

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 235

Published 21 January 2013

Why is three a lucky number?

Simple. It's because you live in Dockenfield where the village was lucky enough to have *three* absolutely wizard events to enjoy over Christmas. And now that the festive season is behind us, the pub has opened again. For the *third* time. And to celebrate its return, there's a special villagers' 'Welcome Party' on Friday 1 March for you to look forward to. For full details of that and all the other local happenings, just read on.....**Michael**

Will you help keep Dockenfield a great place to live?

One of the things that makes Dockenfield such a great place is the community. Yet community gatherings such as the recent Christmas Party or Dockenfield Day can only take place because of the effort and enthusiasm of the volunteers who work tirelessly before and during the events to make them happen. However, it is almost always a relatively small number of regulars who help out on an ad hoc, let alone regular, basis and in reality we constantly need new people to assist in whatever capacity they feel able.

In particular, we'd like to get more villagers involved in the planning stage of our events: we're not necessarily asking for people to join the Activities Working Group, simply to take responsibility for specific tasks. We are starting to plan for this year's Dockenfield Day, so if you know you're going to be around on Saturday 1 June and are able to help, let me know. Alternatively, you would be welcome to turn up to all or part of the next Activities Working Group Meeting which will be held at the Bluebell at **8pm on Wednesday 23 January**. Just come along....we would love to see you.

Sebastian Fox (Tel: 07930 98 66 77 or sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk), on behalf of the Dockenfield Activities Working Group.

Villagers' 'Welcome Party'

Friday 1 March, 6-11pm at the Bluebell pub

Robin and Lucy Catchpole, the new tenants at the Bluebell, invite Dockenfield Newsletter (DNL) readers to a special 'Welcome Party' at the pub on Friday 1 March. There will be a free glass of sparkling wine (or soft drink) to welcome you and a complimentary buffet from 6-9pm, plus a pay bar. That evening the whole pub is being reserved exclusively for readers of the Newsletter and their families so that Robin and Lucy can introduce themselves to everyone locally and to say how pleased they are to be running the local pub. They really look forward to seeing you and hope that you can come.

Your 'entry ticket' is the voucher on page 14 of this edition which you must bring as 'proof of your residency' and to claim your free drink. Remember to include your email address if you want to be added to the Bluebell's events emailing list. Robin and Lucy know that DNL is delivered to everyone in and around Dockenfield and also emailed to many other people living in Frensham and nearby and you (and your families) are invited *irrespective* of how DNL reaches you. However they do want to restrict the invitation to genuinely local people and pub regulars and so they ask you to respect this limitation.

Parish Supper

Friday 19 April, 7.30pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd

This year the annual Parish Supper will be held on Friday, 19 April. The theme for the supper will be 'St. George's Day' and is in aid of St Mary's Frensham Trust and the new Church Hall.

The evening will include a complimentary drink on arrival at 7.30pm, supper followed by entertainment, raffle, auction and good company!

The ticket price is £15 per person and they are only available in advance. If you would like to attend this ever popular event please complete the booking form on page 14 and return it to Jane Wood with your cheque payable to 'Frensham PCC'. **Peter James**

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Sat 1 December- Fri 8 February	10am-5pm	Exhibition on life and work of Pauline Baynes	Museum of Farnham	Page 4
Wednesday, 23 January	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 10
Tuesday, 29 January	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
Thursday, 31 January	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 8
Tuesday, 12 February	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 10
Thursday, 21 February	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 10
Wednesday, 27 February	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 10
Thursday, 28 February	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 8
Friday, 1 March	6-11pm	Villagers' 'Welcome Party'	The Bluebell pub	Page 1 & 5
Tuesday, 12 March	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 10
Tuesday, 19 March	11am-1pm	Fund Raising Lunch	The Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 10
Thursday, 21 March	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 10
Friday, 29 March	Tba	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 9
Friday, 19 April	7.30pm	Parish Supper	The Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Saturday 1 June 2013	2pm	Dockenfield Day	Playing Field at Abbotts Cottages	Page 7

Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

The next volunteer working parties are on 17 February, 17 March and 21 April. Come along to the car park off Gravel Hill Road at 10am on those days. All are welcome. Tools are provided. Contact: chall3422@aol.com **Colin Hall**

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 150 or so are emailed on request to predominantly local subscribers. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully.

For the next edition **the deadline is 27 February**, 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.

The 'village' website

Don't forget to visit Dockenfield Parish Council's website at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates: Please note that there has been a **change in the date of the next meeting**, and it will now be held on **29 January at 8.00pm** in the vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Everybody is welcome to attend all or part of the meeting. Agendas for this and future meetings will be posted a few days before in both of the bus shelters in the village, detailing the subjects to be covered. Additional details can be obtained from the Clerk.

Street Cleaning: The next scheduled street clean is on 28 January. Waverley B.C. will also be arranging for its Community Cleaning Team to remove all the leaves and debris from the grills to the surface water drains, clean the road signs and sweep out the bus shelters. This work should be completed in the next month or two.

Jacqueline Hutton, Clerk (Tel: 790333)

Inhams Bridleway

The recent rain has certainly revealed the inadequacy of the ditches on our lanes and paths. The Inhams bridleway from Bealeswood Common to the Mill has taken a distinct turn for the worse. This is now a very heavily used path by all users, especially cyclists taking the good Dockenfield air between Alice Holt and Frensham Common!

Many pockets of yellow clay are appearing through the geotextile membrane and surfacing applied to the surface some thirty years ago. The ditches are either not there or blocked and what is usually a lovely path is now sadly becoming one not so high on the list in winter conditions.

In December I walked this with James Brown the Rights of Way Officer from Surrey who manages our network in Dockenfield and at that stage he did not feel this was a priority. DPC will continue to pursue this but if you would like to make comment to Surrey County Council Rights of Way Department it may be a good way forward. Please email your thoughts to: james.brown@surreycc.gov.uk

Perhaps in the spring we could arrange a working party to tackle some of the problems.

Jill Trout

Join together and switch

Would you like to pay less on your electricity and gas bills?

Join Surrey's new 'collective switching' scheme, offering a hassle-free helping hand to get you a better energy deal. Collective switching works by getting a group of people to buy their energy together, at a cheaper rate. By joining the scheme, you could save up to £200 on your annual energy bills, particularly if you've not switched suppliers recently.

