

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 243

Published 13 May 2014

Dockenfield Day

opts for the

full Brazilian

Saturday 7 June. One great day. Two great events

2pm-6pm: Fete, with the theme 'Brazil here we come'

6.30pm-Midnight: 'Big Brazilian Party' at the Bluebell

Dockenfield Day is the pint-sized fete with the big, big heart. Everybody just loves its genuinely local feel and lashings of good old fashioned fun. And in the evening the action moves up to the Bluebell with a 'Big Brazilian Party' including live music and great grub that promise to be every bit as good, if not better, than last years fabulous event. Free entry to both the fete and the party.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS Timings are approx

Afternoon Fete

2pm	Fete opened by Anita, the village 'postie'
2.05pm	Stalls open
2.30-2.55pm	Punch & Judy
3.00pm	Fun Dog Show (all dogs welcome, please arrive by 2.50pm)
3.20-3.50pm	Children's races
3.50-4.20pm	Tug of War contest
4.20-4.45pm	Punch & Judy
5pm	Raffle Draw, Children's Parade and Prize Giving
6pm	Close

Evening Party

6.30pm - midnight	'Big Brazilian Party' at the Bluebell with live music and dancing
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Dockenfield Day needs...

Your help. Please get in touch with Sebastian Fox to see how you can help out before, during or after the fete. Contact him on Tel: 792080 or 07930 986677 or email: sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk

Your stuff. Your contributions to all the stalls can make a massive difference to the success of the fete. Please see page 3 for what is needed and who to give it to.

Your gazebo. Just for the day, not permanently you understand. So if you have one, can we borrow it please?

You to turn up... and dress up. Missing either the fete or the party surely isn't an option. Please add to the fun by dressing up to the theme of the day.

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Tuesday, 13 May	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Local History Group	Marindin Hall	Page 5
Tuesday, 13 May	7.30pm for 8pm	The Village Shop AGM	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 16
Thursday, 15 May	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 5
Tuesday, 20 May	8pm	Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting	The Church of the Good Shepherd	Pages 2, 5 & 15
Thursday, 22 May	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 11
Saturday, 24 May	From 8pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Wednesday, 28 May	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 5
Saturday, 7 June	2pm-6pm 6.30pm-12	Dockenfield Day 'Big Brazilian Party'	The Green, Abbotts Cottages The Bluebell pub	Pages 1,3 & 4
Saturday, 14 June	From 8pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
14,15,19,20-22 June	11am-5pm	Open Studios	Hursley Cottage and Jeffreys Cottage	Page 4
Friday, 16 June	7.30-11pm	The Glorious Frensham Race Night	Marindin Hall	Page 11
Tuesday, 17 June	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
Thursday, 19 June	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	Marindin Hall	Page 5
Saturday, 21 June	From 1pm From 8pm	Frensham Fayre Midsummer Mayhem	Hollowdene	Page 7
Sat/Sun, 21,22 June	1-5.30pm	Open Garden	Manor House, Old Lane	Page 5
Wednesday, 25 June	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 5
Friday 12 September	7pm	Dockenfield Skittles Night	The Jolly Farmer pub	Page 16

Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting

New Date: Tuesday 20 May, 8pm at the Good Shepherd

There is a *new date* for the village Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 20 May at the Good Shepherd. But the same format applies and it's as important as ever that you attend because in addition learning about everything that impacts life in Dockenfield you can get up to date on the progress of Superfast Broadband in the village. The lead speaker will be Katie Brennan of Surrey County Council Superfast Broadband Programme. For full details of this meeting please see pages 5 and 15.

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 uncredited 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 4 July**, 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.

Dockenfield Day

Saturday 7 June

The pint-sized fete, with the big, big heart

Fete: 2-6pm: with the theme, 'Brazil, here we come'

Think Brazil and you think Rio, carnival, colour, beaches, samba and excitement, and this year the football World Cup is thrown in too. And that's where you will find the inspiration for this year's Dockenfield Day. An eclectic fusion of the traditional and the new; of laid back Latin, international sport and bucolic England. So please join in and get all your family to put on a fancy dress costume (the choice is endless and they are easy to create at home: there are prizes to be won for the best costume) to give the fete a real taste of Latin America.

One of the wonders of Dockenfield Day is that it is just so *affordable*. It's free to get in, all the sports and events are free to join in; and the stalls cost as little as 10p to have a go. No wonder people come for a quick visit and end up staying all afternoon.

It's the atmosphere as well that people love so much: charming, relaxed, idiosyncratic and full of fun for all the family. There are specially themed games and stalls, including the village stocks, pole jousting, a penalty shoot out and all those other favourites that you know and love such as Bash the Rat, the Human Fruit Machine, the tombola, raffle and loads more. For the children there is the Punch and Judy Show and, of course all the games and old fashioned races like the hobby horse and egg and spoon. Plus the ever-popular tug of war which is open to all. And do enter your dog into the free (of course!) dog show and it may win a prize.

Fancy something to eat or drink? Well this should get your taste buds working overtime. Both the barbeque and bar will have Brazilian and British favourites. To drink there will be real ale and wine as well as Caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail. And on the barbeque there will be a few Brazilian specialties as well as hamburgers, sausages and vegetarian options. And you can round it all off with ice cream, a piece of cake and a cup of tea.

Everyone from Dockenfield and the surrounding area is welcome, so *please* bring your friends and family and join in the all the fun

'Big Brazilian Party' at the Bluebell: 6.30pm-midnight

The carnival theme continues with a special 'Big Brazilian Party' at the Bluebell. The pub will be fully decorated in Brazilian style and Robin and all the staff will continue the theme with their colourful outfits. So you can expect bags of atmosphere. There will be live music and dancing to a great band called 'Crocodile Done Deal' which is sure to set the joint jumping.

The pub is preparing a special menu of reasonably priced Brazilian and South American dishes and the kitchen hours have been extended so last food orders will be at 9.30pm whilst the bar will be open until midnight. Just like the fete it's free to get in, and you don't have to book: there will be plenty of room for everyone, either in the pub, in the garden if its warm and Robin is going to make provision for poor weather cover. And remember, if you have worn a costume during the day, they *please* wear it up to the pub in the evening.

A terrific evening to round off a terrific day.

Donations needed

Many of the stalls rely heavily on the generosity of villagers and donations for the following will be gratefully received. If possible, please drop in non-perishable items to stallholders before the day as this helps against last minute panics! Having said that, nothing will be turned away on the day.

Garden Plants	Dan Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane	Tel: 792442
Tombola Prizes	Jackie Hutton, Goose Cottage, Green Lane	Tel: 790333
Books/DVDs/Music	Lesley 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: 770904
Cakes on the Day	Daryl Fox, Drift House, The Street	Tel: 792080

Dockenfield Day – 7 June

So many things to see and do

Dockenfield Day is just packed with things to do and games to play for all the family. This is just a sample of what's happening:

Bash the Rat

Book Stall

Garden Plants

Tea and Cakes

Real Ale

Village Stocks

Human Fruit Machine

Hobby Horse Races

Coconut Shy

Punch and Judy

Lucky Dip

Face Painting

Best 'Brazil, here we come' Outfit Competition

Raffle

Toy Stall

BBQ

Ice Cream

Pole Jousting

Fun Dog Show

Tug of War

Tombola

Penalty Shoot Out

Children's Races

Hook-a-Duck

Crafts

Go Brazil Nuts with your costume!

