

# DOCKENFIELD

## *newsletter*

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 237

Published 13 May 2013

# Cop a load of this!

# Dockenfield Day

## is an arresting experience

*Saturday 1 June. One great day. Two great events*

**'Cops, Robbers and Highwaymen' themed Fete: 2pm-6pm**

**'Prohibition Party' at the Bluebell: 6.30pm-Late**

This year Dockenfield Day is back to its normal format and has more stalls and more fun than ever before, all rounded off with what promises to be a terrific party at the Bluebell including a special menu, live music and dancing. Its wall to wall enjoyment for the whole family, all with a 'Cops and Robbers' and a nod to our own notorious robber, Highwayman Batt of Batts Corner. Free entry to both the fete and the party.

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Timings are approximate

#### Afternoon Fete

2pm	Fete opened by Tim Finlow
2.05pm	Stalls open
2.30-2.55pm	Punch & Judy
3.00pm	Fun Dog Show (all dogs welcome, please arrive by 2.50pm)
3.20pm-3.50pm	Children's Races
3.50pm-4.20pm	Tug of War contest
4.20pm-4.45pm	Punch & Judy
5pm	Raffle Draw, Children's Parade & Prize Giving
6pm	Close
<b>Evening Party</b>	
<b>6.30pm till late</b>	Prohibition Night Party at the Bluebell

### As ever, Dockenfield Day needs your help

Please can you:  
volunteer to help on the day; lend us a tent or gazebo; contribute books, DVDs, garden plants, toys, raffle and tombola prizes and home made cakes.  
Please see pages 3 & 4.

Oh, and please get all your family to dress to the theme of the day.

**Neighbourhood Plan – see important announcement on page 6.**

## VILLAGE DIARY ..... *events you won't want to miss*

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
<b>Tuesday, 14 May</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 15
<b>Thursday, 16 May</b>	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 15
<b>Saturday, 18 May</b>	10.30am-midday	Open event at the Mill House and St Mary's Church	Mill House	Page 8
<b>Wednesday, 22 May</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
<b>Thursday, 23 May</b>	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 15
<b>Tuesday, 28 May</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
<b>Friday, 31 May</b>	tba	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 9
<b>Saturday, 1 June</b>	2pm-6pm 6.30pm-late	Dockenfield Day Prohibition Night Party	The Green, Abbotts Cottages The Bluebell pub	Pages 1,3 & 4
<b>8,9,13-16 June</b>	11am-5pm	Open Studios	Hursley Cottage and Jeffreys Cottage	Page 13
<b>Saturday, 15 June</b>	11am-5pm	Phyllis Tuckwell Annual Fete	Gostrey Meadows, Farnham	Page 15
<b>Saturday, 15 June</b>	From 1pm	Frensham Fayre	Hollowdene	Page 9
<b>Saturday, 15 June</b>	7.30pm	Eclectic Music Event	Hollowdene	Page 9
<b>Tuesday, 18 June</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
<b>Thursday, 20 June</b>	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 15
<b>Wednesday, 26 June</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
<b>Friday, 28 June</b>	tba	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 9
<b>Friday 6 September</b>	tba	Dockenfield Skittles Night	The Jolly Farmer pub	Page 9

### Comings and goings ...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to Doug Johnson, who has moved from Hawkley to flat 6 in the Old Convent at Great Holt.

*If you are new to the village, then please let the Newsletter know and we can welcome you in the next edition. Or if you want to offer congratulations on a wedding, birthday or anniversary again let the Newsletter know and they can be mentioned in this section. And if you want to stay in touch once you have left Dockenfield, then ask for an email copy of the Newsletter to be sent to you. Just email michael.foster66@btinternet.com*

### Dockenfield Newsletter

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of photocopying 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. Hard copies of DNL are delivered to approximately 250 households in and around the village and a further 150 or so are emailed on request to predominantly local subscribers. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully. For the next edition **the deadline is 7 July**, with items sent by email please, ideally as a Word attachment, to michael.foster66@btinternet.com. Or through the door at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.

# Dockenfield Day

## Saturday 1 June

### It's the heart-'beat' of the village

#### 'Cops, Robbers and Highwaymen' Fete: 2-6pm

You'll find the inspiration for this year's Dockenfield Day at the very heart of the village. Batts Corner takes its name from the Highwayman Batt who was allegedly hanged at Batts Corner. And from that comes this year's theme of 'Cops, Robbers and Highwaymen' So please join in and get all your family to put on a fancy dress costume (the choice is endless and they are easy to create at home: there are prizes to be won for the best costume) to give the fete a real taste of village history.

The fete itself will be everything you know and love.....charming, relaxed, bucolic, idiosyncratic and full of fun for all the family. 'Round and About' magazine once described it as '*something out of 'Larkrise to Candleford'*' and that pretty much hits the truncheon on the head.

There are always specially themed games and stalls, only this year there are *more* of them, including the village stocks (but definitely no noose!), Pole Jousting, a Cork Shooting Gallery and other new attractions such as Hook a Duck, Target Goal and Skittles. And lets not forget the old favourites such as Bash the Rat, the Human Fruit Machine, the Tombola, Raffle and loads more. For the children there is the return of the Punch and Judy Show, which was such a hit last year, and of course all the children's games and old fashioned races like the Hobby Horse and Egg and Spoon. Plus the ever popular Tug of War which is open to all....everyone wants to have a go at that. The fun Dog Show is back after a year's absence so do bring your dog along and it may win a prize.

Refreshment? Well we are planning to push the boat out. There will be real ale (of course); Pimms and we hope to run a small champagne bar: perfect with a slice of cake! And if that doesn't hit the spot you can always feast at the all day BBQ or on ice cream.

Everyone from Dockenfield and the surrounding area is welcome, so please bring your friends and family and join in the all the fun

#### 'Prohibition Night' Party at the Bluebell: 6.30pm-Late

The 'Cops, Robbers and Highwaymen' theme continues with a 'Prohibition Night' Party at the Bluebell. The pub will have the windows blacked out, be fully decorated and lit with lots of candles, and Robin and all the staff will be dressed to the theme. So bags of atmosphere. There will be live music and dancing to a band called 'The Fleas' who Robin describes as '*a toe-tapping ukulele jug band who specialise in country blues, classic rock, (Beatles/Stones) and feature strong harmonies and a jolly demeanor. They do requests if they know them and encourage the audience to sing along.*' That should have the joint jumping!

And that's not all: there is special food on offer too. The regular main menu is available until 7:30 (last orders....please try and book to avoid disappointment. (Tel: 792801). The kitchen hours have been extended so from 7-10pm there will be special canapé platters which will include such tasty items as mini pies, scotch eggs (they are yum!), crab fritters, tartlets with various toppings, hand cut chips and such like and cost £10. Robin believes that this is how food was served in prohibition times although he is certain that drinks will be available this time round!

The pub has applied for an extension to serve until 12.30 am (please note that at the time of going to press this was not confirmed). Of course it's free to get in. And if you have worn a costume during the day, then please wear it up to the pub in the evening. All in all a wonderful way to round off Dockenfield Day.

