DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 310 Published 2nd February 2026

Cover Photo: Amanda Adolph

Welcome to the first DNL of 2026.

What a busy festive season it has been? With the favourite Dockenfield bus shelter carols relocating to the Good Shepherd due to inclement weather see P2, the evening was a wonderful success despite the rain. Look out for the report from our amazing Activities Committee on the Dockenfield Christmas party on P11.

Our pages are packed with upcoming activities and news from around and relevant to the village for the coming months. While it is still dark and damp outside DNL always strives to bring a little ray of sunshine to your doorstep.

A very Happy New Year to you all and don't forget to save the date for our summer event, **Dockenfield Day... on Saturday 6th June 2026.**

The DNL Team.

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 24th February 2026, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Chairman.
Our chairman, Amanda Adolph, unfortunately tendered her resignation at our meeting in December for personal reasons. We would like to record our thanks to Amanda for her dedication, hard work and enthusiasm over the past 3.5 years as a Parish Councillor and Chairman. We wish her well in the future.
If any resident wishes to stand for election to the Parish Council, please can you advise the Clerk as soon as possible at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk
In the meantime, the chairmanship is planned to rotate on a regular basis across the remaining councillors with the vice chairman Chris Sutton occupying the role at present.

Bealeswood Common Local Nature Reserve.

The Parish Council hosted a gathering to celebrate the award of Local Nature Reserve (LNR) for our Common. About 20 people gathered to thank the Waverley Borough councillors and WBC Ranger (Vicky Keller) for their support of LNR status.
Jill Trout welcomed the councillors, ranger and wildlife recorders (Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group and Hive Helpers) and outlined the history of the site and how it was bequeathed to the village and council. Dan Bosence (BWRG) outlined the importance of biodiversity (you have to know what lives in a habitat before you can manage it) and sustainability (wildlife records must be made over many years to understand the value of management plans) to look after this rich wildlife habitat.

Chris Sutton

Dockenfield Carols on 17th December 2025. Poem by Jill Trout.

Over 40 villagers came along to the Village carols, accompanied by cello and flute, led as always by Penny and Karen with added accompaniment from Louis and Gemma. This is the first time in living memory the Event has not been held at the Lake Lane bus shelter!

The threat of rain brought the village to its chine,

Good Shepherd welcomed carol singing for a while,

Complimented by delicious mince pies and mulled wine!

Darkness solid beyond the Aisle.

Strong stone walls wrapped round for all to see,

Musicians, strike up music with a smile

Font now bedecked with twinkling Christmas tree

Church now filled with music and song,

Community joining with one voice.

A moment of Magic may it last ever long,

Venue more than just a good choice..... **The Activities Committee**

Dockenfield Skittles Night 2026 At The Bluebell

Our lovely neighbours and friends turned out in great numbers for an evening filled with fun, laughter, great food, and—most importantly—a lively skittles competition.

Teams and captains were selected ahead of the event, with each captain choosing their team's name:

Team 1: Bowling Stones – *Captain: James Wilson*

Team 2: Batty Bowlers – *Captain: James Wigfull*

Team 3: S'pose – *Captain: Alastair Somerville*

Team 4: The Followers – *Captain: Harvey Ricketts*

Team 5: A to Z – *Captain: Gary Armstrong*

Team 6: The Last 5 – *Captain: Stephen Jones*

The Competition

The evening consisted of two events. The first round determined the **top team**, **top man**, and **top lady**. The second was the battle for the prestigious **Mansell Cup**—a knockout competition with a sting in the tail in the form of the infamous *killer skittle*.

Results

Many congratulations to our winners:

Winning Team: *Bowling Stones*

James Wilson

Katy Poulsom

Fiona Ricketts

Shirley Oliphant

Louise Lancaster

Top Lady: *Charlotte Oliphant*

Top Man: *James Wilson*

A special prize for the **lowest score of the evening** went to *Linda Poulsom.*

The **2025 Mansell Cup** was won for the second time by **Harvey Ricketts**—congratulations! Photo: Katy Poulsom

Thanks, and Looking Ahead

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the evening, helping to make it such a success. Special thanks go to **Lucy and the team at The Bluebell** for their warm hospitality.

