

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 248

Published 24 March 2015

Looking for great things to do? Boy, have we got ideas for you!

Spring is sprung and the village is coming out of its winter hibernation. And what a wonderful, crackerjack boxful of events we have to greet you as you blink uncertainly in the spring sunshine. First up, in perfect harmony with the seasons, there is the Spring Show, ablaze with colour and fragrance at the Marindin Hall. Then (hurrah for this) comes the welcome return of the wonderful Scarecrow Festival, followed almost immediately and very poignantly by the VE 70th Anniversary Day at the British Legion. And as spring turns to summer Dockenfield and Frensham hold their respective, and very individual, fetes. And you know what? All that lot are free to get into and very family friendly.

There's loads more to do as well, as a glance at the events list on page 2 will tell you. And while you are busy filling up your diary, do find a few minutes to complete the Dockenfield Village Survey. It's your big chance to have your say as to how you see the village (*your village*) evolving in years to come. **Michael**

5th Frensham Scarecrow Festival Bank Holiday Saturday, Sunday and Monday 2, 3 and 4 May, 11am-5pm daily Attention Dockenfield!

As you may have heard, this year will see the return of Frensham's much loved Scarecrow Festival, and we would very much like some Dockenfield Scarecrows to take part!

The theme this year is Movie Characters covering everything from Annie to Superman, Dorothy to James Bond. If you are stuck for ideas, we have a huge list to choose from, but please get applications in early – preferably by 8 April as we already have 40+ scarecrows including Captain Jack Sparrow, Mary Poppins, Elsa from Frozen and a Minion!

The event will run for three days over the May Bank Holiday. Activities will include quiz sheets for adults and children, prizes for best scarecrows, refreshments, raffle, face painting and more to be confirmed. All we need now are scarecrows! If you fancy making a scarecrow, either as a family, individual or group, then please contact frenshamscarescrows@gmail.com or simply fill in a form at The Village Shop. We can also be reached on Tel: 07730 369143 or 01252 790227.

We are also holding a mini scarecrow making workshop at Frensham Royal British Legion on Wednesday 15 April – 9:00 am to 12:00pm – and would really love some help! So if you can spare even an hour do pop along.

Everyone we have since spoken to thinks it would be a great idea! We hope you do too... Many thanks!

Amanda, Felicity, Kerry & Sarah

Village Design Survey

Our Village Design Survey is up on the web-site and available for respondents. If you have completed the survey - thank you; your comments have been useful already. However, we have a way to go to meet our target minimum number and we would like to encourage you to **(1) complete the survey yourself**, (right now!), by following the link set out below, and **(2) talk to your neighbours and badger them until they complete the survey**. You will need to cut and paste this into your browser if you have not received a similar message to this via your email in the last few days:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PDPN3JT>

We especially encourage younger residents to have a go, and, if you can't access the survey via the internet, please call Jessica (the Parish Clerk - 07881 932363), and she will happily provide you with a paper copy. Remember that the village will only reflect what's important to you if you tell us what that is!

Ian McLean

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday, 19 May, 8pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Everything you need to know about what is going on in your village, all in one bite-sized meeting. Its free to get in, there are free refreshments and there will be friends and neighbours to talk to afterwards. What's not to like?

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Wednesday, 25 March	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Thursday, 26 March	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Good Shepherd (note the venue for this month only)	Page 3
Saturday, 28 March	2.30-4pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Spring Show	The Marindin Hall	Page 3
Tuesday, 14 April	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Thursday, 16 April	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Friday, 17 April	7.30pm	Parish Supper	Church of the Good Shepherd	Pages 3 & 12
Tuesday, 21 April	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
Wednesday, 22 April	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Saturday, 25 April	7.30pm	A Spring Concert	St Mary's Church	Page 6
Sat, Sun, Mon, 2,3,4 May	11am-5pm daily	Frensham Scarecrow Festival	Shortfield Common, Frensham	Page 1
Monday, 4 May	3pm	Tea at 3	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 11
Thursday, 7 May	7am-10pm	Parish Council Election and General Election	Your nominated Polling Station	Page 4
Saturday, 9 May	Afternoon onwards	VE Day 70 th Anniversary Commemoration	British Legion	Page 5
Sunday, 10 May	From 10.30am	Car Treasure Hunt	From Frensham Heights School	Page 9
Tuesday, 12 May	7.30pm	Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Thursday, 14 May	7.30pm	Village Shop AGM	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 6
Thursday, 14 May	8pm	Men's Night 'Special'	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Tuesday, 19 May	8pm	Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting	Church of the Good Shepherd	Pages 1 & 4
Thursday, 21 May	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Saturday, 6 June	2-6pm	Dockenfield Day	Abbotts Cottages	Pages 3 & 6
Saturday 20 June	tba	Frensham Fayre	Hollowdene	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 6 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.

Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society
Thursday 26 March, 8pm at the Good Shepherd; and
Saturday 28 March (the Spring Show), 2.30-4pm at the
Marindin Hall

Gardeners are hard wired to the weather as it determines when sowing, planting, harvesting and pruning takes place. So, did anyone notice that last year was the warmest year on record for the UK? Every month was warmer than average (except for August) but, it was also wetter than average, particularly for the Southeast. In addition, the winter has been unusually mild with last December being the third warmest on record. The wildflowers on Bealeswood Common seem to have responded to this with Celandines and Primroses flowering 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. Anyone interested in seeing the northward arrival of spring in the UK as imaged by the first flowering times of the Lesser Celandine through the UK should look at to the website of the Woodlands Trust:

<http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk/map/current.htm?rsid=161&reid=3&ry=2015&rs=S>

Despite this, our first evening talk of the year will be at its normal time 8 pm, Thursday **26 March** but not at the normal venue. Once again, one of our spring meetings will be held in **Dockenfield Church** and will be open to all in the village whether members of the Society or not. The talk will be by Nigel Choat and is called "Wild Surrey". Nigel is a well-known speaker to wildlife groups, photographic societies as well as horticultural groups so we anticipate some high quality pictures and an evening of interest to many people.

