

# DOCKENFIELD

## newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 270 Published 28 November 2018

### What goes Oh, Oh, Oh?

Well, it's Santa walking backwards of course. But if you live hereabouts you are bound to be looking forward to a perfect village Christmas. This Parish is just buzzing with sack loads of fun family things to do.

Read on for all the essential details, but not before I become one of the first to wish all DNL readers a very Merry Xmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019. **Michael** (*with apologies for the joke*)



### Christmas Highlights

**Monday 3 December:** Christmas 'Tea at 3' and Organ Recital

**Sunday 9 December:** Put up the village Christmas Tree

**Monday 10 December:** Carols at the Bus Shelter

**Thursday 13 December:** 'Dodgy Christmas Jumper' Men's Night

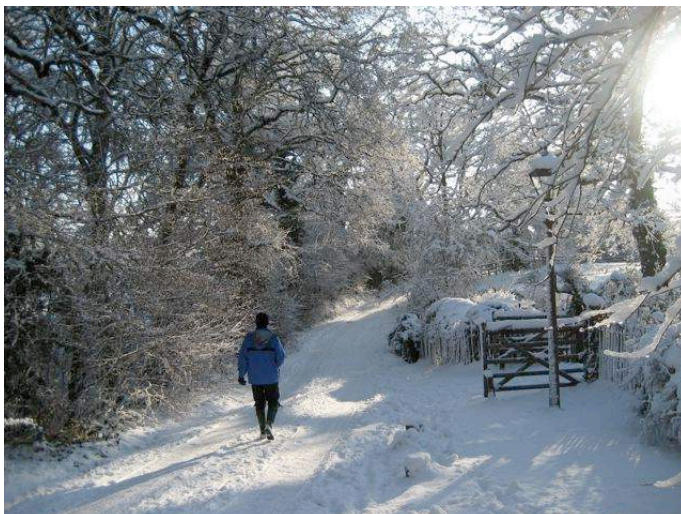
**Saturday 15 December:** Family Christmas Party

**Thursday 20 December:** 'Not-the-Office'

Christmas Lunch at the Bluebell

**Thursday 20 December:** Carols at the Holly Bush

*See pages 3, 4 and 5 for full details*



**Dreaming of a white Christmas?  
Bealeswood Lane in the snow**

### Village Xmas cards delivered free!

Four of our village children in year 6 (that's the last year of junior school in old money!) are taking part in the 'Waverley Abbey School challenge' - this is in a similar vein to a junior 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' and requires them to learn everything from basic skills of sewing and first aid to planning an expedition and developing their sport. A vital component is also community service, of which they each need to do a minimum of 15 hours.

So, Annabel, Archie, Jack, and Charlie (pictured) have decided to offer a free Christmas postal service to Dockenfield residents for any Christmas cards to be delivered within the village itself. They will collate and sort the mail and hand deliver your Christmas cards to fellow villagers for free!

Your bundle of Christmas post can be left at any of the four addresses below (on the doorstep if it's a big bundle is fine!) in a carrier bag anytime between 1-7 December: the children will have it all delivered that weekend!

#### **Drop your mail at one of these homes:**

Orchard End, Bealeswood Lane (Joolz Miles)  
Tytherley, The Street (Christine Allingham)  
Batts Cottage, Batts Corner (Maria Williams)  
Oak Trees, Lake Lane (Natalya Livingstone)

Thank you for your support with our challenge!

**Annabel, Archie, Jack and Charlie**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Monday, 3 December</b>	2.15pm 3pm	Organ Recital Christmas Tea at 3	St Mary's Church Hall	Page 4
<b>Thursday, 6 December</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group Xmas Party	Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Saturday, 8 December</b>	9.30am- 12.30pm	Hedge cutting at the Good Shepherd	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 11
<b>Sunday, 9 December</b>	10.30am	Help put up the village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 3
<b>Monday, 10 December</b>	6.45pm	Village Christmas Carols	Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 3
<b>Mon, Wed, Fri 10,12,14 Dec</b>	From 7.30pm	Wreath making	St Mary's Hall	Page 5
<b>Wednesday, 12 December</b>	6-8pm	Christmas Drinks at Helen Arkell	Helen Arkell Centre	Page 6
<b>Thursday, 13 December</b>	7.30pm	Millbridge WI Christmas Party	Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Thursday, 13 December</b>	From 8pm	'Dodgy Christmas Jumper' Men's Night	The Bluebell pub	Page 3
<b>Saturday, 15 December</b>	5-9.30pm	Dockenfield Christmas Party	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
<b>Tuesday, 18 December</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of Good Shepherd	Page 8
<b>Thursday, 20 December</b>	From 12.30pm	'Not-the-Office' Christmas lunch	The Bluebell pub	Page 3
<b>Thursday, 20 December</b>	7pm	Carol Singing	The Holly Bush pub	Pages 4 & 9
<b>Friday, 28 December</b>	10.30am	Village Walk	Meet at Marindin Hall	Page 4
<b>Saturday, 29 December</b>	7.30pm	End of the Year Quiz	The British Legion	Pages 10 & 13
<b>Monday, 31 December</b>	From 8pm	New Year's Eve Party with live music	The British Legion	Page 10
<b>Sunday, 6 January</b>	10am	Bealeswood Common Working Party	Meet at the seat at the top of Bealeswood Common	Page 11
<b>Thursday, 10 January</b>	From 8pm	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Men's Night	The Bluebell pub	Page 3
<b>Tuesday, 15 January</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of Good Shepherd	Page 8
<b>Thursday, 17 January</b>	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Wednesday, 23 January</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 13
<b>Wednesday, 23 January</b>	12.30pm	Organ Recital	St Mary's Church Hall	Page 5
<b>Thursday, 24 January</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 11
<b>Tuesday, 29 January</b>	9.30am	'Walking Together' Walking Group	Meet at St Mary's Church	Page 13

### **DNL photo competition**

Thank you for all your terrific entries to this competition. We have received pictures of DNL being read in the four corners of the world as well as in some truly imaginative places. Thank you also to Bushbaby Travel of Dockenfield for coming up with the idea and sponsoring the competition. The photos are now with the judges for, well, judging. The winner will be announced in the next edition of DNL.

## Everything you want to know about Christmas in the Parish

### Help put up the Village Christmas Tree

**Sunday 9 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street**

Come along and have fun as we lift the tree into place and decorate it with presents and lights. We had a really good turn out last year so get the date in your diary now and see if we can have even more people here this time. Please bring some wrapped boxes to hang on the tree.

### Village Christmas Carols

**Monday 10 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street**

Wonderfully traditional and a highlight of the village Christmas calendar, with free mince pies and mulled wine. Come rain or shine we always have a good turnout, so do come along and join us.

We are looking for volunteers to join the informal orchestra who play so importantly at the carols. If you would like to help do please contact Jill (Tel: 784284) or Karen Wane by emailing karenwane@hotmail.com. All welcome: in fact the more the merrier!

### Village Christmas Party

**Saturday 15 December 5 - 9.30pm, at the Good Shepherd**

'Strictly' is back on the telly and this is a sure sign that Xmas is on its way and the much anticipated Dockenfield Christmas party is looming. As usual it will be held in the Good Shepherd and it's a night you cannot miss!

