

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 236

Published 4 March 2013

Food, Glorious Food

'Tis the season to eat chocolate. And hot cross buns. And bang on cue DNL is full of news of how you can do precisely that with details of yummy Easter Egg hunts at the pub and at the Marindin Hall. And that's not all on the culinary front. To whet your appetite even more there is the return of the Parish Supper, complete with grub and great entertainment; and an innovative fundraising lunch where you get to watch the cooking and eat the food, both at the Good Shepherd. And let's celebrate the return of the Bluebell to village life after so many fears for its future. Diet? What diet? For details on all these events and more, just read on.....**Michael**

Dockenfield Day: how you can help

Dockenfield Day is on **Saturday 1 June** from 2-6pm, continuing in the evening up at the Bluebell. It's always a supercalifragilistic day and here's how you can help make it a roaring success again this year:

Start collecting: We need books, music, DVDs, plants, raffle and tombola prizes, toys (and cakes on the day). See page 5 for drop off points.

Volunteer: We have had a good response to our appeal in the last DNL, but would still appreciate more help. If you're new to the village it's a first class way of joining in and getting to know folk. Please call Seb Fox on 07930 986677 or email: sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk

Gazebos: If you have a gazebo then we would love to borrow it for the afternoon. Please contact Seb as above.

Dress up: The theme this year is 'Cops and Robbers' so it's easy to create a costume. And the more (children *and* adults) we have dressing up the more fun it will be. Start thinking about your costume now.

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; then supper followed by entertainment (to be provided by Hannah Poulson who sings beautifully, accompanied by Will Shaw; the ever engaging duo of Mark Brown and Mike Smith; and finally Gordon Carter with an amusing recital in his own inimitable style); a raffle; an auction and good company! This promises to be a wonderful evening so do please come along and join us.

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**

The story of Icarus

Dockenfield's very own Nicky Godden (Rutherford) is the keynote speaker at the **Annual Parish Meeting** at the Church of the Good Shepherd on **23 April**, when she will reveal the fascinating story behind her creation of the sculpture of 'Icarus' that graced the Olympic Village last year. Full details on page 3.

Fundraising Lunch

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

This fundraising lunch will introduce you to a new, fun way of cooking with food by 'The Pampered Chef'. All funds raised will be in aid of St Mary's new Church Hall. Tickets (including food) are £10; please register in advance with **Morag James** (Tel: 793133 or email: morag.james@btinternet.com) and it will be possible to pay on the door.

Frensham Fayre

Saturday 15 June at Hollowdene

We have been absolutely delighted by the response to our doom laden plea for helpers and can now confirm that Frensham Fayre will be going ahead on Saturday 15 June. Please do come to our committee meetings to give your ideas for a theme and for beneficiaries.

Philippa Hall

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Tuesday, 12 March	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 9
Tuesday, 19 March	11am-1pm	Fund Raising Lunch	The Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Tuesday, 19 March	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 3
Thursday, 21 March	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 9
Wednesday, 27 March	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Thursday, 28 March	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 6
Friday, 29 March	8pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Pages 5 & 11
Sunday, 31 March	Tba	Easter Egg Hunt	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Monday, 1 April	10.30am	Easter Trail	Marindin Hall	Page 10
Saturday, 6 April	2.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society Spring Show	Marindin Hall	Page 6
Tuesday, 9 April	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 9
Thursday, 18 April	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 9
Friday, 19 April	7.30pm	Parish Supper	The Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Tuesday, 23 April	8pm	Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting	Church of the Good Shepherd	Pages 1 & 3
Wednesday, 24 April	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Thursday, 25 April	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 6
Friday, 26 April	8pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Pages 5 & 11
Tuesday, 14 May	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 9
Saturday, 1 June	2pm-6pm	Dockenfield Day and Evening Event (time tba)	Playing Field at Abbotts Cottages, then Bluebell pub	Pages 1 & 5
Saturday, 15 June	11am-5pm	Phyllis Tuckwell Annual Fete	Gostrey Meadows, Farnham	Page 9
Saturday, 15 June	Tba	Frensham Fayre	Hollowdene	Page 1

Dockenfield Newsletter

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of photocopying and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Hard copies of DNL are delivered to approximately 250 households in and around the village and a further 150 or so are emailed on request to predominantly local subscribers. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully. For the next edition **the deadline is 7 May**, 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.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Meeting Dates

Until further notice, Parish Council meetings will be held every 6 weeks rather than every month. This is on a trial basis with the goal of better optimising the efficiency and cost of conducting the Parish Council business, without impacting outcomes. The time and venue will remain unchanged – 8pm in the vestry of the Church of The Good Shepherd.

Everybody is welcome to attend all or part of the meetings. Agendas for meetings will be posted a few days before in both of the bus shelters in the village, detailing the subjects to be covered. The dates of the Parish Council Meetings and agendas will also be on the Parish Council website www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk. Additional details can be obtained from the Clerk, Jackie Hutton (Tel: 790333). The next meeting is on Tuesday **19 March**.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **23 April** at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 7pm. We are very fortunate that the key speaker will be Nicola Godden BA ARBS (Sculptor) who will be giving an illustrated talk on the inspiration and creation of her sculpture of Icarus, made for the London Olympic Games 2012, and displayed in the Olympic Village, Stratford. Everyone is invited to attend. As usual we will receive an update from David Harmer our Surrey County Councillor and a report from our CPRE representative, Colin Hall. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

New Parish Clerk required

Dockenfield Parish Council is looking for a new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to take over the day-to-day administration of the Parish Council. Working from home the hours are flexible (approximately 25 hours per month), with an annual salary of £3,000 plus reasonable expenses. Candidates should have good administration, computing and organisation skills, together with experience of basic accounting. Training is available.

A full job specification is on the Parish Council website at <http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk>. To discuss the role in more detail, please contact Jill Trout (Tel: 794284). The closing date for applications is 22 March 2013.

Dockenfield Parish Council Precept – 2013/14

The Parish Council recently agreed its budget and precept for 2013/14. Whilst it agreed its annual budget to be £6,000 for the forthcoming year, the Councillors felt strongly that this should not result in an increase in the precept (the amount of money collected through Council Tax).

Accordingly, it agreed to fix its precept at £4,938, will be receiving a grant of £88 from Waverley Borough Council, and draw on £974 of its own reserves. This will result in a 0% change to the Parish Council's precept on residents' Council Tax bills for the forthcoming year.

