

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 249

Published 19 May 2015

Dockenfield does Disney

Dockenfield Day: Saturday 6 June

2-6pm: Fete, with the theme 'Dockenfield does Disney'

Dockenfield Day is upon us again. It's time to dust off your favourite Disney costume and join in the fun. There's the usual great selection of stalls and things to do, as well as children's races and entertainment. And don't forget the renowned Dockenfield food and refreshments including the barbeque, cakes and teas, ice cream and plenty with which to quench your thirst.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Timings are approx

Afternoon Fete

2pm	Fete opened by our very own "Seb Fox"
2.05pm	Stalls open
2.30-3.15pm	Mr McDonut's famous magic show
3.15pm	Fun Dog Show (all dogs welcome, please arrive by 3.05pm)
3.15-4pm	Mr McDonut's balloon modelling
4-4.30pm	Children's races
4.30-5pm	Tug of War contest
5pm	Raffle draw, children's parade & prize giving
6pm	Close

Dockenfield Day needs...

Your help Please get in touch with Roly Miles or Pam Mansell to see how you can help out before, during or after the fete. Contact Roly roly.miles@claremont.co.uk or Pam pma@business-it-solutions.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. In case it rains.

You to turn up... in some fancy dress (if you feel like it).

Where were you in April 1980?

If the answer to that is '*living in Dockenfield*' then DNL wants to hear from you. Because that was the month that saw the very first edition of Dockenfield Newsletter published. And, guess what, the next (July) edition is the 250th issue, so we thought we might celebrate with a little bit of a special edition. One of the things we would like include is a list of all the people who lived in the village in April 1980 and who still live here. If that's you, then please email your name(s) and address to michael.foster66@btinternet.com and I will add you to the list.

Better yet if you also remember the first editor and can throw some light on what has happened to her, then that would be marvellous. Her name was Lyn Doherty and she lived at Neasham Hill in Green Lane.

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Tuesday, 19 May	8pm	Dockenfield Annual Parish Meeting	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
Thursday, 21 May	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 6
Wednesday, 27 May	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 6
Thursday, 28 May	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 12
Monday, 1 June	3pm	Tea at 3	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 6
Saturday, 6 June	2-6pm	Dockenfield Day	Abbotts Cottages	Pages 1, 3 & 4
Sunday, 7 June	11am-4pm	The Festival of Farming, Food and Wildlife	Pierrepoint Farm, Reeds Road	Page 11
13,14,18-21 June	11-5pm	Surrey Artists Open Studios	Hursley Cottage and Jeffreys Cottage	Page 7
Tuesday, 16 June	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
Thursday, 18 June	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 6
Saturday 20 June	1pm evening	Frensham Village Fayre Party in the Park	Hollowdene	Page 5
Sunday 21 June	3-5pm	Open Garden in aid of Breast Cancer Charities	Bealeswood House, Bealeswood Lane	Page 5
Wednesday, 24 June	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 6
Thursday, 25 June	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 12
Monday, 6 July	3pm	Tea at 3	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 6
Tuesday, 14 July	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 5
Thursday, 16 July	7.30pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 6
Friday 16 October	7pm	Skittles Evening	Jolly Farmer pub, Blacknest	Pages 14 & 16
Saturday, 12 December	6-10pm	Dockenfield Christmas Party	The Good Shepherd	Page 11

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 10 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.

The 'village' website

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

Dockenfield Day

Saturday 6 June

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

Fete: 2-6pm: with the theme, 'Dockenfield does Disney'

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. This is the day where everyone in the village can come together, dress up and enjoy our pint-sized fete with lashings of good old fashioned entertainment and fun.

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:

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.

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. This year the children can race Disney themed characters that they can decorate at the craft stall and take home! Even the bouncy castle is almost from the Disney set itself!

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

Dockenfield Day needs...

Your 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 Roly Miles (roly.miles@claremont.co.uk), or Pam Mansell (pma@business-it-solutions.co.uk).

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.....

Your co-operation. It would be really, really helpful if at the end of the fete if you could take a bag of rubbish home with you to put in your bins. All the committee members already do this but we need other families to help out please to ensure we clear everything up.

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':

Donations needed

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	Mark and 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

Finally....You to turn up... and dress up. Missing such a fun event surely isn't an option. Please add to the fun by dressing up to the theme of the day.

Roly Miles

Dockenfield Day – 6 June

So many things to see and do

Dockenfield Day is just jam packed with things to do and games to play for all the family.

This is just a sample of what's happening.... Isn't it amazing how we manage to squeeze all this into our pint-sized pitch!

Mr McDonut's Magic show

Balloon modelling

Children's Dragon Racing

Bash the Rat

Coconut Shy

Tombola

Garden Plants

Crafts

Human Fruit Machine

Best Disney Fancy Dress Competition

Bouncy Castle (Disney Style)

All day BBQ

Real Ale

Bar

Tea and Cakes

Face Painting/Tattoos

Toy Stall

Dog Show

Raffle

Children's Races

Pimms

Book Stall

Frensham Village Shop

Wildlife Information Stand

Ice Cream

Tug of War

Pole Jousting

Additional information on Dockenfield Day

- **This year's Competition.** We would love you to come dressed in a Disney theme and if you do you might win a prize. There are 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.
- **Stall Holders.** Can stall holders be sure that they are available to set up, run and tidy their stall please? Stall holders are also encouraged to dress up in an appropriate costume.
- **Fun Dog Show.** This is 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. No spirits will be sold, nor should any be brought in. No alcohol should be bought, brought in or consumed by under 18s.

Roly Miles

Dockenfield Day: records of local wildlife

A little reminder to bring along the records of wildlife you have seen in your gardens and around Dockenfield generally. **Roger Trout** has been recording these for many years and maps will be there with past information. He looks forward to receiving news of present sightings.

Butterfly Transect at Bealeswood Common

As many of you know, a record of the butterflies seen on Bealeswood Common is made by walking a regular transect each week between April and October. Early on we (Anne Tutt, Alison Bosence and Philippa Hall) mostly see those butterflies that hibernate as adults, such as Brimstone, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell, but later in the year large numbers of grassland butterflies appear. Because Bealeswood Common is cut in late summer/early autumn, the larvae of those butterflies have time to grow and pupate, instead of being crushed by machinery as so often happens if the grass is cut too early. The Orange Tip is one of the first butterflies to emerge in the spring (only the male has orange tips to the wings, the female is mainly white) as is the Speckled Wood.

