

# DOCKENFIELD

## newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 241

Published 22 January 2014

### World Exclusive: 'Cloud Nine' located on the Surrey/Hants border

'Cloud Nine' is universally understood to mean *'being in a state of blissful happiness'*, but the precise physical location of this mythical cloud has never been exactly pinpointed. Until now. And interestingly, once discovered it was found to be not a fleeting phenomenon but one that lasted the best part of a month. I refer of course to Christmas in Dockenfield, including the three special events which each brought their own unique magic to the village.

But how, I hear you ask, can 'Cloud Nine' be located again with any certainty? Simple. Saturday 7 June is the next date it is absolutely guaranteed to be here. That's Dockenfield Day of course so stick the date in your diaries now. There's lots to look forward to ahead of that though, not least of all Hannah Poulson's 'Valentine Concert' on 15 February. For full details of this and everything that is going on locally in the next couple of months, read on.....

**Michael**

### Who are Dockenfield's 'Senior Citizens'?

In discussion with a friend just before Christmas we were wondering who were the oldest man and woman living in Dockenfield as we enter 2014.

I know Mrs Pat Paul who lives at 'Sunglow Cottage' in Old Lane and she is 92 (93 next August), which is a wonderful age to reach. Its not that many years ago that she stopped going to Pilates in the Good Shepherd. What a lady!

Meanwhile the oldest man I am aware of is Charles Livingstone who lives in Lake Lane and he was born on 26 October 1929 and so is 84 years old.

Any advance on either of those? Do let DNL know.

### Dockenfield Day 2014

Dockenfield Day this year is on **7 June**, so block the day out in your diaries now! The theme will be "Brazil: here we come!" giving you plenty of opportunities to dress up whether you're into football, the Carnival or simply something Latin American. More details will follow in the next edition of DNL.

As ever, we're looking for volunteers to help before and on the day, so if you are able to contribute, contact me by email: [sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk) or call me on tel: 07930 98 66 77. **Sebastian Fox**

### Valentine Concert

**Saturday 15 February, 7pm in St Mary's Church**

The Valentine Concert on 15 February is being performed by Hannah Poulson and eight fellow musicians from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. They also have a guest appearance from Abi Rutherford (another talented Dockenfield resident). Their programme is varied and will include music for everyone to enjoy. Interval refreshments will be served in the new church hall.

Tickets are £10 (under 16 free) and can be bought in advance from Morag James (Tel: 793133) or at the door on the night. We are very grateful to Hannah, her colleagues and Abi for giving their time to help raise funds for the fitting out of the new hall at St Mary's, especially as they have quite a busy tour! **Morag James**

*It would be lovely if as many people as possible come to this concert as Hannah is an emerging musical talent of real quality about whom the village should be enormously proud (see also page 4). But if for some reason you are unable to make this date you might like to know that Hannah is also performing at the Kingsley Centre on the preceding Wednesday evening, 12 February starting at 7pm, supporting the funds of the Kingsley Organisation. Or you could show real commitment and go to both! The programme at Kingsley will be of a much lighter nature and will include some jazz and less opera. Plus ....I am told there will be bucks fizz, canapés and coffee at Kingsley. You can get full details by calling Tel: 01420 479000 or email: [jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk](mailto:jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk) or call Jill Trout on Tel: 794284.*

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
<b>Wednesday, 22 January</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
<b>Thursday, 23 January</b>	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Tuesday, 28 January</b>	7.30pm	'Perspectives from Palestine'	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
<b>Friday, 7 February</b>	7.30pm	Curry Night in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice (Sold out)	The Marindin Hall	Page 1
<b>Tuesday, 11 February</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Saturday, 15 February</b>	7pm	Valentine Concert	St Mary's Church	Page 1
<b>Tuesday, 18 February</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
<b>Thursday, 20 February</b>	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Wednesday, 26 February</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
<b>Thursday, 27 February</b>	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Friday, 28 February</b>	From approx 8.30pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
<b>Tuesday, 11 March</b>	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Friday, 14 March</b>	TBA	'One Year On' Party	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
<b>Tuesday, 18 March</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
<b>Thursday, 20 March</b>	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 5
<b>Tuesday, 15 April</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
<b>Saturday, 7 June</b>	TBA	Dockenfield Day	The Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages	Page 3

### Dockenfield Newsletter

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of photocopying and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered to approximately 250 households in and around the village and a further 160 or so are emailed on request to predominantly local subscribers. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully.

For the next edition **the deadline is 25 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](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)

## News from Dockenfield Parish Council

*Dockenfield Parish Council wishes everybody a peaceful and prosperous 2014.*

**Meeting Dates.** The next Council Meeting dates are Tuesdays **18 February, 18 March** and **15 April**. Do feel free to come along. If you wish to raise a specific item please let Jessica Hobday (the Parish Clerk) know in advance so it can be put on the Agenda. Otherwise just come for all or part of the meeting.

**Superfast Broadband.** It has been decided to postpone the intended presentation of Superfast Broadband originally scheduled for 18 February as we feel that space may be a problem at a regular Parish Council Meeting. It is now hoped that this will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting. Details to be announced in the next DNL.

**Christmas Celebrations.** Thanks again to everybody who was involved with our village Christmas tree: the cutting (Steve Webster), collecting (Katy Poulson) putting up followed by coffee and stollen... a team including the Activities Committee and villagers, although sadly a distinct lack of children this year. This was a pity: we must have clashed with other events. The maintaining of the tree (Jackie Hutton, Roger Trout and local residents). Taking down and away (Jackie Hutton and Paul Wood respectively)... and of course our very own "light lady" Martine Bodkin who makes all the Christmas twinkling lights happen with her electricity. Many thanks to all without these volunteers the event would not happen.