This will be shortly followed by the **Spring Flower Show** at the Marindin Hall on Saturday **28 March**. If you have not visited the hall to see them filled with the colours and scents of springs then make a note of this date now. Entry forms for exhibits are to be with the village shop by Thursday 26 March (or bring along to the church in the evening of the 28th- see above). Details of all the Open classes were in the previous issue of this Newsletter and for members in their membership booklet. The hall is open for viewing from 2.30 - 4.00 pm on the afternoon of the show.

Finally, early information for your May diary is a coach trip to two spectacular gardens in northern Kent (Doddington Place and Mount Ephraim Gardens). Again this is open to members or non-members of the Society and we shall have a coach pick up at the Church of the Good Shepherd, as well as Rowledge and Frensham. Details and booking forms will be in our next Society Newsletter. Those interested who are not members of the Society should contact Dan Bosence for details and costs (dwbosence@btinternet.com or phone 792442) **Dan Bosence**

Dockenfield does Disney
Saturday 6 June, 2-6pm at
the Playing Field, Abbotts
Cottages

Let out your inner Anna, Mickey or Mulan! Or what about Aladdin, Pocahontas or Robin Hood? It's time to dress up as your favourite Disney character for Dockenfield Day. There's no shortage of choices of what you can come as, and plenty of opportunity for young and old alike to indulge your imagination for costumes. And whilst we can't offer any Oscars for the best performance, there will be prizes for the best dressed. For more information about this year's event, turn to page 6. **Sebastian Fox**

Listen out for the
Cuckoo

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.

Frensham Fayre

This years Fayre will be held on **Saturday 20 June** at Hollowdene Recreation Ground. Make a note of the date in your diaries now. More details in the next DNL.

Parish Supper

Friday, 17 April, 7.30pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Tickets for this year's Parish Supper at the Good Shepherd have nearly sold out so please apply soon if you would like to come. This year's theme is 'St George's Day' and is in aid of St Mary's Frensham Trust and St Mary's Church Tower appeal.

There is a complimentary glass of wine on arrival followed by supper, and the multi-part entertainment is being provided by Hannah Poulson (who sings exquisitely); the ever engaging duo of Mark Brown and Mike Smith; hand bell ringing and St George himself – aka Gordon Carter - with an amusing recital in his own inimitable style. There will also be a raffle, auction and of course the best of company!

The ticket price is £15 per person and they are only available in advance. If you would like to attend this extremely popular event please complete the booking form (on page 12) and return it to Jane Wood with your cheque payable to 'Frensham PCC'.

Peter James (Tel: 793133)

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting is on **19 May** at the Good Shepherd, starting at 8pm. It is a first class opportunity for everyone in the village to get up to date on the workings of the Parish Council in the last year and to learn of their hopes and plans for the year ahead. The keynote speaker had not been confirmed but he or she will certainly be talking on a subject that will be dear to the heart of the village, whilst there will also be updates from the other aspects of village life including Waverley Council, Surrey County Council, CPRE and Alice Holt, and Bealeswood Common. In fact most if not all aspects of Dockenfield village life that impact us will be covered. Admittance is free, refreshments will be served and we hope to see lots of you there.

Village Survey

The Parish Council feel this is a fantastic opportunity to record the views of the existing population of Dockenfield and the residents on the edge of the Parish who feel part of village life. We are all fortunate to have people who care enough to work on this project which could well protect the village's future in many ways. If you have not done so already, *please* go on line and complete the survey (this can be any number of people in a household). However, if you wish to complete one manually then Jessica Hobday is happy to provide a hard copy. It would be lovely to achieve a good representation of all age groups, including those who may be away at school and university. A few minutes of your time could make a lot of difference!

Next Meeting Dates

The dates for the next three Parish Council Meetings are Tuesdays **21 April**, **19 May** (Annual Parish Meeting, see above) and **16 June** and are held at 8pm in the vestry of the Good Shepherd. Everyone is welcome to attend all or part of each meeting.

Dockenfield Emergency Email List

Anyone wishing to be added to the emergency email list contact the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

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

Chalara dieback of ash – a serious threat to ash trees

Readers may well be aware of a new disease of ash trees that has become prevalent in the south and east of the UK and is also spreading throughout the country. The disease has been termed chalara dieback of ash, or ash dieback, and is caused by a fungus called *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (previously called *Chalara fraxinea*, hence chalara dieback).

Symptoms of the disease are loss of leaves, dieback of the crown and characteristic lesions (browning and blackening) on the bark. Unfortunately, the disease is usually fatal and also weakens trees making them more susceptible to other agents such as honey fungus, a problem familiar to most gardeners. The disease was first noted in Britain in 2012 and it has been monitored ever since. The current distribution can be found by using the following link ([http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/UK_outbreak_map_02-02-15_Map4.pdf/\\$FILE/UK_outbreak_map_02-02-15_Map4.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/UK_outbreak_map_02-02-15_Map4.pdf/$FILE/UK_outbreak_map_02-02-15_Map4.pdf)).

