



DNL *Dockenfield newsletter*

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 305

Published 3rd April 2025



Welcome to the spring edition of your DNL. The earth is waking up after lying dormant for the winter. Leaves on our trees and hedges are starting to emerge and blossom is beginning to show on the cherry and blackthorn. Some early butterflies are flitting about in the unseasonably warm sunshine, frogs and toads are migrating and spawning and the birds are looking for mates and nesting sites.

I often feel that there is a sense of emergence and new beginnings in the spring, as I open the windows and doors, and sit in the sunshine clutching a mug and watching nature shake off the winter and reawaken. It's the ideal opportunity to grab a copy of the DNL, take a pew in the sun and have a look at what Dockenfield has to offer in April and May.

Our newsletter is filled with upcoming events, everything from village lunches and coffee to The Annual Dockenfield Parish Council meeting (p5). Plus news and reports from the last two months, in and around the parish.

Do write to/email us if you want to have an article included in the next DNL. Full instructions on how to do that are on p12 and I hope to see you around and about at village events.

The Editor and the DNL team.



Dockenfield Day - The Ultimate Village Celebration!



Saturday 7th June | 2-6 PM The Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages

New to the village? Long-time local? Just love a great day out? ****Dockenfield Day**** is the perfect chance to meet new faces, enjoy some fantastic entertainment, and soak up the unbeatable community spirit that makes our village so special!



What's in store?



Toe-tapping live jazz. Try your luck with our amazing Raffle.



Tuck into juicy burgers & sip on locally brewed beer. Indulgent homemade cakes & afternoon tea.



The legendary Dockenfield Dog Show- could your pup be a winner?



Battle it out in the Tug of War! Try your luck at the various classic stalls.



Ever seen a Human Fruit Machine? Now's your chance! Pick up some beautiful plants for your garden.



So, grab your friends, bring the family, and get ready for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and village magic. See you there!



****We need YOU!****



Events like this don't run themselves, and we need extra hands to keep the fun going! Whether you can spare an hour on the day or help behind the scenes, we'd love to have you on board. Want to help? Drop us an email at dockenfield.activities@gmail.com.

Call for Volunteers - Artists, Makers & Organizers

Attention all artists, makers, and craftsmen in the parish of Frensham and Dockenfield!

We have successfully hosted two fundraising exhibitions at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Dockenfield—first in 2022, celebrating the centenary of renowned illustrator and former Dockenfield resident Pauline Baynes, and again in 2024, featuring a special community exhibit by children from St Mary's Infant School.

These events have been a wonderful showcase of local talent, often providing a first opportunity for many to display their work publicly. Exhibits have included painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, candle making, and even handcrafted walking sticks.

Now, we are looking to the future: Are there any new artists, makers, or previous exhibitors who would like to help make this an ongoing tradition in our villages? We need enthusiastic individuals to take on the organisation of this exciting project—no artistic experience necessary!

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact: Sarah Watson dockenfieldartsandcrafts@gmail.com or Alison Bosence - albosence@yahoo.com

Alison Bosence

Memories of Stewart Dakers

I was sad to hear of the death of Stewart Dakers, a local artist and one time Countryside Ranger for Waverley Borough Council.

He managed Frensham and Bealeswood Commons. Some forty years ago he worked with Dockenfield Parish Council to create a management plan for Bealeswood and instigated annual management walks for anybody who wished to come along in the village. These formed the next year's work/volunteers' plan. This collaboration has continued with all successive Rangers.

As DPC Chairman, I met him on many occasions regarding Bealeswood Common and his enthusiasm, wise advice and foresight very much created the framework of the wonderfully diverse common which we have and enjoy today.

This was his legacy to our village.

Jill Trout

Rainfall Totals

Dockenfield's resident amateur meteorologist Jack has sent in the rainfall totals for January. Thank you, Jack!

Rainfall for January 2024 88.8mm

Rainfall for January 2025 122.6mm

Jack Bessant

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

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates.

Tuesday 29th April, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Tuesday 20th May, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd. (Annual Parish Meeting).

Our Community Spaces.

DPC have been busy in February and March. Firstly, you may have noticed the work that has taken place at Fritz's Field. The new hedging has been successfully planted thanks to a small, but extremely efficient, working party at the beginning of February.

