

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 240

Published 25 November 2013

A sparkling new look to a traditional village Christmas

Christmas in Dockenfield is always very special. The whole village comes together at a series of wonderful events designed for all the family. And this year they are refreshed and revitalised with a shiny new look and, in the case of the party, a new venue up at the Bluebell. Please try and go to as many as you can, if not all, as they bring home the special magic of Christmas in a country village. Meanwhile at St Mary's, the Christmas Tree Festival returns and believe me that too is an event not to be missed. For full details of these and all the other festive and New Year events locally, read on. A very Happy Christmas from everyone involved with the Newsletter. **Michael**

Christmas in Dockenfield

Help put up the Village Christmas Tree

Sunday 8 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

Our festivities kick off with the putting up of the Village Christmas Tree. This really is a family event: we need lots of adults to pick up and position the tree (it's much heavier than you might think!). And we also need children to help decorate it. So, wrap up some empty boxes, cover them in clingfilm and bring them along; the more the merrier. The whole thing takes about an hour and this year we will also have some traditional Christmas refreshments on hand for all the helpers.

Village Christmas Carols

Monday 9 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street

No Festive Season would be complete without a traditional Carol Service. Dockenfield's version is held by torchlight and takes place around the specially-decorated bus shelter, which always makes for a great occasion for adults and children alike. With local musicians playing and a very Christmassy atmosphere, it's definitely one not to miss! And to round it all off when the singing is finished, mulled wine (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and minced pies are available.

Fill Trout is keen to hear from any musicians who can join the impromptu band for the evening. Please call her on Tel: 794284.

Family Christmas Party

Saturday 14 December from 6pm-midnight at the Bluebell pub

This year, for the first time, the annual village Christmas Party will be held at the Bluebell pub. However, in spite of the change of venue, it will follow very similar lines to the parties held in previous years at the Good Shepherd. So make sure you're there to enjoy:

- A traditional Christmas buffet including turkey, children's food and mince pies
- A full bar with, of course, TEA on tap
- A disco

There will also be Santa in his grotto. Children aged 11 and under will be able to visit him between 6.30 and 8pm; please make sure you arrive in plenty of time to see Santa arriving! The buffet will be served from 7-9pm followed by the disco, with the dancing and the fun continuing until midnight.

Please note that this is a ticket only event. Tickets are exceptional value at just £7.50 for adults and £3 for children under 18, to include the buffet. A visit to see Santa will cost £2. Tickets are available from the Bluebell pub or Tel: 792801.

The pub is already reporting strong demand for tickets, so don't delay, book early!

These three great Christmas events are being held in the village for all residents of the parish and everyone from Dockenfield and Frensham is very welcome. **Sebastian Fox**

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Wednesday, 27 November	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Friday, 29 November	From approx 8.30pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Tuesday, 3 December	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
Sat 7 December Sun 8 December	11am-6pm 11am-5.30pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church	Page 3
Sunday, 8 December	10.30am	Help put up the Village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 1
Monday, 9 December	6.45pm	Village Christmas Carols	Bus Shelter at corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 1
Tuesday, 10 December	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group Party	The Marindin Hall	Page 11
Saturday, 14 December	6pm-midnight	Village Christmas Party at the pub	The Bluebell pub	Pages 1 & 5
Tuesday, 19 December	7.45pm	Millbridge WI Christmas Party	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Tuesday, 24 December	From approx 8.30pm	Christmas Eve Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Tuesday, 21 January 2014	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
Thursday, 23 January 2014	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 10
Saturday, 15 February 2014	7pm	Valentine Concert	St Mary's Church	Page 9
Tuesday, 18 February 2014	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
Saturday, 7 June 2014	TBA	Dockenfield Day	The Playing Field, Abbotts Cottages	Page 9

Church Services at Christmas

Church of England services

1 December, 10.30am: First in Advent: *The Church of the Good Shepherd*: Family Service with POSADA (Mary and Joseph starting their journey round the village to Bethlehem (Good Shepherd Crib service)).

1 December, 6pm: *St Mary's Church*: Advent carol service

8 December, 6pm: *St Mary's Church*: Family Christingle service with 'Sunday Tea'

22 December, 6pm: *St Mary's Church*: Christmas Carol service with mulled wine

24 December, 4pm: *The Church of the Good Shepherd*: Crib Service

24 December, 11.30pm: *St Mary's Church*: Midnight Mass

25 December, 9am: *The Church of the Good Shepherd*: Holy Communion (BCP)

25 December, 10.30am: *St Mary's Church*: Family Christmas Communion with Carols

For more information: www.frenshamchurches.org.uk

Frensham Baptists services

Services are held at the Marindin Hall

15 December, 4 pm: Carols by Candlelight followed by tea, coffee mulled wine and mince pies

22 December, 10.30 am: A Christmas Celebration

25 December, 10.30am: A short Christmas Day service

For more information: www.fbf.org.uk or Tel: 07092 004314

Roman Catholic services

The nearest services are held at the St Joan of Arc Church, Tilford Road, Farnham, where the Parish Priest is Fr Niven Richardson (Tel: 01252 716711). For more information on their services visit: www.stjoanofarefarnham.co.uk

Frensham Christmas Tree Festival **Saturday and Sunday, 7 - 8 December at St Mary's Church**

This weekend will see St Mary's Church full of decorated Christmas trees for our third Christmas Tree Festival. Like the previous Festivals, in 2009 and 2011, we anticipate that the Church will take on a magical air again.

The Christmas Tree Festival will be open on Saturday 7 December between 11am and 6pm, and on Sunday 8 between 11am and 5.30pm. Admission is £3 for adults and 50p for 5 – 16 year olds. For children under 5 years old, accompanied by an adult, there will be no charge.

In all there will be over 40 imaginatively decorated trees. Some will represent the charity or group involved, some will reflect the names of Christmas carols or songs, and many will be clever 'play-on-words' interpretations – such as 'Compliment-tree', 'Electricity-tree', 'Communit-tree' and lots more.

Light refreshments will be served in the newly-completed Church hall, and will include hot and cold drinks, mince pies and gingerbread Christmas trees. There will also be a raffle with attractive prizes.

Following the earlier Festivals a total of £3,700 was donated to St Mary's new Church hall fund. Now that the hall has been completed and is in use, it is intended that proceeds from this year's Festival will be split 50/50, with half being donated to the Church to help meet the cost of fitting out the new hall, and half being divided between charities nominated by the decorators of the three most popular trees as judged by visitors.

At 6 pm on Sunday, immediately following the Festival, there will be a special Christingle Service for families and children. This promises to be a 'fun' service appropriate for all ages, and we hope as many visitors as possible will be able to participate. We look forward to seeing you.

Harry and Liz Glover, Tel: 797827

Further afield

There are masses of things to do in Dockenfield and Frensham at Christmas. But if you are still looking for festive things to entertain the family here are a few events that are taking place just outside the village that might tickle your fancy.