Symptoms on the foliage (browning extending into leaflet veins, followed by drying of leaflets and then extensive dieback) appear in late summer and autumn following infection of leaves by spores of the pathogen earlier in the year. Browning of leaves in the spring and early summer is very unlikely to be associated with Chalara dieback of ash and is usually the result of insect damage. During the winter, signs of dieback on the stems sometimes with diamond-shaped lesions are usually reliable indicators of the disease.

The spores of the fungus can spread for miles on the wind and it is also spread by movement of diseased ash plants. The fungus is being monitored closely and if you think you have seen Chalara symptoms on ash trees in a new area of the country, please report them to the Forestry Commission via their TreeAlert app or on-line

form www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert.

Contributor's name withheld upon request

Can Surrey trump 'Fidget Pie'?

We were visiting friends near Ludlow and whilst there bought a Shropshire delicacy called 'Fidget Pie'. The sales assistant asked me for the names of some recipes in Surrey that were unique to the county. Let me tell you, dear reader, I was stumped for an answer. But help is at hand in the form of a handy little recipe book that I have unearthed on the internet called 'Favourite Surrey Recipes' by A R Quinton which lists 34 recipes including such tasty ideas as Guildford Rolls; Lord John Russell's Pudding; Surrey Roast Chicken; Deptford Pudding; Bread and Butter Pickle; Surrey Lardie Cake; Crystal Palace Pudding; Richmond Eel Pie; Wimbledon Cake; Loving Cup and Sutton Pie.

Events at the Bluebell

New opening times (from 30 March): Monday-Thursday Bar: 12-3pm and 5.30-11pm. *Food* 12-3pm 6-9pm; **Friday and Saturday Bar:** 12-11pm. *Food* 12-3pm and 6-9pm; **Sunday** 12-9pm. *Food* 12-4pm. Please book for food, especially on Sundays. **Special Openings:** the pub is very happy to host coffee mornings, open early for children's evening meals; just call them to make arrangements.

There is a new kitchen team in place: Tom, the chef, has moved on to pastures new, and they are very pleased to be launching their **new menu** which will be in place by the time you read this. The focus will be on fresh local ingredients, including making their own bread and pasta. There will be more fresh greens, plenty of pub favourites and a range of delicious specials.

Taster evening (Thursday 2 April): want to try the new Bluebell menu? Well, tonight's the night. You can enjoy a decent sized sample of 3 mains for just £10. In addition there will be bin-end white and rose wines available at only £8 bottle. The pub will also offer starter, 3 taster mains and dessert for £18. This evening will be bookings only.

Good Value Mondays and Tuesdays: the pub is introducing special £6 main courses on a Monday and Tuesday, lunch and evenings.

Bluebell Loyalty Card: they are going to introduce a loyalty card, based on main meals Monday-Thursday: you get a stamp for each main meal and then get the 6th main free.

Easter Sunday (5 April): they will be serving a special 2 or 3 course meal and be taking bookings for the whole day. Early reservations are suggested.

Easter holidays: their children's play area will be properly open for the holidays; it is intended for children under 8 years old and has swings, slide, play house and sand pit.

'Men's Night': takes place at the pub every 2nd Thursday in the month, so the next dates are **9 April** and **14 May**, starting from 8pm. For the May Men's Night the pub is planning a special evening with wine and cheese tasting. Full details nearer the time or to get onto the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: mark.rosling@bp.com

Contact: keep in touch with the Bluebell on their website www.bluebell-dockenfield.com or Tel: 792801. If anyone would like email updates about events at the pub email info@bluebell-dockenfield.co.uk and ask to be added to their email list. They have a facebook page - Bluebell Dockenfield . *See also article on page 11.*

Events at our other local pubs, clubs and hotels

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

Frensham Royal British Legion (Tel: 793014)

Quiz Night, Saturday 18 April 7.30pm: hosted by Jill Hannan with proceeds going to Farnham Sports Association for the Disabled. Teams of up to six, with a raffle and a light supper. All welcome.

Monthly Music Night, Saturday, 25 April 8pm: Their regular music night featuring a variety of live music.

VE Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration, Saturday 9 May: (afternoon onwards) The Branch committee will be organising a VE Day Open Day, with hopefully a street party, music, food and further attractions. All welcome, especially families and children. **Wi Fi:** There is now a Wi Fi facility available.

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

The Hotel will reopen for both residents and non-residents from 13 April following major improvements. There will be a brand new entrance to the hotel; all the bedrooms will be refurbished, whilst the lounges and dining areas have had a major revamp with modern furnishings. Guests can go along for afternoon tea, lunches and dinner or even if it's just for a cup of tea or a light snack. The hotel will be hosting its first Wedding Fayre on Sunday **26 April** from 11am till 3.30pm.

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Open (Acoustic) Mic Nights: 8.30pm on the last Friday of every month so **24 April** and **29 May**.

Fish and Chip Fridays: to eat in or take away.

Saturday 28 March: quiz night on in aid of the Rowledge Village Fair.

Easter: they will be doing a special menu for Easter Sunday.