Then we have the carol singing. A great turnout again this year (and I don't think it rained!!) Again everything ran well, Karen Wane managed to magic up musicians (Abi Rutherford and Nathalie Cousins) who played fantastically; the bus shelter looked a picture; Jane Walker, as usual, kept us all singing heartily and Jackie and Paul Hutton provided splendid mulled wine and warm mince pies. What a special start to Christmas!

**Ditches.** Due to the extreme weather conditions could we remind residents to keep their ditches clear to minimise flooding.

**Polling Clerk wanted.** Just to remind people that if they would like to be a Polling Clerk at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield for the European Parliamentary Elections held on Thursday 22 May 2014. Please Contact Jessica Hobday by email: dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk and the application form will be forwarded to you.

**Working Party for Fritz's Field.** The Parish Council would like to arrange a working party to carry out some tidying up in Fritz's Field when the rains stops and also to spruce up the War Memorial in this special year. Details in the next DNL. **Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday**

## Comings...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to

- Colin and June Dean and their two children Robert and Helen who have moved into Vale View (on the site of the old 'Tree O') in The Street. They have previously lived in Binsted and then Farnham, most recently renting until the 'perfect' house became available, which we all know was bound to be in Dockenfield! Colin is a member of a band called StonedF, and if you would like to learn more about them and their music then visit [www.stonedF.com](http://www.stonedF.com).
- Jayne and Ian Armstrong who have moved into Twopenny Piece in The Street. Together with their four dogs they have moved just a short distance from Kingsley. They say that they are 'settling in well' and that 'everyone has been very welcoming.'
- A slightly belated welcome to Amanda and Rich Smith and their two children Luke (6) and Ella (4) who moved to Thicket End in October. They have moved all the way from Frensham so haven't taken long to settle into the ways of the village and indeed were spied enjoying themselves hugely at the Village Christmas Party at the Bluebell.

## ...and goings...

A very fond farewell to:

- Annabel and Tim Legge who have moved to Tilford. That's the bad news. The good news is that they plan to keep in touch with all their friends in the village, and will know what's going on from continued reading of DNL and from the fact that Annabel has kindly agreed to remain on the Activities Committee.

*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](mailto:michael.foster66@btinternet.com)*

## The bands of Dockenfield

It's interesting to see (from the 'Comings and Goings' section) that we have another band 'resident' in the village. Colin Dean's band StonedF is a welcome addition to a list that already contains Andy Allen (Northpaw); Mared Evans - OK, she's just moved to Aldershot, but hey - (The Robbie Boyd Band); and Tony Cousins (The Tim Penn Band, a name I hope I have got right). Plus of course there was a band that was actually formed in the village: The Commoners took their name from Bealeswood Common and featured the then resident John Hammond as well as DNL contributor Steve Webster. Are there any other bands I haven't mentioned here? Do please let DNL know if there are.

## **Talent emerging from Batts Corner**

*The Newsletter is delighted to tell you about the emerging talent of Hannah and Ben Poulson of Batts Corner. Their mother Katy has kindly supplied details of how they are getting along in their chosen career paths.*

Hannah is in her 4<sup>th</sup> and final year as an undergraduate at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and recently has been auditioning for a post graduate place; she was offered places at all but one Music Conservatoire. She has decided to go to The Royal Academy of Music in London where she will be starting in September 2014. This was her number one choice so obviously we are all over the moon for her.

Part of Hannah's undergraduate degree course is based on performance and with this in mind Hannah has offered her services along with eight other singers and a pianist to perform at various events around the area during the week of 9-15 February. Hannah 'and company' will be performing on Saturday 15 February at St Mary's, Frensham (for details see page 1).

Ben decided a while ago that university wasn't for him, so when he finished his A-levels in June 2013 took himself off to San Francisco for 3 months on an intensive course at the Revere's Academy for Jewellery Art which was founded in 1979. The Revere Academy is a professional jewellery school where master craftsmen and women pass on their skills and knowledge to students at all levels. Beginners, hobbyists and experienced bench jewellers come for professional jewellery training in fabrication, goldsmithing, jewellery repair, jewellery design, stone setting and more. Ben took the Graduate Jeweller Diploma course and successfully qualified in October 2013.

Ben has now set up a workshop and he can create bespoke and unique jewellery, customised for individuals and for gifts etc. He also undertakes repairs and cleaning. If you are interested in getting in touch with him his telephone number is 07789 798463.

*It is lovely to celebrate the talent and success of people who have been brought up in the village. Please let the Newsletter know if there are similar stories to be told from within your family.*

## **Christmas Tree & Carols**

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas tree. The weather conditions were somewhat challenging this year, resulting – in spite of everyone's best efforts – in the tree blowing over a couple of times. Fortunately, no harm was done barring a few crushed presents, but it does mean that we will probably have to replace the pipe that holds the trunk as this is now partly broken and no longer providing enough support.

And another thanks to all those who helped put on the Carols. Warm mulled wine and mince pies were just the ticket after a cold (but fortunately dry) event. Also a big thank you to the musicians who provide the musical backing, which all contributes to a wonderful atmosphere and unique village event.

## **Christmas Party**

This was held for the first time in the Bluebell, and a big thank you is due to Robin, Lucy and all their team who put in a huge amount of work before and on the day to get everything ready. The comments have been pretty positive on the whole, particularly about the food.