This year's theme 'Brazil here we come' reflects both that country's unforgettable carnival and the World Cup being played there in June. So it offers a fabulous range of costume opportunities: soccer kits of club or country, samba costumes, ponchos, beachwear, grass skirts, feathers, carnival outfits, extravagant headwear, straw hats, leather chaps, beads and bracelets, cowboy boots.....there's something for everyone.

Just make it sporty or colourful, vivid and exotic. There are prizes to be won in four age categories: 5 and under, 6-11, 12-17 and 18 and over. And all the stallholders are asked to participate in the fun.

Additional information on Dockenfield Day

- **Stall Holders.** Can stall holders please be sure that they are available to set up, run and tidy their stall please?
- **Fun Dog Show.** This is free to enter and open to all dogs. Just bring your dog along ten minutes before the show is due to begin.
- **Parking:** Please could we ask stallholders and villagers not to occupy all the parking spots near the fete so that visitors have plenty of places to park their cars.
- **Alcohol.** Alcohol will be on sale to over 18s only. No spirits will be sold, nor should any be brought in. No alcohol should be bought, brought in or consumed by under 18s.

Surrey Artists Open Studios

Hursley Cottage, Lake Lane and Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane

Artists all over Surrey will be opening their studios in June. The Farnham area is rich in artists, so look out for the orange signs and balloons. There will be free guides to pick up (at libraries, galleries etc), or see the web site <http://www.surreyopenstudios.org.uk/event/> for details of opening times and directions.

Two studios are opening this year in Dockenfield on **14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22 June**. Opening hours are **11am-5pm** each day

Hursley Cottage in Lake Lane, where Jean Heathcote will be showing her oil paintings of flowers and landscapes. Jean draws her inspiration from local landscapes in particular and enjoys developing colour and texture in her work. Please note that her studio is open at all the above times and will also stay open on one evening, **Thursday 19 June, until 8pm**.

At **Jeffreys Cottage** in Bealeswood Lane, five makers and artists will be demonstrating and selling their work throughout the house and garden. Outside, Judith Needham will be weaving willow playhouses, and selling woven willow baskets and plant supports, while Nicky Blake will bring her portable forge from her studio near Mellow Farm, and show her decorative iron work.

Indoors, the exhibition will include painting, prints and knitwear, with all artists demonstrating how they work: Ruth Taylor will be painting landscapes, Shirley Stephens lino-printing cards and pictures, and Alison Ellen dyeing wool for her knitwear, and running a workshop on **Thursday 19 June**, Tel: 792442 for details. We will all have work for sale, can make to commission, but also welcome visitors to watch us working, ask questions or chat!

How would you like your television done?

I enjoyed this quote on Radio Four's 'Today' programme last month, which came during a discussion on the perceived low quality of some new television programmes. *'TV is called 'the medium' because it is neither rare nor well done'*.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting. The Parish Council apologises for the change in date for the Annual Parish Meeting, due to a clash in bookings for the Church. The new date will be **Tuesday 20 May** at the Church of the Good Shepherd starting at 8pm. We hope you will all be able to attend; the agenda will be the same as before with our main speaker being Katie Brennan from the Superfast team in Surrey. We will as usual hear from our Surrey County Councillor, Waverley Councillor, Dockenfield Activities, Alice Holt Users Forum, etc. Refreshments will be served. See also page 2 for further details.

The Village Sign. This is still progressing so if anyone has any information, for example pictures or stories from the village to tell, please do get in contact with Jessica Hobday at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk . We are grateful to Jack Bessant for his input and postcards showing the village over the years. There appears to be very little documentation in either the archives at Farnham or Winchester regarding Dockenfield or Batt's Corner. Perhaps now is a good time to try to remedy this mystery!

Next Meeting Dates. The next Parish Council Meeting dates are **Tuesdays 20 May** (Annual Parish Meeting) and **17 June**. The meetings are held at 8pm in the vestry at the Good Shepherd and everyone is welcome to come along for all or part of any meeting.

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

Open Garden at Manor House, Old Lane Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June, 1-5.30pm daily

This year we will be opening our garden as part of the National Garden Scheme which raises money for a number of very deserving nursing and caring charities. Last year the NGS raised almost £3 million pounds and major beneficiaries included Marie Curie Cancer Care, Macmillan Cancer Support, Help the Hospices, and the Parkinson Disease Society among others. Some of our proceeds will be donated to the South West Thames Kidney Fund which supports renal research at St. Helier Hospital.

Every visitor to an NGS garden makes a real difference to the life of someone who needs care and support at a difficult or critical time in their life.

There will be home-made teas, a sale of plants and an exhibition of quilting and needlework by local craftswomen. Plenty of car parking. We hope you will pay us a visit - any donations of cakes or plants would be VERY welcome.

Pam and Steve Hibbert. Tel: 792573

Pilates and 'Cherubs' at the Good Shepherd

If you would like information on **Pilates** (every Monday evening at 7.45pm) please contact Belinda Buttery on Tel: 794423. and for **'Cherubs'**, Dockenfield and Frensham's baby and toddler group (every Thursday from 9.30-11am during term time) please email Jane Walker: revjwalker@btconnect.com. Both take place in the Good Shepherd.

Neighbourhood Watch

Sheds, barns and garages are favourite targets for opportunist thieves, as we are constantly reminded by reports in the press. Police advice is to make things as difficult as possible for the would-be criminal by keeping your garden equipment (mowers, hedge-cutters, strimmers etc – in fact anything movable) locked in a secure shed or outbuilding. Shed door alarms are available from Hardware shops.

Additionally, when in use, do not leave equipment unattended, e.g. if called indoors to answer the telephone.

As always we are urged NOT to leave car keys on display in the home and to lock the vehicle and set the alarm whenever it is left unattended, if only for a short while.

Patrick Rendell

Village Lunch

Wednesdays 28 May and 25 June, midday at the British Legion

The next two Village Lunches are on the above dates. The accompanying charity sales tables and raffles will be in support of 'Rainbows' and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 15 May and 19 June, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The two meetings of the Millbridge WI are: **15 May.** Resolutions meeting
19 June. 'Hyenas in Petticoats' by Trisha Lewis

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

Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group

Tuesday 13 May, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The final meeting of the History Group before their summer break is:

13 May. Speaker: Andrew Plumridge – 'My Follies: Emblems of Foolish Luxury'. For more information contact **Chris Bonner** on Tel: 793668.

Do they sleep on a water bed?

In March we holidayed in Switzerland with some German friends. They have the most remarkable command of English, but with the occasional entertaining mistake. Each day, when we met for breakfast, we would ask how they had slept. One morning the answer came: 'Not as well as usual as Peter was snorkelling'.