23 April (St George's Day): a special menu with traditional English food. Booking advisable.

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

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

Dockenfield Does Disney

Saturday 6 June. Fete: 2-6pm at the Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages

Dockenfield Day is coming sooner than you think....it's time to dig in to the dressing up box and decide which Disney character to come as. Some intensive research on the internet shows that the list of Disney characters is very extensive, so there's no shortage of possibilities (Note: 50 Shades of Grey is not a Disney movie). And whilst you're doing that, here's a reminder of some of the things that will be going on:

Date. 6 June: put it in your diaries now!

What's going on. Dockenfield Day wouldn't be Dockenfield Day without our own, eclectic goings on. We'll have a bouncy castle, the pole joust, Mr McDonut the Entertainer, the fancy dress competition and the other usual stalls will also be back.

How you can help. In order to make it all happen, we need lots of help. Whether you can do something in advance or help on the day, lots of hands are needed to make sure we can run everything safely and successfully. If you're able to help out – in whatever capacity - please email or call Roly Miles (roly.miles@claremont.co.uk) on Tel: 792022, or Pam Mansell (pma@business-it-solutions.co.uk) Tel: 793328.

But don't forget your gazebos. We really need to borrow these for the day if we may. And after the close call last year with the rain, it would be good to be on the safe side.....

Please give us your stuff. Dockenfield Day doesn't depend on commercial stalls brought in from outside to pay the bills. Our main earners are the local stalls that depend on the generosity of residents. So if you have anything you can donate to the following stalls, please leave the items at one of the following '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	Mark Rosling, Longridge, Batts Corner	Tel: 794090
Raffle Prizes	Debbie Foster, Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792142
Toys	Amanda Smith, Thicket End, High Thicket Road	Tel: 793111
Cakes on the Day	Daryl Fox, Drift House, The Street	Tel: 792080

More details of the fete will appear in the next DNL out in May

Sebastian Fox

News from the Village Shop

Including the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 14 May, 7.30pm in the Good Shepherd

We are delighted to report that our appeal for a new Treasurer has resulted in a volunteer coming forward from Dockenfield. Isi Cousins is in the process of gradually taking on the role from Jenny Binks, to ensure a smooth handover.

Our shop **AGM** will be held on **Thursday, 14 May** in **Good Shepherd** at 7.30pm for drinks and nibbles before the brief business meeting at 8pm. There will be significant changes to the committee, with Sue Wicks retiring as Chair Woman and Jenny Binks retiring as Treasurer. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone who'd be interested in joining the committee, especially if they bring enthusiasm and experience in marketing. We hope for a good audience for our speaker, **Roger Holmes**, whose subject is "Retail – everything and nothing changes".

In the last DNL we mentioned favourable comments from some new FVS shoppers. Since then we've carried out a 'basket check' to compare our prices with those of local shops and supermarkets, and now we can say "it's official". Particularly on locally sourced products, **we offer the best prices** for miles around, eg Rapeseed Oil from Crondall @ £4.70, Kingsley Honey @ £4.95, Hogs Back Ale @ £2.09. Our current wine offers are still beating the major supermarkets' prices @ 2 for £10, or 2 for £12.

Looking forward to the **Scarecrow Festival** in May, the shop will be open all 3 days, so come and see our scarecrow (and the Parish Council's) and bring your friends and relatives to visit our community shop. Hopefully it will be ice-cream weather!

And remember, if you're stuck at home and can't get out, you can always call Paul for a delivery.

Mayonne Coldicott, Frensham Village Shop: Tel: 01252 795240 www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk

A Spring Concert

Saturday 25 April, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church

The Chase Singers will be conducted by Robin Wells for this concert which is in aid of the St Mary's Bell Tower Fund. Tickets are £7 each to include wine and refreshments and can be purchased from the Village Shop or at the door on the night.

Letters to the Editor

Horse 'accommodation' wanted in the Dockenfield/Frensham area

Please could you help me with horse accommodation in the Dockenfield area, for a grass livery/companion? 24-year old 16.1HH Gelding. Fully un-shod. Regularly wormed (always very low count). Sensible with no vices. Would prefer him to have field company. Will have own trailer and he will be ridden (so tack storage area appreciated - and possible riding companions?). Looking from April until September 2015.

Please call: 07404 087075 or 01252 821235. Thank you.

Tania Francis

Do unusual birds visit your garden too?

A buzzard has been visiting gardens in Batts Corner recently. Instead of hovering overhead, it forages for food on the ground in the early morning, in a very "unbuzzardly" way! We also have a photo taken on a mobile of 4 baby barn owls sitting on a branch in Sandy Lane about to fly the nest. Last year, we were delighted to spot a visiting kestrel in our garden, who settled in a willow tree at 6pm every evening - keeping a watchful eye for any mice. Have any other readers had similar unusual sightings?

Jeannie Rendell

Victim Support Volunteer Recruitment

I work for the charity Victim Support and we are currently embarking on a volunteer recruitment campaign in Surrey. I have contacted you to ask if the following piece could be considered for inclusion in your Newsletter.

Victim Support is here to help anyone affected by crime. Our volunteers in Surrey help people traumatised by crime to move on with their lives.

You can help by supporting victim face-to-face, as a fundraiser or in lots of other ways. We pay your expenses and give you free training. You don't need qualifications or previous experience of this kind of work to volunteer for Victim Support. All you need is the willingness to help and a little time.