#### Help!

This great event can't work without loads of volunteers. Can you help us organise this fantastic village day? Volunteers are needed to help run stalls, set up in the morning or tidy up after. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated. Also if you have a gazebo or marquee you would be prepared to lend us for the afternoon. Contact Sebastian Fox on Tel: 792080 or 07930 986677 or email him at [sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk)

### SO MANY THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Dockenfield Day is just packed with things to do and games to play for all the family. This is just a sample of what's happening:

<b>Bash the Rat</b>	<b>Raffle</b>
<b>Book Stall</b>	<b>Toy Stall</b>
<b>Garden Plants</b>	<b>BBQ</b>
<b>Tea and Cakes</b>	<b>Ice Cream</b>
<b>Pimms and Real Ale</b>	<b>Pole Jousting</b>
<b>Village Stocks</b>	<b>Fun Dog Show</b>
<b>Human Fruit Machine</b>	<b>Tug of War</b>
<b>Hobby Horse Races</b>	<b>Tombola</b>
<b>Coconut Shy</b>	<b>Target Goal</b>
<b>Punch and Judy</b>	<b>Children's Races</b>
<b>Cork Shooting Gallery</b>	<b>Lucky Dip</b>
<b>Hook-a-Duck</b>	<b>Skittles</b>
<b>Best Cops, Robbers and Highwaymen Outfit Competition</b>	

### JUST PERFECT FOR CHILDREN

Dockenfield Day is just great for children. The Punch and Judy show is back by popular demand, there are children's races, crafts, hobby horse and egg and spoon racing and lots more. And parents please get your children to dress up in a Highwayman/woman, a cop or robber outfit and win a prize in our competition.

How about letting your child enter the Fun Dog Show - it's a must for all the family.

### DONATIONS NEEDED

Many of the stalls rely heavily on the generosity of villagers and donations for the following will be gratefully received. If possible, please drop in non-perishable items to stallholders before the day as this helps against last minute panics! Having said that, nothing will be turned away on the day. If there any doubts, please ring the stallholder direct.

<b>Garden Plants</b>	Dan Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792442
<b>Tombola Prizes</b>	Jackie Hutton, Goose Cottage, Green Lane	Tel: 790333
<b>Books/DVDs/Music</b>	Lesley Rosling, Longridge, Batts Corner	Tel: 794090
<b>Raffle Prizes</b>	Debbie Foster, Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792142
<b>Toys</b>	Rob and Sarah Cregeen, Ivy House, The Street	Tel: 792901
<b>Cakes on the Day</b>	Daryl Fox, Drift House, The Street	Tel: 792080

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DOCKENFIELD DAY

- **Plant Stall.** The success of this stall relies on having plants to sell. So, if you have spare plants from transplanting, moving, or splitting clumps please get them into a pot now so that they are ready for the stall. Also, if you are sowing seeds, sow a few extra for us and bring them together with your other plants to the playing field on the morning of Dockenfield Day. If this is not possible then they can be left at Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane with Dan and Alison Bosence (Tel: 792442).
- **Wildlife Monitoring.** Each year Roger Trout collects information on wildlife in our gardens, so please be aware of these tiny visitors, note them down and bring them along on 1 June. Identification help will be available.
- **This year's Competition.** We would love you to come dressed to a 'Cops and Robbers and Highwayman' theme and if you do you might win a prize. There are four age categories: 5 and under, 6-11, 12-17 and 18 and over. And all the stallholders are asked to participate in the fun.
- **Stall Holders.** Can stall holders be sure that they are available to set up, run and tidy their stall please? Stall holders are also encouraged to dress up in a 'Cops, Robbers or Highwayman/woman' costume.
- **Fun Dog Show.** This is open to all dogs, whatever breed and age. To enter, just bring your dog along ten minutes before the show is due to begin.
- **Parking:** Please could we ask stallholders and villagers not to occupy all the parking spots near the fete so that visitors have plenty of places to park their cars.
- **Alcohol.** Alcohol will be on sale to over 18s. No spirits will be sold, nor should any be brought in. No alcohol should be bought, brought in or consumed by under 18s.

### Quality Street

And quality lanes, parks, houses, ponds, towns, and villages. Yes, the Borough of Waverley has recently been placed first in the 2013 'Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey'. East Hampshire, meanwhile, was placed 30<sup>th</sup>. Does this mean that folk living on the Surrey side of the village have more fun? Answers on a postcard please.....

### Have you seen your Mummy, Baby?

A mummy covered in chocolate and nuts has been discovered in Egypt. Archaeologists believe it may be Pharaoh Roche...

## News from Dockenfield Parish Council

**New Parish Clerk.** The Parish Council is pleased to introduce Jessica Hobday from Old Lane, Dockenfield as our new Parish Clerk. Jessica has lived in the village for a good deal of her life and for several years based her work here too. It is so encouraging to have a young person, who knows the village well, keen to take on this position. You can contact Jessica on email: dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07881932363.

We are of course very sorry to see Jackie Hutton stand down but she has carried out a great job since she took on the position of Clerk. Jackie said she will always be on hand to help when necessary. She will of course continue to be very involved in her Activities Committee role.

**New Councillor.** It does seem like "all change". Robert Farrant, who has been a fantastically committed Parish Councillor, has also decided to retire. The village has a lot to thank Robert for over the some 20 plus years he has served as a Councillor. He is however, still around in the village, often to be seen walking his dog Daisy in the Forest ..... deserving a well earned rest!!

And ... welcome to Richard Blackburn of The Chase who has joined as the fifth Parish Councillor making the full complement.

**Neighbourhood Plan.** Later in the DNL (page 6) you will see the Parish Council has decided to take on the challenge of creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Ian McLean is leading on this but all of the rest of the Councillors are committed to achieving a successful conclusion. Please become involved in the process it is a very important step into the future!

**Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting.** This was another interesting event. Our keynote speaker Nicola Godden spoke on her affection for Icarus and the inspiration and creation of the sculpture for the 2012 Olympic Village. The process that was very time consuming made fascinating listening/viewing. The whole work took a great deal of dedication and skill. Although the meeting was well attended, it was a pity for anybody to miss an insight to a great village talent.

The formal meeting followed with a report on the past year by Jill Trout, a review on how Dockenfield P.C. intends to proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan by Ian McLean. There followed a report from Colin Hall regarding CPRE and Alice Holt Users Forum. Michael Foster updated us on the Dockenfield Newsletter and Dockenfield Day and David Harmer (Surrey County Councillor) gave a report on progress with roads and other Surrey matters. No Councillors representing Dockenfield at Waverley Borough Council were present. General questions and comments followed and the evening closed at 10 p.m.

**Next Council Meetings.** Dates for the next three meetings of the Council are: Tuesdays **28 May, 18 June and 16 July.** Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of every meeting which start at 8pm and are held in the vestry of the Good Shepherd.  
**Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday**

## Sustainable Dockenfield

- If you live in Surrey, the County Council will sell you a compost bin with an RRP of £40 for just £15. For information just call Tel: 0844 571 4444 or visit [www.wastepartnership.org.uk](http://www.wastepartnership.org.uk).
- Surrey County Council have asked if DNL could help support their latest furniture reuse campaign which aims to increase sales and donations at the Surrey Reuse Network showrooms. They aim to increase the diversion of bulky waste to reuse which is currently at 5,000 tonnes each year. An estimated 30,000 sofas and beds that could have been reused were thrown away in Surrey last year – enough to stretch across the width of the county if they were laid end to end. The nearest Reuse Showroom is in Bordon, for which they have only given me the name and postcode: Furniture Helpline GU35 9QF. But you can get more information by calling Tel: 0800 082 0180 or visit [surreyreusenetwork.co.uk](http://surreyreusenetwork.co.uk)

## Temporary closure of The Street for BT

Did you happen to see the Public Notice in the Farnham Herald last Friday (10 May, page 19)?