Jacqueline Hutton

'No Gain without Pain' isn't true anymore

The truth is, I used to dread going to pilates. Oh, sure, it did my back and my general well being the world of good, but I used to find it mind numbingly dull. In fact it was so predictable, that I could tell the time by what exercise we were doing. Not any more though, not since the new tutor hove into view. Her name is Christine and she is absolutely the bee's knees; makes the evening fun as well as great for mind and body. Better yet, she is trained by pilates instructor extraordinaire Belinda Buttery who lives in The Street and who also oversees the administration. All of the folk who attend are local too, so chances are that you will know most of the people there, which makes the whole thing very social. Nor is it the exclusive preserve of ladies, with a fair percentage of men there as well.

Pilates takes place at the Good Shepherd every Monday evening at 7.45. Its £8 per session, but you can opt out of individual weeks if you know (at the beginning of each 6 week period) you can't make some dates and you just pay £1 holding fee. So that's fair too. Want to join in? Best not just to pitch up, but get in touch with Belinda in the first instance on Tel: 794423.

Shipwrights Way

On Sunday 24 March the new section of this long distance path will be opened, running from Liss, Hampshire north to Liphook or south to Petersfield. The starting point and map details can be found in the website below.

The official opening carried out by Damian Hinds, MP, and will commence at 10.00 am when walkers, cyclists and horse-riders will be able to try out the route. For more information including maps and timing see www.shipwrights.org.uk. All are welcome. Cath. Hart is the Shipwrights Way Project Officer.

Jill Trout

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 Cousins family we have had a good result so far. As spring fast approaching and thoughts moving 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

News from our local Police Officer

Local thefts. Fortunately winter is now coming to an end and spring is in the air. The nights are becoming shorter and hopefully temperatures will start to rise. As I am sure you will appreciate, thieves and burglars like the long winter nights as these give them more time and opportunity to rummage around fields, drives and gardens without the risk of being seen or heard. During the long hours of darkness, between Thursday and Friday 7-8 February, two local residents of Dockenfield became the victims of crime.

The first recorded incident involves the theft of a Kawasaki hedge cutter which was taken from the tack room connected to a stable block. The owners were away on holiday, at the time, and their gardener noticed that the door to the tack room had been forced open on the Friday morning. We then had to wait for the owners to return home to confirm if anything had been stolen or not. After checking their possessions they noticed that their hedge cutter was missing. In view of this I would like to again promote the virtues of audible alarm systems. Relatively cheap alarms can be fitted to sheds, garages and outbuildings. Many of these are powered by batteries so do not require an electrical supply. Very few thieves have the bottle to hang around once an alarm is activated.

The second recorded incident involved the theft of a garden bench and two coats that were removed from an unlocked car that was parked on the local resident's driveway. Please can you all ensure that you lock your cars and close all windows whenever and wherever you park?

If anyone can recall hearing or seeing anything suspicious during the late night/early morning of that Thursday or Friday can you please call Surrey Police on 101 and provide us with any information that you may have. If you haven't already done so, please check your sheds, garages and outbuildings to make sure that these unwanted visitors have not been poking around. If you find that you have been a victim of crime then please report it to us using the 101 number.

Beware of scams. We have all seen the media reports regarding the many scams out there where unscrupulous individuals try to part us from our hard earned cash by promising us large sums of money, which we were previously unaware of.

I have recently dealt with a case where a local resident was being inundated with telephone calls from a company claiming that she was entitled to a lump sum payment of over £3,500. Supposedly this sum included premiums she had wrongly paid to Payment Protection Insurance. In order to claim the above lump sum all she needed to do was pay an administration charge of £188. The administration charge was to be paid in the form of a Ucash Voucher which could be bought from a local convenience store. Ucash is a legitimate arrangement allowing you to exchange your cash for a unique code which you can then use to either send or spend cash online.

The company in question claimed that they would not take the administration fee until after the lump sum cheque was hand delivered to our local resident; however, they needed the last 9 digits of the unique code just to ensure that she had the correct voucher in her possession. Our resident was rightly very suspicious about this as she could not recall ever taking out Payment Protection Insurance and called me in to discuss her concerns. I subsequently spoke to the National Fraud and Internet Crime Reporting Centre, who are responsible for dealing with issues of this nature. They are well aware of this particular company and the scam they have been operating.

With regard to the Ucash voucher, they explained that you only need the last 9 digits of the unique code as the digits before this are the same on every voucher. Therefore had our local resident given them this information then she would have been out of pocket to the tune of £188 with no sign of the promised lump sum.

If you have received any phone calls or emails offering you an unexpected windfall then please contact the National Fraud and Internet Crime Reporting Centre to check out if the claim is genuine or not. Their phone number is 0300 123 2040. Alternatively you can visit their website www.actionfraud.police.uk. I appreciate that some of our readers will have already seen the above in the latest edition of the Frensham Parish Magazine. However, I think that this message needs to be included in the Dockenfield Newsletter to ensure that it reaches as many people as possible.

Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 7 January to 27 February 2013. In addition to the two crimes mentioned above, we also have a further theft when 500 litres of Red Diesel was stolen from some storage tanks in a local field.

PCSO 14088 John Francis, Police Community Support Officer Farnham Safer Neighbourhood Team Tel: 101 Ext 30076 www.surrey.police.uk

Dockenfield Day: it would be a crime to miss it!

It's absolutely the unmissable village event of the year. Dockenfield Day: **Saturday 1 June**. And this year the event will be going through the evening with a full programme of food and entertainment up at the Bluebell, so make sure you are around for both parts of the day.

Dockenfield Fete

2-6pm at the Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages

There's nothing quite like our fab village fete, with its wonderful local feel, traditional entertainment and happy, relaxed atmosphere. This year we have all the stalls you know and love, plus the return of the dog show, live music and some exciting new attractions. The theme for this year is 'Cops and Robbers'. Why? Well its in celebration of the highwayman Batt, who legend has it, was hanged at Batts Corner. And also because it's the 50th anniversary of the Great Train Robbery (8 August 1963, since you ask). There will be games and events that illustrate the theme and we'd love everyone to dress up as either a cop, robber or better yet a highwayman (horses are optional); we'd also like to open the day with a short parade of all the children in their costumes, so the more who can dress up, the better. Lots of ideas to choose from there, so put your thinking caps on and decide on your costume.