Cuckoo Clock

We have had a lovely lot of contributions about where and when the cuckoo was first heard this year. So thanks to all who took the trouble to write in. Interestingly it was heard for the first time this year just one day later than in 2013 and nine days later than in 2012

The Cuckoo in Dockenfield

12 April: heard in Alice Holt from Hardings, at the junction of Boundary Road and West End Lane by Susan Marr and also that same day by Philippa Hall in West End Lane and by Alan Cox (see below).

13 April: heard in Bealeswood Lane three times by three separate families; Neil and Janette Platt, Roger and Jill Trout and Michael and Debbie Foster. Also heard that day by Mark Rosling at Batts Corner and Diana and Harold Parratt who heard it sing pretty much all afternoon on Bealeswood Common.

14 April: heard by Claire Fargeot at Goose Green Farm and also Ian Mansell at Batts Corner, but with the call coming from the Sandy Lane area.

18 April: Jack Bessant in The Street, but heard to the east of the village.

The Cuckoo Worldwide

Alan Cox of Lake Lane has been kind enough to contribute the following piece on the worldwide 'reach' of the cuckoo.

Our Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) is just one of 23 species of cuckoo in the world but the only one that sings "Cuckoo!". It doesn't reach any further west than the British Isles but can be heard at all points east to the Kamchatka peninsular in the far east of Russia. So your American readers will not have heard it in their country. Some birds, on very rare occasions, have reached American soil (the Pacific Aleutian-Pribilof island chain) but did not sing. Our first songster this year was in our garden in central France from 30 March but the first time we heard one on our return to Dockenfield was at 14.50 hrs on 12 April. This, nevertheless, was a very early male in comparison with the cohort of Cuckoos fitted with miniature satellite transponders by the British Trust for Ornithology. The first two of which did not arrive in Britain until the last days of April, most were then still in western France or Iberia, having wintered in the forest depths of the Congo, central Africa.

The Cuckoo in America

Despite what you have just read above, one reader in the USA has emailed to say that whilst they don't have cuckoos in the way we understand the bird, they do have a 'numerous quantity of the bird-brained (the slang term) human variety' that you see either 'running about your country in Bermuda shorts, with vast waistbands and Google maps;' or that you find masquerading as politicians.

The Cuckoo in Abu Dhabi

Our reader there (yes, really) emails to say she, 'will listen out for birdlife in these parts...wild parrots yes, not sure about cuckoos!'

Time to Swallow?

This year also I can announce a kind of 'Swallow Clock' as I have received news of the date of their first arrival in the village:

12 April: Roger Trout at Batts Corner

13 April: Philippa Hall in West End Lane

14 April: Ian Mansell at Batts Corner

30 April: Michael Foster in Bealeswood Lane (late in our barns this year, so I was very pleased to see them)

Alice Holt Community Forum

The Alice Holt Community Forum, which meets twice a year, held its Spring meeting last month. The Forum discussed the Forestry Commission's plans to install interpretation boards at the new Centre building in May, to introduce a barrier system for electronic payment of parking charges later in the year, and to start the construction of the new café and cycling centre in late 2014. The Forest Centre is a popular venue; on one weekend in April the car park was full, leading to congestion in Dockenfield Road. We also discussed the Joint Core Strategy for East Hampshire and, with representatives from the South Downs National Park Authority, the consultation document on the SDNP local plan, and TAG Farnborough's plans to increase their flying patterns over East Hampshire and South West Surrey. For more details contact Colin Hall email: chall3422@aol.com or Jill Trout.

Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

Nearly all the main path work has now been completed, the volunteers having restored some 130m of the path with scalplings. With Richard Jinks help, we have now labelled 30 of the specimen trees, which will form our tree trail which we will shortly be launching. The next volunteer working parties are on 18 May, 15 June and 20 July. Come along to the car park off Gravel Hill Road at 10am on those days. All are welcome. Tools are provided. Contact email: chall3422@aol.com

Colin Hall

Letters to the Editor

BT Infinity now available

You may already be aware of this, but I have just spoken to BT (25 April) and it appears that the village is now on fibre optic and Infinity is available. I thought you might want to mention it in DNL.

Sebastian Fox

Thank you from Martine Bodkin

I know it is early days for the next Newsletter, but I would like to put in a little note of thanks to all my wonderful neighbours for showing their support on the death of my husband, Jim Bodkin, who died on 14 March. I have been overwhelmed with cards and offers of help, some from people I don't even know! Amazing and wonderful, and so much appreciated. It really does help!

I also attach a few notes I have written about him - not positive it is all correct in every detail, e.g. not sure if moved here in 1946 or 1948, but it was around then anyway. I think only Marjorie Bessant beats him as the longest Dockenfield resident!

Martine Bodkin

Martine's tribute to her husband Jim can be found on page 10

Thank you, Dockenfield

The Family of Barbara Hayden would like to thank the people of Dockenfield for their friendships and kindnesses to Barbara over many years, and a special thank you to those who attended Dockenfield Church to say 'goodbye'. Also for their generous donations which will be forwarded to 'Dementia UK'.

The support felt by the Family during the Service helped us all to come through our grief on a day of sorrow on the loss of a dear sister, auntie and great aunt. This also reminded us of how highly Barb was thought of in the village where we grew up.

Jan Newman

See also page 10 for a tribute to Barbara's life

Thank you for the Stamps

Please could you put a piece in DNL thanking people for all the stamps we have received since Christmas, they will be much appreciated. All the proceeds go to charity. And if you are able to let us have your used stamps in the future, then that would be lovely. Please send/deliver them to us at Number 1 Beales Cottages, The Street. All stamps from all countries in any condition are welcome. Thank you.

Jack and Marjorie Bessant

Access to Sport in Waverley

I was hoping you could help me: we are currently working on improving access to sport in the Borough and are keen to have as many people as possible take part in our survey. Would you be able to ask your residents and visitors to fill the following survey out? We are especially keen to find out what barriers to activity and sport exist, so that we can begin to tackle these. Visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s/TB8BC7Z Your help would be very much appreciated! Any individual above the age of 14 who resides in the Borough is welcome to take part.

Helen Burgess, Waverley BC, Godalming GU7 1HR

Glorious Daffodils!

A couple of years ago I spotted a young girl with her mother planting daffodil bulbs around the chicanes in The Street, Dockenfield, and felt what a kind and thoughtful gesture this was. When driving through the village this Spring, I particularly noticed with delight the "daffodil theme" taken up along both sides of the road and the wonderful splash of colour this produced. It was indeed a picture!

Jean Rendell

I believe the village has Nicky and Mike Rutherford and family to thank for planting these daffodils

Frensham Village Fayre

This year the Frensham Fayre is on **Saturday 21 June**. The Parade will assemble at 12 noon on Shortfield Common and commence their walk to Hollowdene Recreation Ground at 12.30 pm. The Fayre officially opens at 1 pm.

Our theme this year is "When I grow up I want to be....." This year we are introducing some new activities, an Inflatable Assault Course, Bungee Trampolines, 'Metal Detector Discovery' and for our main arena event, a Dog Show. Please bring along your family pet to the Fayre and enter the various categories of the Dog Show - "Best Veteran", "Best Rescue Dog", "Waggiest Tail", "Dog most like its owner" We also have two special VIPs attending this year's Fayre and children will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with them! Top Raffle Prizes - buy your tickets on the day.