This unique village event is for the whole family. What better way of letting your hair down and getting into the Christmas spirit? Doesn't matter a bit how old you are, it's an event with something for everyone. It's a very unique time for us 'Dockenfielders' to gather together and have an evening of great music, with great friends and lashings of food and drink to wash it all down with (served from the font, no less!) What could be better? Don't forget, for all those boys and girls who have been good all year, Santa Claus always makes a point of calling into Dockenfield laden with a gift for all guests who are twelve years old or under.

Everybody in the village is welcome, and it's great value for money when you think that everyone has a fabulous, festive plate of food, (and our younger guests can enjoy their very own party box meal), a great professionally run disco and even presents for the children! It's just £10 for adults (17 and over) and only £5 for children (16 and under). A bargain fun-filled family night.

Now it couldn't be easier to buy tickets, as they are available online. No forms to fill in and deliver or cheques to write. Just follow the link below and hey presto, job done. Just one thing though. In order for us to tell Santa who's been a good boy or girl we need your bookings by 10 December please. <https://guestli.st/583293>

As with any home-grown village event, helpers are always needed. If you can help setting-up or clearing away on the Saturday then please e-mail Joolz on joolzlmiles@aol.com.

**Santa's little Helpers**

### 'Not the Office' Christmas Lunch

**Thursday 20 December, from 12.30pm at the Bluebell pub**

If you work (or have worked) for yourself or work from home in or near Dockenfield, do join us for the extremely convivial 'Not-the-Office' Christmas lunch at the Bluebell on Thursday 20 December. It's a great opportunity if you don't have your own Christmas party to ensure you don't miss out on one, with the added bonus of being in the village. The criteria are interpreted fairly loosely, so if you're interested in coming along, please email **Sebastian**

**Fox:** sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk.

### Two Celebratory Men's Nights

Gentlemen, you already know of course that Men's Night takes place on the second Thursday of every month. Always great fun of course, but did you know that the next two are really rather extra special?

**13 December:** It's the Christmas edition of Men's Night and with that comes a call for dodgy Xmas jumpers. They aren't obligatory, but they are ever so welcome. And the dodgier the better, frankly.

**10 January.** Well, my goodness, it's the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Men's Night**. Mark Rosling's wonderful idea has really stood the test of time. Wouldn't it be fabulous if everybody who had ever been to a Men's Night made a special effort to show up and raise a glass to 10 years of great conversation, great beer and great grub, in a great pub. Thanks Mark for making all this possible.

## **Christmas services**

### **Church of England services**

Everyone is welcome to the following special services – we welcome people of all faiths or none.

**2 December:** 6pm Advent Carol Service at St Mary's

**9 December:** 4pm Christingle Service and tea at St Mary's

**16 December:** 6pm Carol Service at St Mary's

**24 December:** 2pm Crib Service at St Mary's

4pm Crib Service at Good Shepherd

11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's

**25 December:** 9am BCP Holy communion at Good Shepherd

10.30am Parish Communion at St Mary's

(For more information about our services please visit [www.frenshamchurches.org.uk](http://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk))

Finally, don't forget to come along to **Carol singing** at **The Holly Bush** pub on Thursday **20 December** at 7pm. The singing will be led by Frensham Baptist Fellowship and St Mary's Church choir. Not to be missed!

### **Frensham Baptist Fellowship**

Please join us for our Christmas Services and events in Frensham

**Sunday 16 December:** 4pm Carols by Candlelight at the **Marindin Hall**. Join us for a service of carols, readings and a joyful celebration of Christmas, followed by mince pies, tea, coffee and mulled wine

**Thursday 20 December:** Village carol singing at the Holly Bush (see above)

**Tuesday 25 December:** 10.30 am at the **Marindin Hall**. A short Christmas Day service

For more information please email: [office@fbf.org.uk](mailto:office@fbf.org.uk)

### **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 <http://www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk>

## **The 'Village Walk' 2018**

### **Friday 28 December, starting at the Marindin Hall by 10.30am**

The Marindin Hall are excited to announce that they are holding The Village Walk again this year on Friday 28 December. Everyone meets up at the Hall by 10.30 for breakfast butties and hot drinks. All are welcome and if you have four leggeds bring them too: they will need to be on a lead through the farm please.

Mike and Bev Clear are kindly opening the farm for walkers on that morning, so you will be able to see the 'Pierrepont Girls' in the robotic dairy and any calves that have been born. If you have not walked through the farm recently you will be really interested to see all the restoration work that has been carried out and investigate the new businesses that have taken up residence.

After a refreshing pint at the Brewery you are on the home straight if you have chosen the shorter route, but eventually everyone congregates back at the Hall for soup and mince pies.

Tickets are available from The Village Shop priced just £5 for adults; £2.50 if you are 5-15 and under-fives free.

We do hope you decide to come and join the fun to shake off those Xmas blues; meet up with friends and family and maybe discover parts of the local environment you never knew existed.

**Sue and Malcolm Green**

## **Christmas 'Tea At 3'**

**Christmas 'Tea at 3' on 3 December** Do join us for the Christmas 'Tea at 3' in St Mary's church hall – everyone is very welcome. It will be a fun, festive get together with tea, Christmas cake, sandwiches and sausage rolls etc, plus little gifts. We would love to see you there. It will be preceded by an organ recital (see opposite).

The next 'Tea at 3' after Christmas will be Monday, 4 February, with no get together in January. The 'Tea at 3' dates for 2019 are: - January - no Tea; 4 February; 4 March; 1 April; 13 May (note, not 6 May which is Bank Holiday); 3 June; 1 July; 5 August; 2 September; 7 October; 4 November; 2 December. For further information please contact **Morag James**, Tel: 01252 793133.

## **Christmas Pub and Club opening times: pages 9 & 16**

## **Village Shop Christmas opening hours and last postal dates: page 6**

### **Organ Recitals at St Mary's**

On **3 December** the Tea at 3 will be preceded by an Organ Recital, starting at 2.15pm. This month the Recital will be given by Gillian Lloyd (Guildford URC). Gillian's programme will reflect the season of Advent with more than a hint of the big festival 3 weeks later! Do come along to hear some delightful music played on one of the finest organs in the area. Refreshments will be served in the church after the recital.

From the New Year however, the Organ Recitals will be moving to a new regular slot on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Mike Smith will be giving the first recital of 2019 on Wednesday **23 January** playing music by Bach to Bédard. Homemade soup and rolls will be available from 12.30pm with the recital itself starting at 1pm.

For further information please contact **Mike Smith**, Tel: 01420 488374/07767414306

### **Wreath making at St Mary's Hall from 7.30pm - Back by popular demand!**

The dates for this are: Monday **10 December** (fully booked); Wednesday **12 December** (a few places left); Friday **14 December** (again only a few places left). The cost is £18 to include all materials, mulled wine and mince pies. Please call Barbara Potter to book on Tel: 794727. All proceeds to Frensham Churches.

### **Frensham and Dockenfield History Group**

The History Group will hold their **Christmas Party** at the Legion Club on Thursday, **6 December**. Then there will be a break before the **AGM on Tuesday, 13 February**. The post of chairman will need to be filled as Chris Bonner is standing down from the committee as is Ann Rawlinson who served until recently, for many years as secretary. The programme for 2019 will include talks on: M - The greatest spymaster in MI5; More House School; History of Portsmouth (part one); and The British Red Cross Today. Further details will follow in due course.