The keen eyed amongst you will have noticed that a small number of Ash trees at the top of the field, that were, sadly, succumbing to Ash Die Back, have been cut down and removed. They would soon have become a falling hazard and DPC would like to extend our thanks to a kind and generous neighbour who offered to have the trees felled for us and for the community.

Quad Bikers.

There was some unwelcome antisocial behaviour in late February and early March. Our beloved Bealeswood Common became the target for a group of four quad bikers. The bikes were unmarked, and the riders wore balaclavas. They were observed on a number of occasions, exiting the Abbots Wood Enclosure of Alice Holt Forest (where they damaged the clay rides). They proceeded towards Bealeswood Common where they damaged the grassland surface by driving across the Common. They were seen driving in circles, "donutting", on the lower Common. This behaviour was extremely disturbing for the residents of the neighbouring properties, some of whom have families with young children and caused significant damage to the grassland sward, leaving a muddy mess.

Residents made police reports. DPC and Vicky, our Waverley Borough Council Ranger, took action and arranged for four large tree trucks to be placed at the top of the Common to deter access onto the Common by vehicles. Logs have also been placed at the lower entry (with WBC and DPC permission).

Hampshire Constabulary is actively investigating reports of quad bikes being used to commit rural crime, particularly in East Hampshire. They are urging the public to report any suspicious activity. A national operation, "Operation Galileo" which targets hare coursing and deer poaching, is actively investigating reports of unmarked quad bikes whose riders are acting suspiciously, (such as travelling in convoy, or at night). If you see a group of quad bikes either driving in convoy or donutting in Abbots Wood or on Bealeswood Common, please call 999 quoting Operation Galileo. If it is not an emergency but you see a convoy of bikes in the area, do still call 101 or report online to Hampshire police and quote Operation Galileo.

We are hopeful that the logs will be deterrent enough to stop further damage to the Common and that given time the sward will recover.

Defibrillators.

We are pleased to report that the defibrillators are all up and working again. DPC has replaced batteries and purchased a new cabinet to replace the damaged one at the Bluebell. Just to recap you will find defibrillators at the following sites:

The Telephone Box next to the Church of the Good Shepherd, The Street.

The Bluebell, Batts Corner.

The Old Convent, Old Lane, Dockenfield.

Continued p5.

Annual Parish Meeting.

Please note the date for Dockenfield Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting. You are all cordially invited to The Church of The Good Shepherd on the evening of **Tuesday 20th of May 2025**. There will be a short address by the Chairman followed by guest speakers (TBC). Tea, coffee and cake will be available afterwards and a chance to chat with and ask questions of your council members. Do come along, we hope to see you there.

Amanda Adolph (dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com) and Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

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

3 down, 9 to go! Monthly Ladies' night has taken off!

After some keen requests to make Ladies' Night a more regular feature on the calendar, we kicked off 2025 and have had 3 successful evenings so far! The cold and wet weather in January and February didn't put people off, so there's no excuse now the weather is starting to warm up and look brighter... Fingers crossed it continues.

Remember it will now be monthly to be held on the **last Thursday of each month**.

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.

Pop these dates in your diary now so that you don't miss them!!

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

Thursday 24th of April

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

Thursday 26th June

Thursday 31st July

Thursday 28th August

Thursday 25th September

Thursday 30th October

Thursday 27th November



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

Hope to see a strong contingent at the next one too!

Joolz Miles

Frensham Pedallers

Come and join us as we start our 5th year.

We are a friendly/non-competitive group who head out every Thursday evening at 6pm, from Hollowdene Recreation Ground. We explore local lanes and bridleways, Frensham ponds, Hankley, Thursley and beyond.



We are usually out for about 2 hours and aim to finish before dark, however, we ask that all riders carry lights just in case of delays.

Bikes should be suitable for bridle paths, and we welcome e-bikes.

If you are interested in joining a ride or want to find out more, drop us an email to Simon Trusler sitrusler@hotmail.com

We use a whatsapp group for ease of communication. No fees - cycle at your own risk!!



Simon Trusler

Men's Night at The Bluebell

Dockenfield Men's Night: 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 10th April and 08th May and if you wish to be added to the email list, please me know via sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk.

