sunday morning 19th November at 10am, we met at the bench at the top of the Common.

There was a fantastic turnout with Vicky bringing some help from her regular volunteering crew and with several willing volunteers from Dockenfield, Frensham, Rowledge and Farnham, we all eagerly rolled up our sleeves and dived in to help. Using hand tools only, we coppiced, cut back, and pruned sections of scrub beside the paths from the Bluebell Pub and down towards Lake Lane with a view to allowing some of the smaller and more delicate flower species to thrive in the coming year and with the hope that increasing the light and reducing competition that the remaining trees and shrubs will strengthen and bush out with the coming spring, providing better cover and new habitat for nesting birds. We also opened up an area of deep shade within the woodland by strategically removing some spindly holly and hawthorn whips resulting in a bright glade where the sun warmed the autumn leaf litter hopefully encouraging some rarer woodland plant species to poke their heads through in the spring. Hard work was done, coffee and biscuits, and later on, packed lunches were devoured by the hungry, happy workers and we all left feeling tired, satisfied and cobweb free secure in the knowledge of a job well done.

Amanda Adolph



Save the Date!

BEETLE DRIVE - Saturday 9th March 2024.

Following the success of our adventures with beetles (and spiders) in 2023, the Revd. Jane and Harry Glover will be running another Beetle Drive, at the Frensham Royal British Legion club on **Saturday 9th March 2024**, starting at **7.30pm**. *More details in due course...*

Men's Night. Thursdays 14th December (Xmas Men's Night) and 11th 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 14th December when there will be the usual tradition of turning up in dodgy Xmas jumpers. Meetings in the New Year will start on 11th January and subsequently on 8th February and 14th 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 or just pitch up at the pub. You will be made very welcome.

Sebastian Fox.

A FURTHER 'THANK YOU' FROM HARRY...

I'd like to say a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to **everybody** who donated money to the **Alzheimer's Society** in connection with my **55-mile Charity Cycle Ride** (from **London to Brighton**) in September. I wrote a short piece about the ride in the previous Dockenfield Newsletter but failed to say how much money we raised.

Since then, further donations have been made, and I am now delighted to confirm that the total of all donations, together with Gift Aid, is a massive **£4,789.96!** The Events Team at the Alzheimer's Society say that's a phenomenal sum and I am **very grateful** to you all for your support.

Probably most of us have a friend or family member who has Alzheimer's disease and as yet there is no cure. Fundraising is crucial to the Charity's work and money raised is helping people affected to get support, and funding research to help find a cure.

Harry Glover

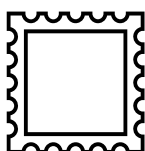


Christmas Stamp Appeal.

Thank you for all the stamps you have sent us this year, you have all done very well. We had a large amount donated which will do a great deal of good.

Christmas is coming so please remember to save your stamps and pass them on to us and Thank You all again.

Marjorie Bessant



WILD DOCKENFIELD: A CELEBRATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE.

Dan Bosence on behalf of BWRG

On October 27th the Church of the Good Shepherd was almost filled to capacity to hear about the wildlife on Bealeswood Common and surrounding areas. Aably introduced and chaired by **Anne Tutt**, the talks were a lively round-up of the findings of the village's Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG), with subjects including trees, wildflowers, butterflies, bees and wasps, birds and fungi as summarised below:

Colin Hall introduced the Common, which lies at the heart of our village, as a wooded common largely surrounded by Oak trees. Many of these show evidence of pollarding where particular branches had been cut and sold off as valuable timber. Felled oaks have recorded ages of up to 150 years, but others are significantly older. Trees, together with surrounding scrub, are significant habitats for wildlife and dead and decaying fallen trees are also havens of biodiversity.

Dan Bosence told us about his long-term (15 years) of weekly recording of the flowering times of the many flowers (180 species) on the Common. This shows that although dates of flowering fluctuate from year to year, on average these have stayed at around the few weeks. However, some of our Spring flowers (Lesser Celandine and Dog Violet) show a trend of earlier and earlier flowering over the 15 years. This is in line with national averages of UK plants that are known to be flowering one month earlier than they did 70 years ago, due to our warming climate.

Philippa Hall gave an overview of the butterflies that occur in the different habitats on the Common. Many have all stages of their life cycle closely tied to the grass communities, either specific grasses or the diverse grass community. Others are tied for nectar and larval food to particular native flowers, the ash and oak trees, or the abundant blackthorn. In addition, there are butterflies that are recorded that are just passing through the Common as natives, or as summer migrants. Recent years has seen records of breeding colonies of the rare Hairstreak butterflies.