April 1 st – 7 th	No butterflies seen
April 8 th – 14 th	2x orange tip, 1x comma, 1x peacock
April 15 th – 21 st	1x orange tip
April 22 nd – 28 th	9x orange tip, 1x peacock, 2x speckled wood
April 29 th – May 5 th	5x orange tips

Philippa Hall

And now is surely the time for us to thank Anne, Alison and Philippa for doing the work that enables important records such as this to be kept.

Does my bum look big on this?

The more time you spend sitting down, the bigger your bottom becomes, according to research. It seems that pressure caused by sitting can lead to a 50% expansion in the size of fat cells. So clearly, when you are up the pub, it pays to stand at the bar rather than enjoy your drink sitting down.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Dockenfield Parish Council: has a full complement of Parish Councillors, i.e. five, they are: Richard Blackburn, Ian McLean, Chris Sutton, Jill Trout and John Whitby. Paul Wood, is standing down as he is about to start a new exciting stage of his life at the Duchy College of Agriculture. Paul has been a fantastic researcher and enthusiastic, skilled, hardworking member of the Parish Council team, who we will all miss.

Paul will continue to liaise with Robert Clayson to manage the Dockenfield Parish Council Website as well as co-ordinating the updated Business Directory (see page 6) and has volunteered to be Treasurer of Dockenfield Day this year and..... we hope when he is Dockenfield he will still come along to the Parish Council meetings.

We welcome Chris Sutton, who lives in Green Lane, and look forward to working with him on the diverse tasks that constitute the Parish Council remit.

Annual Parish Meeting: Do come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday **19 May** starting at 8pm when you can meet up with all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk, Jessica Hobday.

The main talk is by Professor Dan Bosence celebrating the diversity of Bealeswood Common with wonderful illustrations of butterflies by Alex Potts and records by Philippa Hall. As usual refreshments will be available. We will also hear updates from our Parish, Surrey and Waverley Councillors, CPRE/Alice Holt Users Forum, Rev. Jane, our Neighbourhood Police Team, etc. As usual the venue is our Church of the Good Shepherd.

The Phone Box: If you might have been wondering where the door of the phone box has gone... well it flew off its ancient hinges some months ago and the Parish Council experienced difficulty in finding/being able to repair it. Enter Francis Hobday, who has done a truly amazing job on the door (many thanks Francis) but now it will need a little loving red paint. So if we have any volunteers to put together a working party, the weather at present is favourable... Please get in touch with Jessica on Tel: 0788132363.

Litter: Another small plug for tidy lanes. I know village people do not drop litter but it does make a lot of difference if we clear it... litter seems to attract its own! Some people already do this, so please keep up the good work! Also, when 'Posterman' (Michael) puts up the posters to inform us of forthcoming events it seems a little unfair he has later to march around to take these down. So if they are out of date it would be great if when you pass them you could take them down.

Next Meeting Dates: The dates for the next three Parish Council Meetings are Tuesdays Tuesday 19 May 2015 (Annual Parish Meeting), 16 June, 14 July, 15 September, 20 October and 17 November 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 please contact the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

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

Open Garden in Bealeswood Lane Sunday 21 June, 3-5pm at Bealeswood House

The gardens of Bealeswood House will be open for viewing on Sunday 21 June from 3 - 5pm in aid of Breast Cancer charities. Homemade lemonade and cakes will be served. There will be no entrance fee but donations will be appreciated.

Frensham Village Fayre Saturday 20 June, 1pm at Hollowdene Recreation Ground

Parade assembles at 12 noon at Shortfield Common

This year's Fayre has the theme of Peter Pan and includes all the fabulous stalls and attractions that you have come to expect plus an inflatable assault course, bungee trampolines, pony rides and a car rally.

Frensham 'Party in the Park'

The Fayre evening event will take place at Hollowdene in the marquee and features live music with 'Foxy Laus'.

As well as music and dancing there will be a full bar serving drinks, cocktails and food, although these are not included in the price of £10 per ticket. These can be obtained from the Village Shop or by phoning Geoff King (07903 470613) or Antony White (07876 523785).

Keep your outbuildings locked

A garage in the area of Batts Corner was broken into overnight on 13/14 May. So this is just a reminder to everyone to lock up all their garages and outbuilding, and keep an eye out for anything suspicious, including on your neighbours' properties.

Have you lost an iPhone?

An iPhone was found on the afternoon of Saturday 16 May at the edge of Bealeswood Common where it joins Bealeswood Lane. If you think you may be the owner, then please call Tony Moore on Tel: 794111.

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 21 May, 18 June and 16 July, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The next three meetings of the Millbridge WI are:

21 May: Resolutions

18 June: 'Bargain Hunt' by Jonathon Pratt

16 July: Garden Party

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

Tea at 3

Mondays 1 June and 6 July, 3pm at St Mary's Church Hall

'Tea at 3' is an increasingly popular parish event that takes place on the first Monday of every month and is open 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. The next dates are Mondays **1 June** and **6 July**.

Village Lunch

Wednesdays 27 May and 24 June, 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 Rainbows and Phyllis Tuckwell. All are welcome and will be assured of a really tasty meal at a bargain basement price, coupled with loads of good friendly company. And all in a good cause.

What price the Newsletter?

We've done the annual sums and can tell you that the total cost of producing DNL for the twelve months from April 2014 to March 2015 was £298.14. That's for an average of about 250 copies of each of six editions a year. That works out at less than 20p a copy, which is paid by Dockenfield Parish Council and comes out of the annual precept, paid by residents.

Let's remember here that the only cost of DNL is the cost of printing, which is done for us by The Kingsley Centre at very beneficial prices. Nobody involved on DNL (the editor, contributors or distributors) claim payment or expenses of any kind.

A new Dockenfield Business Directory

Free publicity for the village's businesses!