Please save the date for next year! Friday, 8th January 2027:

Katy Poulsom

Dockenfield Broadband Campaign 2002

January 2002

NEWS

Leading lights in the Broadband South Farnham Campaign celebrate their success in the Holly Bush. (c)

Broadband campaign succeeds

THE Broadband South Farnham Campaign to bring high speed internet communications to south Farnham and surrounding villages, has reached its target.

The magic number of 350 registrations of interest required by BT was passed on Sunday. The group celebrated its success at the Holly Bush pub in Frensham the next day.

BT required 350 registrations of interest from internet users with 01252 79 telephone numbers before it would agree to upgrade the Frensham telephone exchange, to provide high speed Broadband internet communications. The target was reduced from 450 registrations by BT in January, following a review of installation costs.

Bruce Nicholson, who played a leading role in the campaign said: "It's fantastic that we have now achieved the target set by BT in just a few months, since setting up our website in December. The website has been the focal point for the whole operation and has received over 1,500 visits in the last three months. We should now know in the next week or so from BT, when Broadband should actually be available. It will probably be available around May/June time."

The group will continue to provide information on progress via the campaign website – www.broadbandsouth-farnham.co.uk

Annette Clayson recently found this old newspaper cutting and thought it may be of interest to our DNL readers. Thank you, Annette!

A chuckle or two to brighten your day

How much does a rainbow weigh? - Not much, they're actually pretty light!

I'm saving for a rainy day... So far, I have an anorak, a couple of macs and a dinghy!

What's the difference between a poorly dressed person on a unicycle and a well-dressed person on a bicycle? Attire.

I found a lion in my clothes cupboard the other day! When I asked what it was doing there, it said "Narnia business"!

Updated Law on Dogs and Livestock Worrying

The law on dogs and livestock worrying has been updated in England and Wales.

As there are lots of footpaths and livestock in our area it is important that dog owners are aware that the law has been significantly tightened to ensure dogs are under very strict, tight control on all footpaths, fields and woodland. Most local dog owners are very responsible, but it is now a criminal offence to even cause stress if not controlled.

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 has been modernised after the House of Lords passed an amendment. The law now applies beyond fields and enclosures, covering roads, public paths, and rights of way. It protects livestock – including sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, alpacas and llamas – from dogs causing harm or stress.

Stronger Police Powers

Police now have enhanced powers to seize dogs posing repeated risk, enter premises with a warrant, and collect forensic evidence such as DNA or bite patterns. The aim is to prevent repeated incidents and ensure accountability without automatically punishing the dog.

Understanding 'Worrying' vs 'Attacking'

Stress alone is recognised harm, causing miscarriages, exhaustion, broken limbs, or long-term fear in animals. Both Attacking and Worrying are criminal offences, and evidence can include injuries, disturbed fencing, witness statements, or the dog itself.

Proper Control Explained

A dog is under proper control only if the handler can prevent it from worrying livestock at all times. On-lead control requires a short, attentive lead; off-lead control sets a very high bar. If a dog approaches or chases livestock before being stopped, control is already lost.

Key Takeaways for Countryside Users

- No physical contact is required; stress counts as harm.
- Evidence can be physical, forensic, or behavioural.
- Responsibility rests with the handler, not the dog.
- Seizure is for investigation or prevention; destruction is rare.

Photo: Amanda Adolph

Toby Everett

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

There's not much gardening to be done in this weather. It's a time for sitting by the fire with the holiday and seed catalogues. Don't forget to venture out despite the cold to fill the bird feeders. It is a lean time for our wildlife. I am enjoying the glorious huge Amaryllis flowers which have been blooming since before Christmas and still have buds to come out. It's well worth planting these bulbs in October for indoor Christmas flowering. They brighten up the house when the Christmas decorations come down.

Our February meeting on Thursday 26th February at the Marindin Hall will be a talk by Janet Arm of Redleaf Nursery about Trees for small gardens.

You will have received the FDHS handbook for 2026 if you have joined or renewed your subscription. It has the programme of meetings for the whole year in there.

It also details the shows. The Spring show is on Saturday 28th March and all the show categories are listed. Have a look so that you can be bringing on your bulbs and preparing your marmalade and jams for your exhibits. You may even want to look forward to the Autumn show schedule so that you can decide what seeds to get started for September flowers and produce. If you'd like to get involved in the shows, you could help out as a steward; it's a great learning experience and good fun. Contact me

If you haven't yet joined, please contact membership@fdhs.org.uk to get discounts at suppliers and get involved in the community.

