



# DNL

## Dockenfield Newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 299

Published 1st March 2024

### Spring is in the air

There is an expression with which I am sure you are all familiar, 'spring is in the air'.

On the simplest of levels, it could be referring to the glorious birdsong that is beginning to suffuse the dawn or it could allude to the delicate scent of early blossoms; catkins, gorse, snowdrops and crocus as they emerge from their long winter sleep. However, there is a particular aroma that pervades the air of the forest at this time of year.

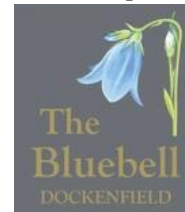
The cool earth of the woodland floor is awakening from its winter slumber. Bacteria that populate the damp leaf mould and the soil are starting to wake. The low watery sun begins to warm the ground. Actinomycetes (the bacteria) start to release a particular scent, an earthy, nutrient rich, metallic tang that fills the air and the nostrils. It's a similar scent to cool rain on parched earth during the summer.

That singular smell has a fabulous name, 'Petrichor'. The word is constructed from the Greek words 'petra' meaning stone and 'ichor' literally, 'the fluid that flows in the veins of the gods'...

Breathe deeply the next time the sun warms your path, for the blood of the earth is stirring beneath your feet.



Congratulations to Lucy and Robin at The Bluebell for their inclusion on the Estrella Damm TOP Gastropubs list.



Welcome to the first DNL of 2024! As we look forward to spring, we hope you enjoy reading this edition packed with information and opportunities. Amazingly there are 18 different activities highlighted for March and April alone. This reflects what an active and vibrant community we live in. You'll find an exclusive interview with our local BEM recipient on Page 6. There is also important information about major village events coming up in June and October, so grab your diaries, pop in the dates and don't miss out.

## Dockenfield's great Dockenfield Day fete - Save the date Saturday 8th June 2-6pm

Get ready for the village event of the season! Dockenfield Day is just around the corner, happening on Saturday, June 8th, from 2-6pm at the Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages. And guess what? We've made a slight adjustment to the date to ensure it doesn't overlap with half-term week!

Join us for an afternoon filled with fantastic music, mouth-watering homemade cakes, and non-stop entertainment! From classic favourites like the coconut shy, the annual tug of war, to the legendary Dockenfield Dog Show, there's something for everyone. And have you ever tried your luck at a genuine Human Fruit Machine? Only 10p a go!

Whether you're craving a cup of tea with a slice of scrumptious homemade cake, searching for new additions to your garden, or simply longing for a juicy burger paired with locally brewed beer, Dockenfield Day has it all. Bring your friends and family and dive into the fun—it's an event not to be missed by anyone in Dockenfield and the surrounding area!

With plenty of new faces in the village, now's the perfect time to connect, chat, and share some laughs with your fellow villagers! And if you're feeling extra generous, we could use your helping hand! Dockenfield Day needs volunteers—whether you can spare a little or a lot of time, we'd love to have you on board. Reach out to us at [dockenfield.activities@gmail.com](mailto:dockenfield.activities@gmail.com) if you're keen to help pitch in!



**Roly Miles.**

## Meet your Dockenfield Activities Committee: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 4pm onwards

📅 Mark your calendars for a day you won't want to miss! Join us on Saturday, April 27th, starting at 4 pm, for a warm and welcoming "Meet the Committee" event at the heart of our community—none other than the Bluebell pub!

👋 Whether you've just unpacked your boxes or you've been here for years, we're thrilled to invite you to mingle with other friendly faces. It's your chance to connect, share your thoughts, and dive into the excitement of village life. From sharing your ideas for our community to simply enjoying the company of your neighbours, this afternoon promises fun, and newfound friendships.

🍷 And guess what? Your first drink is on us! So, what's not to like? 🍷

**Roly Miles.**



## Rainfall Totals

Our rainfall totals for the winter 22/23 were as follows: November 2022 = 189mm; December 2022 = 110.7mm; and the beginning of 2023 saw January 2023 = 105mm.

Compared to winter 23/24 when we had November 2023 111.9mm; December 2023 112.5mm; and January 2024 88.8mm. January 2024 wettest day was the 4th with 31.2mm and no rain at all between 7th and 19th.

