

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 252

Published 24 November 2015



Dockenfield in snow, February 2009

We're walking backwards for Christmas

This year I can promise you a village Christmas that will warm the cockles of your heart. In fact I can confidently predict that your cockles are unlikely to have ever been warmer. You see, for Christmas 2015, Dockenfield is taking the lead from Spike Milligan's iconic 1956 song and returning the village festivities to their glorious past. Putting up the Christmas Tree and the next day's Carols will be as nostalgic as always, but the family Christmas Party is returning to its roots this year with the Good Shepherd as the venue.

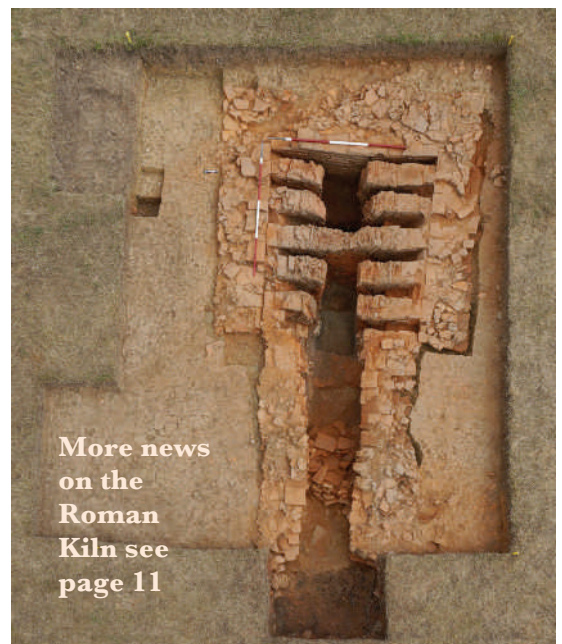
All three events are perfect for the entire family; are either free or are astonishing value and of course are so local as to be just a walk or a minor drive away. So what's not to adore about them? For details of these and the many other festive things that are happening hereabouts, just read on. But before you do, let me be one of the very first to wish all DNL's readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2016. **Michael**

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas?

As I write this, outside it's trying to snow. Nasty, wet, slushy stuff that doesn't settle on the ground. Snow of course is something that divides opinions. Kids love it because school's off and they can go out and play. Perhaps it's a bit of fun for adults for a couple of days; the pubs are full and the Village Shop does great business. But after that frankly it can become a real nuisance especially if it's tough to get in and out of the village. Want to know what's best to do under these circumstances and how best you may be able to help other residents in real need? Turn to page 6 and all will be revealed.

Unmissable Christmas events

Putting up the **Christmas Tree** – 10.30am, Sunday 6 December
Christmas Carols – 6.45pm, Monday 7 December
Christmas Party – 6-10.30pm, Saturday 12 December



More news
on the
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page 11

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Sunday, 6 December	10.30am	Help put up the Village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 3
Monday, 7 December	3pm	Tea at 3	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 13
Monday, 7 December	6.45pm	Christmas Carols at the Bus Shelter	Corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 3
Saturday, 12 December	6-10.30pm	Dockenfield Christmas Party	The Good Shepherd	Pages 3 & 18
Saturday, 12 December	7.30pm	Christmas Quiz	The British Legion	Page 4
Tuesday, 15 December	7.30pm	Dockenfield Residents Security Meeting	The Good Shepherd	Page 3
Tuesday, 15 December	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	The British Legion	Page 17
Thursday, 17 December	7pm	Carol Singing	The Holly Bush pub	Pages 4 & 9
Thursday, 17 December	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 5
Saturday, 19 December	Midday-4pm	'Crafty Christmas'	The Frensham Brewery	Page 10
Tuesday, 29 December	10.30am	Village Walk	Starts at The Marindin Hall	Page 5
Monday, 4 January	3pm	Tea at 3	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 13
Tuesday, 19 January	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 8
Thursday, 21 January	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 5
Wednesday, 27 January	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 17
Thursday, 28 January	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 17
Saturday, 6 February	7.30-11.30pm	Burns Supper and Ceilidh	Marindin Hall	Page 15
Saturday, 4 June	2pm	Dockenfield Day	Playing field, Abbotts Cottages	Page 17

Front cover photographs

Dockenfield in the snow, February 2009 photographed by Debbie Foster.

Archeological dig in Dockenfield photographed from above in September 2015 by David Graham.

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 Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered to approximately 250 households in and around the village and a further 160 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 8 January**, 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.

Christmas in Dockenfield

Putting up the Christmas Tree

Sunday 6 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

All welcome, particularly children who will be needed to help decorate the tree. It's just another thing that makes Dockenfield special and helps us all get into the Christmas spirit. To make the tree look really pretty, please bring some wrapped boxes to hang up, protected with plastic so they will survive whatever the elements throw at them.

Village Christmas Carols

Monday 7 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street

Traditional Christmas Carols sung by torchlight and accompanied by Dockenfield's very own Christmas Carol band. Free mince pies and mulled wine will be available afterwards! We are always very lucky to have our own small village 'orchestra' playing for us. It would be good to make it a bit different this year with new faces or instruments or both. If you play an instrument and would like to be part of the fun please email Karen Wane: karenwane@hotmail.com

Christmas Party

Saturday 12 December 6-10.30 at the Good Shepherd

Come and join us at the Christmas Party on 12 December from 6pm to 10.30pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd

An enthusiastic bunch of villagers have been working their socks off to organise the much-loved Christmas party in the Church. It will follow the format of previous years when it was held there: it's got the traditional disco, a Christmas finger buffet, and, of course, the bar-on-the-font. The disco will be starting early to let the very young enjoy some music, followed by a visit from Santa Claus, who will stop by Dockenfield during the evening with presents for all the children who are 11 and younger.

But the party is not just for children. As in previous years, it's very much for all ages, as it's a great opportunity to meet with friends from the village and get in to the Christmas spirit. Everyone is welcome, and with financial support from the Activities Committee, the ticket prices are being kept as low as possible: it's only £7 for adults (17 and over) and just £3 for children (16 and under). That includes all the entertainment and food, as well as a present for the children who are 11 and under.

To secure your tickets, please make sure you fill in the form on page 18 and return it with cash or cheques (made payable to 'Dockenfield Parish Council') to Catherine Kneller (The Pines, at the junction of Lake Lane and The Street) or Abi Shaw (Bealeswood Cottage, at the far end of Bealeswood Lane). We'll need to know by 4 December who's coming, in order to tip Santa off!

Help will be needed on the Saturday morning to set up and again on Sunday morning to clear up: if you're able to do either time, please email Joolz (joolzlmiles@aol.com).

Improving Your Home Security

Important Residents Meeting, Tuesday 15 December, 7.30pm at the Good Shepherd

This may not be very festive, but it is very important! In recent months there have been a number of burglaries in the village, with the thieves initially targeting outbuildings but more recently they have moved on to domestic property as well. Understandably a number of residents have voiced their concerns to the Parish Council (DPC), who have decided to host a village meeting to discuss how home security in Dockenfield may be improved.

The idea will be to discuss and assess how residents can individually and collectively do everything possible to deter future burglaries. DPC is keen to encourage ideas and initiatives from as many Dockenfield residents as possible, including plans to make the Neighbourhood Watch scheme more wide ranging and more effective.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting to voice their concerns and to bring their own ideas as to how the village should respond to the current situation. Admission is of course free and there will be coffee, tea and biscuits at the end of the meeting.

All I want for Christmas is...

Editions **10, 83, 171, and 188** of Dockenfield Newsletter. They are still missing from the master collection of DNLs that I keep here. I know I have asked before but if you could have a sniff around your attic or wherever you keep stuff like this and see if you can find one or more of them then that would be just lovely. You see we are wanting to digitise all past editions and it would be a shame to have four missing when we do so. A big thank you to anyone who comes up trumps. I promise your name will go up in lights (well, in DNL anyway).

