DNL Dockenfield newsletter

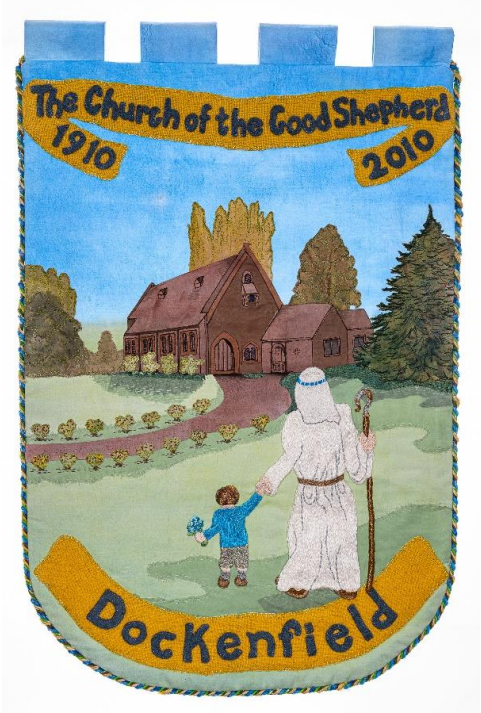
News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 309 Published 25th November 2025

And just like that, Christmas is looming on the horizon. The year has flashed by and we are starting to prepare for the festive season. There is plenty going on in the village throughout December and a few more things to look forward to in the New Year. Grab a comfy chair and a cuppa and check out what we have wrapped in the pages of the DNL for your seasonal delight. The DNL team wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a festive New Year.

The Good Shepherd Centennial Banner Appeal

Jane, our Vicar, has asked us to tell you about a very special fundraising project for our wonderful Church of The Good Shepherd, the very precious centre of our community in Dockenfield, which was 100 years old in 2010 and to honour a century of faith, fellowship and community, Frensham Churches have commissioned a lovely centennial banner. It has been beautifully embroidered, taking many hours of work, by Fay Maxwell, from a design by David Embling, a cherished local artist. Christopher, David's son, a skilled woodworker, is creating the stand for the banner. A dedication service for this unique piece of art will take place, hopefully, on Christmas Eve at The Good Shepherd.



Frensham Churches are asking for your help to raise funds for this incredible celebration work. Every donation will help bring the unveiling of this meaningful tribute closer.

To donate please visit www.frenshamchurches.org.uk or go directly to Morag James's Wing walk fundraising page (QR code below) or use one of the collection tins which you will find in The Good Shepherd and St. Mary's Church, Frensham. Anything you can spare will be very gratefully received.

Thank you on behalf of The Vicar. The DNL Team.

Dockenfield's Annual Christmas Carol Singing

Lake Lane Bus Shelter. Wednesday 17th December at 6.30pm

Followed by mulled wine, hot chocolate and warm mince pies.

How could you resist! Penny and Karen are ready with the music to accompany the carols. Just come along and join in the singing under the open skies, meet up with friends and neighbours.

See you there....

Services for Advent and Christmas: All are welcome!

30th November: Advent Sunday We have our Advent Carol service at 6pm in St Mary's Church which is about Preparing for Christmas – Waiting and Expecting

7th December: 2nd of Advent Worship and Fellowship at 10.30am at the Good Shepherd – an informal café style of service with refreshments afterwards

14th December: 3rd in Advent Christingle family service at 5pm in St Mary's Church – a lovely interactive service with oranges, candles and sweets!

21st December: 4th in Advent Christmas Carol service of 9 lessons and carols – our traditional carol service 6pm at St Mary's Church where the Christmas story is told with candles and singing from everyone

24th December: Christmas Eve

Crib service at 2pm at St Mary's Church with the Children's Christmas Choir - a wonderful family interactive service of singing your favourite carols whilst putting together the crib.

Crib service at 4pm at the Good Shepherd with the blessing and dedication of the new Centenary Banner - - another wonderful opportunity for family interactive service of singing your favourite carols whilst putting together the crib. This time with the revealing of the Centenary banner as an extra Christmas present to us all! It would be great to see as many from Dockenfield as can come!

25th December: Christmas Day

9am service of Holy Communion at the Good Shepherd – traditional but full of good news and togetherness.

10.30am Family Communion Service with Carols at St Mary's – always interactive and full of joy and fun.