However, although the early part of the evening was well attended, it quietened down considerably after 9pm or so, raising a couple of questions:

- would it be better to have two completely separate parties for children and adults, either on the same day but at different times e.g. 4-6pm and 8-12pm, or on a different day altogether e.g. at lunchtime after the tree raising?
- if it's one party for all, what's the best format to ensure as many people as possible stay?

I'd appreciate any feedback in terms of either those questions or more generally on the party. Please email me at [sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk) or call me on 07930 98 66 77 if you'd like to share any thoughts. **Sebastian Fox**

## **Does anyone live in Hampshire?**

Yes, of course lots of you do. DNL readers I mean. And I am very conscious that, living on the Surrey/Waverley side of the boundary, I invariably give news of that police force, borough council or other service. On a number of occasions I have asked for a Hampshire based contributor to step forward to correct this imbalance but, apart from the arrival of one or two individual articles, the silence has been deafening. So if you do live in the Hampshire side of the village and would like to do an occasional piece for DNL from a Hants perspective do let me know.

## **Christmas Cheer**

A lot of people made some lovely appreciative comments about DNL in their Christmas cards, which was much appreciated. Thank you.

## Events at the Bluebell

**Revised winter opening times.** Bar: Mon–Wed 12-3pm and 6-11pm; Thurs-Sat 12-11pm. Sunday 12-10.30pm *Food:* served Mon-Sat 12-3pm and 6-9pm; Sat 12-9pm; Sun 12-3pm. Times will change again with the clocks.

**New Chef.** Tom Buckwell has joined the Bluebell as their new chef

**Launch of their new menu.** The pub's new menu will launch on the evening of **Friday 24 January**. Please note that tables must be booked in advance for this.

**Valentine's Day.** To quote Robin, 'we have a stunning Valentine's menu available' Please look on their website [www.bluebell-dockenfield.com](http://www.bluebell-dockenfield.com) for details.

**Special Anniversary Party.** The pub will be hosting a 'One Year on' Party on **Friday 14 March**. The formula will evidently be similar to last years party with buffet and live music. They hope to book the (fantastic) Charley Farley Sunday Four, but this is to be confirmed. This will be a ticket only event. Please call the pub for details

**Live Music Nights.** Return on Friday **28 February** with 'Inside Track', a five piece band, playing rock, pop and blues covers from the 1960's to the present day.

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

## And at our other local venues

*This is a list of the other pubs, clubs and hotels that are within easy striking distance of Dockenfield. Ahead of each edition I email all of them to ask for details of any live music and other special events they may be hosting and list them below if given. Please double check the information in case of any changes.*

**The Holly Bush, Frensham** (Tel: 447060)

**The Frensham Pond Hotel** (Tel: 795161, [www.bw-frenshampondhotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-frenshampondhotel.co.uk))

**Friday 14 February:** Valentine's Day candlelit Dinner in the Watermark Restaurant; 4 course menu for £27.50

**Saturday 15 February:** Adele Tribute Night, 7pm-1am. Tribute act, disco and food for £36 per head.

**Frensham Royal British Legion** (Tel: 793014)

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

**Open Mic Nights:** On the last Friday of every month: **31 January** and **28 February**.

**Fish and Chips Fridays:** To eat in or take away.

**Valentines Night:** 3 course meal for £19.95 per person.

**St. Patrick's Weekend:** Music and Irish food all weekend from Friday 14 March.

**Cherry Tree, Rowledge** (Tel: 792105, [www.thecherrytreerowledge.co.uk](http://www.thecherrytreerowledge.co.uk))

## 'Regulars' at the Good Shepherd

**Pilates** continues at the Good Shepherd every Monday evening at 7.45 under the guidance of the excellent tutor Christine. The hour long session is suitable for men and women of all ages and levels of abilities. Plus it's really good for you too, as a number of those who go regularly can testify. For more information contact Belinda Buttery in The Street on Tel: 794423.

The new term of '**Cherubs**', Dockenfield and Frensham's baby and toddler group, began at the Good Shepherd on Thursday 16 January and will continue on a weekly basis from 9.30-11am during term time. The cost is just £2 per family. For more information contact [revjwalker@btconnect.com](mailto:revjwalker@btconnect.com)

## Millbridge WI

**Thursdays 20 February and 20 March, 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall**

The next meetings for Millbridge WI are:

**20 February:** Sheila Beaven – Moscow to Milk of Magnesia

**20 March:** The Queen Mary Story by J Montgomery

For more information please contact **Julie Evans** on Tel: 793075.

## Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

**Thursdays 23 January and 27 February, 8pm at the Marindin Hall**

**23 January:** Gardeners Question Time with Geoff Peach

**27 February:** Annual General Meeting, followed by snacks and refreshments

For more information please contact **Annette Clayson** on Tel: 726618.

## Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group

**Tuesdays 11 February and 11 March, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall**

**11 February.** Speaker: David Embling - History of English Furniture - Part 4.

**11 March.** Speaker: John Atkinson – Drinking Water in Frensham and Abroad.

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

## Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

The next volunteer working parties are 16 February, 16 March and 13 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](mailto:chall3422@aol.com) **Colin Hall**

## **News from Bealeswood Common**

I used my space in the previous Newsletter to express my frustration at the stormy weather we had been experiencing, and in particular the disruption it causes to our planned winter works. Since then we have had several further storms and been informed by the experts that we are unlikely to see any calm until the polar vortex in the US resumes normal service. I won't depress you all again by going into detail about the weather, but will just say that we had our fair share of tree damage and failures over the Christmas period and my return to work at the start of the New Year hasn't been as smooth as I would have hoped. The trees of Bealeswood Common and the wood by Abbotts Cottages once again seem to have miraculously survived intact, with the exception of one uncharacteristically poorly structured oak at the bottom of Bealeswood. This tree has broken at what appears to have been a weak fork in the crown. With it sporting a similar looking fork at the base I don't want to take any chances, and our contractors are due out shortly to put it out of its misery.