**Chris Bonner**

### **Millbridge WI**

**Thursdays 13 December and 17 January, 7.30pm: at the Marindin Hall**

The next two meetings of the Millbridge WI are:

**13 December:** Xmas Party, with entertainment from the Bell Ringers (*please note that this event has been brought forward one week from the date in the original WI programme*)

**17 January:** Resolutions

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

### **Craft Fair**

**Saturday 8 December, 11am – 2pm at the Kingsley Centre, Forge Road, Kingsley**

The Kingsley Centre, such supporters of DNL over the years, are holding a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 8 December from 11am-2pm. Buy your Christmas gifts from a variety of stalls, plus live music and refreshments. You will find the Centre at GU35 9ND; easy free parking. See you there!

### **Farnham Christmas Market**

**Sunday 9 December, 10am-4pm in Castle Street and surroundings**

You know something? This is normally worth a visit. Castle Street is closed and there are hundreds of stalls with a huge array of Christmas gifts for you to choose from. Plus, there are carols and live music from local bands to keep everyone entertained. Santa will make a special appearance in his grotto, whilst children will be able to visit Mary, Joseph and the little donkey at the live nativity. For more information on this and other Christmas events in Farnham visit [www.farnham.gov.uk](http://www.farnham.gov.uk) or call 01252 712667.

### **All beards bright and beautiful....**

Have you read that the latest 'must have' fashion accessory at Christmas is beard lights? Yes, that's right; decorative, heatless, battery powered flashing lights that you hang in the hair of your beard. Mmmmm. These will look better on a man than a woman I'm thinking....

## **News from Helen Arkell Dyslexia Support Group Wednesday 5 December, 7-8.30pm**

A group that brings adults with dyslexia, parents of children with dyslexia, teachers and anyone else with an interest in dyslexia together to share experiences, hear from inspirational speakers and listen to some useful topics around the subject. Everyone welcome. A big thank you to Farnham Town Council and Frensham Village Shop for their sponsorship of this group.

## **Invitation to Christmas Drinks at Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity Wednesday 12 December, 6-8pm**

We're getting into the Christmas spirit and would like to invite you to join us here at the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity to celebrate the amazing work that our charity does and to find out more about our future plans. There will of course be the odd mince pie and a glass or two of mulled wine. Christmas jumpers and hats optional!

For more details email:  
events@helenarkell.org.uk or  
phone 01252 792400.

**Hazel Radnor**

## **Something to think about before you go out celebrating ..**

Did you see the piece in the national press that asked the question: why do we drink too much when we know it will give us a hangover, make us fall over, and make us sick?

The answer it seems is that alcohol induces what you might describe as 'selective memory'. In other words, it allows you to better remember the good times, like boogying on the dance floor, and overlook the fact that you may have been ill when you got home and then woken up the following morning with a real humdinger of a headache.

## **Something to think about after you've been out celebrating**

Got out of shape over the festive period? Yup, thought as much.

In which case you need to make a note of the following classes, which take place at the Good Shepherd every week.

**Pilates:** two classes every Monday: midday-1pm and 7.30-8.30pm (Christine Jason Tel: 07896 293203). **Zumba:** A one-hour Zumba class at 6.30pm again on a Monday (Ciaran Greene Tel: 07854 220914).

## **News from Frensham Village Shop and Post Office**

Let us take the stress out of Christmas shopping for you, with pre-ordering, free parking and relatively short queues! We're doing our best to draw from **local** suppliers. We're taking orders now, so how about considering your holiday **meat and cheese** supplied by Rowledge Butchers? Their free-range **turkeys** are from Appledore Farm in Dorset. What else would you like? Sausages? Bacon? Beef? Stilton? Check out their order form (available in FVS).

Our **Christmas Cakes** this year are genuinely home-made in Frensham, and very fruity, as are the **Mince Pies**; a different kitchen, but also locally home-made and perfectly baked.

Christmas confectionery includes Frensham's favourite **fudge**, and **truffles** (sadly not local!)

We are offering **Gift Vouchers** in £5 units to be redeemed in our shop, **Post Office Gift Cards** for use in large stores, and a selection of charity Christmas cards too.

While you're browsing, you can check out our new Bean to Cup Coffee and Hot Chocolate, and prepare your Loyalty Card for lots of stamps!

### **Christmas holiday opening hours**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> **Shop** 8.30am – 1pm. **Post Office** 9am – 12pm

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> **CHRISTMAS DAY – CLOSED ALL DAY**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> **BOXING DAY. Shop** 9am – 11am

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Normal hours:- **Shop** 8.30am - 5.30pm

**Post Office** 9am – 1pm, 2 – 5.30pm

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Normal hours

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Normal hours

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> **Shop** 9am – 11am

**then closed for Annual Stockcheck**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Normal hours

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> **Shop** 9am – 11am

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Normal hours:- **Shop** 8.30am – 5.30pm

**Post Office** 9am – 1pm, 2 – 5.30pm

### **Last recommended posting dates this December for Christmas Delivery**

#### **International:**

4<sup>th</sup> Africa and Middle East

7<sup>th</sup> Asia, Far East, Eastern Europe

8<sup>th</sup> Caribbean, Central & South America

10<sup>th</sup> Greece, Australia and New Zealand

14<sup>th</sup> Czech Republic, Germany, Italy & Poland

USA, Canada

15<sup>th</sup> Finland, Sweden

16<sup>th</sup> Most of Western Europe

18<sup>th</sup> Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg

21<sup>st</sup> Parcelforce Worldwide Service Express24

#### **UK:**

18<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and Royal Mail Signed For (2<sup>nd</sup>)

20<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Class and Royal Mail Signed For (1<sup>st</sup>)

22<sup>nd</sup> Special Delivery Guaranteed

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

*Stuck at home and can't get out? Call Paul for a delivery.*

www.frenshamvillage-shop.co.uk

01252 795240

## Letters to the Editor

### A big 'thank you' from Jenny

Jenny would like to thank her friends and neighbours in and around Great Holt who have helped and supported in her recent and current troubles for which she is very grateful indeed. In fact, it is just like the good old days when neighbours always rallied around and supported each other. I could not wish to live in a nicer place.

**Full name and address withheld at correspondent's request**

### Save plastic and have your milk delivered in glass bottles

I don't know how many residents still have milk delivered to their door. The frequency at which the milkman goes up and down past our house suggests not that many. However, if you wanted to reduce your plastic waste, they now deliver in glass bottles. Just as it used to be! Return bottles rinsed to your delivery point and they will reuse about 25 times before the bottle is completely recycled. All can be arranged on line and we find the company 'Milk and More' quite reliable once they had found our back gate. Delivery is Tuesdays and Saturdays very early in the morning. Here's the link to set up delivery:  
<https://www.milkandmore.co.uk>

I wonder how long will it take for the blue tits to relearn that their drink is returning in silver topped bottles?

**Dan Bosence, Bealeswood Lane**

### For all garden lovers

Every third Thursday of each month in Forest Lodge Garden Centre by the restaurant there is a free talk by John Larby for an hour from 10-11am. Very amusing and popular, he talks about and shows plants of the month. It is wise to get there by 9.40 to get a seat! But please note, there is no talk in December so the next one will be on 17 January.