*Surrey County Council is applying for a Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Order the effect of which will be to prohibit vehicles from entering or proceeding in that length of The Street, Dockenfield that extends from its junction with Dockenfield Street with Green Lane and/or any part and/or parts therein. The Temporary Traffic Order is required to enable cabling works on behalf of British Telecom. These works are expected to be carried out between the hours of 09.00 to 17.00 within one day of the three month period of operation of the Temporary Order that commences on 13 May 2013.....Access will be maintained for pedestrians, residents and emergency vehicles at all times.'*

The above words are only extracts from the Public Notice, the full version of which is in the Herald. If you have any further enquiries, call the Traffic Regulation Orders Team at Surrey CC on Tel: 0800 200 1003.

## **The Neighbourhood Plan (What should Dockenfield be: 2013-2028?)**

As stated at the Annual Parish Meeting last month, the Parish Council (DPC) intends to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish of Dockenfield. The Plan will have two main themes, being first, statements on matters related to Development (Planning) in the Parish, and second, statements on other matters of Communal Interest or aspiration. This Plan will, if adopted, sit with the Waverley Borough Council (WBC) Core Strategy (at present with the Inspector) – forming guidance for future development in the Parish. To be adopted, the Plan needs to demonstrate: -

- (1) Consultation with the residents of the Parish
- (2) Focus on matters of relevance to the Parish
- (3) Evidence to support opinions and assertions of need
- (4) Be in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework and WBC Core Strategy
- (5) Be acceptable to the government appointed Inspector who will assess the Plan

The Plan will not seek to comment on every issue identified in the WBC Core Strategy, but residents are invited to read this document, and the Inspector's initial report thereon. Links to these documents are at the foot of this article. The Inspector will commence public hearings on his Examination in Public of the WBC Core Strategy on Wednesday, 5 June at the Council Offices in Godalming, if you are interested in attending.

The programme for developing the Plan is, in outline, as follows:

- (1) Consult (early summer)
- (2) Prepare first draft (summer)
- (3) Re-consult, re-draft – as needed to gain big enough participation and consensus
- (4) Referendum
- (5) Inspection (Compliance with NPPF and Core Strategy)
- (6) Correction and re-submission
- (7) Adoption

So far, the DPC has a starter list of issues which we feel residents will want to have a say on – bearing in mind that the emphasis is on matters of communal interest rather than individual specifics. This list is intended to be neither exhaustive nor prescriptive, and residents may submit their own views on what should or should not be included in the survey document now (which will inform the Plan to a significant degree). The surveys will be run from the DPC website ([www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)), but, for those residents who may not have access to this, we shall have paper copies available. It is intended to ask residents to provide some data about themselves so as to populate our "evidence" files as fully as possible.

This will not be a quick process, and we do need everyone to participate in the consultations (including meetings) if at all possible. We shall also need volunteers to help with [on-line] surveys, collation, data gathering and so on, so if any community service minded people wish to help, please contact the Clerk ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)).

Issues being considered for consultation:

- (1) Views, vistas, ambience
- (2) Development Parameters (types of building, materials, residential vs. commercial, residential vs. agricultural properties, screening and fences)
- (3) Affordable Housing
- (4) Facilities (communal areas, recreation, sport, village activities)
- (5) Support for local groups
- (6) Telecommunications
- (7) Roads (volume and speed control, signage, Public Rights of Way)
- (8) Nuisances (litter, fouling, light pollution, animal and vegetation pests)
- (9) Employment (commuter, home, personal service)
- (10) Crime
- (11) Centralised provision (activities, emergencies)

Finally, one other benefit of this will be to give the Parish Council itself a better, more detailed sense of its mission as it seeks to serve the Parish.

**Ian McLean (for Dockenfield Parish Council)**

*The links to the WBC Core Strategy Document and the Inspector's Report are:*

<<<http://consult.waverley.gov.uk/portal/ldf/cs/csrevised/rcs?pointId=2050785#document-2050785>>>  
<<[www.waverley.gov.uk/corestrategyexamination](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/corestrategyexamination)>>

## Letters to the Editor

### Two corrections please

Could I correct a couple of historical errors in the last Newsletter? In the, otherwise excellent, article on 'Wild Swimming' (*edition 236 page 12*) it is claimed that Frensham Great Pond was built in 1246. Actually nobody knows when it was first established, but it was certainly in existence by 1208 when it is mentioned in the earliest surviving medieval account roll. As in many other cases, the pond probably dates to the second half of the 12th century and was set up, as the article correctly states, by the Bishops of Winchester, mainly as a commercial enterprise but also to supply fish to the Bishop's various palaces - particularly Farnham.

My second correction is more of a despairing complaint. The name 'Shipwrights Way', mentioned in the article on the footpath (*edition 236, page 3*), was chosen by someone with a poor grasp of history. It assumes that, in the Napoleonic period, timbers were taken from the Alice Holt to shipyards in Portsmouth - hence the name of the footpath. Actually there is not a single record that I am aware of, that this ever took place.

There are, however, numerous naval account entries for timber going from the forest to the shipyards on the Thames below London. So there is no evidence that any shipwright ever walked up or down 'Shipwrights Way'. It may be a pedantic point on my part but, in time, it will no doubt, become yet another local myth to distort our view of what really happened in our area.

**David Graham**

*Thank you, David, for giving us the correct history on both these points. And I am relieved to say that neither inaccuracy was as the responsibility of a DNL contributor, but was part of something published elsewhere that was being reported on.*

### Dog owners: please respect the wildlife

Birds and wildlife have had a very tough winter and are trying to nest and recover so it is seriously important in the local woodland and footpaths to keep your dog on a lead and under close control and not allow it to chase the wildlife. Sheep and lambs around the local area are protected by very drastic laws if dogs are found chasing them. Please walk your dog in a responsible way and help protect your local countryside and wildlife.

**Name and address withheld upon request**

*This letter follows on from an article by Steve Webster the Countryside Ranger in the last edition ('Ground-dog Day', page 11) on a similar theme.*

### Security Concerns

Thank you to your delivery people for dropping off a copy of the DNL each month. I have been meaning to write to you for a while and finally I have put 'finger to keyboard' - finally stirred by reading this month's report from the local police officer about theft of garden machinery etc.

As we all know we are plagued by thieves in the night stealing from gardens and sheds. Shortly after moving into our new home about 5 year ago we had a sun dial stolen - which was a bit of a rude awakening to Frith End/Dockenfield life, but there you go.

I live on the unmade lane (technically in law a footpath not a BOAT) that leads from the A325 to Grooms Farm. The farm has been plagued with thieving from its sheds ever since before we moved into the area. Last January I was woken at about 3am by a van driving as quietly as possible down our lane. It was the crunching of the ice under the tyres that woke me rather than the engine noise. The van was a tatty white transit (aren't they all). It drove up to the end of the lane (as far as I could make out) and then reversed quietly back. I promptly telephoned the police saying that it looked very suspicious. I did take the registration plate which was S278 UDX (white transit). You may wish to advise readers to keep a look out for this van in the area.

