DNL Dockenfield newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 314 Published: 24th September 2026

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Dockenfield Newsletter. Although summer seems to be hanging on, I feel that we will soon see some misty mornings, autumn colours and some cooler temperatures as the nights draw in. It is a delight to be able to look forward to some of the exciting activities that the village and surrounding area has to offer. Whatever you are planning over the shortening days do bear us in mind and cast an eye over what fun can be found in the village this autumn. Meanwhile, it's time to sink into a comfy chair, pop your feet up, sip a steaming mug of cocoa and dive into your autumn DNL. **The DNL Team**

As you will be aware the clocks go back for the end of daylight saving time on Sunday 25th October. Do please spare a thought for our local wildlife and help save lives by driving carefully on the lanes. The clocks change for us but not for our field and forest inhabitants so they are vulnerable for a few weeks until they get used to our changed schedule. Thank you. **The Editor**

Creating New Spawning Habitat on the River Wey

Some readers may have wondered what has been happening with the large piles of gravel and diggers in the river meadows in Frensham.

Ben Poulsom is one of the family that farm at Pitt Farm, and he also runs the River Wey Fly Fishing Club. Ben is spearheading continuing efforts to work with nature and improve the river environment for generations to come.

Following approval from the Environment Agency (EA), two new spawning beds have been installed in the River Wey. The project has been made possible through the support of the River Wey Trust. Particular thanks to Simon Bleach for his considerable help with the paperwork and ongoing support (which was no mean feat as it took a few years to wade through the red tape). Valuable support has also come from Surrey Hills Farming in Protected Landscapes and the Wild Trout Trust.

(Continued overleaf)

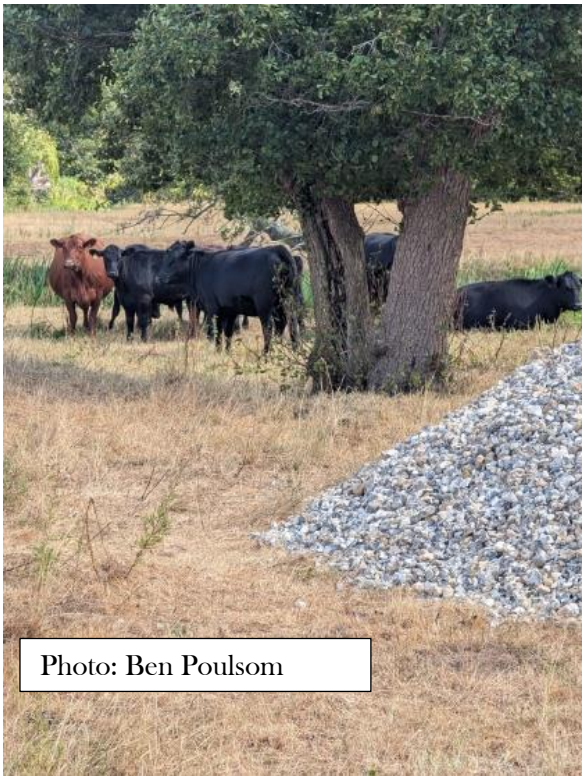


Photo: Ben Poulsom

Photo: Ben Poulsom

The works involved placing around 120 tonnes of angular gravel into the river. This gravel provides the ideal conditions for fish to spawn and lay their eggs. Carefully positioned wood debris has also been introduced as flow deflectors, helping to maintain water flow across the spawning gravels and reduce the build-up of silt. This should create better conditions for eggs and fry, improving their chances of surviving and developing.

The project is part of a wider commitment at Pitt Farm to work alongside nature, improve the health of the river and create a better environment for wildlife. By making these improvements today, we hope to leave a healthier and more resilient river for future generations. We are happy to report that the beds are already working, as trout, dace, bullheads and roach have been seen sitting on the new gravels.

Ben and everyone involved would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have supported the project and helped make these improvements to the River Wey possible.

Ben Poulsom

Big Band Jazz - 21st November 2026

A 16-piece jazz orchestra, The Barnes Big Band, returns to St Mary's Church in Frensham on Saturday November 21st for its third year. The band plays wide ranging and accessible big band jazz including the music of the Count Basie Orchestra right through to more modern compositions written for the Barnes band by musicians associated with it over the years.

Joining the band again is top jazz singer, Vanessa Rose, to perform some vocal favourites made famous by Ella Fitzgerald and Natalie Cole, daughter of the legendary Nat King Cole. Vanessa has appeared several times with the Barnes band in the last year, and is well known on the London jazz scene for her rich and soulful performances.