If you're interested to find out what you could save, **register your details online by 25 February**. You will need your energy bill details to hand so an offer can be made to suit your needs. Action Surrey will also be touring the county, offering a chance for people to register at events <http://www.surreyswitchandsave.org>. You just need to bring along your recent energy bill to provide details about your energy usage.

After an auction with energy suppliers on Tuesday 26 February, you'll receive your offer by email or by post, which is calculated based on your usage. It will tell you exactly how much you could save and you can decide whether to make the switch.

So if you're fed up with high energy bills and want to pay less this year, log on to www.surreyswitchandsave.org or call 0800 048 8264 and register before 25 February. You can also find out where you can take your latest energy bill to register face to face.

The above article was written by the Campaigns Communications Team at Surrey County Council

Comings...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to

- Mark Shiner who has moved into one of the flats at Great Holt. I am told that Mark is a driving instructor, so if you have a test you need to pass.....
- And to Ross and Diana Williams and their two sons Guy (17) and Alistair (14) who have moved into Abbots Corner, High Thicket Road

...and goings...

Well there are people that I know that have left the village in recent weeks and to whom the Newsletter would have liked to say farewell, but I am unable to include them here without their express permission. That's the rules these days. So 'Bon Voyage' and hope to see you soon

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

**‘An Artist’s
Imagination’
Exhibition on Pauline
Baynes extended until
8 February**

A lot of people from Dockenfield have been visiting the exhibition on the life and work of the village’s very own Pauline Baynes, especially since Christmas. I know this as we met the curator when we visited earlier this month and that’s what she told me. And just to underline her point, at the very moment she spoke those words, three friends from the village walked in.

So you now have until Friday 8 February to visit the Museum of Farnham to see the exhibition. And if you don’t know where it is, go along West Street and it’s just past the library, opposite ‘Guitar Village’. The Museum is open 10am – 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday and it’s free to get in.

Less Locks Fox

Hi, I’m Louisa, and I’m 16 years old. This summer, I’ll be making an incredible journey to Zambia in southern Africa, in order to spend time helping young children and their communities with projects such as building play areas, painting classrooms and teaching English.

In order to raise the money I need to go on this amazing trip, I am asking you to help by sponsoring me to do something which I will find very challenging: cutting my 26 inch long hair on the 8 February, and donating the cut ponytail to the Little Princess Trust, which does wonderful work creating life-like wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment, or long term conditions such as alopecia or trichotillomania (<http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>).

So while my hair will go towards helping children regain their confidence, all of the money I raise in being sponsored to cut my hair will go towards the trip to Zambia, and the impact my team and I will have on the community there.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this message – below are ways to donate; I would be extremely grateful if you could make any donation (however small!) to help both of these brilliant causes.

- Via <https://www.paypal.com> – address to use is louisa-fox@hotmail.co.uk
- Cash – to me in person, through the door at Drift House, The Street
- For me to collect from your house (email me at loui2106@hotmail.com if you would like me to do so)

Many thanks.

Louisa Fox

Pilates in Dockenfield

Pilates has become an increasingly popular form of exercise over the last 15 years, but what is it and where did it come from? It is in fact a series of exercises designed to increase the mobility of the spine, that is, to be able to flex, extend, rotate and generally enable free movement. To encourage correct activation of the deep core muscles so that they can efficiently contribute to postural control and the well being of the upright skeleton (spinal stability) and, to encourage the muscles that are involved in natural daily movement, to become, longer when they are shortened / tight or stronger when they are weak or inactive.

It is a form of exercise that can be used to underpin training for other sports or activities. It is often used for rehabilitation of spinal injuries/conditions and joint problems. It is however wise, to integrate other forms of exercise into your life such as regular walking. Where better than Dockenfield and the surrounding areas to do this?

Where did it come from? Joseph Hubertus Pilates (1880-1967) was of German descent. He based his original 34 move mat work program around gymnastics and yoga. He called it Contrology. As a sick child with asthma and rickets, he worked hard to overcome disabilities. He opened his own studio using mat work and equipment based exercise too; these used springs and pulleys to challenge the body. Although his work was mainly with athletes and dancers, all of these years later his method is still practised today, albeit somewhat modified from the original movements.

Choosing a Pilates class? There are many classes held locally in health clubs, sports centres, local halls or our very own Church of the Good Shepherd. Be sure to check the credentials of your instructor. They should hold a Level 3 Diploma in the Teaching of Matwork Pilates. They should also be a member of REP’S (The Register of Exercise Professionals), a regulatory body that ensure their instructors are qualified in the disciplines they teach and undertake continued professional development.

Luckily for us in Dockenfield, we have Christine Jason who is all of the above and teaches on **Monday evenings at The Church of the Good Shepherd at 7.45 pm.**

If you are interested in learning more about the class, discussing individual needs, such as rehabilitation for spinal or joint problems or indeed attending, please call me on Tel: 794423 (I live in Dockenfield) or visit our website www.pilatestrainingsolutions.co.uk. I am happy to help. You don’t of course need to have an injury to come along!

Belinda Buttery

The Bluebell. Absence makes the heart grow fonder

The email arrived in my inbox on 7 September. 'Hello' it said, 'I'm so sorry to approach you like this but I got your email from the Dockenfield Newsletter. My name is Robin Catchpole and I was just wondering if you could put me in touch with the owner of the Blue Bell as we are looking for a family pub to run'. As it happens I had met Dev (the owner) when we were both witnesses in the trial of the previous tenants at Southwark Crown Court. So I called Dev; he then got in touch with Robin; and the rest, as they say, is history.

Many readers will by now have met Robin and his wife Lucy as the pub has been open on an informal basis since New Years Eve. But now the lease is in place and the pub is up and running with regular hours of opening and with a kitchen that will start to serve an initial menu from this coming Friday, 25 January. It's been what Robin calls a 'soft' opening. No big announcements or great fanfare: partly because the pub was left in bad shape by the previous tenants, and partly because of the time of year. But perhaps that's no bad thing. Robin and Lucy have used the time to get to know both the workings of the pub and more about what their customers would like. And importantly haven't fallen into the trap of a grand opening before they were ready.

