DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 312 Published 26th May 2026

Welcome to the late spring edition of your newsletter filled with news and upcoming events from the village. By now you may be familiar with the DNL tradition of reporting the first Cuckoo call of the year. This year I'm happy to be able to tell you that our Cuckoos are back. The first reported Cuckoo, heard by Alex Potts, was from Batts Corner on the 19th April at 6.45am.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Dockenfield Day on Saturday 6th June for some traditional village fun, for full details see page 2. Please consider our neighbours and park responsibly.

Thank you. Enjoy the sunshine!

Your Editorial Team

As I passed through Dockenfield Street yesterday,
The Pink Horse Chestnut stood resplendent in this month of May.
Such a picture; I thought people might like to know,
Tree was planted to mark our Best Kept Village Win many years ago.

Poem by Jill Trout

Please join me and the DNL team in congratulating Alex Adolph upon the achievement of his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He travelled to Buckingham Palace on the 20th May 2026 to attend the official Gold D of E celebration hosted by HRH Prince Edward. It requires tenacity, dedication, commitment, and hard work to be awarded D of E Gold. Very well done to one of our village's young people.

Celebrate Dockenfield Day:

When: Saturday, 6th June | Time: 2 PM - 6 PM Where: Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages

Prepare for a day of laughter, community, and joy at Dockenfield Day! This event is the highlight of our village calendar, brimming with engaging activities, scrumptious local fare, and traditional games for all ages. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with friends, neighbours, and family in a celebration of our shared spirit.

Entertainment for everyone! Be part of the excitement with events like the much-loved Dockenfield Dog Show and the gripping annual tug of war. Try your hand at Batak, the coconut shy or spin the wheel at the Human Fruit Machine! And don't forget to enter our Raffle, featuring delightful prizes sourced right from our community, to name just a few stalls.

New Cashless Fete! This year we are looking to simplify the treasury function and will be going cashless. You will either be able to pay by card/phone at the (Plant, BBQ or Bar stalls) or use our new token system, for the smaller stalls. Tokens can be purchased (using your card or phone) at the Information Desk.

Taste the Local Delights! Delight in homemade cakes, juicy burgers, and refreshing beers brewed locally. Why not wash it down with a nice ice cream too? Whether you're craving a sweet treat or a hearty meal, our local culinary offerings are sure to satisfy.

Raffle Tickets – For Sale! We will shortly be selling raffle tickets (before the event) where you can win some of the great prizes that have been donated from local businesses. Tickets will also be available for sale at the information desk on the day.

Join the Heart of the Event—Volunteer! Dockenfield Day shines brightest when everyone pitches in. If you are available to help, (any age welcome) with anything from setting up to running stalls and cleaning up, please get in touch at dockenfield.activities@gmail.com. Your help is invaluable and volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people and give back to our community.

We Need Your Donations! Our stalls thrive on your generosity—please consider donating garden plants, toys, books, and cakes. You can leave your donations at these locations:

- Garden Plants: Only healthy plants please. Please bring them directly to the fete.
- Toys: Please only good quality toys: Roly and Joolz Miles, Orchard End, Bealeswood Lane
- Cakes: Please bring your delectable baked goods directly to the fete.
- Books: We are trying to make sure that the books are sold, so please bring your carefully selected books to: Nathalie Griffiths, Poplar Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.

Programme Highlights:

- 2:00 PM: Opening remarks to kick off the fete.
- 3:30 PM: Children's races, from sack races to egg-and-spoon!
- 4:00 PM: Dockenfield Dog Show—furry friends welcome!
- 4:30 PM: The thrilling tug of war challenge.
- 5:30 PM: The big Raffle draw.

Helpful Reminders for Stall Holders: Ensure your stall is set and ready to charm by the time the festivities begin!

Parking Courtesy: We ask everyone to park considerately to ensure there's plenty of space for visitors. Let's keep the nearby spots clear for guests who need closer access.

Responsible Enjoyment: Alcohol will be available for those eighteen and older. Please enjoy responsibly and remember, no spirits will be sold or allowed on the premises.