Sebastian Fox

Frensham & Dockenfield Village Lunch

Frensham and Dockenfield hold a Village Lunch every fourth Wednesday from January to November on the Royal British Legion in Shortfield, Frensham and is growing in popularity. The next date is 23rd April and then 28th May. Entry time from 11.15am onwards and lunch is served at 12.20pm.

The lunch is run by the community in conjunction with the British Legion and the Church and give people of all ages the chance to have somewhere to go to have a hot meal and socialise with other people which is very important especially after Covid.

The lunch consists of a main set meal with a vegetarian alternative and seven choices of pudding with a coffee or tea afterwards for the cost of £5.00. The bar is also open. Anybody can attend and no booking is required except for the Christmas lunch which is held on the 4th Wednesday in November.

In addition to the lunch, there is a different charity that runs the stall and the raffle. In April the charity is TARNs and in May it is the Bowls Club.

The main course for April is Fish pie with no prawns and the main course for May is Curry and rice. With vegetarian options and a choice of puddings and a coffee or tea to follow.

Pam Watmore

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR CHURCHES

ALPHA COURSE

The 2025 Alpha course starts on Wednesday 30th April for 12 weeks. This is a course for those inquiring of the Christian faith, who have questions about life in general or who might just want a discussion about whether/how Christianity might be relevant for today. It doesn't matter whether you are an agnostic, atheist, or have a different faith - It is an interesting and stimulating exploration! This will run at the vicarage from 7pm and we will have a meal first, then watch a video and then have a chat about what we have heard. At the end of the course, we have our Alpha party for all who have attended and anyone else they might like to bring. All are welcome. Please R.S.V.P. to alpha@frenshamchurches.org.uk or contact Rev Jane on vicar@frenshamchurches.org.uk

CHURCH TABLETOP SALE at St Mary's Church

Saturday 24th May from 9am - 5pm. £15 per table. Refreshments and lunch available, book stall, etc. To book a table contact Parish Administration on parish.admin@frenshamchurches.org.uk

Church services over Easter: All are very welcome, and you will be guided throughout this wonderful Holy Week journey.

Palm Sunday: 13th April. 8am Traditional Holy Communion with Palm Crosses at the Good Shepherd

10.30am **Palm Sunday** procession with a 'donkey and Jesus', holding our palms and singing, round St Mary's church, followed by family communion. All families welcome.

Palm Sunday Evening: 13th April. Beautiful Baroque at 6pm at St Mary's Church - stunning arrangements of Holy Week and Easter music as well as other pieces.

Wednesday 16th April at 7pm. Stations of the cross - a meditative walk in the Church of the Good Shepherd

Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church. Maundy Thursday Communion and vigil with foot washing, then a silent time of meditation until midnight (one can stay as long as one feels able after the service).

Friday 18th April at 2pm at St Mary's Church. The Good Friday communion - a very quiet and contemplative service, followed by coffee and hot cross buns.

Saturday 19th April at 11.30pm at St Mary's Church. The Easter vigil midnight mass service, with a bonfire to light the new Easter candle, then a movement from darkness to light, and then the joy of the communion celebrating that Jesus has risen from the dead.

Easter Day 20th April: 9am: Traditional Holy Communion at the Good Shepherd

10.30am: The Easter family communion service with Easter Egg hunt for the children.

Sunday 4th May: A special service for V.E. Day at St Mary's Church. At 6pm we will have a special choral evensong with celebratory music by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and Hubert Parry.

Reverend Jane

Frensham Royal British Legion Club

Recent successful events have included the band Keep on Running on 15th February, who played a great selection of classic pop favourites and a quiz on 1st March run by Chris Bonner + Les Trusler, which raised £499 for Frensham Royal British Legion Bowls Club.

Upcoming events:

Saturday 5th April 8pm: Live Music from Die Germs - a three-piece rock & pop covers band playing tunes from the '50s to the present day.

Thursday 10th April 7.30pm: Music Night - a variety of live music; all welcome.

Saturday 12th April 10am: Work Day - all members encouraged to come along and help with some maintenance and tidying tasks.

Tuesday 22nd April 5pm: MND Fundraiser - see below for details.

Saturday 3rd May: VE Day 80th anniversary - more information nearer the time.

Dinosaur coming to Frensham on 22nd April!