Robin and I chatted last week about what Dockenfield can expect now that the Bluebell is getting back to full swing.

The name. The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted that I have used two different spellings of the pub name so far in this article. That's because he is reverting to what is believed to be the original name of the pub, the Bluebell, named after the flowers that grow in the nearby wood. Oh, and he is ditching that ghastly expression 'pub and diner'.

Opening hours. Bar: Tuesday 22 January closed all day. 23, 24 January 6-11pm; 25 January 5-11pm. Thereafter Monday–Thursday 12-3pm and 6-11pm; Friday 12-3pm and 5-11pm; Saturday and Sunday 11am–11pm. *Food:* Friday 25 January 6-9.30pm. Thereafter Monday-Friday 12-3pm and 6-9.30pm; and Saturday and Sunday 12-9.30pm.

The beer. He's sticking with the favourites of Triple F (Moondance) and Hogs Back (Tea) plus guest ales as and when.

The food. Just getting under way of course, and there will be a gentle build up starting this coming Friday with a 'simple menu'. But there's a chef in the kitchen ready to go. His name is Simon and his experience includes running his own restaurant for seven years. Robin proclaims himself dedicated to developing a kitchen that serves 'good, reasonably priced, locally sourced, freshly cooked pub food with a changing menu.'

The decoration. 'A bit sterile' is the description that Robin gives to the atmosphere he inherited and I think most locals would go along with that. Fortunately, help is at hand. Lucy's aunt is in the interior decorating business and she is being asked to come up with improvements. Once again, don't expect anything overnight or instantly life changing, but they are on the case.

The garden. You don't need the experts at the Hort and Prod to tell you that the garden's a mess at the moment. A bit of tender loving care is on the 'to do' list, as is the return of the children's play area. The latter after taking local sensitivities into account.

Other things. **Will it be like the 'Slug and Lettuce?'** 'I want to put everyone's mind to rest on that. I grew up in a village and want to run a family pub. The Bluebell will be a proper village pub, not a bar.' **Will he and his family be living at the pub full time?** Yes, that is 100% the plan. **Are families, children and dogs welcome in the pub?** Yes to all three. **Will there be a children's menu?** Yes. **Will wifi be available in the pub?** Yes **What about staffing?** In time, Robin hopes to employ staff from in and around the village. If you are interested, he asks that you jot down a few details in a short 'cv' and take it to the pub. **Music Nights?** They will return, starting on Friday 29 March.

Contact. The original Bluebell telephone number (01252 792801) will be reinstated from 24 January. A new website will be created, as will a pub email address. In the meantime for emails use robin.catchpole@btinternet.com (note this is a slightly different address to the one you may already have: it's got a 'dot' after his Christian name)

Absence makes the heart grow fonder? The pub has been closed since the summer although most people had given up on the previous tenants long before that. In the meantime of course, for all the wrong reasons the Bluebell has become one of the best known pubs in the Farnham area. So perhaps it wasn't surprising to find even the informal openings crowded with locals curious to see what the future holds. What is nice to report is that Robin and Lucy tick some of the most important boxes: they are local, he has run pubs before and they 'get' the whole village thing. So I am sure I am not alone in looking forward to going up to the pub again for a pint of real ale or a glass of vino collapso and enjoying a meal from a chef that cooks food and not the books. See you there perhaps?

Villagers' 'Welcome Party' Friday 1 March, 6-11pm Robin and Lucy invite all readers of the Newsletter to a 'Welcome Party' at the pub on Friday 1 March. There will be a free glass of sparkling wine to greet you, a complimentary buffet and a pay bar. See pages 1 and 14.

News from our local Police Officer

I hope that you all had a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. I myself am now on the traditional New Year diet as I try to lose the additional Christmas pounds, plus part of the spare tyre I already carry around with me.

Unfortunately some local residents of Batts Corner have not been as lucky as we have had three separate reports of burglaries in that area since my last article. These have all happened late at night, or in the early hours of the morning, on a Thursday or a Friday. On all occasions sheds, garages and outbuildings have been targeted with the thieves looking primarily for tools and other garden machinery. Unfortunately some of the buildings have been left unlocked and on one occasion the home owner's own spade and shears were used to gain entry to a locked garage.

We have increased patrols in the area and the other evening I had the pleasure of meeting my counterpart from Hampshire Police, who was in the Dockenfield area at the same time of night. We have exchanged contact details and have agreed to meet up again shortly to discuss how both forces can better work together to keep Dockenfield safe and secure.

With regard to making your own shed, garage or outbuilding more secure, please consider fitting good internal locks on all points of entry, including windows. Also you can buy a relatively cheap shed/garage alarm from any trusted DIY/Security store. These have proven themselves to be quite effective in the past. Very few thieves will hang about when an alarm goes off.

In many cases the thieves are looking to sell these items on to make themselves some money. Consider painting your post code onto the side of your garden equipment, using a bright fluorescent colour. This will make the item hard to sell and much easier for us to identify as stolen property. You could also consider taking a photograph of your valuable property, writing the serial number on the reverse and keeping this locked away in a secure location. This not only allows us to return stolen property to its rightful owner but also helps us to secure convictions, as we can prove the item has been stolen.

Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 6 November 2012 to 6 January 2013. In addition to the three burglaries mentioned above, we also have one case of a van being stopped and the driver found in possession of a small quantity of cannabis.

Wishing you all continued good health and prosperity.

PCSO 14088 John Francis, Police Community Support Officer
Tel: 101 Ext 30076, PO Box 101 Surrey GU1 9PE, www.surrey.police.uk

Break Ins

In light of the recent shed and stable break-ins at Batts Corner many of us will be reviewing our security measures. Rural and equine communities often experience concerns for the safety and security of their animals and property at this time of year which seems to see an increase in unwanted activity around yards and outbuildings. I have found information from Horsecwatch useful and pass on some details below:

Hampshire Horsecwatch (07762 754788/07790 440478) was set up in September 2000 to work in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary to prevent and reduce equine related crime. Hampshire Horsecwatch is part of the national Horsecwatch Scheme. Horsecwatch is a good source of information and guidance on a whole range of security measures covering horses, tack, trailers, horseboxes and stables.

