



# DNL *Dockenfield newsletter*

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 304

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After a festive season filled to the brim with delightful and fun activities: such as our bus shelter Carols; the Christmas bash at the Good Shepherd; and an early January Skittles evening at The Bluebell, at the beginning of a brand-new year, we are filled with optimism for the good things that are to come.

We can't help but be excited by the joys, the adventures and even the challenges that the next twelve months might bring. The recent very cold weather has brought some treacherous road conditions, made less so by our kind salt-spreading volunteers, (see p4 for further information). Mitigated by some glorious sunrises, snowy views and magically misty mornings. Many thanks to Nick Stewart for the wonderful sunrise picture, taken from Batts Corner.



Our Newsletter is filled with some interesting and enjoyable activities that will be taking place in the village in the coming weeks. Do dip a toe in, whether you fancy coming along to a sociable night out at The Bluebell; helping Toads to cross the road safely (a great activity to do with your kids); or a spot of hedging; there is something for everyone within our pages.

**Happy New Year one and all.  
Your Editorial Team.**

**Stop Press:** Please note that the defibrillator at The Bluebell is temporarily out of order. It will be returned ASAP. The next nearest Defib can be found in the telephone box on Dockenfield Street or at Great Holt, Old Lane.

## Frensham and Dockenfield Village Lunch

We had a very good Christmas Lunch in November with 80 people attending the lunch where they had a roast turkey with all the trimmings or a vegetarian alternative with all the trimmings followed by a choice of puddings all cooked and served by the volunteers. The stall was for the Frensham W.I. and it was a successful day.



Waitrose very kindly sponsored the Christmas Village Lunch and gave us a cheque for £500 which helped towards the total cost from the supermarket's "Making Connections at Christmas" Charity initiative. The fund focusses on supporting charities that bring people together for social connections at Christmas time. The cheque was presented by Alice Butcher on behalf of Waitrose.

**L-R David Munro, Rosemary Faun, Pam Watmore, Alice Butcher and Rev Jane Walker.**

The meal on the 26<sup>th</sup> February will be Chicken and Tarragon Casserole and the Charity Stall will be The Kingsley Centre and, on the 26th March, it will be Pasta Bake, with the Charity Stall being Helen Arkell.

**Pam Watmore**

## Frensham Peddlars

Happy New Year from the Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars - we have been cycling throughout the winter and discovering more routes and coffee stops from our Frensham start. Our official season kicks off mid-April - please register your interest with Vicki.

If you have not yet discovered the Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars. We are not lycra clad cyclists - just a group of local friends who love to discover new rides/pubs on our mountain and e bikes - we meet every Thursday during the summer months at 6pm and cycle for approx. 2 hours covering around 20 km - come join and explore our wonderful surroundings.

The Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars will be launching a new season, their 5th in mid-April 2025. If you are interested in joining them do contact Vicki.



Contact Vicki Hinde [vicki.hinde22@gmail.com](mailto:vicki.hinde22@gmail.com) for more information.

## Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society

### February Talk

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February our President will give a talk on Japanese Maples. This will be held at the Marindin Hall, 7.30pm for an 8pm start.



Neil Mumford

Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society <https://fdhs.org.uk>

## Dockenfield Skittles Night at The Bluebell 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025



For the first time our annual skittles night was held at The Bluebell. The temporary skittle alley was set up, teams displayed and play began. After two games the winning team was decided. Prizes were presented to the winning team, highest scoring male and female plus consolation prize for the lowest score. The victorious team, calling themselves “The Invincibles” won. The team was captained by Harvey Rickets and his members were Ben Poulson, Andrew Moss, Maggie Attfield, Paul Cushings and Susan Farnell-Watson.



Paul Cushings was our highest scoring man and - keeping it in the family - the highest scoring female was Annette Cushings. The lowest consolation prize went to Angela.

After a delicious two course dinner, we then played a knock out game for The Mansell Cup. Everyone started with 3 lives. It was a tight finish, making the knockout more difficult as the game went on. In the end it was 1 skittle and the bowler having to use their opposite hand along with standing on one leg. The Champion was James Wilson.