Both the Newsletter and Dockenfield Parish Council (that funds it) are keen to support businesses that are owned and run by residents of the village. With this in mind we will be publishing an updated version of the Dockenfield Business Directory, a free guide to businesses that are owned and run by Dockenfield residents. The idea is to give them a publicity boost whilst at the same time demonstrating the range of talent and business skills that are available right here in the village. This last one appeared in the summer of 2009, so its high time we brought it up to date.

This time round though the approach will be slightly different. A 'quick reference' version of the Directory will appear in *every* edition of DNL, with an enlarged version appearing on the DPC website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk). This we believe will mean that readers will have the most important details of the skills and services that the village offers immediately at hand in every issue, as well as having more information just a click away if that is needed.

We are hoping that all the village's businesses, large, small and tiny will want to join in; from plant hire to gardeners, cleaners to consultants, pubs to painters, travel companies to tree surgeons. Your business doesn't have to be based in the village; but you have to be, and you have to own it. Full and part time businesses are equally welcome, even if you are only offering occasional services such as baby sitting or dog walking.

To qualify for inclusion on this list you MUST actually live in a house that receives a copy of the Newsletter through your door and run your own business. If you meet these criteria (and please don't try and abuse them) then email your details to Paul Wood (pdw65@btinternet.com), or put your details through the door at 'Alder Holt' in Green Lane. Each entry will be take a standard format and I would ask you please to submit your information in the style and size requested below.

The plan is to start the new Directory with the next edition of DNL, out in July. So for inclusion in that please let Paul have your entry by 30 June 2015 latest.

The information you should send is:

- The name of your business
- The contact name
- A maximum 6 word description of what you do (for inclusion in every edition of DNL)
- Also an expanded 15 word description of what you do, to appear on the DPC website (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)
- Your contact details: Telephone number; email address; and website
- Also you MUST provide your home address. This will *not* be published, but we need to know where you live so that we can be sure that you properly qualify for inclusion.

Email this information by 30 June latest to Paul Wood pdw65@btinternet.com, or deliver/post it to him at Alder Holt, Green Lane, Dockenfield Surrey GU10 4JD.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you

Many thanks to the motorist who, having noticed I had dropped my glove when riding (my horse) Pandora, stopped and handed it back....

Jill Trout

Having Problems with Broadband?

Probably as a result of my considerable fretting with the Surrey County Council (SCC) Superfast Broadband team, the County Council have asked me to put together a detailed file of properties in the Western Villages (*of Waverley*) which have not achieved and/or maintained 15 Mb or more download speed. I seek your help. Essentially I would like to invite anyone whose property is within one of the parishes within the 'Western Villages' to advise me if they fall into one of the following categories (Superfast is defined throughout as 15Mb download speed.): The more we can find, the more chance we have of helping them.

- A. Those who do not fall within the "intervention" area which is the subject of the contract between BT and SCC, and do not have access to Superfast. This will probably be because their line is connected, at some distance, to Godalming (01483) or Bordon (01420), but there may be a few others.

For all other locations:

- B. Have attempted to order Superfast, but have been advised that Superfast speeds are not currently achievable at their property.
- C. Have ordered Superfast, but it has never performed at Superfast speed.
- D. Superfast was installed at Superfast speed, but has subsequently deteriorated to a point below 15Mb.

What I will need for the file is the name of each property-owner, the address of the property, postcode, line number including area code, date of original order (or attempted order) and initial speed, together with current speed.

David Harmer (Surrey County Councillor for the Western Villages)

In alphabetical order, the western villages include Brook, Churt, Dockenfield, Elstead, Frensham including Rushmoor, Hindhead, Peper Harow, Thursley and Tilford (provided they are part of Surrey).

Surrey Artists Open Studios in Dockenfield

At Hursley Cottage (Lake Lane) and Jeffreys Cottage (Bealeswood Lane)

Artists all over Surrey will be opening their studios in June. As well as selling work, we welcome visitors and children to watch us working and ask questions. You may see the orange signs and balloons on your travels through the county: if you do, you are welcome to drop in and visit the artists between 11 am and 5pm. 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 again this year in Dockenfield on **13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21 June**. The opening hours **11-5pm** each day.

At Hursley Cottage in Lake Lane

Jean Heathcote works in oils, painting landscapes, flowers and seascapes and enjoys colour and texture. Different sizes, framed and unframed. Jean will also be open until **8pm on Thursday 18 June**. Please call 793251 for details.

At Jeffreys Cottage in Bealeswood Lane

There will be four makers and artists spreading their work throughout the house and garden. Outside, we have a new (to us) sculptor this year; Anna Pohorely. Some of her sculptures are wind-powered, and her jewellery will also be in show in the house.

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 short workshop on Thursday 18 June. Please call Tel: 792442 for details. We will all have work for sale, can make to commission and enjoy a chat!

'March winds and April Showers.....'

.....Bring forth May Flowers'. Or so the old rhyme goes. But what happens when the April showers go AWOL? Well we are about to find out because this has been one of the driest Aprils on record. Indeed rainfall in Dockenfield for that month has been just 1.05 inches compared to 3.55 inches last year. I am indebted to **Jack Bessant** for these figures. Jack, I am delighted to say, has taken over the mantle of keeper of the Dockenfield rain gauge from Gordon Carter and will be supplying the statistics from now on.

Cuckoo Clock 2015

Once again we have had a lovely lot of contributions from around the parish with reports of when the cuckoo was first heard. This is all the more encouraging this year as there have been news reports in the last couple of weeks that its numbers have declined in this country by 65% since the 1980s. So the more people that hear its call around here the better. The first date this year of 9 April is three days earlier than in 2014.

9 April: Ian and Pamela Mansell (Batts Corner, albeit heard some distance away); Michael Foster (Bealeswood Lane), but heard from Jeffrey's Copse: and that same evening on Thursley Common, as reported by Val Lewis

10 April: Philippa Hall (West End Lane) heard it at 12.20pm; and ten minutes later (my goodness aren't we accurate this year) Stephen Freemantle (Abbotts Cottages); then later that same afternoon Harold Parratt (also Abbotts Cottages).

12 April: Janette and Neil Platt (Bealeswood Lane).

13 April: at breakfast time by Tony and Margaret Moore (the west end of The Street, although they heard it from the east of the village).