Crime prevention measures which horse owners can take include horse passports, security and tack marking, freeze branding, hoof branding and microchip implants. Secure padlocks and ensuring yard gates are fitted in such a way that they cannot be lifted off at the hinge end can also help. There are a number of Tack Marking Boxes situated around Surrey and Hampshire.

More information on all areas of protecting your horses and property can be found on the following sites:

<http://www.nfed.co.uk/horsecwatch.htm>

<http://www.surrey.police.uk/keeping-safe/protecting-your-property-or-business/rural-crime>

Wendy McCann

Letters to the Editor

A big 'Thank You' from Anita

Once again I would be very grateful if you could spare a little space in your next publication of Dockenfield Newsletter. Christmas seems to have passed so quickly this year, but I hope you have all had a nice time with family and friends. Thankfully for me it did not snow!

As always I would like to say a 'very big thank you' to you all for showing your appreciation and kindness. I am overwhelmed. My job is very personal to me and close to my heart. I take pride in serving you all the best I can. I know sometimes I make mistakes, but it's never intentional: I am only human!

Wishing Dockenfield a Happy and Healthy New Year. And thank you again. **Anita, the village 'Postie'**

Thanks for your help

We moved into a rental property, Parklands, on Old Lane in Dockenfield on 1 December and just wanted to say how lovely we found the village and how welcome we were made to feel! Unfortunately, due to a house fire and flood on 4 December we moved back out as the house was classed as uninhabitable.

We won't be moving back and want to take this opportunity to thank Jenny and Raymond from The Little House and Heather and Gary from The Coach House for their wonderful help on the night of the fire and the following very stressful few days. We are disappointed not to be Dockenfield residents but will certainly keep an eye out for other available properties in the area. **Clare and Adrian McGlinchey**

Neighbourhood Watch

As the name implies, this is all about being alert to what is happening around us! Just a reminder of one or two things we can do to make life more difficult for would-be burglars etc:

1. Lock all sheds and outbuildings when not in use (and fit alarms where possible).
2. When away from home, use time switches to turn on and off lighting, radios, etc. to give the impression that the property is occupied.
3. If you see a vehicle acting suspiciously (e.g. parked in an unusual place), take a note of the registration number, make and colour and if really concerned, call the Police on 101. They always welcome information of this nature.

Patrick Rendell

And one further thought. If you haven't got pen and paper handy when wanting to make a note of a suspicious car, then maybe you can take a photo on your mobile phone

Farewell to Yogi

This is sad news. After 14 years in Rowledge, Yogi Newsagents is closing down on 27 January. It seems that a buyer had been found for the shop, with the intention of carrying on the business uninterrupted. But the purchaser pulled out unexpectedly at pretty much the last minute and the decision has been taken to close the shop.

Mr Patel, the owner, has been a good friend of Dockenfield for many years, supporting Dockenfield Day and other events with generous raffle prizes. So on behalf of the village we say a fond farewell and thank you.

Did you get Mared on TV?

There can't be many folk from Dockenfield that can claim to have performed live on national television, but Mared Evans can. As you probably know, she is a member of the Robbie Boyd Band and was part on their live TV appearance on ITV's 'This Morning' programme late last year. Not only that, the band has recently toured the UK, France, Germany and Argentina and is set to release their first official album in 2013. Watch out for that.

Dockenfield Day 2013

Saturday 1 June

This year Dockenfield Day will be on Saturday 1 June. Look out for more news in the next edition.

Fancy a Dip?

Readers of the Daily Telegraph may have spotted an article a few weeks back about a group of intrepid individuals who go swimming in Frensham Great Pond whatever the weather. And I mean, *whatever* the weather, including when it is seriously cold. The group has a name, the Frensham Aquatic Recreation Team (I will leave to you the not so difficult task of working out the acronym by which they are more generally known), and now they have at least two participants from Dockenfield.

Sharon Jackson was the first villager courageous enough to take the plunge, and is becoming something of a regular, now clocking up at least 4 lengths of the swimming area each time she ventures in. Impressive stuff. The one friend foolhardy enough to join her so far has been yours truly, although I am told that two others are interested. I swam at 8.30am on what was (at least then) one of the coldest mornings of the year and the water temperature was 6.9 degrees. Debbie said to me as I left the house, '*you are completely mad*' and she was probably right. But let me tell you dear reader, in the cold light of a winter's morning it was strangely exhilarating, and rather fun. I shall go again, although perhaps not as regularly as Sharon. Anyone care to join us?

I believe you can keep in touch with the group and the times they swim via Face book. Either that or have a word with Sharon

Christmas unwrapped

So, how was it for you? Well, if you spent your Christmas in the village attending the three main festive events, then I can answer that question for you. It was just great. Here's a quick summary.

Putting up the Village Christmas Tree

Our thanks to the sterling carrying, chain-sawing, digging and general putting up of the tree by all. The lights looked enchanting... thanks to Martine Bodkin for the use of her electricity as usual. The tree supplied by Steve Webster from Frensham Common and generously delivered by Katie Poulson's team. Loads of children helping with parcels, an opportunity to meet up with new and old friends. Oh, and a big thank you to Annabel Livingstone who went off specially to create a bespoke star for the top of the tree. A really special start to the festive season. (JT)

Christmas Carols

As lovely as ever, really. The event clashed (I think) with the local school play this year, so a few regular families were missing, but there were still 50 plus people present, who of course enjoyed a greater share of the mulled wine and the mince pies on offer. Thanks to Karen Wane, Abi Rutherford and Penny Heath for the music, to Catherine and Graham Kneller for the use of their kitchen and to Jane Walker for 'conducting' the event with her customary good humour. (MF)

Christmas Party

100 people every year can't be wrong. This is one first class Christmas Party. What's the secret of its success? Well, its fun for all the family with great food, a dance-the-night-away disco, lots of party games and of course a special visit from Santa Claus. In short, just the right ingredients for the perfect party. Simple.