The programme will include music from top big band arrangers Sammy Nestico, Gordon Goodwin and Francy Boland as well as arrangements of Miles Davis tunes to celebrate the 100th birthday of the iconic jazz trumpeter.

The long-established band comprises some of the finest jazz musicians in the London area and is a mix of professional and semi-professional players with a passion for big band jazz. It is led by Dockenfield based trombonist Andrew Butcher who has played with the band for approaching 20 years but took over in 2018 from Stan Reynolds, a trumpet player with the internationally renowned Ted Heath Orchestra.

The concert will start at 7.30pm but the bar will be open from 7pm and will remain open throughout the concert. Tickets for the evening include canapes that will be served at the interval.

Tickets are £25 each and can be purchased online at www.ticketsource.com/frensham-pcc

Jon Savage

Dockenfield Skittles Night

Date – 8th January 2027 **Time** – 6.45pm **Location** – The Bluebell Pub **Cost** - £23.50 per person Places are limited, so please book ASAP	

Menu choices

Main: -

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

Dessert: -

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.

Katy Poulsom

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026

The Royal British Legion has confirmed that we are allowed to have a normal Poppy Appeal this year and so our collection period will run from 22nd October to 11th November. Our team of dedicated collectors will be visiting houses in Frensham and Dockenfield during that period, selling poppies. Donations for poppies can also be made at the usual strategic locations, such as The Royal British Legion Club, the Frensham Village Shop, local pubs and schools or by bank transfer to "RBL Poppy Appeal" sort code 30-11-75, a/c no 01937121, quoting reference SEH09.

Dockenfield villagers have always shown very generous support for the Poppy Appeal in the past and we hope that you will feel able to fully support the Appeal again this year.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Poppy Appeal, such as being part of the team selling poppies outside supermarkets, shops, in your street or at work, please contact me.

Remembrance Sunday 08.11.26

We plan to have our usual four Remembrance Sunday services this year with changes as necessitated by Health & Safety regulations. The Royal British Legion is now forbidden from taking any responsibility for traffic management as a result of a multi-million-pound insurance claim. This means that we need to adjust our Services, and subject to the appropriate permissions being granted, the plans are as follows: -

10.15 am **Frensham Memorial Service** – if we receive permission from the local authority we will remain on the Green by St Mary's School and will NOT cross the A287 to the Memorial. All attendees do so at their own risk.

There will be NO parade from the Green to the church. Anyone who walks from the Green to the church does so at their own risk. There will be NO Traffic Marshalls.

Wreaths for this Memorial Service will be laid in the Church Service and subsequently placed at the Frensham Memorial.

10.50 am **Remembrance Service, St Mary's Church, Frensham**. Wreaths that in the past had been laid at the Frensham Memorial Service will from now on be laid at this Church Service.

12.30 pm **Dockenfield Memorial Service** – subject to Dockenfield Parish Council being granted a Temporary Traffic Management Order we will hold this service as usual in The Street by the Memorial.

1 pm **Royal British Legion Club Memorial Service** – as usual followed by lunch in the club, to be paid for on the day.

Peter James. Local Poppy Appeal Organiser peterfjames123@gmail.com

Farnham Foodbank

Dockenfield Food Bank

We would firstly like to thank everyone for their very generous contributions . 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.

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 the wooden gate. 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 food banks need for that month. We would like to reassure everyone that there are no dogs on the property,

Thank you for your support. **Stephen & Fiona Jones**

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

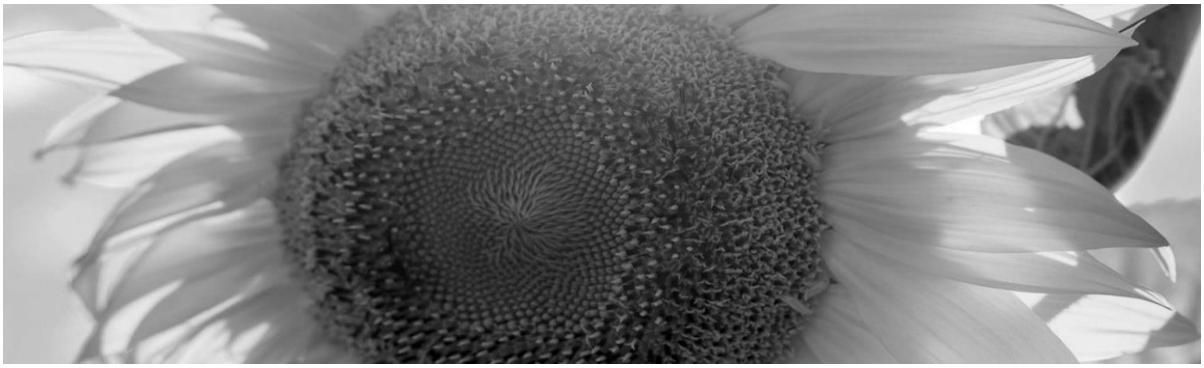
Future Parish Council Meeting Dates.