30 November – 24 December. Winter Wonderland at Birdworld. Details from Tel: 01420 22140

7, 8, 14, 15 December. Santa Specials at the Rural Life Centre. Details from Tel 01252 795571

7 December, 3pm. Candlelit Carol Concert at All Saints Church, Tilford. Details from Tel: 01252 716084

15 December, 2.30pm. 'Farnham in Bloom' Carols round the Christmas Tree in Gostrey Meadow, Farnham. Details from Tel: 01252 712667

20-21 December. Phyllis Tuckwell Xmas Market at Bury Court, Bentley. Details from Tel: 01252 729446

A Christmas Cheer please....

Many of you are kind enough to write in and say how much you enjoy reading DNL, which is very thoughtful of you. But without our trustworthy band of distributors the Newsletter would never get through to you. They deliver every edition to your home come rain or shine, so please can I give them their annual moment in the spotlight.

They are: Mark and Sally Vardy, Jack and Marjorie Bessant, Gerry Davy, Anne Tutt, Jean Elkes, Jo Adams, Lucy Denny, Debbie Foster, Jean and Patrick Rendell, Alan and Pauline Bain, Paul and Catherine Wood and Mark and Karen Giles. And special thanks to Janette Platt who not only acts as co-ordinator but has a delivery patch of her own. A thank you also to our growing list of contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a valuable read.

Welcome Annabel and Charles

A warm welcome to Annabel Legge and Charles Pamment who have joined the Dockenfield Activities Group and will be helping plan and organise the social events in the village including Dockenfield Day, the Christmas Carols and Raising of the Christmas Tree.

The full committee is now Sebastian Fox (Chairman), Pamela Mansell (Vice-Chairman), Jill Trout, Michael Foster, Roly Miles, Jo Adams, Annabel Legge and Charles Pamment.

Sebastian Fox

Winter Preparations

A reminder that Dockenfield has an established plan supported by a team of volunteers who are in place to help tackle any emergencies, such as heavy snowfall, that may occur in the village. The arrangements and how they swing into action, were set out in detail on pages 9 and 10 of edition 234 dated 12 November 2102.

If you still have this it might be worthwhile keeping it to hand in case the weather turns against us this winter. If you no longer have your Newsletter (crime!!) or you are new to the village and you would like to receive an email copy of the plan please contact Ian McLean: email willowslea@btinternet.com

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

Dockenfield keeps its Polling Station at the Good Shepherd. Dockenfield Parish Council was asked to select other places for the parish to vote at. This would, in our opinion, take away the village identity and also be less sustainable. Having explained this to Waverley Borough Council (WBC) we are now keeping the station but WBC has asked if anybody (several people) would like to become polling clerks for the day at the Church. Please let Jessica know if you are interested and she will put you in touch with the right person. This is a paid post. I hope we will get some people interested. Email Jessica Hobday: dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Dockenfield War Memorial. When we were all at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday several people noticed some work needs doing to bring the area up to scratch, especially as next year (2014) is an important one. We are thinking of painting the wood and cleaning up the names. A small working party will be necessary ... in the spring ... please bear this in mind and we could put a date in the next Newsletter.

Martin Wake. You may have noticed the flag was lowered recently. This was to denote the death of Martin Wake, who lived with his wife Karen, for many years in Lake Lane.

Martin had many talents and worked hard in a voluntary capacity, I know, as a school governor and personally in Dockenfield as a Parish Councillor for a number of years. He was always extremely supportive and ready to help on any project, taking the lead when appropriate. Martin and Karen also edited the Dockenfield Newsletter for a number of years (*see also the article below*) and had their own special way of calling up asking for articles and were always very helpful in trying to absorb the printing costs.

The village will miss Martin.

Super Fast Broadband. Katie Brennan from the Surrey County Council Super fast Broadband Programme will be attending the Parish Council meeting on **18 February 2014** to give a 20 minute briefing about the roll out programme with BT and Surrey County Council.

The next Parish Council Meetings. Tuesdays **3 December, 21 January** and **18 February**. Meetings are held at 8pm in the Vestry of the Good Shepherd and everyone is welcome to attend all or part of any meeting.

The Village Email List. We recently sent out reminders to everyone who has registered with the village email alert system to double check that they still wanted to be included. So firstly thank you to everyone who has replied; secondly there is still time to reply if you haven't yet done so. And if you have never registered or are new to the village then you might want to consider signing up. It's a simple (and free) system that works like this. In the unhappy event of a burglary or similar in the village, we use the email alert system to advise people as soon as possible so that they can be aware and take any necessary precautions. For more information or to register simply contact the Parish Clerk, Jessica Hobday: dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk **Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday**

Martin Wake

Both Dockenfield and the wider Parish have good reason to be grateful for the life of Martin Wake who sadly died on 5 October at his home, Rose Cottage in Lake Lane at the all too young age of 74. Speaking personally I am particularly saddened by his passing as he was not only a friend but twice a previous editor of this Newsletter. With the help of his wife Karen he edited a total of over 40 issues between September 1987-March 1989 and February 1993-September 1996. To edit DNL once is admirable. To return to the task a second time is a measure of the man he was and the love he had for our village.

And his efforts on the Newsletter were only the tip of the iceberg in his support for village affairs. As you will have read in the report above he served as a Dockenfield Parish Councillor and also sat on the village Activities Committee which organises such events as Dockenfield Day and the Christmas celebrations. His smiling face was often to be seen on the book stall at the fete and behind the bar at the Christmas Party.

More recently he turned his tireless enthusiasm to helping on the Committee of the Frensham Village Shop, where he was co-opted to help with the business plan in September 2011, and formally joined the committee at the AGM in 2012 but resigned through ill health in April this year. In the words of a fellow committee member, 'He had insight and energy for the task, and our loss of his expertise is a great blow. It seems typical of Martin, that despite his own illness, he commented in his last email to me "*I am so pleased for all the volunteers who put so much in the FVS, it must be a real boost to hear the good news.*"

Martin was a man of great integrity and good humour who served the community he loved for over 25 years with great distinction and he will be missed by us all. On behalf of the whole Parish, the Newsletter sends love and good wishes to Karen and to his sons and grandchildren.

Events at the Bluebell

Winter opening times. Bar: Mon–Wed 12-3pm and 6-11pm; Thurs-Sun 11am-11pm. Food: served Mon-Fri 12-3pm and 6-9pm; Sat 12-9pm; Sun 12-4pm (plus 5-7pm for bookings only).

Christmas Opening times. Christmas Day: 11am-3pm for drinks only. Boxing Day: Bar: 12-10.30 pm, Food: a Game Menu will be available from midday-4pm and for bookings only from 5-8pm (but please book by 22 December).

Christmas Menu. The pub is taking bookings for their special Christmas menu and they already have some days that are fully booked so please call ahead if you are going to eat at the pub in December.

Family Christmas Party on Saturday **14 December** (6pm-midnight) has transferred to the pub but has all the features you know and love and then some. There's Santa in his grotto, a slap up festive buffet and a disco. Oh and this year there will be a full bar! This is a ticket only event with prices £7.50 for adults and £3 for children plus £2 to visit Santa. See page 1 for full details.

New Year's Eve. A special 'Dockenfield Lock Inn' party with an 80s theme, a hot and cold buffet and a glass of bubbly and 'open until the last person leaves'. £14.95 per head.