**Jack Bessant.**

## A warm welcome to Dockenfield

The village is pleased to welcome Paul Brooker and his family, Thomas, James, Ned, and Ellie. They have moved into Braeside on the Street, and we hope they will be very happy here.

**Marjorie Bessant.**

## Frensham and Dockenfield Village Lunch

Frensham and Dockenfield hold a Village Lunch every fourth Wednesday from January to November at the Royal British Legion in Shortfield, Frensham and is growing each month and soon we will reach capacity. We are averaging over 60 each month now.

- March lunch is Pasta bake with a vegetarian alternative with the Charity stall being Helen Arkell.
- April lunch is Fish pie with no prawns with TARNs as the Charity Stall.

We are collecting used medication packs and clean egg boxes for recycling **but please note** we cannot take unused medications. These should be returned to a chemist. Look forward to seeing you.

**Pam Watmore.**

## 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.**

## Ladies Nights at the Blue Bell!

**\*Thursday, March 21st, \*Thursday, June 20th, \*Thursday, September 5th, \*Thursday, November 21st**

Join us at the Bluebell around 7:30 pm(ish) for a relaxed evening over a glass of your favourite drink. It's a chance to unwind, catch up with friends old and new, and enjoy the cosy atmosphere. Plus, if you're feeling peckish, the pub offers some tasty treats to nibble on alongside your drinks—so feel free to come hungry or just for a glass and a chat! Want to get event reminders? We've got our own WhatsApp group where we share updates and friendly messages. If you'd like to join, simply send a message to Joolz Miles at **07833355359**, and she'll add you to the group. So come and join us for some laid-back evenings filled with laughter and good company. We can't wait to welcome you!

**Joolz Miles.**

## Men's Night at the Bluebell

Dockenfield Men's Night: join us on the second Thursday of each month at 8.00pm in the Bluebell for a convivial evening with other villagers. The next meetings are 14<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> April and if you wish to be added to the contact list, please let me know via [sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk).

**Seb Fox.**

## The Art and Craft of our Parish, 2024

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 18/19/20 October.

'Back by popular demand' is a heavily over used phrase, but in this case, it couldn't be more true. Over six hundred people came to the inaugural show in October 2022, and we are hoping that a similar number will attend the second show in October.

Once again, a fabulous and very varied selection of artists and craft makers is being assembled; and as before all the exhibitors will hail from within the parish boundary. So, the work on display and for sale simply could not be more local. If you have applied to be one of the exhibitors, you will shortly be hearing direct from Sarah Watson with more details of what happens next.

Talking of 'local', this year all the pupils from St Marys School will be contributing to the show. More details in a forthcoming Newsletter. The show will also see the launch of the third edition of 'Nature's Seasons', a calendar of local wildlife, perfectly captured on film by local photographers.

To our delight, the first show turned out to be a major fundraiser for the Good Shepherd and St Mary's, raising over £5,000 for church funds. Naturally, we would like to do the same again, but we won't achieve that without your help. Here are a few ways in which you can lend a hand:

- If you came last time (or wished you had) please make a note of the dates above, so you can be sure to come.
- If you can spare some time to help over that weekend, that would be terrific. Just email Alison Bosence ([albosence@yahoo.com](mailto:albosence@yahoo.com)) with details of your availability.
- We would also appreciate donations of nice raffle prizes. Please email Alison (as above) if you can help here or take them along to Barbara Potter at the 'Coffee Stop', every Friday morning at the Good Shepherd.

**Michael Foster.**

## Frensham Peddlars - Season 4 - Starts- Thursday 11th April 2024

The FPs are an enthusiastic small group of cyclists. We meet every Thursday evening at Hollowdene Recreation Park, Frensham at 6pm and enjoy an average ride of up to 2 hours. We are not super speedy, and the emphasis is on getting out and about and exploring beyond our front doors. We would love to welcome more cyclists to the FPs!