Programme of Events

1.00pm Parade circles the Fayre ground

1.15pm St Mary's School children Maypole dancing in the arena

1.45pm Punch and Judy Show

2.15pm More House School Musicians in the arena

3.00pm Dog Show

3.45pm Punch and Judy Show

4.15pm More House School Musicians in the arena

5.00pm Fayre Closes

8.00pm Evening Event - Midsummer Mayhem

'Midsummer Mayhem'

Saturday 21 June, 8pm to midnight at Hollowdene Recreation Ground

Frensham rocks from 8pm to midnight. Live music by 'the Hounds of Sound'; licensed bar. Tickets £10 are available from the Holly Bush and the Village Shop and by calling Antony (07876 523785) or Geoff (07903 470613). Thai food and hot drinks and snacks available. Organised by the Frensham Fayre committee. All proceeds to charity.

Jacqueline Smithies

Oology for Beginners! *

After the rigours of a relentlessly wet Winter, we had the consolation of a lovely Spring. The birds (usually the males) sang loudly from their chosen perches from February, announcing their presence and establishing their territories. There was the usual business of displaying - showing off - as successful birds paired off in March and April. Then there was much to-ing and fro-ing of birds with beaks full of unlikely amounts of moss, hair, fur, feathers, grass, mud, and cobwebs as they started nest-building. Perhaps the most delicate nests of all are those of the Long-tailed Tits, which can take up to three weeks to weave tiny domed structures of lichen, moss, and literally hundreds of small feathers, bound together with countless spiders' webs.

Many of our garden birds nest in holes and cavities. Coal Tits often choose mouse holes or other cavities at ground level. Nuthatches, Starlings and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers select holes in trees. Sparrows often nest in the eaves of buildings, or in noisy communities in hedges. Dunnocks, Finches, and Thrushes opt for trees, hedges and shrubberies. Some birds, including Wrens, Robins, and Swallows, like to nest under the cover of garages, sheds, or stables. If you find yourself hosting these visitors and decide to leave your outbuildings open, you will have the pleasure of seeing their nesting activity at close quarters. As you know, birds are highly aware of human activity anywhere near their nests, and will often desert a nest if they are disturbed by too much interest, so it is best to keep a respectful distance.

From April and May the birds' activity is centred on the privacy of their nests, as they incubate their eggs. This is a more active matter than might be supposed. Eggs must be kept warm, and this is done by the incubator, usually the female, using her body warmth for the necessary period of time. She moults a few feathers from her belly to produce a 'brood patch' of bare skin, and she makes sure that all the eggs are exposed to that particularly warm place. She frequently shifts about, sometimes moving eggs with her feet or turning them with her bill, to ensure that her body warmth is distributed equally.

Although the female usually lays her eggs one by one on successive days, she begins to incubate them only when she has laid them all. This ensures that they will hatch at roughly the same time, and can be cared for as a brood. They will be fed together, and will eventually leave the nest at about the same time. Once the clutch is complete the female will incubate them for an average of 13 - 20 days.

Most birds' eggs are the familiar oval shape with a round end and a more pointed end. Owls, however, lay nearly round eggs, and Swallows, Swifts and Martins lay long, elliptical eggs. The colouring of birds' eggs also varies. The eggs laid by birds which nest on or near the ground, such as Plovers, are dark, with speckles or spots to camouflage them further. Eggs laid by tree-nesting birds such as Starlings, Thrushes and Blackbirds are often blue or cream with coloured speckles or streaks. Great Spotted Woodpeckers lay very light-coloured eggs.

The chicks' feather growth begins with the appearance of quills at about three days. By five days the eyes start to open, and they are completely open by eight days. By this time rows of feathers begin to appear on their backs and flanks, and the chick's bodies are more or less feathered by ten days. Flight feathers are the last to grow, and the chicks fledge at about two weeks.

The young birds remain dependent on the parent birds for food for about three weeks after fledging. By the time you read this in mid-May you may already have been watching young fledged birds being fed by their parents. In the case of birds which rear more than one brood in a season the care of these fledglings is frequently left to the male parent, while the female prepares for the next brooding effort.

Some birds, such as Blue Tits and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, usually have only one brood each year. The Blue Tit is a prolific breeder, often laying as many as ten or twelve eggs, and its breeding season is therefore short but frantic. Others, such as Wrens, Thrushes and Blackbirds, may have two, three or even four broods, of between three and six eggs each. Multiple broods mean a long breeding season, so there may still be newly fledged youngsters in your garden as late as July or even August. Much depends on weather conditions, food availability, and the presence of predators. There are always losses during the egg and chick stage, and the RSPB estimates that on average only about 57% of eggs result in fledged youngsters. Conditions can sometimes be harsh, but Nature is prolific, and in most years enough birds survive to produce the next year's generation of garden birds.

Val Lewis

(* For the next pub quiz, Oology is the study of birds' eggs and nests.)

Events at the Bluebell

Spring/Summer opening times. Bar: Mon-Weds 12-3pm, 5.30-11pm; Thurs-Sat 11am-11pm; Sun 12-10pm. Food: Mon-Fri 12-3pm, 6-9pm; Sat 12-3.30pm, 5.30-9pm; Sun 12-4pm, 6-8pm. They can also take bookings outside of these times, including for coffee mornings etc.

Live Music Nights. The regular music evenings have now moved to the last *Saturday* of each month. So the next one is the 'Charley Farley Sunday Four', changed from their original date to **Saturday 24 May** (the bank holiday weekend). There will also be live music on Dockenfield Day evening, **7 June** (see below) and on **14 June** (see below).

Dockenfield Day, Saturday 7 June. Do come to the fabulous Bluebell evening party. There will be a themed menu, live music - with the fantastic 'Crocodile Done Deal' and the pub will look the part too! See pages 1 & 3.

Football World Cup. Starts Saturday **14 June** and there will be live music first, with the Micky Kemp Band followed by the kick off for England v Italy at 11pm. The pub will be showing all the England matches on a large screen and with a bar extension where relevant. The next fixtures are **19 June**, 8pm England v Uruguay; **24 June**, 5pm England v Costa Rica.

Food and Drink Evenings. The pub will be holding a Gin and Canapés evening on Thursday **29 May**. Please give us a call if you'd like to pop in sample some specialist gins and seafood canapés.

Contact. Keep in touch with the Bluebell on their website: www.bluebell-dockenfield.com or Tel: 792801. If anyone would like to receive a small number of informative emails per year about events at the pub please just email info@bluebell-dockenfield.co.uk and ask to be added to their email list.

And at our other local venues

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

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

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

Frensham Royal British Legion (Tel: 793014)

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Open Mic Nights: 8.30pm on Fridays **23 May** (one week early this month), **27 June** and **25 July**

Extra Music Night: **30 May**, the Surrey Hills Ukulele Big Band (aka SHUBBs).

Bentley Tandoori: are at the pub on the last Wednesday of every month.