And loads of people helped make it that success. A big thank you especially to Annabelle and Chris Sutton for organising the raffle (and to all who donated prizes); to Christine Allingham for handling the ticket sales; to Catherine Kneller for helping with the presents; to Paul Hutton for all his work in setting up and clearing up afterwards; to Nathalie Griffiths, Sarah Cregeen, Lesley Rosling, Paul Cushing and Nicky Rutherford for helping with the food; to all of Jo Adams' family for the many things they all did; and to Charlotte Hutton and Ollie Luff for doing the washing up. And if I have missed anybody off this list, it's not intentional so thank you also for everything you did in preparing, running and clearing up afterwards. But the biggest thanks of all must be reserved to Santa for calling in on his way around the world. (MF)

Jill Trout and Michael Foster

Frensham and Dockenfield Hort and Prod

With a perceptible lengthening of the day, thrushes and robins singing and mild weather the first flowers of spring are showing around the village. The white camellia at the Blue Bell is flowering at its best and snowdrops and primroses are out in gardens but not yet it seems in the wild. Similarly, winter jasmine and honeysuckle, sarcococca, hellebore, iris, a rose, daffodils and winter prunus were all seen flowering this afternoon (10 January).

So despite 2012 being a very difficult year for gardeners, spring is on its way and in places the clayey gardens in Dockenfield are drying out from the wettest year since records began. This means that the winter jobs of pruning, greenhouse and pavement cleaning, mulching or digging beds (if not too wet) can be completed and thoughts can move towards sowing or planting out this year's annual flowers or veg. (*This was written before the recent snowfall*).

The Hort and Prod is also moving into its new programme for 2013 with the first talk of the year on 'Plant Collecting on the Equator' by experienced plantsman Graham Pattison 8pm, **Thursday 31 January**, at the Marindin Hall. Just the talk you need if it's dark and raining. We will open early (7.15pm) for those who want to renew their membership.

If you have recently moved to the area and wish to give the Hort and Prod a trial then you are welcome to turn up for the talk and to see what else is on offer. Looking in to the Spring we have the AGM and social evening (where we shall be raffling tickets for Hampton Court Flower Show) on Thursday **28 February** and then local gardening guru John Negus on 'Home Grown Best (Vegetables)' all at 8pm Marindin Hall. I look forward to seeing up at one of these events and in the meantime happy gardening in 2013. It's got to be better than 2012! **Dan Bosence**

Frensham & Dockenfield Support Group for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

I am delighted to report that at our annual Christmas Fair held at Frensham Heights in November we raised the magnificent amount of £5,937.00, our most successful fair yet. A huge thank you to all those who supported us. Information regarding fund raising activities in 2013 will be in the next Newsletter.

Judy Dadak

News from the Village Shop

Firstly, and most important, we are once again fully staffed! Paul Wakeman joined us on 2 January, and is very keen to hear what you'd like to see in stock. Please make a point of introducing yourself and letting him know your thoughts. Paul has a broad background in retail, and is now discovering the delights of the Community Shop sector!

Jenny Binks has volunteered to become our new Treasurer. Due to previous commitments, she will take over progressively during the next few months, and John Nettell has kindly agreed to take her through the range of activities from pricing and VAT, to salaries and year end accounts to provide continuity. It's a great relief to know that these two seriously important roles are so well covered for the future and we warmly welcome Paul and Jenny to our enterprise.

The Village Shop is now **open 7 days a week**; come and visit on Sunday mornings between 9am and 11am to buy your newspaper and maybe some weekend treats for the family.

Cold snap coming? (or has it already come and gone by the time you read this?) We have a selection of gloves and socks in store to keep you warm, and all at keen prices. There is a special half price offer on winter casseroles for your store cupboard, and on boxed chocolates to keep you happy if you're shut indoors! Whatever the weather throws at us, we will ensure we have all the usual essentials – eggs, fresh bread, milk etc - and as always, the shop will open come what may.

And if you're escaping for some winter sunshine, our Post Office has Euros available over the counter at all times. There is a pre-order service for other currencies and travellers' cheques; ordered in the morning, they will be delivered next day to your local Post Office.

We wish all our customers a happy and prosperous 2013, and look forward to serving you in the near future. **Mayonne Coldicott**

Icarus flies away

Icarus stood on his plinth at the Olympic Village from July until October. I have some lovely photographs of him there that have been sent to me by Gamesmakers or Athletes. I am still hoping to find a shot of a well-known British Athlete posing by him. Has anyone seen one? A Gamesmaker told me that lots of athletes stood and posed by him with their arms out as if flying! He certainly seems to have had lots of attention and was featured numerous times on the television while the games were on.

In October Icarus was removed and taken off for auction and sold by Sotheby's to a collector, I don't yet know where he has gone but hope to find out. Meanwhile we rather hope that edition number 2 might be placed back in the Olympic Village once it has been developed and is open to the public. Fingers crossed!

If you are interested in seeing photos of Icarus in situ do look at my website: www.nicolagodden.com . A smaller version of Icarus is on show in London at the moment: all info on the website.

Nicola Godden

Live Music at our local pubs

Here's a list of upcoming live music and other events at the various in and around Dockenfield. Please do double check the information in case of any late changes.

The Bluebell, Dockenfield (Tel from 24 January: 792801)

Live Music:

Friday 29 March: Music Nights return to the Bluebell. Band to be announced. For the latest news on the Bluebell please see page 5.

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 793593, www.hollybushfrensham.co.uk)

Live Music:

Saturday 16 February: Andy Stedman

The pub also holds 'open mic' nights on the last Friday of every month i.e.

Fridays 25 January, 22 February and 29 March.

The Halfway House, Bucks

Horn Oak (Tel: 01420 22184, www.halfwayhousefarnham.co.uk)

Live Music (from 20.30):

Saturday 23 February: Grizzly and The Grasshoppers Blues and Funk

Saturday 30 March: The Soul and Motown Band

Other things:

They have quiz night on the second Thursday of every month and all Sky sports and ESPN. Also they are now operating their new winter opening hours.

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Live Music:

Friday 1 February: Steve Webster

Friday 22 February: Rough Ditch Band

Other things:

The H & H are also doing a "theme food night" on the last Saturday of every month; they will have a special menu for Valentines Night (14 February) and in March they are starting a curry night on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

I also requested information from the **Cherry Tree, Rowledge** but I didn't hear back from them so for information please contact them direct on Tel: 792105.

Frensham Fayre will fold!

Do you care? If so, please contact Antony White on 795588 or email: frenshamfayre2@btinternet.com Can you offer your services for just one or two hours on Saturday 15 June or help on the committee or run the bric-a-brac stall. Frensham Fayre needs you!