We welcome volunteers from every walk of life and from every community. For more information contact: Jo Wills on 01273 456151 or email: SurreyVolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Wills
Divisional Administrator, Surrey & Sussex
Tel: 01273 456151
email: jo.wills@victimsupport.org.uk

How to get fit in the Parish

You would be amazed at just how many classes exist right here in the Parish to help us all get and keep fit. I have not been to them all but if the ones at the Good Shepherd are anything to go by they will all be welcoming, friendly and open to all ages and abilities. And, best of all, you may be able to walk to them or at worst it's a short bike or car ride. I am very grateful to **Malcolm Green** for providing the details of the classes at the Marindin Hall.

At the Good Shepherd

Pilates: every Monday night at 7.30pm for one hour. For more information please contact the tutor Christine Jason on Tel: 07896 293203

Zumba: A one hour Zumba class immediately precedes the Pilates session. For more information please call Ciaran Greene on Tel: 07854 220914

At the Marindin Hall

PilatesMax: two sessions between 9.30am and 12.00pm on Tuesdays in term time. Run by Jacqui Halliwell. Details, including contact: www.pilatesmax.co.uk

Bujinkan Honryu Dojo Martial Arts Club: between 19.00 and 22.00 hrs on Tuesdays in term time. Run by Bill Liddle. Details, including contact: www.honryu-dojoco.uk

BackTogether Pilates: two sessions between 09:30 and 12.00pm on Wednesdays in term time. Run by Jane Grainger. Details, including contact: www.backtogether.co.uk

Fitsteps/Zumba: two sessions between 09.15 and 12.00 pm on Thursdays in term time. Run by Kate Shaw. Details, including contact: www.farnhamzumba.co.uk

Yoga: between 09.15 and 11.30 pm on Fridays in term time. Run by Vanessa Nelson. Details including contact: 07740 860503 or email: nelson.vanessa@gmail.com

And that's not all

Sadly the much loved Pilates class at the British Legion has outgrown their hall and will be leaving for Beacon Hill this Easter. But there are still other ways to get fit and enjoy sport in the Parish especially as the summer approaches. The contact details you want for the various clubs at Hollowdene are **Tennis Club** (Lisa Dancy, Tel: 07818 405389); **Cricket Club** (Ian McLean, Tel: 792231); and the **Bowls Club** (Hazel Ling, Tel: 792968).

Photographing Butterflies on Bealeswood Common

After spending the day with the Surrey branch of the Butterfly conservation learning about butterfly transects (monitoring number and variety of butterflies present at a site from year to year) I thought I would see how many butterfly species I could find in my garden and next door on Bealeswood Common to photograph through the summer.

As a keen amateur nature photographer I had recently become interested in macro photography and set myself a challenge of learning about and photographing as many of the butterflies recorded in the recent Bealeswood Common transect that I could find.

Bealeswood Common is a fantastic habitat for butterflies, moths and all kinds of insects and I enjoyed many hours watching and photographing the hundreds of beautiful butterflies I found there. One small butterfly in particular caught my eye as it seemed to be solitary and fiercely defending a small area that it would always return to early evening to roost and still be there first thing in the morning, often soaked in dew.

Early mornings and evenings are good times to photograph butterflies before they warm up and set off for the day; and later when they have settled for the night.

The Small Copper is a fast flying (making it easy to miss) butterfly that when settled is easily identified by its bright copper forewings. Although they can be found in small groups I only found two last summer, one on Bealeswood Common and one in my garden (over the fence); hopefully there may be more this year. One of the main food-plants for the Small Copper is the Dock plant and a suggestion was made that it could become part of the Dockenfield sign.

I was asked to send in some of my photos to a competition organised by the Surrey branch of the Butterfly Conservation. Amongst them was one I had taken of the Small Copper early one morning whilst it was covered in dew and waiting for the sun to come up to dry its wings off. As a result the Small Copper of Bealeswood Common is now on the cover of the Butterfly Conservation Surrey Branch magazine, *The Surrey Skipper*.

Alex Potts, Batts Corner

I have been fortunate enough to see some of these photographs and they are stunningly beautiful. Well done to Alex for having one featured on the cover of 'The Surrey Skipper'.

News from Bealeswood Common

Ranger's Ramblings!

Those of you who walk through Bealeswood Common regularly will have noticed Scottish and Southern Power carrying out some work to trees around the power lines. Most of the work was to small trees, but one large oak had to have a prune down one side, to provide suitable clearance for the cables that run north, up the hill from the end of Lake Lane. In addition to these works, the full tree safety survey is now complete, with mostly minor works being identified. There are a few fledgling trees at the end of Lake Lane that are to be removed, as their roots could cause problems to drains etc if they are allowed to grow in close proximity to the lane. There are some minor tree works identified at Flat Copse as well, mostly removal of dead wood. Currently I do not have a timescale for these operations; it will depend on the availability of contractors and funds.

There is some exciting news from Frensham Common. In the last month we have recorded our first dormouse on the Common. Normally they are a secretive creature of deciduous woodland, with plenty of hazel, bramble and honeysuckle. To find a hibernating individual in bracken litter came as quite a shock to the conservation group who found it. It made me wonder if there were any dormice hanging around at Bealeswood. Has anyone seen one? Sometimes the clues they leave behind are the only sign that they have been there. Hazel nuts with a very regularly cut, round hole are one of the best clues. To survey for them properly requires training and a licence, but anyone can pick up a nut for closer inspection. So if you're out and about, do have a look under hazel bushes for signs of these adorable yet threatened little creatures; and give me a ring....

Steve Webster – WBC Ranger (Tel: 01252 792416)

Fancy a pint of ginger beer shandy?