The unsung heroes and heroines of the Newsletter

Often in conversation I am told how much you enjoy reading DNL, which is immensely encouraging as it does take a long time to put together. But those thanks should not be aimed just at me. Because I can write as much as I like, but if we didn't have DNL's trustworthy band of distributors the Newsletter would never get through to you. They deliver every edition to your home come rain or shine, so please can I give them their annual moment in the spotlight. During the last 12 months your DNL has been delivered to you by:

Mark and Sally Vardy, Jack and Marjorie Bessant, Gerry Davy, Anne Tutt, Jean Elkes, Jo Adams, Lucy Denny, Debbie Foster, Jeannie and Patrick Rendell, Karen Wake, Tim and Dot Finlow, Mark and Karen Giles, Paul and Catherine Wood and Pauline and Alan Bain. Big thanks also to Janette Platt who as well as having a delivery 'territory' of her own has acted as co-ordinator for the entire distribution.

A thank you also to all DNL's contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a valuable read, Ian McLean for proof reading and to Debbie who does the layout with me.

Christmas stuff outside the Parish

I know that Christmassy things going on in the Parish are likely to satisfy your every festive need, but in case you need the occasional overdose of Santa related things, here are a few local ones that might tickle your fancy.

Christmas Tree Festival: St Andrew's Church, Farnham 2-6 December.

Farnham Christmas Market: Castle Street, Sunday 13 December 10am – 4 pm

Carols around the Tree at Gostrey Meadow, Farnham, Sunday 20 December, 2.30-3.30pm.

You don't want to go to a Panto? Oh, yes you do!

Jack and the Beanstalk: Yvonne Arnaud 4 December – 3 January

Jack and the Beanstalk on Ice: Guildford Spectrum 11 – 13 December

Aladdin: Camberley Theatre 7 December – 3 January

Cinderella: Princes Hall, Aldershot 10 December – 3 January

Little Red Riding Hood: Haslemere Hall 8 – 16 January

Christmas services

Church of England services

Do come along to the following special services – everyone is welcome irrespective of your faith.

29 November: 6pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary's

13 December: 4pm Christingle Service at St Mary's

20 December: 6pm Carol Service at St Mary's

24 December: 2pm Crib Service at St Mary's
4pm Crib Service at The Good Shepherd
11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's

25 December: 9am BCP Holy Communion at
The Good Shepherd
10.30am Parish Communion at St Mary's

Exciting news! As you can see, this year we are having two crib services – one at St Mary's at 2pm and another at The Good Shepherd at 4pm. This is really due to popular demand, as The Good Shepherd was very overcrowded last year. We are really excited to be offering both Churches for this very special service for all the family.

Finally, don't forget to come along to **Carol singing at The Holly Bush** pub on Thursday **17 December** at 7pm. The singing will be led by Frensham Baptist Fellowship and St Mary's Church choir. Not to be missed!

Eunice King *For more information www.frenshamchurches.org.uk*

Frensham Baptists services

Services are held at the Marindin Hall

Sunday 20 December: 4pm Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies, coffee and mulled wine

Friday 25 December: 10.30am: A short Christmas Day service

Neil Dupres *For more information www.fbf.org.uk or Tel: 07092 003414*

Roman Catholic services

Services are held outside Dockenfield and Frensham at the St Joan of Arc Church, Tilford Road, Farnham. *For more information on their services visit www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk*

Christmas Quiz

Saturday 12 December, 7.30pm at the British Legion

St Mary's bell ringers will be holding a festive-themed quiz at Frensham Royal British Legion Club on Saturday 12 December at 7.30 pm. Entry is £6 per person, to include £1's worth of raffle tickets, and a light snack including nibbles, mince pies and other Christmas fare. There will be prizes for the winners and (of course!) a raffle. All proceeds will be donated to St Mary's Tower Repair Fund.

Everyone is welcome. Do come and support us, with teams of up to 6 persons only, please. If you can let Harry or Liz Glover know by 9 December that you will be entering a team, it will help us enormously with the catering. Our telephone number is 01252 797827. All Proceeds will be donated to St Mary's Tower Repair Fund.

Harry Glover

Marindin Hall – Village Walk 2015

Tuesday, 29 December, 10.30am from the Marindin Hall

Last year this event attracted nearly 100 participants of all ages and by common consent we are happy to repeat it again this year. Originally conceived in 2011 as a fundraiser for essential upgrades it has evolved into an annual social event for friends and families. The period between the festivities of Christmas and New Year presents a great time to shake off the indulgences of traditional fare and TV schedules to enjoy the environment we are privileged to have around us.

As the walk starts and ends at the Marindin Hall it is difficult to depart from the most interesting and varied route. This is designed to minimise road walking and maximise the footpaths surrounding Pierrepont Farm, the Bourne Woods and Frensham Common. Again we are grateful to Mike Clear of Pierrepont Farm together with Miles and Emily of the Frensham Brewery who are again kindly opening their doors to our walkers.

The working of the robotic dairy at Pierrepont appeals to adults and children alike and there is always the pull of the newborn Jersey calves. Emily is opening the brewery for a short time to coincide with the walk, so if you intend to stock up for that New Year party, here is your chance. As a bonus Annika Rees, the Education Officer of the Countryside Restoration Trust, has kindly agreed to show you around the farm and field questions on it and the surrounding coppicing activities.

The walk takes place on Tuesday 29 December 10.30am at the Hall. Tickets will be available from the Village Shop from 1 December and cost £5 for adults and £2.50 for children with under fives free. The price includes a welcoming hot or cold drink with an American muffin and on return sausage in a roll and a variety of homemade soups will be served. We intend to reintroduce a quiz for adults and a quiz/treasure hunt for children related to the walk. We hope you can make it. **Malcolm Green**

Frensham Church Jigsaw Puzzles

St Mary's bell ringers have commissioned and are selling a range of Wentworth jigsaw puzzles depicting three different views of Frensham Church.

These quality puzzles are made in Wiltshire from 3mm wooden board derived from sustainable resources, and are packed in cloth bags inside a stylish gift box (itself made from recycled material). The laser-cut pieces come in very odd shapes – quite different to 'normal' jigsaw puzzles. In addition, they include themed 'whimsy' pieces, which are pieces cut into a recognisable shape, such as a church tower, a Bishop's mitre, a bell, a cross, and several others distinct shapes.

The puzzles make very good wedding, birthday and anniversary presents, as well as Christmas presents. The most popular sizes are our 40-piece puzzles @ £6 and 250-piece puzzles @ £25, but we have larger sizes (at larger prices) for enthusiasts.

For more details please contact either Jill McKenzie (Tel: 01420 23165) or Harry Glover (Tel: 01252 797827). Proceeds are being donated to St Mary's church tower repair fund. **Harry Glover**

Please save your stamps at Xmas

Christmas is the time that you get more cards and envelopes with stamps on them than at any other time of the year. So, please can you remember to save all those stamps for charity? Just collect them together and deliver them to Jack Bessant, No 1 Beales Cottages, The Street. All stamps are welcome from the UK and all foreign countries, and in whatever (and I mean *whatever*) condition. The stamps are sold and the proceeds go to charity. So you get to help good causes at Christmas. And that's no bad thing is it?

Christmas collection for The Vine

Last year we asked for £5 donations to buy thermos flasks for the hungry and homeless whom the Vine Centre support. This was so successful that we bought 53 thermos flasks as well as nourishing drinks and soups. The Vine was so grateful that we would like to do this again. If you feel able to donate £5 please contact Rev'd Jane Walker or Karen Nockels 07941 272536.

With love and blessings. **Jane Walker**

Thank you from the village

On behalf of the village I would like to thank Dan Bosence for his wonderful flower surveys on Bealeswood Common and also thank Philippa Hall, Anne Tutt and Alison Bosence for their fascinating butterfly surveys that have appeared in DNL every month. Both surveys are of enormous interest not only now but as a record for the future.

And on a more sombre note, thanks are due again to Dan for always raising and lowering the flag at the appropriate times.