14 April: Anne Tutt (Old Lane)

17 April: Bridgette Wilson was up early walking in Bourne Woods and there it was again; and later that same day, this time back in Dockenfield, it was heard by Jack Bessant (west end of The Street)

21 April: Tim and Dot Finlow (Batts Corner)

Interestingly we had some friends come to stay over the early bank holiday weekend, and they had travelled here from Ludlow, via the New Forest, Portsmouth, Effingham and Guildford, and the very first cuckoo they heard was when sitting in our garden on 4 May. And the following weekend we were in Loughborough where my cousin said that it was many years since they had heard a cuckoo at all. So maybe our village is more blessed with visits from the cuckoo than many other parts of the country.

Important Notice about New Arrangements for Access to the Alice Holt Visitor Centre

On 6 May the Forestry Commission (FC) implemented a new ticketless barrier system at the Alice Holt Visitor Centre using number plate recognition. This will mean that you will only pay for the exact length of your stay, without worrying about your car park ticket expiring.

This is how the new system will work. When you drive up to the barrier system, the number plate recognition technology will record the details of the vehicle's number plate and the barrier will then raise automatically to allow you to enter. At the end of your visit, you will need to go to a pay machine, type in your vehicle registration number and the machine will then display the payment required. Payment can then be made with cash or payment card and a receipt will be issued if required.

Once payment has been made, the transaction is automatically registered so that when your vehicle approaches the exit barrier, the number plate will be recognised and the barrier will lift to allow your vehicle to exit the Forest. Discovery Pass holders will automatically be registered with the system and will be able to enter and depart automatically. FC will be contacting all Discovery Pass Holders directly shortly. There are three lanes/barriers as you proceed into the site and during peak entry flows you will see two lanes entering and one exiting. This will be reversed in the afternoon during peak exit periods.

In the case of problems or breakdown of the system, a button on the barriers will allow interaction with site staff who will be there to resolve any problems and override the system.

FC say that at £50 per year for unlimited access, the Discovery pass makes great sense for regular visitors who don't want to pay for each visit and who come often to make use of the facilities; you can apply for a pass at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pass> or purchase on site by approaching a member of staff. You can have a maximum of two personal vehicles registered on the system.

Colin Hall

Yoga at the Marindin Hall

Vanessa Nelson, who runs the yoga class at the Marindin Hall every Friday, has been in touch to point out that her class runs from 9.15-10.30am and not from 9.15-11.30 as printed in the last DNL (edition 248, page 7). Apologies for the error. More details from Vanessa on 07740 860503.

Events at the Bluebell

Longer summer opening hours: Monday-Thursday Bar: 12-3pm and 5.30-11pm. Food: 12-3pm and 6-9pm; **Friday and Saturday** Bar: 11am-11pm. Food: 12-3pm and 6-9pm; **Sunday** Bar: 12-9pm, Food: 12-4pm.

Special Openings: the pub is very happy to host coffee mornings, open early for children's evening meals and other 'out-of-hours' events. Just call them to make arrangements.

Bookings: the Bluebell is very popular in the summer, so if you plan to eat, especially at weekends, it's always best to book. This is most important for Sunday lunch which has been fully booked every week this year so far. Expect Sunday **21 June** to be especially busy as its Fathers' Day, so get your reservation in quickly for that one.

'Men's Night': takes place at the pub every 2nd Thursday in the month, so the next dates are **11 June** and **9 July**, starting from 8pm. To get on to the regular 'Men's Night' emailing list please contact Mark Rosling: mark.rosling@bp.com

Contact: keep in touch with the Bluebell on their newly updated 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 and you can 'like' them on that for regular updates.

Events at our other 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.

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

Following a major refurbishment the hotel is now open again for business and the management there invite you to come along and see the enhancements that have been made to the hotel including to the bar, restaurant and reception as well as to 18 of the bedrooms.

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Open (Acoustic) Mic Nights: 8.30pm on the last Friday of every month so **29 May** and **26 June**

Saturday 4 July: celebrating American Independence Day with music from Phil Aaron. I'm told he plays Rat Pack/Neil Diamond and that he always draws a crowd so it's good to book early

Music Nights in June: these will be on dates yet to be announced so look out for boards outside the pub

Fish and Chip Fridays: to eat in or take away

New Menu: now being served

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

Congratulations to Chris and Kelly who run the Cherry Tree, on the birth of their second son. But of course life at the pub must go on so the events they have are:

Weekly events: *Tuesdays* - 2 Rump steak dinners £20; *Wednesdays* - 2 Fish & Chips (eat in or take away) for £12; *Thursdays* - 2 Dine with Wine for £30 (two courses and a bottle); *Fridays* 20% off Champagne & Sparkling.

Special events: *Friday 5 June* - Live Band 'Nothing Concrete' *Saturday 13 June* - Murder Mystery

Frensham Brewery (Tel: 793956, www.frenshambrewery.co.uk)

Emily Miles, the Director and Co-Founder of the brewery sends news as follows:

The Brewery has won its first award. 'Beer of the Festival' for Rambler, their 3.9% pale ale, at Farnham Beerex. Meanwhile Frensham Brewery beers will be featuring at Dockenfield Day, Frensham Fayre, The Bourne Show and at Rustic Sunday at the Rural Life Centre.

They are now open on Sundays for the summer period (May - Sept) same hours 12 - 4pm (now Thurs - Sun weekly). They are converting their kit (!) by utilising milk tanks instead of their old tanks, allowing them to produce more beer in one go. They have also just taken on their first employee, a local lad called Ed, who some of you may know from The Crossways Pub in Churt.

The **'Festival of Food, Farming & Wildlife'** is on Sunday 7 June, as well as a Pierrepont Farm Open day, there will be craft stalls in the courtyard, pitches still available for £5 each (see also page 11).

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They are planning a walk in conjunction with the Bluebell pub; more info on this will be available soon.

There are a few surprises in store for the **brewery's first birthday** on 1 July, with events taking place from 2-5 July in the courtyard. These will include a mini beer festival showcasing all their beers (plus a new limited recipe & other drinks) and an acoustic band.