Philippa Hall

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 21 February and 21 March, 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall

The next two events of the WI are:

21 February: John Negus. '12 Months of Colour'

21 March: Jonathan Jones. 'Dylan Thomas'

For more information please contact **Pat Clough** on Tel: 792468.

Village Lunch

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

The next two dates for the Village Lunch are shown above. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of Frensham Royal British Legion and The Marindin Hall respectively.

Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group

Tuesdays 12 February and 12 March, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The next two meetings will be **12 February:** 'Hops'. A talk by Bill Weeks about hop growing in and around the area.

12 March: 'Rural life in the early 20th century' by Tim Winter. Visitors welcome. For more information contact **Chris Bonner** on Tel: 793668.

Fund Raising Lunch

Tuesday 19 March, 11am – 1pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd

This fund raising lunch invites you to 'experience a new approach to cooking' with food by 'The Pampered Chef'. All funds raised will be in aid of St Mary's new Church Hall. Tickets (including food) cost £10 and are available from **Morag James** on Tel: 793133 or email: morag.james@btconnect.com

History of Dockenfield in 10 Objects

No 10 a Blacker bombard mortar

I hope you are not feeling too breathless after our journey through the centuries, in a search for 10 objects that illustrate the history of Dockenfield (and its surroundings). Anyway, the end is in sight, as we have now reached the middle of the twentieth century. My choice this time is a Blacker bombard mortar - "a what?" you might well say.

The Blacker bombard, or 29mm spigot mortar, was an anti-tank infantry weapon invented by Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart Blacker for use by the Home Guard at the beginning of the Second World War. The project was rushed through with the support of Winston Churchill at a time when the Home Guard was very short of weapons with which to face an invading German army.

The actual mortar was fired from either a portable system or from a permanent concrete cylindrical base with a steel fixing pin on which the actual firing mechanism, or bombard, was fitted. The whole system was set into the ground overlooking a strategic point such as a bridge, road or, in the case of a firing point at the bottom of Farnham Park, strangely, overlooking the site of what is now Sainsbury's in South Street. If you know where to look there is another bombard site in the Bourne Woods where Home Guard training took place. If you want to see a Blacker bombard, just enter it into Google and you will find a number of websites with information.

The mortar itself consisted of a conical head slightly smaller than a football and containing, in its anti-tank form, 20lb of high explosive. Behind this was a tube ending in a set of fins to stabilise it in flight. I was told many years ago, by people who had served in the local Home Guard, that the whole system was extremely inaccurate and posed more of a risk to the operating crew behind it than to any invading Germans.

Be that as it may, the reason why I have chosen the Blacker bombard mortar as my last object, is because several years ago one was found in the loft of what was, until recently, the Fiat garage in Millbridge. It must have been there ever since the 1940s and was found, perhaps fortunately, not to be live but to be a dummy used for training purposes.

I know I am being rather flexible in my definition of the area of the village, but perhaps a Dockenfield man and member of the Home Guard returned home from a training session in the Bourne Woods one day and stored some of the unit's equipment in Millbridge - to lie there forgotten for the next 40 years or so. Who knows, but the mortar certainly comes from a period when our predecessors must again have felt vulnerable to military invasion, which fortunately, of course, never happened.

I hope you have enjoyed our journey through time and that the objects I have described have provided a glimpse into the lives of the many people who have lived in and around Dockenfield over the last half million years or so.

David Graham

A huge thank you from the Newsletter to David for this fascinating series and the one that preceded it. I know from readers comments how popular they both have been. It has been terrific to have such an informative and well written insight into the history of the area we call home.

Birds of Prey in the Villages (ii)

In my last article I wrote about the large raptors (birds of prey) which we are likely to see in our locality. This time I am turning our attention to the smaller ones, two of which are resident and reasonably familiar, and one which is a summer visitor and a rather special one. They are the Sparrowhawk, the Kestrel and the Hobby.

The Sparrowhawk and the Kestrel are of approximately similar size, between 30 and 36cms in length. The Sparrowhawk has broad wings and a long narrow tail. The adult male is blue-grey above with light underparts and rufous cheeks and a rufous barred chest. The adult female is much larger and about 25% heavier. She is grey above with light underparts and a grey barred chest, and a marked white stripe over the eye. Both have piercing yellow eyes and yellow legs and feet. The Kestrel has narrower, back-swept wings. The male and female are of similar size. Both are rufous above with silver-grey underwings and buff underparts. The male has a conspicuous grey head and tail. Both have yellow eyes and yellow legs and feet. Sparrowhawks and Kestrels have the sharply curved yellow curved bills with grey tips which are typical of many birds of prey. The Kestrel's call is a sharp kee-kee-kee. The Sparrowhawk tends to silence, but will chatter if alarmed.

Such descriptions are of limited use, however, when you are watching a bird at some distance, perhaps in poor light, and when the bird is moving away. However, distinguishing between the Sparrowhawk and the Kestrel becomes easier when one realises that they prey on different creatures, and therefore behave quite differently. Generally speaking, Sparrowhawks go for birds, and Kestrels specialise in small mammals, especially field voles. There are always exceptions, of course, and Kestrels will sometimes take small birds, and also frogs and worms, but their main prey are small mammals. Keeping that in mind, it becomes obvious why we usually see Kestrels hovering while they hunt. (Gerard Manley Hopkins was picturing a Kestrel when he wrote his poem *The Windhover*.) To hover, staying at the same point in the air, the Kestrel flies into the wind at exactly the same speed as the wind is blowing. Clever. You will have seen Kestrels hovering over roadsides, motorways, fields, airfields, cliffs, anywhere which gives a clear bird's-eye view of the small mammals which inhabit the grass and other short vegetation below. This hovering method of hunting means that the Kestrel spends time in the open, in clear view. When it spots its next meal it simply plunges down to grab it. It works methodically, moving from place to place with a rather flapping, weak-looking flight. The Kestrel will also watch the ground from high perches, such as wires and telegraph poles, always from a position which gives an open view of its unsuspecting prey. Kestrels do not need to hide when hunting, and this is why we see them so readily.