New Year's Day Menu. Food will be served 12-6pm with an all day brunch menu.

Live Music Nights. Are on the last Friday of the month although on a Tuesday at Christmas: **29 November** 'Missy North' makes her Bluebell debut, eclectic folk music with bass, mandolin and violin. Plus a **Christmas Eve special** on Tuesday, **24 December** 'Grizzly and the Grasshoppers', an acoustic blues and roots band, when there is a menu available at £19.95 for three courses.

Themed Food Nights. These popular evenings return in January with a Burns Night on **25 January** with a 3-course menu and music. Details to be confirmed.

Bookings. For any of the special events above it is advisable to book early.

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

And at our other local venues

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

Frensham Royal British Legion (Tel: 793014)

The run-up to Christmas is always their busiest time, so if you are not already a member, why not go along and see what they have to offer.

Sunday 1 December, 3pm: Their first ever Christmas Craft Fair – the quality of the crafts is (I am told) unbelievable – solve some of your present-buying dilemmas. All welcome.

Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm: Christmas General Knowledge Quiz – teams of up to 6 at £1 per head, with cash prize for winners. Supper available at £2.

Saturday 21 December, 7.30pm: Grand Christmas Draw – visit the club now to buy squares at 20p each for the chance to win 'fantastic' prizes.

Sunday 22 December, 3pm: Children's Christmas Party with tea, games and a present from Santa. For children and grandchildren of members – names must be entered in advance on the list in the club.

Tuesday 24 December, 8pm: Christmas Eve Party – lots of fun, games and laughs; a great start to Christmas.

Christmas Day, 12pm – 2pm: Bar open for pre-dinner drinks.

Boxing Day, 10.30am: Football match at Hollowdene, then back to the Legion for drinks.

New Year's Eve, 8pm: Disco.

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060)

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

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Open Mic Nights: On the last Friday of every month ie 29 November, but please check for 27 December as that date isn't finalised yet.

Christmas Opening Hours: Open all through Christmas but there is no food on Christmas Day but they will open for drinks from 11am until 3pm. On Boxing Day they will be open from 12 noon until 6pm for food and drinks. Otherwise the normal opening hours apply in December.

Christmas Menu: from 5-24 December, served lunchtime and evenings (except Sundays), at £19.95 per person for a 3 course meal.

Friday menu: The pub serves fish and chips and mushy peas as a special every Friday for eat in and takeaway.

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

Top 10 winter energy-busting tips for the home

The rising cost of domestic energy bills is very much in the news these days. And Dockenfield is very fortunate to have as a resident Doug Johnson, who runs an energy consultancy business and who volunteered to write this helpful article.

With winter looming it would be great to remind ourselves of the simple and highly cost effective (free!) things we can do to make sure our fuel bills are trimmed and we can concentrate fully on enjoying the festive season.

Take a brief look at the list below and see how just small actions today can make a lasting impression on your fuel bill come spring.

1. **Turn off the lights** - We are all guilty of this little misdemeanour. When you leave a room simply remember to turn the lights off behind you.
2. **Unplug appliances** - Make sure you properly shut down TVs, computers and other household appliances when you are not using them.
3. **Full machine loads** - Maximise your washing machine and dish washer loads before putting them on to run.
4. **Move your furniture** - Move furniture away from external walls and put them closer to internal walls. This will increase the feeling of warmth and reduce the temptation to turn the heating thermostat up in the room as you relax at home.
5. **Hot water optimisation** - Do you find yourself always adding cold water to hot at home when washing dishes or having a shower? If so, then try reducing the hot water temperature thermostat down so that you are not wasting unnecessary energy heating hot water up all the time. In addition, if you have a loose-fitting insulation jacket on the tank then ensure that this is tied up and keeping the tank fully snug to reduce further heat loss.
6. **Open your curtains** - Let the light in on any South facing rooms you possess and let the sun warm your house for free.
7. **Short showers** - Whilst it's tempting to stand in the hot shower every morning singing your favourite song or putting off going to work, an abridged shower session will save hot water and reduce your energy bills too.
8. **Turn down the heat** - Whilst many have heard the joke about turning the temperature of the room down and putting on a jumper, this is actually one of the most effective ways to reduce energy costs in the home. Just one or two degrees will make a big impact on fuel costs.
9. **Turn off radiators** - Just check that rooms that are not being used in your home have the radiator valves turned down as low as they will go. There is no sense in heating rooms that don't get used and again this approach can save considerable money over the winter season.
10. **Setback heating** - Some homeowners' heating systems have the ability to reduce the room temperatures in the home overnight or during periods of inactivity when there is no need for temperatures to remain cosy and warm. Root around in the kitchen draw, get the instruction manual out and you could save money with just a few simple adjustments.

Good luck and happy energy saving!

Doug Johnson

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

Keep Dockenfield Tidy

Did you hear the report on the 'Today' programme on Radio 4 recently that said that in the last few years whilst the UK population has grown by 31% the amount of litter dropped in the country has escalated by over 500%? How horrible is that! And how downright lazy of the culprits not to take their litter home.

Recently I notice Dockenfield Parish Council have been asking for volunteers to pick up litter around the village and I am sure that they would be happy to hear from you if you wanted to put your name forward. But to prevent litter becoming a problem here the real solution is not to drop it in the first place.

Please save your stamps

The chances are that you will get more letters and cards with stamps on them at Christmas than at any other time of the year. So now is probably a good time to remind you to please save each stamp that you get and deliver them to Jack and Marjorie Bessant at 1, Beales Cottages, The Street. Stamps from all countries and in any condition are welcome. The stamps are sold and all the money goes to charity.

Letters to the Editor

Ponds, Woods and Bluebells

The pond by the chicane is called Hatch Pond.

Also I have emailed Vickie Booth & told her that the copse (*alongside Abbotts Cottages*) is called Flat Copse, (we can't have two Abbotts Woods).

When I was a kid the landlord of the Blue Bell was a Mr Lampard, he lived at Batts Cottage. My Dad & Mum were regulars & my brother & I often sat on the swing with a packet of Smith Crisps (with a blue paper twist of salt). He always had sweets in his pocket which made him popular as they were on ration. When we married in 1956, stag nights were unheard of, so Mum, Dad, Harold & I spent our wedding eve in the Blue Bell & coincidentally our honeymoon bedroom was named Bluebell, home from home!! Our reception was held in The Old Schoolroom which was one of two halls & housed the village library. Dad got the drink from the then landlord (name forgotten) on 'sale or return' I still have the bill & it came to just over £11.0.0 for 35 people. The Landlord's name in 1956 was Ernie Wiseman. **Diana Parratt**
A lovely letter giving lots of info on topics raised in the last DNL

Purple Emperors

Thanks for printing the article (*see page 7 edition 239*); I was most interested in the companion letter on Purple Emperors. I noted a male Purple Emperor in our garden adjoining Bealeswood Common several years ago. They are not on the wing much after late July but as the males can move several kilometers on their patrols it is not surprising we see them occasionally away from their stronghold in Alice Holt Forest.