Dockenfield Day isn't just a fair—it's a day to revel in the heart of our community. Come out to support, participate, and create memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Roly Miles

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 16 June 2026, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Councillors
The Parish Council is pleased to announce that Seb Fox has been appointed a Parish Councillor.
We thank Seb for agreeing to fill the vacancy and this now brings the Parish Council back to full strength.

Annual Parish Meeting
The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 19th May 2026 at The Church of the Good Shepherd. This was a shortened meeting in the light of the recent Council elections and the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation. We therefore propose to hold a further, more detailed, and focused meeting in the late summer/early autumn to give the new County Councillors time to get to grips with their new roles and report on progress with the development of the new West Surrey Council.

Chris Sutton and Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Boundary Toadwatch 2026

It was a record year for toad sightings during the migrating season this year. 958 toads were recorded. With frogs and newts included, the final figure was 976.

Thanks to the dedication of the volunteers patrolling the road and ensuring safe passage during busy commuting times, the mortality rate was just 4%. **Anne Tutt**

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, a homemade cake, and a chat at Coffee Stop at The Good Shepherd every Friday 10am – midday **Barbara Potter**

Dockenfield Men's Night

Join us on the second Thursday of each month at 8.00pm 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 11th June and 9th July. With a bit of luck, we might be able to sit outside!

Please note reminders are only sent to the WhatsApp group. If you would like to join us, please message me on 07930 98 66 77. **Sebastian Fox**

Rainfall Totals

Many thanks to Jack for recording the rainfall each month. A wettish March this year has been followed by some very dry and hot weather.

Rainfall for March 2025 **4.04mm** Rainfall for April 2025 **7.6mm**

Rainfall for March 2026 **43.2mm** Rainfall for April/May 2026 **8mm** **Jack Bessant**

FRENSHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

The quiz night and raffle on 25th April, organised by Val Gubby was a very successful evening with interesting questions and lots of banter – it raised the very pleasing sum of £684 for the Legion Club.

Two Heartbeat courses on CPR and using a defibrillator will take place from 7pm to 9pm on the evenings of 27th May and 10th June. Although these will be held at the club, they are being organised by Sharon Turner-Mumford and run by Farnham Lions and will be open to anyone in Frensham and Dockenfield who would like to know what to do in an emergency involving a cardiac arrest. It is necessary to book in advance, so if interested contact Sharon on sharonaturner@hotmail.co.uk. If these dates fill up, more dates may be organised.

Upcoming events: Thursday 11th June 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 27th June 7.30pm: Quiz – organised by Jo Gayton and Janet Caiger on behalf of the Legion Club. All welcome, teams of up to six, entry £5 per head –donations of raffle prizes would be much appreciated.

Thursday 9th July 7.30pm: Music Night - anyone is welcome to come along and perform or just turn up to listen to a variety of live music.

Janet Caiger

FRENSHAM AND DOCKENFIELD VILLAGE LUNCH

The price of the village lunch is £6 and is very good value for a two-course meal and coffee or tea. It is held in the Royal British Legion in Shortfield on the 4th Wednesday in the month. There is a stall for charity which changes each month.

The May lunch is bangers and mash with the charity stall being the Bowls Club.

The June menu will depend on how Rev. Jane is progressing, but the charity stall will be for Woodlarks.

The July lunch will be Ham and Egg salad. The charity stall for July is for the Church.

All the lunches have the choice of a range of puddings.

Pam Watmore

Food and Countryside Day at Pierrepont Farm, Frensham

A nature-friendly farm in Frensham is inviting the local community to enjoy a Food and Countryside Day this June.

Pierrepont Farm, owned by The Countryside Regeneration Trust, will host the event on **June 13th from 10am to 3pm**, giving visitors the chance to explore public areas of the farm while enjoying local food, artisan crafts, and free countryside activities.

The day will feature local food stalls and artisan businesses based at The Old Dairy, pond dipping and examples of practical conservation work carried out by CRT volunteers. Spotter sheets will be available to help families engage with nature around the farm.