Dockenfield Day Evening Party

The fun just keeps on going in the evening up at the Bluebell with live music, dancing, and a special menu dedicated to the day, with the pub continuing the 'cops and robbers' theme.

Full details of the fete and the evening event will appear in the next DNL out early in May

Please join in

It would be just great to see you at both events, and do bring your friends and families too. And you will have seen from the front page that there are many ways in which you can assist on the day. Please contact Seb Fox if you can help out in whatever capacity. In the meantime do please start collecting all those items that make our stalls so successful. The drop off points are shown below.

Drop Off Points

Garden Plants	Dan Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792442
Tombola Prizes	Jackie Hutton, Goose Cottage, Green Lane	Tel: 790333
Books/DVDs/Music	To be advised	
Raffle Prizes	Debbie Foster, Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792142
Toys	Rob and Sarah Cregeen, Ivy House, The Street	Tel: 792901
Cakes on the Day	Daryl Fox, Drift House, The Street	Tel: 792080

Events at the Bluebell

After last Friday's 'official' opening party the Bluebell is now fully up and running and so perhaps this is a good moment to recap on what you might expect to find when you visit and what special events are in the pipeline.

Bar opening hours: Monday–Thursday 11am-3pm and 6pm-11pm; Friday 11am-3pm and 5pm-11pm; Saturday and Sunday 11am- 11pm.

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

Menu: The chef, Simon Rix, is developing a menu that ensures that the most popular dishes are always available, but that will otherwise change every week. There will be a more extensive children's menu.

Sunday Lunch: A choice of three roasts at £9.95, or £5.95 for children.

Mother's Day (10 March): A special three course lunch at £19.95, plus a flower for mum. (A lot of bookings have already been made, so please call to reserve).

Music Nights. Friday **29 March:** 'The Charley Farley Sunday Four', a local band that Robin has hired before and who have always packed his pubs to the rafters. Friday **26 April:** Band to be confirmed.

Easter Sunday (31 March): There will be an Easter Egg Hunt. Please contact the pub for details.

The garden: The pub is working on plans to rebuild the play area and make it dedicated to younger children and will be working closely with the immediate neighbours in developing their ideas.

Contact: Keep in touch with the Bluebell on their new website: www.bluebell-dockenfield.com or Tel: 792801.

The view from the throne

A friend in the village tells me how much he enjoys the Newsletter. '*Great bog reading, Michael*' is his verdict. Well, I guess I should be thankful for small mercies. At least he didn't ask if the pages could be perforated.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Meetings on Thursdays 28 March and 25 April at 8pm and the Spring Show on 6 April at 2.30 pm, all at the Marindin Hall

I sometimes wonder whether we ought to call ourselves a 'gardening club' rather than a 'horticultural society'. Either way we offer a variety of talks, trips and (usually) two shows a year to anyone who is interested in gardening (even just sitting in one). Our 2013 programme is stuffed with gripping speakers as you will have seen from the last Parish Magazine. You are very welcome to join us in the Marindin Hall at 8pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month. If that is a step too far then why not come along to the Spring Show on the 6 April. You will see the hall filled with an enormous variety of spring flowers and shrubs together with a few vegetables, photographs and cakes. Talking of cakes you will also be able to sample the most delicious home-made cakes and tea. We are a friendly club too we would never leave you feeling like a wall flower (sorry).

Other events this year are an afternoon on garden and plant photography in the grounds of Fittleworth House, near Petworth, given by Mark Saunders the Head Gardener and a Social Evening on Propagation and Seeds. These evenings are particular fun – they include a Ploughman's Supper and it allows us to really learn from members who really should be on television gardening shows (in my opinion!)

And if you think you might like to join us the cost is £15 for single membership or £25 for joint. For this you have a nearly monthly newsletter filled with gems of gardening information, 6 talks, 2 shows and a lot of fun. Oh yes – and a discount in many different local companies:

Andrews of Hindhead, Hindhead – 10%; J & M Garden Machinery, Churt – 5%; Lindsey-Clark Brothers, Churt – 10%; Millais Nurseries, Churt – 10%; Seale Nurseries, Seale – 10%; Secretts Garden Centre, Milford – 10%; Springfield Nursery, Oakhanger – 10%; Little Acres Nursery, Badshot Lea (closed at present, may be open for spring bedding).

The next two speakers meetings are:

Thursday 28 March John Negus – Home grown's best (Vegetables)

Thursday 25 April R. Thornton – Plant hunting

Always 8pm in the Marindin Hall

Saturday 6 April, Spring Show – 2.30pm, Marindin Hall (Organiser: Annette Clayson)

There are 6 Open Classes in the Spring Show which anyone, whether they are a Member of the Society or not, can enter. These are:-

Class 31 A container of mixed garden flowers – number of stems and varieties at exhibitor's discretion (may include shrubs in flower, but not foliage).

*Class 4 An arrangement in a teacup and saucer.

*Class 32 A container of mixed garden flowers.

*Class 41 Home Industries - Butterfly cakes – 3 on a plate.

*Class 42 A painting of an Easter egg.

*Class 46 Photography - Frosty Morning.

* Juniors aged 15 and under.

Entries must be delivered to the Marindin Hall, Millbridge between 8.45am and 10.15am on the morning of the Show. All flowers must have been grown in the entrant's garden or allotment. The Show is open to the public from 2.30pm-4.00pm and the prize giving is at 3.45pm. If you have any questions, please contact either Annette Clayson on 01252 726618 or Suzanne McLean on 01252 792231.

Annette Clayson

Cherubs: Dockenfield and Frensham's Baby and Toddler Group

We are delighted to report that we have seen an increase in numbers over the last year, ensuring our local group continues to thrive. Many parents and carers who have recently moved in to the area – and even some who are planning to move into the area – have braved coming along and by all reports have thoroughly enjoyed the craft and music activities we provide for the little ones and the welcome tea, coffee and biscuits for adults.

Cherubs, Dockenfield and Frensham's baby and toddler group, runs from 9.30am to 11am on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month during term time at the Church of the Good Shepherd. We have a variety of baby and toddler friendly toys, craft tables and a group music session. To keep energy levels up we provide a healthy snack time for the children and refreshments for adults. Joolz Miles and I run this group voluntarily and budget hard to provide all this for only £2 per family per session.