Let's journey together in these testing and troubling times, and bring some love, joy and peace to each other and to those in need, as we walk towards Christmas and the New Year.

Merry Christmas! With love and blessings,

Jane

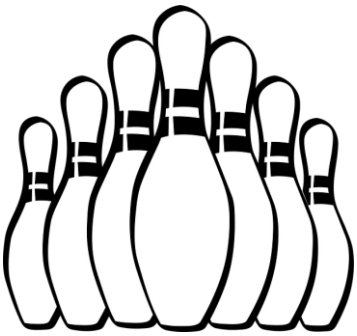
Rev. Jane Walker

Vicar of the Benefice of Frensham

Dockenfield Skittles Night

Date – 9th January 2026 Time – 6.45 pm. Location – The Bluebell Pub. Cost - £ 23.50 per person.

Places are limited, so please book ASAP



Menu choices

Main:-	*Dessert:-*
A. Fish & Chips or Sweet Potato Chips B. Burger & Chips or Sweet Potato Chips C. Vegan Burger & Chips or Sweet Potato Chips D. Chicken Curry with rice E. Vegan Curry with rice	1. Apple Crumble with ice cream 2. Chocolate Brownie with ice cream 3. Ice cream

Players Name: -	Main menu letter: -	Dessert number: -

Please note any dietary requirements - _____

Email:
Phone No:
Please return the form to Katy Poulsom, Glenroona, Batts Corner, Dockenfield or Email poulsomkaty@gmail.com or message 07703 519488
Bank details will be given for payment once the above form has been received.

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 on 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 discussed at the meeting, please contact the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Future Parish Council Meeting Dates.

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

Hatch Field.

Just in time for the damper weather we have had hard standing surfaces installed in the gateways at Hatch Field. Our goal is to facilitate easier access to our lovely Hatch Field throughout the wetter months when daylight and the outdoors are generally less accessible. We are delighted with a job well done by Katy and her team at Poulsom Plant Hire and Agricultural Contracting.

Bealeswood Common

Dockenfield Parish Council, Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group and Waverley Borough Council are delighted to announce that our wonderful Bealeswood Common has been awarded Local Nature Reserve status. It has been a long journey to get here and the hard work and commitment to achieve this has been so worthwhile, to extend the protection status of our very precious Common. Do check out the wonderful article in this edition of the DNL by Dan Bosence from BWRG.

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

Gordon Clements

Gordon Clements sadly died recently. He, Valerie and their family lived in Batt's Corner for several decades, eventually moving to Rowledge. Valerie's parents, Mr & Mrs Cole, lived at Batt's Corner for most of their married lives too.

Gordon was a very active member of the village community, organising most of Dockenfield Day for many years and participating in various other village events.

He could often be seen passing on his little grey Fergie tractor when working on his various fields. Born in Binsted, Gordon was a Parish Councillor for that Parish as indeed was his father, both for many years.

Gordon's funeral will take place on the 4th December at 11.15 a.m. at Guildford Crematorium.

Frensham Royal British Legion Club & Branch

The Harvest Home Auction on 18th October was a very lively, fun evening as ever. We raised the wonderful sum of £1,278, to be shared between the Club and the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who helped, contributed items, and to those who bid so generously. The Remembrance Sunday service and lunch at the club was extremely well attended this year – the lunch, raffle, spirit draw and malt whisky auction raised the very pleasing sum of £755 for the Poppy Appeal.

The ***Club Pizza*** van, an independent business cooking Neapolitan style pizza in a wood fired oven, is now open in the club car park every Wednesday evening from 4pm to 8pm. The club bar is open as usual from 6pm, so you can have a drink while waiting for or eating your delicious pizza.

Upcoming events:

Sunday 30th November 12-4pm: Christmas Craft Market A festive afternoon featuring an array of stalls from local businesses selling crafts, gifts, decorations and homemade cakes. All are welcome to browse and hopefully buy some unique Christmas gifts or treats for yourself.

Tuesday 2nd December 8pm: Club AGM – we hope as many members as possible will come to hear the committee's report on the past year, elect the committee for next year and ask any questions you may have.

Saturday 6th December 7pm: Carol Singing - led by the Rev Jane Walker with choir members and the organist from St Mary's Church (outdoors around the Christmas tree if the weather permits, otherwise inside). Do come along and get your Christmas off to a good start – everyone welcome in the club for drinks afterwards.