Tuesday 27th October and Tuesday 1st December, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Editor on behalf of DPC.

Can you grow Dockenfield's biggest pumpkin?

What about the Tallest Sunflower?



Would you like to be our most perfect pumpkin grower? Or maybe the supremo of sunflowers?

Two new gardening competitions coming to Dockenfield and Frensham in 2027

To register your interest and get further information please send a WhatsApp message to Ana 07443647520 or email annmariepease@hotmail.co.uk.

More details will be included in the next edition of DNL.....Watch this space!!

Ann Marie Pease

Frensham And Dockenfield History Group

Tuesday, October 13th Jonathon Jones will be speaking about Town Criers. 7.30pm at The Marindin Hall. Guests £3.

Tuesday, November 10th Neil Mumford will be returning with Part 2 of his talk on The Forgotten Occupation: Guernsey in WW2. 7.30pm at The Marindin Hall. Guests £3.

Further information available from Chris Bonner 01252 793668 or 07498916505.

Chris Bonner, Chairman.

Frensham Royal British Legion Club & Branch

Upcoming events.

Thursday 8th October 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 10th October 7.30pm: Quiz – organised by Tilford WI. All welcome, teams of up to six, entry £5 per head.

Saturday 17th October 7.30pm: Harvest Home Auction – an ever-popular annual tradition, to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal and the club. Donations are needed and appreciated, i.e. traditional home-made items, cakes, jams and preserves, pies, wines and spirits, unwanted gifts, plants, etc – anything in good condition suitable for auctioning - these can be brought into the club beforehand during opening hours, or on the day. This is a great evening out with lots of fun and laughs. All are welcome, members and non-members.

Saturday 24th October 8pm: Halloween Party with Buffalo Bill's Disco & Karaoke. We have welcomed Buffalo Bill at the club on a number of previous occasions, and it is always a great night's entertainment, so do make sure to come along. Fancy dress optional.

Sunday 8th November 1pm Remembrance Sunday: Why not come along to our service at the war memorial outside the club given by Rev Jane Walker and afterwards enjoy a two-course lunch in the Legion. No need to book – just turn up and pay at the door. There will also be a raffle, with profits from the lunch and raffle going to the Poppy Appeal.

Thursday 12th November 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 14th November 7.30pm: Big November Quiz – organised by Ken Danson on behalf of the Legion Club. Teams of up to six, entry £5 per head, also a raffle.

Janet Caiger & Jo Gayton

Bealeswood Common Upcoming Wildlife Walks

These start at the notice board at the end of the lane downhill past the Bluebell pub garden (GU10 4EX). Contact the leader if you wish to join the walk, so that they can keep a track of numbers and in case of bad weather etc:

Small Mammals (wood mice, voles etc)- September 26th (Saturday) 10am, led by Roger Trout, contact: rabbitwise@hotmail.co.uk

Mushrooms- October 17th (Saturday) 10.30am, led by Manda Adolph, contact: amandaadolph@gmail.com

Amanda Adolph

Church Events for the next few months

Friday 25th September and 23rd October - Hearing Clinic - 10am to Midday - Good Shepherd

Wednesdays in September, October and November - Walking together with God watching 'The Chosen' and learning the Bible from it. 7pm at The Vicarage, Frensham with refreshments

Thursdays in September, October and November - Forum Discussions - 7:30pm - St Marys Hall with refreshments

Fridays in September and October - Coffee Stop - 10am to midday - Good Shepherd

Friday 2nd October – **Harvest Supper and entertainment –** 7pm – Good Shepherd. Wholesome and tasty Shepherd's Pie and vegetarian option with loads of puddings! Raffle, Bar. £15 tickets from Barbara Potter 01252 794727 or bepotter68@gmail.com

Sunday 18th October – Film and talk to update us all on the situation in Gaza – 3pm – St Mary's Church - £10 admission – proceeds of food sales will go to charities supporting those in Gaza.