**Jean Heathcote**

### Used Postage Stamps

We are still collecting the used postage stamps for the charity, and we really appreciate and thank you so much for all you have sent us, and the help we have had with this for a long time now. Please can you still continue helping us. Especially as we are coming up to Christmas. Possibly between us we can collect some more. Stamps from anywhere in the world are welcome.

Please take (or post) to Jack & Marjorie Bessant.  
1 Beales Cottages, The Street, Dockenfield GU10 4JH. Thank you so much. **Marjorie Bessant**

### Thank you from Debbie

I would like to say a very big and sincere 'thank you' to all the friends and neighbours who have shown such love and kindness to me in the weeks following the death of my mother. At times like this, especially, it means such a lot to have your help and friendship.

**Debbie Foster**

### Thank you, Colin

I'd like to say thank you to Colin Hall for donating and erecting some protective fencing around the Millennium Yews that are in the Good Shepherd churchyard.

These are two yew trees that were planted in 2003 as part of a Millennium initiative with the Alliance of Religion and Conservation Project. The Yews came from them as cuttings in 2000 and Colin grew them on until they were large enough to plant in 2003. The cuttings were taken from yew trees that were over 2,000 years old, in other words around at the time of Christ.

**Eunice King**

### Comings...

A warm welcome to Dockenfield to:

- Stephen and Louise Jackson who have moved into 7 Abbotts Cottages together with their two children Macey who is 16 and her brother Kieran who is three.
- Also, to Tim and Kate Harris who have moved into Holt Farm with their two children Zac (8 ¾) and Barney (7) and their black Labrador called Indy. They lived in Wimbledon with their family for 7 years, then rented a property in Frensham before finding and '*falling in love with*' Holt Farm. Tim's career is in property and Kate's in advertising and branding, whilst both the boys are at Edgeborough School. Kate has sent me a lovely email saying that '*we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the welcome since moving into the village. We are feeling very settled, and enjoying this beautiful piece of Surrey with our family. Both Tim and I are Sussex born and bred and are so happy that our children are getting to experience what we did growing up in the fresh air. We hope to meet everyone very soon and want to say a big thank you for all the cards and kind welcomes we've received.*'

### ...goings...

None that I have been told about for this issue

### ...and congratulations to

- Holly and Lee Wilson on the birth of their daughter Dilly; a sister to Harvey who was born on 1 June 2017. The proud grandparents are John and Sarah Stirling who live in Bealeswood Lane. Dilly was born on 5 November, so she is bound to be a cracker!!

## News from Dockenfield Parish Council

**Annual Bealeswood Common Working Party:** this will take place on Sunday **6 January**, meeting at 10am at the seat at the top of the Common. See page 11 for full details but do please come and help if you can.

**Ditches:** Now winter seems to be arriving, don't forget to keep your ditches and drains clear of leaves, rubbish, etc. With the minimal service we now receive this now seems to be essential.

**Dark Skies:** A reminder of our village 'dark sky' designation and how fortunate Dockenfield is to have such wonderful clear, starlit nights. To ensure this remains we need to think "downlighting" when choosing outside lighting. Happy star-gazing!

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Patrick Rendell, who had been co-ordinator for this, left the village during the summer. Patrick managed this very successfully for a number of years but we now need to find somebody else to take up this post. Patrick assured us it does not take a great deal of time to keep up with current police policies for the neighbourhoods and liaise with our police representative. If you are interested in this very worthwhile role please contact Jessica or Jill on the email below.

**Remembrance Sunday:** The local Dockenfield owned Dales ponies Sunglow Sapphire (ridden by Sue Hobday), Sunglow Pandora (Jill Trout) and Sunglow Philomena (Jessica Blowers) escorted the Standard to the War Memorial in Dockenfield Street; standing patiently during the moving service conducted by Rev. Jane Walker. Their attendance was especially significant as this breed went to the First World War as pack ponies and driving teams, negotiating what could be considered impossible terrain. Very few returned which depleted the breed to very low numbers internationally and are even now classified as critical on the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. See also pages 15.

**Dockenfield Telephone Box:** As the telephone box is in the process of restoration, please do not leave books in it at the moment.

**Emergency Email List:** We do recommend that everyone signs up for the Emergency Email List which updates residents about important events such as this. All you have to do is email Jessica on [dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

**Next Meeting Dates:** The next meeting dates of the Council are: Tuesdays **18 December** (finance committee meeting); **15 January** and **19 February**. Meetings are held at 8pm in the vestry of the Good Shepherd. Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of each meeting. Please always note: whilst these dates are accurate at the time DNL goes to press, they can be subject to change if circumstances dictate; so, if you are planning to attend it is always worth checking beforehand on the DPC website, as below.

**Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)) [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)**

## Preparing for winter in Dockenfield

**DPC Emergency Strategies.** Most residents will know that the Parish Council have a published 'strategy' to put into place in the event either of seriously bad weather or an emergency in the village. Largely this involves 15 or so tips on what best to do; details of where the public grit bins are if needed; and a list of village volunteers who act as 'wardens' at times of bad weather. The version that has been published in DNL for a number of years has been updated and this new version added to the DPC website. We would encourage all residents to study it on the Dockenfield Parish Council website [www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk).

**Dress up warm.** On the subject of cold weather, we think it is worth reprinting here the advice that universities hand out to their students about the risks of not dressing up warmly enough against the winter cold. Our view is that it is also appropriate to other age groups: *'(Young) people put themselves at risk of hypothermia, firstly by not dressing appropriately, and secondly, by under-appreciating the extent to which alcohol (or other recreational aids!) blunt their awareness of loss of body heat. If looking cool is very critical, at least stash a warm cheap jacket, scarf, gloves and leggings, or similar, in the car or in a backpack so you can slip into them on the way home when no-one is looking! Most of all, look out for each other - and if your buddy doesn't look too good, stay with them and seek help.'*

**Join the EEL.** Finally, if you haven't already done so, I would most strongly suggest that you 'sign up' to the Dockenfield Emergency Email List (EEL) which sends residents alerts of any kind of emergency in the village (including bad weather, security etc) plus information on major meetings and events of great importance to the village. To 'sign up' simply email the Parish Clerk, Jessica Hobday ([dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)).

**Ian McLean**



## News from all the pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish

Ahead of each edition I email the Bluebell and all of the other pubs, clubs and hotels in the Parish to ask for news including information of any live music or 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 Bluebell, Dockenfield:** (Tel: 792801; [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com))

We're nearly celebrating our 6-year anniversary at The Bluebell and are still very happy here! Thank you to all of you for your support. Dockenfield really is a very lovely place to be and we hope to be here for a long time!

Our **lunch menu**, with one course for £7, two courses for £11 and three courses for £13 is still proving extremely popular during the week. The **Thursday 'Burger & a pint' deal** (£10 for a plain burger, £12 for a Bluebell Burger) is going well too.

**'Men's Night'**: takes place at the pub every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month, starting from 8pm. So, the next two are 13 December and 10 January. To get onto the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: [markrosling@outlook.com](mailto:markrosling@outlook.com). **'Ladies Night'**: happens on the last Thursday of every month, except in December when it falls in Xmas week and so there won't be one held. The next two dates are: 29 November and 31 January.