Hampshire resident, Graeme Lloyd, is making an epic journey, walking from his home in Lee-on-Solent all the way to London - 109 miles over six days - then taking part in the London Marathon, all while dressed in a dinosaur costume. This challenge is in aid of the *Motor Neurone Disease Association*. At each destination along the way, there will be a public event to cheer Graeme in as he arrives, help raise awareness and funds and to celebrate his amazing journey.

On day two (Tuesday 22nd April), Graeme will be arriving at *Frensham British Legion* at around 5.30pm and we want to give him a big friendly Frensham welcome to support his amazing efforts. We would love to have a good crowd to cheer him into Frensham on his arrival, so try to get there before 5.30pm if possible. If you have a dinosaur costume, even better!

The bar will be open from 5pm as will the Mexicali Food Truck serving superb Mexican food. There will be live music by Spud`s 4Play from about 6.30pm, so do come along even if you can't make it for 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome and the event is free, but donations to the MND Association are invited. (MND is a devastating condition for which there is no known cause or cure - it recently claimed the lives of Rugby legends, Rob Burrow and Doddie Weir.) More information about Graeme and his fundraising is available at:

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news/2025/march/07/20250307-navy-civil-servants-epic-trek-in-dinosaur-suit-in-very-personal-charity-mission>

Janet Caiger

Frensham and Dockenfield History Group Programme for 2025

Meetings take place at the Marindin Hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday, April 8th

Speaker: Andrew Negus - History of Portsmouth Part 5

Tuesday, May 13th

Speaker: David Rose - Lilly Bell II - WW2 plane crash

Tuesday, June 10th

Speaker: Chris Herbert - The Life and Times of Charles Sumner (1790-1874)

Tuesday, September 9th

Speaker: Peter Chuter - Music from his personal record collection!

Tuesday, October 14th

Speaker: Roy Waight - Jack the Ripper

Tuesday, November 11th

Speaker: Anton Kleiven - King of Norway & Journey to Frensham

Tuesday, December 9th

Christmas Party; Robert Grimmond - Yet more Old Artefacts!

Subscriptions for annual membership are £15 or come along as a visitor at £3 per visit.

If you would like any further information contact Chris Bonner, 01252 793668.

Exam survival guide.

It's that time of the year when teenagers and parents alike have the unenviable task of preparing for and sitting exams (even if vicariously, as a parent). Mocks, GCSE's and A' levels all are rapidly approaching and as they get closer, so stress levels on all sides can rise.

Here are a few tips to help you survive the next couple of months and perhaps, approach your exams feeling just a little calmer.

1. **Prioritize Self-Care:** *Get enough sleep*, aim for 7-9 hours a night, it improves focus and reduces stress (preferably in bed and not slumped on the desk dribbling into your keyboard) ; *Eat a balanced diet*, fuel your body (and your mind) with nutritious food, it maintains your energy levels and your concentration (And No, three chocolate bars and a pint of coffee doesn't count as nutrition); *Stay active*, Regular exercise reduces stress and boosts mood, a short walk in the fresh air is enough (And No, running downstairs to get a chocolate bar and a pint of coffee doesn't count); *Practice relaxation Techniques*, Try deep breathing exercises, meditation, or yoga to calm your mind and body (Yes, breathing in the aroma of your coffee does count, but bending down to pick up your pen, not so much); *Take breaks*, Schedule regular breaks during study sessions to avoid burnout, twenty minutes of study and a five minute break works (five minutes of study and two hours of gaming or scrolling, not so much); *Do something enjoyable*, make some time for hobbies or things that you find fun (OK, yes now you can game, or scroll, or hula hoop, or drum, or ...)



2. **Develop Effective Study Habits:** *Plan ahead*, and break down tasks into manageable chunks (Elephant burgers, you can't eat a whole elephant but if you make it into burgers!) *Stay organised*, tidy notes, less stress (where did I put that ***?); *Study environment*, find a comfy space that helps your focus (pillows, there can be pillows); *Recall and Repetition*, read it, write it, do it again later (maybe after a chocolate bar and a pint of coffee!); *Practice past papers*, it'll help, I promise, with exam format and question types (Wooh! Wait! I've seen that before!)