If you have children aged 0-4 and want to keep them occupied for an hour or so and meet other local parents and carers do come along to our friendly, informal and welcoming group. Just come along or email catherinekeer@aol.com or joolzmiles@aol.com for further information.

Catherine Kneller

Letters to the Editor

The Dockenfield Friendship

On 26 January we lost our beagle in Alice Holt Forest and I hasten to say that she eventually did come back. Before that joyous reunion it was getting dark and since we were desperate I decided to use a local email list to alert people in Dockenfield.

I remember when we moved to Bealeswood Lane 9 years ago we were amazed to be welcomed with such warmth. That Dockenfield friendship has lasted and when I sent out my 'alert' about Poppy having gone missing it was only minutes before offers of help came in- 'where in the forest had we lost her?'. There were several offers of going to the forest in the morning to look for her and general supportive comments, both before and after we found her from people we knew well and also from some we have never met.

It is a privilege to live here and to know that help is near when it is needed. Thank you everybody. **Lene Tegldal**

Quite a welcome

I'm glad to say that on our arrival at Bowlers Farm we were given your latest edition of DNL. We've been enjoying all the information and it's a great way to find out about what's happening for us newbies. We will certainly be along for the drinks at the Bluebell to introduce ourselves fully.

Our arrival coincided with that of the snow - and we'd like to thank all the neighbours and passers by who welcomed us with bottles of wine, snow shovels and tow ropes. Thanks to them we eventually got our car back on the road! It was quite an introduction to the area.

Dickon and Jane Le Marchant

Comings...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to

- Dickon and Jane Le Marchant and their sons Thomas (6), Samuel (4), and William (10 weeks, as at the beginning of February) who have moved into Bowlers Farm, Boundary Road

...goings...

A very fond farewell to

- Rod and Judy Dadak who have moved from Bowlers Farm to Milland after many happy years in the village. Whilst they were here they both were good friends to Dockenfield and the wider Parish, helping out at many village events such as Dockenfield Day, and until their move Judy was Chairman of the local Support Group for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

...and Congratulations

- Phillip Nangle and Claire Jackson, formerly of 5 The Old Convent in Old Lane will tie the knot on 5 May in Marlow, surrounded by Dockenfield friends and family.

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

Hot Dates

Got the diary (or the mobile phone) handy? Good because you are going to have to look lively in the next few weeks with some dates you won't want to miss, and others that you *dare* not miss. Here we go.

You will want to remember

15 March: Red Nose Day
17 March: St Patrick's Day
20 March: The first day of Spring
29 March-1 April: Easter
23 April: St George's Day
6 May: Bank Holiday Monday

You dare not forget

10 March: Mothering Sunday
31 March: Clocks go forward one hour
1 April: April Fool's Day
1 June: Dockenfield Day

Baby please don't go

Thinking of leaving the village? Well don't is my advice. Why so? Well after each new edition I often hear from readers who no longer live or are involved with the village but like to keep in touch by reading DNL. And this last month I have had an exceptional 'post bag' including four missives from which the following are quotes

'I still keep Dockenfield in my heart having lived there for 20 years'

'We do miss you all, I know we are only a few miles away but 'it's just not the same!'

'It's good to keep in touch with what's happening in the village, I so miss it'

'Thank you for another excellent DNL, which always makes me homesick!'

Worried about petrol prices?

The price of fuel has been going up recently and is expected to rise further in the coming weeks. So did you know that you can find the cheapest forecourt by using the free website Petrolprices.com? Enter your postcode and say how far you are willing to travel and it will list the cheapest options.

The Tit Family

Over the centuries the term 'tit' has been given to any small bird. (Come to think of it, we still speak of titbits and call small people 'titch'.) We are a little more scientific now, but some of the old names linger.

The members of the Tit family which we see locally include Great Tits, Blue Tits, Coal Tits, and occasionally Marsh Tits. They are well-liked little birds, popular for their attractive plumage, for their acrobatic antics on the feeders we hang up, and for their readiness to nest in our gardens, either in the nest-boxes we provide, or in our post-boxes or other less convenient places.

The **Great Tit** is the slightly bigger one (13 -15cms), with white cheek patches, a smart black head, nape and throat, and a black band (broader in the male) down the pale yellow chest. The underparts are also pale yellow, and the back is green. The wings are blue-grey with white bars. Great Tits are notable for having a surprisingly wide variety of calls, as well as the classic 'teacher, teacher,' which is so familiar. Experienced birders, if puzzled by an unfamiliar call, will often decide that it must come from a Great Tit.

The **Blue Tit**, also known as Tom Tit and Jackie Blue-Cap, is smaller (10 -12cms), with white cheek patches, black eye-stripes, and a blue cap. This cap apparently reflects ultra-violet to other birds, especially in alpha males, who are therefore more attractive to females. The chest is yellow with a narrow black stripe, and the underparts are also yellow. The back is green and the wings are blue with white bars. Blue Tits are especially fond of caterpillars in Spring and Summer, and last year they apparently consumed useful numbers of the caterpillars of the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner Moth which have been damaging the leaves of Horse Chestnuts and causing the trees to produce smaller conkers.

The **Coal Tit** is smaller still (10 – 11 cms) and is less colourful than its bigger cousins. It has white cheek patches, a black cap and throat, and a white patch on the nape of the neck. When a Coal Tit is alarmed you may notice a tiny crest rise from the back of its head. The chest and underparts are grey-buff, with no stripe. The back and wings are blue-grey, and the wings have white bars.

All three of these common Tits co-exist amicably on our bird tables and feeders. The Great Tit heads the pecking order, but the Blue Tit is well able to hold its own. The Coal Tit tends to fly in to a feeder, take food, and fly off with it. Ornithologists tell us that the Coal Tit has learned to store food, so what it doesn't eat immediately it adds to a stash for future use.

The **Marsh Tit** is an occasional visitor to our gardens, and may easily be confused with the Coal Tit. It is slightly bigger (11 – 13 cms) with a bigger head. It has white cheek patches, a small black bib, and a black cap with *no white patch* on the nape of the neck. The chest and underparts are buff and the back and wings are light brown. Despite its name, the Marsh Tit usually inhabits deciduous woods, where it prefers lower levels of tree and shrub growth, and will often feed on the ground. It will visit bird tables in winter, when seeds and insects are in short supply in the wild. It closely resembles the **Willow Tit**, which prefers coniferous forest and mixed woods near rivers and marshland. The Willow Tit is not often seen in local gardens.