Visitors will be able to meet local makers, learn more about their crafts and browse handmade products throughout the day. The event is family friendly, wheelchair accessible and dogs on leads are welcome.
Caitlin Saunders, Estates & Conservation Assistant at the CRT, said: "We want to encourage people to learn about the countryside and get outdoors. There will be maps to signpost people to the different activities and we look forward to showing people the work we do at Pierrepont."
More information about the event can be found at: www.thecrt.co.uk/Event/food-and-countryside-at-pierrepont-farm

Rebecca Dutton

Dawn Chorus on Bealeswood Common

For the past few years members of BWRG (Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group) have opted for the very early start needed to join in with International Dawn Chorus Day. Held in the early hours of the first Sunday in May, this is a worldwide celebration of the spring symphony of birdsong.

It was warm overnight 11deg C at 5:00am, rising several degrees through the morning on International Dawn Chorus Day. I awoke at 3:45am having finally got to sleep at 23:35pm and got to the bench at 4:27pm. Manda joined me a moment later. It was still dark but by 4:30am the birds were starting to awaken and were beginning to sing.

4.30am to 4:45am- We listened to Tawny Owls, at least six individuals. It was still too dark to see my scribbled note entries. We were surprised and gladdened to hear a Woodcock overhead, then later saw it "roding" its flight pattern suggesting the roding circuit spans Abbotswood Inclosure and Dockenfield Woods. We recorded another 3-4 minutes later. Not far away the first passerines were in subdued song, Blackbird, Song Thrush, and Robin. Soon Woodpigeon and Pheasant chimed in. During this serene period Manda heard a Bullfinch, and the "Merlin" App also picked it up – too soft a call at distance for me. It was the only record of Bullfinch for the morning.

4:45am to 4:50am- We heard Carrion Crow calling, Stock Dove cooing and of course Blue Tit fussing away.

4:54am- A Dunnock made a vocal introduction. Then lift off! A torrent of sound flooded the senses - Blackcap, Wren, Great Tit and Nuthatch joined the chorus with the thrushes dominating from above the bench. We moved to the centre of the Common hoping for better discrimination but just a noisy Jackdaw party and Chiffchaff in song added to our cumulative total of 18. By 5:13am we started to walk our circuit and in the Yew at the Lake Lane entrance Manda heard the Firecrest in full voice.

At 5:27am we had moved position to The Bluebell inn car park for a 30-minute watch. Scattered around the Bluebell Triangle we located our first finches in song: Goldfinch dominant but Chaffinch and Greenfinch playing their part. Swallows, up to four sweet talking overhead; a pair of mute Starlings gaining fly-by status and a silent Pied Wagtail watched the watchers from a telephone wire perch. Suddenly - Panic! A chip, chip call heralded three Crossbills tightly grouped – flying so low overhead as if in an RAF style fly past, a tribute to our morning endeavours. After early year sightings in Alex's garden conifers, their presence there to me seemingly a conundrum: Why leave Alice Holt which is so redolent in larch, spruce, and pine? - their staple food being seeds extracted from conifer cones - perhaps now solved. Because they had clearly flown over from Dockenfield woods perhaps a quieter breeding environment than the busier Inclosures of The Forest. At any rate, surely the bird of the day bringing our cumulative total to 26.

6:00am- we strolled to the junction between bridle and footpaths opposite the stables, the paddock was engulfed in a thick mist and hence barren of birdlife. But we both heard a sneezing call coming from the tall oaks and conifers at the edge of the Common. At least one male Siskin was singing loudly. An exciting find as it suggests breeding, the habitat probably adequate for a few pairs. A Jay called harshly but not quite the commotion of two passing Greylag geese, a Magpie hopped the fence at Bealeswood Cottage, and a Red Kite flew overhead.