Thursday 11th December 7.30pm: Music Night - a variety of live music; all welcome.

Saturday 13th December 7.30pm: Christmas Quiz – all welcome, teams of up to 6, entry fee £5 per person. Run by Adam + Clare Page in support of the Legion Club. Come in good time to get a table, as our quizzes are always very popular.

Saturday 20th December 7.30pm: Grand Christmas Draw - make sure you come into the club beforehand to buy plenty of squares at 25p each, to give yourself a chance of winning some great prizes.

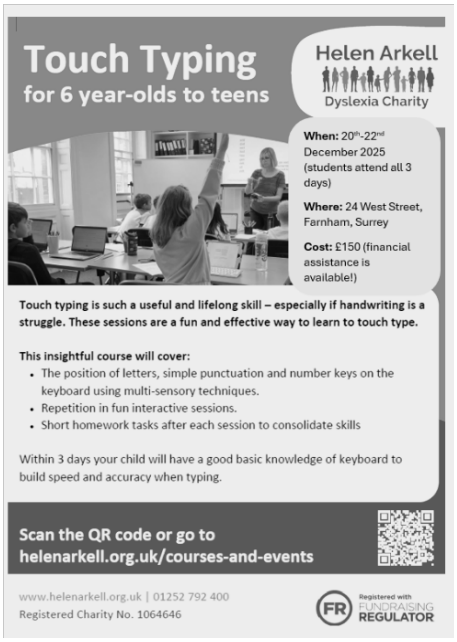
Wednesday 24thDecember 8.00pm: Christmas Eve Party - fun and games evening with quizzes, music, etc – something for everyone.

Christmas Day 11.30am – 2.30pm: meet your friends and bring your family for a lunchtime drink.

Wednesday 31st December 8.00pm: New Year's Eve – with our in-house disco playing music from all eras to welcome 2026.

Thursday 8th January 7.30pm: Music Night - a variety of live music; all welcome.

Janet Caiger



Silly Christmas Jokes

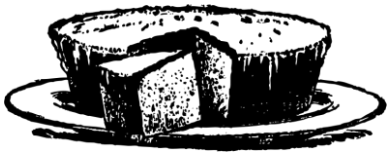
What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? **Rude-olph.**

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? **He was picking his nose.**

What kind of bug hates Christmas? **A humbug.**

How do snowmen get around? **They ride an icicle!**

Farnham Foodbank



We would firstly like to thank everyone for their very generous contributions over the past year. Each one, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated. All contributions of non-perishable items are hugely welcome provided they are within date. Hygiene products are also welcomed including children's toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Foodbank doesn't give out any foods containing alcohol.

At this time of year, the Foodbank supplies Christmas Hampers to those struggling over the Festive period. It would be appreciated if the items listed below could be donated late November /early December to enable them to be included in the Hampers.

Ideally the Foodbank would like items such as:

Christmas Cakes, Chocolate selection boxes, Mince Pies, Christmas puddings, Stuffing, Gravy and Cranberry. (Please look for a long shelf life on all items. Thank You)

We know that it is not always easy for everyone to get out and about (or find Keepers Cottage) but if you would like to make a donation in any way, we are always happy to come and collect. Please call 07710294690 or email jonessf@btinternet.com

How to find us: Keepers Cottage, Bealeswood Common. You can walk here via Bealeswood Lane, or if driving, postcode GU10 4EX takes you to the Bluebell pub. Leave the pub on your left and drive down the bridlepath to an electric wooden gate. The button for access is on the right-hand pillar. Drive/walk in and keep to the left. There is a garage with a 'lean to' ahead. Please place any donations in the container in the 'lean to'. For cash donations, please use the post box located at the main entrance to the property, and we will happily do the shopping based on the Foodbank's need for that month. Please can we reassure everyone that there are no dogs on the property, it is purely an old sign from many years ago! Thank you for your support.

Stephen & Fiona Jones

Dockenfield Remembrance

Photo. Simon Claiden

The sun was out, street scene set,
Remembrance Sunday once more.
Impressive array with medals, uniforms and clergy met,
To honour Village men of the War.

Silence so splendid, for own special time,
Joined by soft birdsong from hedges around.
I ponder the memorial relatives of mine,
Recalling where the Ypres grave was found.
Thanks for arranging this special day,
49 folks present at the event
Village and countryside surely here to stay,
Theme through generations so uniquely sent.