Alex Potts uses a combination of extreme patience and expertise in macrophotography to record the bees and wasps on the Common. Many of the UK's Bumblebees occur with their colonial nests and their preferred nectar flowers are recorded with her stunning photographs of these hairy pollinators on different wildflowers on the Common. In addition, the habits of solitary bees are recorded that inhabit tunnels in the ground. These include the rarely reported Long Horned Bee. Examples of predatory Wasps and the Common European Hornet have also been recorded.

Alan Cox took a wider view of the birds of the Surrey-Hampshire border area. His review, covering his years of observation 1997-2023, highlighted the birds we have lost in this area (Little Owl, Willow Tit, Turtle Dove, and Yellowhammer) due to changing climate but also local agricultural practices. Other birds are in decline (Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher, Skylark, and Green and Bullfinch). On a more positive note, he listed a number of new arrivals to our area (Little Egret, Buzzard, Red Kite, Raven, Firecrest, Egyptian Goose and, the less welcome, Ring-Necked Parakeet).

Amanda Adolph concluded with an illustrated talk on our fungi and the different habitats in which they live. The grassland fungi are characterised by the waxcaps (indicators of ancient grasslands), the Russulas, Parasols and Wood Blewits, whilst shaded areas and scrub edges have their own associations (White Knight, White Saddle, Buttery collybia and Yellow clubs). The broad-leaved woodland areas are typified by the Bonnets, Boletes, Earthballs, Agarics and the Charcoal Burner but the fallen trees and stumps have their own special communities.

The evening concluded with discussions on the presentations accompanied by tea, coffee, and home-made cakes together with sales (in aid of church upkeep) of the 2024 Wildlife Calendar from the Alex and Alan. Copies (£8.00 each) can still be obtained from the Frensham Village Shop or contact alanfjcox@gmail.com. The event was free to attend but donations in support of our village church were collected and together with Calendar sales the takings totalled some £238.50.



South Downs National Park. Internationally Designated Dark Skies Reserve.

We are lucky enough to live in a spectacular little corner of the planet and as well as beautiful landscapes, fascinating wildlife, and a friendly community we are blessed to have some of the darkest skies in Southern England. We only need to step outside on a clear night to see the amazing canvas of the night sky, liberally scattered with stars and the Milky Way a bright streak overhead.

In May 2016 the South Downs National Park became the newest International Dark Skies Reserve (IDSR). It has since been joined by others and is now part of a family of 19 IDSR's around the world.

Our star-studded skies are as valuable as our beautiful rolling landscapes and, with properly dark skies in the Southeast of England under threat, the skies of the South Downs are worth protecting.

All of us living in the area bordering the Alice Holt Dark Sky reserve can play a part in protecting and preserving that deep, dark, spectacular night sky.

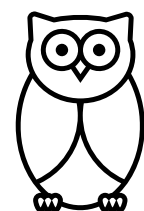
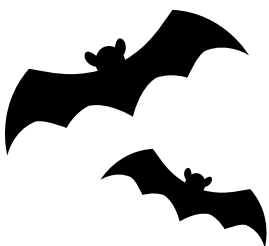
The South Downs National Park has issued some excellent guidelines called: **Light to Protect the Night**. They recommend five principles for responsible outdoor lighting, most of which are energy saving too.

- **Useful: All light should have a clear purpose.** Before installing or replacing a light, determine if the light is needed. Could reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs and steps be used to reduce the need for permanent outdoor lighting.
- **Targeted: Light should be directed only where needed.** Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it only points downwards and does not spill beyond where it is needed.
- **Low Light Levels: Light should be no brighter than necessary.** Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.
- **Controlled: Light should be used only when it is useful.** Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, and turned off when it is not.
- **Colour: Use warmer colour lights where possible.** Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount possible. Use yellow spectrum light bulbs where possible.

Over the festive season, if you choose to put up Xmas lights in celebration, do try to use warmer spectrum lighting. Turning them off a bit earlier is kinder to night-time wildlife and, try to remember not to leave them on all night, do switch them off when you retire to your beds.

By following these simple guidelines, we can do our bit to safeguard our dark skies, the insects, birds, and animals that inhabit them and, save on energy costs and usage too.

Amanda Adolph.



Bealeswood Common Wildlife. November 2023.

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group.