**December** is looking very busy and there are a few days that are already fully booked so it's definitely worth calling ahead! If you are interested in booking a Christmas meal in the lead up to the big day, either call us 01252 792801 or email [bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com](mailto:bluebelldockenfield@icloud.com). *Please note, we have been privately hired for Christmas parties on the evenings of Saturday 1 December and Saturday 8 December- apologies for any inconvenience!*

### **Christmas opening hours:**

- \* Christmas Eve – 12pm-11pm (food served 12-9pm)
- \* Christmas Day – 12pm-1.30pm (drinks only)
- \* Boxing Day. – 12pm-8pm (food served 12-6pm)
- \* Thursday 27 December – 12pm-11pm (food served 12-9pm)
- \* Friday 28 December – 12pm-11pm (food served 12-9pm)
- \* Saturday 29 December – 12pm-11pm (food served 12-9pm)
- \* Sunday 30 December – 12pm-11pm (food served 12-9pm)
- \* New Year's Eve – 12pm-9pm (food served 12-8pm)
- \* New Year's Day – 12pm-10.30pm (food served 12-8pm)

(Last food orders 30 minutes before kitchen closes. Booking advisable)

**New Year Plans** We have plans to further improve and maintain the pub early in 2019 and will keep you advised of dates etc when we have them. We are also planning further theme nights after the success of our Greek Nights. So, keep your eyes peeled for details! Hope to see you all over the Christmas period!

**Lucy, Robin and The Bluebell team x**

### **The Holly Bush, Frensham** (Tel: 447060 [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk))

As this edition of DNL covers the festive period, the team at The Holly Bush would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a huge thank you for your support throughout a very busy 2018.

2018 saw the regular opening of our garden Street Food Kitchen which we trialled in 2016. Niki our Head Chef came up with some fabulous dishes for this summer with the Beef Satay and the Thin Cut Tuna Steak with spring onions and mange tout being the favourites. Haloumi Fries! So wrong and yet so right!

Again, this year The Holly Bush was proud to support The Frensham Fayre and Party in the Park where we supply the drink (at cost) and the staff for the bars. This year the 'Party in the Park' bar took a staggering £8,000 raising thousands for the Fayre's chosen charities. Well done to the Fayre committee for pulling the whole day together.

This year's Carols at The Holly Bush on the Thursday **20 December** will be a little different. We are going to be opening The Street Food Kitchen in the garden and will be making the covered area bigger to fit all you carolers in. Festivities will start at 6pm with Carols at 7pm. There will be drinks and sweets for the little ones and mince pies for all.

### **Christmas opening hours:**

- \* 24 December: Christmas Eve 9.30 am - 6pm. Food all day, last orders on food 4.30
- \* 25 December: Christmas Day 11am-2pm. Drinks only
- \* 26 December: Boxing Day 10.30am - 6pm. Food all day, last orders on food 4.30pm
- \* 31 December New Year's Eve 9.30am-6pm. Last orders on food 4.30 pm
- \* 1 January: New Year's Day 10.30 am-6pm Last orders on food 4.30 pm

**David Lee**

**cont/**

## **Cont/**

**Frensham Royal British Legion Club and Branch** (Tel: 793014)

### *Forthcoming events*

Tuesday **4 December** 8pm: **Club AGM** – all members welcome to have your say in the running of the club

Saturday **15 December** 7.30pm: **Christmas Draw** Squares are available up to and including the day of the draw

Monday **24 December** 7.30pm: **Christmas Eve Party** featuring a game of ‘Play Your Cards Right’

**Christmas Day:** Mick will be opening the bar as usual from 12 – 2pm to meet your friends for a Christmas drink

Saturday **29 December** 7.30pm: **Quiz on the events of 2018** organised by Harry and Liz Glover for Frensham Church bell maintenance fund (see page 13)

**New Year’s Eve** 8pm: See the New Year in with live music from Jayne Lang featuring funk, soul, rock – music new and old.

**The Frensham Pond Country House Hotel and Spa** (Tel: 795161, [www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk](http://www.frenshampondhotel.co.uk))

**The Hare and Hounds, Rowledge** (Tel: 01252 792287)

**Frensham Brewery** ([www.frenshambrewery.co.uk](http://www.frenshambrewery.co.uk))

## **Alice Holt Community Forum**

As part of the Arboretum project, the Arboretum volunteers installed 70 dormouse boxes in and around the Arboretum in Lodge Inclosure, the objective being to ascertain whether there were hazel dormice in the Arboretum and if there were, to monitor their activity. HCC and EHDC helpfully funded the purchase of the boxes. Hazel dormice are a protected species and numbers have declined significantly over the last 50 years. Inspection of the boxes requires a licence from Natural England and we are fortunate to have in the village Roger Trout, who holds a licence and is one of the top experts on small mammals in the country. The good news is that at the last inspection in October Roger, with the help of Dick Beales, found four dormice in the nest boxes (including three juveniles, evidencing of breeding) and four other dormouse nests, unoccupied but with evidence of usage this summer. The nests were dotted around the site indicating widespread activity. The Arboretum site is now part of the National Dormouse Monitoring scheme run by PTES.

The Arboretum was the scene of much activity in October when a film crew descended to shoot some sequences in the Redwood glade in the Arboretum for a Netflix film, codename “DEVS”. The Project director told me that the Redwood glade matched perfectly the redwood glade in California where most of the film was being shot. The redwood meadow was covered with metal tracking to accommodate the large amount of gear and other infrastructure required by the film crew and staff but the Project Director assured me that “No animals or trees will be harmed in the making of the film”. Our subsequent inspection of the site showed no sign of any damage.

The Alice Holt Community Forum met in November for its autumn meeting at which Roger Trout was our guest speaker and gave a very interesting talk about dormice, the Arboretum dormouse project and his experiences over many years with both the hazel dormouse and the edible dormouse.

At the meeting Forum members expressed disappointment that the Forum was not given advance notice by the Forestry Commission of the use of the arboretum for filming, for which the Commission apologised. Discussion at the Forum centred on how far the objective of the Arboretum Project to provide quiet enjoyment could be balanced with its use for filming and how the Commission would need in future to take account of the existence of breeding dormice in the Arboretum.

David Collier from the Forestry Commission told Forum members that the development phase at Alice Holt was now almost complete with the handing over of the new activity centre building. The development project in all had involved a new lavatory block, a new forest centre, a renovation and expansion of the car park, the introduction of electronic payment system for car parking, a new café, the demolition of the old café building, the renovation of the play areas and finally the new activity centre. The Forum had been consulted on each aspect and its views taken into account, the red line for the forum being that all development should be within the footprint of the existing development (which it is).

The Forum repeated to the Commission its absolute opposition to any form of holiday village development at Alice Holt and the Commission repeated that there were no such plans for Alice Holt. The Forum expressed concern at the relationship between the Commission and Forest Holidays who were seeking to develop more holiday lodges at various Forestry Commission woodlands and noted that DEFRA were now reviewing of the relationship between The Forestry Commission and Forest Holidays in the light of the huge opposition to the proposed holiday lodge development by Forest Holidays on the Forestry Commission’s Mortimer Forest in Shropshire.

**Colin Hall**

## **Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society**

Another unusual gardening year; starting with the wettest winter “forever”, then the ‘Beast from the East’ which delayed all spring sowing and planting and then the long-long, hot-hot summer and autumn. Despite the late start to the year most late sowings caught up and the Autumn Flower and Vegetable Show had an impressive range of vegetables, fruits and flowers on display. The absence of a late frost, as experienced in 2017, and the long hot summer meant that fruit was particularly good. We enjoyed our figs, grapes and peaches which we might associate more with the south of France or Spain.