**"You are one ride away from a good mood." – Sarah Bentley, British cyclist**



**Vicki Hinde.**

07715 291928 [vicki.hinde22@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.hinde22@gmail.com)

## MESSAGE FOR ART LOVERS

The highly popular and well-established Art Sale held at Bedales School is taking place this year on Monday 4th March 6pm - 9pm. Many readers will have seen the work of our talented Claire Jackson at other events locally, this is an opportunity to see her work again as she will have four beautiful butterfly migration paintings on show. The proceeds from the sale will go to fund the work of Rural Refugee Network and The John Bradley Foundation Emergency Refugee Fund. Tickets are free but have to be obtained through the Bedales School website. At the following web address <https://www.bedales.org.uk/>.

**Anne Tutt.**

## News from Bealeswood Common

We've always known that Bealeswood Common is a very special place for wildlife, but what makes it an especially rewarding site to manage is the strong support from the village, with the recent high turnout for the annual working party being just one example of this. It is clear that the residents of Dockenfield view Bealeswood Common as a key part of the village, and one which they wish to protect.

Readers will by now be familiar with the Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG), a group of like-minded residents who have been studying and recording the varied wildlife on Bealeswood. The findings of this group have been hugely valuable in informing us of how various wildlife groups on Bealeswood are faring, their individual needs and requirements, and uncovering the presence of several unusual or rare species which would otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Although it can be tempting to focus on only a few key species groups, all wildlife species are in fact interdependent, with the success of one group often being closely tied to the presence and composition of other groups. Plants, in particular are the foundation on which the entire ecosystem is supported, providing food, nectar, shelter, nesting, and egg laying sites for a multitude of other species. Put simply, plants define the habitat, and the resources provided by that habitat determines which other species can thrive.

With this in mind, Waverley Borough Council commissioned a professional vegetation survey of Bealeswood Common in 2021. This provided us with a full list of plant species, complementing and validating the recording already carried out by the BWRG, but importantly it also identified specific plant communities. Although it is always useful to identify and record individual plant species, it is the distinct communities they form which defines the quality and uniqueness of the habitat. The professional survey found that the grassland on Bealeswood includes both nationally and locally rare plant communities, as well as flower species which are considered vulnerable or near-threatened in the UK.

One of the recommendations of the survey report was to put Bealeswood Common forward for declaration as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Natural England define a LNR as follows:

*'A protected area of land designated by a local authority because of its local special natural interest and, where possible, educational and community value.'*

Further guidance by Natural England also highlights the importance of LNRs for *'the study of and research into, matters relating to the fauna and flora of Great Britain and the physical conditions in which they live'*. It then adds that LNRs should be *'of high value locally for environmental education and/or research, of high natural interest locally, and of high value locally for enjoyment of nature by the public.'*

It is our view that Bealeswood fits this definition well, being an important site for wildlife conservation, of great value to the village, and already providing a research and educational resource for the BWRG, who then share their findings through site notices and a programme of walks and talks. We are therefore proposing to go forward with this designation, which as well as providing recognition of the importance of Bealeswood for wildlife and the involvement of the local community, will also give it some statutory protection.

It is important to note that recognition and status aside, this designation will not change too much on the ground. It is a local designation for local people and does not impose any obligations other than to continue managing the site for the benefit of wildlife, and for it to provide access to nature for local residents, which of course it already does. There is no requirement to install formal facilities, promote it to outside groups, or make any other changes.

As this designation is in a large part for the benefit of the local community, I am keen to hear your views before we move to the next stage. Please do let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns. The easiest way to get in touch is by e-mail – [vicky.keller@waverley.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.keller@waverley.gov.uk), but if you prefer you can leave a message with one of my colleagues on 01483 523394 and I will return your call.

**Vicky Keller.**

Countryside Ranger – Bealeswood Common. Waverley Borough Council.

## British Empire Medal for a valued member of our community.

Many residents of the village will know Jill Trout well. She can often be seen walking with or riding her pony along Batts Corner. She is a regular volunteer at the church Coffee Stop. You will find her selling ice creams on Dockenfield Day as part of the Activities Group. She has served for over 40 years as Clerk, then a member of Dockenfield Parish Council and thirty years as our Chairman. She has worked tirelessly as events co-ordinator for the Kingsley Organisation and has selflessly served our community, quietly getting on with what needs to be done with kindness, tenacity, and good humour.