With this gloomy damp weather seemingly here to stay, I think we could do with an excuse to look back at the summer which last year actually lived up to its dictionary definition. For Bealeswood Common, the summer is all about flowers and butterflies, both of which are found in profusion here and are monitored by some very helpful locals. I mentioned our butterfly team in the last Newsletter so I'll now take the opportunity to thank Dan Bosence for keeping tabs throughout the year on the flowers on the Common, and putting together some very comprehensive records. Dan always assures me that his motivation for doing so is for the most part a personal one, but the detailed records he provides are invaluable in being able to carry out informed management of the Common, as well as gaining an overview of its general 'health'.

Last year we had a very cold and late spring. This resulted in a few of the flowers being out later than usual and a peak in flowering numbers in late July, rather than June as we have seen in previous years. Conversely, a number of typically late flowering plants such as harebell flowered a lot earlier this year, with a sharp decline in flower numbers after the July peak. This is presumably down to the spell of particularly dry hot weather we experienced throughout July and August, which appears to have had the effect of concentrating the flowering times into this window of opportune conditions. As would be expected with such trends, the peak number of flowers in July was slightly higher than corresponding peaks in previous years, with numbers either side of this peak being slightly lower.

Butterflies are reliant on flowers, so their population trends quite often reflect that of the flowers in their habitat, which is one of the reasons they are a particularly useful group to monitor. In this instance, the total number of individual butterflies recorded also peaked at the end of July in exact unison with the flowers, with a staggering total of 169 individuals of 9 species being recorded on a single half hour visit. A couple of weeks later the number of species recorded on a single visit reached a peak of ten. As it is well documented that nature doesn't always follow the rules, the fact that this data illustrates a clear relationship between the flowers and the butterflies at Bealeswood is very telling. As touched upon in the last Newsletter, the butterfly populations on Bealeswood appear to be going from strength to strength, and as well as reflecting well on the botanical quality of the Common, this is also an indicator of the general condition of the wider habitat. This gives much cause for encouragement and optimism at a time when many wildflower and butterfly habitats are either already in decline or facing an uncertain future.

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

## **News from our local Police Officer**

I hope that you all had a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Thankfully over the last few months, crime wise, things have been relatively quiet apart from one local resident who has been the victim of crime on two separate occasions. The first occurred in December when a quantity of fishing equipment, together with various tools was stolen from an outbuilding. Then again in January of this year an attempt has been made to force entry to the rear window of the main house which has thankfully been unsuccessful.

With regard to the whole of 2013 in Dockenfield, I can confirm that a total of 9 crimes have been reported to Surrey Police. This includes 4 burglaries, all of which either involve sheds, garages or outbuildings. We also have 5 thefts. Items that have been taken include a yellow dumper truck, two wooden garden benches, a tree shredder, a chainsaw and 500 litres of diesel. When did these crimes occur in 2013? January (1 reported crime); February (2); March (2); April (2); May (none); June(1); July(none); August (none); September (none); October (none); November (none); December (1).

Wishing you all continued good health and prosperity.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### **'Which Way to the Airport?'**

*In the last edition I wrote a small piece entitled 'Which Way to the Airport' (edition 240, page 15) telling of an old gasometer in Southall that has the words LH and a monster arrow painted on its side. This was to indicate the way to Heathrow Airport for planes before there were more sophisticated navigational aids. David Harmer has kindly written in with the complete story.*

What you say about the LH gasholder is not quite accurate, and the actual story is rather more amusing. This is the story as I heard it at a time when I worked from an office right next to South Harrow tube station and very close to the local gasholder (it dominated the view out of one side of my office).

An Air India 747, possibly their first, came in to land at Heathrow. The pilot knew the instructions: line up on the gasholder which has the runway in the distance due west of the gasholder and the highway running parallel to the runway.

Unfortunately he picked the wrong gasholder - my one - and landed beautifully at Northolt aerodrome with the A40 dual carriageway just to his left. Worse still he couldn't correct the error by taking off again because the Northolt (RAF) runway is much too short to allow a fully laden 747B to take off.

First they took off the passengers and crew and shipped them to Heathrow for immigration control. Then they took off the luggage and transferred it to Heathrow. Still much too heavy. Next they took out all the catering stuff and weighed it. Still too heavy. Then they took out anything else that was moveable, down to the light bulbs, and weighed it. Still too heavy. Then they unscrewed all the baggage lockers and anything else that wasn't an essential part of flying the aeroplane and weighed it.

With a decent westerly wind it could just take off, and they sent it to Heathrow, along with (by road) a few containers full of bits and pieces to rebuild it.

Finally they painted on the top of the correct gasholder LH, short for LHR, Heathrow's international codename. And on my gasholder - and when it was empty I could see it - they painted NO..... which of course is short for Northolt. As far as I know it's still there.

**David Harmer**

### **Thank you from Anita**

Please leave a little space in your Dockenfield Newsletter for me to express my gratitude to all the Dockenfield residents for their generosity and appreciation which means the world to me.