With summer coming and sunny days just around the corner (we hope), I feel the need to tell you about ginger beer shandy. Simply put, it's the same as a lemonade shandy but with the lemonade replaced by a non-alcoholic ginger beer. In other words, pour a bottle of (ideally cold) ginger beer into a pint glass and fill with your favourite real ale. A great thirst quencher on a hot summer's day. Do be careful if you order in a pub though, as some may not be in on the secret of this lovely drink and so give you a mix of ginger beer and lemonade instead, which is not to be recommended. Interestingly, a friend in the village told me that this brew was the original form of shandy until lemonade took over from the ginger.

Charming!

We speak of a gaggle of geese, a murmuration of starlings, an exaltation of larks – and, of course, a charm of goldfinches. Everyone agrees that a charm is an appropriate term for a group of goldfinches. They are charming to watch and charming to listen to. The term ‘charm’ derives from the Old English *c’irm*, which meant the tinkling sounds produced by a small flock. Vivaldi composed his concerto *Il Gardellino* (The Goldfinch) with a flute playing the goldfinch’s song.

The European Goldfinch is instantly recognisable, with its black and red face, its bright yellow wing-stripes across its black wings, and its white rump. In some parts of the country Goldfinches have been called ‘tailor birds’ because people thought that the conspicuous white tips to its feathers looked like stitches. The male can be distinguished from the female by his larger red face-mask, and by his larger beak, which is well designed for picking seeds out of teasels and thistles. Goldfinches are seed-eaters, and will also eat the seeds of trees such as alder and birch. There is quite often a group of about a dozen of them, tinkling away in a birch tree near my kitchen door. Charming indeed.

Goldfinches occur across most parts of Britain and Ireland, and are most numerous in southern England. Some of ‘our’ Goldfinches are migratory, and move south to France and Spain for the winter months. Interestingly, more of these migratory birds are female. Make of that what you will.

Their prettiness has not always served Goldfinches well. During the nineteenth century they were often trapped and kept in cages as pets. Thomas Hardy wrote:

*Within a churchyard, on a recent grave,
I saw a little cage
That jailed a goldfinch. All was silent save
Its hops from stage to stage.*

Attitudes changed, and in 1904 the Society for the Protection of Birds was formed, and when it gained royal approval it became the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Numbers of Goldfinches plummeted again in the 1970s and 80s, probably because of increased use of herbicides (which may have poisoned birds which ate seeds) and changes in farming practices (which cleared ground which had produced wild plants and seeds). Numbers of Goldfinches have recovered well in recent years, not least because of the quantities of niger seed and sunflower hearts which we now provide in our gardens. Well done, everyone.

Goldfinches usually begin breeding in late April. The female builds a nest of moss, grass and lichen, lined with soft scraps of wool or down, in the forked branch of a tree or a bush. She may lay between 3 and 7 eggs, and if conditions are favourable she may lay 2 or 3 clutches in a year. Both parents feed the young, which fledge in about 2 weeks.

Goldfinches, like gold itself, were historically thought to have healing powers or sacred connotations. The Goldfinch is associated with thistles and thorns, and has been depicted in medieval and renaissance paintings being flecked with Christ’s blood at his Crucifixion. Most famously, Fabritius’s little painting of *The Goldfinch* has drawn crowds to the Mauritshuis in The Hague. Donna Tartt’s 2013 novel of the same name has added to the fame of this truly charming little bird.

Val Lewis

Car Treasure Hunt:

Sunday 10 May

**Frensham and Dockenfield
Friends of Phyllis Tuckwell
Hospice**

Start - Frensham Heights School, main car park; arrive from 10.30am; cars depart at 11am. Tea or coffee and breakfast including bacon baps, muffins/cakes and more included with entry fee of £15 per person (adult) and £10 per person (child under 13).

This is a Car Treasure Hunt and there is a prize for all correct entries with a trophy for the overall winner. It is a fun treasure hunt and not a timed event; slow and observant wins. There will be a raffle (drawn on the day). All profits go to Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. To reserve your place please email: **Tess Russell** - davtess@aol.com

**Frensham and
Dockenfield Local History
Group**

**Tuesdays 14 April and 12
May, 7.30pm at the Marindin
Hall**

The next meetings of the History Group are:

14 April: ‘Cabinet of Curiosities’ by Denise Quinney

12 May: Members Evening

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

Millbridge WI

**Thursdays 16 April and 21
May, 7.30pm at the Marindin
Hall**

The next two meetings of the Millbridge WI are:

16 April: Behind the Scenes TV Quiz with Faith Powell

21 May: Resolutions

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

Village Lunch

**Wednesdays 25 March and
22 April, midday at the British
Legion**

The next two Village Lunches are being held on the above dates. The accompanying charity sales tables and raffle will be in support of the Dyslexia Centre and Bells Piece respectively.

Talking of Valentines

On 5 February I received a phone call from Alan Wooler (Herald Special Projects Manager) to say I had won the Valentines Day Competition for two in the Farnham Herald. How wonderful; I could not believe it. The prize was for Jack and I to have a Valentine's treat.

On 10 February we were asked to meet Alan at the small Sainsburys in Farnham for our presentation from Sainsburys, we were given a hamper including champagne, chocolates, Valentine's teddy and two small pot red roses. On 21 February, Alan our chauffeur came to collect us in a BMW, courtesy of Barons of Hindhead. Alan gave me a wonderful bouquet from the Blacksmiths Daughter Florist in Petersfield; what a real special treat. We had a drive round in the car and then onto the Georgian House Hotel, Haslemere where we met Peter Dunbar the Manager who congratulated us: he was really nice and helpful. We had a super room which had everything we could wish for.