**Stuart Carter**

*And here is a response from John Francis, our local Community Support Officer*

If anyone sees anything suspicious then they only need to dial 101 and report it directly to the call handler who takes their call. Obviously if they feel that a crime is in the process of being committed, or that the safety of a person or their property is under immediate threat, then they have every right to report it as an emergency using 999.

I have just completed some checks on the vehicle and it appears that this has been stopped and seized by Kent Police. Therefore it shouldn't cause any further problems. Please feel free to mention this information in your next DNL.

**PCSO 14088 John Francis Police Community Support Officer  
Farnham Safer Neighbourhood Team  
Tel: 101 Ext 31937**

### Help keep your outbuildings secure

There have been an unsettling number of thefts from outbuildings in the last few months, and so it was interesting to read in the Waverley magazine 'Making Waves' that the Safer Waverley Partnership has revealed that a surprising number of people do not secure their outbuildings, making the theft of bikes, tools etc much easier for thieves. They point out that you can make your belongings less appealing to burglars by 'property marking' all valuable tools and equipment with your postcode and/or house number.

Free 'property marking' packs are available by emailing [communitysafety.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety.gov.uk) or by calling Tel: 01483 523513. Whether this service is confined to Waverley residents only I am not quite sure.

## 'I could eat a horse'

There is an old English phrase that says "I am so hungry I could eat a horse". But when it came to the crunch, of course, it seems we couldn't, such was the outrage when traces of horsemeat were discovered in ready meals on sale in this country. Given the hullabaloo, I thought it would be interesting to discover the derivation of the saying. After some digging around the best explanation I could find was an item posted on the internet by someone by the name of M H Forsyth who says the phrase:

*'turned out to be popular all the way through the nineteenth century. But once you get far enough, the phrase changes to I could eat a horse behind the saddle. This version pops up in the stage-play of Guy Mannering (1816) where it seems to be proverbial. The earliest reference I could find was in a book called The Life and Adventures of Sir Launcelot Greaves written by Tobias Smollett in 1760.'*

What is perhaps most interesting is that, after his researches, M H Forsyth concludes the phrase 'I could eat a horse' refers not to the size of the horse, but to its unusualness as a source of food; and that it's roughly the equivalent of the American phrase 'I could eat the tail end of a skunk'.

And whilst we are on the subject of unacceptable meat content, did you read that folk in South Africa were recently appalled to find traces of pork in their ostrich sausages. Pork in a sausage. Imagine that!

## A woman of many talents

I know from the emails I receive just how many of you enjoy reading Val Lewis's delightful articles on local birdlife. But what I didn't know is that her talent doesn't end there; that she is also a very good photographer. I noticed this when buying a postcard at the Village Shop and spotted her name credited on the reverse.

It seems that the shop sells (at just 40p each) a number of cards with photos taken by her, including (I think this is the full list):

The Bluebell; The fingerpost at the Millbridge crossroads; The Victorian postbox in Priory Lane, Frensham; The bridge seen from the meadows behind The Bridge/Mariners, Frensham; The Village Shop; A composite showing four images; St Mary's Church, taken from an unusual angle (ie the meadows from the river as it winds behind the church).

## Common knowledge

*Continuing our occasional series of fascinating facts about Frensham Common, kindly compiled for us by **Steve Webster***

Charms, knots and springs all occur at Frensham Common. The odd murder as well, but thankfully no mobs, rhumbas or smacks. What are we talking about? Well, they are all collective terms for birds or animals. How many do you know?

A Charm of Goldfinches; A Knot of Toads; A Spring of Teal (duck); A Murder of Crows; A Mob of Emus; A Rhumba of Rattlesnakes; A Smack of Jellyfish.

## Invitation to Open Event for combined hydro electric/ heat pump system Saturday 18 May, 2013, 10.30-midday at The Mill House, Frensham

From Historic Corn Mill to Hydro Electric Home. After last year's open event we have been asked by The Farnham Society if we might host another one. We are delighted to do so and to extend the invitation to anyone else locally who would like to come along. In addition to the open event at the Mill, Jane Walker has kindly offered to provide **a guided tour of our historic church of St Mary's**. A suggested donation of £5 per adult and all proceeds from refreshments will go to the extension of the church.

The long and wet winter has been trying for everybody, but it has helped us generate a lot of electricity. The Archimedes screw and heat pumps have now been operating for just over one year and we are delighted to be achieving the expected outputs that will see us save over 50 tonnes per year in CO2 emissions. In a short talk we will give an overview of the system as well as something of the history of Frensham Mill and the work to upgrade the river banks and migratory fish passage. Do feel free to come for as much or as little as you are interested in.

**10.30am** Gardens open

**11.00am** Short talk

**11.30am** Opportunity for guided tour of St Mary's Church with Rev. Jane Walker

**12.00** Close

We hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Roger & Kate Holmes, The Mill House**

## Frensham Fayre

### Saturday 15 June, from 1pm at Hollowdene

Frensham Fayre will be on Saturday 15 June – starting at the earlier time of 1 o'clock. The theme is 'STORY TIME' so we hope all you avid readers will join the parade (meets at 12 o'clock at Shortfield Common and sets off for Hollowdene Recreation Ground at 12.30pm) dressed as your favourite character – James Bond, Little Grey Rabbit, the Hungry Caterpillar, Madame Bovary, Jack & the Bean Stalk, Rumpelstiltskin... any story at all... Prizes will also be given for the best stall & stallholder dressed to fit the theme.

Our beneficiaries this year will be The Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church, Frensham. All the usual stalls will be there plus some new and exciting ones.... Please come and spend your money for charity.

**Philippa Hall**

## An Eclectic Music Event

### Saturday 15 June, 7.30pm at Hollowdene Recreation Ground

Following Frensham Fayre, a super-group formed for the night featuring some members of Fairport Convention, (Ric Saunders, Vo Fletcher, Michael Gregory and Caroline Howe) will perform in the marquee, supported by various local acts including Surrey Hills Ukulele Big Band (SHUBBs), Close Thing, Colin Webb & Richie Elmer and Bryce Barrett. Tickets are £20 per person, children under 12 are free. Bar and food will be available. This is a charity fund-raising event for the Lord Treloar Trust. Music starts at 7:30 pm.

Tickets available in advance from Frensham Village Shop, Hare & Hounds (Rowledge) and 101 Records in Farnham. Enquiries and sales also to Tel: 07860 347676 and 07812 912471.

**Bryce Barrett**

## Events at the Bluebell

**Extended bar opening hours.** Now Monday–Wednesday 11am-3pm and 5pm-11pm; Thursday to Sunday 11am-11pm.

**Food serving hours are unchanged:** Midday-3pm and 6pm-9.30pm, seven days a week.

**Music nights:** Friday **31 May:** 'Brobed Stils', a popular local band who have played at the pub before; Saturday **1 June** (Dockenfield Day evening see page 3) 'The Fleas'; Friday **28 June:** Band to be confirmed.

**Need to book?** This is a good sign. There are times, such as the music nights, and other special events, when it is wise to book as tables can be in great demand

**The garden:** In Robin's words 'the garden is improving bit by bit', with the return of the children's play area scheduled for later this summer

**Contact:** Keep in touch with the Bluebell on their website: [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com) or Tel: 792801.

## Dockenfield Skittles Night

The date for the next Dockenfield Skittles Night at the Jolly Farmer pub is **Friday 6 September**, and the cost will be £14, the same as last year.