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

Frensham Royal British Legion (Tel: 793014)

News from our Local Police Officer

Fly-grazing – Control of Horses Act 2015

I am not sure how many local residents have heard of the term 'Fly-grazing' but this is an issue which I have come across on a number of occasions over the last five years. Fly-grazing is the placing of horses on another person's land to use their grazing without their consent. The Control of Horses Act 2015 introduces a new procedure regarding the detention and disposal of such horses. Specifically, it allows horses to be disposed of 96 hours after detention, rather than fourteen days as previously, and for disposal to include destruction or any other way (which could include giving it to charity). Previously, detained horses had to be sold at a market or an auction, despite many having little or no value.

Please check your lights

Over the last couple of months I have become increasingly concerned about the large number of vehicles I have seen without proper working headlights and sidelights. I am sure that you will all appreciate the potential dangers this can cause to both the drivers of the vehicles themselves and other road users. Defective headlights not only drastically reduce a driver's ability to clearly see the road ahead at night but may also result in oncoming vehicles not being able to see you.

Whenever you drive your car at night please check that both your headlights and sidelights are in full working order before you leave home. If you find that any of your lights are not working then you will need to arrange for replacement bulbs to be fitted urgently. It will not surprise you to learn that it is an offence to drive a vehicle with defective lights. You may be stopped by police and issued with a Vehicle Defect Rectification Notice giving you 14 days to correct the fault. Failure to do so may lead to prosecution.

To my eternal shame, a few years ago, I did not check my lights and ended up with only one sidelight working. I was driving down a dark country road at the time and could not see anything in front of me. It was a very frightening experience.

Dockenfield reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 14 March to 8 May

We have one theft where various items of horse riding equipment have been stolen from a horse box parked in a yard.
PCSO John Francis, Police Community Support Officer Tel: 101 Ext 31937

Woodland Conservation Volunteers at Alice Holt

Would you like to volunteer at Alice Holt Forest and get involved in woodland conservation? You can do this by joining the group of volunteers who meet for a morning once a month at the Alice Holt Arboretum. It is good exercise, good fun and you get more fresh air than going to the gym. You can get involved in a variety of projects that are being undertaken at the Arboretum.

The volunteers are now part of the South Downs Volunteer Service, and you can become a South Downs Volunteer Ranger, which would enable you to join in many of the other volunteer activities taking place throughout the South Downs National Park. Contact Colin Hall (chall3422@aol.com) or Robert Simpson (rf.simpson@talk21.com).

Colin Hall

All aboard

I am sure it won't have escaped your attention that 18 June is the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, famously won by the Duke of Wellington on a battlefield near Brussels. Many Dockenfield residents, of course, commute on a daily basis through Waterloo, the station named in honour of the battle. A station moreover that is now so busy that it handles more passengers every day than Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted Airports combined.

Comings...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to **Brenda and Adrian McCarthy** who have moved into Bracken Lodge in The Street, along with their two cats, Millie (an 18 year old tortoiseshell) and Harvey (a 13 year old tabby). And spare a thought for Millie, who is deaf and so it might be prudent for her to become a 'house cat' in case she fails to hear the traffic on the road. Brenda and Adrian have moved from Ascot, and say that they *'are very friendly, so do drop in for a cup of tea if you are passing.'*

...goings...

The village said a fond farewell in March to **Gordon Carter**, who along with his late wife Barbara had lived in Dockenfield since 1987. And whilst they were here, boy oh boy, did they do stuff for the community. Try this lot for size. Gordon was: Poppy Organiser for about 12 years; Neighbourhood Watch Organiser, also for many years; responsible for the care and maintenance of the War Memorial; a member of the British Legion Branch Committee and of the Police and Community Committee, Farnham, representing Frensham and Dockenfield. That's as well as being Rotary President. Meanwhile Barbara was second in command at the Village Lunch; a Member of Frensham/Dockenfield Parish Social Committee, a member of the PCC and of the Parish Churches Fabric Committee. She was also co-designer of the kitchen at the Good Shepherd whilst also finding time to be three times President of Fleet Tangent Club, twice President of Farnham Weyside Inner Wheel Club and a major fund raiser for the 'Shelter Box' Charity. Phew!

Perhaps over time, however, it may be that Gordon may be remembered for being the first person to coin the phrase 'Upper and Lower Dockenfield'. Unofficial names they may be, but they neatly sum up the geography of those parts of the village.

Another friendly face has also left the Village. **John Reyersbach** who, with his late wife Sue, lived at Valley Forge in The Street for over 20 years, has moved (or as he puts it, *'gone up north'*) to Rowledge. John leaves with many happy memories of his years here. In his words: *'It was a sad day for me when I decided to leave Dockenfield. It is a wonderful village and I would like to thank everyone who has been so friendly to me and my family over so many years.'*

...and congratulations

I am sure that everyone in the village will join the Newsletter in sending love and congratulations to **Mared Evans** and **Nick Morant** on the recent announcement of their engagement.

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

Festival of Farming, Food and Wildlife

Sunday 7 June, 11am to 4pm at Pierrepont Farm

Bring the family to enjoy a celebration of farming, food and wildlife right here on our doorstep at Pierrepont Farm, just off the Reeds Road, a few metres beyond Frensham Garden Centre The Countryside Restoration Trust in association with Pierrepont Farm and Frensham Brewery will have local food and craft stalls, dairy visits, children's activities (including pond dipping and face painting), farm walks, talks and demonstrations plus of course there is the brewery itself to visit and enjoy their beers (see also page 9). There is free entry and parking (sat nav GU10 3BP if you are driving). Remember to wear suitable footwear if you do go along!

All proceeds to the charity The Countryside Restoration Trust.

Calling all hedgehogs

This time last year I wrote a piece about my concern for hedgehogs: once a common sight in every garden and now a visitor of increasing rarity. I for one hadn't seen one for years. And then suddenly, earlier this month I saw three. Two of them comparatively local; both on the road; and both of them dead, flattened by cars. And the third, rather more improbably, floating in the canal in Loughborough, again dead. A real sadness there of course, but at least some evidence that hedgehogs are still around.

So please, if anyone spots a live hedgehog in their garden or elsewhere please let DNL know.