Jill Trout

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 17 December and 21 January, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The final meeting of 2015 and the first of 2016 for the Millbridge WI are:

17 December: Christmas Party

21 January: Indian Cookery demonstration by Malini Kakkar.

For more information please contact **Bridgette Wilson** on Tel: 792527.

Preparing for winter in Dockenfield

The last few years' November issues have all carried some comment on getting ready and surviving winter in Dockenfield – and this has had the desired effect of keeping the village relatively free of emergencies! Please remember that winter risks are not limited to snow and ice. High winds, falling trees and puddles in potholes pose threats to the unwary. Please take care when out and about. Please report any trouble spots to the Parish Council.

Grit Bins

There are three DPC grit bins and six Council bins, all in the same places as before. Please do not use the contents for domestic purposes.

Be prepared

If bad weather does prevail, you might:

1. stock up on a few essential provisions to tide you over a few days
2. ensure you have enough essential prescription medicines and toiletries
3. count your candles and torches (and check the health of your batteries)
4. dust off and test your non-digital telephone for when your wireless/mobile battery dies
5. check you have fuel for a fire (and if you have a working fire-place, has your chimney been swept lately?)
6. dig out your warm weather gear for those forays outside to clear the snow – and do you have a snow shovel and a supply of grit for personal use?
7. check your outside water pipes and taps are mothballed for the winter
8. locate and test your mains water stop-cock
9. check your gas boiler has been tested recently and your carbon monoxide detector card is in date
10. check your car has the right fluid in its radiator and your screen wash is correctly diluted – and when did you last replace your wipers?
11. check your car tyre pressures (which will have dropped dramatically in the recent cold weather) and ensure you have an emergency survival kit in your car
12. consider buying winter tyres
13. when driving, make sure your windows and windscreen are clear before setting off (*see also page 18*)
14. let someone know where you are going and when you should get there (or be back)
15. bookmark localised weather forecasting pages for those parts of the country you will be visiting over winter

If you need help, or want to pass on some information

Batts Corner - Patrick Rendell (Tel: 01252 794761)

High Thicket Road – Richard Blackburn (DPC) (Tel: 01252 797167)

The Old Convent Flats – Karen Mathews (Tel: 01420 473044)

Great Holt - Ian Hewitt (Tel: 01420 478949)

Old Lane - Pam Hibbert (Tel: 01252 792573)

Abbotts Cottages - Matt Barnes (Tel: 01252 790312)

Bealeswood Lane - Debbie Foster (Tel: 01252 792142)

The Street (East) – Sebastian Fox (Tel: 01252 792080)

The Street (West) - Peter James (Tel: 01252 793133)

Green Lane – Chris Sutton (DPC) (Tel: 01252 795976)

Lake Lane - Raf Wane (Tel: 01252 790841)

Alternatively, you may prefer to contact one of the **Parish Friends** (someone you already know and who knows you). Finally, don't forget that emergency messages will be sent via our Emergency Email List (our "EEL"), via the Parish Clerk (Jessica Hobday Tel: 07881 932363 or dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Ian McLean

A Big 'Thank You' from The Kingsley Centre

To everybody who sponsored Fiona, Caro, Diana and I on our way through the Icknield Way, Peddars Way and the Norfolk Coastal Path. To date we have raised an amazing £1,665 for the Kingsley Centre, with some more promised sponsorship to come. Hopefully we might brush against £2,000!

It was a glorious 210 miles walk, fairly flat except for the last two days, and just an amazingly relaxing experience. Well worth recommending, although the Icknield Way was not easily navigated due to many subsidiary paths, circular walks, etc. all bearing the same name! So we needed to keep an eye on the position of the sun. Cromer is a fantastic ending point, with lots to see and do. Oh, and on the way, we were expecting to make a directional turn along the beach adjacent the public loos... now missing... eventually we twigged they are now a residence called the 'Wee House'. That achieved, we were on our route again!

Jill Trout

Letters to the Editor

Thank you, Dockenfield

We would like to add a short piece to the Dockenfield Newsletter to express our heart-felt thanks and appreciation to all that have supported us in Dockenfield since our recent house burglary. A difficult experience for us and our three children but we were overwhelmed by the support and kindness shown by people that had heard. From emails, knocks on the door to check we were alright, gifts and bountiful hampers; we remain secure in our belief that Dockenfield is a truly special place to live.

This is a thank you to all and to say that we hope to continue to support the village and pay that kindness forward by getting involved in Neighbourhood Watch and supporting those who may feel more vulnerable to house intrusion and burglary.

Thank you to so many. With very best wishes.

Catherine and Graham Kneller, Lake Lane

Another thank you to Dockenfield

A big thank you from both of us to the lovely person who spotted our tractor parked in Green Lane after it had been stolen from our yard in Frensham and who reported its whereabouts to the police. It may be 34 years old but we love our tractor dearly (it even has a name, 'Katie') and its lovely to have her home again safe and sound.

Fiona Raw and Harvey Ricketts

My lucky day?

Referring to your article in the last edition of DNL ('Easing the Pain of Getting to Hospital', page 12, edition 251) I think I was one of the first residents from cont/

Cont/

Dockenfield to try Frimley Park new car park. I had an appointment at 3.15pm on Friday 25 September. I arrived early to get a place, to be met by a car park attendant who asked if I could go up or downstairs: I said 'yes'. I was directed past the entrance to the main car parks to the far end and directed up the slope to park. We came down and asked a man on the barrier about paying; he did not speak English so I went to the ticket office who said 'just come down, push the button and I will let you out'.

So I was early for my appointment to see my specialist. He saw me waiting and asked me to go in. We had a chat, a blood test etc and I was out before my appointment was due to begin at 3.15pm. I collected the car, came down the slope, pushed the button, the barrier came up and I drove through with no payment. It was the first time in years I did not have to pay. It must have been my lucky day.

Mary Embling, 2, Mount View, Batts Corner

Bed 'n Plants

Would anyone like a Gunnera? This plant is free to whoever digs up and collects it. Much as I love it there isn't room here. It wants water and space. *Wooden Double Bed Wanted.*

Does anyone want to get rid of a bed, double or larger, which is wanted for a son of over 6'3"! Please contact Nicola Rutherford on 01252 795547 or email nicolagodden@aol.com

Nicola Rutherford

Comings and goings...

A warm Dockenfield Welcome to

- Gail Atkinson and Brian Hicks who moved into the Old Convent in September. They say they are 'thrilled to be living in such a beautiful spot and our autumnal arrival is well timed with the trees around changing colour. We would love a mention in the Dockenfield Newsletter.' Consider it done Gail. Meanwhile I have also heard from Lucy Denny (see below) who says 'Gail is no stranger to Dockenfield as she lived with me in flat 6 for 3 years...work took her away, but clearly neither of them could resist the charms of the village'. What's more I also learned that Gail and Brian got married on 16 October in Womersley, so many congratulations to you both on your wedding.
- Maria and Nick Williams who have emailed to say that they and their sons Jack (nearly 8) and Lucas (5½ - the half makes all the difference he tells his mother!) and their cockapoo 'Chewie' are the new residents at Batts Cottage. Maria goes on to say 'We've already been made to feel so welcome here in Dockenfield and are loving our new home'. I am sure you have, Maria, Dockenfield is a very friendly place to live.

...and congratulations to

- Lucy Denny and Doug Johnson from the Old Convent who got married recently at Gate Street Barn in Bramley and will be honeymooning in Vietnam. That makes two marriages in The Old Convent announced in this issue (see Gail and Brian, above). Is it something in the air there? And please remember that Lucy, as residents at the Old Convent probably know, is one of DNL's valuable distributors and so this is a great opportunity also to thank her for doing that.
- And, lovely, lovely, there's another wedding happening next month. Mared Evans and her fiancé Nick Morant are tying the knot at St Mary's Church Frensham on Saturday, 12 December at 1pm. Mared was brought up in Dockenfield and is still an active member of St Mary's Church Choir. Mared and Nick live in Farnham and look forward to keeping close ties with Dockenfield as they start their married life together.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Next Meeting Dates: The dates for the next Parish Council Meetings are Tuesdays **19 January** and **15 March** and are held at 8pm in the vestry of the Good Shepherd. Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of each meeting. There are no meetings in December or February.