Full details in the next edition of DNL or for early bookings please contact Ian Mansell (email: [ian@business-it-solutions.co.uk](mailto:ian@business-it-solutions.co.uk)).

## Village Lunch

### Wednesdays 22 May and 26 June, midday at the British Legion

One of the organisers came round the other day to say: '*Michael, please say a little more in the next DNL about how brilliant the Village Lunch is*'. So here goes.

First up its just fantastic value for money. £3 for two courses of a delicious home cooked meal and just 20p more if you want a cup of coffee. Try eating at that price anywhere, even at home. Secondly, its great fun and amongst terrific company. You'll meet old friends and make new ones. And it's wonderfully local, right here on our doorstep. Absolutely everyone is welcome, irrespective of age. And last but not least, it makes money for local charities.

What could be better than that? The dates for the next two Lunches are shown above and it would be great if you could join the many people who already go. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of 'Rainbows' and Phyllis Tuckwell respectively, so you would be helping them as well if you did go along.

## Blue Tits: birds with a work ethic

During the last week of April, when visiting a local friend, I was greeted with a warning to watch out for attacks on my car. Not inclined to take it too seriously, and conscious that we were late for our lunch date, I was ready to leave the car where I'd parked it. Then it was pointed out to me that the car had come under immediate attack. A Blue Tit was busily engaging with its reflection in the wing mirror. I folded the wing mirrors in. The Tit continued its attack from within the fold. A hole in the wall nearby seemed to provide the answer: perhaps the Blue Tit saw its reflection as an aggressive intruder on its patch, and far too near its nest. I moved the car.

**Cont/**

**cont/**

In my last article I wrote about the members of the Tit family which we see locally. If asked, I imagine that a good number of us would agree that we hold the Blue Tit in special affection. It is a regular visitor to our gardens; its small size and its colouring make it very attractive; it entertains us with its agility, able to hang upside down on most sources of food; and it is usually the first to investigate the new feeders or nesting boxes we put up. If we are watchful we can be privy to the establishment of new generations of Blue Tits within our gardens. The early part of this year, with relentlessly cold, wet weather, has been a particularly difficult challenge for all birds, and especially the small ones. It looked as if nesting activity might be delayed. However, February saw a Blue Tit (probably male) inspecting one of the nesting boxes I had put up. He came back from time to time, and did that thing they do of pecking round the entrance hole to make it more to his liking. The box is on a south fence, facing north (so that the midday sun will not shine directly into the nest and make it too hot), and with a clear flight-path to the entrance.

In March I noticed visits being made, but it wasn't until late April that I was certain that a pair of Blue Tits had taken up residence. I had seen bits of nesting material being taken in. I have not looked, but it is likely that this will have included fine twigs, strips of bark, grass, and moss. All will have been incorporated into the deep cup which the female makes by wriggling and turning round in the nest as she builds up the sides. Small feathers and bits of fluff will have been used to make a warm lining. Blue Tits can build a nest in a few days, but it usually takes them from one to two weeks.

Now, as I write this in early May, the real work begins for the female (hen) bird. A Blue Tit usually lays between eight and twelve eggs, and occasionally up to sixteen. She needs to be in prime condition to be successful, as the combined weight of the eggs formed within her body and laid over a period of perhaps twelve or more days will be one and a half times her own body weight. She lays only one clutch a year, which seems reasonable in the light of such numbers.

The hen lays one egg a day, usually first thing in the morning. She plucks away the small feathers on her abdomen to make a bare patch, technically called a 'brood patch,' to incubate the eggs. When she leaves the nest to feed, she hides the eggs by pulling part of the nest lining over them. After about a fortnight's incubation the chicks hatch out naked and blind, and are very vulnerable. Predators can include squirrels, Jays and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (I once broke the rules about non-intervention and chased off a Woodpecker which had its long bill inside a nesting box).

Finding enough food for the chicks is the next challenge, and this can be very difficult if the weather is cold and wet. The breeding season is timed to coincide with the time at which, in good conditions, the caterpillars on oak trees are at their most plentiful. Both parents flit in and out of the box, with, one hopes, plenty of juicy caterpillars for the increasingly hungry chicks. Ornithologists have reckoned that a Blue Tit chick can eat 100 caterpillars a day. In the first day or two the adult birds make perhaps 400 daily nest visits between them. Ten days later, when the chicks have become fledglings, the visits will have increased to 700 a day.

When the parents are nearby the chicks will call constantly for food, and this stimulates the parents to keep bringing it. Only when the chicks are sleeping will the parents have time to rest, preen and feed themselves. Despite the large number of mouths to feed, in normal conditions Blue Tits are largely successful in rearing their young, and in good years only about 5% of their chicks die in the nest. Obviously, the bigger the brood, the greater the challenge, and it has been recorded that young Tits fledging from smaller broods are fitter and heavier when they leave the nest, and survive better in the following winter, than those from larger broods.

When the chicks are ready to fly, the parents call them from outside the box, urging them to come out. One by one the chicks poke out their heads and make their first wobbly flights, usually to a nearby perch. They will stay with and be fed by their parents for a few weeks, until they are fully fledged (ie have all their feathers). Of course, once the young birds have left the nest, losses will begin, and young and inexperienced Blue Tits are easy pickings for predators, including Sparrowhawks, as well as Jays and Crows – and cats. When one is inclined to feel upset by the killing of a vulnerable young bird, perhaps it is as well to bear in mind that the balance between predators and prey is a natural one, and that if all the Blue Tits which hatched were to survive there would not be sufficient food or habitat for them all. Most Blue Tits die during the first nine months of their lives, the experts tell us, but once they are twelve months old, if conditions are good, they have a reasonable chance of living to a full term of two to three years, and of rearing the next two generations of Blue Tits. A few will live for considerably longer. There are currently 3.3 million pairs in Britain, although this number is boosted by large numbers of continental Blue Tits which spend the winter here and benefit from British bird tables (does UKIP know, I wonder?).

**Val Lewis**

## **Sue Cooke's written a book.....**

*In the last edition of DNL I reported on an ex-resident (Liz Marrion) who had had a book published. This time we can go one better, with news that Dockenfield's very own Sue Cooke has had her first novel published. So I asked her (editor to author, so to speak) to tell the village about it, and this is what she had to say.*

Last month 'Scoop', aka Michael Foster (having heard about my first novel being published), wrote to me asking if I would "like to write about 300-400 words about your book.....plot, pagination, inspiration and background to why you have started writing, how to buy, that kind of thing?" Oh dear! In general I think writers prefer not to write about themselves, they'd much rather assassinate anonymous people between the pages of their book. But this is Michael and we all know how difficult he is to ignore, so here is what I've done.

'Adverse Possession' is Sue Cooke's first novel although she has been writing short stories for weekly magazines for some years. The inspiration for the story came about when her father-in-law became ill last year and Sue and Geoff took him for a short holiday to Mersea Island, just off the Essex coast, the place of his birth and scene of many family holidays. It was a real boost for Geoff's dad and Sue fell in love with the place and so it became the inspiration for 'Adverse Possession'.