The Society held its AGM at the end of the growing year in late October to review the year’s activities (all good), present our plans for next year (all approved) and to approve the Society’s finances for the year. Increased costs of running the two village plant shows and paying for our invited speakers has meant that subscriptions will need to be increased next year to £20 for a single and £35 for a joint membership. This was approved and calls for Membership renewals will be in our December Newsletter. Sharon Bleach will be the new Membership Secretary and can be contacted by email at [bleachsharon@gmail.com](mailto:bleachsharon@gmail.com) (or Tel: 792993).

Our next meeting will be held on **24 January** (7.30 pm Marindin Hall) and will feature short illustrated talks from members about new projects/developments they have undertaken recently in their gardens. This is one not to be missed as there are already plans for talks on planting out new gardens, no-dig vegetable garden, the new garden at St Mary’s First School and how to heat your greenhouse with horse manure. This will all be accompanied with mulled wine and cakes. The evening will start with a membership renewal desk for existing members. If you are not already a member, but want to join in, just turn up on the evening and experience the enjoyment of an evening with the Hort and Prod.

**Dan Bosence, President** [dwbosence@btinternet.com](mailto:dwbosence@btinternet.com) or  
**Tel: 01252 792442**

## **Small(er). But perfectly formed?**

Did you read that chunky chips are disappearing from menus after the long hot summer caused a small potato crop? Vegetables of most kinds are smaller this year which in turn means that chips are smaller and prices higher. Ditto with pumpkins it seems.

I don’t know whether you noticed but people who decorated their houses and gardens with hollowed-out pumpkins cut to the shape of a face had to make do with much smaller versions this year. Yes; but were they less scary?

## **Larger. And still perfectly formed**

Meanwhile the apple crop has behaved in the exact opposite way. In 2017 there was a late frost which knocked the blossom for six and so there was only a tiny crop of apples. This year, however, it’s been a totally different story with a crop so large we have been peeling apples in industrial quantities.

## **Bealeswood Common Annual Working Party 10am, Sunday 6 January on Bealeswood Common**

The Annual Working Party on Bealeswood Common will take place on Sunday 6 January. Please meet at the seat at the top of the Common at 10am.

Bealeswood Common plays a very central role in our village, being used on a daily basis by many residents. In fact there can’t be many villagers that don’t enjoy the Common at some point during the year. The working party will be co-ordinated by the Ranger, Darren Hill. Please come along if you can. Many thanks.

*See also page 8.*

## **Good Shepherd hedge cutting**

**Saturday 8 December, 9.30am -  
12.30pm**

Weather dependent, we are continuing with the cutting back of the overgrown hedge at the back of the Churchyard. Chris Mitchley will be doing the cutting and Mark Vardy is getting a team of people together to help with clearing away the trimmings. Please could the people of Dockenfield spare us some time on this morning to help us with this essential task. Please contact Mark on 792997 or Eunice on 790690 if you can help.

We are intending to have a bonfire on this day, so would like to give our neighbours as much notice as possible and apologise for any inconvenience any smoke may cause. Thank you.

**Eunice King**

## **How green is our parish?**

Can you help the drive to improve recycling in the parish? DNL is keen to learn of anybody in Dockenfield *and* Frensham who already collects ‘speciality’ items such as bottle tops or corks and other things that might otherwise be thrown away.

Jack and Marjorie Bessant are long term collectors of used stamps (see page 7), and DNL would like to give similar fuel of publicity to others in the wider parish who are (or will consider) helping out in this way. Just email: [michael.foster66@btinternet.com](mailto:michael.foster66@btinternet.com) with details and I will include you in the next edition.

## Meanwhile, in Farnham

**Brightwells:** Interested in what is happening at 'Brightwells', the old Redgrave Theatre site, now that work has commenced? There is a new website that should keep you up to date: [www.brightwellsfarnham.co.uk](http://www.brightwellsfarnham.co.uk)

**Farnham Post Office:** It is thought that this is going to close in 2019 and relocate to W H Smith.

**Community Recycling Centres:** Meanwhile Surrey County Council (SCC) have begun a consultation on whether to close the Guildford Road recycling centre in Farnham. This is part of a wider consultation to establish whether SCC are able to make some of the cost savings needed to balance their budget by reducing the amount of money they spend on Community Recycling Centres. To have your say on these proposals fill in the questionnaire they have prepared. Visit [surreycc.gov.uk/consultations](http://surreycc.gov.uk/consultations) to complete it in online. Closing date: 4 January. Simultaneously, a friend from Whitehill tells me that the 'tip' at Bordon is going to start charging all residents who don't live in Hampshire £5 per visit from April 2019. That's pretty much a 'perfect storm' if you live on the Surrey side of the border. Speaking personally, if both of these come to pass this sounds like a recipe for more fly tipping.

**'Keep':** In stark contrast, there is a shop just opened in Farnham called 'Keep'. This is a zero-waste store where customers can fill an old container that they have brought along with them or that 'Keep' have supplied, with products ranging from household liquids (like shampoo, multi-surface spray and detergent by the ml) to wholefoods like grains, lentils and cereals for example, weighed by gram. All products are eco-friendly, cruelty-free and vegan, they come from reputable brands but without all the plastic waste. They also offer a range of products from bamboo toothbrushes, solid shampoo bars and reusable wipes to limit waste within the home. You can find 'Keep' on the 1st floor of Okomoko, the 100% plant-based cafe on Downing Street, Farnham. Opening times: Monday - Friday 9:30am - 2:30pm; Saturday 9am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 2pm.

Watch out for **traffic delays** in early January, when the eastbound carriageway of the Farnham bypass is going to be reduced to one lane on the approach to the Shepherd and Flock roundabout. This sounds like a potential nightmare, so best find another route especially at peak times.

## In Memory of Mary Bridgwood née Bone

I am writing this in the memory of Mary (Ella) Bridgwood, who sadly passed away on Friday 9 November aged 92 in Bentley Lodge nursing home at Bentley.

Mary was born in Frensham in 1926, and attended Frensham school. After the war Mary joined the Wrens in the Royal Navy and was based at Chatham. Mary married Ron Bridgwood and moved to Dockenfield (No1 Weyside Cottages) in 1952. So, they became our new neighbours and our family and Mary and Ron became very good friends. In fact, I knew Mary for 66 years.

Mary and Ron loved their life in Dockenfield. Over the years there they had several cats and dogs; you would often see Mary walking the dogs around the village and in the forest. They both loved their garden and grew all their own vegetables. Mary worked for many years at Batts Corner kennels for Mr Milward and Miss Robinson. It was a lovely kennels and the animals were well looked after by Mary.

Mary regularly attended The Good Shepherd and helped with the sacristan duties there. When Mary's husband died 13 years ago Mary had to leave Dockenfield; a very sad day for us. Mary was able get a small place in Samsons Alms Houses in Farnham where she lived for 8 years. Unfortunately, Mary had several falls. In March 2014 Mary ended up in Quinta (now Bentley Lodge) to stay and be looked after. We visited Mary many times; she was always pleased to see her many visitors.