Burger night: every Thursday, with a choice of 3 burgers/ salad chips and drink (of choice) for £12.

Rowledge Village Fayre: is on **26 May** when the pub is open all day and for food.

'Secret Steve's Tapas Night': in aid of Alzheimer's on Friday **20 June** with all donations going to the charity (booking essential as this evening always sells out).

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

Meanwhile....

The premises in Frensham previously occupied by 'The Bridge' and before that 'The Mariners' is to reopen this August after a major refurbishment as '**Millbridge Court**' a boutique hotel and exclusive setting for weddings and other events. For more information, bookings and images visit www.millbridgecourt.co.uk or Tel: 413282.

The '**Half Way House**' at Bucks Horn Oak is up for sale. Go to the agents (Fleurets) website and you will find the price is £375,000 to include the freehold property, its contents and the 0.53 acre site. The announcement ends with the words '*potential for residential conversion and possible development (STP)*'.

And here's some exciting news for lovers of real ale and for those who like to see local entrepreneurship flourish. The **Frensham Brewery** has just started up at Pierrepont Home Farm in Reeds Road in a restored 17th century barn that is part of the estate bequeathed some years ago to the Countryside Restoration Trust. It is the brainchild of Frensham residents Miles and Emily Stephens and is on the verge of producing its very first beer called 'Forager' which they hope will be ready for sale (or if not, then to sample) by the end of June. The plan is that it will be available in pubs, shops and delis around the local area. They also hope to open the brewery on the first weekend of every month so you can buy from them direct. And if starting their own business isn't enough to do, Miles and Emily are expecting their first child soon and in their words '*are wondering what will be first; the brew or the baby*'. At least they will have something to wet the baby's head!

You can get more information from their website www.frenshambrewery.co.uk (where you can also sign up to their mailing list), by telephoning 07917 696069 or you can email: info@frenshambrewery.co.uk. I for one wish them all the success in the world.

Gladys Barbara Hayden

It is with great sadness that I am writing this piece for the DNL, to let you know that Barbara Hayden a very popular lady passed away on 2 March aged 86. Barbara was born on 5 November 1927 at Oak Trees, The Street Dockenfield. She went to school from the age of five to Frensham School, first by coach and then from the age of seven you found your own way. She left school at the age of 14 and her first job was in the office of Heath Bros of Frensham, a local garage. At the time the garage was building motorbikes for the armed forces. After approximately 25 years Barbara went to work in a forces pay office in Aldershot. After a short time she changed her job to work at Alice Holt Forestry Commission, a job she loved for 26 years until she retired, although she continued to work part time into her seventies.

Barbara and her family loved the village, and she enjoyed meeting people. She would spend much time putting on her make up and then cycling with a friend to dances in Frensham, Tilford and Churt; even the rain would not stop her. After cycles she went on to ride a Cyclemaster and a scooter before she began to drive cars; her last car was a Fiesta which she drove until her 83rd year.

Barbara regularly attended Dockenfield and Frensham churches; she was a Sunday school teacher for about 30 years, teaching 3-5yr olds and she did sacristan duty for a long time in the Good Shepherd. Even after moving to Farnham in 1991 it did not stop her continuing to attend church services at Dockenfield and Frensham and helping at the churches, only stopping due to ill health.

Another thing Barbara did was to be a distributor for the Dockenfield Newsletter for many years, which she enjoyed very much. She was very well known in the village, a lovely lady who would help anybody anytime, and a special friend of mine for over 60 years. Including people who did know Barbara I'm sure they would agree with me she will be greatly missed.

Marjorie Bessant

Jim Bodkin

Jim was born on 9 November 1931 at 76 Castle Street, Farnham, where his father, uncle and grandfather had a tailoring shop. During the war the family moved to Churt, to live with his maternal grandfather. Grandfather Mells at that time ran the pub in Churt, and they lived in a nearby house, then called "Meljaba", short for Mells Jazz Band. Jim's parents, Carl and Olive, used to play their band at local functions in those days. Jim must have inherited this interest in music; he often said that he must have been one of the earliest disc jockeys in the area, because he played music for the village in Churt on VE Day! In later years he was always keen on recording all the up to date pop records, and often played these at parties and functions.

The family moved to Dockenfield in about 1946, and the village is where he lived for the rest of his life. Eventually he went to work at the Forestry Commission Research Station at Bucks Horn Oak, where he worked in the engineering workshop for over 30 years.

Jim's other major interest was photography, and there must be a fair number of people in and around Farnham whose parents can show them their baby and childhood portraits taken by Jim, and developed and printed in his photographic studio in the attic of his parents' home. He was a member of the Witley Pantomime Company for 30 years, providing sound and lighting expertise. His lighting effects were quite famous and often commented upon in the local papers. But Dockenfield and Witley are quite far apart on a cold wintery night, so he eventually retired in 1998.

For all his undoubted talents and accomplishments, what he himself thought was his best ever achievement was the fact that he is one of the few people ever to have water skied on Frensham Pond! He was a very good, kind man, who literally never hurt a fly. He did not suffer fools gladly and was not above showing this, but would go to any length to help someone in need. He was a loving husband and a good friend and will be much missed by all who knew him.

Martine Bodkin

Edward Heath

There can't be many couples who have touched the lives of residents in both Dockenfield and Frensham more than Edward and Monica Heath. And so it was with real sadness that everyone in the parish learnt of the death of Edward on 9 March. Edward was born on 15 July 1936 in Frensham and in fact in the very same bedroom in which his father was born. The family butcher's shop that he ran was originally established in 1897 and lasted nearly 100 years until Edward closed it in 1989. Monica, meanwhile, was busy running Frensham Stores in the days when it was in private ownership and she and Edward were enormously helpful in setting up the 'new' Frensham Village Shop as it is today. Edward and Monica continued to live in Frensham until they moved to Farnham in September 2008.

Edward was a wonderful, kind, gentle, unassuming man and with a heart of solid gold. He loved his family unconditionally and devoted himself to Monica and his late son James during their own illnesses. He will be missed by us all.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

This spring, as is often the case, is a stop start affair with some warm sunny weather that gets us itching to plant out the more delicate flower and veg annuals and then cold wet weather comes in from the east and we are glad we did not do that planting out. Tonight (2 May) we have a forecast for 3 degrees which means it could be freezing at ground level, so its not time yet!