The story is set in the mid-1960s and features two families as they take their summer holidays on the island. On the one hand you have Peggy who runs her home with care and precision and sees the role of wife and mother as the ultimate achievement for women and then there is Sandra, a younger more independent woman who immerses herself in the new women's movement. As a background to this there is also the emerging story of a history of secrets and lies that have lain hidden for years which most of the family want to see stay buried. Most that is apart from Peggy who, as the story progresses, finds herself in the new and unique position of guiding her family to a moral conclusion.

The research and planning for the novel took months and Sue worked closely with many Merseaites, including her father-in-law, to achieve the vivid background to 'Adverse Possession' that places the reader right there on the island.

The novel is now available through Amazon in paperback or for download to Kindle or iPad and is selling well with some excellent reviews. If you do read the story perhaps you could take the time to review it on Amazon or email Sue on [suecooke50@hotmail.com](mailto:suecooke50@hotmail.com) to let her have your thoughts.

**Sue Cooke**

## **.....and that's not all the Cookes have been up to**

*My goodness they have been engaging the brain at the Cooke homestead these last few years. Not content with Sue writing her first novel, she and her husband Geoff have both just graduated with the Open University after five years (five years!) of study. Sue can describe what this involved better than I can, so again what follows are her words.*

I did Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History and achieved Upper second-class Honours. To get this I studied worldwide medieval to modern history - so that's 1400-1900, I also did a module on ancient and medieval cities and then I studied medicine and society in Europe between about 1500 and 1930. I also studied the history of film and television and its impact on society and then Empire - that is World Empire - from 1492 to 1975. To begin with, and I think this is the case with most Arts degrees in the OU, I took a humanities module. Oh and I also took a Creative Writing module at the end of the degree to re-hone my writing as everything had started looking like an essay/assignment after five years of study!

Geoff did a Law degree (a Bachelor of Laws) and got a First. All his modules were compulsory so of course included property, trusts, criminal law and European law.

*Good grief! I don't know about you, but my brain hurts. The very least everyone can do, is to buy them both a congratulatory drink when you next see them in the Bluebell. Oh, and read Sue's book of course.*

## **Descent from the throne**

If you had your ear to the ground shortly after publication of the last DNL, you may have heard the distant thud of someone falling off the toilet. And the reason would be this. I ran an article in the last edition (*page 5, edition 235*) about a friend who said they read DNL whilst occupying the smallest room in the house. That person now reports that they were so surprised that I wrote an article about their reading habits that they 'fell off the toilet' at seeing my piece.

Since then two other friends have said they always read DNL in bed. Perhaps this is an idea for residents who suffer from insomnia? Another reports that it made them late for an important date, and one who read it during their (extended) tea break at work.

So where do you read it? In the kitchen? On the train? In the bath? Or perhaps you don't read it at all? Well, ha, if that's the case you won't be replying to this as you won't have read it. So there! Anyway, now I'm curious. Do let me know where you read DNL, if you have a moment.

## News from Bealeswood Common

After losing its battle with a thick gloomy blanket of cloud for most of March, it seems that spring is finally making progress. The sun has made a very welcome re-appearance after an absence of several months, and I'm certainly not missing the daily ritual of trying to fit on as many layers as possible. We experienced similar extremes last spring of course, but at the opposite end of the scale. When watching the snow falling last month it seemed inconceivable that a year previous we had been enjoying the sort of temperatures we can normally only hope for in the middle of summer.

There is little doubt that our climate is becoming more unpredictable, with extremes of weather now more frequent. These extremes undoubtedly have an impact on our wildlife, which unlike us does not have the benefit of a calendar to see what time of year it is. Much of our wildlife uses a combination of day length and temperature to time their life cycles with the seasons, and last year the hot conditions early in the season resulted in a lot of species becoming active earlier than we would usually expect. With weather conditions at the opposite extreme this year, we would therefore expect this trend to be reversed, and this indeed does appear to be the case.

As I write, there are very few trees in leaf, which looks particularly strange now we have daylight late into the evening. We would ordinarily expect almost all trees to have burst their buds by now and most of these to be fully in leaf. In reality, sycamore and maples seem to be the only species to have caught on to the time of year, and are displaying a full complement of bright green leaves. Other species which are traditionally amongst the first to come into leaf, such as birch, have only just burst their buds. Oak, ash, and beech still look like they're stuck in winter, though below the surface no doubt the sap will be rising furiously to make up for lost time.

The flower population at Bealeswood Common is monitored by Dan Bosence, so we are in the fortunate position of knowing exactly what is flowering when. In the first week of April there were half the number of flowers compared with last year, and significantly fewer than the average over the previous four years. Primroses and celandines both started flowering in the first week of March compared with February or even January in previous years, and violets were out only in the first week of April, compared with February or March in previous years. Though we have to be careful to infer too much from a direct comparison with last year, as it was exceptionally early, it does appear that this year is later than the norm.

I spent the day on Bealeswood Common a couple of weeks ago installing some sturdy chestnut posts at the junction between Bealeswood Lane and the access track to Southfield Cottage and Orchard End. Over the past year, this corner appears to have acquired a new status as a turning area for large vehicles, and has taken a real battering as a consequence. The edge of the Common has been eroded back several metres and previous posts which were in place to protect it have come off very poorly from a number of altercations with large vehicles.

It does appear that one of the key culprits was the dustbin lorry, though it needs to be pointed out that it was far from the only one. I have therefore been in discussions with the officer at Waverley who deals with our waste collection contract, and our contractors have been made aware that damage such as this is unacceptable. I would hope that the dustbin lorry will not be causing any such damage in the future, but I am relying on local people to keep an eye on things. If you see any vehicle damaging either the posts or any area of the Common, then please do let me know. Even if I am unable to trace them it does help me to have a picture of who is doing what.

**Vicky Booth Countryside Ranger - western area, Waverley Borough Council Countryside**  
**[www.waverley.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/countryside) Tel: 01252 792416**

## St George's Day Supper 19.4.13

Seventy-four villagers (plus 5 Girl Guide helpers) attended a wonderful St George's Day supper in the Good Shepherd, organised by the St Mary's Frensham Trust. We had a delicious traditional meal of shepherd's pie, numerous puddings and cheese and biscuits, with the odd glass of wine.

After supper we were brilliantly entertained by Hannah Poulosom (who sang beautifully) and Will Shaw who played superbly on the keyboard. Surely two stars in the making! They were followed by further wonderful entertainment from Mark Brown and Mike Smith, and finally a highly amusing recital from Gordon Carter, with his own version of the Battle of Hastings.

The evening was a great success and we raised the magnificent sum of £1,755 to be split equally between St Mary's Frensham Trust and towards the cost of the new Church Hall. The Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped to organise the event and to everyone who attended for their generosity. A wonderful village evening thoroughly enjoyed by all!

**Peter James**

## Live Music (and other stuff) at our local pubs

*Here's a list of upcoming live music and other events at the various pubs within easy striking distance of Docketfield. Please do double check the information in case of any late changes.*

**The Bluebell, Docketfield** (Tel: 792801, [www.bluebell-docketfield.com](http://www.bluebell-docketfield.com))

*Live Music*

**Friday 31 May:** Brobed Stils

**Saturday 1 June:** The Fleas

**Friday 28 June:** Band to be confirmed

*Other things*

Please see page 9 for more news on the Bluebell

## The Holly Bush, Frensham

The Holly Bush is currently closed for refurbishments.

New venues are being found for the 'Open Mic' Nights that used to be held here, including the British Legion and Hare and Hounds (see below).