So, I can only end this by saying 'Thank You' to Mary for all your friendship over 66 years. You will be very much missed by all who knew you.

**Marjorie Bessant**

## The Vine Centre: Christmas Gift 2018

The Christmas bags last year were a huge success. This year we are hoping once again to give the clients of The Vine Centre Christmas gift bags filled with both practical items and gifts. It is also lovely if you can put a Christmas card with a message in the Christmas bag.

The Christmas bags are available in both St Mary's and The Good Shepherd. A big *thank you* to all of those people who have already taken a bag to fill up. The final collection date for the filled Christmas bags is **Sunday 16**

**December.** Please place your donations in the chest provided at the crossing in St Mary's Church. Thank you.

**Karen Nockels**

## **'Walking Together' Walking Group**

In the New Year we would like to try out the idea of forming a walking group on the last Tuesday of each month. It would be for anyone living in Frensham or Dockenfield, and their friends, meeting for a walk around our beautiful local countryside. Any age is welcome and please feel free to bring a canine friend. We plan to meet at St Mary's Church at 9.30am in the morning for a walk that might take up to two hours, starting and finishing at the church for a cuppa in the St Mary's Church Hall. It will be very informal and you do not need to be a churchgoer to join. We look forward to seeing you - please put the dates for the first two walks in your diaries: Tuesday **29 January** and Tuesday **26 February**. If you would like more information please email Lesley: [roslings@hotmail.com](mailto:roslings@hotmail.com)

**Lesley Rosling, Esther van Rooyen and Fiona Ricketts**

## **Village Thoughts**

**Bulb Planting in the Village** A little group of us has planted some more spring bulbs at the Frensham end of the village. Suzanne McLean, Abi Shaw, her friend Maria, Maria's son Jack (10) and I, planted over 300 crocus and daffodil bulbs on the bank just before Abbots Cottages. They were the naturalising type so will take longer to show and may not give a good display this coming year. However, the bulbs we planted last year, near the village sign, will, I hope, come up this spring...I only counted a handful that came up last spring- which was rather disappointing! There is still time to put a few outside the houses on the road so please do if you can to make Dockenfield even more beautiful! Bulbs have been harder to get this autumn as the weather conditions were not favourable for them this hot, dry summer..... not that I'm complaining!

**Speed Watch** The new temporary signs at either end of The Street, leading up to the chicanes, seem to be having a positive effect. Several villagers have said they have noticed a difference in traffic speeds when walking or riding through the village and, on a recent Community Speed Watch session, we noticed a marked improvement. If little things like that make people think before they drive through then it is worth doing.

**Knitting Wool** If anyone in the village is a serious knitter and would like some wool, and needles, then I have a very large bag full of different colours, and patterns, if they want it! I have been doing some clearing out and had no idea I had so much wool! Please contact me on 795547 if you'd like it - obviously free to anyone who wants it.

**Nicky Rutherford**

## **End-of-the-year Quiz**

**Sat 29 December, 7.30pm at the British Legion**

How well do you remember events of 2018? Harry and Liz Glover will be running a Quiz on behalf of the Frensham Bell-Ringers at the British Legion on 29 December at 7.30pm for 8pm. We won't be able to provide food, but please feel free to bring your own cold turkey, mince pies, Christmas cake, etc. if you wish. Everybody is welcome - in teams of up to 6 people, with entry being only £3 per person. Proceeds will be donated to the Frensham Bell Ringers' bell maintenance fund. It is more than 60 years since major work was carried out on the bells, so an 'MOT' is overdue, and significant expenditure is anticipated!

**Harry and Liz Glover**

## **'High Days and Holidays'**

Dockenfield's very own Jean Heathcote will be amongst the 60 or so local artists taking part in an exhibition of their work under the overall title of 'High Days and Holidays'. The exhibition is at Haslemere Museum (GU27 2LA) 11am-3pm, Tuesday to Saturday from 1-29 December inclusive. Closed Sundays and Mondays plus Christmas and Boxing Days. All the artists belong to the classes of nationally known artist and tutor Christopher Cole who is based in Headley. There will be over 100 paintings on display and for sale with prices from as little as £15. Free admission to the museum (although they are always happy to have a donation) For more information visit: [www.christophercole.co.uk](http://www.christophercole.co.uk) or [www.haslemereuseum.co.uk](http://www.haslemereuseum.co.uk)

## **When it rains, it rains**

Rainfall for:

**September** 2017: 69.3mm; 2018: 31.5mm. The wettest day was the 23rd with 10.8mm. **October** 2017: 34.2mm; 2018 53.7mm. The wettest day was the 14th with 25.8mm.

There were 21 rain-free days in both months.

**Jack Bessant**

## **Village Lunch**

**Wednesdays 23 January and 27 February, midday at the British Legion**

The next two Village Lunches are on the following dates with the charities benefitting from the raffle and sales tables shown alongside. There is no Lunch in December.

**23 January** For: Frensham Royal British Legion

**27 February** For: The Kingsley Centre

## **Has Halloween gone crackers?**

Everyone has heard of Christmas crackers of course, but hands up who has come across Halloween crackers. Well, not me for sure until we attended a dinner party in late October and there they were, gracing the table. Same idea, same contents really including paper hats and little gifts. But the jokes are geared towards Halloween, the best of them being:

*'Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party?'*

*'Because he had no body to dance with'*

## **Birds in the Great War**

During the centenary year of the 1918 Armistice, we have remembered the vast numbers of soldiers who died in that dreadful conflict. Animals were also employed on an unprecedented scale during the Great War. Thanks to Michael Morpurgo's book, *War Horse*, now famously translated to the theatre and to the cinema, we remembered the eight million horses which died. They were used as cavalry mounts, and also as beasts of burden, drawing artillery and ambulances, and were a source of comfort and affection for the soldiers. Dogs were used as messengers; to lay telephone lines, as rescuers of wounded men, and as mascots.

Birds also played their part. In those days of limited radio communication, hundreds of thousands of homing pigeons were used to carry messages, and even to carry small cameras to take aerial photographs from planes and airships. Mobile pigeon lofts were carried by ground troops on lorries and requisitioned London buses, and pigeon baskets were strapped on to motor-cycles. Special gas-proof chambers were carried to protect the pigeons during gas attacks. Many pigeons were killed and injured during their flights of duty, but it is claimed that their success rate in getting their messages through was as high as 95%.

One famous French pigeon, Cher Ami, was awarded the Croix de Guerre for delivering twelve vital messages during the Battle of Verdun. A German pigeon, The Kaiser, became similarly famous when it was captured by US forces during the Battle of the Meuse. The bird survived capture, and lived to the astonishing age of 32. Captured pigeons were often paraded in cages and photographed for publicity at home, like those placed in a cage on top of a US lorry, bearing a large placard, reading '*Captured German War Pigeons.*' A photograph of British pigeons was published in the press at home, with a placard reading '*Military Homing Pigeons. These are the birds that work to save the lives of our boys in France.*' Under the Defence of the Realm Act anyone interfering with a homing pigeon faced a large fine or six months' imprisonment.

Wild birds also featured in the lives of the soldiers undergoing the horrors of trench warfare. Swallows and sparrows nested surprisingly close to the war zones. Nightingales sang as men prepared to go over the top. Sky Larks were viewed as symbols of joyful freedom. All were reminders of the countryside at home. The letters, diaries and poems written by countless soldiers told of the comfort they drew from the birds they saw in the midst of the mayhem.