Alice Holt Forest: At the recent Alice Holt Users Forum we were updated by Forest Enterprises (FE) on the thinning occurring in Willows Green Inclosure. This forest operation will continue into the New Year with the same team. It's good to see the timber is being sold quickly and the paths remain accessible.

We also discussed the Park Runners who use the accessible trail and some of the Shipwrights Way. They have consent from F.E. to do this between 9 am and 10 am on Saturday mornings. Stewards are stationed at each path junction.

The Village Telephone Box: Some time ago the telephone box was restored by Francis Hobday. You may see one piece of glass has broken recently and will be replaced soon. We have decided not to put books in the box for the winter as they quickly become damp. So if you have been donating your books please do not put any more in the box for the time being. Also, if you have any different ideas for the telephone box, please let Jessica know. We do of course still have the defibrillator in place for emergency use.

Dockenfield Emergency Email List: The best way of keeping in touch with all the important, sometimes vital, things that happen in the village. Whether it's a burglary alert or details of what to do in the event of bad weather, you get to hear the news first. Just email the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk and she will add you to the list. Please remember, although the list was started originally by Michael Foster, its management has been taken over by the Parish Council and so email Jessica Hobday if you have any news for circulation, not Michael.

Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk) www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Now that the darker evenings have arrived, and following a recent break-in and other incidents in the village, this is an opportune moment to remind residents of the importance of keeping their homes safe and secure.

Here are some suggested tips which you may find helpful:

1. Most of you will already have security lights, but make sure you also have alarms for sheds and outbuildings.
2. If your house is unoccupied, use a time-switch for a light to come on at dusk.
3. A radio switched on (also on a time-switch) will give the impression that the house is occupied.
4. Do not leave car keys lying about where visible, but keep in a secure location.
5. A CCTV camera is also recommended by the Police.
6. A car in the drive, boots outside the door, or anything else which makes the house look occupied.

Dockenfield Emergency E-mail List Anyone wishing to be added to this list should please contact the Parish Clerk, Jessica Hobday at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk. This is an effective way of keeping residents aware of any suspicious activities in the village.

Patrick Rendell

Poppy Appeal 2015

Dockenfield has most generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our Dockenfield house to house collectors of Jack Bessant, Pat Clough and Sarah Stirling collected £374 between them. Well done to all 3 of you and thank you to everyone who kindly donated. I am delighted to report that our area of Dockenfield, Frensham and Tilford collected a total of just over £6,400. This includes the house to house collectors, tins at various strategic points, the St Mary's Remembrance Day service, the Royal British Legion Club and a stalwart band of collectors outside Sainsbury's on two separate days, and the Frensham Village Shop.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal I would like to express thanks and gratitude to all who participated, including Jasmine Lee and John Whitby who laid wreaths on behalf of the legion and village respectively, and to John Stirling who read the Exhortation at the village Remembrance Day War Memorial service, conducted by the Revd Jane Walker.

My personal thanks also to the traffic marshals, the bugler Mark Cox, the members of the British Legion Club and to Gordon Carter who helps me during the appeal period.

Peter James

And lets just add a word here in thanks to Peter who works so hard every year making sure that the Poppy Appeal is a success and helping to organise the Service at the War Memorial.

Events at the Bluebell

Winter opening times: Bar Monday-Thursday 12-3pm and 5.30-11pm; Friday and Saturday 12-11pm; Sunday 12-8pm. Food served Monday-Thursday 12-3pm and 6-9pm; Friday and Saturday 12-3pm and 4-9pm; Sunday 12-7pm.

Special offers: Monday and Tuesday, £6 meals plus wine for £10; Wednesdays, beer and a burger for £10; Thursday, Friday and Saturday kids eat free with an adult meal between 4-6pm.

Sunday afternoons: The pub becomes a pub! Pool table, darts and card games available.

Christmas opening times and special events:

Christmas Eve: Open midday-midnight. Food served 12-3pm and 4-9pm.

Christmas Day: Open midday-2pm for drinks only. Robin says 'It was lovely to see so many of you last year, and we look forward to seeing you again for a quick Christmas tippie'.

Boxing Day: There is a special menu, featuring game (this menu is available to see now, please call if you'd like a copy). The pub is open from 12-10pm; food will be served from 12-8pm for bookings only (please note they only have a few tables left, even this early).

New Year's Eve: Open 12- late. It's a great place for pre-party food, which will be served 12-3pm and 4-9pm, children welcome, but please do book.

New Years Day: There will be a special menu, so go and have a hair of the dog: Robin says their bloody Mary's are highly recommended.

Please note: The pub already have a big increase in Christmas bookings this year and so it is advisable to call and book a table. Boxing Day is looking very popular and is already very nearly fully booked.

'Men's Night': Takes place at the pub every 2nd Thursday in the month, starting from 8pm. To get onto the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: markrosling@outlook.com

Keep in touch: With the pub on their website www.bluebell-dockenfield.com or Tel: 792801 for information. If anyone would like email updates about events at the pub email info@bluebell-dockenfield.co.uk and ask to be added to their email list. They have a Facebook page Bluebell Dockenfield and you can 'like' them on that for regular updates.

Events at our other pubs, clubs and hotels

Ahead of each edition I email all of the pubs, clubs and hotels in the wider Parish to ask for details of any live music and other special events they may be hosting and list them below if given. Where I have received no information the venue is listed so you can check any events with them direct.

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060 www.thehollybush.co.uk)

Carol Singing at the Holly Bush: Thursday **17 December** at 7pm. The singing will be led by Frensham Baptist Fellowship and St Mary's Church choir. This will be great so try and be there if you possibly can.

The Holly Bush Christmas opening hours are:

Christmas Day: 11am-2pm for drinks and nibbles.

Boxing Day: 11am till close, food served 11am-3pm; brunch menu.

New Year's Eve: Brunch/lunch 8.30am- 3pm close. 7pm: Bring Vinyl New Years Eve Party. Cocktails and Street Food served all evening. Full details will be published on their website soon.

Private Dining Rooms: January will see the opening of the private dining room upstairs at the Holly Bush. 'An incredible dining experience for up to 20 people with your own chef and waiting staff'. The room is also available for business meetings. Again details will be appearing on their website soon.

Garden: Great Outdoors Landscapes have started work on the Holly Bush garden ready for spring 2016. Here hoping for a good summer!

Everyone at the Holly Bush wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Frensham Pond Hotel (Tel: 795161, www.bw-frenshampondhotel.co.uk)

There's lots going on at the Frensham Pond Hotel over the festive season and you can get full details by visiting their website, as above. Some of the highlights include three course **Christmas lunches** from £18.75 per adult; **Christmas Party Nights** from £29.50 per person; a **Casino Night** with disco on 17 December for just £37 per person; a six course **Christmas Day Luncheon** for £77.50 per adult; and a **New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance** with entertainment for £89.50 per adult on, well, 31 December. Cont/d

Cont/d

Frensham Royal British Legion (Tel: 793014)

Christmas Fayre: Sunday **29 November** from 2pm – 5pm, selling homemade cards plus gifts, tree decorations, confectionery, jams, pickles and pet treats. Refreshments will be available. All proceeds to Macmillan Nurses and the Surrey Air Ambulance.

Monday **7 December: Club AGM**, at 8pm they need lots of members to come and express their views and ideas about the club.

Saturday **12 December:** 8pm, **Quiz** by the bell ringers, including a light supper – teams of up to six. *See page 4.*

Sunday **13 December:** 4pm, **Children's Christmas Party** for club members' children and grandchildren – advance bookings only, so please pop in to add your children's names to the list

Saturday **19 December:** 7.30pm, **Grand Christmas Draw** with fabulous prizes as usual. The sheets for this are up in the club – do purchase lots of squares – you won't regret it.