**The Halfway House, Bucks Horn Oak** (Tel: 01420 22184, [www.halfwayhousefarnham.co.uk](http://www.halfwayhousefarnham.co.uk))

*Live Music*

**Saturday 18 May:** 50's and 60's rock n roll with Danny & The Dreamtones

**Saturday 1 June:** Band to be confirmed

*Other things*

The 'Big Quiz' now every Thursday from 8pm

## Hare and Hounds, Rowledge

 (Tel: 792287)

**Friday 17 May:** The Rough Ditch Band

**Friday 31 May:** Open Mic Night

**Friday 21 June:** The Rough Ditch Band

*Other things*

Curry night is the first Saturday of every month; Food Theme Nights: Turkish food night on Saturday 25 May.

## Cherry Tree, Rowledge

 (Tel: 792105)

I haven't heard back from the Cherry Tree, so please contact them direct.

## Surrey Artists Open Studios

Open studios time again, it must be summer! Artists all over Surrey will be opening their studios in June. The Farnham area is rich in artists, so look out for the orange signs and balloons. There will be free guides to pick up (libraries, galleries etc), or see the web site <http://www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk/event/> for details of opening times and directions. Two studios are opening this year in Docketfield on **June 8, 9, and 13, 14, 15, & 16** opening hours **11am - 5pm** each day.

**Hursley Cottage** in Lake Lane, where Jean Heathcote will be showing her oil paintings of land- and seascapes.

At **Jeffreys Cottage** in Bealeswood Lane, five makers and artists will be demonstrating and selling their work throughout the house and garden.

Outside, Judith Needham will be weaving willow playhouses, and selling woven willow baskets and plant supports, while Nicky Blake will bring her portable forge from her studio near Mellow Farm, and show her decorative iron work. Indoors, Ruth Taylor will be painting landscapes, Shirley Stephens lino-printing cards and pictures, and Alison Ellen dyeing wool for her knitwear.

We will all have work for sale, can make to commission, but also welcome visitors to watch us working, ask questions or chat!

**Alison Bosence**

## The importance of Poohsticks

You will almost certainly know the bridge I'm talking about. Walk along the footpath beside St Mary's towards the River Wey and you reach it after less than half a mile, just before the short sharp hill that rises towards Hammondswood. In itself it is a somewhat unremarkable bridge, but in a quite lovely situation with views along the river and back across the water meadows to the church in the distance.

The very first time I spotted the bridge I declared it an important, no, obligatory spot for the playing of Poohsticks. And ever since that date we have known it as 'Poohsticks Bridge'. Astonishingly I have only just learned from a friend that that is the name by which many people know it. Which is excellent, and only proper.

So the next time you approach the bridge, whatever the season, take care to collect a stick each and play along. Lack of time is no excuse as the sticks speed under what is already a very narrow span, although the fun continues as you can watch the sticks race downstream into the distance.

It's a wonderfully tranquil moment in a busy world and everyone should do it. In fact, I ought to ask the Parish Council if they could pass a bylaw to that effect. Yes, I'm aware that the bridge is in Frensham Parish Council territory, but all their councillors get a copy of DNL. You never know; they may even read it.

## Keeping up to date on Brightwells

The Brightwells regeneration scheme in Farnham has been making a lot of headlines and attracting a lot of comment from interested local organisations and residents. If you want to keep up to date with how the project is proceeding then visit [www.waverley.gov.uk/brightwells](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/brightwells)

## News from our Local Police Officer

### 'Our continued commitment to Neighbourhood Policing'

I am sitting at my desk writing this article after enjoying a glorious spring day riding my bike around the beautiful countryside of my patch. On days like this I can quite happily say that I have the best job in the world. I have been working in the area for just over 3 years now and can honestly say this posting has been my most enjoyable so far. The local residents are always very friendly and are happy to help in anyway they can. Both myself and PC Alex Regan, your Safer Neighbourhood Team, are fully committed to Neighbourhood Policing and believe that this offers us all the best opportunity for reducing local crime and anti-social behavior. By working together we can tackle issues that are important to you and agree on solutions which will benefit the whole community.

### Stand out from the Crowd

As I am sure many of you are already aware, most of crime we suffer concerns the theft of garden machinery, including such things as lawn mowers, strimmers, hedge cutters, etc. We believe that the thieves in question are looking to sell many of these items on at Farm Auctions or Car Boot Sales. In view of the this, police officers regular attend these events on the look out for stolen property. However it is very difficult for us to prove that a specific item is stolen, as the manufactures produce thousands of identical products.

Marking you garden machinery with your post code, using a florescent bright paint, will make it stand out and could deter thieves from stealing it in the first place (*see page 7 to find out how to get a free pack to do this*). It is also a good idea to take a photograph of your item and record its serial number. This helps us to prove that the item is stolen, increasing the chances of a successful prosecution, and allows us to reunite the item with its rightful owner.

### Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 28 February to 23 April 2013

We have two reports of burglary. The first involved the theft of garden machinery from a locked garage. The second concerns a chipper, a shredder and a large quantity of hand tools taken from a smallholding. We also have two reports of theft. The first concerned a wooden bench, which was stolen from the garden of a property. In the second case a trailer was stolen from a field.

**PCSO 14088 John Francis, Police Community Support Officer. Tel: 101 Ext 31937**

## News from The Village Shop

**Banking with HSBC?** Then we have good news from our Post Office. From 8 May you will be able to pay in cheques and draw cash using your debit cards at our counter. This means that all the major banks are now using the Post Office service. Why fight your way into Farnham to an ATM when you can draw money locally – and safely?

**Volunteers Week, 1 – 7 June.** To celebrate the vital role our Volunteers play in supporting the Village Shop, we shall be participating this year in National Volunteers Week. Frensham Village Shop is one of the longest trading of 304 community shops registered with the Plunkett Foundation. If it weren't for the Volunteers, this shop would have closed many years ago. For all the current members of our team there will be a free prize draw, as a "thank you" for all their contributions. If you'd like to join our team, there will be plenty of information about the different activities that our Volunteers undertake. We can even find back-room jobs for shy violets who would prefer not to be on display!

### New Products for you to try!

- At the request of a customer, Malini has cooked a new curry especially for us – a Chicken Korma. Come and be one of the first to try this and give us your views.
- We have a new range of blank cards – beautiful animal and bird studies from Maggie Tanner, a pastel artist; and an increased range of Julie Avenell's lovely photos. (Maggie is a local lady, living in Tongham, and Julie was born and brought up in Farnham, before moving recently to Somerset.)
- Gluten Free Flour is now available to supplement our popular range of Wessex Mill bread flours.
- Ringdens Apple Juice offers an increased range of mouth-watering flavours including Mango, Blackcurrant, Raspberry and Elderflower
- New sauces for the start of the BBQ season (we live in hope!) Marinello's Honey BBQ, Chicken & Rib, & Texas style sauces now available!

**Mayonne Coldicott**

## Pilates at the Good Shepherd

Pilates continues at the Good Shepherd every Monday evening at 7.45. Its £8 per session, but you can opt out of individual weeks if you know (at the beginning of each 6 week period) you can't make some dates and you just pay £1. For more information contact Belinda Buttery on Tel: 794423.

## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticulture and Produce Society

Richard Thornton proved to be a very informative speaker on plant hunting and botanising in the highlands of southwestern China (Yunnan province), following in the footsteps of the great Victorian plant collector George Forrest. With five trips under his belt he had a very fine collection of slides, anecdotes and details of the different plants that can be seen in spring-time. The plants were familiar to many of us: I noted Rhododendrons, Camellias, Mecanopsis, Aquilegias, Primulas (150 species!), a spectacular black-flowering pea, Euphorbias, Anemones, Lilies, Irises, Daphnes, Berberis and Corydalis. As well as seeing these plants growing in their natural habitat what you then learnt was where best they might grow in your garden; shade/sunshine, damp/dry, acid/alkaline, scree/deep soil etc. All this knowledge Richard has taken back to the planting in his garden, including his own scree slope!

Upcoming events in the Hort and Prod include a talk by Richard Deaville on "Wall Plants and Climbers" (8pm, Marindin Hall, **23 May**) and then our plant stalls at **Dockenfield Day** and **Frensham Fayre**. Please support us by contributing any plants you have spare that can be sold on. Or, sow a few extra trays of, for example, runner beans or bedding plants and bring them along. We look forward to seeing you there.

All future events can be seen in the Society's website and calendar:  
[www.fdhs.org.uk/index.php/calendar](http://www.fdhs.org.uk/index.php/calendar)

**Dan Bosence**

## Frensham & Dockenfield Support Group for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice...

....are calling on all potential Mary Berry's – We Need you to Bake Us a Cake!

Please can we ask our villagers to help us raise money for our local hospice by baking a cake for the Annual **Phyllis Tuckwell Summer Fair** to be held on **Gostrey Meadow, Saturday 15 June**? All types of cakes are needed to fill our stall.

The cakes can be delivered to either of three collection points, the Frensham Village Shop (Paul), Trisha Everett, Woodhill Farm, Woodhill Lane, Dockenfield or Anne Maxwell, Squirrels, Kennel Lane, Frensham (Tel: 792237) on the days prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> with a label of what type of cake it is. Please state if it contains nuts or not.

Please contact Trisha Everett on Tel: 792167 if you need any further information.

Thank you for supporting our local hospice.

**Tess Russell**

## Millbridge WI

**Thursdays 16 May and 20 June 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall**

The next two events of the WI are  
**16 May:** Resolutions  
**20 June:** 'Just desserts' by Kate Hughes

For more information please contact **Cheryl Savage** on Tel: 794970.

## Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group

**Tuesday 14 May, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall**

The final meeting before the summer break will be:

**14 May:** 'Customs and folklore of Farnham' by Matthew Alexander.

For more information contact **Chris Bonner** on Tel: 793668.

## Next Bealeswood Common Working Party

The next working party for the Dockenfield Waverley BC land and the Bealeswood Common management walk is **Sunday 6 October** so please put this date in your diaries. More information in a future DNL. **Jill Trout**

## The 'village' website

Don't forget to visit Dockenfield Parish Council's website at [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)

## Thought for the day

Here's a nice motto that may appeal to you. *'The main thing is to make sure that the main thing is the main thing.'*

## Walking Hadrian's Wall

Fiona, the dogs and I are off walking again, raising funds for the Kingsley Centre. This time it is Hadrian's Wall, which I am reliably informed by 'Coast to Coast' has the most extensive Roman remains in the world.

A mere 89 miles you might say compared with 180 miles last year but in this weather..... and there is a wedding in the family too! We leave in May so there could be hope of the sun gracing us with its presence.

We would very much appreciate your sponsorship. Forms are available at the Kingsley Centre reception; ring me on Tel: 794284; or I would be happy to pop round with one or email direct to your computer. **Jill Trout**

## Cuckoo clock

*'O Bliithe New-comer! I have heard,  
I hear thee and rejoice.  
O Cuckoo! Shall I call thee Bird,  
Or but a wandering Voice?'*

So wrote William Wordsworth in the opening verse of his poem 'To the Cuckoo'. But when, and where, was this '*wandering Voice*' first heard in Dockenfield this year? The interest is not so much in who heard it first, but when it was heard (in comparison to last year especially) and the range of times at which it was first heard around the village. Last year the cuckoo was first heard on 4 April, so this year it was late, as the following 2013 dates reveal:

12 April: Michael Foster, Bealeswood Lane  
15 April: Dan and Alison Bosence, Bealeswood Lane  
17 April: Jack and Marjorie Bessant, west end of The Street  
23 April: Tony and Margaret Moore, west end of The Street  
25 April: Sue Hobday, Old Lane  
26 April: Fiona Jones, Bealeswood Common  
27 April: Jill Trout, Batts Corner  
28 April: Ian Mansell, Batts Corner

Does this prove, I wonder, that the cuckoo arrives earlier in the warmer pastures of 'Lower Dockenfield' before braving the cooler heights of 'Upper Dockenfield'?

## Who are you calling chicken?

One of the defining joys of living in Dockenfield is that you can go for a really good walk in the country without first having to climb into your car to take you to the start point. Just open your front door, sidle out of the village in pretty much any direction and hey presto, you are amongst woodlands and forests, rivers and ponds, hills and valleys.

Little wonder then that when people move to the village they come over all bucolic and start buying dogs (default breed: Labrador, although some variations on the theme are now appearing), cats and in some cases chicken.

Which brings me to the point of this little space filler. Did you know that the name 'bantam' originates from Java? No, I thought not.

## The 'Seven Wanders' of Dockenfield

### Walk Number 7

*Concluding the 'mini series' of walks you can enjoy from the village, kindly researched and written up for us by Dan and Alison Bosence. Thank you both for all the effort you have put into describing these walks for everyone's benefit.*

**Walk 7**, our final wander, is to the northeast of the village and is a good mix of open views, fields, valleys, streams and more forest.

Walking north up Bealeswood Lane away from The Street, turn right at T-junction and left over a stile and up across a field for the oak woods. The footpath takes you to the top of this hill and you turn right, eastwards, on footpath along the Bluebell ridge (see Walk 1). Continue on path through wood ahead (The Ham), emerge into corner of field and continue eastwards through the next wood (Pitt Hanger). This comes out, over a stile, into a field and the path follows the right hand edge of the field. At Frensham House the footpath turns right, over a stile, and down through the grounds of the house with the drive on the right.

At the road, turn left and then left again into Woodhill Lane. A footpath then leads off the lane to the northeast, to your right, and diagonally across two fields. A stile after the second field takes you into a small, steep wooded valley and a footbridge over the stream. On the other side of the stream take the footpath off to the left that takes you diagonally across a field, through a gate and then a small gate on left into another field. Here keep to the wood on your left and then head diagonally across the field to a stile into West End Lane. The stile is not easily visible but is just by a metal drinking trough between two oak trees in the hedge to the lane. Turn left on the lane and then left again at the triangle towards West End.

Continue westwards until you reach Boundary Road and here go straight across and up the track into Alice Holt Forest. This track soon reaches the perimeter Cycle Trail and from here various tracks through the forest will get you back to Dockenfield. Straight ahead will take you to the main car park and café, but a left turn on the cycle track will return you by a quicker route as described in the previous Walk 6, turning left at post number 6 and back to Batt's Corner.

**Dan and Alison Bosence**

## Want to know *exactly* how old you are?

Then visit the website below, but be warned. Spelled out like this your age can come as a bit of a shock!  
<http://www.korn19.ch/coding/days.php>