So, it was with delight and pride that DPC learned that her nomination by Paul Wood (DPC) had been successful and that she was being awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in this year's King's New Years Honours List.

The honour was bestowed for her services to the village and for her charity fund raising efforts which have yielded hundreds of thousands of pounds for local good causes.

With a little gentle arm twisting, I persuaded Jill to share some of her thoughts about the award with us here at the DNL and it is presented here in Interview form.

Jill, where were you when you found out that you had received the BEM award?

*"I had just returned from holiday. The phone rang, and the caller introduced himself as calling from the Cabinet Office, I thought it was a scam! He promised that it was not and if I checked my post, I should find a letter confirming the BEM award. Sure enough, the letter was there. It was only at that point I actually believed him."*

Was it a surprise?

*"Yes, indeed. I had no idea and I never imagined receiving anything like this. I did not expect any kind of gratification other than seeing improvements, protection and flourishing events in the village, enhancing community spirit. So, yes, it was an enormous surprise."*

How did you feel to have been nominated?

*"When I was told, I thought at first that the nomination had come from the Surrey Association of Local Councils (SALC). So, I was hugely flattered and overwhelmed to learn that the nomination was in fact from the local Parish Council and the villagers. It was so much more personal and that means such a lot to me!"*

How did your family react?

*"They were utterly delighted and pleased for me."*

Are you looking forward to the awards Ceremony and do you know where it is and who will be presenting your BEM?

*"The awards ceremony is taking place at Loseley House by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Surrey. I have also been invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. I'm really looking forward to both."*

What was the first fundraising activity that you undertook for the community?

*"Many years ago, the inspired founder of The Kingsley Organisation, Judith, needed someone to organise the administration and asked me to help. Subsequently, the refurbished Kingsley Village School, needed extra facilities. The shop consisted of three or four metal cupboards. The Post Office needed its own space. Incidentally, Maureen the disabled volunteer running the Post Office took it to Dockenfield Church once a week. Alan, the CEO, suggested I approached Glaxo Smith Kline as some years earlier I was on the "Younger Maltings" committee helping to raise funds for the redundant Farnham Maltings for community use, so agreed to try. The bid was positive, so I kept going after that initial encouragement."*

You have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds over the years. What types of activities have you undertaken to raise that enormous amount of money?

*"There are many ways to raise money. Some large donations have come from Banks, Quoted Companies, and the National Lottery. We received funds from many local businesses, e.g. Coomers of Bordon made Kingsley their Charity of the Year, local garden centres, St.Mary's Trust (Frensham/Dockenfield), Hankley Common Golf Club are part of a long list that constantly give generously, both money and activities. Often local people donate, not just money but helping/hosting activities and giving their time."*

...Cont'd

What was the most difficult or arduous fundraising event you have been involved with?

*"I wouldn't say that any of the activities have been arduous, the most difficult aspect is often the initial organisation of an activity and creating a community team. When you repeat the events, they almost seem to run themselves. We ran Annual Golf Days, multiple jumble sales, twice yearly bridge days, concerts, talks, children's holiday activities (much appreciated by working mothers!) We accommodated DoE tasks and accreditation and hosted University concerts for local students, etc."*

What was the most fun or strangest event that you have been involved with?

*"The event that was the most enjoyable and unusual I have been involved with was helping to organise the special parade to commemorate the centenary of the 1914-1918 War on remembrance Sunday in 2018. When three black Dales pony sisters led the parade and escorted the Standard to the Dockenfield War Memorial. Ridden by myself (on Pandora), Sue Hobday (Pearl) and Jessica Hobday (Philamena) . All ponies born in Dockenfield. It was a very special and moving ceremony as the Dales ponies served in the War and few returned. It is now a rare breed."*

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your involvement in the community from a personal perspective?

*"I think it has to be helping to keep the regime of Bealeswood Common such that it is widely recognised for its uniqueness. I marvel that something so simple has developed into an area so special and interesting. 35 years plus of planned consistent management and recording initiated by DPC/WBC; implemented by the rangers; Wildlife Recording Group; with the help of local volunteers, thoughtful use by the residents; applying good, simple, appropriate management techniques and consistent dedicated observation has led us to understand and encourage the incredible diversity of our amazing little common and to it being recognised and protected. Also, long-term working towards inclusion in AONB for the whole village, resisting a large holiday village in Alice Holt Forest and fighting a toxic tip at the Frith End sandpit."*

What would you say to encourage younger people and families coming into the village to get involved with the community?