3. **Manage Expectations and Pressure:** *Set realistic goals*, don't put pressure on yourself to be perfect, you don't need to be perfect; *Focus on progress*, celebrate small victories, and understand that it's ok to make mistakes (it's how we learn, I learned not to put salt in my coffee, eww!) *Talk about stuff that concerns you*, share worries or feelings with your friends, family or a trusted counsellor or teacher; *Be kind to yourself*, treat yourself to that chocolate bar (occasionally), walk, laugh, chill with friends and realise that stress is part of the normal exam process (yeah! I know it sucks); *Don't compare yourself to others*, everyone learns and performs differently (you are unique, you do you!) *Focus on what you can control*, you can control your study habits, your time, your attitude, your cat (oh, no actually I'm wrong about the cat...don't try that!)



4. **During the Exam:** *Arrive prepared*, make sure you have everything that you need for your exam the night before (Where's my pencil...I can't find my pencil); *Take deep breaths*, if you feel anxious, take a few slow deep breaths to calm yourself (In one one-thousand, two one-thousand, three one-thousand, Out one one-thousand...o oh, I lost count!); Now I can't say this next one clearly enough, ***Read the questions carefully***, pay close attention to what is being asked and make sure you understand the instructions (read the question and answer the one they ask, NOT what you think they asked!!!); *Manage your time wisely*, split your time between questions carefully and don't spend too much time on any one question; *Don't panic*, if you get stuck on a question, move on and come back to it later (I'm coming back to you later!!); *Don't compare your answers to others*, focus on your own work and avoid getting distracted by other students (You wrote What?); *Leave the exam hall with a positive attitude*, remember that you've done your best and that the exam is over, (Yay!!!) ***GOOD LUCK. YOU'VE GOT THIS!***



For more information about how to cope with exams follow the following hyperlink or type this into your browser.

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

Letter to the Editor

Since we received a lovely letter from an e-DNL reader I thought we would revive a longstanding tradition in this edition of the DNL. If you have letters, comments or feedback about the DNL or any other local news or items of interest that you'd like included in the DNL, please do drop us a line to dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com. Our next deadline is May 15th 2025.

Dear DNL Team - thank you sooo very much for sending me the Dockenfield Newsletter Edition 304 - I very much appreciate this and have so enjoyed reading it .

I intend to drop in to see you all and thank you personally for keeping me abreast with all your ventures.

Sending best wishes and Congratulations for all you have achieved .

Yours sincerely

Diana J xxx

Farnham Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who donated to Farnham foodbank in 2024. We donated a total of 663kg of goods as a village and have continued our tradition of being one of the top donors! Please see the note below that we recently received.

We hope you will continue to support us during 2025, however big or small, as it is always greatly appreciated.

A gentle reminder, we can only accept non-perishable and unopened items, including hygiene products.

Please do drop donations to us at Keepers Cottage, where you will find an electric gate for entry (there are no dogs on the property, please ignore the sign). Items can be left in the lean-to next to our garages, where you will find a storage box labelled "food bank" which is checked daily, alternatively, we can collect from you if this is easier.

Dear Fiona,

On behalf of Farnham Foodbank, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for another year of generous donations from the community of Dockenfield.

In the past year you have donated an amazing 663kgs of food! See certificate attached.

The Dockenfield community continues to be one of our top donors in Farnham and we are truly grateful!

Please thank everyone in Dockenfield from all of us at Farnham Foodbank.

Together we can make a real difference in the lives of those in need.

A great big

Thank you! from



Farnham
foodbank



The Dockenfield community has donated **663kg**
throughout 2024!

Your donations make a huge difference to local people in crisis



The Trussell Trust - Together, we can end the need for food banks

28 February 2025

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Stephen and Fiona Jones 07710294690

Dockenfield's New Hedges

As part of Surrey County Council's climate change strategy, it is aiming to plant 1.2 million trees across the county by 2030. Why you might ask, when Surrey is supposed to be the most wooded county in the UK? The answer is that trees ease the effect of climate change as their root systems help prevent flooding, the leaves capture carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their timber and leaf fall, they provide habitats for our declining insect and bird populations, and they look great in our rural setting. This scheme is being put into practice by providing tree saplings and hedging plants to community groups across the county. Our bid for hedging plants from SCC was successful and 2 hedge working parties were organised for early in February to plant a new hedge in the corner of Fritz's Field, next to 3-ways junction and another to give much needed TLC to our new hedge in Hatch Field (new village field leading off from the Rec).