Meanwhile, you have other upcoming activities organised by the Hort and Prod for you to enjoy:

- In the last DNL we advertised a coach trip to visit Pashley Manor (www.pashleymanorgardens.com) and Merriments Garden Centre and Show Gardens (www.merriments.co.uk). This is open to members or non-members of the Society and I am pleased to say there has been an excellent response from Frensham, Dockenfield and Rowledge so that we currently have 36 people joining us for the trip on **17 May**. There are still a few places on the coach if you wish to join us. Please contact Dan Bosence (dwjbosence@btinternet.com or phone on Tel: 792442). Pick up will be from Hollowdene (8.45am), Dockenfield Church (9am) and The Hare and Hounds (9.15am). If you have not told us where you wish to be picked up yet then please do so. We don't want to leave anyone behind! We aim to be home by 5.30-6.00pm.
- Our next evening talk will be back at our normal venue of the Marindin Hall (8.00 pm Thursday **22 May**) for a talk by Carol Gubler on "A year in the life of a Fuchsia nursery". The talk will be "what it says on the tin" as well as advice on how to grow Fuchsias. Carol runs Littlebrook Fuchsias in Ash Green, Aldershot where they sell their rooted plants. The nursery is open from 31 May until 29 June to view displays of fuchsias in flower for you to browse and get ideas for next year. She says it is an "unbeatable opportunity to see fuchsias that you will not see at shows. We stock about 400 varieties". She and her mother have been running the nursery for 28 years and Carol will be bringing a range of plants to sell on the evening. If anyone knows what they want then you can pre-order from the website (www.littlebrookfuchsias.co.uk) and she will bring these for you on Thursday 22 May.
- June is the time for village fairs and plant stalls. So if you are looking for bargain perennials/shrubs or annuals flowers for your borders or veg plants for your veg plot then come to the plant stalls at **Dockenfield Day** (7 June, contact Pam Hibbert, 792573) or **Frensham Fayre** (21 June, contact Caroline Plant 793991). If you have any plants spare from your garden please bring these along for resale or contact Pam or Caroline in advance. At these events you can get locally raised plants, with advice on how to grow them, at a fraction of the price you will see at the garden centres.

Dan Bosence

Glorious Frensham Race Night Friday 16 May, 7.30–11pm at the Marindin Hall

Frensham and Dockenfield Support Group for The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice have organised an exciting evening of horse racing with a few surprise races! There will be Mexican nibbles and main course with a dessert buffet as well as a bar selling beer, wine and soft drinks. Come dressed in your favourite race colours! The cost is just £20 per head (cheques made payable to 'Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice'). Email: Sally Ramsahoye for tickets: sallyramsahoye@yahoo.co.uk

Tess Russell

Do you need a Babysitter?

- Ollie Luff, aged 14 (15 in 2 months) available for local babysitting in Dockenfield area
- £5 per hour (whole or part)
- Experience of babysitting younger brother (aged 8)
- Call c/o Mrs Mel Luff 07867 502518/01252 795705 or email: mel.luff@gmail.com

Mel Luff, 4 Abbotts Cottages

Many Congratulations

To Charles and Amy Pamment of Green Lane on the birth of their son Frederick on 27 March. Wonderful news!

Dockenfield's League of Gentlemen.....and Ladies

I have had no more nominations for the title of both 'King' and 'Queen' of the (Dockenfield) Castle in which DNL sought to anoint the most senior citizens of the village with some kind of status. So let me now officially pronounce Pat Paull (age 92) as 'Queen' of Dockenfield, and Alan Bain (age 85) as 'King'. And long may they reign.

Reversing out of Farnham

Its rather late in the day to have this little bit of enlightenment as the store in question has left Farnham. But I hadn't figured out the 'Evitavonni', the rather grand shop that took over the old Woolworths site in the Borough, owes its name to the word innovative being spelled backwards. I am indebted to the 'Farnham Diary' for pointing this out.

The 'village' website

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

News from Bealeswood Common

I usually use this space to talk about the happenings on Bealeswood Common and the special wildlife it supports, and at this time of year a visit to Bealeswood is particularly rewarding, with the spring flowers making an appearance, flashes of colour from the first butterflies, and the fresh green foliage of the trees. In this instance however, I need to depart from my usual ramblings to let you know about some important changes to way we manage our countryside sites here at Waverley.

Waverley Borough Council have a lot of countryside sites – too many actually. Too many for our very modest budget and too many for our small team of rangers to manage effectively. Between the four of us, we are responsible for around 80 sites, including Frensham Common and Farnham Park. A number of these sites, like Bealeswood, are very valuable in terms of wildlife and public recreation, but many are less so. It has been decided that rather than continue being spread so thinly it would be a better approach to concentrate our efforts on the most important sites whilst only carrying out minimal works on the others.

Bealeswood Common and Abbots Cottages woodland, the other Waverley owned site in Dockenfield, are both viewed as being amongst our more important sites, so neither will experience drastic changes in the way they are managed. Where there has been a more significant change is the distribution of these sites across rangers, as both Dockenfield sites will now fall under the responsibility of the Frensham Ranger Steve Webster rather than myself. Many of you will remember Steve from his previous stint as Bealeswood Ranger and I'm confident that both sites will be in very good hands. For my part, I will continue to manage Mare Hill Common in Witley, a number of woodlands in Haslemere, Shackleford Common between Elstead and Godalming, and small woodland just outside of Rowledge.

It is of course a disappointment to no longer be involved with Bealeswood, which is quite possibly the best site we have in terms of diversity of flowers and butterflies. That said, the workload which came with managing the 30 plus sites I was responsible for was just not tenable, and it was always incredibly frustrating that despite the best intentions, I was never able to give deserving sites such as Bealeswood the attention I would have liked. Hopefully this change will mean that I will now be able to focus more attention on my remaining sites, all of which are equally worthy.

I have genuinely enjoyed my last 4 ½ years as Bealeswood Ranger, and this is in no small part down to the warm support I have had from the local community. The efforts of all those who have helped and supported me in any small way over the last few years have been much appreciated, but a big thank you must specifically go to those who have surveyed butterflies or flowers on the Common, cut down trees and got muddy on working parties, or attended my management walks and offered helpful suggestions – you know who you are and you have made my job so much easier.

Although my time as Bealeswood Ranger has come to an end this will probably not be the last you will hear of me, as I will still be based at Frensham Common in the same office as Steve, and certainly won't take too much persuading if he ever needs any help in on either site.

Thank you and goodbye.

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

A big thank you from DNL to Vicky not only for the invaluable work that she has undertaken in the village but also for being such an excellent correspondent for the Newsletter. Her articles have always been well written, informative and without fail have arrived on time. I am very grateful.

'My Favourite Place'

The National Trust Magazine has a piece entitled 'My Favourite Place', in which a famous personality is invited to select their favourite National Trust location. In the Spring 2014 edition the TV presenter Michaela Strachan chose Frensham Little Pond because, in her words, 'Both my brother and my mother got married here. It's a stunning pond and supports a wealth of wildlife, as does the heathland'.

In case you don't know, according to her website, Michaela is 'a wildlife presenter who travels all over the world filming animals and conservation projects.'

The History of the 'Bluebell' (and Batts Corner): continued

In edition 239 (page 8) an article appeared called 'The History of the Bluebell' with contributions from David Graham, Pat Heather and Jean Parratt. I then asked for anyone else who had memories of the Bluebell to share them via DNL. I am delighted to say that the following piece has been written by Pauline Duke, aged 81, an ex-resident of Dockenfield who now lives in Torquay. It seems her stepson, Barry Duke of Farnham is a member of the Local History Group and he heard about DNL's request for more facts about the Bluebell. He mentioned it to Pauline and hey presto she put pen to paper.