A major study, by Matthew Oates of the National Trust, was conducted there between 2001-2004 advancing significantly our knowledge of this enigmatic species which has fascinated naturalists for 200 years or more. I continued my survey of Bealeswood Common into September by which time White Admirals, Essex and Small Skippers, Silver-washed Fritillaries, Clouded Yellows and several other commoner species had been added to the year list. The Clouded Yellows were present together with good numbers of Silver-Y Moths - both are continental migrants adding to an exceptional year on the Common. **Alan Cox**

Problems with slow Broadband

I'm currently having a spat with BT about the low level of internet connectivity in the village. I think at Ivy House on The Street we average 2.4 mbs which is not sufficient for normal internet access let alone a Smart TV, or trying to run a business from home- it truly tests the patience with documents taking hours to open and constant buffering on any movie/video. Speaking with anyone at BT is a challenge in itself but when you eventually make contact, after being passed from one call centre to another, they can offer no advise whatsoever, apart from telling me there are no plans to upgrade the existing copper cable to fibre optic. But I can register on a web site so I'll be the first to hear when plans change - could be weeks, months or years-nobody knows!

However since I started publicly venting my frustrations I have discovered that the DPC have arranged a presentation by Katie Brennan from the Surrey County Council Super fast Broadband Programme who will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 18 February 2014 to give a 20 minute briefing about the roll out programme with BT and Surrey County Council.

This is good news as it suggests some action is being taken albeit this meeting is in 3 months' time and I doubt we will leave the meeting with any greater optimism for faster broadband in the foreseeable future. I'm keen to hear if anybody has had more success with BT than myself and any suggestions on how we can speed up the process.

Rob Cregeen
(rob.cregeen1@gmail.com)

I have just heard from a Parish Councillor as follows, "Since BT announced their final programme for Surrey (last May), Dockenfield has been scheduled for Superfast Broadband connection in September 2014, and yes we are just about the last area of Surrey on the list!"

How to report a flytip

In the last edition (issue 239, page 11) I wrote a piece entitled 'Naughty then nice' about a fridge that had been dumped and then taken away from the pond on the approach to the village and it drew this response from Paul Wood:

Just read the DNL - as good as ever. On the dumping of the fridge, I reported the fridge on Waverley Borough Council's fly tip reporting website and the fridge was removed some days later. I therefore assume that the credit for removal - and applause - goes to WBC.

Paul Wood

There are three ways in which you can report a flytip to Waverley Borough Council. Either online via their fly tipping notification form (go to www.waverley.gov.uk and type "fly tipping" into the search box); by texting them on 07786 202686, making sure you include: your surname, your house name or property number, your postcode, where the flytip is and what has been dumped; or you can call them on Tel: 01483 523524.

For those living in the Hampshire side of the village go online to www.easthants.gov.uk.

Who was 'looping the loop'?

Also in the last edition I enquired (issue 239, page 15) if anyone knew who was flying the Tiger Moth that was continually 'looping the loop' over Dockenfield in August. Harry Glover has the answer:

On page 15 of the September issue of Dockenfield Newsletter mention is made of a Tiger Moth flying over the village on 18 August, and - yes - Liz and I can shed some light on what was happening. The occasion was a get-together of the flyers who base their planes at Frensham Airstrip and horse riders who stable their horses at the adjacent Wishanger Livery Yard. The 'gallops' (used by some riders to give their horses a turn of speed) are parallel to the air-strip - so it could be a bit 'hairy' for both flyers and riders!

Members of the flying club very kindly laid on a barbecue at the hangar, and gave those horse riders

Cont/

Letters to the Editor (cont/)

(and their partners) who wished to go aloft the opportunity to do so. Liz and I were fortunate to be there. Flights in the Tiger Moth proved very popular, and numbers desirous of a 'go' were greater than could be accommodated, so we missed out on that one. But several others were fortunate, and – as you say – some experienced both looping-the-loop and some both looping-the-loop and a barrel roll! The pilot was keen to demonstrate the plane's capabilities. After the flight several visitors commented on the strange experience of sitting in front of the pilot in the Tiger Moth, rather than behind him. The pilot of the Tiger Moth pilot, incidentally, is a former Concorde pilot.

I was able to have a ride in a 2-seater micro-light plane, with fabric-covered wings. It seems akin to a flying motorcycle, with pilot in front and passenger behind. It was fabulous! We didn't 'loop-the-loop' (I'm not sure it's capable of it?) but we did some very tight turns and skimmed over Frensham, Churt and Headley, so I was able to take lots of photographs including some of our house on Shortfield Common, and our previous house in Headley.

Liz had a ride in a 'big' plane – a 6-seater, though (probably for reasons of fuel efficiency?) the pilot took only 3 passengers at a time. I also had a ride in this plane and went to Lee-on-Solent for re-fuelling. There are no fuel stocks held in Wishanger so pilots have to take their planes elsewhere to fill-up. Obviously, there are other airfields closer to Wishanger than Lee-on-Solent, but landing costs are higher such that it is worthwhile going further afield than (say) Farnborough or Blackbushe.

It was a great day and the members of the Flying Club were very generous in giving us flights in their light aircraft and providing the BBQ. Maybe riding lessons for the flyers next?

Harry Glover

See also the article on page 12

News from Bealeswood Common

What a difference a couple of months can make. When I sat down to write my last contribution, it seemed that the warm dry weather we had experienced for much of the summer was never going to end. That illusion was shattered shortly after by the abrupt arrival of autumn which has brought with it more than a fair share of wind and rain. In my job stormy weather such as this is never welcome. It goes without saying that working outside in horizontal rain is not the most fulfilling of experiences, but it's more the extra workload and expense which comes with this sort of weather that really causes us problems. High winds combined with saturated soils can be an unforgiving experience for a tree. If these conditions occur when the tree is still in full leaf and therefore more prone to the wind, as they did at the end of last month, then widespread damage and loss of trees is inevitable.

The particularly high winds at the end of last month left us with the massive task of having to urgently check all Waverley owned sites and ensure that they were safe and usable. We did have a considerable amount of damage to trees across the Borough, with oaks in particular taking a heavy hit as they were still in full summer foliage, meaning their typically wide spreading crowns doubled up as a large sail. I was therefore very relieved to find that the mature oaks at Bealeswood have survived unscathed, as have the trees at nearby Abbots Cottages. I can only put this down to good fortune, as there was enough damage to other trees in and around village to indicate the wind in Dockenfield had been as strong as anywhere else in the area.

All of our sites are now checked and safe, though there is still a fair bit of clearing of fallen trees to be done, so we will be kept busy for a while yet. Much of the required works involved climbing or specialist equipment, so needed to be carried out by contractors. This doesn't come cheap and it is estimated that the bill is already in five figures, which will obviously impact on the amount we have available to spend on other works this winter.

On a more cheery note, I recently received the results of the annual Bealeswood butterfly survey. A really big thank you is due to the dedicated butterfly team of Philippa and Colin Hall, Anne Tutt, and Alison Bosence, who did a fantastic job this year in co-ordinating themselves to get a survey carried out once a week throughout the summer. I will discuss the findings in more detail in the next Newsletter, but the overall picture is a very encouraging one, with a grand total of 749 individuals being recorded, which is once again the highest number since the survey began in 2008. Equally if not more impressive, is that the number of species recorded was also the highest since the survey began, with 17 in total compared to last years 14. To put this into context, this equates to roughly 30% of Britain's butterfly species, a remarkable figure for a small village Common. It's certainly something to smile about as we descend into what is shaping up to be quite a gloomy winter.