We then had a lunch at the hotel and then a look round Haslemere. We also had time to rest and relax and prepare for our special romantic dinner, which was all cooked to perfection, all really lovely. The next part of our prize was an overnight stay at the hotel, followed by a wonderful breakfast; so much choice. Our stay was so very special and we were made to feel very welcome. The staff were all so friendly, and nothing too much trouble.

The hotel has lots of wonderful facilities on offer, including Aqua Roma Health Club and Spa, beauty treatments, swimming pool and gym; all of which we were allowed to use (you can become a club member if you wish). Pilates and Boxercise, water fitness and Abs Circuit were also all available. And so after our lovely time our chauffeur Alan arrived to drive us back home in the BMW on Sunday. The end of a very lovely, perfect weekend: such a really wonderful prize.

Marjorie Bessant

News from our Local Police Officer

Local Tilford resident too clever for fake police

You may all recall that some months ago I wrote an article regarding a scam where members of the public were receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be a police officer or similar who was attempting to convince victims to hand over their cards and bank details. The caller claims that the victim's card has already been fraudulently used or cloned to withdraw sums of money from their account by an unknown third party. They then ask the victim to phone their bank to cancel the card and confirm that a courier will be sent around to collect the card. Meanwhile the fraudster stays on the line and obtains the victim's bank details whilst they think they are phoning the bank. The courier then calls at the victim's address saying they have been sent by the police to collect the card.

Recently a local Tilford resident received a very similar call but she was not fooled for a moment. When she was asked to phone her bank she did so, but she used her neighbour's phone instead of her own. Therefore the fraudsters were unable to stay on the line and claim to be her bank. Our local resident has then made her local bank branch aware of the incident and reported the matter directly to the Metropolitan Police.

I have subsequently visited the lady to congratulate her and she has shown me an article from the BBC website, which mentions a similar scam where three people have been arrested. This then goes on to say that it maybe connected to large-scale fraud linked to UK extremists travelling to Syria. Is this in anyway connected to the incident involving our local resident? I honestly don't know.

Another scam involving Trading Standards

I have also been made aware of another scam this time involving fake Trading Standards Officers. A smartly dressed male wearing an ID badge has visited an elderly man and his wife, claiming to be a Trading Standards Officer from the refunds department. He has then gone on to say that the couple were due to receive compensation of £7,000 from Kingston Crown Court, following a case of fraud involving the company that recently dug up their drive.

The following day the fake Trading Standards Officer has contacted the couple again claiming that there has been a problem at the court resulting in a banker's draft being mistakenly made out to them for £15,000 rather than the promised £7,000. He then went on to say that he could not get a replacement bankers draft, for the correct amount, as the company had gone into administration and their bank account had been closed. He therefore suggested that the couple give him a cheque for £8,000, from their own savings, promising that he would then give them to bankers draft for £15,000.

Thankfully, to my knowledge no one in our area has been a victim of this particular scam but please be on your guard should you have any visits from supposed Trading Standards Officers.

Dockenfield reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 16 January to 13 March

I am pleased to announce that we have no reported crimes for this area.

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

The Bluebell: two years on

Let's start with some statistics: not mine but ones I am told are true. 80% of new businesses fail in the first year of trading; and then 50% of the remainder don't make it to the end of the second year. And (secondly) for a community to have its own local pub adds between 5-10% to the value of properties there.

Those apparently unrelated stats come into sharper focus when you remember that Robin and Lucy have been at the Bluebell two years this month. So it seemed appropriate to ask them how things were working out. A subject of interest I am sure to those that do eat and drink there but also to those who never have been in the pub, as the value of their houses may depend in part on its success.

I am not supposed to express personal opinions in DNL, but I will say this: one of the things I like about Robin and Lucy is their great honesty when faced with a question like this. So, when I went to see Robin last week, these were the answers I got.

DNL: How was year two in comparison to the first?

Robin Catchpole (RC): the first year was good and exceeded our expectations but in truth it went by in a complete blur: new business; house move; family bereavements. So it was pretty inevitable that we would have made some wrong judgements in amongst the better ones. The thing is we are learning from those as we get more experienced. Plus we can be more efficient at predicting when the busy and quiet times will be which helps enormously with things like staffing, food purchases etc. We are way busier too, especially at weekends and special occasions. For example Sunday lunch has been sold out (at 100 or so diners) every week in 2015; and on Mothering Sunday despite serving 120 people they still had to turn away between 200-300 customers who wanted to book.

DNL: Is it a weekend pub predominantly?

RC: So far, very much so. That, and a summer pub, when people come locally and from further afield to enjoy the garden. We have announced a few initiatives this week to beef up trade Monday to Thursday (*see page 5*) and we are always looking for ways we can be useful to the village and local community.

DNL: You couldn't survive without food sales I take it?

RC: No, wet sales alone would never keep a pub like this in business. That's why we work so hard to get our food right. And we are proud of what we serve: our ingredients are always fresh and sourced locally as far as possible, whilst we make our own chips, bread and pasta. We don't have a microwave in the kitchen at all.

DNL: Any plans for the future that you can reveal?

RC: We have a policy of continuing investment and lots of plans, but we always have to remind ourselves that it's just us: we don't have a big company behind us and we don't own the freehold. So we introduce changes as we go along like the new garden furniture in time for spring and a gradual updating of the interior furniture to make it more contemporary. It's a work in progress, and this year especially we are loving every minute of it. Dockenfield is a great place to live and to run the local pub.