The **Long-tailed Tit** is one of the prettiest birds we see, but it is not actually a Tit! However, it does belong to the same larger grouping as Tits which also includes Warblers, Swallows and Larks. Bird genealogy is more complicated than it seems! It is an indication of our affection for the Long-tailed Tit that it has been given a range of country names, including Titmouse, Barrel Tit and Bum Barrel. During the recent wintry days we have seen more Long-tailed Tits than usual in our gardens, and they give us special pleasure when they appear, usually in little family flocks, to feed, to flit about, and to disappear again, all in a few moments. The Long-tailed Tit does not nest in holes or nest boxes, like its cousins, but both parents make an exquisite dome-shaped nest with a tiny hole, and they line it with literally thousands of feathers, lichens and spiders' webs. Now could you do that?

Avian Pox, a viral skin infection which shows up as unsightly growths on the head, neck and at the base of the wings of an affected bird, has been recorded in British garden birds, including Sparrows, Starlings and Dunnocks, for several years. Recently it has spread to Tits, mostly Great Tits. The growths are like pink or grey warts. Where they are small the affected birds seem to be able to feed and move about normally, and the growths may recede in time. Larger growths, however, may impede a bird's ability to see, feed, or move about, and it may then starve, be subject to predation, or pick up other infections. *There is no treatment which could be given to a wild bird, and we should not try.* What we can do is keep our bird tables and feeders clean and regularly disinfected, and clean out bird baths daily and refill them with clean water. The RSPB, the BTO and the Institute of Zoology at Oxford University are investigating Avian Pox.

All our visiting Tits enjoy peanuts, fat and sunflower hearts, especially during the winter when their usual foods such as insects and seeds are not sufficiently plentiful. So do please keep feeding the birds regularly, and providing clean water, especially in the nesting season - and throughout the year. When, later in the year, they don't need our supplies so much they will appear in our gardens less frequently – but they will continue to visit us for the valuable supplements we provide.

Val Lewis

'The Night I Danced with Rommel'

Those of you who have lived in the village for more than ten years may remember Liz Marrion who lived with her husband David at Goose Cottage in Green Lane from 1992 to 2002. Liz was a very active member of the community, establishing the Dockenfield Joggers as well as being Chairperson of the Activities Committee, during which time the children's Christmas Party was first established.

Well Liz has turned author and her first book 'The Night I Danced with Rommel' is now out. It is an historical novel, based on her mother's true story, and written with the encouragement of the office of Manfred Rommel (Field Marshal Rommel son). The story starts when 'Hilde' leaves East Prussia at the tender age of 14 to start work as a housekeeper in Berlin in 1926.

Liz is now working on a second book, a sequel called 'The Liverpool Connection', which again is set during and after World War II. 'The Night I Danced with Rommel' is now out on Amazon. It can also be bought as printed book at the publisher www.lulu.com or Liz has some stock. The Kindle price is £1.99 and the printed book is £6.99. Her website is <http://elisabethmarrion.yolasite.com>

Alice Holt Community Forum

You may have seen that the Government has responded favourably to the Independent Panels report on the future of our forests. The full response contains some weasel words about the future, but so far so good. The Forum will be discussing the Government response at the next Forum meeting in April.

Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

We are continuing to make good progress with the restoration, including holly clearance, tree planting and path works and we now have signs up to welcome you to the arboretum! The picnic benches are now in place, so pop along with your sandwiches and coffee flask and have a look round. The next volunteer working parties are 17 March, 21 April, 19 May and 16 June. 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

Frensham & Dockenfield Support Group for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

Support Group News

Judy Dadak, having moved from the area, has resigned as Chairman and is no longer involved with the support group. Anne Maxwell (anne@thamesdistillers.co.uk) and Trisha Everett (tobyeverett@hotmail.com) have taken over for the time being. From September this year Tessa Russell (davtess@aol.com) will be taking over as Chairman of the committee. As we have mentioned before we are always looking for new members of the support group.

Phyllis Tuckwell Annual Fete: Saturday 15 June

This year the Fete is again being held at Gostrey Meadows Farnham from 11am to 5pm and the Frensham and Dockenfield Support Group will be running a Cake and Savoury Snack Stall. We are always well supported by villagers and once again we are asking for your kind support. Contributions of any cakes, savouries, jams, marmalade etc., or donations towards the cost would be much appreciated.

More information in the next Newsletter.

Judy Dadak

Listen out for the Cuckoo

This spring do please listen out for the sound of the cuckoo and let the Newsletter know when and where you first hear it. It's not a race, although it's always interesting to learn when the first one is heard. But it's equally interesting to know the different times at which the cuckoo appears in the four corners of the Parish. Just email: michael.foster66@btinternet.com with your news and I will print the details in the next DNL. Many thanks.

Village Lunch Wednesdays 27 March and 24 April, 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 the Dyslectic Centre and Bell's Piece respectively.

Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group Tuesdays 12 March, 9 April and 14 May, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The next three meetings will be
12 March: 'Rural life in the early 20th century' by Tim Winter.
9 April. 'Farnham through the lens'; a slide show by Ron Moffatt.
14 May. 'Customs and folklore of Farnham' by Matthew Alexander.

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

Millbridge WI Thursdays 21 March and 18 April 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall

The next two events of the WI are:
21 March: 'Dylan Thomas' by Jonathan Jones
18 April: 'Melting Ice and Climates' by Dr Colin Summerhayes

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

News from the Village Shop

Curries from Home – if you haven't yet tried them, you've missed a treat! Malini will be offering her delicious range of curries at a tasting at the shop on **Friday 8 March** from 12 noon.

Spring Dry Cleaning Special – 25% discount. During April on all curtains and loose covers sent to The Master Cleaners through the Village Shop.

Newspapers. Following the closure of the Rowledge newsagent, and the welcome additional newspaper sales, there are significantly increased demands on the volunteers at the weekends to prepare the papers for sale and bundle up the returns when the shop closes. In order to cope with the extra workload, additional Volunteers are urgently needed to help out. It could require as little as **30 minutes** of your time once a month to help us provide this important service to the community. (And you could be first in the queue for your paper!). Please call Jane Beales on Tel: 790306 or Harry Glover on Tel: 797827 to let them know you will be able to help.