Finally, the time has come once again to wish you all a very enjoyable festive season and all the best for the New Year.

Vicky Booth Countryside Ranger - western area, Waverley Borough Council Countryside

The History of the Bluebell (continued)

*Following the article 'The History of the Bluebell' in the last issue of DNL (edition 239, page 8), the **History Group** have been kind enough to let me have an extract from an article about Frensham and Dockenfield, which it is believed was written in about 1949, which they have uncovered in their archives. Whilst it gives new insight into the role of the pub in village life, it also shows the sheer range of activities that used to take place in our village.*

'In those days, and indeed until 1900, Batt's Corner was an important centre. The Blue Bell was a store for selling grain and meal to farmers, as well as ale. The Moss family's foundry was famous for making and repairing agricultural implements. There was a wheelwright's shop and a forge, a cooper and a boot maker, a village shop and a Post Office. Cole's Dairy Farm supplies milk in large cans carried on a shoulder-yoke to the cottages. Water was fetched from a spring near the dairy. Men and boys used to climb the hill to the spring at four and five in the morning, with cups and bowls, to catch a trickle of water from the spring for the day's use: otherwise, rain water was used.'

'Several old crafts were carried on, such as basket-making with osiers, and the making of wooden bowls and 'wooden bottles' (like small barrels), in which men used to take their drink when they went to work.'

*The **History Group** were also kind enough to put me in touch with Maurice and Shirley Rampton who lived in the village until 1969 and now live in Emsworth. They have memories of both the village and the pub which are set out in the following two letters:*

'Hello Michael. How very nice to hear from you and to get the Newsletters; thank you so much. Maurice and I have enjoyed reading the papers very much and Maurice would like to say that the woodland opposite the houses at Abbotts Cottages has always been known as Flat Copse and the Bluebell is just as I have spelt now. Maurice has a photo of his father cutting pea sticks in the copse and on the back is Jack in Flat Copse: if you would like we can let you have a copy. Once again thank you so much. Our very best wishes.'

'Hello again Michael. It seems to be the pub sign up until 1958-9 was a gold bell with Blue Bell, the pub was taken over by a family whose surname was Newell, it changed brewery and the sign was changed too. I hope that is a help.

With regard to the Rampton family, Cecil Jack Rampton married Florence Edith Jeffery who at the time lived with her family, parents and three brothers and one sister at the Clock House in the village. After the marriage in 1927 they went to live in St Andrews in the dip now named Rowans; they were there as a family with son Derek now deceased, Doreen and Maurice, very sadly Florence died in 1947, and Jack remarried Joyce Gaster and lived at the house until 1955 when they moved to 19, Abbotts Cottages. Jack died in 1964; Joyce remained there until 1969 and moved to the Isle of Wight. Joyce was the organist at the Church of the Good Shepherd and also at St Mary's Frensham alongside John Chuter, and played piano for Frensham Choral Society.

Maurice and I met after his demob from the army in 1957, and we married in my home village of Fernhurst and we came to live in Dockenfield next door to the original home at St Catherine's now named Laurels. We remained in that house until 1963 and then also moved to Abbotts Cottages, which was a blessing as father was ill and I was able to help nurse him.

We left the village in 1969 and now live in Emsworth where Maurice can fish, his favorite hobby, and our children all live near to us which is very satisfying as we get older.'

Maurice and Shirley Rampton

If anyone else has memories of the Bluebell (or any other historical aspect of village life) that they would like to share with the rest of the village then please let the Newsletter know. For details of the next History Group meetings please see page 11

Valentine Concert

Hannah Poulson will kindly be organising a concert in aid of St Mary's church hall, to be held in St Mary's at 7pm on Saturday, **15 February 2014**. Further details to follow but please do save the date.

Morag James (793133)

Village Lunch

Wednesday 27

November, midday at the British Legion

The final Village Lunch for 2013 is being held on 27 November. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of Millbridge WI.

Millbridge WI

Thursday 19

December, 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall

The final 2013 event for Millbridge WI is:

19 December: Christmas Party.

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

Dockenfield Day 2014

Just a tiny reminder that Dockenfield Day next year will be on **Saturday 7 June**. No excuses for not being there then.

Don't forget the eggs

The recipe for Zucchini Crostini (*see page 13 of the last edition of DNL, under 'Fridge Invaders'*) omitted to say how many eggs were needed.

Anne Tutt has now confirmed that what you need are four eggs on four slices of sour dough, in addition to the other ingredients of course. Interestingly, not only did a number of people point this out to me, but one person emailed from Australia asking for the info.

Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society

As in the old card game of Happy Families we are amused by the number of horticulturally themed names there are for professional gardeners; Bob Flowerdew, Anne Swithinbank and Pippa Greenwood easily come to mind. The Hort and Prod have managed to continue with this theme with our hardworking Secretary (Caroline Plant) and new Council member (Val Ashley), not to mention the supremo junior pumpkin grower, Henry Flower. Similarly, for many years we have relied on the services of a Mr Peach to judge the fruit, the veg and the flowers for our Spring and Autumn flower shows. Geoff Peach is a horticulturalist/gardener from Tilford with a vast range of practical and horticultural knowledge and he has agreed to form 'the panel' for our own Gardeners' Question Time on **23 January** (8pm, Marindin Hall).

So, over the Christmas holidays you can be thinking of how you might solve some problems in your garden. What has been eating your favourite shrub? Why has that oak tree died, why can't I grow decent Brussel sprouts or celeriac? We are sure that Geoff will be able to tackle any questions you can throw at him and his advice will be delivered with good humour and from a lifetime's experience. If you are not a member of the Society but are interested in joining us please just turn up and say hello to those busy setting up chairs and making cups of tea- you will be most welcome.

Dan Bosence, President, Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society www.fdhs.org.uk

News from our local Police Officer

A seasonal reminder

Ordering the turkey, doing the Christmas shopping, putting up the decorations – there's lots to do over the festive season but make sure you are not on a burglar's to-do list by also thinking about your home security. To help you enjoy a happy and safe Christmas and New Year, we recommend the following:

At home

- Don't leave presents under the Christmas tree in view of a window. Hide them somewhere safe until Christmas morning.
- Security mark expensive presents, such as electronic equipment with a forensic marking product and keep an inventory on a property registration website such as www.immobilise.com.
- Dispose of Christmas gift packaging carefully. Empty boxes left outside can advertise to thieves what they can find inside.

Going out

- Remember to lock all doors and windows and to set your burglar alarm. If you are going away over the festive period ask a neighbour or your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme to keep an eye on your house. Do not post details of your holiday on social networking sites.
- Make your house look occupied by using automatic timer switches to turn interior lights, radios or TVs on and off and ensure you cancel your milk and newspapers.

facewatch id

Surrey Police as well as several other Police Forces are asking the Public for help in identifying hundreds of images relating to low level crimes across Surrey using an App called FACEWATCH ID.