Wednesday 28th October - Village Lunch at the RBL at 12.30pm – Cottage Pie, both meat and vegetarian option. Charity is St Mary's Frensham Trust.

Saturday 21st November – **Jazz evening fundraiser at 7pm at St Mary's Church** – Andrew Butcher's amazing band are returning with a wondrous range of music. Pay bar, raffle and great canapes.

Wednesday 25th November – Christmas Village lunch at Frensham RBL – Full Christmas meal and vegetarian option. Pay £10 when booked – limited numbers so book early! Barbara Potter 01252 794727 or bepotter68@gmail.com

Church Services in The Church of The Good Shepherd, Dockenfield

Sunday 20th September **'Celebrating St Matthew'** BCP Holy Communion - 8am; Family Café Church – 5pm Play, pizza and cakes!

Sunday 27th September BCP Holy Communion - 8am - Good Shepherd

Sunday 4th October **Harvest and Pet service** - 10:30am **Please bring your harvest dried and tinned goods as well as fresh fruit and vegetables, which our parish friends will distribute to those in need both in our parish and beyond. Come with your pets – all welcome!**

Wednesday 7th October - BCP Holy Communion – 10am – followed by refreshments.

Sunday 11th October - BCP Holy Communion - 8am

Sunday 18th October **'celebrating St Luke the Evangelist' -** BCP Holy Communion - 8am; Family Café Church – 5pm Play, pizza and cakes!

Sunday 25th October - BCP Holy Communion - 8am

1st November – 1030am – **Celebrating All Saints Day** informal worship and fellowship with refreshments

Wednesday 4th November - BCP Holy Communion – 10am – followed by refreshments.

Sunday 8th November - BCP Holy Communion - 8am; 12.30pm **Remembrance service** at Dockenfield memorial.

Sunday 15th November - BCP Holy Communion - 8am; Family Cafe Church - 5pm Play, pizza and cakes!

22nd November - BCP Holy Communion - 8am

29th November - BCP Holy Communion - 8am **Note: Advent carol service at St Mary's Frensham 6pm**

Rev. Jane Walker Vicar of the Benefice of Frensham

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.

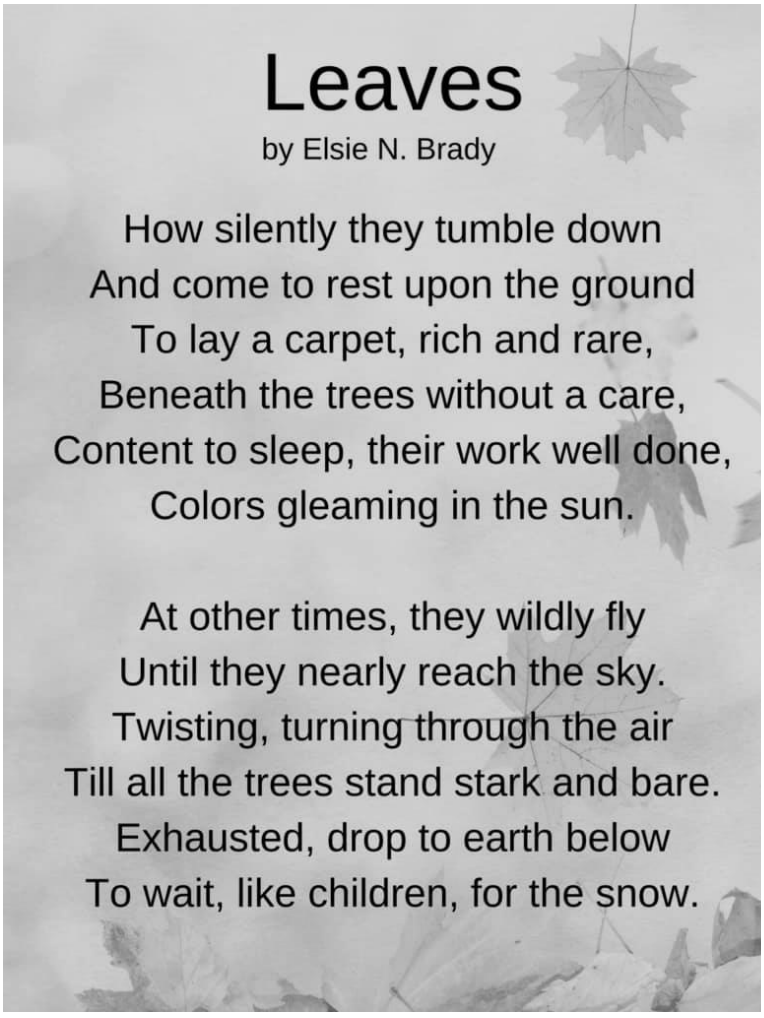
Cherubs Toddler Group

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



Dockenfield Ladies' Nights at The Bluebell

The ladies of Dockenfield managed yet another night sat in the pub garden, as the warm weather continued this summer! Lots of hilarity and fun was had!