*Cont/*

*Cont/*

This year sadly I have had to say goodbye to my beloved dog Jimmi after 13 wonderful years together. But as life goes on I would also like to say a special thank you to Sharon Jackson for helping me find my pickle of a puppy Jett, who brings a lot of pleasure and love.

Thank you all again and wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year. **Anita (your 'Postie')**

### **Greetings from Canada**

*DNL has a number of readers in the US, in New York and Los Angeles, but until now none in Canada, a matter which has been corrected by the following two emails (dated 26 December and 3 January respectively) which I thought you might be interested to see.*

*Email of 26 December*

Your newsletter was forwarded to me by my friend Shirley Rampton. Although we've never really met, Shirley and I have been emailing each other for quite some time, having discovered each other while I was working on my husband's family history.

Not having a great understanding of the British address system, I don't really know why Shirley sent me a 'Dockenfield' Newsletter. However, I really enjoyed reading it and would appreciate being added to your email list.

I live in the small town of 'Wingham' in rural Ontario, Canada. We're about 70 miles north of London and Stratford, Ontario - very familiar British names! Thank you.

**Gail Newell**

**Wingham Ontario, Canada**

PS Please feel free to publish my letter. Thank you for adding my name to the email list.

*Email of 3 January*

Shirley actually phoned me just after I'd sent that email - the first time we'd spoken to each other on the phone! She tells me it was through your Newsletter that I first made contact with her, must be almost ten years ago.

I had sent a letter addressed to 'the newspaper nearest to the last address' for the Rampton family that I had received from my husband's uncle. It seems you (DNL) were the recipient of my letter and you contacted Shirley. I'm so happy to have the opportunity to thank you very much for that as well!

**Gail Newell**

## **Beware the black ice**

Driving out of the village before Christmas you may have seen the cars that had skidded and ended up in the ditch, almost certainly because of the black ice. You can't see it of course and although it is possible anywhere, it tends to be worse where the sun hardly ever shines on the road. So please take particular care when driving in frosty conditions and especially at the end of The Street between the chicane and Three Ways; up Bower Hill and High Thicket; and towards Bucks Horn Oak where there are the nasty bends with dodgy cambers.

## No recipes, but a 'protest' instead

In the last edition, on pages 11 and 15, I wrote articles firstly on the wealth of produce to be had from local bushes and trees and secondly commented on the immense amount of acorns that seemed to have fallen from our oaks this winter. I had hoped (from the first piece) that residents might send in their recipes for Elderflower Cordial, Sloe Gin or the like, but sadly none were forthcoming. I did however receive the following 'letter' from a reader protesting at the unhealthy way in which the tenor of these two articles set out to undermine the moral fabric of the youth of the village. A reader moreover who also studied the DNL recipe for Zucchini and who seems to know that Debbie and I recently took a holiday in South America. See if you agree with his 'views'.

Dear Editor,

I am frankly appalled to find the Dockenfield Newsletter, heretofore a wholesome and community-minded publication, is now a proponent of using local wild produce to create alcoholic spirits. To the point where DNL is soliciting recipes for such potables.

Did you know that young people -- too young to legally imbibe -- were seen gathering certain produce items with plans to create such drinks? I speak of the acorns, which some idle-minded person with far too much time on his/her hands has counted by the tens of thousands per tree. These are ripe for the picking or gathering and with but a few extra ingredients these hunter-gathering juveniles can concoct an Oak Aperitif that is formidably intoxicating. And can be ready for illegal consumption by New Year's Eve.

Perhaps the Editor's recent sojourns into the wilds of South America have dulled his sense of responsibility in matters such as prohibition of oak moonshine. However, New World mores and loose habits are not acceptable in Surrey. And should not be encouraged in a "family" newsletter. And when you print the recipe for the Acorn Booze please be careful about the specifics of the recipe; the zucchini crostini with but two eggs was a disaster.

**Rev. J. D. Kennet-Browsby, The Manse, Green Snot Lane**

## Young Love

It won't have escaped your attention that 14 February is Valentine's Day. At least it shouldn't have as it happens the same day every year, so no excuses. And, gentlemen, if you haven't booked the table, ordered the roses or bought card and the chocolate yet, then get a move on or else the dog house beckons.

Some pals and I were talking about love, and young love especially, at a dinner party on New Years Eve when I remembered the following story, which I thought I would share with you.

When I was a young teenager I used to go around with three main pals; Dave, Tony and Stephen. In matters of the heart, we all did our best to be properly romantic. Stephen especially was always falling head over heels in love, professing undying commitment to his latest lady and on more than one occasion even asking his girlfriend to marry him, although we were sure this move had an ulterior motive. One evening Dave, Tony and myself were in the local hostelry propping up the bar as under age drinkers and feeling frightfully adult when in came Stephen with his latest love. *'I'd like to introduce my fiancée'* he said, beaming from ear to ear. *'Would you all like to come to our engagement party?'* *'I don't see why not'* said Dave, *'we have been to all the others'*.

## News from the Village Shop

If you're totally fed up with the weather, come and visit us for a warm welcome..... and a chance to browse the wide variety of products that could cheer you up.

Locally made ready cooked meals and soups from Smith & Causey and Malini's "Curries from Home" top the bill. We stock a much wider range of teas than might be expected, from Lapsang Souchong to Yorkshire, with Rooibos and Camomile along the way. Our gloves, socks, slippers, batteries and firelighters are going like hot cakes. And there are plenty of alcoholic 'warmers', including Mulled Wine, if they take your fancy.