We look forward to seeing you in February.

Jilly Steventon. Chair

Bealeswood Common Celebrated at The Bluebell

This January, Dockenfield Parish Council (DPC) hosted a gathering to celebrate the award of Local Nature Reserve status for our Common. About 20 people gathered in Moyra's room to hear presentations on the Common and to thank the Waverley Borough councillors and Countryside Warden (Vicky Keller) for their support of our request for greater recognition of this site.

Jill Trout (DPC) welcomed the councillors, warden and wildlife recorders (Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group and Hive Helpers) and outlined the history of the site and how it was bequeathed to the village and council.

Dan Bosence (BWRG) also thanked the councillors for their support and outlined the importance of biodiversity (you have to know what lives in a habitat before you can manage it) and sustainability (wildlife records must be made over many years in order to understand the value of management plans) in the management of this rich wildlife habitat.

Many useful introductions and discussions ensued which will be of benefit in the future. A number of us continued with an excellent meal prepared in The Bluebell kitchen, with the most popular menu choices being haddock and chunky chips and mushrooms on toast!

Dan Bosence

Frensham & Dockenfield Village Lunch

The price of the village lunch has increased to £6 starting in January and is very good value for a two-course meal and coffee or tea.

70 people were booked for our Christmas Lunch and Christmas came early when Santa Claus arrived on his reindeer to hand out the Chocolate Oranges which were kindly funded by Frensham Parochial Charity Trust and Squires Frensham Garden Centre.

It was a good atmosphere with the W.I. running the raffle and charity stall.

February lunch is Chicken and Tarragon Casserole with the Kingsley Centre running the charity stall and in March we have Pasta Bake with Helen Arkell doing the charity stall. April is Fish Pie without prawns, and the charity stall is T.A.R.N.S.

Pam Watmore

Rainfall Totals

Thank you once again to Jack who has sent in the rainfall totals for November and December.

Rainfall for November 2025 was **108mm.**

Rainfall for December 2024 was **52.8mm** and December 2025 recorded **128.8mm.**

December 2025 was the wettest December since 2017!!

Jack Bessant

Hearing Clinic.

Hearing clinics are held at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield, 10.00am to 12.00 noon on the 4th Friday of every month to coincide with Coffee Stop.

They are for NHS Hearing aids and I can offer advice, help with maintenance including retubing and supply of batteries. All free of charge. I am fully trained by the Audiology department at the Royal Surrey. The project is a collaboration between the Diocese of Guildford, Sight for Surrey and Frensham church.

Friday 27th Feb
Friday 27th March
Friday 24th April
Friday 22nd May
Friday 26th June
Friday 24th July
Friday 28th August
Friday 25th September
Friday 23th October
Friday 27th November
No clinic in December

Eunice King

Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch

Members have enjoyed another very festive and sociable Christmas period at the Legion featuring the annual Christmas Draw with magnificent prizes, Christmas Eve Party and New Year's Eve Disco. Many thanks to the volunteers who put up the lovely decorations and to Mick for his usual opening of the bar for the popular Christmas Day lunchtime drinks. The Sunday lunchtime jazz concert on 11th January was also very successful, attended by around 80 people.

Our Branch Poppy Appeal Organiser would like to retire from his role at the end of this year and is looking for a successor, who he would be willing to train. This involves organising poppy collections in the village and locally prior to Remembrance Sunday. It can also include co-ordinating Remembrance Sunday events in Frensham and Dockenfield. You do not need to have had military service for this post. If you would like to know more, please contact Jo Gayton the Branch Chair via the club.

Please note that the club will be closed at lunchtime on 6th, 7th and 8th February due to staff holidays – it will be open as usual in the evenings.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 12th 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.

Saturday 21st February 7.30pm: Charity Quiz - organised by Harry Glover. Come along to test your general knowledge and have an entertaining evening. All welcome, teams of up to six, entry £5 per head.

Saturday 7th March 7.30pm: Quiz - organised by Frensham RBL Bowls Club. All welcome, teams of up to six, entry £5 per head.

Sunday 8th March 12.30pm - 3 pm: The Otis B Driftwood Showband - a 7-piece band playing 1920's Pasadena Style Trad Jazz with lots of humour, returning for a third visit after the success of their two previous visits. Tickets will be available at the club nearer the date.