To help make identification extremely easy the images will be made available via a unique mobile phone App designed by FACEWATCH with images supplied by Surrey Police. The App is available on smart phones and computers, and provides a selection of unidentified images of people that the police would like to talk to, filtered by areas selected by distance from the postcode entered into the App by the user. If an image is known to the viewer they have the opportunity to take action and confidentially send information directly to the Police using the App.

This technology is now allowing us to exploit opportunities presented by CCTV to solve crime. This allows the public to help identify those suspected of committing crime in their local communities, enabling us to arrest more criminals – and thereby making people safer. I would encourage everyone to view these images and name those shown. This will help to make Surrey safer.

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

All we are saying is give peas a chance

This news may not be immediately appropriate to the village as I guess most people have access to a garden, but it was interesting to note that there has been a marked rise in use of allotments in the last couple of years. They fell out of fashion some years back but it seems they are now making a return, partly because of interest in growing traditional 'British' vegetables like carrots, peas and beans, but also because of an enthusiasm for growing organic vegetables.

News from the Village Shop

Christmas is coming - let us take the strain!

If you'd like to take it a little bit easier in the final days before Christmas, let us help you. We're taking orders now for the whole range of meat from **Newlyn's Farm Shop** at North Warnborough. The Farm has won national prizes for the quality of their meat. Turkeys, geese, chicken, ham, beef, lamb etc, are all available, with all the convenience of collecting locally on Xmas Eve!

- Farm fresh and free range - you really can taste the difference
- No lengthy queues; save your time and energy
- Traceability of the meat guaranteed
- And all at Farm Gate prices!

Lucy at **Dean Farm** is gearing up for the usual marathon, baking her delicious Christmas cakes which can be ordered in different sizes, either iced or plain, and her incredibly popular mince pies. **Francesca's** beautiful Christmas wreaths and floral arrangements will be on sale from the end of November, and can be ordered fresh to meet your needs on specific dates.

Frensham & Dockenfield 2014 Calendars are already on sale, and we have a good range of **Charity Christmas cards**. We also have **Christmas puds, stocking fillers, gift tags, wrapping paper** - what more do you want? Pop in and see us or call Paul to discuss your orders.

Last Posting Dates for Christmas 2013

The Post Office will remain open at lunchtime from 1 - 2pm on weekdays (except Wednesdays) during the Christmas rush. All International Surface Mail needs to have been posted by Tues 19 November - much earlier to many destinations.

International Airmail

29 Nov	Operational BFPOs
4 Dec	Asia, Far East, New Zealand, Australia
6 Dec	Africa, Caribbean, Central & S. America, Middle East
9 Dec	Cyprus, Eastern Europe
10 Dec	Canada, France, Greece, Poland
13 Dec	USA, Airmail to static BFPOs
14 Dec	Remaining Western Europe

UK

18 Dec	2 nd class and Royal Mail Signed For
20 Dec	1 st class and Royal Mail Signed For, Parcelforce Worldwide express48
23 Dec	Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed, Parcelforce Worldwide express24

Please see www.royalmail.com/greetings for a full list

Shop Opening Hours

Christmas Eve	8.30am to 1pm. (PO closes 12.30). Collection of Xmas meat orders from 9am
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	9-11am
27-31 December	Normal Shop and Post Office Hours
New Year's Day	9-11am

We wish all our customers, volunteers, friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year - and, of course, we hope to see you soon! Contact details: www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk or Tel: 795240. **Mayonne Coldicott**

Pick one, get (more than) one free

If you have wandered round the village in the last couple of months you would have found a veritable harvest of wild fruits and berries to pick. There have been blackberries, apples, crab apples, bullaces, sloes, rosehips, elderflower and elderberry. The final three are great for making alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. Sloe gin is delicious (and very potent); elderflower cordial and champagne are really refreshing; and elderberry port is very tasty and moreish.

My late father could mix a lovely brew from many these wild fruits, although his dandelion wine was perhaps a step too far and best avoided. Can anyone think of a wild fruit or flower that can be picked in Dockenfield that I haven't mentioned here?

If you have a favourite recipe for elderflower cordial, elderflower 'champagne', sloe gin or any other drink you can make from fruit or flowers picked from the wild locally do let the Newsletter know.

Dockenfield and Frensham Churchyards

At this time of the year I usually write a short piece for the Newsletter thanking all those on the Good Shepherd mowing rota for their efforts over the past year. But this year, on behalf of Richard Birdsall and myself, I have also to thank Rev Jane and her helpers who laid on a splendid curry evening earlier this month at the Good Shepherd, to which all the Churchyard "gardeners" and their partners were invited.

There were upwards of 50 people present to enjoy a wide variety of curries with all the trimmings - altogether a most enjoyable social occasion! An impromptu collection at the close produced an amazing £175 towards the St Mary's Vestry Extension fund. Many thanks to all concerned.

Patrick Rendell

Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group Tuesday 10 December, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall

The final 2013 event for the History Group is the Christmas Party on 10 December. For more information contact **Chris Bonner** on Tel: 793668.

Those Magnificent men in their flying machines

The article 'Looping the Loop' (DNL 239, page 15) has created a lot of interest. Bill Dewey, one of the organisers involved in the 'display', has been kind enough to write and tell us exactly how a biplane is prepared for this manoeuvre and how it is carried out.

On 18 August last, a fine summers day as I recall, the residents of Dockenfield were treated to a fine show of Gentleman's aerobatics performed by an old biplane, lazily tumbling about in the still air. Such was the enjoyment of the clientele of the Bluebell Inn and many others they have asked me to describe the event and why Dockenfield? The answer to that is a small group of light aircraft pilots who share a local grass strip with lady equestrian riders who the pilots see from time to time cantering along the edges enjoying their pastime. It was decided in the spring to hold a barbeque for the Ladies and the odd Gentleman but due to poor weather conditions this was put off until August. As part of the meeting it was always proposed to offer the guests short aerial experience flights in aircraft of their choice; after all we were trying to be the perfect hosts.

Cometh the day, cometh the man, in the form of 'Stack' Butterley, an ex military pilot who also is an ex Concorde Captain with many thousands of flying hours. He is very difficult person to contact, but as luck would have it he was phoned just before he was planning to cut his garden hedge. He threw down the tools and made it hot foot to the airstrip: we all prefer flying to other activities! 'Stack' is a part of the Tiger Moth Group whose other members also have military backgrounds in the Royal Air Force and the Fleet Air Arm. One member is the person responsible for initiating and certifying the National Tiger Moth Diamond 9 display team.

In all forms of flying, safety is paramount to both persons on the ground and the aircrews. All flying in the UK is governed by strict regulations laid out by the Civil Aviation Authority. These regulations cover maintenance of the aircraft, pilot's medicals and other diverse matters. They also regulate where an aircraft may or may not fly. Aerobatics for instance must be carried out in open country where an emergency landing can be made.