Sadly, **Francesca** has written from Oxford to say that she will no longer be able to supply us with her wonderful selection of flowers. We are actively seeking a replacement, as her offerings have been so popular. If you know of a florist who might be interested, please let us know urgently.

When asked for DNL about his new job, **Paul Wakeman**, our new Shop Manager said, "*I can't believe how fast time has flown, I've been at the village shop now for nearly two months and gradually finding my feet! The whole experience so far has been brilliant! My experience of retail environments is one of targets, expressionless faces of both staff and customers and everything is at a rushed pace. The Village Shop is truly a totally different experience. Everybody who helps out here has been happy and enthusiastic, and I'd just like to say a huge thank you for all their patience as I get to learn the ropes.*

If you haven't come in to say hello yet, it would be great to see you! You can also marvel at how many different goods we sell, ranging from locally produced food to those essentials such as paperclips and chocolate croissants!" He also said it was the best retail job he'd ever had, and that the shop was "*absolutely unique*". Long may it continue!

Mayonne Coldicott

Local gardens open for charity this year

Each year under the National Garden Scheme, local gardens open for charity. This year there are three immediate local gardens that are included: Chestnut Cottage in Boundstone; Crosswater Farm in Churt; and Tilford Cottage in Tilford.

For more details and summer opening dates visit www.ngs.org.uk

Marindin Hall Events

On 1 February a reception was held at the Hall to thank all those people who had contributed materially, or in kind, to the successful restoration work. If you were invited and unable to attend for any reason I would like to take this opportunity to thank you through your valuable Newsletter. In the event we managed to raise nearly £21,000 and completed the works in 18 months. As a result our community benefits from a warmer, brighter and dryer environment in which to pursue their activities.

Overall the Hall is in pretty good shape, but as anyone with an old property will know, one can never be complacent. We need to be constantly vigilant to possible structural failings if excessive remedial costs are to be avoided. To this end we decided that it would be wise to introduce regular fund raising events. This would give us the chance to build a cash reserve, rather than initiate appeals such as the one recently made. The immediate benefit would be a fund that could be used rapidly to secure matched funding from major grantors in the event of emergency repairs being required.

Through these events we hope to provide fun, entertaining and sociable experiences for our community that, in turn, secures for them the amenity of the Hall for years to come. The next of these events is a family Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 1 April. No fooling, the details are given in the article below and we really hope you can participate. Thank you.

Come and join the Easter Trail Easter Monday 1 April, 10.30am from the Marindin Hall

Meet up with friends and family, follow the Easter Bunny Trail, collect some eggs and have fun.

Come wearing your Easter Bonnet or carrying your Easter Basket (or both!). There will be prizes for all the children 12 years and under. Then prizes for the best teens and adults over 21. Competition entry: £2 for adults, children £1.

Meet 10.30am in the Marindin Hall, and wear your Easter bonnet or carry your Easter basket ready to win a prize. Start with hot cross buns and hot drinks. Enjoy an Easter trail around Hollowdene and Shortfield; follow the map, solve the clues and have fun collecting Easter bunny tokens. This is a pushchair friendly and easy walking route. The return to the Hall and exchange your tokens for chocolate eggs. At the Hall enjoy a hot roll with a sausage or a vegetarian option with relish plus cake and a hot drink. And you can try your luck pinning the tail on the bunny.

Buy your tickets in advance from Frensham Village Shop. Adults - £5, Children (under 13) - £2.50. Buying tickets in advance will help us with catering but they are also available in the door - Adults - £6, Children (under 13) - £3. All proceeds will go to the Marindin Hall Fund.

Malcolm Green

“Ground-DOG Day”

Following a recent dog attack incident on Frensham Common, I thought it might be timely to remind readers of some of the “Doggy do’s and don’ts”. Each year at this time we have to remind visitors of the law regarding the walking of dogs across the Common. Unfortunately, there is a minority who feel that their animals have the right to roam, disturb wildlife, hassle other people/dogs and horses.

Basically, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states that on heathland sites such as Frensham, Hankley and Thursley, all dogs must be on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July. This is to protect rare ground-nesting birds such as the Nightjar and Woodlark. The latter is one of the very few species that has tried to flourish after the devastating heath fire in 2010. They nest in short heather turf where they have good views of approaching predators. If animals such as a wayward dog approach they will depart the nest and return sometime later. Obviously if it was just a single disturbance then the likelihood is that the birds would still nest and raise young successfully.

However, if I were to tell you that on a cold, wet March morning in 2008, 63 dogs were walked from the Priory Lane car park alone – not in one day, but in just a three hour spell! Multiply that by the day, week and month. Add in other factors such as better weather, higher visitor numbers in summer, the increase in dog walkers at Frensham due to restrictions on parking at other local commons and you may begin to see that the potential for disturbance is huge, with an estimated 200-300 dogs a day using the site. With that degree of disturbance the parent birds lose confidence in the safety of the nest site, the eggs can get chilled or overheated when left unattended for any length of time, and predators, such as crows, see where they are nesting and take the eggs or chicks.

The wetter than average summer of 2012 contributed to only one pair of woodlarks successfully breeding at Frensham. Therefore I am appealing to everyone who walks a canine companion, across any of our local protected heaths, to consider the impact of the presence of not only their dog, but the hundreds of other that are there too. Throwing a ball into the heather for Fido to find might be great fun and exercise but it could also directly lead to the death of young rare birds. This simple rhyme might help you...

“ From March to July, a lead will apply”.

Pass it on to friends, family, and other people you walk with or see walking dogs off the lead during this time. Between us we really can make a difference to the lives and numbers of one of the common’s most prolific songsters.

Steve Webster – Countryside Ranger, Waverley Borough Council

The ‘village’ website

Don’t forget to visit Dockenfield Parish Council’s website at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk where you can download back issues of Dockenfield Newsletter.

Live Music (and other stuff) at our local pubs

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

The Bluebell, Dockenfield (Tel: 792801, www.bluebell-dockenfield.com)

Live Music

Friday 29 March: ‘The Charley Farley Sunday Four’

Friday 26 April: Band to be confirmed

Other things;

Please see page 5 for more news on the Bluebell.