Christmas Eve: 8pm, **Festive Social** with games, laughs, music and a good start to Christmas.

Christmas Day: The bar will be open as usual from 12pm – 2pm for a quick drink while the dinner is cooking.

New Year's Eve: 8pm – Karaoke evening

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Christmas Opening Hours:

Are as usual except Christmas Day, open 12 till 3pm for drinks only. Boxing Day, open 12 till 5pm for drinks and 12 till 3pm for food.

Christmas Menu: Served from 4 December until Boxing Day. Four people minimum and booking essential.

New Chef: starting on 2 December; I believe there is a new kitchen too.

Live Music: Phil Aaron playing on **19 December**.

Open (Acoustic) Mic Nights: 8.30pm normally on the last Friday of every month so **November 27** but there isn't one in December.

Cherry Tree, Rowledge (Tel: 792105, www.cherrytreepub.co.uk)

Christmas Menu available from 23 November from just £15.

Christmas Opening Hours:

Christmas Eve: Open all day serving food until 9pm

Christmas Day & Boxing Day: Open 12-3pm - limited tables available

New Years Eve: Open 12-6pm

New Years Day: Open 12-4pm

Live Music with Betsa Collins on Friday **18 December**

Frensham Brewery and Pierrepoint Farm bring you a 'Crafty Christmas'

The Frensham Brewery Christmas event is on **Saturday 19 December** during the Brewery Shops normal brewery opening hours of **12-4pm**. They are calling it 'Frensham Brewery & Pierrepoint Farm bring you a Crafty Christmas' and they will have activities for children from 1pm to include a forest trial, arts & crafts and a Santa's grotto (the afternoon will be charged at £4 per child to cover costs, advance tickets available via their website). They hope to have carol singers and there is even mention of a calf/cow turned reindeer for the children to stroke.

They will have their full range of handmade craft beers on including their seasonal porter Owlswood (6%) and their award winning Rambler (3.9%). Meanwhile their Soul of The Shoes (3.8%) has been their fastest seller of the summer with Forager (4.5%) now becoming the firm winter favourite with its oak, vanilla and caramel after tones.

The brewery shop opening hours over Christmas are:

23/4 December: Open 11am - 4pm

25/26/27 December: Closed

28 December: Open for telephone & e-mail pre orders

29 December: Open for telephone & e-mail pre orders (and also for the Village Walkers from approx 11.30am-12.30pm. See page 5)

30/31 December: Open 11am - 4pm

1 January: Closed

2 January: Open 12 - 4pm

Roman Tile Kiln Update

The last issue of the DNL reported the excavation of a Roman tile kiln 'in the vicinity of Dockenfield'. This excavation finished in September; the kiln has since been surveyed, recorded and the site, sadly, covered over again. Sadly, because it would have been nice to leave it open and allow people to see such a tangible reminder of the area's past, but frost and rain over winter would soon have damaged the fabric of the kiln. So it is better preserved under a covering of soil.

The kiln itself conforms to the usual Roman pattern of a stokepit giving access to a fire tunnel where the fuel (wood) was burnt. In the case of Dockenfield this was an arched tunnel 2.3m long leading into a slightly off-square, well built combustion chamber with sides of about 2.2m and several internal crosswalls with central arches to allow the hot air to spread throughout the tile load which would have been stacked on a floor above the chamber. The upper above ground part of the kiln must have been demolished when the kiln went out of use, as no trace of this survives. The system must have worked well as the design is very similar to that of Medieval kilns and indeed, in principle if not in scale and appearance, to the 19th and 20th century kilns at the Wrecclesham Pottery.

As readers may remember from earlier articles, Alice Holt is the site of a major Roman pottery industry producing a wide range of plates, bowls, beakers and storage vessels in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. This, however, is the first time a tile kiln has been found in the area, though they are not uncommon elsewhere - Ashted is the nearest known example in Surrey. The Dockenfield kiln was producing a type of roof tile known as a tegula - a flat rectangular tile with raised parallel edges laid side by side in rows with the joints between the rows being covered by semi-circular tiles known as imbrices. Very similar tiles can be seen on some roofs in Italy today.

The kiln was working on an industrial scale and one interesting question is where the tiles went. Again, readers with good memories may recall that there are a remarkable number of Roman villas just over the border in Hampshire and many are quite large. Perhaps Dockenfield provided tiles for some of these buildings - there are two small Roman farmsteads nearer Dockenfield but neither show signs of having had tiled roofs. Otherwise the tiles could have been sent to the Roman town at Neatham (near Alton) or even as far as Chichester, Winchester or Silchester as there were good Roman road connections to all these towns. A team from Reading University has taken thin sections from the Dockenfield tiles and are in the process of comparing these under the microscope with samples from other towns and this may provide answers to the question.

Whether the Dockenfield kiln is an offshoot of the Alice Holt pottery industry is anyone's guess, but our area certainly has a long tradition of pottery and tile production right up to the 19th and early 20th centuries, when several brickworks operated in the area - one just off Lower Thicket Lane at Frith End for example. It is only comparatively recently that peace and quiet, traffic and helicopters apart, has returned to the Dockenfield countryside.

David Graham

See also the picture on page 1.

News from the Village Shop and Post Office

Wednesday afternoons in the Post Office

The Post Office is now open from 2pm – 5.30pm. Clive Bingle, from Beacon Hill Post Office has joined our team and will be working ½ day a week. This will be especially useful in the run up to Christmas. *You could also whisper that **if** there are trained PO staff on the premises, you can also get served now between 1 and 2pm! But only "if".*

The Village Shop at Christmas

Paul is gearing up for Christmas; it's difficult to move in the stock room for new products, many of them sourced from local suppliers. In the multi-deck we have cheese from Sussex, butter from the South Downs, a delicious range of chilled soups, olives, yogurts and Paul's favourites – Nelly's Scotch Eggs!

Above the Brown Bag crisps we have a new range of excellent Fruit and Nut mixes. The same supplier sent a sample of Pretzels, which customers have pronounced "VG", so watch for their appearance too.

Christmas Hampers will be made to order, the price dependent on your choice of items. Last year's favourites from our shelves included tins of truffles, butterfly cheese wings and jars of paté, which are available again. This year's new offerings include FVS branded Christmas Puddings and small jute gift bags.

Please come and visit us to see just how many of your Christmas goodies can be bought locally! And, on **25 November**, visit us at the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Christmas Gift Fair at Frensham Heights School; sharing a stall with Morgans, we'll be taking orders for Christmas fare, selling mince pies and other Christmas goodies.

Cont/

Cont/

For those of you who knew and loved our shipping container in Hollowdene Rec, you'll be pleased to know that it has been wonderfully successful in Kingsbury Episcopi. They anticipate selling it on in about 18 months as they've just received over £800k from the Big Lottery towards a new Community Centre. This will provide a permanent home for the shop and café, community hall and changing rooms for the recreation ground. Brilliant news!

Christmas Opening Hours

Thursday 24 December:	8.30am – 1pm
Friday 25 December	CLOSED
Saturday 26 December	Shop: 9am – 11am, Post Office Closed
Sunday 27 December	Shop: 9am – 11am, Post Office: Closed
Monday 28 December	Shop: 9am – 11am, Post Office, Closed
Tuesday 29-	
Thursday 31 December	NORMAL HOURS
Friday 1 January	Shop: 9am – 11am, Post Office Closed
Saturday 2 January	BACK TO NORMAL HOURS

Last posting dates (a brief guide):-

International:-

4 December	Africa and Middle East
7 December	Asia and Far East
8 December	Eastern Europe & Canada
10 December	Australia, Greece, New Zealand
15 December	USA
15– 18 December	Western Europe

UK:-

Saturday 19 December	2 nd Class and Royal Mail Signed For (2 nd)
Monday 21 December	1 st Class and Royal Mail Signed For (1 st)
Tuesday 22 December	Parcelforce Worldwide Express 48
Wednesday 23 December	Parcelforce express 24

For more information, please pick up a leaflet from the Post Office

www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk Tel: 01252 79524

Frensham Village Shop's 20th Birthday celebrations

A £3,378 'Give Back' Day!