*"Come and join existing volunteers .... realise qualities each person has to offer and can gain by joining and creating community projects/activities in Dockenfield ... both great and small from larger events to collecting the odd can, etc. tossed from a car. A great start is helping out at Dockenfield Day, volunteer to lend a hand and enjoy the community spirit."*

Very well done Jill, we thank you and we are proud of you.

**Amanda Adolph.**

## Frensham Scarecrow Festival 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> May 2024



It's back, for the first time since 2018.

We can reveal that the theme for the festival will be: **"Heroes and Villains"**.

For full details, please contact Sharon Turner-Mumford on [Fvscarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:Fvscarecrows@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.dockenfield.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.**

Tuesday 19th March, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

### **Dockenfield Emergency Plan.**

DPC have been working to put in place a parish Emergency Response Plan which has been initiated by the parish council in order that, in the event of an emergency, (e.g. a heavy snowfall, a forest fire) occurring in or around the settlement of Dockenfield there is a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various emergency services, support agencies, and a plan to enlist local people to help others in the community, along with a comprehensive list of contacts for those services and people.

The Emergency Plan is live on the Dockenfield Parish Council website [www.dockenfield.org.uk](http://www.dockenfield.org.uk) please do give it a look. Think of it in the same way as you would think of the evacuation leaflet on an airline. We all hope we'll never need to implement it but if we do, we'd rather it was clear, up to date, and that we had read it.

We'd like to extend our thanks to all those who have kindly volunteered to be called upon should their help be needed. If you'd like to volunteer your help in the event of an emergency, please contact the Clerk at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk).

### **Dockenfield Newsletter, DNL.**

We are in the process of building a small team of people to produce the DNL. We have a dedicated and reliable team of distributors ably managed by Gary Armstrong and I have been joined on the editorial team by Mary Somerville. What we need now is **a third person** who would be willing to have a go at editing **one or two issues a year**, with support and help from the existing team. We are a friendly bunch and would love you to join us. Additionally, if there are any young people, perhaps students studying media or journalism, in the village, who would like some editorial experience or to expand their CV, this could be the perfect opportunity. Please contact Amanda at [dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com).

### **Review of the Surrey County Council's Rights of Way Improvements Plan.**

Surrey County Council's (SCC) Rights of Way Improvements Plan (ROWIP) is an important document, which the county council is required to have in place. It sets out how SCC can make sure the public rights of way network, (such as public footpaths and bridleways), meets the needs of the public, now and in the future.

The views of the public are important and welcome. SCC have set up an online questionnaire to gather those views. It is straightforward and available to access online at:

<https://www.surreysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/rowip-public>

The questionnaire closes at midnight on **10th March 2024**.

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



## Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society.

Come and join us for our Spring Show- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm at the Marindin Hall. The classes that are open to all, are as follows:

Class 3	Easter Bonnet (not to exceed 60cm width or 80 cm in height)
Class 4	Daring Daffodil Delight - not to exceed 30cm diameter (Juniors)
Class 25	A vase of garden flowers, one or more varieties
Class 26	Spring bulb grown in an upcycled container not to exceed 30cm diameter
Class 32	A jar of marmalade (named and dated)
Class 33	A Jar of Chutney (named and dated)
Class 34	Buttermilk scones with Cheshire Cheese and Chives- 3 on a plate
Class 35	Victoria Sponge
Class 36	A Coronation themed napkin ring
Class 37	Juniors- Papier Mache Bowl- ages 8-15
Class 38	Pom Pom Easter Bunny (under 8's)
Photography	
Class 39	Winter's End
Class 40	Host of a Golden Daffodils
Class 41	Dark Skies
Class 42	Juniors - Boots

Recipes and further details can be found on our website [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk), click on the spring show link. For any questions, please contact our show organiser, Caroline Plant (01252 793991)

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

Class	Class	Class	Class	Class	Class

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

Address.....

Number of entries.....