**Highlighting the volunteers:** One of our hidden gems collects the newspaper vouchers each week, sorts and bundles them. Around 300 are returned each fortnight, representing more than £9,000 of cash back to FVS per annum. A simple, but vital role! If you would care to join our team, please come and speak with Paul.

**Stop Press, Stop Press:** Watch out for Fair Trade Fortnight, 24 February - 9 March and the launch of a new range of products in the Village Shop.

**Contact** [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk), or Tel: 795240 if you're stuck at home and need a delivery

**Mayonne Coldicott**

## **We have been having lots of weather recently**

**A Day in the Life.** In the 7-10 days before Christmas there had been pretty much unremitting rain and wind and then, suddenly, we were blessed with a perfect crisp, clear winter's morning. Those readers who love the Lake District may well be familiar with the old saying that it is worth enduring six days of rain in the Lakes just to enjoy the beauty of one perfect sunny day there. I felt the same about our village that day.

**Trouble at Mill.** And then the wind and rain got really serious, so much so that on Christmas Eve it became impossible to get from Dockenfield to Frensham as the road by the Mill was flooded and blocked. The worst that I suffered was a rather circuitous journey to collect our turkey from the village shop but I am told at least three cars got stuck big time. Roger Trout was interested to know (as I think would the rest of the village) if anyone took a note (or a photo) of the height of the river at the Mill bridge to see if any flood height records were broken.

**Miracles do happen.** First off, last on. That's the usual story of electricity cuts in Dockenfield. Just one of the joys of living in a small, comparatively (for the South East) isolated community. The gales were of such strength that there were a number of nights when I went to sleep, torches at the ready, convinced that we would wake in the morning with no power. But extraordinarily it never happened, over Xmas and the New Year at least. And whilst our hearts go out to all those who suffered so dreadfully in the UK, including places as local as Binsted, Tilford, Godalming and Petersfield, it was lovely to be spared this time around. (Note here in case I am tempting fate.....I am well aware that there is plenty of time yet for winter to do its worst!).

**Now for the forecast.** A colleague with whom I go circuit training (be impressed, *please* be impressed) works for Thames Water. In recent weeks he has been much involved in flood control, and in that role depends very heavily on accurate weather forecasting. Now, hopefully, that the worst of the floods is behind us he was telling me that they are preparing for snow in the coming weeks. Now, in case this note could become a kind of 'Michael Fish, weather forecaster' moment let me say this. If this prediction is wrong, blame Thames Water. If it is correct, then you read it here first.

**Finally, in the words of Monty Python** '*Always look on the bright side of life*'. It is surely highly improbable that we will have a hosepipe ban this year.

## **'Common' Knowledge**

*Continuing our occasional series of fascinating facts about Frensham Common*

This time I thought I'd focus on the Great Pond itself, as this seems to be the part of the Common most frequented and recognised by visitors. It only covers approximately 70 acres out of the 950 acres of the entire Common, but many visitors do not venture any further than the sandy areas adjacent to the bathing areas, or a stroll around the perimeter. Surveys show that 250 meters is the average distance people travel from their cars.

First mentioned around 1208, the pond was created by flooding a low lying area of land on the Whitmoor Stream, to create a fish rearing pond for the Bishop of Winchester's estate. The Medieval dam still exists under Bacon Lane, adjacent to the Frensham Pond Hotel. As the pond has a dam, it comes under the jurisdiction of the Dams and Reservoirs Act, and therefore certain measurements, surveys and work must be carried out in compliance with the law.

**Steve Webster**

## **Perspectives from Palestine**

**Tuesday 28 January, 7.30pm in the Marindin Hall**

During an intensive study tour last November to Israel and Palestine, we met with experts, and local people who bear the brunt of the occupation. Jews, Christians and Muslims - all wanted the international community to hear their stories and support them in seeking peace with justice.

The issues are serious and complex - illegal settlements, house demolitions, diversion of water, land confiscations. The effect on individual lives is devastating. Please come and join us on 28th so that we can pass on some of what we learned - there's room for optimism! RSVP Tel: 792609 or [tim@coldicott.me.uk](mailto:tim@coldicott.me.uk) so that we know whether to put out 2 or 20 chairs!

**Tim and Mayonne Coldicott**

## **Village Lunch**

**Wednesdays 22 January and 26 February, midday at the British Legion**

The next two Village Lunches are being held on the above dates. The accompanying charity sales tables and raffles will support the Marindin Hall and the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre. These lunches are fab value so do go.

**Curry Cooking Night Friday 7 February, at the Marindin Hall in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell**

Originally I did have this event on the front cover because it is in aid of such a good cause. But just a couple of hours before DNL 'went to press', the organiser **Tess Russell** emailed to say that the evening had sold out in double quick time. So I did a little change around so that you know that all the tickets have gone. But Tess asked me particularly to keep a note of the event in the Newsletter anyway so, in her words, '*...it shows what a great community we live in and that they support the Hospice.*

## **Dockenfield and Frensham Food Bank Team**

A group of us arranged to collect items for the foodbank at the Kings Church in Aldershot just before Christmas. You may have received an email or seen a flyer asking for your support. We acted on behalf of Rev Jane Walker. Firstly a big thank you to all those who made a donation. We took all the items down to the food bank and were humbled by the experience.

The foodbank is located in the church and the items are stored in a purpose built structure within the church. We were shown round and saw how diligently it is cared for with all the items neatly stocked on the shelves. Our donation seemed enormous covering the floor. We heard how at Harvest Festival there is usually a large donation but after this the donations are few so the food bank has to work hard. They do collections outside the supermarkets and we saw pre-Christmas approximately 100 large Lidl bags filled with items to be distributed to needy people and families. We also heard a sad tale of a mother who fed her children, but ate tissues herself to fill her stomach. In another case the husband had set fire to the family home, so the mother and children were homeless needing help. There are people in our communities who are truly desperate through no fault of their own.