Dockenfield Christmas Party 2015

This year the Christmas Party will be 're-born' in the Good Shepherd Church on **Saturday 12 December**. It will follow a similar format to the 'good old days', between 6 pm and 10 pm, having something for everybody, young and old alike! There will of course be food, drink, as well as dancing and games led by the DJ.... And of course we are hoping that Father Christmas might make an appearance - as in previous years - to say hello and bring a little something to the children of the village!

The Dockenfield Christmas Party has been described as something very special and unique to our village, and is a precious time when all ages can come together. *So put the date in your diaries!* More information will follow later in the year of course!

Abi Shaw / Joolz Miles

Nobody's logic

Sign on a restaurant wall: 'I am a nobody. Nobody is perfect. Therefore I am perfect.'

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Thursdays 28 May and 25 June, 8pm at the Marindin Hall

Plants have been sown, transplanted and watered for both **Dockenfield Day** (Saturday 6 June) and **Frensham Fayre** (Saturday 20 June). However, for these to be a success we need more plants to sell! Where do these plants come from each year? They come from rather a small number of people who take the trouble to sow seeds that will be ready in time, or who have dug up surplus shrubs/perennials or who have remembered to take cuttings from earlier in the year. If you have any of the above, please bring them along, preferably labelled, to the stall on the morning of these two events. Need gardening advice on how or what to grow on the Dockenfield clay? The stall-holders will be able to help as they have many years experience of growing plants in the area.

Bring plants for sale to the stall on the morning of the event. Or, if this is impossible, give us a call and we arrange prior delivery. The contacts are for Dockenfield Day are Pam Hibbert (792573) or Dan Bosence (792442 or dwbosence@btinternet.com). Urgently required for plant stalls; 3 - 4" plastic plant pots. Drop off at Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane or call Dan for collection.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Thursday **28 May** (8 pm Marindin Hall) with our own special version of Gardeners' Question Time. This year, and back by popular demand, we have Mark Saunders (Head Gardener, Fittleworth House, Sussex) and Jean Griffin (BBC Radio Kent- "Sunday Gardening") as our "panel of experts". Remember you can bring along specimens or photos of failing trees, shrubs, flowers and veg for inspection and comment, plants for identification, pests/infections for identification (in sealed plastic bags please!) etc. as well as all of your horticultural problems.

This will be followed on the **25 June** (same time/same venue) with our popular Rose Evening when we have an informal competition to find who has grown the best roses in our catchment area. Last year Frensham threw down the gauntlet with their roses getting tops votes. I am hoping from some strong entries from Dockenfield this year. All details of classes etc. are in the current and the next Hort and Prod Newsletter. **Dan Bosence**

News from the Village Shop

The Scarecrow Festival was superb in every way, with Holly Golightly (and the co-operative weather) pulling in the crowds, and giving us record takings. The spirit in the village was a great delight. Our thanks go to Amanda, Felicity, Kerry and Sarah for master-minding the Festival once again and giving us an opportunity to show-case the shop; to Chris Haines and Anthea Graves for creating the brilliant 'Holly' for us; and to Paul and all the volunteers who kept the shop open throughout the Festival.

And now for Dockenfield Day! We're planning our traditional stall, with local products including speciality bread, jams, and chutneys – and not forgetting the popular pick and mix sweets. It'll be a 'sunny' day, whatever the weather!

We now have a whole shelf devoted to about a dozen gluten-free biscuits and snacks; come and speak to Valerie for recommendations, or to suggest additional items you'd like to buy from us.

Throughout May we have a special promotion on Dry Cleaning – 25% off the cost of cleaning curtains and loose covers; a real incentive to get on with the Spring Cleaning! And on the subject of special prices, even the Post Office is joining in! There are huge reductions on the cost of sending parcels. The new price for a 2nd class small parcel up to 2kg is £2.80, and for a medium sized parcel up to 2kg, it's now £4.89 – a real bargain!

At our AGM on 14 May we are delighted to say that Roger Holmes was elected as our new Chairman and Isi Cousins as our new Treasurer. Enormous thanks go to Sue Wicks for her good-humoured Chairing of our Management Committee, for her unstinting enthusiasm and great ideas. We are delighted that, though stepping down from the Committee, she will continue her close association with the shop

Equally, our thanks go to our retiring Treasurer, Jenny Binks, who has guided our finances so meticulously and thoughtfully, and has given us great advice during her tenure. We are very grateful to her for the careful handover of the role to Isi Cousins, who we warmly welcome.

And remember, if you're stuck at home and can't get out, you can always call Paul for a delivery. No one does. Why not?

Mayonne Coldicott

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

Three of the Best

To my knowledge three intrepid Dockenfield residents ran (and completed!) the London Marathon on 26 April: Daryl Fox, Lesley Rosling and Frank Ilett. DNL has asked them to tell their stories of the day and also to remind us all of the charities they were supporting so that those of us who haven't already done so have the opportunity to sponsor them. If there are any other runners who I don't mention here then do please let me know.

'Running for local charities, Lesley and Daryl travelled together from Dockenfield up to London. We shared our nerves on a train packed with marathoners who all looked much younger than us, and as we took the un-crowded and scenic route along the Thames on the Clippers to the start at Greenwich.

Messages of support from friends and family helped a lot in the build-up. One neighbour sent a gorgeous email on the morning of the race, reinforcing the mood for us:

'All the talk today is about Paula Radcliffe doing her final marathon but really it's all about the fun runners (putting) in the training in their spare time... Hope you enjoy the experience and your family, friends and London are all proud of you.'

Greenwich was damp and chilly, and the queues for the loos were as long as you'd expect. We were glad of each other's company as we got into race gear and bin liners, put our kit bags on the lorries and got into our start area – well towards the rear of the field, but ahead of the elaborate fancy dress. We chatted with the runners around us and heard their stories – including a farmer who had been up all night lambing! Thankfully, with the chat and laughter, it was impossible to get nervous.

We had no plans to run together, but in fact kept a very similar pace throughout, and particularly in the first half. Feeling pretty strong and comfortable, it was possible to enjoy the crowds and the atmosphere. Both of our families were out on the course to support us. Somewhere in Bermondsey around mile 12, we each broke our stride for family hugs, and that was a real lift. Running over Tower Bridge at nearly half way was great.

