DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

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Welcome to the summer edition of your Dockenfield Newsletter. Once again, our late spring and early summer has been dominated by searingly hot temperatures and very little rain with the ironic exception of Dockenfield Day, see p4.

Our local gardens, farmland and forest are crying out for water and the household hosepipe ban from South East Water, which came into force on Saturday July 25th, means that watering just got harder. Try to leave a shallow tray of water out in your garden to help struggling wildlife. On the plus side the sunshine has been a great for butterflies and Mary's article on p3 is worth a glance if you fancy some butterfly related citizen science.

Our newsletter is filled with upcoming events and activities, along with news and reports from the last two months, in and around the parish. Grab a glass of something refreshing, take a moment and enjoy.

The Editor and the DNL team.

Going Wild on Bealeswood Common

The village group who record the wildlife on the common and advise on management (BWRG) are also interested in showing people what is special about this formally designated Local Nature Reserve. During June and July three events were organised, for younger children and family groups, at a time when the Common is resplendent with wildflowers being enjoyed by a wealth of insects (butterflies, bees, grasshoppers etc.).

Over two warm sunny June evenings BWRG welcomed two visiting groups of girls from Rowledge Guides Group accompanied by their leader, Rachel Britton and some parents. The Guides learnt about different aspects of Bealeswood Common wildlife, particularly the trees, wildlife, and insects through discussions over specimens, guided walks, use of identification apps, and the release of some previously trapped moths. The Rainbows were fascinated by the growth of our large oaks from acorns and Guides showed an impressive understanding of the importance of trees for carbon storage, providing us with oxygen, together with food and shelter for wildlife. The Guides showed a good level of knowledge about wildflowers and how they attracted insects for pollination.

Tree identification with Colin Hall, our local arboricultural expert.

Photo Dan Bosence

Investigation of the Common led to finding specimens in the sward, together with some feeding butterflies. The star event of the evening, however, for both groups was the release of moths trapped over the previous night. Many youngsters suffer from various degrees of mottephobia (yes, it appears to be a real word!) but all were eventually happy to have moths resting on their hands before they flew back to their bushes and trees. Star Lepidopterans included the twig-like Buff-tips and the huge Poplar and Elephant Hawkmoths.

A close encounter with moths by Rowledge Rainbows
Photo: Dan Bosence

On the 5th of July we welcomed local family groups to the Common and about 20 parents, kids and one well-behaved dog joined us to learn about our butterflies (31 species) and bees (36 species). Following introductions by Alison Bosence and Alex Potts, and supply of identification sheets, the group divided to explore different areas of the Common. Of course, they found a lot more than just butterflies and bees with many wildflowers, grasshoppers, day-flying moths also found.

Small, suction operated, sampling tubes kindly supplied by Hive Helpers (Farnham) enabled small insects to be captured, examined, identified and recorded before being released.

The three days were judged to be a great success and introduced a large number of children (and adults) to what amazingly diverse and fascinating wildlife we have locally. Thanks to Alison Bosence and Rachel Britton for organising the visits from the Guides and Philippa Hall for the local family event.

A future wildlife recorder hard at work on Bealeswood Common. **Photo: Dan Bosence**

Dan Bosence

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

All Parish Council meetings are held in The Church of The Good Shepherd. If any residents wish to speak at the meeting or bring any issues or ideas to our attention there is always a slot 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 15th September 2026, 8pm at The Church of The Good Shepherd.

Dockenfield Day

The annual Dockenfield Day fete was held on 6th June 2026 and due to the poor weather that weekend was largely held within The Church of The Good Shepherd. Please see the report from The Activities Committee elsewhere in this Newsletter.

There is nothing further to report at present.

Chris Sutton

Big Butterfly Count Is Here!

Help monitor butterflies near you by joining the Big Butterfly Count. This is a nationwide citizen science survey to help assess our environment.

Download the butterfly ID chart or free app to identify and record the butterflies you spot in 15 minutes during bright weather.

Join between Friday 17th July and Sunday 9th August 2026.

Add your counts so they appear on the interactive map and see the results.

By taking part in this survey, we can all help the charity Butterfly Conservation assess the health of our environment simply by counting the species and numbers of butterflies we see. The data from this and other counts will also help Butterfly Conservation to identify important trends in species. This will assist them in planning how to protect butterflies from extinction, as well as understanding the effect of climate change on wildlife.

Source www.wwf.org.uk

Mary Somerville

Dockenfield Day

Dockenfield Day on Saturday 6th June proved, once again, that a little rain is no match for village spirit! With the weather determined to dampen our plans, we made the last-minute decision to move the main event from the playing field into the church, and it turned out to be a winning move. While the coconut shy, plant stall, BBQ and Bar bravely battled the elements outside, indoors was buzzing with delicious teas and cakes, books to browse, face painting, toys and plenty more besides. The day culminated with a fantastic raffle packed with great prizes. A huge thank you goes to everyone who volunteered on the day, and to all the villagers who came along to support this much-loved event. Your enthusiasm, smiles and community spirit made Dockenfield Day another wonderful success, whatever the weather!