The Sparrowhawk is quite different in its hunting methods. As its main prey is small birds, a Sparrowhawk uses stealth, speed and surprise to catch its lunch. It will perch inside a canopy of trees or shrubs, low on a fence pole, or just below the top of a hedge. From its hiding place it can focus on its prey – possibly a group of Tits on the feeders in your garden. It launches itself low and fast, bursting upon its victim before it can escape. It may also alarm an unsuspecting gardener. It may stop on a fence post to strip and eat its prize, or vanish as rapidly as it appeared to eat it elsewhere. It is not a pretty sight, but this is the wild world, even if it sometimes occupies your carefully tended garden for a while. Raptors as well as songbirds live precarious lives, and both can survive in viable numbers if the natural balance is maintained. While the male Sparrowhawk will usually hunt small birds, the much larger female can take a Thrush or a Pigeon with ease. Sparrowhawks hunt in both open areas and in woodland. In woods they can twist and turn sharply, often flying fast through surprisingly narrow gaps, flapping powerfully with occasional glides. A Sparrowhawk may sometimes pursue its prey on foot through the undergrowth. No hiding place, then.

Both Kestrels and Sparrowhawks are regularly to be seen here all year. But the third small raptor we may see locally comes just for the summer. Then a Hobby may be seen occasionally hereabouts, streaking across the sky and leaving one wondering whether one really saw it. Hobbies spend our winter in Africa, but are to be seen in southern England between May and September. For a more reliable chance of seeing our locally visiting Hobbies it is necessary to go just a few miles. The Hobby likes to hunt over open ground, heath, farmland and marshy ground. Thursley Nature Reserve and Elstead Moat, for instance.

A Hobby is *fast*. It resembles a Kestrel in shape and size, but in flight its sickle-shaped wings look like those of a large Swift, as it flies high, wheeling this way and that with rapid accelerations as it hunts its prey. Unlike the Kestrel, the Hobby can't hover over its prey. It relies on speed and surprise to catch high-speed fliers like itself, including Swifts, Swallow and Martins, which it often takes from below (yes, I know, but remember the balance of nature..). For a more leisurely meal, the Hobby will hunt dragon-flies and chafers when they are about, catching them in its talons and eating them in mid-air, transferring them from foot to mouth as it flies.

It is unusual to see a Hobby up close, and more often one sees it in silhouette, or perhaps from underneath, if it is after dragonflies and in slower mode than usual. It is a slender, sharp-winged bird, with a long, square-cut tail. Its plumage is slate grey above, and looks dark in the air, although its underparts are largely white with close dark streaks. Its thighs are rufous. The Hobby's face is clearly marked, with pale cheeks and throat and a black 'moustache.' The eyes are dark with yellow eye-rings. In summer the Hobby's call is a loud, high-pitched *kew-kew-kew*. A very smart bird indeed.

Do watch out for these raptors. They are wonderful to behold.

Val Lewis

St Mary's Frensham

Sad news on roof - Good news on extension!

Like too many churches recently, St Mary's has suffered the theft of lead from its roof. The theft occurred early in the morning on Christmas Eve and with the heavy rain water was quickly flooding through the roof. The Christmas services were accompanied by buckets collecting water, particularly around the choir, but if we can be grateful for small mercies it would seem that the organ has escaped unscathed. Roderick Adam-Smith and Richard Potter managed to make an intrepid temporary repair and the full repair will follow with the insurance claim.

On a brighter note, we are delighted to report that building work has started on the extension and is scheduled for completion in July. The block work is now rising quickly and you can get a good sense of the scale and proportions of the building.

In February we expect many of the external stones to be delivered and if you have thought about sponsoring a stone (or more than one!) now is the time to act. We are over half way towards our target of £70k from Sponsor a Stone, but we still have many available! Remember also the continuing E-bay 'de-clutter'; perhaps perfectly timed for a spring clean clearout? See below for details or visit www.frenshamchurches.org.uk

The Fund Raising Committee

Spring De-Clutter

The e-Bay sales in aid of the new hall at St Mary's Church are on-going! With the help of the Cousin family we have had a good result so far. As spring approaches and thoughts move towards de-cluttering, please do continue to look out any unwanted items – big or small – and we will find a new home for them through e-Bay. A big thank you for all the donations to date.

Morag James Tel: 793133

Just a thought

In early December we spent a few days exploring Berlin. Unlike most cities that have sightseeing attractions that cover many hundreds of years, the principal sights in Berlin are concentrated in the mid to late 20th century and include Nazi rule, the Holocaust, the Berlin Wall and the Stasi secret police of East Germany.

And a thought occurred to me as I examined some of the exhibits. Whenever we are dissatisfied with the inadequacies of democracy, it has got to be so much better than some of the chilling alternatives. Or as Sir Winston Churchill once put it: *'democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried.'*

The 'Seven Wanders' of Dockenfield

Walk Number 6

Continuing the 'mini series' of walks you can enjoy from the village, kindly researched and written up for us by Dan and Alison Bosence

Walk 6 focuses on Alice Holt Forest. I hesitated on this one as there are numerous paths and tracks and wooded areas which are fascinating to walk and explore and a map can be collected from boxes by the ticket machines in the car park. The walk described gives a flavour of different areas of the forest for those who are not so familiar with over a thousand acres of ancient and not so ancient woodland.

Enter the forest past The Old Chapel off Batt's Corner as for Walk 5 (*edition 234, page 15*). Follow the Easy Access trail to the left but after a dip down to a small stream take a right on a gravel path labeled "Long Route" and marked with green arrows though an area of beech trees where visiting groups try their hands at Ray Mears inspired shelters. Continue over x-paths and wind through the woods until you see the car park ahead and here turn right, downhill and then a left through the woods towards the Café on the Green (open from 9am till 5pm).

Proceed up hill past playgrounds to main car park where you can pick up a map and then head for a totem pole and what is labeled as the "Habitat Trail" with yellow markers. A wide track winds you down through the woods, under the 'Go Ape' course, over a wide gravel track and then snakes down, over a bridge and round to the right past the owl, woodpecker and butterfly play sculptures (good for entertaining kids or grandchildren). Eventually you reach a graveled forest track with a clearing beyond (Glenbervie Meadow). Turn left on this track and at first x paths take the footpath right through some less visited parts of the forest (but can be muddy in wet weather).