Miles 14 to 20 or so were very long indeed. It was getting painful, and we were each getting tired and slower. The crowds were still out in force, though, and round the back of Millwall we went past a barefoot Jesus with a cross strapped to his back, and a pub contingent had set up an encouraging chant of 'Je-sus, Je-sus!' In the real low points around miles 17 or 18 we felt like we were going backwards, and were variously overtaken by strawberries, camels, and a cardboard Big Ben. It was a case of mind over matter and just plodding on. Knowing how much support we had, and thinking of all the incredible sponsorship, kept us going.

Still on the Isle of Dogs, a pipe band sang out, and under a flyover Japanese drummers created an electrifying, uplifting noise. By mile 20 the end seemed achievable, and certainly by 22 - coming through the City with peals of bells - it was possible to start counting down. Daryl made some ground on a lobster; and whilst Lesley never actually saw Superman, he was there on her shoulder in nearly all the pictures.

The crowds in those last few miles were amazing, yelling their support. The final few hundred metres down The Mall to the finish (a first time for Daryl, second time for Lesley) were unforgettable. We each finished a little over 5 hours 15 minutes; better than we expected and not too bad for our advanced years!

We'd both like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us, and our fabulous charities: Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre and Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

<https://www.justgiving.com/DarylFox/>

<https://www.justgiving.com/Lesley-Rosling1/>

Daryl Fox and Lesley Rosling

'Having not run much for 20 years or so, I started training back in July for this fantastic challenge. Training generally went well so on the day felt confident for a good run. The first 13 miles were fantastic. I felt great, relaxed and running well. I ran near the barriers a lot of the time to soak up the atmosphere from the crowds and did a lot of high five-ing with all the outstretched hands of the kids. I was running in front of the 3:45 banner so knew I was under 3:40 pace up to that point. At mile 15 I noticed my quads tightening so slowed up a bit in the hope they would loosen up. I got to the Isle of Dogs, around 19-20 miles, and was still on 3:45 pace but my legs were getting tighter and tighter. I got gradually slower and slower and with about 3 miles to go was just fighting to get to the end without stopping. I thought of my late mum, the crowds, my family at the end and my sponsors and just ground it out. With 200 meters to go I saw my family and became very emotional seeing them and being so near the end and so, so tired. But I made it. Finished in 4 hours 1 minute. Not bad for first time and an old bloke! All in all a fantastic event.

Will I do it again? My daughter (19) and youngest son (12) both now want to do it. So maybe I will run it again with one of them. Watch this space. I raised money for two charities: Ordinary2Extraordinary and Get Kids Going. Details in: <https://www.justgiving.com/frank-ilett3/>

Frank Ilett

Thank you Pauline and Alan; welcome Karen

For more years than they can remember Pauline and Alan Bain have delivered every edition of DNL along The Street from the Lake/Green Lane junction right the way down to Dockenfield Farm. But now they have decided to hand the mantle over to a new distributor. So if you live between Bealeswood Lane and Lake/Green Lanes then Karen Wake will be delivering your DNL from now on. And Patrick and Jeannie Rendell have kindly agreed to add the balance of this distribution to their existing route round Old Lane.

So thank you so much, Pauline and Alan, for everything you have done. And thank you also to Karen, Patrick and Jeannie for taking over.

Events at the Good Shepherd

The regular, non-ecclesiastical, events that take place at the Good Shepherd include:

- **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
- **Cherubs:** Dockenfield and Frensham's baby and toddler group takes place in the church between 9.30-11am every Thursday in term time. All babies and toddlers are welcome with their carer; the cost is £2 per session per family. Contact Jane Walker for more information: revjanewalker@btconnect.com

Oh, the source of it

It's lovely to have the River Wey flow through the Parish, weaving its way gently through the edges of Dockenfield and on into Frensham. But did you know that the source of this pretty river is just nine or so miles away in Alton? More specifically, you will see the sign 'Source of the River Wey' on the B3349 where the road changes its name from the Basingstoke Road to the New Odiham Road.

Dockenfield Skittles Evening 2015 Friday 16 October, 7pm at the Jolly Farmer, Blacknest

For the ninth time the skittles at the Jolly Farmer will be preparing themselves for the battering they receive from the formidable Dockenfield talent, or is it just sheer aggression? Yet another opportunity 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 to do and watch, a hot meal in a basket, and an opportunity to catch up with friends you may not have seen for some time.

So come and join us on Friday 16 October at the Jolly Farmer and have a go. Assemble from 7 pm for a prompt 7.30 start. This normally enables us to get 3 rounds in – it would be more if the social side was not so important. 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 book by using the form on page 16, accompanied by a cheque; by phone on Tel: 793233; or email to: ian@business-it-solutions.co.uk with the subject Dockenfield Skittles in capitals. Emails and telephone calls must be followed up with quick payment (£14 per person including buffet) to Dockenfield Parish Council within a week to guarantee their place.

Ian Mansell

May Day Musings

*“When as a thousand Virgins on this day,
Spring, sooner than the Lark, to fetch in May.
Rise; and put on your Foliage, and be seene
To come forth, like the Spring-time, fresh and greene”*

This quote is from “Corrina's going a-maying”, a poem by Robert Herrick 1591–1674.

Before dawn on 1 May, children would be sent out to collect boughs of may flowers to decorate the houses and each other. May was the country name for the hawthorn, a shrub associated with good-natured spirits and the harbinger of spring. This tradition is also the source of the children's nursery rhyme, “Here we go gathering knots of May”. Before avid DNL readers bombard the editor with corrections to “nuts in may”, have you ever tried finding nuts in May? Over the years the lyrics have become distorted. Knots were bunches of hawthorn blossom tied to the front doors of the houses to welcome in the spring. If they were still wet with dew, this heightened their magical properties.

Just in case you're wondering if I've “lost the plot”, there isn't much to report from Bealeswood Common and Flat Copse at the moment. A full tree safety survey has been completed for both sites but no date has been set for the minor works that are required. **Steve Webster – WBC Ranger for Frensham & Bealeswood Commons, Flat Copse and Tilford Nature Reserve**

Encouraging birds in our gardens

During the fruitful autumn of 2014 and the relatively mild winter of 2015 many of us wondered where 'our' garden birds had gone. Not to worry, said the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), 2014 was a good year for garden birds: '*Continuing mild weather and the ability to obtain food in the wider countryside meant that birds did not need to come into gardens in greater numbers than usual.*' The BTO surveys showed that it was a good breeding season for Wrens, Long-tailed Tits, Song Thrushes, Robins and Blackbirds. So that's all good, then.