A huge thanks to The Bluebell and their team for making it possible to hold the event and to all that supported the evening.

The date for next year is **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at The Bluebell. More details will follow in the newsletter later in the year and it would be lovely to have your support again.

**Katy Poulson**

## Dockenfield Salt Bins

The recent cold snap has prompted Dockenfield Parish Council to remind residents about our local salt bin locations. These salt bins are placed at strategic points around the village. They are filled and maintained by different bodies; however, all have one thing in common. We need volunteers to spread the salt, strategically, on the roads, (a few spades full usually does the job). If you already undertake this important task or would be willing to help out in order to keep our roads clear and safe in cold weather, please contact the clerk at [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk). Please note that if you are already helping out in this way remember to wear appropriate (high viz) clothing, carry a bright torch if the light conditions are poor and be aware and careful of traffic.

Salt Bins (Surrey County Council maintained) can be found at

- Junction of Old Lane & The Street (Dockenfield Farm)
- Junction of Bealeswood Lane & The Street
- Three Ways
- Batts Corner/Boundary Road (The Bluebell end)
- High Thicket Road
- Old Lane (Temple Hill)

Supplies of grit for SCC maintained bins is a one-off fill once a year

Salt Bins (East Hampshire maintained) can be found at

- Junction of Batts Corner & Dockenfield Road

Dockenfield Parish Council provided bins (the green ones)

- The Street (opposite Tara)
- Old Lane (in front of The Old Convent)
- Junction of Lake Lane & The Street

**Amanda Adolph (DPC Chair)**

## Rainfall Totals



Rainfall for November 2023 111.9mm  
December 2023 112.5mm



November 2024 no measurement's available.  
December 2024 52.8mm

A fault developed on my weather station, which meant it did not record November's record. I am replacing the weather station but cannot say if there will be records for January this year.

**Jack Bessant**

## Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society

### Spring Show 2025

We will be holding our Spring show on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Marindin Hall from 2.30pm to 4pm.

Society members can enter all classes, excluding junior classes and we also have a number of open classes, which are available to everyone, and we do not charge for entering any exhibits.

Included in the open classes are the following:

#### Floral arrangements:

Class 3 - Spring Greens - an arrangement of garden foliage (no flowers) not to exceed 30cm in width and 60cm in height.

Class 4 - A vase of Garden flowers, one or more varieties. Not to exceed 40cm in width and 60cm in height.

For Juniors, Class 5 - Pot of Gold- Not to exceed 20cm in diameter.

**Home Industries** is always a popular section of our shows, and all of these are open classes and include:

Class 34 - Fruit loaf cake -recipe available from our website or from the show organiser

([show\\_organiser@fdhs.org.uk](mailto:show_organiser@fdhs.org.uk))

Class 35 - Coffee and Walnut Cake - recipe as above

Class 36 - Upcycle an old garment into something useful (please provide a before photo).

In the junior section of Home industries

Class 37 - A spring painting maximum size A 4 - (ages 8-15)

Class 38 - Three decorated boiled eggs in a bowl (under 8's)

All exhibits should be staged between 9.15am and 10.45am.

Details of all classes and entry forms can be obtained via our website: [www.fdhs.org.uk](http://www.fdhs.org.uk) or from the show organiser [show\\_organiser@fdhs.org.uk](mailto:show_organiser@fdhs.org.uk)

Neil Mumford

Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society <https://fdhs.org.uk>

#### Cherubs Toddler Group



Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30 (term time)  
at The Church of 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 Church of the Good  
Shepherd every Friday 10am - midday

Barbara Potter

## Eye-witness: Stories from Israel-Palestine: St Mary's Church, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm

Come and hear first-hand from Nick Papadopoulos, recently returned from three months in East Jerusalem

- *What is daily life under occupation really like?*
- *What are the implications for human rights and international law?*
- *What can be done to promote a just peace in Israel-Palestine?*

The Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos was installed as the 81st Dean of Salisbury in September 2018. Between January and April 2024 Nick spent three months' sabbatical leave volunteering in occupied East Jerusalem with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, which he describes as 'an overwhelming experience'.