The 'Blue Bell'

I was born in 1933 and lived at the 'Blue Bell' for 6 years, my grandparents Edwin and Ellen Lampard, being the then licensees. My family then moved just across the road to a bungalow aptly named 'Belle View', so of course I spent a great deal of time visiting my grandparents. I remember seeing the delivery of beer barrels, rolled down a chute into the long cellar and put into position ready to be 'tapped'. The wholesalers, Naylor's (from Aldershot I believe) brought crisps, packets of biscuits and I think cigarettes etc. A large portion of the garden was used to grow strawberries which we then packed into punnets and sold to the local customers whilst the very tiny berries were sold for jam making.

When war was declared, the local 'Dad's Army' met in the large shed in the grounds of the 'Blue Bell'

I am unsure when my grandparents retired, but I seem to remember a family called Wiseman (from London I think) moved into the 'Blue Bell' but after that I am afraid I have no details.

Batts Corner

Having lived in Batts Corner until I was 11 years old I have lots of memories of the people there. We lived opposite the farm owned by John Cole from whom we had our milk. There was a forge run by Fred Collier: people came from quite long distances to have their horses 'shoed'. There were kennels owned by Miss Robinson who was a very familiar sight walking her dogs.

In 'Notes on old Dockenfield' it is suggested that there was a school at Batts Corner. I wonder if this is the tiny chapel which was almost next door to where I lived at 'Belle View'. It was my Sunday School run by Mrs Jessica Baker, who lived next door to the chapel and who also played the organ.

When I started school at Frensham a Mr Teddy Bailey from Frensham transported the children from the Dockenfield area to school in his 'charabanc'. If my memory is correct we qualified for this journey from the age of five until (I think) seven after which we had to make our own way. Quite a journey by foot in all weathers! A highlight of my life then was being the proud and welcome owner of my first bicycle at the age of (approximately) eight. No more walking to school!

I hope these notes are of interest.

Pauline Duke

Jill, Fiona and Caro complete another National Trail.....

As you possibly know, Fiona, Caro (her lovely dog) and I, originally by accident, have taken to walking the British National Trails, raising funds for the local charity The Kingsley Organisation, where I work as the events co-ordinator.

At the end of April we embarked our fourth walk - the Cotswold Way which runs from Chipping Campden in the North to Bath. We walked for eight days staying overnight at Wood Stanway, Cleeve Hill, Birdlip, Randwick, Dursley, Hawkesbury Upton, Cold Ashton arriving in Bath on Tuesday 29 April.

Our benchmark for these walks seems to have become Offa's Dyke, where climbing is the norm and scrambling not unusual. To this end The Cotswold Way could not be considered flat but neither could you call the hills too steep in comparison, although we did huff and puff sometimes!

The Countryside was delightful, wildflowers in profusion and the silence stunning... nothing to hear except the skylark. Villages/towns turned out to be chocolate box status and hospitality more than adequate, except for the occasional "interesting" location!

Our thanks to everyone who has sponsored us. We are still more than happy to accept further sponsorship (jill@kingsleyorganisation.org.uk) or call Tel: 794284/793045.

And perhaps we could encourage others to try some of these fantastic National Trails if you are seeking a little peace and quiet. We hardly ever meet other walkers. I think there were three couples who were doing the whole walk (all Americans) and very few others just picking out various circular and day linear routes.

Jill Trout

I'm worried about hedgehogs

Time was that hedgehogs used to be regular visitors to our garden. So much so that I grew really rather fond of them and their endearing little ways. But I honestly can't tell you when I last saw one in our garden or elsewhere. Checking the internet I find my concern is understandable. Hedgehog population declined in the UK by one third between 2003 and 2012. It now is estimated at less than one million in this country compared to 36 million in the 1950s

So if anyone, but anyone, can report a hedgehog sighting in the Parish (or elsewhere) do let DNL know. And do take good care of it if it happens to live in your garden.

Landmark domestic “renewable heating” scheme launches

For those of us lucky enough to live in and around Dockenfield it unfortunately comes at a price. We all have to make compromises when it comes to find ways of heating our homes by some other means than “cheap” mains gas and many, if not all of us, use oil, LPG or electric storage heaters.

It won't have gone unnoticed that these fuels have dramatically risen in price over the last decade and there is no sign that they will get any cheaper either. But is there an alternative?

Well finally there is some good news and it comes from the UK government! At the start of April they announced a £430 million scheme called the ‘Renewable Heat Incentive’ (RHI) to help homeowners in communities such as ours embrace fossil fuel alternative green technologies such as heat pumps, biomass boilers and solar thermal panels.

The scheme has been many years in the planning and hopes to significantly boost uptake of renewable heat technology across the UK; particularly in rural “off-mains gas” communities.

Heat pumps, biomass boilers and solar thermal

At the heart of this new home heating revolution are products that efficiently harvest energy from the air, ground, sun or biomass (wood products). These proven technologies have been around for decades on the continent and us Brits are only just catching on to the significant benefits these products bring to our everyday household fuel use.

These newer energy efficient technologies are more expensive than traditional boilers but the RHI scheme allows you to bridge the initial capital cost of installing an air or ground source heat pump, biomass boiler or solar hot water panels.

The payments per household will vary based on the type of heating system but importantly the payments will be made regularly every quarter by your energy supplier. These payments are for seven consecutive years after the installation date and are designed to cover the full installation cost as well as being completely tax free and linked to inflation!

Tax free payments for 7 years

So if you are interested or in fact already have one of these systems installed what do you do next? Well there are a few obligatory hurdles to access the funding but before you roll your eyes these are not as arduous as they sound.

The scheme initially requires that you have a “green deal assessment” undertaken which takes the form of a short visit and inspection which will highlight any basic insulation improvements that can or should be made to the home and check that your loft and cavity walls (if you have them) are insulated.

Once this simple inspection has taken place and you have made the recommended improvements you can start looking to get quotes for an appropriate installer who can undertake the installation for you and help you to combat those high winter fuel bills.

Whilst changing a fundamental part of your home heating system may not be at the top of your “to do” list and renewable heating isn't suitable for every household it is worth noting that if you previously have been undecided about making your home more energy efficient and are keen to embrace renewable heating technology there are now real and meaningful financial incentives right at your fingertips to help you take the leap.

Doug Johnson

Doug lives in The Old Convent and runs Mesh Energy (renewable energy advisors)

Spend a penny on your tulips

It's happened to the best of us, hasn't it? You pick some tulips from the garden, put them carefully in a vase and, Bobs your auntie, in next to no time they have all drooped with the stems bent down and the flower heads facing the floor. And how sad a picture is that?

But there is a solution at hand. Just take a penny (or a twopenny) coin and place it in the water at the bottom of the vase and, hey presto, the stems stay erect and looking wonderful.

‘Sweet F.A.’

‘Sweet F.A.’ is an expression that a good many of us use from time to time. Or, under pressure we might perhaps resort to an earthier version derived from the same initials. Originally of course it came from the saying ‘Sweet Fanny Adams’; but did you know that the grave of the luckless girl can be found quite nearby in Alton Cemetery on the Old Odiham Road?

In 1867, eight year old Fanny was playing with her friends in Flood Meadow, Alton when she was abducted and murdered. Such was the public outcry at the brutality of the crime that money was raised by public appeal for a memorial stone that can be seen on her grave.