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

Live Music:

Friday 8 March: ‘The New Andy Steadman Band’

The pub also holds ‘open mic’ nights on the last Friday of every month i.e. **Fridays 29 March, 26 April and 31 May**

The Halfway House, Bucks Horn Oak

(Tel: 01420 22184,

www.halfwayhousefarnham.co.uk)

Live Music

There’s a change to the regular dates for this pub’s live music. In March it will be on the last Saturday of the month and from then on they switch to the first Saturday. So the first one in this new sequence will be at the beginning of May. Bands as yet unconfirmed.

Other things

Quiz on the second Thursday of every month

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Friday 15 March: The Rough Ditch Band

Friday 19 April The Rough Ditch Band

Other things

Curry night is the first Saturday of every month; Food Theme Nights: Sat 16 March – Irish; Sat 27 April - South African. St Patrick’s Day (Sunday 17 March): lunch and music with an Irish touch.

Cherry Tree, Rowledge (Tel: 792105)

No live music but there are two things you might like to know. Firstly Manda Barnes from Dockenfield is the chef there, and Elaine (the landlady) says Manda has had an ‘*accolade from Marco Pierre White no less*’. And secondly the pub is holding Charity Quiz on **Saturday 23 March** on behalf of The Rowledge Village Fayre. It is £5 a ticket, available from the pub or the village stores, max four persons per team, and those who enter are offered Manda’s homemade Angus Beef chilli-con-carne for £3.75.

Wild Swimming

Following on from my article in the last edition (page 7, edition 235) about the group of hardy individuals that swim throughout the winter in Frensham Great Pond, I had a look in a book entitled 'Wild Swimming' by Daniel Start which describes '150 hidden dips in the rivers, lakes and waterfalls of Britain'. Sadly there are very few to be found in the south of the country, but Frensham Pond is one of them. Here is what Daniel has to say about it

'I first glimpsed Frensham Great Pond on a foggy summer afternoon with the smell of reeds and heath in the air and the crunch of dry heather underfoot. Placid and fat, dark columns of cumulus clouds were rising high above it and two clinker dinghies were moving languidly near a far bank.

You'd be forgiven for not getting too excited about the prospect of natural swimming in Surrey, but it does have its wilder pockets. Strangely it's the most wooded county in England, which means less nitrates from farmers and less watershed pollution. Much of its downland is protected within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the ancient chalk ridgeway of the North Downs runs across its hills.

The clouds above me were on the turn, stacking up against the hills, the heathland pines deep green against the grey of a pre-storm sky as I slipped gingerly into the mauve waters of Frensham Great Pond. A cheery moorhen paddled some distance from me before she took up a frantic taxi across the waters to become airborne and the first rain began to fall. A kaleidoscope of concentric circles rippled across the glassy surface as I glided on through the cooling waters, the humidity purged from the day.

This shallow, warmish (*not when I swam in December!*) lake has two bays with natural sandy beaches marked out for swimming. Built as a fish pond by the Bishop of Winchester when he took up a prolonged stay at his nearby castle at Farnham in 1246, it was drained every five years to cleanse it and to grow barley. The last time it was emptied however was in 1942, during the Second World War, as it had become a great moonlit landmark for German bombers.'

Hair today.....

Louisa Fox's promise to have her long hair cut to raise funds for a trip to Africa (see 'Less Locks Fox' on page 4 of the last edition) was followed up by a photographic article in the Farnham Herald, which I am reproducing below.

'A Docketfield teenager has donated 12 inches of her precious locks to the Little Princess Trust, in exchange for sponsorship money towards a humanitarian trip to Zambia. Louisa Fox, a 16-year old pupil at Tormead School in Guildford, hopes to travel to Africa with her school later this year to work with local communities, paint classrooms and meet the local population. And to help fund the trip, she decided to support another charity, the Little Princess Trust, by donating much of her waist length hair to the charity and collecting sponsorship money from local friends.

The Little Princess Trust provides real-hair wigs to children who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and relies on the efforts of people such as Louisa to raise money and donate hair. To see a video of Louisa's friends cutting her hair and for information on how to sponsor the local teen's mission visit www.twitter.com/LessLocksFox'

Meanwhile Louisa herself has contacted the Newsletter with the following message:

'Could you add my enormous thanks to everyone in the village who has supported me so generously? I'm pleased to report that 'LessLocksFox' has altogether raised in excess of three-quarters of my Zambia fundraising target! I'm hoping to earn the rest, and so if anyone needs babysitting, waitressing or ironing then I'd be happy to help!'

Louisa Fox (email: loui2106@hotmail.com)

St Mary's extension: taking shape stone by stone

Despite the bad weather through the winter the builders managed to complete all the groundworks and most of the wall is now up to full height. The beautiful stone windows are now in place and the labour intensive and highly skilled task of stone facing the external walls is underway. Work is on schedule for completion at the end of July this year.

Fund raising is going well; we have a continuing programme of fundraising events including the Parish Supper on 19 April and a Ball in the Autumn. We are also delighted to report that we have just been awarded £5,000 by Allchurches Trust Ltd, adding to the £25,000 already awarded by Veolia.

But we need more stones! We are halfway to our 'Sponsor a stone' target but we need lots of Uncut Stones at £5 each and Cut Stones at £20 each so any amount, large or small will be most welcome.

All names will be recorded in a special book to show how many generous people have been part of our project. Details and sponsor forms are available in St Mary's or from the website: www.frenshamchurches.org.uk

Many thanks.

The Fundraising Committee

They're all Batts about Jessie

Miss Jessup is part of village's history-mystery and she's popular on the internet

A lady whose alliterative name is curiously familiar to many Farnham people - Miss Jessie Jessup, who lived at the Post Office, Batt's Corner, Dockenfield, more than a century ago - was probably educated at Batt's Corner School and now her 'fame' appears to be expanding via the internet. Both the post office and the school have long since closed, but it is likely she would have been able to have seen some of the artefacts given to the nearby Frensham School, which had a small museum, founded in 1897.