He monitored human rights, visited holy sites, worshipped in different churches, spoke with many people and many organizations, lived through the Muslim observance of Ramadan, and celebrated Holy Week and Easter in the city where Jesus died and rose again - all against the merciless backdrop of the war in Gaza.

*EVERYONE IS INVITED and WELCOME! Refreshments provided. Please RSVP to [vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk)*

For more information about the Programme please visit: [www.eyewitnessblogs.com](http://www.eyewitnessblogs.com)

Sponsored by EAPPI: Ecumenical Accompaniment programme in Palestine and Israel.

Rev. Jane Walker

## The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

from *The Peace of Wild Things and Other Poems* (Penguin, 2018) Copyright (c) 2012. Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Contributed by Phil Dunn

## Beetles and Bhajis!

### Frensham British Legion Club - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Rev. Jane Walker and Harry Glover are running another BEETLE DRIVE on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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. And we'll have some scrumptious cakes for 'afters'.

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 £15 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



## Volunteers Needed for Village Working Party

Need to take some exercise in the green gym?

Want to support our village open spaces and wildlife?



Then please consider joining us at 9.30am on Saturday 1st and/or the 8th of February to help with maintenance of our hedges. The hedge we planted 3 years ago around the new village field next to the Rec (Hatch Field) has grown well but now needs some TLC. The village has been donated new hedging plants that now need planting near to the new fence and gate into Fritz's Field.

For these projects we need your help! Contact Dan or Alison Bosence (01252 792442 or [dwbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbosence@btinternet.com) or [albosence@yahoo.com](mailto:albosence@yahoo.com)) for details and to let us know which dates you can do. Hopefully both!

Dan Bosence

## 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 by emailing [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk) . The agenda can be found on the Parish Council website a week before the meeting. Our web address is [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk). Alternatively, if you have any questions, you would like discussed at the meeting, please contact the Clerk at the above email address.

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

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

### **Fritz's Field, Pauline Baynes Centenary Fencing.**

Pauline Baynes was a famous artist who lived in Dockenfield. She was best known for her illustrations of works by J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. To celebrate the centenary of her birth (which was back in September 2022) DPC decided to have commemorative fencing installed at Fritz's Field. The field was gifted by Pauline to the village in memory of her beloved husband. In December 2024 the new fencing was successfully installed on the High Thicket Road boundary to Fritz's Field.

We think it adds continuity to the village as you approach from both East and West as there is now similar Chestnut post and rail fencing from both directions.

In the near future we will be adding a commemorative plaque to the new gate.

Please consider joining us at 9.30am on Saturday 1st and/or the 8th of February as we have organised working parties to maintain the hedge at Hatch Field and plant a native hedge along the new fence line at Fritz's Field. If you would like to join a fun community activity for a morning's work to help us with the maintenance and planting, please come along. Many hands! (See Dan's article on page 7 for more details).

### **Potholes**

Potholes are a real nuisance. You can help by reporting them directly to Surrey or Hampshire County Council on their websites or use the "Fix my Street" App.

### **Parking outside the Church of The Good Shepherd.**

It has been brought to our attention that there have been some instances of careless or inconsiderate parking by people using our wonderful church.

We would like to remind everyone who attends the church for services or community activities to be careful not to block or obstruct the private drives of our neighbours.

For a driver to execute safe exit from a drive onto a highway they must have safe lines of sight. If vehicles obscure these lines of sight by parking too close to junctions or driveways then parking enforcement measures can be applied. Parking enforcement measures can include tickets, fines or even an obstructive vehicle being towed away.

Our neighbours have a right to go about their daily business unhindered and safely. It's worth adding that maintaining safe access to driveways in the village keeps all road users, pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and car drivers safe, so it is within all our interests to be considerate when parking to use our fabulous and welcoming church.