Do come along if you haven't been before and you'll be made to feel very welcome!

Ladies' night is **always on the last Thursday of the month**, so save these dates

Thursday 24th September	
Thursday 29th October	
Thursday 26th November	

As the December one falls on New Year's Eve, we'll skip that one and so the next one would be January 28th, 2027.

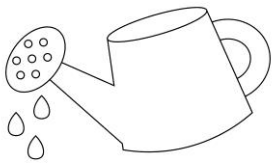
For those who haven't yet experienced Ladies' Night, it is a truly unique gathering so please do come along and you'll be made very welcome!

Want to get event reminders via WhatsApp? Simply send a message to Joolz Miles at 07833353359, and you'll be added to the group.

Joolz Miles

Rainfall Totals

July 2025
78.8mm.
July 2026
0.8mm



August 2025
26.4mm.
August 2026
26.8mm

Jack Bessant

The July total this year was a mere 0.8mm. Hardly surprising that we experienced drought conditions. Perhaps this is another Dockenfield record.

The Editor

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Following a very successful Autumn show, we are all hoping that the rain will revive our flowers, shrubs and veg for a late summer flourish, and prove that all is not lost in the garden. Most people will be planning what to grow for next year with the potential hot dry weather on the cards again.

On Thursday 22nd October, we have the AGM at which we'll talk about events for next year and our financial position. We'll start promptly and keep that short to allow time for our speaker from the RHS, Jassy Drakulic, who will talk to us about Fungi. This meeting will be held at the Marindin Hall at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome (no charge).

Friday 27th November is our Members' supper at the Marindin Hall starting at 7.30pm with a complimentary glass of fizz. It will include two courses plus nibbles to start, and wine will also be on sale. Please contact events@fdhs.org.uk if you'd like to book tickets.

There is no meeting in December. A date for your diary is Thursday 28th January. Our speaker will be Timothy Walker talking about 21st Century Gardening, which I hope will give us all some insights on how to cope with the vagaries of the weather.

The new membership year is from January, and you can renew your membership from November onwards. The fees stay the same as 2026 at £20 for a single membership and £35 for a family. It is such good value for a programme of meetings, visits and shows throughout the year. We will be sending out details of renewal in October.

Enjoy the Autumn Garden.

Jilly Steventon. Chair

Frensham & Dockenfield Village Lunch

At just £6 the monthly village lunch, 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.

On 23rd September lunch will be Lasagne, Garlic Bread and Salad with the Kingsley Centre being the charity stall.

On the 28th October, it will be Cottage Pie, and the charity stall will be St Mary's Trust. All meals have a vegetarian alternative, and all the lunches have the choice of puddings.

We will start to take bookings for the Christmas lunch at the September lunch. Bookings and payments for the Christmas event will only be taken at the September and October monthly lunches. It will be held on the 25th November. It costs £10.00 per person for a traditional Christmas lunch and money must be paid on booking and is non-returnable.

There is no village lunch in December, but we resume on Wednesday 27th January 2027 the lunch will be Sausage Casserole, and the charity stall the British Legion.

Pam Watmore

Dockenfield Activities Committee

Christmas may still seem a little way off, but December will be here before we know it! There's lots to look forward to in the village, including our Christmas Party on 11th December, plus a cosy evening of Christmas Carols, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies (date TBC). So, get ready to dust off those festive jumpers, warm up your singing voices and join us for some seasonal cheer!

ALISON ELLEN

I'm opening my studio as part of the Craft Trail in October, celebrating Farnham as World Craft Town.
I'll be showing my knitwear at sale prices,with the addition of new smaller items, gloves, mittens, hand warmers and hats.

FINAL SALE

including yarns and other materials
Come and visit to celebrate with me: 45 years of designing and making knitted things in Dockenfield!

OCTOBER 10 & 11
10.30am-4pm
Jeffreys Cottage,
Bealeswood Lane
GU104HS
www.alisonellenhandknits.co.uk

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