The new hedging for Fritz's Field compliments the smart new Sussex fencing and gate around the corner at 3-ways. The saplings were chosen from species that do well on our clay and are known to be beneficial to insects and birds (Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Dogwood, Elder and Dog Rose). These just need to be popped into the ground with a bit of compost and will hopefully form an attractive bounding hedge to the field in years to come. Hopefully drivers might notice it as well enabling them to drive around that corner rather than straight on into the field. A cold and wet February morning greeted us, so the job was completed in rapid time by Roger Trout, Rob Cregeen and the Bosences. The Parish Council is arranging for a plaque to be placed at this entrance to honour Pauline Gasch (née Baynes), illustrator and former DPC councillor who gave the field to the village in memory of her husband Fritz.

At Hatch Field ten villagers were fortified with some excellent cakes and biscuits to set about releasing the new hedge out of its protective anti-deer netting in Hatch Field. This native hedge was planted just 3 years ago and has put on impressive growth so that the top netting needed removing and the hedge cleared of invasive weeds. Thick gloves and thorn proof coats were the order of the day as the wild roses and Blackthorn proved to be the most vigorous of our hedging plants. Good progress was made and the job completed before lunch on a bright February morning.



Ollie Griffiths and Ziad Kadri taking well-earned break from hedging. Homemade biscuits and cakes courtesy Jill Trout and Alison Bosence



Roger Trout and Dan Bosence hedge planting on a cold and wet February morning.

Dan Bosence

Helen Arkell's 'Big Walk' for Dyslexia 2025



[Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity](#) is delighted to announce the return of its annual [Big Walk for Dyslexia](#), taking place on Sunday, 1st June, 2025, in Farnham, Surrey. This cherished community event, which this year has been generously sponsored by local insurance broker [Howden Farnham](#), offers participants flexible route options with a 5km family and dog friendly walk and a 1.5km walk for those with smaller paws!

Starting from the charity's headquarters in West Street, Farnham, walkers will begin their journey between 10:30 and 11:00 am, traversing scenic routes through the local area. Registration is just £7 per person, with children under 12 participating free of charge. This event is part of the Bigger [Farnham Walking Festival in 2025](#). See [Town Council](#) site for more information.

"We're excited to welcome both familiar faces and newcomers to this year's Big Walk," says Hazel Radnor, Head of Fundraising at Helen Arkell. "The funds raised will directly support our vital work helping people with dyslexia achieve their full potential."

Chris Biggs, Branch Manager at Howden Farnham, said: "We're honoured to sponsor this year's Big Walk! Howden uses insurance as a powerful force for good, taking a no-limits approach to everything we do, so we're excited to see how much we can raise together to support this fantastic cause."

Building on last year's success, the charity is introducing an additional virtual challenge "Miles in May". Participants can join this virtual event ahead of The Big Walk, allowing supporters to contribute to the cause. Full details and registration for both events are available on the Helen Arkell website. Anyone with a digital step counter is encouraged to log their daily walks to hit a total target of either 10k, 21k or 42k throughout May.

Participants of the Big Walk are encouraged to raise a suggested minimum sponsorship of £30 per adult, with a special prize for the highest sponsorship achieved by participants under 18. The event promises to be family-friendly, with a final free refreshment stop back at the Helen Arkell Centre at 24, West Street.



For registration and more information about both The Big Walk and Virtual Miles in May, please visit the Helen Arkell website. Early registration is encouraged. All monies raised will go directly to Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity helping more people with dyslexia.

The team at Howden's and Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity.

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the contributors or distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of printing and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered six times a year to all 300 or so households in and around the village. In addition, around 200 people, predominantly but not necessarily local, are emailed a copy upon publication. Both services are entirely free of charge and without obligation. If you don't live in the village but enjoy reading the Newsletter and would like to be added to this mailing list, please email dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com. Please be reassured that this mailing list is used to distribute pdf copies of the Newsletter and for no other purpose and will never be disclosed to any third party. Alternatively, if you are already on this list and wish to unsubscribe at any time, again just email as above and your name will be removed from the list immediately. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully. The deadline for the next edition is **15th May 2025** with items sent by email please, as a Word attachment, to dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com or a note in the postbox at 1 Mountview, Batts Corner, Dockenfield.