News from our Local Police Officer

What can we do about parking?

The one problem that has remained constant throughout the four years that I have worked in the area is parking. Unfortunately with more and more cars coming onto the roads each year I can only see the problem getting worse.

When I was growing up on a council estate in East London my parents couldn't afford a car and we got around everywhere on public transport, which in London was quite plentiful. My father could drive, having learned in the Army, and was employed as a van driver in the West End of London. Once a year we would hire a car for our two week summer holiday, and I can remember the excitement of going with my Dad to pick the car up and the terrible disappointment I felt, whilst waiting at the bus stop to go home, after the car was returned.

Now we are a two car family, both of which fit on our drive, but my 17 year old daughter will want her own car in the next few years and this will have to go on the road. I also have two younger sons who, in the fullness of time I am sure will want their own cars, giving the potential for three extra cars which we will need to try and find space for. I believe that my family circumstances will be mirrored by thousands of others and I do wonder where this will all end.

Recently myself and Alex Regan have been clamping down on people parking in specific areas, where local residents have raised concerns. This has shown that if all parking restrictions were vigorously enforced, throughout the area, the existing parking spaces we currently have would be drastically reduced adding further to the problems.

Under Rule 243 of the Highway Code 2009 you should not stop or park on the following:

1. Near a school entrance.
2. Anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Vehicles.
3. At or near a bus or tram stop or taxi rank.
4. Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.
5. Near the brow of a hill or hump bridge.
6. Where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles.
7. In front of an entrance to a property.
8. On a bend.

Hedge your bets

As the weather improves, residents and businesses take to their gardens to plant new flowers and hedges. We have been made aware of an annual trend concerning the theft of these hedges, particularly Laurel, which appears to be stolen to order.

If you have purchased or are planning to purchase new hedges for your garden, please ensure that you do so from a reputable garden centre or similar, and not from an unexpected 'landscaper' offering them at a 'dirt cheap' price. Hedges are easier to remove when they are newly planted and can take up to two months to establish a proper root system, which helps secure them in the ground. Therefore, in order to keep an eye on your newly planted hedge, you may want to reconsider your holiday plans.

Recently a well know commercial property in the Frensham area, which is currently being redeveloped, has had over £1,500 worth of Laurel hedging stolen from the road side. The same site has also suffered the loss of a large number of builder's tools.

When you do go away, it is always a good idea to inform a trusted neighbour who can keep an eye on your property and perhaps even park their car on your driveway to make the place appear occupied.

Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 3 March to 2 May 2014

We have one report of criminal damage where ties securing a barn door were cut and aluminium poles pulled out the ground allowing animals to escape. We also have one report of a theft of a mobile phone from a local pub.

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

..... the last word on broadband (not)

As Seb Fox has reminded us (see page 7), Superfast Broadband from BT Infinity is now available to residents. A quick check on 'uswitch' reveals that Sky, Talktalk, EE and Plusnet also appear to offer connectivity, but a check with Virgin indicates they can't supply at the moment. What will be useful is if anyone who has already 'upgraded' would care to share their experience, and attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May, they can let everyone have the benefit of said experience first hand. Alternatively, if preferred, you can email comments to the Clerk dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk or contact the Editor of Dockenfield Newsletter.

Ian McLean

News from the Village Shop, May 2014

In recent months the Village Shop has focussed on Fair Trade, and then Gluten Free products. For the Fair Trade initiative we have joined forces with The Good Shepherd; FVS stocks the products, and on the first Sunday of each month, a volunteer collects an assortment to sell at the Family Service in Dockenfield. The beginning of May will see our 3rd offering. Particular favourites have been olive oil and dates from Palestine, Lemon Zest Cookies and Indulgent Milk Chocolate Spoons (to make hot chocolate even more delightful!); all these are also available from our normal range. Paul has deliberately priced these Fair Trade products at less than the normal retail mark-up to encourage sales, recognising the particular importance of the market for these producers.

Over the last few years we have had requests for a wider range of Gluten Free products. Paul has researched the suppliers, and you may have noticed an enticing display on the counter of approximately 20 new lines. This is very much a trial to see how they sell; the popular ones will be brought into the regular range in the shop. So if you need Gluten Free and want variety, please come and support this experiment and give us feedback!

If you have visited the shop in the week leading up to the last Sunday of the month, you may have noticed an Aldershot Food Bank box for convenient donations of packets and tins. These are added to the donations left in the two churches and various other collection points around Frensham and Dockenfield, and delivered to Aldershot. We understand there was a super delivery last month which was greatly appreciated.

Paul will be heading up our Dockenfield Day stall (on 7 June) to encourage you to try some of our new lines and hear your thoughts. We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact: www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk or Tel: 795240 **Mayonne Coldicott**

Annual General Meeting of Frensham Village Shop

Tuesday 13 May, 7.30 for 8pm at the Good Shepherd

The Village Shop is a precious and much loved village asset. One of the ways you can show support is to attend their AGM at The Good Shepherd on Tuesday 13 May; 7.30 for drinks and nibbles; 8pm start. The shop would like to promote it especially in Dockenfield as its local – and also because Emma from Newlyn's Farm (one of their most popular suppliers) is coming to talk. They have called her talk "From 500 Acres to Frensham's Christmas Tables – the story of Newlyn's Farm". So there is lots more to the evening than the AGM business itself so do please try and go along.

Dockenfield Skittles Evening 2014

Friday 12 September, 7pm at the at the Jolly Farmer, Blacknest

This is our eighth year of skittles at the Jolly Farmer. Yet another year to demonstrate your prowess and receive the plaudits (or sympathy) from fellow competitors. The evening combines most things we look for from a social evening: something fun to do and watch, good food and drink, and an opportunity to catch up with friends you may not have seen for some time.

So come and join us on Friday 12 September at the Jolly Farmer and have a go. Assemble from 7pm for a prompt 7.30 start. This normally enables us to get four rounds in. Don't forget there is also a serious side to this as each member of the winning team gets a bottle of wine as a prize, as do the leading male and female individual participants.

Please book early since there is a strict limit of 36 for this event to ensure everyone has a good number of goes. You can do so by phone on Tel: 793233; or email to ian@business-it-solutions.co.uk with the subject

Dockenfield Skittles in capitals or dropping a cheque made payable to Dockenfield Parish Council (for £14 per person which includes a buffet) through my door at Tudor House, Batt's Corner GU10 4EX. Emails and telephone calls must be followed up with swift payment. However you book, please be certain to let me know the individual names of each of the players.

Ian Mansell

Did you spot the Virgin in Dockenfield?

If you believe everything they say in the tabloid press, virgins are an increasingly rare breed in this country. But unmistakably one was spotted in the village in mid April, and it chose a somewhat unexpected way of announcing itself.

I am referring, in the unlikely event that you haven't already guessed, to the landing of a Virgin hot air balloon in the field immediately adjacent to Abbotts Cottages in the early evening of Wednesday 16 April. Debbie and I were out at the time so we only heard about it later. If anyone who witnessed it would like to send in a note about what happened that would be lovely.