6:08am- Canada Geese distantly calling along the River Wey. At last, a Coal Tit singing in woodland close to Gardener's Cottage. We stopped here as Manda could hear a high-pitched call in the oaks alongside the bridle path, too high a frequency for me; we checked the call and it was a Tree Creeper confirmed here and a second calling at another site by the Lower Common. A Goldcrest was singing close to the Bealeswood House entrance, a Green Woodpecker called from the area we had just visited.

6:46am- at the Lower Common we listened attentively for Cuckoo and Skylark but were unsuccessful. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was drumming in Rough Copse and a Buzzard mewed overhead.

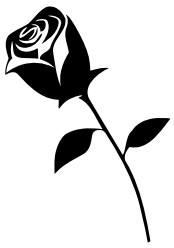
6:54am- we passed Jeffries Cottage, the final watchpoint. A pair of Mallard was on the pond, a Collared Dove was calling and seen alighting from a tree further up the brook. The cumulative final total 40. Manda and I said our goodbyes at 07:00 and I managed to catch up on my sleep between 7:15am and 10:30am - my best "night's" sleep for a while.

Alan Cox and Amanda Adolph.

Frensham Fayre Rose Competition

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society Rose Competition at Frensham Fayre.

June is the time for Roses! Bring your roses to display at the Frensham Fayre. The competition is open to everyone. And all visitors to the Fayre, adults and children alike, can vote on the roses they think are the best. Prizes are awarded to people getting most votes.



The categories for entry are:
1. Best scented rose
2. Best rose bud
3. Most unusual rose
4. Most romantic rose
5. Best wedding buttonhole

Bring your roses to the marquee between 12.00 and 13.00 (no later) on the day of the Fayre, 20th June and collect them at 15.30.

Plant Sale at Frensham Fayre

The FDHS will be running a plant stall at the Frensham Fayre. Look out for us.
This year there will be lots of plants to buy at bargain prices. They are mostly grown in the area by local gardeners and so they should take well in your garden. While you are there, chat to members who can also advise you on all things gardening in Frensham and Dockenfield. Our thanks to everyone who donate plants for us to sell. Particular thanks go to the members who get up early to get plants ready for the sale.
And our special thanks to the Landscape Centre in Churt, for donating compost for potting plants.

Jilly, Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society https://fdhs.org.uk

Friends of Frensham Churches Safari Supper

Friday 5th June 7pm

Supporting the maintenance of your Parish churches. Go wild in Frensham and Dockenfield on 5th June!

Our hosts are generously creating some wonderful menus for you to enjoy, including drinks; 100% of your ticket price will go directly to helping FOFC to maintain our beautiful churches.

Begin with the starter at your first host's house, jump in your car and head for main course at your second host's house and then drive back to The Good Shepherd church in Dockenfield for more drinks, desserts and coffee. Tickets £40 per head from Eunice King – secretaryfofc@gmail.com 07811 879702.

Note: Once you have purchased your ticket, we will be in touch to check any dietary requirements and if you require specific access to the host's home. Then we will contact you again nearer the event with the details of your hosts addresses and timings for the evening.

We look forward to welcoming you to this wonderfully social evening!

Eunice King

Butterfly

An exciting new production is being put on at the Phoenix Theatre in Bordon on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June.
BUTTERFLY is a play written by Claire Jackson, a local writer, and lives in the Old Convent at Great Holt. The play is about the life of Eleanor Glanville who discovered the Glanville fritillary. Glanville was declared “deprived of her senses” for her interest in lepidoptery.
BUTTERFLY imagines Glanville’s life in the present day and promises to be an exciting night at the theatre.
Claire has surveyed for and guided butterfly walks for the BWRG. If you are interested in butterflies and would like to support Claire’s work, tickets can be purchased from the theatre, see details below.