However, numbers of many bird species have dropped alarmingly in recent decades, due to climate change, changes in farming methods, and over-tidy householders who block up the eaves where Martins and Swifts once nested, and who garden with ferocious amounts of chemicals, thereby killing the insects upon which many birds and especially their young feed.

In recent years disease, notably trichomonosis, has badly affected some of our garden birds, especially Greenfinches, and also, more recently, Chaffinches. It is a parasitic disease, which spreads as birds feed each other (in courtship rituals) and their young with regurgitated food. It causes lesions in the throat, making swallowing increasingly difficult, and infected birds sicken and die. Symptoms which you may notice include lethargy and fluffed-up plumage. There is no treatment possible in wild birds.

So what can we do to encourage birds into our gardens, and help to keep them healthy? We can ensure that the bird food and the water we provide are fresh and clean. Water should ideally be changed daily, and bird-baths should be regularly cleaned. Peanuts and other seeds should be removed if early signs of mould appear – it is toxic. Stale or unused food should also be removed. Bird tables and bird feeders should be regularly cleaned, and occasionally moved to different places, to avoid a build-up of infection.

During April and May you will probably have noticed a surge in the numbers and variety of birds visiting your garden in search of food. While they are raising and feeding young, an exhausting and time-consuming process, adult birds will seek readily available food for themselves and their chicks in gardens. Different birds eat different foods, so a range of foods will attract an interesting variety of visitors. Some, such as Blackbirds, Dunnocks, and Chaffinches, are ground feeders. Some, such as Nuthatches, Goldfinches, Tits and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, will use hanging feeders. Many will use a bird table. Place feeding stations within sight of the house, but not too close or the birds will become stressed. Hanging feeders should if possible be placed out of the reach of squirrels, which will steal the food, and cats, which will steal the birds. Baffles can be bought and fitted to poles to discourage marauders. I have also found Vaseline applied to poles quite useful in slowing down the acrobats. If you discover a deterrent for Pigeons, which will eat anything and will also use your bird-bath as a loo, you may make yourself rich and famous. (And please tell me what it is.)

What should be on your birdy menu? Here are some suggestions:

Cake and biscuit crumbs are much more nutritious than bread for birds, as they have a higher fat content.

Peanuts (the bird variety, not your salted nibbles) appeal to Tits, Nuthatches, and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Remove the nuts from those little plastic bags (birds' feet can become entangled in the mesh) and decant them into a metal feeder (plastic is *so* easy for the squirrels to destroy).

Sunflower hearts are easier to eat, and less messy than whole sunflower seeds. If you do go for the whole seeds, the black ones, which contain more oil, are more nutritious than the striped ones, but some birds find those hard shells difficult to crack open. Tits, Goldfinches, Greenfinches, Nuthatches, Robins and Bullfinches all love sunflower hearts. I attach screw-on plastic saucers to the base of my feeders, to provide a sitting area for those birds such as Bullfinches which can't cling to the perching rods.

Suet and peanut fat (but not meat fat) are valuable foods, and appeal to Tits, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches and Starlings. Robins, too, will try to hover like humming birds to get at it if it is in a feeder. Again, take it out of any plastic netting first. **Coconut fat** is also popular, but avoid desiccated coconut, which will swell in a bird's crop, with disastrous results. **Grated cheese** (the less salty kind) is another good source of fat. Wrens, being quite shy, will appreciate grated cheese sprinkled discreetly under the bushes. (A job for the children?)

Fruit (chopped apples and pears, even if spoiled or slightly rotten) scattered on the ground or the bird table is loved by Blackbirds and Thrushes. **Dried fruit** (sultanas, raisins, currants, prunes) is fine, preferably pre-soaked for a few minutes.

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Wild bird seed mixes appeal to a wide range of birds, including those pigeons, so it might be best offered in feeders.

Mealworms are a top favourite with many birds. If you buy them alive, put them in a high-sided dish to prevent escape. For the squeamish, dried mealworms are available, and almost as nutritious. You could try offering garden worms to the Robins and Blackbirds, but mine are pretty particular about finding their own.

A good range of wild bird foods is available at garden centres, and also from CJ WildBird Foods (www.birdfood.co.uk), who are cheaper, and will deliver, in bulk if you wish, to your door.

With an interesting variety of healthy birds to watch in your garden, enjoy the spring and summer months!

Val Lewis

DNL's crystal ball(s)

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.

- 7,000 homes in the UK will be lost to the sea in the next 100 years
- The latest drinking craze in top restaurants, especially in London and major cities? Ginjo and Daiginjo Sake. Or Japanese rice wine to you and me.
- Talking traffic lights that communicate with drivers well before their cars reach the lights, and so are able to alert them as to what colour to expect.
- There is now a new way to address people. To Mr, Mrs, Miss and Ms add Mx....for those of no specific gender. *Being named Michael, I often sign off texts etc as M x (note the gap). Should this be a worry to me or Debbie?*
- Britain's internet demand is expanding so fast that it could consume the nation's entire power supply by 2035

Night, night...

We all know what this means don't we...tucking someone into bed.

...Sleep tight...

But did you know that in olden days, this meant tightening the ropes underneath the mattress to prevent it sinking too low from your weight during the night

...Don't let the bed bugs bite

Or that this refers to the canopy above the bed that stopped the bugs that lived in the ceiling beams falling on you as you slept?

Booking Form - SKITTLES EVENING – FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 7pm

Please book tickets (£14 each) for the Skittles Evening at the Jolly Farmer, Blacknest.

I enclose a cheque for £ in payment (payable to Dockenfield Parish Council).

Name: Date of booking:

Address:

Tel: Email:

Names of all players (It is really important to include this so teams can be formed ahead of the evening):

.....
Send or deliver to: Ian Mansell, Tudor House, Batt's Corner, Dockenfield GU10 4EX. Or contact by email: ian@business-it-solutions.co.uk or tel: 793233.