The Tiger Moth is a pre-last war training aircraft designed in 1931 by Major Halford of the deHavilland Aircraft Company. Its role was always as a training aircraft and as such many thousand were built before and throughout the war by a variety of firms such as Morris Motors in Cowley as well as Hafield. The design comprises a steel tube fuselage covered in doped Irish Linen whilst the wings and other flying surfaces are made from ply and spruce, also covered in doped linen. Remember that wood, unlike steel can be flexed and reflexed many times without fatigue limitations (like a tree in the wind).

The Biplane configuration was very popular as with joining struts and metal diagonal ties results in a very strong wing. The engine is about 130 BHP with inverted cylinders so that the propeller clears the ground and the pilot's view ahead is unimpeded. This inversion unfortunately leads to oiling of the spark plugs and seeped oil in the cylinders. For this reason the observer will see the engine being turned over by hand prior to starting. Another anomaly worth noting is that due to the early design the aircraft is without electrics except for a pair of magnetos providing the spark to the eight plugs. You will have noticed I mentioned a pair of magnetos. In fact an aircraft, even an old aircraft has two of almost everything for safety.

Now for the part the patient reader has been waiting for. The aerobatic flight! 'Stack' with others, including the prop swinger (myself) ensured that the aircraft was airworthy with sufficient fuel and oil. The passenger and pilot were strapped in with a four-point harness. Chocks are placed in front of the wheels to stop the aircraft rolling forward on start up as the aircraft has no brakes! The engine was primed by 'tickling' the carburettor until fuel flowed freely. The two sets of magneto switches on the side of the forward and rear cockpits were switched to 'off' and Stack instructed the prop swinger to prime the cylinders by 'pulling thro' the prop, four turns. On the fifth turn the swinger positions the propeller on the compression stroke and indicates to the pilot to switch 'on' and both switches are placed to the on or up position. The swinger smartly swings the prop and at the same time steps back to avoid the whirling propeller. The engine fires up (hopefully), otherwise the whole procedure must be repeated.

At this stage the engine oil must be brought up to operating temperature and a full power check carried out on each magneto separately. When all this has been done it is time to taxi out to the runway for an in-to-wind take off. Just another snippet, the Tiger Moth does not have brakes! It relies on a cast iron tailskid, which is connected through the rudder. Take off occurs at around 60mph airspeed and climb speed is about 70 mph. Wings are kept level and instruments are continually checked. At a height of between 2,000 to 3,000ft 'Stack' carried out a couple of level turns to ensure that the skies were clear of other aircraft and to satisfy himself that he was clear of habitation before commencing the LOOP (not loop the loop). The aircraft would be dived on full power to 115mph and the control column (not joystick) eased back in a continuous motion until the aircraft was just becoming inverted (about 10.30 on a clock face). At this point engine power would be reduced to avoid over speeding when coming down the other side, vertically. Easing back on the control column would arrest the dive. At this time the passenger would be grinning ear to ear.

One final note. The Tiger Moth is not built to withstand negative 'G' as fuel from the 19 gallon tank on the top wing relies on positive 'G' to feed the engine, however the crew experience something like 0.5G at the top of the loop. Although this lengthy diatribe covers what happened on the day, there is a lot more that can be said about the venerable DH82a. Perhaps another day.

Bill Dewey

Alice Holt Community Forum

The Alice Holt Community Forum, which meets twice a year, held its Autumn meeting at the Forest Centre. The Forum discussed the latest disappointing DEFRA response to the Independent Panel's report on the Public Forest Estate which appeared to be government back-tracking; the proposed new electronic barrier system for the car park; progress on the Arboretum Restoration project; Forest management particularly in Goose Green and the Bourne Woods filming planning application. For more details contact Colin Hall, Dick Beales or Jill Trout.

Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

Katy Poulson's team have just finished restoring a small very boggy section of the Sequoia Walk and the volunteers will now be focussing on the completion of the restoration of that track. We will also be involved in holly clearance and some tree planting during the winter. The next volunteer working parties are on 15 December (when we plan to have a bonfire of the holly), 19 January and 16 February. Come along to the car park off Gravel Hill Road at 10am on those days. All are welcome. Tools are provided. **Colin Hall, chall3422@aol.com**

What position might you adopt at the Good Shepherd?

There is a wide range of them to choose from on a Monday night. You might start with 'The Bridge', move on to 'Chalk Circles', have a go at 'The Hundreds' and even try your hand at 'Downward Facing Dog' before finishing in 'Child's Pose'. All of them of course are Pilates positions, and all of them can, over time, improve your posture and flexibility and seriously ease back pain. They are taught by the excellent Christine who knows a thing or two about getting your body into shape, and instructs with patience and great good humour. And oh yes, you can be any age, any gender and any size. Doesn't matter. Chances are that you will know everybody there as well, so it's nice and friendly too.

Pilates happens every Monday evening at the Good Shepherd and it's a steal at £8 per week. For more information contact Belinda Buttery (who lives in The Street) on Tel: 794423.

Poppy Appeal 2013

Dockenfield has once again most generously supported the Poppy Appeal and our Dockenfield house to house collectors of Jack Bessant, Pat Clough, and Sarah Stirling collected £406 between them. Well done to all three of you.

I am delighted to report that our area of Dockenfield, Frensham and Tilford collected an amazing total of over £6,200 (the exact figure is not yet known as we are awaiting further "promised" donations), including the house to house collectors, tins at various strategic points, the St Mary's Remembrance Day service, the Royal British Legion Club and a stalwart band of collectors outside Sainsbury's and the Frensham Village Shop.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal I would like to express thanks and gratitude to all who participated, including Sebastian Fox and Alex Rutherford who laid wreaths on behalf of the Village and Legion respectively at the very moving village Remembrance Day War Memorial service, conducted by the Reverend Jane Walker, and especially to everyone who donated so very generously. My personal thanks also to Gordon Carter and members of the British Legion Club who give me invaluable help throughout the whole appeal period. **Peter James**

Do you like to talk dirty?

A study by 'Which?' magazine has found that tablet and smartphones can harbour 30 times more bacteria than a lavatory seat. It seems that if a similar amount of bacteria were found on a food handler then they would have to be taken out of the workplace and retrained in basic hygiene.

Common Knowledge

Continuing our occasional series of fascinating facts about Frensham Common compiled for us by **Steve Webster**. According to flood statistics, if the medieval dam on Frensham Great Pond ever failed completely the resulting floodwater could potentially drown half a person. Let's hope it's the bottom half!

Winter Migration of Birds

Bird migration is a fascinating and quite mysterious phenomenon, and learned books have been written about it by people far better-informed people than I. According to the RSPB, at least 4000 species of birds (about 40% of the world's total) regularly migrate. In northern regions such as Scandinavia most species migrate, to escape the cold winters. Even in the UK, where conditions are usually milder, about half our species migrate. These include especially the insect-eaters which can't find enough food here during the winter.

Winter migrants from Europe that regularly visit our locality include Fieldfares, Redwings, and Bramblings. Water birds from Northern and Eastern Europe, including many kinds of ducks, geese and waders, arrive around our coasts and inland waters in the autumn, because the weather is milder here, and food is easier to find. Whooper Swans fly in from Greenland and Iceland, and Bewick's Swans fly all the way from Siberia. **Cont/**

Cont/

Some birds arrive here as **passage migrants**, stopping off for a few weeks to feed and rest before continuing to their breeding grounds in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. These include some Gulls, Terns and Sandpipers. The supreme passage migrant is the Arctic Tern, which breeds on the fringes of the Arctic Circle and also further south in more temperate areas such as the Farne Islands. It then flies to the edge of the Antarctic to winter, a round trip of as much as 40,000 kilometres! An astonishing feat for quite a small bird.