Thursday 12th March 7.30pm: Music Night

Janet Caiger

Cherubs Toddler Group

Thursday mornings 9.30am – 11.30am (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 History Group 2026 Programme

All meetings are in the Marindin Hall starting at 7.30pm. Membership is £15 per annum (subs due at AGM – cash/cheque) but visitors are welcome at £3 per visit. The subject matter for some of the speakers is yet to be finalised. Contact chairman, Chris Bonner for any further information 07498916505.

Tuesday, March 10th. AGM - Chris Bonner – Local old postcards and photographs.

Tuesday, April 14th. Neil Mumford - Forgotten Occupation – Guernsey during WW2

Tuesday, May 12th. David Rose

Tuesday, June 9th. Roy Waight

Chris Bonner

Royal British Legion Club Quiz on 21st February.

In aid of the Macular Society and RNIB, Harry Glover will be hosting a general knowledge **Quiz at Frensham Royal British Legion Club on Saturday 21st February, starting at 8pm**, but he recommends arriving by 7:30pm, both to ensure a table and buy your drinks from the bar before the Quiz begins.

Everybody is welcome – in teams of up to 6 people – Entry is £5-00 per person.

As you would expect there will be a Raffle for which donations are welcome! Where else to take any unwanted Christmas presents, etc.? And it's all for good causes.

The proceeds from the evening will be split 50/50 and donated to the Macular Society and RNIB (Royal Institute for the Blind). Why these two charities and not the Alzheimer's Society? A good question, since Liz, my wife, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 3 years ago.

The reason is simply that over the past three years, with huge support from readers of the Dockenfield Newsletter and many other friends, we have raised over £10,000 for the Alzheimer's Society, and for this we are very grateful; *thank you all so much.*

However, times change and in addition to Alzheimer's Disease Liz was diagnosed with age-related Macular Degeneration 18 months ago. This is a common eye disease that primarily affects older adults, and occurs when the macula (the central part of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed vision) deteriorates. Peripheral vision is typically not affected, but in Liz's case having Glaucoma as well means she has little vision and she is now registered as being severely sight-impaired. Consequently, raising money for the Macular Society and RNIB seemed a 'no brainer' to me.

I do hope that many DNL readers will be able to come to the Quiz, but if you are not able to come and would like to make a donation, please contact me either by email (hsg@btinternet.com) or telephone (01252 797827). *Thank you.*

Harry Glover

Dockenfield Collections for Farnham Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who donates to Farnham foodbank. Your continued support is always greatly appreciated. Fiona and Becky from the foodbank have been in touch. This is the lovely letter they sent.

Dear Fiona and everyone in Dockenfield,

Thank you so much for your support to Farnham Foodbank over the past year. We are incredibly grateful for all of your generous donations made throughout 2025.
Your consistent support helps us reach many people across Farnham who are facing difficult times and it truly makes a meaningful difference to individuals and families in our community. Thank you!
We could not do this work without the kindness and generosity of partners like you, and we look forward to continuing working with you this year.
With sincere thanks and appreciation.

Becky (On behalf of Fiona- Farnham Foodbank Project Manager.)

A gentle reminder, that only non-perishable and unopened items, including hygiene products can be accepted and please do drop donations 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 the 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. Stephen & Fiona Jones 07710294690.

Stephen and Fiona Jones

Dockenfield Men's Night at the Bluebell.

Join us on the second Thursday of every month for our regular get together. We meet at 8.00pm for drinks in the Bluebell; eating is optional. If you're interested in coming along, please email sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk and I'll add you to the circulation list.

Sebastian Fox.

Ladies' Nights.

If you've not made it yet to Ladies' Night, we can't wait to meet you! The Christmas party was a great chance to chat to villagers I didn't know, and I met several lovely ladies there who hadn't yet made it to Ladies' night or were nervous of turning up the first time alone! If that sounds like you, do come along and you'll be made to feel very welcome!

Ladies' night is always on the last Thursday of the month at The Bluebell. We meet from 7.30pm onwards.

Thinking ahead to 2026 Ladies' Nights? Save these dates

- Thursday 26th February
- Thursday 26th March
- Thursday 30th April

Then every last Thursday of the month!

Want to get event reminders via WhatsApp? Simply send a message to Joolz Miles at 07833355359, and you'll be added to the group.