Rev Jane Walker would like to carry on the giving. We propose that a group of us offer drop off points as will St Mary's Church. We will take the collection to the foodbank every month. The deadline for collection will be the **last Sunday of each month** and the delivery will be made on the following Monday. Maxine has kindly offered to co-ordinate this. She will keep in regular touch with them and discover if any specific items are required each month e.g. toiletries.

- Inside St Mary's Church (in a blue box by the table)
- Maxine Simms Tel: 702942, Larks Gate, Green Lane, Dockenfield
- Janette Platt Tel: 794664, Coombe Cottage, Bealeswood Lane, Dockenfield
- Lesley Rosling Tel:794090, Longridge, Batts Corner, Dockenfield
- Karen Nockels Tel: 0794 127 2536, 4 Beacon Close, Wrecclesham, GU10 4PA

Items for collection: Cereal, Tinned Soup, Baked Beans, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Biscuits, Teabags, Coffee, Sugar, Long Life Milk, Pasta, Rice, Instant Mash Potato, and Cooking Sauces.

Carry on giving!

**Lesley Rosling and Janette Platt**

*In a separate note Jane Walker talks of her enthusiasm for the project and praises the 'super response' for the pre-Christmas Food Bank. She goes on to request 'generous support' for the Aldershot Foodbank as that town has been recently highlighted in the press as one of the most poor and deprived areas in the country.*

## **Press Ganging: clearly the way forward for Dockenfield**

One victim of the winds that blew through the village before Christmas was the Tree. Carefully raised and decorated on the Sunday, it was down again by the following Saturday and a working party was urgently needed to return it to its former position. Early the next morning a good crowd of men assembled to put the tree back up. And then more men arrived. And then yet more.

And the secret behind this large assembly of village menfolk? Each one of us had been tapped firmly on the shoulder the night before whilst we had a pint in our hands at the Bluebell Christmas Party.

## **Do they know something we don't?**

The European elections take place on 22 May. Ahead of that there is bound to be lots of debate about the advantages or otherwise of being part of the European Community. Now whilst it is not DNL's role to become involved in the politics of it all, I do have some evidence that the UK may have become more absorbed into continental Europe than has so far been appreciated.

Debbie and I had just parked up in the National Trust car park at the White Cliffs of Dover, ahead of a walk along the cliff path. Simultaneously our mobiles sprang into life. Now we are both on the same (Vodafone) tariff and so the text we received was identical: 'Welcome to France' it said.

## **Three misses don't make a hit**

Three people, including myself, proof read the last edition of DNL. And we all missed the typo on page 15. Under the headline 'The Last Word' the text should have read, 'Did you know that the word Goodbye is a contraction of the words 'God be with ye (you)''? But I typed 'contradiction' rather than 'contraction'. Thank you to everyone who pointed this out, which certainly proves you read right to the very end of DNL.

## **'Hope is the thing with feathers'.....**

I am writing this in early January, hoping that by the time you read it the worst of the storms and the floods will have abated. There is still a way to go before winter has done with us, though. And if we find winter trying, think of the birds. However, the shortest day is well behind us. Increased daylight registers in birds' brains and stimulates the hormones which will eventually prepare them for the breeding season.

A Song Thrush has been singing loudly from the top of a tree near my house in Rowledge during one of those blessed sunny intervals between the rain and the winds. A Mistle Thrush has been singing from the top of another tree in Frensham, living up to its old country name, Storm Cock, given because of its habit of striking up after wild weather. Great Spotted Woodpeckers have been drumming on trees in nearby woodland, to signal their territorial presence. Tawny Owls have been calling to each other at night. Pairs of Blackbirds and Robins have been foraging and perching together. And of course Robins never quite stop singing, even in winter. Dunnocks, Wrens and Great Tits have begun to strike up intermittently, too.

There has been a small flock of visiting Redwings hereabouts, a real joy for me to watch from my kitchen window, as they poke about for invertebrates on the green, and feast on the holly and ivy berries in a neighbour's garden. They belong to the Thrush family and look like slightly stocky Song Thrushes, with pale eye-stripes and red flanks and under-wings. They frequently migrate here from Scandinavia and Western Europe, for our milder winters and better chances of plentiful feeding opportunities.

An unusual excitement this year has been the appearance in Frensham of a Glossy Ibis, an elegant wader which breeds in scattered sites across southern Europe, Africa, Australia and the Americas. It is a long, slim bird with brown plumage which gleams green and purple in sunlight. Glossy Ibises are migratory, and the European birds often winter in Africa, but individuals from the Spanish colony increasingly occur across the UK, and colonies have established themselves in the Somerset Levels, and in Norfolk. So far no Glossy Ibises have been known to breed here, but their cousins, the Spoonbills, have done so, and it may be that Glossy Ibises will do so in time. Spoonbills are known to have been British residents in the past, but it is less clear whether this has been true of Glossy Ibises. An intriguing clue may be that the Glossy Ibis is sometimes known as the Black Curlew, and there are references to Black Curlews in medieval English texts. They occur in freshwater wetlands, and feed on invertebrates in shallow water. Frensham was able to provide ideal conditions this year!

'Our' Glossy Ibis may migrate back to southern Europe, but our resident birds have the rest of a British winter to survive before the breeding season. We must play our part in making food and clean water regularly available to them.