This month our bulletin board focuses on the third kingdom of the Tree of Life - Fungi.

Fungi provide a life force that is crucial to Animal and Plant wellbeing. Recent science has shown their role in the evolution and sustainability of planetary life.

The first land plants evolved 540 million years ago through interaction(symbiosis) with fungi. Fungi absorbed huge quantities of carbon dioxide and created oxygen on such a gigantic scale that the earth's atmosphere changed and became oxygen rich for the first time - triggering the evolution of life forms and ultimately creating humankind.

The symbiotic relationship between fungi and plants is made possible by the mycorrhizae, an underground network of microscopic fungal filaments entangled with plant roots.

Around 90% of all green plants have mycorrhizal symbionts. These networks are only visible to the human eye where they break through soil as fruiting bodies - better known as mushrooms. Our resident fungi enthusiast Manda Adolph has recorded twenty-three new species of mushrooms this month on Bealeswood Common.

Extraordinarily nine different small but colourful Waxcap species were among the new finds. Waxcaps are found only in undisturbed soil and hence are indicators of ancient, undisturbed grassland and of landscape history.

If we have piqued your interest, you can read the full article on the Dockenfield Parish Council Website.

<http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/> by clicking on the Wildlife tab, or of course, on the notice board at the top of the Common.



Above: Scarlet Waxcap. Photos Manda Adolph.



Above: Parrot Waxcap.

Dec 24th-Jan 5th Local Bird Survey:

Each year the wild birds of the Hampshire and Surrey borders are surveyed between the above dates. If you are checking your garden list or noting birds on local walks, please send details to alanfjcox@gmail.com particularly giving any notable numbers of commoner species seen and details of all unusual species encountered.

Toad Watch February/March 2024: Volunteers are required to safeguard Toads crossing Boundary Road from Woodhill Lane to West End Lane. Toads cross en masse when 7-8 deg C, on a damp, drizzly evening. If anyone wants to help, please contact Philippa phall3422@aol.com or Colin Hall CHall3422@aol.com .

2024 Nature Walks Programme: A programme is being prepared but if you have any special requests to become better acquainted with local wildlife at Dockenfield or Alice Holt Forest please contact Friends of Bealeswood Common at: albosence@yahoo.com .

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG): Manda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Alex Potts and Anne Tutt. 20/11/2023.

Nature's Seasons 2024 Calendar

Nature's Seasons
The Wildlife of the Surrey
and Hampshire borders



Calendar 2024

The 2024 Calendar designed by Alex Potts, Manda Adolph and Alan Cox features a recent selection of their wildlife photos from Bealeswood and Frensham Commons. As in 2022, it is now on sale at the Frensham Village Shop at £8 per copy. Again, all proceeds will be donated to St Mary's Church, Frensham and the Church of The Good Shepherd.

For home delivery around the village please contact: Alan Cox alanfjcox@gmail.com or Alex Potts acpotts@hotmail.co.uk.

Alan Cox

SERVICES FOR THE BENEFICE OF FRENSHAM

- **Sunday 3rd December:** 8am BCP Holy Communion St Mary's.
10.30am Worship and Fellowship with Baptism Good Shepherd.
6pm ADVENT CAROL SERVICE St Mary's.
- **Wednesday 7th December:** 10am BCP Holy Communion Good Shepherd.
- **Sunday 10th December:** Christmas Festival Weekend St Mary's
9.00am Common Worship Communion Good Shepherd.
5pm FAMILY CHRISTINGLE St Mary's
- **17th December:** 8am BCP Holy Communion Good Shepherd.
6pm CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE St Mary's.
- **24th December:** 10.30am Common Worship Communion St Mary's.
2pm CRIB SERVICE St Mary's.
4pm CRIB SERVICE Good Shepherd.
11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS St Mary's
- **25th December:** 9am FAMILY BCP Holy Communion Good Shepherd.
10.30am FAMILY CHRISTMAS COMMUNION WITH CAROLS St. Mary's.
- **31st December:** 8am BCP Holy Communion Good Shepherd.
10.30am Question Time Communion St Mary's.



NOTE: THERE ARE MANY CHANGES TO THE SERVICES THIS MONTH BOTH VENUE AND TIME. PLEASE OBSERVE CAREFULLY.

Revd Jane Walker will be praying daily at 8am and 5pm (excluding Tuesdays and Saturdays) in St Mary's Church. Please contact her directly **07960 647850** should you wish to join – all are welcome.

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