### ROSY HARDY

In April we will welcome Rosy Hardy as our speaker for the April meeting. Rosy, along with husband Rob, are the owners of Hardy's Cottage Garden, a small independent nursery that focuses on selling over 1,200 perennials and is an RHS Master Grower. The nursery has won a staggering 24 Gold Medals at Chelsea and 2 Tudor Roses at Hampton Court Flower shows.

In 2020, Rosy was made an honorary Vice President of the RHS in recognition of her contribution and education to horticulture and is a renowned speaker, and her talk is entitled "Seasonal Flowering Perennials". Anyone that has heard her talk will want to attend.

### BOOKING

We are expecting this talk to be extremely popular and are therefore holding this at the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield, which is a larger venue. This talk will be **free to members**, but you will need to reserve your place to attend, can you therefore ensure that you email [events@fdhs.org.uk](mailto:events@fdhs.org.uk) by 29th February. **After this date we cannot guarantee you a seat.**

Non-members can reserve a space on a first come first served basis and on payment of £10.00 per ticket. If you wish to invite a guest, they will need to purchase a ticket for this event, and these can be reserved and paid for with your advanced reservation.

## **Bombed Out! A Family's True Story Of Chance, Luck And Love In The Blitz**

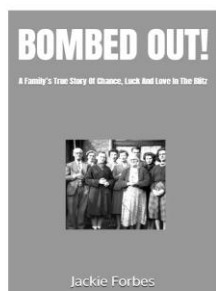
I have just completed and released a book about my family's story of their lives during WW2. When their house in Chelsea was destroyed on the second night of The Blitz, they were made homeless. During a chance meeting with Dorothy Huitfeldt (Latham) in Peter Jones Department store where they were sheltering, my grandmother and her youngest children were offered sanctuary at Hollowdene Manor House in Frensham for a year or so.

This book tells first hand of their lives at this time with many descriptions of Hollowdene, its surroundings and the local people. They were privileged to be present during a visit to the house by Norwegian King Haakon VII and Crown Prince Olav, which was very memorable considering the poverty that they had been used to growing up in Chelsea. My aunts and uncles attended the local school (St Mary's) during this time, and all remembered the village and local area with great fondness.

Several years ago I and my cousin visited the area and called on the off-chance at Hollowdene where we were kindly invited in by one of the residents - Claire Beer - who showed us original plans of the house. We then went to the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity (at that point round the corner from Hollowdene) and were lucky enough to be invited to Helen's home where we had the opportunity to thank her for the support and kindness offered by her parents to our family in their time of need. I have written about these meetings in the book.

I wondered whether the book might be of interest to your readers. I also wonder if there is anyone remaining in the village who might remember my family.

Bombed Out!: A Family's True Story Of Chance, Luck And Love In The Blitz <https://amzn.eu/d/edeRtKA>



Jackie Forbes.

## **FRENSHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB**

Upcoming events:

- Saturday 2 March 7.30pm for 8pm: Quiz - Run by Frensham RBL Bowls Club in aid of their club funds - all welcome, teams of up to 6. Come early to secure a table, as recent quizzes have been extremely popular.
- Saturday 9 March 7.30pm: Beetle Drive and Curry supper - in aid of St Mary's Church. We have had two of these evenings, organised by the Rev Jane Walker and Harry Glover and they are great fun. Tickets £14 (including food) from Harry on 01252 797827.
- Thursday 14 March 7.30pm: Music Night - anyone is welcome to come along and perform, or just turn up to listen to a variety of live music.
- Thursday 11 April 7.30pm: Music Night - the music nights take place every month on the second Thursday of the month.
- Saturday 20 April 7.30pm for 8pm: Quiz - Run by Frensham RBL Club in aid of club funds - all welcome, teams of up to 6.

Janet Caiger & Jo Gayton.

# FRENSHAM AND DOCKENFIELD HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME FOR 2024

Meetings take place at the Marindin Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Contact Chris Bonner (01252 793668 or 07498916505) for further information

**Tuesday, March 12th AGM**

Speaker: John Owen Smith – A Parcel of Gold

**Tuesday, April 9th**

Speaker: Chris Bonner – A selection of Old Local Photographs and Postcards

**Tuesday, May 14th**

Speaker: David Rose – Witley Camp

**Tuesday, June 11th**

\*An 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary D-Day themed meeting at The Frensham RBL Club.