Photo: Joolz Miles

Natalie Stewart

Frensham And Dockenfield Village Lunch

The price for the village lunch is £6 and is very good value for a two-course meal and coffee or tea and 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.

Lunch on the 26th August 2026 will be jacket potato with various fillings and the charity stall is for the church fabric. The 23rd September will be lasagne, garlic bread and salad with the Kingsley Centre as the charity stall and, on the 28th October, we'll be serving Cottage Pie with the charity stall for St Mary's Trust. All meals have a vegetarian alternative, and at all lunches you can choose from a range of puddings. We will be starting to take bookings for the Christmas Lunch at the September lunch. Bookings and payments will only be taken at the monthly lunches for the Christmas event which will be on the 25th November.

Pam Watmore

Frensham Royal British Legion Club

The Legion had a successful presence at Frensham Fayre on 20th June, with a corn hole game organised by Sarah and Luke Ruffle and their family. At the EGM on 30th June, James Stevens was elected as Chair of the club, to serve until at least the AGM in December.

Upcoming events:

Thursday 13th August 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 15th August 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. (This was the quiz originally due to be held in June, but postponed due to a clash with World Cup football.)

Thursday 10th September 7.30pm: Music Night – details as for 13th August.

Saturday 26th September 7.30pm: Quiz – organised by Millbridge WI. All welcome, teams of up to six, entry £5 per head.

Sunday 27th September 12pm to 4pm: Jumble Sale – entrance 50p, all very welcome. We should be grateful for donations of good saleable items – please bring into the club before the day during normal opening hours.

Janet Caigar

Strawberry Cake

This recipe works well with any leftover summer fruits.

Prepare a 20cm cake tin and turn oven to 180

90ml Sunflower Oil

250g Plain Flour

1.5teaspoons Baking Powder

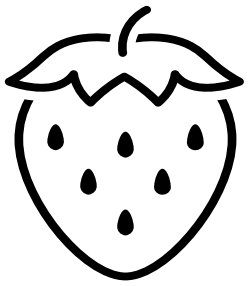
200g Caster Sugar

2 Eggs

125ml Natural Yogurt

1 teaspoon Vanilla essence

1 punnet Strawberries, finely chopped



Make a smooth batter with all ingredients except the fruit. (An electric whisk is helpful). Pour half batter into the tin, cover with half the fruit and then the rest of the batter and finish with the fruit. Bake for 1 hour until a skewer comes out clean from the centre.

Mary Somerville

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 message me on 07930 98 66 77 and I'll add you to the WhatsApp group.

Sebastian Fox.

Dockenfield Ladies' Nights at The Bluebell.

The ladies of Dockenfield enjoyed another sunny meet up at June's ladies' night - hopefully the glorious sunshine remains and we can enjoy ourselves sitting in tropical climes, sipping a refreshing drink at our next meet up on Thursday 30th July.

For those who haven't yet experienced Ladies' Night, it is a truly unique gathering so please do come along and you'll be made very welcome!

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

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

Rainfall Totals

Thank you once again to Jack who has sent in the rainfall totals

May 2025 0.92mm May 2026 22mm
June 2025 1.44mm June 2026 83.2mm

Jack Bessant

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

On Thursday 27th August, our August speaker is David Ford from Plant Heritage. This is a charity dedicated to conserving cultivated plants which include trees, fruits and veg. David holds the National Collection of "Chaenomeles", or quinces and will be talking to us about how the charity identifies and preserves species for future generations. This will be at the Marindin Hall at 7.30pm for refreshments and talk starting at 8pm. Non-members welcome.

Autumn Show on Saturday 5th September

This a spectacular display of all that gardens in the area can offer. The classes of exhibit are shown on the members handbook. Non-members can also enter open classes which include flower arrangements, home industries (jams, cakes, homemade decorative and useful items) and photography.

Contact show_organiser@fdhs.org.uk for further details. Junior classes are open to all those under 15 with classes for under 8s and 8-15s.

It is held at the Marindin Hall. Entries must be in by 10.30am. Teas, cakes and viewing of exhibits will be between 2.30pm and 4pm. Prize giving will be at 3.45pm.

Jilly Steventon. Chair

Friends of Frensham Churches

Christmas Card Design Competition

It might seem a little **too** early to be thinking about Christmas! But would you like to see your photography or artwork reproduced as a Christmas card? If so, why not enter the FOFC Christmas card design competition.

Each year we sell Christmas cards to raise funds to help us support the maintenance of our village churches. Many of you will be past purchasers of these cards, and we thank you for your support.

Now is your opportunity to have a go at your own design! It doesn't necessarily need to be a local scene – let your imagination run wild!

Your design must be:

- Square
- Artwork (sketch, cartoon, painting, collage); or Photograph
- Have a Christmas/winter theme
- Be submitted as a PDF or high definition photograph

All entries will be judged by the Trustees and the winner(s) will be announced at the FOFC AGM in September.

Please submit your design to secretaryfofc@gmail.com before Friday 21 August.

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