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



## Dockenfield Men's Night at The Bluebell

Join us on the **second Thursday of each month** at 8.00 pm at The Bluebell. If you're new to the village, it's a great way to meet other people in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. The next meetings are 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> April and 08<sup>th</sup> May and if you wish to be added to the email list, please let me know via [sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk).  
**Sebastian Fox**



## Ladies Nights

### Hot off the press - Ladies Night is going to be monthly!

Whilst the men's night has been occurring monthly for many years, Ladies Night has always been less frequent. However, there have been some keen requests to make it a more regular feature on the calendar, so that if there's a date clash on people's diaries it doesn't end up being six months between opportunities to come along.

Therefore, as a change and to give ourselves more options to meet up, the Ladies Night will now be monthly to be held on the **last Thursday of each month**.

Please do come along as often as you can. You can choose to eat or just have a drink and it's a great way to keep up our fabulous community feel and meet new friends in the village. We meet at The Bluebell (about 7.30pm kick off)

We have a WhatsApp group you can be added to for updates on Ladies Nights. Message Joolz on 07833355359 to be added.

Thursday 30th January

Thursday 31st July

Thursday 27th of February

Thursday 28th August

Thursday 27th of March

Thursday 25th September

Thursday 24th of April

Thursday 30th October

Thursday 29th of May (this is in half term)

Thursday 27th November

Thursday 26th June



N.B. December date to be advised as it falls on Christmas Day!! (so, an earlier one or perhaps even a joint Men and Ladies' night!?)

Hope to see a strong contingent at the January one to start us off... Pop these dates in your diary now so that you don't miss them!!

I'll be there!

**Joolz Miles**

## Frensham Royal British Legion Club

If you are new to the village or not a Legion member, do give us a try - you will end up making new friends from all walks of life and having lots of laughs, which is a good thing these days.

Please note that the club will be closed at lunchtime on 21st, 22nd and 23rd February due to staff holidays - it will be open as usual in the evenings.

### Upcoming events:

**Thursday 13th February 7.30pm: Music Night** - anyone is welcome to come along and perform, or just turn up to listen to a variety of live music. This is becoming more and more popular so do come and find out what you've been missing.

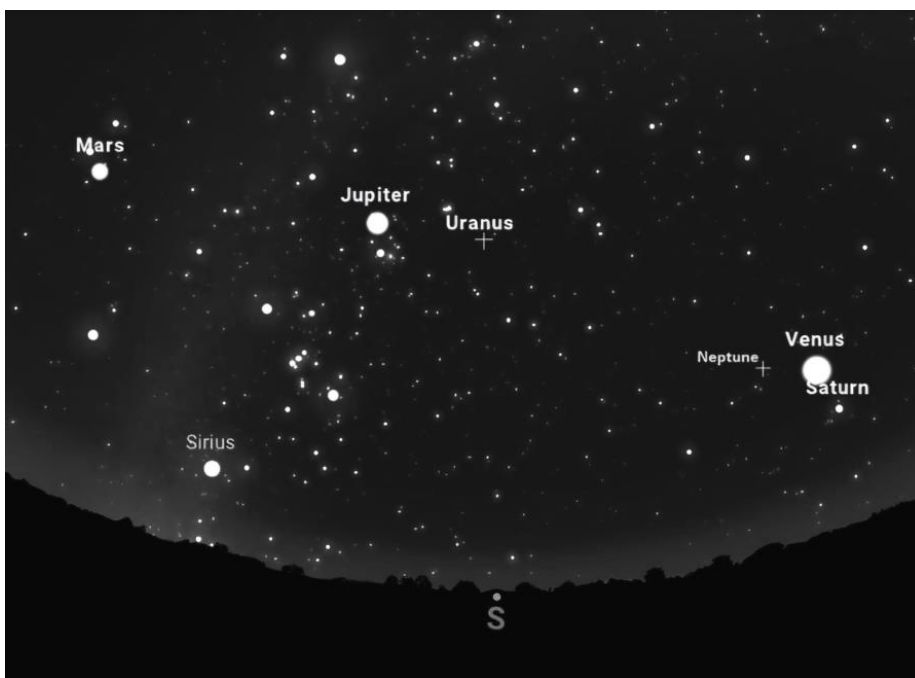
**Saturday 1st March 7.30pm: Quiz** - run by Chris Bonner and Les Trusler on behalf of Frensham RBL Bowls Club. All welcome - teams of up to six, entry £4 per head.