**Tuesday, September 10th**

Speaker: Andrew Negus – History of Portsmouth Part 4

**Tuesday, October 8th**

Speaker: Professor Dan Bosence – 120 Million Years of History; The Geology of Frensham and Dockenfield.

**Tuesday, November 12th**

Speaker: Roy Waight – 2 Local Illustrators (Pauline Baynes & Randolph Caldecott)

**Tuesday, December 10th**

Christmas Party and Robert Grimmond – Yet more Old Artefacts!

\*If any residents have any family connections with D-Day, the History Group would be delighted to hear about them.

## Beetles and Bhajis!!

Frensham British Legion Club - Saturday 9th March

Jane Walker and Harry Glover are running another BEETLE DRIVE on Saturday 9th March starting at 7:30pm. It will be held at Frensham Royal British Legion Club and promises to be a fun evening!

Jane will be preparing her tasty Indian curries with all the trimmings, and the curries will include meat and veggie options. There will be a bar and raffle (of course!) and donations for the raffle will be very welcome.

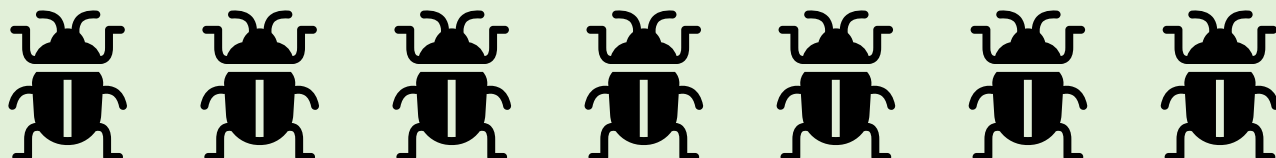
Beetle Drive rules are very simple and will be explained on the evening; no previous experience is necessary!

Tickets are £14 each and can be obtained from Harry Glover:

Telephone: 01252 797827 or email: [harry.glover@btinternet.com](mailto:harry.glover@btinternet.com)

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

Harry Glover.



## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society: What to do in the Garden this month.

The soil will now be starting to warm up but do not be fooled into a false sense of security and go mad with sowing seeds. It is better to wait a few weeks, than to sow in haste and start sowing towards the end of this month and into April.

Onion and Shallot sets can be planted this month. From mid-month, you can also sow beetroot, spring onions, lettuces, radish, peas, spinach, summer cabbage, salad leaves, leeks, Swiss chard, kohlrabi, turnip and summer cauliflower.

Your seed potatoes can be laid out to 'chit'. After a few weeks you should see some short robust shoots, which will give them a good start when they are planted. Potatoes should be planted 12" (30 cm) apart, in a 6" (15 cm) deep trench. If the weather is warm, the first shoots will break through the soil within 2-3 weeks. Ensure you protect them from frost with fleece or "earthing-up". Planting Earlies by mid-March should mean that they will be ready by mid to late May.

After the hard winter frosts, it will be time to see what has and what has not survived, depending upon how warm it is, some plants may take more time than others, but it is safe to assume that if by the end of this month, there is no signs of life, then it is time to replace. Some plants may sprout from the bottom of the plant and therefore will need to be pruned back hard. If in doubt, ask a FDHS member!

You can move and plant shrubs this month. If you forgot to prune your summer flowering clematis last month, then do it now to about 12 inches from the ground. Trim your winter flowering heathers to avoid them from becoming leggy.

Beds can be mulched to lock in moisture, keep the weeds down and help feed the plants. At the same time you can also lightly fork in slow-release fertilisers, such as fish, blood, and bone or Growmore. Finish cutting back dead foliage from your ornamental grasses to allow the new growth to come through.

If you have not already done so, check your Dahlia tubers. Despite wrapping them up, some may have been casualties of the extreme frosts we had this winter, so any tubers that are rotten or shrivelled need to be cut off and pot up the remaining tubers under cover this month. In a shed or greenhouse will be fine.

Neil Mumford : [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk)



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