Jill Trout

Rainfall Totals

Rainfall for September 2024 152.4mm September 2025 76.8mm

Rainfall for October 2024 86.1mm October 2025 69.2mm

Jack Bessant

New Nature Reserve for Dockenfield

Have you ever wanted to live near a nature reserve? Well now you are!

Bealeswood Common, in the heart of the village, has now been designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) by Waverley Borough Council (WBC) in consultation with Natural England, giving it improved status and protection. This is a statutory designation to protect an area of "special natural interest and educational and community value". Our Common meets the criteria for an LNR as it has "high local biodiversity value and strong community involvement in its management and conservation". Some welcome news for our country that by some metrics is one of the most nature-depleted in the world. Recognition and protection of the Common has been sought in the village through two main routes; Dockenfield Parish Council and Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group, both in collaboration and with support from our Rangers (currently Vicky Keller) from Waverley Borough Council, who own the site.

Dockenfield Parish Council- In the late 1980s Jill Trout and I were involved in discussions on the Parish Council (Chaired by Norman Taylor) about formulating a management plan for the Common. This was prompted by the then WBC Warden the late Stewart Dakers to ensure that the village was involved in the protection and management of this site and to provide suitable wildlife habitats. Since then, annual Management Walks have taken place with villagers and the WBC Warden to assess the health of the varied habitats on the Common and to organise any subsequent working parties. These normally take place during the winter (out of the bird nesting season) with a warming bonfire, tea and cakes.

Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group (BWRG)- A number of villagers with different interests in the wildlife of Bealeswood Common have been observing and recording various plants and animals since the early 2000s. Since then, the recording has become more detailed and organised with weekly butterfly recording transects, coordinated by Philippa Hall starting in 2012, and weekly flowering plant recording by myself since 2009. With travel restrictions in Covid more people were out and about on the Common and "socially distanced discussions" during lockdown in 2020 led to the establishment of a group to exchange information, collate records, post "what's good to see on the Common" notices each month and to have field discussion meetings; this is when BWRG was formed.

By the year end of 2024 some 848 different species/taxa had been recorded that comprise 18 mammal species, 64 bird, 5 reptiles and amphibia, 24 arachnids, 29 butterflies, 222 moths, 91 other insects (including 49 species of bees, wasps and sawflies), 201 wildflowers, 38 trees and 156 species of fungi. All details are collated by Alan Cox and posted on the DPC website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife) by Paul Wood. This list emphasises the amazing diversity of wildlife on the Common despite its small size (3.6 hectares/9 acres). This is largely because of the range of habitats it supports (ancient grassland and woodland, scrub, ditches, pond, marshy areas) and the long-term protection and management it has received. In addition to this recording, each year, nature "walks and talks" are organised for different organism groups (e.g. mammals, birds, flowers, bats and fungi) and presentations have been given in the village church.

Members of BWRG are Amanda Adolph, Alison and Dan Bosence, Alan and Pauline Cox, Colin and Philippa Hall, Alex Potts, Jill and Roger Trout, and Anne Tutt (with Steve Luckett being a past recorder). In addition, we are supported informally by the 30+ Friends of Bealeswood Common who receive our wildlife notices, information on walks and talks etc. If you would like to become a Friend, please email Alison Bosence- albosence@yahoo.com. There is no fee!

Continued overleaf

New Nature Reserve for Dockenfield

Pathway to nature reserve status- Historically, the Common has been used for grazing and within living memory sheep and donkeys were "managing" the habitats. The Common was gifted to Waverley by Dorothy Wood from West End estate "for the enjoyment of the community". The biodiversity of the Common was recognised by DPC and WBC in the late 80s and in the 1990s with surveys by Surrey Botanical Society and Surrey Wildlife Trust. This led to its establishment by WBC as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) in 1998. For the last 5 years the Common has been awarded a Green Flag in recognition of its management by Waverley as an open green space with high biodiversity and outstanding value to the community within the borough.

Given the extraordinary biodiversity of this small site, it was proposed by BWRG that WBC might apply for LNR status as this would further recognise its natural wealth. This would give it additional protection into the future in this densely populated area of the UK with its depleted wildlife. Our ambitions for the site were taken up by Vicky Keller who assembled the case for LNR designation of the Common and guided it through the many committees in WBC to scrutinise the application. Finally, on the 4th November this year the Executive Committee of WBC approved the application following detailed, sometimes impassioned, support from our councillors, including Steve Williams (Director of Housing and Environment).