Joolz Miles

Platinum Wedding Anniversary Congratulations

DNL received a lovely letter from Helen Baker. Helen is the daughter of Diana and Harold Parratt who are celebrating their 70th Wedding anniversary this year. They were married at St. Mary's Church in Frensham on the 17th March 1956.

Diana and Harold are valued members of our community. They were involved and assisted with the Dockenfield Activities Committee for many years and we are grateful for everything that they have done for the village over the years.

Many thanks to Helen for sharing this amazing milestone for Diana and Harold and a lovely picture of them from their wedding day . We hope you will join us in extending our warmest congratulations to Diana and Harold and we wish them many more happy years together.

The DNL Team

Lights, Laughter and Christmas Cheer at Dockenfield's Christmas Party

Photo: Morgan Evans

The Dockenfield party night held just before Christmas 2025 was a huge success, with a fantastic turnout from across the village. The church looked beautiful, festively decorated and wonderfully atmospheric, and the bar was in full swing throughout the evening. The food was delicious and very much enjoyed by all, adding to the warm and sociable feel of the night. The quiz and treasure hunt added plenty of laughter and friendly competition, making it a really memorable night for all. A huge thank you to everyone that helped make the event happen and for cooking such delicious food. Also, to everyone that helped transform the church into such a festive space, and to those who stayed behind at the end of the night to help pack everything away and get it safely back into the shed. We couldn't have done it without you.

A few comments from fellow villagers sum the night up well.

"Yes, huge thanks to the committee and everyone who made it happen - great evening! X"
"What a lovely Christmassy and convivial atmosphere with delicious food. Huge thanks to all XX"
'Thanks Activities committee - you are the best!!! Great night x"
'Thank you for a lovely evening. The food was delicious & the church looked lovely. Such a nice way to gather the village together."
"Thank you everyone for a great evening last night - our first Dockenfield Christmas party - so welcoming! What a great village we have moved into .... Thank you "
'Huge thank you to everyone who worked hard to run the party last night. It was very successful. Thank you"
"It was a lovely evening, great to see everyone... ...thank you to all x"

A lovely evening and so good to see the teenagers getting involved and leading the dancing at the end! What a special evening.

The Activities Committee

Save the Date – Saturday 6th June 2026 – Dockenfield Day

After the success of the Xmas party, we are really looking forward to Dockenfield's summer event this year. Make sure you are free for a great day in the village.

News from Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity.

Feathery Fayre

Since 1992 mid-winter bird surveys have been undertaken across the heath, woodland and river valleys along the Hampshire/Surrey border east to west from Thursley to Alton. I have been the record keeper and survey coordinator for several years more recently supported by several Dockenfield friends through their garden watches and walks further afield.

This Christmas and New Year period has seen some impressive observations. A party of four Bullfinches in one garden was a welcome reminder of this once more widespread beauty but just a single Marsh Tit reported. Astonishing sounds for Advent were a Song Thrush rehearsing its full repertoire and a drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Photo: Alex Potts

The cold weather spell (as low as -8.4degC overnight Jan 4th) closed a precocious Spring and instead woodland refugees - small finches in the form of Siskins and Redpolls - were coming to garden bird feeders to challenge the titmouse family hegemony. From Alice Holt Forest four young male Crossbills found tall conifers in one garden a splendid lookout to espy forest and heathland and plan their next peregrination. Crossbills were once regular on conifers along Boundary Road but these were the first for some years. It is an irruptive Scandi species that relocates to Britain when the local pinecone harvest fails. They may take up residence hereabouts for a few years but numbers slowly fade.

A common summer visitor with a dazzling song is the Blackcap. Come September they migrate south to winter in Iberia and North Africa but since the 1970s some appear in winter at urban area garden feeders. We now know these individuals are not "our" Blackcaps but birds that breed in Belgium and Germany. These urban winterers are now so well established they appear to be evolving physically, such as shorter wings, after all Belgium is a far closer call than Morocco. But wintering Blackcaps have shunned our rural life until this Christmas with first visits to two gardens south and central to the village. Their winter diet appears to be none too fussy and are known for instance to take left over cake icing.

Thanks to Jacky Baxter, Dan and Alison Bosence, Pauline Cox, Mark Gardiner and Alex Potts for their observations and Alex for the photo.

Alan Cox

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