In 1927, Edward Grey, the former British Foreign Secretary, published a book, *The Charm of Birds*. Grey had been an avid bird-watcher for years. His book encouraged generations of bird-watchers. Numbers of soldiers returning from the horrors of the war cherished the countryside. Many pairs of military binoculars had found their way home, and, unsuitably heavy as they were, may have helped numbers of young men to look more closely at birds, not as specimens in glass cases or collection drawers, but living creatures in the world about them. A major shift had occurred in the way many ordinary people saw birds, and increasingly they valued their links with humankind.

**Val Lewis**

## **This Editor salutes that Editor**

If you are a reader of the Parish Magazine, you may have noticed that Pat Clough has recently handed over responsibility for subscriptions and advertising sales to Susan Farnell-Watson. This means that, after a quite remarkable 30 years of service, Pat is only now involved in the monthly distribution of the magazine, although she remains an enthusiastic reader of course.

Pat was Editor from June 1988 to February 2011; or very nearly 23 years. And not content with that, she was also involved in production and subscriptions from about the same time. Plus, at some point (she can't remember exactly when!) Pat also became treasurer and advertising manager: the latter post is the last one she has just relinquished. Phew!

Well as the (reasonably long-term) Editor of DNL, I take my hat off to you, Pat, I really do. It's people like you who help make the world go round and help keep our community as strong and as vibrant as it is. On behalf of everyone in both Dockenfield and Frensham, thank you.

## **Remembering the fallen of our Parish**

**Kate Harris**, of Old Lane, has been kind enough to send in the link below. By typing in your address, you can see (and remember) the fallen in your area:

<http://www.astreetnearyou.org/#=undefined&lat=51.45641201993311&lon=-0.02445979999999182&zoom=16>

## Poppy Appeal 2018

Dockenfield has once again most generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our Dockenfield house to house collectors of Jack Bessant, Pat Clough, Sarah Stirling and Alice and Harriet Kneller collected a record amount of £692 between them. Incredibly well done to all of you and thank you to everyone who so generously donated.

Remembrance Sunday this year was a very special and moving occasion to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1 and this was reflected in the large turnout at the Dockenfield Memorial. The 3 ponies Sunglow Pandora (ridden by Jill Trout), her sister Sunglow Philomena (Jessica Blowers) and cousin Sunglow Sapphire (Sue Hobday) wearing their special pony poppies were "on parade", led by Peter Shipway, the Legion Standard Bearer (all pictured right) along with about 70 villagers.

Wreaths were laid at the Memorial by David Embling, Cadet Eleanor Bentley, Scouts Archie Allingham and Charlie Miles on behalf of the village and the RBL respectively. John Stirling read the Exhortation and our bugler Mark Cox played The Last Post preceding the two minutes silence, followed by Reveille. The Reverend Jane Walker conducted a very poignant service, reading out the names of those from the village who gave their lives in the two World Wars.



A special thank you to Eleanor Bentley who worked hard to tidy the Memorial ready for the service on Remembrance Sunday. My personal thanks also to the traffic marshals, the bugler, and the members of the RBL club who all helped so much during the appeal period. It is anticipated that the total amount raised for the Poppy Appeal in 2018 will be £8,500, a record amount for our area.

**Peter James**

*And a big thank you to Peter who put an enormous amount of work into the Appeal, as he does every year.*

**Picture by: Simon Claiden**

## 2018 Dockenfield Skittles Night at The Jolly Farmer

A bunch of jolly neighbours and friends turned up for an evening of fun, laughter, food and the all-important skittles competition. Teams and team captains were selected before the event and team captains chose their names:

- Team 1. Strength in Depth: Captain, David Poulson
- Team 2. The Tornados: Captain, Sue Cooke
- Team 3. Taylor 5: Captain, Sandy Taylor
- Team 4. Illustrious: Captain, Frances Lediard
- Team 5. Jakes Gang: Captain, Jill Trout
- Team 6. The 4 Tops: Captain, Susan Farnell Watson

Two games took place before supper was served. These two established the team, top lady and top man. Many congratulations to:

Team Winners: The Tornados. Top Lady: Susan Farnell Watson. Top Man: Roger Trout. A prize for the lowest score of the evening went to: Tony Moore.

The last game of the night was a knock out event. With three lives established and throwing one ball at each turn, if you missed the skittles you lost a life. After a close fought battle, the last person standing won The Mansell cup. 2018 King of the pins and winner of the cup goes to: Michael Foster

Many congratulations to all of you. I would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting, looking forward to next year.

**Katy Poulson**

## The four stages of life

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

## With kindness in mind....

Words on a T shirt worn by Christine Jason, the (rather excellent) Pilates tutor at the Good Shepherd:

*'In a world where you can be anything: be kind'*  
Amen to that.

## Family Planning

I wonder if you agree with this sign, seen for sale in a local garden centre? *'I agree with Santa: visit family once a year'*  
Answers on a postcard please.....

## Dockenfield Day 2019

Yes, yes madness I know; you haven't even thought about Christmas and you don't want to even begin to think about next year yet. But this is really important. You need to put **Saturday 1 June** in your 2019 diaries right now. It's unmissable. We look forward to seeing you there!

## The unsung heroes and heroines of the Newsletter

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, Diana and Harold Parratt, Gail Atkinson, Debbie Foster, Jean and Patrick Rendell, Karen Wake, Suzanne McLean, Mark and Karen Giles and Janette Platt. Also, Hugh and Meryl Evans and Fliss Blackburn who have stood in as 'holiday reserves'.

A huge thank you to them and also to DNL's excellent contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a valuable read and to Debbie Foster who is such a help when it comes to laying it all out. And to Ian McLean and Richard and Fliss Blackburn who proof read my final effort (quite often when away on business around the world) and remove any mistakes and typos.

This year DNL has been printed by Treloar Print and I am grateful to everyone there for all the help they give.



## Hurrah: Another hedgehog in the village

In response to the article in the latest DNL on hedgehog sightings, I am pleased to advise that we have had a very healthy hedgehog living in our garden for the past 3 months or so. He/she lives under our shed but at night has been frequenting a makeshift house, in which we leave hedgehog food and some water. With the exception of a few nights, the water and food are always eaten, so much so we have had to extend the house with a larger entrance!

We hope this new house will help see the hedgehog through the winter. To ensure maximum comfort we will be installing Sky TV with surround sound, a pool table, jukebox and fridge for keeping its' beers chilled.

**Matt, Manda and Jessica Barnes, Abbotts Cottages**

*Well, with hospitality like that, expect a number of other villagers to move in as well!*



## All the leaves are brown....

And not just brown, but gold and amber and red and crimson and green and, and.....Haven't the colours of the trees on the leaves been absolutely breathtakingly beautiful this year? But, I hear you ask, how do they end up with so many colours having spent the summer in various hues of green? It seems that the perfect conditions for autumn colour are sunny days followed by crisp cold nights. As the nights lengthen and become cooler, biochemical processes occur in the leaves. These slow down the production of chlorophyll, the pigment that makes leaves green. As the chlorophyll fades away. The other pigments within the leaves are unmasked to reveal bright colours.

**Above: The path through Jeffrey's Copse**

**Photo by Debbie Foster**

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