And, the designation has just squeezed in before we are consumed into the wider world of Western Surrey.

Photo. Dan Bosence

BWRG at its first (socially distanced!) meeting in hot summer of 2020. Left to right: Vicky Keller (WBC Warden), Alan Cox, Philippa Hall, Pauline Cox, Alex Potts, Dan Bosence, Colin Hall, Christina Rasmussen and Steve Luckett.

Dan Bosence with help from Jill Trout

The Bluebell Pub. Christmas Hours

Monday 22nd
CLOSED

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th)
Pub: 12pm -10pm
Kitchen: 12pm–3.30pm / 5pm-8:30pm

Christmas Day (Thursday 25th)
CLOSED

Boxing Day (Friday 26th)
Pub: 12pm - 6pm
Kitchen: 12pm–3:30pm

Saturday 27th
Pub: 12pm-10pm
Kitchen: 12pm -2:30pm / 5:30pm-8:30pm

Sunday 28th
Pub: 12pm - 6pm
Kitchen: 12pm -3:30pm

Monday 29th
Pub: 12pm - 6pm
Kitchen: 12pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday 30th
Pub: 12pm -10pm
Kitchen: 12pm -3:30pm
5.30pm - 8.30pm

Christmas Chocolate Bites

30g cocoa

100g caster sugar

30ml sunflower oil

1 egg

90g plain flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

35g icing sugar.

Oven 190 degrees. Makes 14.

Mix cocoa, caster sugar and oil into a smooth paste. Whisk in the egg and beat in flour and baking powder. It will make a sticky dough.

Take very small amounts of the mixture and roll into balls in your hands, then roll the balls in the icing sugar.

Place balls (spaced out) on a baking tray and bake for 10 minutes. Cool before removing from baking tray.

Works well with Gluten Free flour and baking powder too!

Mary Somerville

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

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society (FDHS)

Our gardening year is coming to a close now, though "putting the garden to bed" for the winter does seem to take a while, especially in the rain. In October, we had a very successful AGM with an entertaining "gardeners question time" to follow. The Member's supper is on 28th November and promises to be a lovely end of year celebration.

Looking forward, I'd like to remind everyone that FDHS memberships will need to be renewed in January and to invite anyone who'd like to join the Society to get in touch via our website or at membership@fdhs.org.uk

Our next meeting will be on 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm for 8pm start at the Marindin Hall. The speaker will be Carole Gubler of Little Brook Fuchsia nursery, talking about "Aspects of Fuchsias". I'm sure that we will all learn a lot about how to use fuchsias to create more colour and interest throughout the year in our gardens. You can renew your membership or join at that event.

Lastly, we'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy gardening for 2026.

Jilly Steventon, Chair FDHS

A poem for this year's Armistice Day Service at the National Memorial Arboretum, created by the Arboretum's Poet-in-Residence. Read by HRH The Princess of Wales on Armistice Day 2025.

A Sonnet For Us All

When you speak of our country, do not speak of war.
Speak of the nurse who held a hand like her own father's,
A lieutenant who embraced a soldier like his own brother.
Remember, sometimes those who go into burning buildings burn brighter than the fire inside.
Those who rise from burning buildings carry scars we cannot see.
If you speak of this country, speak of the widow who never stopped waiting, the sailor
who kissed a photo till it turned to ash in his hands, or the pilots who meet in the pub to talk of anything but war.
You see love is a compass, love is a bugle mourning.
Love is sacrificing tomorrow so that a stranger can live today.
So when you speak of this country, do not think of it as a place.
Think of it as a feeling, the feeling of being loved, the duty to pass that love to whoever needs it.

Arji Manuelpillai.

Winter-Time by Robert Louis Stevenson

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,
At morning in the dark I rise;
And shivering in my nakedness,
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit
To warm my frozen bones a bit;
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore
The colder countries round the door.

When to go out, my nurse doth wrap
Me in my comforter and cap;
The cold wind burns my face, and blows
Its frosty pepper up my nose.

Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake.