On 21 February we will celebrate the 20th Birthday of our community shop; a fantastic milestone reflecting huge support from customers, volunteers, local suppliers and many more!

The shop would not be commercially viable, but can only play its role through the support of volunteers, the good fortune of 'peppercorn' rent, and the energy and initiative of Paul and all the team. It does, however, generate a small surplus of 1p-2p for every £1 spent or c.£1 for each hour of shop opening. Not to be taken for granted, but there's now a sufficient buffer for an annual 'Give Back' of future surpluses.

As a Community Interest Company, qualifying causes need to be for the benefit of Frensham & Dockenfield, and four have been identified for this year, to share the 2014 surplus of £3,378, to be split according to the nomination of customers (with a minimum guaranteed donation of £200 to each cause):

- St Mary's School – Library Appeal
- Frensham Pond Sailing Club – Sailability
- St Mary's Church – Tower Appeal
- British Legion – Roof Appeal and disabled access

From Saturday 2 January to 20 February 2016 **spend over £5 and award your token to the cause you would like to support** – and give your ideas for next year!

The allocation of this year's 'Give Back' will be announced at the Staff and Volunteers 20th Birthday Party on 21 February 2016.

Mayonne Coldicott

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

The activities of the Society take a break for Christmas and the New Year after the traditional end of year President's Supper. The next event will be a social evening on **28 January** (8 pm Marindin Hall) where we shall be showing pictures of gardens you have visited and have particularly enjoyed, or you want to take a critical look at; "*Now why did they plant that tree there, that's never going to work?*" etc. Last year we focused on English gardens stretching from Northumberland to the coast of Dorset, and this year we are going international. So, those of you who have visited gardens abroad and have some pictures to share please get in contact and I will add your pictures to the presentation. Last year was much enjoyed and was helped with the glasses of mulled wine and slices of home made cakes.

Gardening pundits talk about '*putting the garden to bed*' over the winter. Gardeners' World was doing this about a month ago. Cutting back perennials, clearing up leaves, composting the beds and last lawn cut etc. With the implication that there is not much more to do, apart from pruning, until we see the shoots of spring. However, this is not always the case and, in particular this year, we see roses in bud and flowering in early November, borders ablaze with 'late summer' colours and vegetables still growing. Whilst Monty Don was cleaning out and disinfecting his greenhouse a month ago, mine is still producing a profusion of tomatoes, cucumbers and chilli peppers.

Similarly, there are now a lot of salad crops originating from Italy, Spain and Japan that will grow in the cooler winter days with shorter daylight hours. Winter salads from mizuna, radicchio, mooli radish and black Spanish radish and our winter cos lettuce all do well here with a bit of protection (fleece) in frosty weather. In addition there are next summer's crops that can be planted now to grow, or just survive, through the winter to make an early start as soon as temperatures rise and daylight lengthens, such as: spring cabbage (netted against pigeons and watch out for slugs if it stays mild), garlic (nothing else eats this), broad beans and peas (protect against mice- traps in drain pipes between rows or get a cat).

As long as it is not actually tipping down with rain, (which is why I am at the keyboard now rather than out in the garden), or thick with snow there is still much that can be done, and enjoyment to be had, in your garden throughout the winter.

Dan Bosence

Chairman Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Tea at 3

'Tea at 3' in St Mary's church hall is open to everyone. It was held for the first time in September last year, then on the first Monday of the month since and has been great fun!

There is a special **Christmas tea on 7 December** – we even hope to sing a couple of carols along with the Christmas cake, mince pies and sausage rolls. We would love to see any newcomers as well as the many regular visitors!

If it's not possible to join us in December then perhaps one of these dates in 2016 might be a possibility. And it always starts at 3pm:-

4 January
1 February
7 March
4 April
2 May (Bank Holiday Tea)
6 June
4 July
1 August
5 September
3 October
7 November
5 December

For further information or if you ever need a lift please contact **Morag James**, on tel: 01252 793133.

Dockenfield Business Directory

The business directory is a list of residents of Dockenfield who own and run their own business; it is a slightly abridged version of the list which appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk); for updates please contact **Paul Wood** at pdw65@btinternet.com

All businesses, large or small, full or part time are invited to participate. There is no charge for these entries as the Parish Council is keen to support businesses that are owned and run by village residents. The only criteria for entry is that you *must* live in a house that receives a hard copy of DNL delivered through the door: so please when submitting entries always remember to give you full home address although this will not be published. For reasons of space the description of each business must be a maximum of 3-4 lines.

Business Name	Services Offered	Contact	Tel/email/website
Aldred Services	Groundworks, drainage and hard landscape	John Aldred	01252 793773 / 07831 431826 johnaldred@btconnect.com
Alison Ellen Knitwear	Short courses and books on designing knitwear; custom made knitwear	Alison Ellen	01252 792442 / 07896 124418 alison@alisonellenhandknits.co.uk www.alisonellenhandknits.co.uk

Dockenfield Business Directory cont/

Business Name	Services Offered	Contact	Tel/email/website
Bluebell Pub	The only public house in Dockenfield.	Robin/Lucy Catchpole	01252 792801 www.bluebell-dockenfield.com
Brown Fox Consultancy Ltd	We work with businesses to help them develop and improve their relationships with customers	Sebastian Fox	07930 986677 sebastian@brownfoxconsultancy.com www.brownfoxconsultancy.com
Bushbaby Travel Ltd	Bespoke holidays and adventures around the world	Abigail and James Shaw	01252 792984 info@bushbaby.travel http://bushbaby.travel
Charterlith	Artwork, design, printing, copying for everyone	Adrian Wilkins/John Wilkins	01252 614406 theprinters@charterlith.co.uk www.charterlith.co.uk
Dockenfield Dog Care	Dog walks; day care; home visits	Susan Slinger	01252 795704 / 07798 657954 susanslinger@gmail.com
Greensleeves Gardens	Experienced plantswoman. Maintenance/ design, pruning, planning, planting, tidying, renovation. Plants for sale.	Amanda Green	01252 795159 / 07867 924551
In a Scent Aromatherapy	Aromatherapy and deep tissue massage and consultation	Amanda Adolph	01252 795909 / 07867 808918 amandaadolph@gmail.com
Jean Heathcote	Painter in oils, landscapes, local scenes and seascapes	Jean Heathcote	01252 793251
Larksgate Garden Design	Design; design & build; planting plans; supply and planting; problem solving	Maxine Sims	01252 790242 / 07979 470946 maxine@larksgatedesign.co.uk www.larksgatedesign.co.uk
Level 7 Software Ltd	IT consultancy	Malcolm Marshall	07931 374135 malcolm.marshall@level7software.co.uk www.level7software.co.uk
Mesh Energy	Home and business sustainability and renewable energy advise	Doug Johnson	01252 765077 djohnson@meshenergy.com
Milestones Clinic Ltd	We provide a specialist multidisciplinary neuro-rehabilitation service	Sally de la Fontaine	01784 457520 sally@milestonesclinic.co.uk www.milestonesclinic.co.uk
Nicola Godden Sculpture	Sculpture in bronze for gardens and interiors	Nicola Godden BA MRBS	01252 795547 nicolagodden@aol.com www.nicolagodden.com
Penny Heath	Suzuki cello teacher. A successful and stimulating method of teaching young children	Penny Heath	01252 795358 / 07891710652 pennyheath5@gmail.com
Pilates Training Solutions Ltd	Pilates matwork classes, one to one equipment and rehabilitation sessions	Belinda Buttery	01252 719429 / 07734 426757 belindajbuttery@hotmail.com www.pilatestrainingsolutions.co.uk
Poulsom Plant Hire	Plant hire and agricultural contracting	Katy Poulsom	01252 792614 / 07703 519488 katy.poulsomplant@gmail.com
Pure Imagination Jewellers	Bespoke jewellery; commissions; repairs; cleaning and gemology	Ben Poulsom	07789 798463 benpoulsom@hotmail.co.uk www.pureimaginationjewellers.com
Pure.Style	Image consultations for men and women	Rachel Ilett	01252 793551 r.ilet@btinternet.com www.pure-style.co.uk
Roak Ltd	Quality trusted builders; refurbishment; new-build; extensions	David Epps	01252 820328 / 07768 510055 david@roak.co.uk www.roak.co.uk
Strawberry Signs Ltd	Signwriter offering banners; vehicle graphics; pavement and shop signage; logos	Paul Edwards	01252 319474 / 07774 193769 strawberrysigns@btconnect.com www.strawberrysigns.co.uk
Surrey Clock Centre Haslemere	Repair and restoration of antique clocks and barometers	Stuart Haw	01428 651313 / 07840 685380 fattyfooks@aol.com
Tim Lediard	Painting; pressure washing; hedge and grass cutting; carpet and upholstery cleaning	Tim Lediard	01420 472285 / 07900 895667 tlediard@aol.com

The British Bird of Paradise?