Butterfly

Phoenix Theatre
www.phoenixarts.co.uk
Friday 5th June and Saturday 6th June 2026
Box Office: 01420 472664
Tickets: £13 (plus

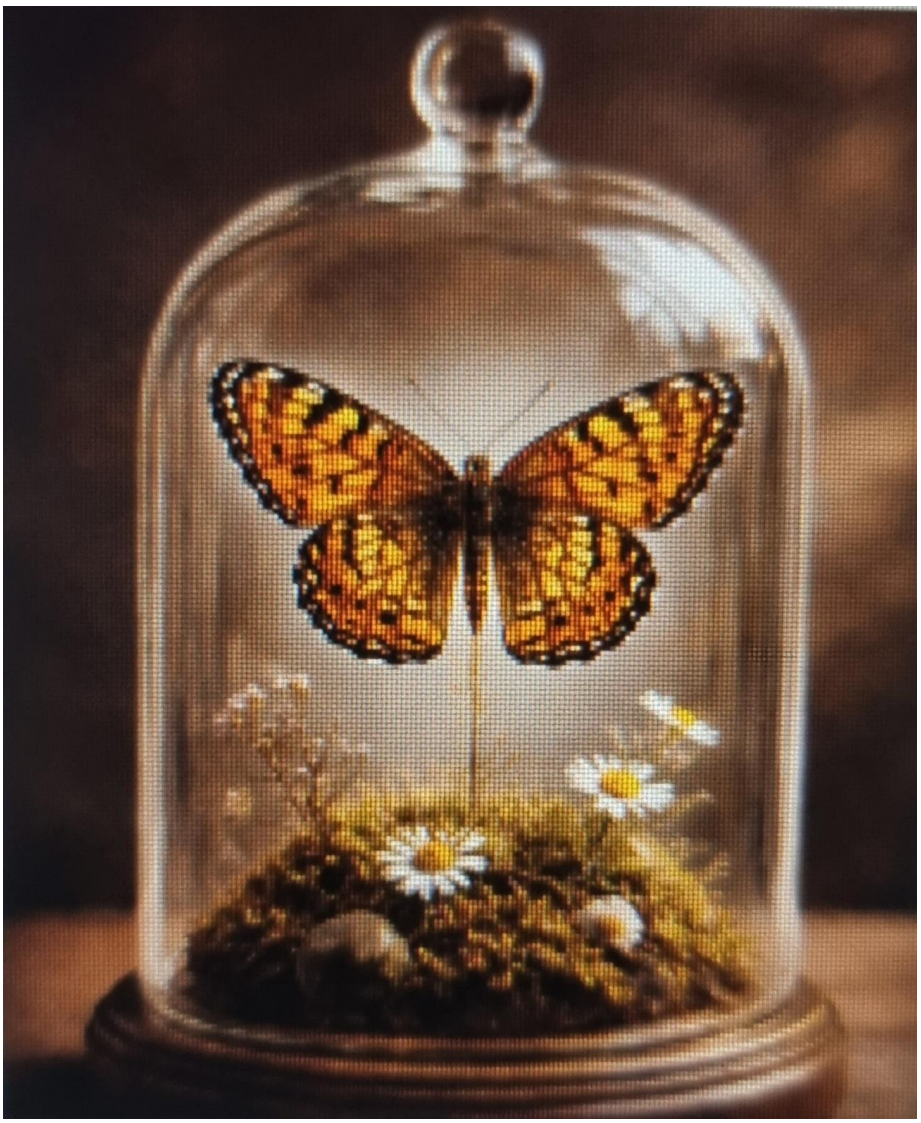


Image curtesy of the Phoenix Theatre press release.

Ladies' Nights at the Blue Bell!

The ladies of Dockenfield were out in full force for April's meeting, determined to enjoy the last rays of sunshine in the pub garden! All attendees should be awarded a gold ⭐ for bravery, as we managed to stay outside under the stars enjoying laughs and chat until late! Hot water bottles and blankets may have been useful towards the end!

Ladies' Night is truly unique and a heat way to connect as a community. Do come along if you haven't been before and you'll be made to feel very welcome! Ladies' nights are **always on the last Thursday of the month.**
Thinking ahead to **2026 'Ladies' Nights'! Save these dates.**
Thursday 28th May,
Thursday 25th June,
Thursday 30th July and 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.

Photo and article Joolz Miles

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