This path brings you to a gravel path (turn right) and then a gravel track that is part of the signed Cycle Trail that goes all around the perimeter of the forest. The posts on the track are numbered and you keep on this track until you reach post number 6 where you turn left. Descend down, over stream and then left again at the track at T junction. This track winds through pine then hazel stands and can be muddy in winter. At an old bridge or culvert, turn left up the hill to emerge out of the forest by The Old Chapel.

Dan and Alison Bosence

Farnham Town Walks

Want to get to know more about Farnham, its history and its architecture? There can't be many better ways than going on a Farnham Guided Town Walk. They happen on the first Sunday of every month at 11am, start from the Wagon Yard car park and cost only £3, the proceeds from which go to local charities. And to save you working it out, here are the 2013 dates: 3 February; 3 March; 7 April; 5 May; 2 June; 7 July; 4 August; 1 September; 6 October; 3 November; 1 December. For more information Tel: 01252 718119.

Poppy Appeal 2012

Dockenfield has once again most generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our Dockenfield house to house collectors of Jack Bessant, Pat Clough, Debbie Foster and Guy Jackson collected £504 between them. Well done to all four of you.

I am delighted to report that our area of Dockenfield, Frensham and Tilford collected an amazing total of £6,114, including 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 behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal I would like to express thanks and gratitude to all who participated, including Nicola Rutherford and David Stirling who laid wreaths on behalf of the village and Legion respectively at the very moving village Remembrance Day War Memorial service, conducted by the Rev'd Jane Walker, and especially to everyone who donated so very generously. My personal thanks also to Gordon Carter who gives me invaluable help throughout the whole appeal period. **Peter James**

Mud, mud.....

It has just been announced that 2012 was England's wettest year since records began. And we are told to expect more of what the Met Office is now calling 'extreme weather' in the future. So with that in prospect there is nothing else for it but for the whole village to join in a defiant rendition of the legendary chorus from 'The Hippopotamus Song' by Flanders and Swann. Are you ready? Good. Then, altogether now:

*Mud, mud, glorious mud
Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood
So follow me follow, down to the hollow
And there let me wallow in glorious mud*

Frensham Riding Club dressage

Sunday 7 April

Please email **Fiona Jones** for further details:
jonessf@btinternet.com

This issue

This issue is being laid out on Friday 18 January, with the intention of printing on Monday, 21 January. But outside it is snowing hard and so both printing and subsequent distribution to your homes may well be a bit delayed. Sorry about that; we will have got it too you as fast as we can.

Common Knowledge

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

- Did you know that Frensham Common covers the same area as 317 football pitches?

Valentines Day is 14 February

Of course, you know that already don't you? And men also know that they are heading straight for the naughty step if they forget. But assuming you do remember, here are some things to bear in mind before you get too carried away.

Facts to think about

- MRI images show that when people gaze at pictures of their loved ones, the rational parts of their brain shut down allowing the heart to rule the head.
- Research suggests that women put more effort into their appearance on Mondays than on any other day of the week.
- Another survey has discovered that two things happen to a couples' alcohol consumption when they get married: the husband cuts down whilst the wife drinks more.
- A single human male produces enough sperm in a fortnight to impregnate every fertile woman on the planet.
- One in fifty words in the lyrics of the winning entries of the Eurovision Song Contest is 'love'.
- Women buy 85% of the world's Valentine cards, whilst men buy 73% of Valentine's Day flowers
- Teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards
- About 3% of pet owners give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets
- More than nine million Britons are thought to have searched for a lover online.

Quotes to ponder on

'If you were my husband I'd poison your tea' Lady Astor

'If I was your husband, I'd drink it' Winston Churchill

'I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here' Stephen Bishop

'You know that look that women get when they want sex? No, me neither' Steve Martin

'Sex at 90 is like trying to shoot pool with a rope' George Burns

'Instead of getting married again, I'm going to find a woman I don't like and just give her a house' Rod Stewart

The way we live

Continuing the random collection of news and general knowledge items that will enable you to astonish your friends with your grasp of minutiae. Did you for example know that:

- Researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine calculate the weight of the global population at 287 million tonnes. They estimate that 15 million tonnes of this mass is due to people being overweight, and 3.5 million tonnes due to obesity.
- 307 tubes of Smarties are consumed in Britain every minute.
- Almost one third of people who have a body tattoo regret the decision, according to a survey in July
- The perfect neighbour stops to chat for no longer than four minutes and returns items within sixteen days of borrowing them, according to a recent survey.
- Britain's unluckiest house number is 166, and the second most unfortunate is 227. So say the insurers Confused.com who have to deal with more claims coming from houses with those numbers than from any other (*I felt able to publish that in the reasonably secure knowledge that no such numbers are likely to exist in the village*).
- People in the UK are now more likely to text than to make a phone call, according to new research from Ofcom.
- The happiest age groups in the UK are 16-19 and 75-79, whilst the unhappiest are aged 45-54. The most satisfied gender is women, but then again they are the most anxious. Or so say the Office for National Statistics.
- Women it seems are also more generous tippers than men, at least according to recent research.

BOOKING FORM FOR THE PARISH SUPPER, FRIDAY 19 APRIL

Please reserve:..... tickets (£15 each) for the Parish Supper. I enclose a cheque for £ in payment (payable to Frensham PCC). Please send this form (including all names), along with your cheque and a stamped addressed envelope by **12 April** to: **Jane Wood, 1 Dene Cottages, Holly Bush Lane, Frensham, Farnham GU10 3BN. Tel: 795627.**

Name(s):.....

Address:.....

..... Tel:

If vegetarian meals are requested, please indicate the number your party requires here

Other dietary requirements (please state)

Or I cannot attend the evening and would like to make a donation so enclose a cheque for (payable to Frensham PCC)

THE BLUEBELL – VILLAGERS' WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY 1 March 6pm-11pm

Presentation of this completed voucher will entitle the holder and family (all Dockenfield Newsletter readers) to **one free glass of sparkling wine or soft drink** on Friday 1 March. A buffet will be served between 6-9pm. Further drinks can be purchased during the evening.

Name: Tel no.:

Address :.....

Email:

Only include your email address if you wish to opt in to the Bluebell's events mailing list

Not transferable