WH Hudson (1841 – 1922) was a writer about the English countryside, and also a naturalist, ornithologist, and founder member of the RSPB. He described the Jay as ‘the most beautiful of English birds’ and ‘the British bird of paradise.’ He had been born in Argentina, and had seen some pretty exotic birds in his time, so this was praise indeed. Was he exaggerating the Jay’s credentials? Now is a good time to see for yourself, because Jays, normally shy birds, are more visible during the autumn. They are foraging for acorns to stock up for the winter, so wherever there are oak trees you stand a chance of seeing this colourful member of the Crow family.

Unlike its cousins, the Jay is dressed to the nines, with a pink-buff body, bright blue and white wing-patches, black moustache and white rump. If, as often happens, you notice a Jay just as it flies away, that white rump is a clue. The Jay also has a streaked crown which can look like a crest if it is startled. With its colourful plumage, its dagger-like bill and its bouncy flight, it can startle people into asking what it is. Bill Oddie says that 99 per cent of the ‘funny birds’ he is asked about are Jays.

Often we hear a bird before we see it. If you take a walk through an oak wood you might hear a hoarse, furious scream. That is probably a Jay, sounding, as Richard Jefferies (1848 – 1887), another naturalist, wrote, as ‘*the sound made in tearing a piece of calico.*’ Jays are also excellent mimics, and they often copy the calls of other birds.

During much of the year Jays forage in the ground for invertebrates such as beetles, and they will take small mammals, including bats. During the spring they are known to take other birds’ nestlings. During the autumn and winter they rely on acorns and other seeds. They become very active, collecting acorns and hiding them in trees, under roots and piles of leaves, and in the ground. You may have seen a Jay flying about with an acorn in its bill. It is likely that it will have several more in its gullet, as it collects them to stash away. Jays will fly quite long distances to collect acorns, and it has been calculated that a single Jay can collect about 5000 acorns in a few autumn weeks. Do they remember where they have hidden them? Studies have established that they do, and they have been observed digging through deep snow to retrieve them. However, numbers of acorns are not retrieved, and will begin to sprout next spring.

Acorn crops vary and some years they are less abundant, depending on conditions earlier in the year. In years of poor crops across Europe, large numbers of Jays from Scandinavia may arrive in the UK in search of better luck. In 2012 the Somerset Ornithological Society’s website reported large numbers of Jays appearing in woods, fields and gardens. Apparently this caused some skirmishes with resident Rooks. Like other members of the Crow family, Rooks will occasionally eat acorns, but the in-fighting may have had more to do with defending territories.

Even in a plentiful year Jays can be more readily seen now, in and around your garden, so keep a lookout for this large and beautiful bird, bounding about purposefully in search of winter supplies.

Val Lewis

Burns Supper and Ceilidh (and maybe a free pint of beer?)

Looking ahead to 2016: On Saturday 6 February the St Mary’s bell ringers are holding a **Burns Supper and Ceilidh** at the **Marindin Hall, 7.30pm till 11.30pm**. The supper will consist of traditional haggis, tatties and neeps (ie. haggis, mashed potatoes and mashed turnip) – but with a twist! Our twist? The haggis will be infused with Scotch whisky! There will, of course, be a vegetarian option too. Following the main course, there will be a Scottish dessert such as raspberry cranachan. If ‘raspberry cranachan’ is new to you – come and try it!

Dancing will be to music played by a local folk band called Roughditch. The band is based in Rowledge and has been playing since 1988. If you’d like to check out the band beforehand, and have an internet link, visit: www.roughditch.com/Roughditch/Home.html

As some DNL readers may know, ‘Roughditch’ was the Victorian name for Rowledge in the days when the ‘Ditch’ was the thin blue line between the good folk of Farnham and the Poachers, Gypsies, Tramps and Hawkers, Poll-tax Dodgers and all the other ‘Ne’er do wells’ that occupied the Alice Holt Forest. History lesson over! Roughditch and the Roughians play a mixture of traditional Celtic and British folk songs, jigs, polkas and good fun music, and the group includes a Caller who will teach us the dances step by step then call each move when the music starts and throughout the first few cycles of each dance (until she’s sure we’ve got the hang of it!)

There will be a cash bar and raffle, and tickets are priced at £25. All proceeds will go to St Mary’s Tower Repair Fund. Tickets are available from either Jill McKenzie (Tel: 01420 23165) or Harry Glover (Tel: 01252 797827) or the Village Shop.

Oh – the free pint of beer? Each gentleman wearing a kilt will be able to claim a free pint!

Harry Glover

News from our Local Police Officer

My usual Christmas reminder Sorry everyone, but it is time for my traditional reminder regarding actions you can take so you can enjoy a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. I know that I do this every year, but I think that it is really important, so that we can all enjoy this festive time of year.

At home ~Don't leave presents under the Christmas tree in view of a window. Hide them somewhere safe until Christmas morning. ~ Security mark expensive presents, such as electronic equipment with a forensic marking product and keep an inventory on a property registration website such as www.immobilise.com. ~ Dispose of Christmas gift packaging carefully. Empty boxes left outside can advertise to thieves what they can find inside.

Going out Remember to lock all doors and windows and to set your burglar alarm. If you are going away over the festive period ask a neighbour or your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme to keep an eye on your house. Do *not* post details of your holiday on social networking sites. Make your house look occupied by using automatic timer switches to turn interior lights, radios or TVs on and off and ensure you cancel your milk and newspapers.

Defective Headlights As the days have got shorter I have noticed the large number of vehicles driving around without proper working headlights and sidelights. I am sure that you will all appreciate the potential dangers this can cause to both the drivers of the vehicles themselves and other road users. Defective headlights not only drastically reduce a driver's ability to clearly see the road ahead at night but may also result in oncoming vehicles not being able to see you.

Whenever you drive your car at night please check that both your headlights and sidelights are in full working order before you leave home. If you find that any of your lights are not working then you will need to arrange for replacement bulbs to be fitted urgently.

It will not surprise you to learn that it is an offence to drive a vehicle with defective lights. You may be stopped by police and issued with a Vehicle Defect Rectification Notice giving you 14 days to correct the fault. Failure to do so may lead to prosecution. To my eternal shame, a few years ago, I did not check my lights and ended up with only one sidelight working. I was driving down a dark country road at the time and could not see anything in front of me. I very frightening experience, which I intend never to repeat.

Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 10 September 2015 to 9 November We have one report of burglary where a spare car key, ladies watch and a handheld vacuum cleaner have been taken. We have one attempted theft where unknown persons have tried to steal a plant trailer without success. Finally we have one case of criminal damage involving a security light attached to a garage.

Wishing you all continued good health and prosperity at this festive time of year.

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

Dockenfield Skittles Night Report 2015

On 16 October, 33 residents and friends decamped from Dockenfield to the Jolly Farmer pub for the ninth annual skittle bashing evening – appropriately named this year because several competitors attacked the skittles with such energy that they were scattered over the restraining board at the end of the lane. As happened last year, there was a delayed start due to a number of the contestants emphasising the social side by stopping in the bar drinking to build up their courage for the fray.