Thanks BT!

You may have noticed the inspection cover, in what was the verge, opposite the Old Chapel in Batt's Corner, has been renewed. It was becoming very battered by lorries and other heavy vehicles driving on the verge causing the cover to come off completely.

I happened to meet a BT man in his van one morning and mentioned this to him. He immediately put a warning cone and bright spray on it and the next morning a team was fitting a new man-hole and cover...and you may also notice this was initialled by the workman who also put a 2 pence coin into the concrete surround.

Jill Trout

Tea at 3

'Tea at 3' is normally held at St Mary's on the first Monday of every month but please note there is no Tea on 6 April as that is Easter Monday. This increasingly popular event returns on **4 May** (which is a Bank Holiday) for anyone who would like to come - young, old or in between. Its great fun for all and as well as meeting up with friends you can enjoy a lovely cup of tea and a good selection of home made cakes. The start time is always at 3pm in St Mary's church hall. If you would like more information or need a lift, please call **Morag James** on Tel: 793133.

Ghosts at the Bluebell?

I was at the (excellent) talk on 'local ghosts' at the History Group earlier this month and a friend came up to me and said: '*Michael, you do know that the Bluebell is haunted don't you?*' I expressed surprise and said, '*No, I had never heard of that, do tell me more*'. To which the friend replied: '*Of course it is; it's got loads of spirits behind the bar!*'

News from Frensham Brewery

A future event to look out for is one being organised by The Countryside Restoration Trust (owners of Pierrepont Farm and home to Frensham Brewery) who are devising a Festival of Food, Farming & Wildlife on Sunday 7 June. More details in the next DNL.

If you want to join the brewery's mailing list for updates and special offers email info@frenshambrewery.co.uk or call the brewery on Tel: 01252 793956.

Still Life

I am trying my hand at art, and at a recent class the tutor announced that 'Still Life' would be the subject for the following week. '*Still Life*' said one of the lady students present; '*that reminds me of my ex-husband*'.

DNL's crystal ball(s)

Ever wondered what the future holds? Well, now DNL is able to help you predict what is coming your way by assembling a pot pourri of predictions that have appeared recently in the media. They may turn out to be correct or, as the headline implies, they may be complete rubbish. Anyway, here they are for your interest and entertainment.

- 60% of young children at school today will end up doing jobs that haven't been invented yet
- One third of babies born in the western world will live to be 100 years old
- It seems that the average person checks their smart-phone more than 1,500 times per week and has read all their emails before they even get out of bed. Now, as an antidote to all this, the holiday of the future is predicted to be one of 'digital detox', with destinations that have no wi-fi or signal being the preferred choice of many
- This country's big eating sensation for 2015? Goat meat

Further Afield

Here's a few events that are taking place just a hop, skip and a jump from the village that might appeal to you.

Saturday and Sunday, 9-10 May at the Rural Life Centre in Reeds Road is the museum's hugely popular 'Village at War' weekend. This year re-enactors will transform the 10-acre site with the sights and sounds of a village 'somewhere in England' as D-Day approaches and the troops prepare for the impending invasion.

Every Sunday from 31 May-6 September you can go along to Gostrey Meadow in Farnham and enjoy live 'Music in the Meadow' from 3-5pm.

From 1-12 April. Farnham Art Society will be holding their **Annual Exhibition** at the James Hockey and Foyer Galleries at the University for the Creative Arts in Farnham. There should be about 400 paintings, ceramics and sculptures by local artists. A great opportunity to snap up some great art at affordable prices.

What a difference a year makes!

This time last year parts of south and west England in particular were covered in flood water due to the heavy rain and swollen rivers. In Dockenfield by and large we were fortunate as although the rain fell heavily here, the vast majority of the village is situated on higher ground than the immediate river bed. But it is interesting to compare the rainfall statistics, this year versus last. In January/February 2014 20.25 inches of rain fell here, as opposed to (a much more normal) 5.8 inches in the same months this year. I am grateful to **Gordon Carter** for supplying this information.

Sadly Gordon will be moving from the village shortly and so the records he has kept of rainfall in Dockenfield for the last 12 years will come to an end. He would very much like the record keeping to continue (as would DNL) and so he has kindly offered to hand over both those records and the rain gauge itself to anyone who would like to continue the practice. You can contact Gordon by email: carter684@btinternet.com or via DNL (michael.foster66@btinternet.com)

Who is furthest from the centre of the universe?

There is a lovely couple who live in Sydney Australia who are connected to Dockenfield by family and friendship. I had an email from them recently which said: 'I keep in touch with Dockenfield events through reading your very comprehensive periodic newsletter. I presume I am the furthest recipient from Dockenfield who receives it.'

DNL has readers across the UK, the USA and Canada as well as in Sydney, so I thought I'd check the international distances. So I 'Googled' distance from here to Sydney and the system would only give me the miles from London, not Dockenfield (what is wrong with these people?). Anyway, still imagining Dockenfield as the centre of the universe, the respective distances to some of the major cities (as the crow flies from London) where we have readers are as follows:

- Sydney:** 10,571 miles
- Los Angeles:** 5,447 miles
- New York:** 3,456 miles (that's positively local isn't it? New York readers should start showing some commitment and pitch up to some Parish events!)

BOOKING FORM FOR THE PARISH SUPPER, FRIDAY 17 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 **10 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)