Ladies of Dockenfield

There will not be a December Ladies Night and so we are looking forward to meeting up after the New Year. We meet from **7.30pm** onwards at the Bluebell.
As before, you can order food on the night if you wish.

Scheduled dates are

January 29th, February 26th, March 26th, April 30th

Please do email Joolz Miles at joolzlmiles@aol.com if you would like to find out more, or WhatsApp/message on 07833355359. We have a WhatsApp group to share reminders about the evening.

Men's Night at the Bluebell

Join us every second Thursday of the month at The Bluebell from 8pm for a convivial evening of chat, laughter and food with neighbours and acquaintances. If you are new to the village, this is a brilliant way of getting to know people.

For full details or to join the WhatsApp group for reminders, please contact Sebastian Fox on 07930986677 or just pitch up at the pub.

You will be made very welcome.

Looking After Our New Nature Reserve

Following from the recognition of Bealeswood Common as a Local Nature Reserve we now need to look after it! Part of this means managing the different habitats so they are favourable for wildlife. The pictures below may look as if we are destroying wildlife habitats rather than looking after them. However, each year the Bramble, Bracken and Blackthorn (or Sloe) grow out over the grassland where our many wildflowers, insects and fungi live. Also, fresh new growth on the coppiced Blackthorn provides the best habitats for quite rare Hairstreak butterflies to lay their eggs. But this scrub also provides good habitats for nesting birds so it is removed selectively from different parts of the Common each year whilst other areas are left to grow.

Scrub removal is quite labour intensive, so we were delighted by the turnout on Sunday 16th November to cut back the vegetation on the Common in Bealeswood Lane. Carried out under the supervision of our WBC warden Vicky Keller, with a fire to keep us warm and very welcome hot drinks and cakes (thank you Alison Bosence). Working parties are held once a year and are advertised in the DNL and on the noticeboard on the Common. Hope to see you there next year! **Dan Bosence**

Photos. Dan Bosence

Earth Photo 2025 Exhibition at Alice Holt

Stroll into Alice Holt Forest from the Batts Corner entrance and half way towards the car park, your eyes may well blink! Yes, there is indeed an art exhibition in the forest of ecologically inspired photographs from around the World; a veritable gallery of art with exhibits on both front and back. Earth Photo is a world-leading international programme dedicated to engaging with still and moving image makers. The main objective is to reveal the narratives behind the pictures, encouraging conversations about our world, its inhabitants, environments, and the changing climate.

Poignant stills capture landfill sites near Soweto, on the outskirts of Johannesburg, which sits above much of the world's gold, as well as giant copper extraction mines and many other captivating images...

Further along the forested gallery, there is a gentle reprieve from socio-economic-ecological impacts with a natural photograph of a host of Fireflies - up close transparent spheres of light expand to smaller orbs in the distance, enjoying their transitory existence of luminosity for a mere fortnight on earth each year, a salutary reminder of our relative mortalities as Earth's myriad of creatures. However, perhaps, for me at least, it was a contemplative picture of an indigenous man leaning up against one of the ancient giant trees of the Amazon rain forest which captured my heart's response, amidst the contemporaneous COP30 Conference on Climate Change and the related impact of potential deforestation, whether the Amazon or our beloved Alice Holt. Therefore, a forest-context for art which has an important environmental statement to make, enhances both the art and its important message, raising environmental concerns in such a way that move our hearts to respond to the statement behind the art.

Continued overleaf

Earth Photo 2025 Exhibition at Alice Holt

The exhibition is located on the Easy Access Trail and runs from 17 October 2025 to 20 February 2026. Further information at www.forestryengland.uk/alice-holt-forest/earth-photo

Jenny Miller

Photo. Mary Somerville

Nature's Seasons Calendar for 2026

A calendar has been created to follow the wildlife of our area month by month for the fourth successive year. All photos were taken in either Frensham & Dockenfield or Kingsley Parishes by Alan Cox, of the Nature Seasons partnership with Alex Potts. Sales are exclusive to the Frensham Village Shop (FVS) or emailing alanfjcox@gmail.com for home delivery within the parishes above.

The sale price is £9 again including an envelope if required. The Nature's Seasons partnership is again donating net proceeds to the Frensham Churches and FVS charities.

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

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 **15 January 2026** with items sent by email please, as a Word attachment, to **dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com** or a note in the post box at 1 Mountview, Batts Corner, Dockenfield.