These artefacts came from 'foreign parts' according to the Frensham Parish Magazine, number 81, dated June 1899, and included such unusual items as examples of parrot fish, cow fish and porcupine fish from the West Indies (presented by Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Combe) and a Dervish sword from Omdurman. This item had been presented by Lieutenant G. Manifold, who, according to the magazine: "*Had recently received Her Majesty's Royal Licence and Authority to wear the insignia of the Imperial Order of the Osmanieh of the fourth class conferred upon him by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt in recognition of his services in Egypt and the Soudan (sic) during the recent campaign.*" Amongst other donations to the Frensham School's museum, as listed in the Parish Magazine, was '*an electric dynamo sufficient to give a light of ten candle power,*' which had been made and given by a Mr. H. Mitchell.

Such wonders of the world could be understood by the children of Frensham, Dockenfield and Batt's Corner in the late 19th century because they could see (and possibly handle) them but what the young Jessie Jessup would find unbelievable now (should she come back from the past for a day in 2013) is that postcards sent to her through the Royal Mail 100 years ago frequently appear for sale on eBay today, via the wonders of science and electronics.

She would also probably be surprised that Mike Andrew, from Farnham, recently bought one of these cards, which prompted him to write to The Farnham Diary in an attempt to find out more about the Jessup family who ran a 'general provisions' shop and bakery in Dockenfield and made deliveries to houses in the area at first with a fleet of carts and horses and later in an early motor vehicle. Mr. Andrew wrote: "*I wonder if your readers can shed any light on Jessie Jessup and the Batt's Corner Post Office? On eBay there are frequently postcards for sale which were originally sent in the early 20th century to Miss Jessup at the post office. She must have collected hundreds of them, as they seem to turn up at a rate of one or more each week. I don't remember seeing a post office at Batt's Corner, so how long has it been gone?*"

"Incidentally, Royal Mail have in fairly recent years, when issuing special stamps with a wildlife theme, provided 'first day covers' for philatelists bearing a Batt's Corner postmark, despite the office being no longer in existence!"

The postcard which instigated Mr. Andrew's research was sent from Hambledon, Hants, on May 12th, 1908.

One detail which has remained constant since the late 19th century are visits to schools by H.M. Inspectors. In June 1899 the Frensham Parish Magazine reported that Frensham School '*has again, as last year, earned the highest grant in every subject attainable*' They also reported that '*Batt's Corner School has been unfortunate during the year, the teacher having been ill for a considerable time. It was later closed by the Sanitary Inspector...*' **This article is reproduced courtesy of The Farnham Diary**

News from Bealeswood Common

I will start by saying a belated thank you to those who turned out for the Bealeswood Common working party back in November. We were very fortunate to have a lovely bright sunny morning which seems all the more improbable now considering the cold, wet and grey conditions that have since dominated. We spent a very productive morning clearing an area of dense and straggly young blackthorn and ash from next to the top of the footpath running up from Lake Lane towards the Bluebell pub. Once a space had been cleared, efforts were put into starting a bonfire, the vital staple of Bealeswood Common working parties, and all the cut material was cleared away and burnt up. The resultant open area not only makes the path more pleasant and inviting to walk along, but also creates a sunny woodland edge habitat for insects and wildflowers. It will be interesting to see if anything takes advantage of it this coming spring.

Despite the best efforts of this current gloomy weather to convince us otherwise, spring is getting ever closer. It's therefore time once again to plan the annual **Bealeswood Common butterfly survey**. Bealeswood Common supports butterfly numbers at odds with its relatively small size. This survey allows us to monitor the health of these populations, and thus the ecosystem which supports them, and the results directly influence future management decisions. Just as importantly, the results are also fed into the UK Butterfly Monitoring scheme where they form part of a much wider picture of the health of butterfly populations across the UK.

I rely entirely on local people to keep this survey going as my commitments elsewhere don't afford me the time to carry it out myself, and I am now looking for a volunteer for this year. If you can spare up to an hour each week from April until September and would like to learn more about these beautiful insects, then please consider putting yourself forward for this role. It's well within everyone's capabilities so please don't be put off if your butterfly knowledge doesn't currently extend beyond the much maligned 'cabbage white', as this really is the best way to learn. Unlike most wildlife recording, you don't have to have any expertise or an inordinate amount of patience to locate your subject, and sightings on virtually every visit are almost guaranteed.

Cont/

Cont/

I will of course accompany you until you have the confidence to go alone and try to cover any weeks you can't do. This success of this survey is completely dependent on local people's goodwill so please do get in touch if think you can help. **Vicky Booth Countryside Ranger - western area, Waverley Borough Council Countryside**
www.waverley.gov.uk/countryside Tel: 792416

250th Anniversary of William Cobbett

William Cobbett (1763-1835) is often referred to as 'Farnham's most famous son' and was certainly the foremost political journalist of his period, fighting for democracy and against political corruption. His most famous work is probably 'Rural Rides' in which he observed how rural life was being impacted by the industrial revolution as he travelled on horseback throughout the south of England.

He was born in what is now the 'William Cobbett' pub in 1763 and maintained an enduring love for Farnham throughout his life. Whilst in virtual exile in America in 1819 he recalled that the town was '*the neatest thing in England and, I believe, the whole world.*' To celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth the William Cobbett Society has arranged a full programme of events and exhibitions, details of which can be found on their website www.williamcobbett.org.uk. You can also visit the special exhibition 'The Life and Times of William Cobbett' which runs at the Farnham Museum (38, West Street. Tel: 715094) from 9 March to 21 December this year.

The King in the Car Park

You will probably have heard about the extraordinary discovery of the body of King Richard the Third underneath a car park in Leicester, over 500 years after his death in 1485 at the Battle of Bosworth. On a much more frivolous level I have thought of this each I have driven round the Shepherd and Flock roundabout in Farnham. Every winter the company that sells sheds and greenhouses near that roundabout puts up a sign with a picture of William Shakespeare accompanied by a slightly bastardised version of the opening lines of the Bard's play 'Richard the Third', as follows: '*Now is the winter of our discount sheds*'. Love it.

SPRING SHOW – ENTRY FORM

Please complete this Form and send it **either** to Annette Clayson, 39 Longhope Drive, Farnham GU10 4SN **or** to Frensham Village Shop, no later than **12 noon on Thursday, 4 April**. Or email the classes you are entering to: annette.clayson@twopenny.com

Name:..... Address:.....

I would like to enter the following Classes (just give the numbers from the list on page 6).

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 would like to make a donation so enclose a cheque for (payable to Frensham PCC)