As is often the case, generally because of the drinkers in the bar getting into the party mood, the competitive momentum took some time to build up, but by the end of the second round there was a clear hierarchy which only stretched further during the final round. The winning team was the Superstars (they must have known something before we started to have chosen that name), consisting of Sue, Chris, Linda, Mark, and Fiona R, with a winning score of 119, the lowest in the last 6 years. It was also remarkable that only 4 players scored 9 in their turn, and none of these were in the winning, emphasising the team emphasis in the Superstars. The individual winners were Tony on 25 and Sue on 22 after a hard playoff with Rosemary.

There has always been some surprise at the fact that the balls sometimes slide between the skittles. A count during the evening reached 10 occasions when the majority of the skittles were still standing. As an additional event this year, about half the party stayed on for a knockout game which is aimed at leaving one person standing. This engaged everyone fully in the event because the rotation of attempts was more rapid. After a valiant effort by Katy, who on 4 occasions had to knock a single skittle down to avoid losing a life, she was eventually outstayed by Harvey.

Don't forget that although most of the people attending are regulars, this is open to everyone in Dockenfield on a first come basis. This is witnessed by there being four new players this year, and others returning after a long gap. So book early because there is a strict limit on numbers of 36. The event is always held in September or October, so keep your eyes open for the date in Dockenfield Newsletter from about June.

Ian Mansell

Are you in the mood for it?

You know what it's like in the run up to Xmas: all rush, rush, hurry, hurry and no time at all to linger under the mistletoe. And so you crash into Christmas Day and before you know it, the whole things over. So DNL has decided to get you into the Christmas spirit well ahead of time by bringing you twelve of the very best (aka worst) Christmas cracker jokes. Are you ready now, groans at the ready.

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow

Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can 'ho ho ho'!

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

What did Adam say to his wife on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper

What's the most popular Christmas wine? I don't like Brussels sprouts! (*whine, gettit?*)

What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree? Nice gnawing you!

Why are Christmas Trees like bad knitters? They keep losing their needles!

What do you get if you cross a bell with a skunk? Jingle Smells!

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

What does the Queen call her Christmas Broadcast? The One Show!

What did Father Christmas do when he went speed dating? He pulled a cracker!

Butterfly Survey on Bealeswood Common 2015

	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Total
Small/Essex Skipper			2	50	30		82
Clouded Yellow					1		1
Brimstone					1		1
Large White		1	2	7	29		39
Small White		2	1	1	8		12
Green Veined White		1					1
Orange Tip	12	12					24
Small Copper						1	1
Brown Argus					1		1
Common Blue		8	2	8	67		85
Painted lady					1		1
Peacock	2		1		1		4
Comma	1						1
Silver washed Fritillary				1	4		5
Speckled Wood	2	1	7	4	6	19	39
Marbled White			29	53	1		83
Gatekeeper				75	63		138
Meadow Brown			81	196	169	4	450
Ringlet			5	42			47

The chart shows the number of butterflies seen on the weekly transect at Bealeswood Common, over the 6 months for which the monitoring scheme runs. Looking at last year's results, some species are much the same in numbers (eg. Small/Essex Skippers, Silver Washed Fritillary), some are down (Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlets, Speckled Wood) but some are up (Gatekeepers, Orange Tip, Common Blue). All the results are recorded in the Butterfly Conservation monitoring scheme and, with the information from all the different transects, BC are able to track the comparative health of each butterfly species over the years.

Alison Bosence, Philippa Hall, and Anne Tutt

Dockenfield Day 2016

I know, I know, we haven't got past Christmas and you don't want to even begin to think about next year yet. But this is important. You need to put **Saturday 4 June** in your diaries right now. That's Dockenfield Day 2016. You will be there wont you? Yes, I thought you would.

Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group

Tuesday 15 December, 7.30 pm at the British Legion

The final meeting of the History Group this year is:

Tuesday, 15 December:

Christmas Party (note the venue, its at the British Legion Club). For more information contact **Chris Bonner** on Tel: 793668.

Village Lunch

Wednesdays 25 November and 27 January, midday at the British Legion

The last Village Lunch of 2015 is on **25 November** and features a lovely Christmas lunch menu. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of Millbridge WI. The New Year kicks off with the first Lunch on **27 January** in support of the Frensham Royal British Legion.

Wet or dry?

Here I am writing DNL and its raining outside. This is England, right, so no great surprise there. But wait. **Jack Bessant** reports it hasn't been an especially wet autumn. Here are the facts. Rainfall for September was 2.5 inches (63.5mm). October was 2.83 inches (72mm) which is about half of the last three Octobers which averaged 5.3inches. Not that bad, huh.

From our South Africa correspondent

Debbie and I were lucky enough to holiday in South Africa in October, and as we travelled round we picked up some anecdotes, and other bits and pieces of information that entertained us and the friends we made whilst we were there. I thought it would be nice to share some of it with you.

Lost in translation

In Swaziland we noticed a number of shop names that, well, you perhaps wouldn't choose in this country. Amongst the finest were 'Twister Investments'; 'Bonkhe Supermarket'; 'Dupes Insurance' and 'The Big Sheet Shop'.

Travel weary

We had chosen a very intensive tour, with a new hotel every two days on average. Not surprisingly it eventually got to one of our pals who visited Reception in a hotel that we had just booked into, to complain that '*Towel 18 has only got one room in it*'.

Having a Whine?

We visited the 'Fairview' Winery, home of the wine 'Goats do Roam', so named as there are a number of goats in the grounds that do exactly that. The makers of Cotes du Rhone wine were so exercised by what they saw as copyright infringement that they sued Fairview. And lost.

Get your kit off

Just south of Cape Town is the area's only nudist beach. As we drove past (on the other side of the road, you understand) our guide explained why the neighbouring town and has no shops, cafes or bars at all, by order of the local authorities. It seems they don't want people to have other reasons to visit the area because they don't (as our guide put it) '*want anybody visiting the nudist beach willy nilly*'. Cue: a spontaneous burst of laughter from all of us.

Keep it clean

That same guide explained a fact about long distance driving that I must say had past me by until then. Did you realise that a dirty windscreen (and the distraction that the dirt has to the driver's vision) is a major contributor to driver fatigue?

Hey, man that's cool

It seems that if you put a chunk of ice in white wine not only does it cool it down, it reduces the tannin too.

Losing the crown jewels

There is a shop in one of Cape Town's townships that they call the 'Chop Shop', because it specialises in circumcisions and sex change operations. As they say locally '*One chop and Bob's your auntie*'.

Passport to Dockenfield

In an area on the Cape Peninsular called 'Hout Bay', once a year they issue passports, demand that all visitors and those travelling through buy one (at 20 Rand each or roughly £1) and give the proceeds to Cancer Research. How about the Independent Republic of Dockenfield, if only for a day?

Saved at last

Some of the South African first names, when translated into English, are quite lovely. Here are some examples: Happiness, Gracious, Motivate, Clever, Honesty, Nurse, Blessings, and Inspiration. And so it was, unexpectedly and in a hotel restaurant, we met Salvation. And thus we were saved.

DOCKENFIELD CHRISTMAS PARTY

AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD, SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER, 6-10.30pm

Please book: adult tickets at £7 each and child (16 or under) tickets at £3 each.

I enclose a cheque/cash for £ in payment (payable to Dockenfield Parish Council).

Family name: Address:

Telephone: Email:

Children's names	Children's ages	Boy/Girl	Vegetarian Meal Yes/No

Adult vegetarian meals required:

Please return the form with all names and details completed, with your payment before 4 December to either:

Catherine Kneller, The Pines at the junction of Lake Lane/The Street or Abi Shaw, Bealeswood Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.

Volunteers Required – please tick any of the following if you can help or email: joolzlmiles@aol.com

- Set up (10am-1pm approx) Pack up afterwards Saturday night or Sunday morning