Janet Caiger and Jo Gayton

## A Planet Parade!

At the beginning of 2025, the other seven planets in our solar system will be visible all at once in the night sky as they get arranged in an extraordinary pattern called a "planet parade." This planetary alignment happens when the planets are all on the same side of the sun.

Spotting Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will be possible without any equipment but if you want to see the full set, then you'll need to get your hands on a telescope or a pair of high powered binoculars as Uranus and Neptune will be too faint to see with the naked eye. Mercury will move into the evening sky in February, but at that point Saturn and Neptune will be departing. They'll all pass each other in the glare of sunset.



Venus and Saturn will be visible in the southwest all month long, with Jupiter high overhead and Mars in the east. Your best bet at catching them all is just after sunset. It will start from around January 21st and they will be visible for about four weeks, until roughly February 21st.

Sourced from various internet articles

Gosia Marshall

## Saving Our Toads



In the middle of winter, it can be hard to imagine spring, but around late February/March (sometimes as early as late January) toads, frogs and newts will be starting to make their annual migration from their terrestrial hibernation sites to their breeding ponds.

Boundary Road has a large breeding pond near the West End Lane junction, making it a local migration point. As frogs can migrate 500m from their breeding ponds and toads (being more tolerant of dry conditions) can migrate up to 2km, this migration can involve amphibians crossing Boundary Road. Numbers are particularly abundant when it is wet and temperatures rise to above 6°C. Unfortunately, as they largely migrate at night, starting at dusk, this puts them at risk of being squashed by passing cars. Common toads (*Bufo bufo*) are a biodiversity priority species. Sadly, numbers are declining in the UK, especially in the south.

This is partly thought to be because the deeper ponds they prefer to breed in are becoming scarcer. So, the Bourne and Wrecclesham Conservation Groups working together with other volunteers such as Dockenfield residents and Froglife volunteers, will be found again this year walking up and down Boundary Road with torches and high-vis jackets. You'll see us in February and beyond picking up toads, frogs and newts to move them safely to the side of the road.

We've been saving our amphibians on Boundary Road since 2012, providing a summary of numbers to Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group for their records, in order to get a bigger picture of the conservation of these fascinating animals. And, the good news is that the diligence of our sharp-eyed volunteers appears to be paying off - a record of 704 amphibians were saved in 2024.



This is significantly higher than previous years. Although numbers do vary between years, we think the high numbers last year could have been due to the mild winter. And partly due to an increase in volunteers and the extended period of checking that includes amphibians returning from their breeding ponds after spawning.

Whilst toad numbers were strong, frog (*Rana temporaria*) numbers were very down on previous years. We think this may partly be due to the loss of a second large pond in the area. We are continuing to monitor to see if frog low numbers are an ongoing trend. We have also saved both palmate newts (*Lissotriton helveticus*) and smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), although these are much harder to spot on a wet road at night!

Please look out for our volunteers and the Toad Patrol sign and drive carefully along Boundary Road during the dark in February, March and April. To find out more about UK amphibians in our area, see the website. [www.froglife.org/info-advice/amphibians-and-reptiles/amphibians/](http://www.froglife.org/info-advice/amphibians-and-reptiles/amphibians/) or scan the QR code below



**Lisa Malcolm** (Volunteer co-ordinator for Boundary Road Toad Watch)

## Parking At The Church Of The Good Shepherd

Please can I ask all drivers to NOT PARK where the yellow bollards are placed outside the church. It is very dangerous for those who live adjacent to the church when trying to exit their driveways.

The Dockenfield Parish Council in conjunction with myself are applying to Waverley Borough Council to have permanent double yellow lines where the bollards are, to permanently protect the neighbours. We will also consider the designation of a disabled/parent and toddler parking space just to the right of the church gate.

Thank you for your safe and considerate parking.

For more information contact Amanda Adolph at [adolphdpc@gmail.com](mailto:adolphdpc@gmail.com) or Rev. Jane on [vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk](mailto:vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk)

Rev. Jane Walker



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