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers –  
That perches in the soul –  
And sings the tune without the words –  
And never stops – at all –  
And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –  
And sore must be the storm –  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm.*

by Emily Dickinson

**Val Lewis**

### **Waverley is fourth in line**

The Halifax 'Quality of Life' survey has recently announced that Waverley is the fourth most desirable borough in which to live in Britain. Third was South Northamptonshire; second Uttlesford and top was Hart, based around the town of Fleet.

It wasn't that long ago that Fleet was named as the 'sex toy capital' of the UK, but I am sure that is only a coincidence.

### **Old newspapers needed**

There appears to be a shortage of newsprint in 'Upper' Dockenfield and my chickens are shivering as a consequence. If you do have read newspapers spare I would be very grateful to have these.... I can collect. Please call Tel: 794284  
**Jill Trout**  
**(and her grateful hens!)**

### **Sustainable Dockenfield**

Waverley BC is due to launch a new garden waste collection service in the spring. The current sack based subscription service will be replaced by an alternative that uses a wheelie bin. For more details please visit: [www.waverley.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.waverley.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## Salmon 'Three Ways'

I have always liked the idea of finding a recipe (or recipes) that because of its name somehow 'belongs to Dockenfield'. Something like a 'Batts Corner Burger' or a 'Bealeswood Bun'. And, just after Christmas I was talking to **Hugh Evans** (clearly no mean chef, he) who said that he had prepared 'Salmon Three Ways' for a dinner party. Well, hey presto! Hugh has kindly sent in the recipe, which is printed below along with his opening notes and also credits to the original chefs.

### Salmon (prepared) three ways (all served cold on a single plate)

I adapted the recipes from the originals by Philippe Berthoud and Nigel Slater (web links provided below). I was not 100% certain of the quantities in Philippe Berthoud's recipes and basically used enough sugar for a good caramel in the first recipe and whole peppers for the tartar. If you can find what he means by EL, please add the correct quantities. The stated recipes are for 4-6 people but we served as a starter course and I upped the quantities by about 50%, which was sufficient for 15 people.

*(Editor's note: EL and TL are German cooking abbreviations meaning respectively Essloffel (roughly 1 tablespoon) and Teeloffel (roughly 1 teaspoon). Also 1 dl is 1 decilitre = 100 ml or millilitres, therefore 2dl = 200ml and .5dl = 50ml).*

**Salmon cooked in caramel** (from a recipe by Philippe Berthoud <http://philippesrezepte.blogspot.co.uk/2010/12/soon-salmon-three-ways-mousse-tartar.html>)

#### Ingredients

4 pce. of salmon cut in cubes of 1.5 cm  
8 EL sugar  
2 dl Water  
0.5 dl white wine  
Fleur de sel

**Preparation Method.** Caramelize the sugar to a medium - dark brown in a stainless steel pan. Deglace with the water and white wine, bring to a boil. Add the salmon cubes and let simmer for 3 min. Remove the salmon, place on plate and season with fleur de sel.

**Salmon Tartar with ginger** (from a recipe by Philippe Berthoud):

#### Ingredients

12 EL fresh salmon cut in brunoise (3mm cubes – cut precisely)  
2 EL red bell pepper in brunoise  
1 EL yellow bell pepper in brunoise  
3 TL ginger, grated  
2 TL dill, chopped  
2 EL red onion chopped  
1 TL Cayenne pepper  
Season with salt  
Add all ingredients in a bowl, mix and season

**Salmon and roasted garlic cream** (from a recipe by Nigel Slater - [http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/salmon\\_and\\_roasted\\_40602](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/salmon_and_roasted_40602)).

#### Ingredients

1 head of garlic  
100g/3½ oz smoked salmon, sliced  
150ml/5fl oz double cream  
20g/1oz dill, chopped

#### Preparation method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.
2. Bake the whole head of garlic for 30-45 minutes or until the cloves are tender.
3. Pull the head apart and squeeze the contents of each clove, which will now be like a paste, into a food processor.
4. Pour in the double cream and half the dill, and pulse gently to combine.
5. Place the salmon onto the plate. Spoon over the cream and scatter over the remaining dill.

*Thanks Hugh. For those of you that may not know, 'Three Ways' is the name given to the junction of The Street, High Thicket and Bower Hill. And if anyone else knows of other recipes that share a Dockenfield name then do let the Newsletter know.*

## Frensham Christmas Tree Festival

Debbie and I and a total of four generations of her family spent a very happy time at the Festival in early December. And what a perfectly lovely, nay magical, event it was, keeping everyone from ages three to 86 enthralled and entertained. I wanted to write this report myself so that the requisite amount of congratulations can be passed on to Harry and Liz Glover who put so much thought, time and energy into planning and organising the Festival. It is a credit to the Parish and something that they and everybody who helps can be enormously proud of. A colossal amount of imagination also goes into the creation of all the trees and the thanks must be extended wholeheartedly to all the participants. Well done, one and all.

The winning trees were:

First: 'Catastroph-tree' by Amery Vets

Second: 'Forestry' by Frensham Bowling Club

Third equal: 'Have a Mice Christmas' by Millbridge WI and 'Invisibili-tree' by Andrew Glover and Naomi Kerr

As well as giving hundreds of visitors untold pleasure, the Festival raised the wonderful sum of £2,740, 50% of which goes to help fitting out the new church hall (which was put into perfect use for the occasion), with the balance being divided between charities nominated by the decorators of the most popular trees.