Irruptions are occasional sudden invasions of birds. Best-known in this area are irruptions of Waxwings, which sometimes move in their thousands from Scandinavia and northern Europe if the rowan berries in their native areas are insufficient. They then appear in our car-parks and other areas which are planted with berry-bearing trees. Last winter, for example, a flock appeared at North Camp station, where they stripped the bushes bare.

Then there are the **partial migrants** (keep up at the back), which migrate in some places but not in others. Most Starlings which breed in the UK stay here for the winter, but not all. Starlings which breed in Europe (including Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Poland, Russia and the Baltic) migrate here for the winter. So the numbers of Starlings in the UK in winter are much higher than in summer. Many Blackbirds, Chaffinches, Robins, Lapwings, and Coots also migrate from Europe to the UK for the winter. Many common birds which we might have thought were all British residents regularly include European incomers. This partial migration depends very much on the weather, so in a harsh winter more birds will migrate in search of better conditions.

Siskins which breed here usually remain in the winter, depending on weather conditions. Some may migrate to Holland, France, Spain and Portugal. Travelling in the opposite direction, numbers of Siskins which breed in Scandinavia move south to the Netherlands and some cross the North Sea to the UK. Some will go south, to Spain and Portugal.

Our **native migrants**, such as Tits, Wagtails and Wrens, move from the countryside to warmer urban areas. Thrushes fly from northern Britain, for easier pickings in the south. Starlings fly daily from their city roosts to suburban gardens to feed.

How do migrating birds know when to take off? If they leave too early they may not have built up sufficient reserves to last the long journey. If they leave it too late they may encounter harsher weather and stronger winds. Preparation is crucial. At the appropriate time, birds prepare for migration by eating more, to build up their fat reserves. Some will double their body weight and complete their migration in one non-stop flight. Others will stop en route to feed and rest. Some species moult their old feathers before they migrate. Others moult when they reach their destination.

It is a mystery that young birds manage to migrate successfully. Young Cuckoos make the journey without ever having seen their natural parents. Young Swifts, once their flight feathers are sufficiently developed, tumble out of their nests and take off, without their parents, remaining airborne for two years! Among other species some parent birds fly with their young, but by no means all. Adult Swallows, which may have had a second or third brood, may take off without the latest brood if they are not fully fledged, and the young birds must take their chances.

How do birds navigate? Ornithologists now believe that birds use three main compasses to assist them to fly in the right direction, and for the right length of time. They appear to be able to observe the sun, the stars, and the earth's magnetic field. The process seems all the more amazing when some species are known to return to the same location year after year. Some ornithologists think that birds use their sense of smell to identify familiar scents, their remarkable eyesight to identify landmarks, and their awareness of wind direction to navigate. Still more interesting is the fact that some species take a different route for their summer migration from the one they use in the winter.

Many songbirds migrate at night and rest during the daytime. The air is cooler and denser at night, so there is less turbulence caused by thermals rising from the ground to throw the birds off course. In the cooler night air the birds need less energy to provide the necessary lift for flight, and there is less risk of dehydration.

Conversely, large birds such as Storks and Cranes must rely on hot wind thermals to carry them, as they cannot sustain continuously flapping their wings. Nor can they land on water, so these birds take routes which avoid large stretches of water, and they seek the kinds of landscape which generate thermal currents. Some birds fly at very high altitudes, and airline pilots have reported observing Whooper Swans at altitudes of 8850 metres.

It is hardly surprising that some birds are blown off course and land in unexpected places. During the recent turbulent weather there have been reports of rarely-seen birds on British shores, some having been blown long distances, even from as far as across the Atlantic. Such incidences provide excitement for 'twitchers', who like to add rarities to their lists, but it is almost inevitable that the birds concerned will die from exhaustion or hunger.

Bird migration has fascinated people for centuries, and has given rise to some odd ideas. For example, it was thought that Swallows spent the winter at the bottom of lakes, and that Barnacle Geese spent the summer as barnacles. Scientific investigation and technological advance have increased our understanding, but there is still much we do not know. In recent years ornithologists have fitted tiny satellites to birds such as Cuckoos, to track their migration routes, and they have gleaned a great deal of new information. There is much still to learn, however, about the wonderful mystery of bird migration.

Val Lewis

The recuperative properties of DNL

The last edition of DNL brought, I think, more reader response than any other I have edited, including a number of terrific letters (see pages 7, 8 & 9) and lots of folk just writing in to say how much they enjoyed reading it. Pride of place amongst the correspondence must go though to a delightful note that reads as follows:

'You saved my day! Just when the thought of getting anything meaningful done this afternoon was heading down the drain with the copious amounts of rain....along comes the DNL. Always a good read, packed with info. Filled my afternoon up nicely, and valuable too – got some gems to follow up on.'

However not everything in the DNL garden is 100% rosy as the following complaint illustrates:

Correction

I have been asked to point out an error made in the last edition of DNL. On page 8 of issue number 239 ('The History of the Bluebell') I credited Jean Parratt as being Editor of 'The Farnham Diary'. In fact the Editor is Ted Parratt who writes to say:

'(Jean) is in fact our reporter/researcher...and is invaluable to this newspaper (the only one of its type in the area, with plaudits for investigative and original reporting) for her contacts with people and her detailed knowledge of the town's history, but I take full legal responsibility for its content and plan and design every edition on-screen. I deal with all technical matters and take most of the photographs.... Jean is not involved in production of 'The Farnham Diary' and never has been, in its nine-year history.... Please could you include a note of correction about our various roles in your next edition.'

Consider it done, Ted, with apologies from me for the inadvertent error.

Blowing a raspberry

When I was a young child living at home with my parents we had lots of raspberry plants in our garden. Since they were all white (or more accurately yellow) raspberries I had no idea that this fruit was also 'available' in red. Recently my sister gave me a few of the white raspberry canes that she had been given many years ago, and they have been producing a good little crop in our garden.

Now it seems that the tables are turned and many of the people I speak to around the village don't know that white raspberries exist. So how about you? Have you ever heard of, seen or tasted a white raspberry?

Did you suffer from wind?

'Hurricane' St Jude blew its way through Dockenfield at the end of last month, turning everyone's apple crop simultaneously into windfalls and taking with it (at least temporarily) the village electricity supply. I know of only one tree that came down, in Bealeswood Lane and one telephone connection lost (ours as it happens). Can anyone report on any other damage in the village as a result of the wind?

Which way to the airport?

In the (admittedly unlikely) event that you are driving in the Southall area, you might be fascinated to see an old gasometer not only still standing but with two huge letters 'LH' emblazoned on the side, painted above a monster arrow. This, believe it or not, was an original instruction to low flying aircraft that had lost their way on the approach to London Heathrow (LH) and were in need of directions.

'Great oaks from little acorns grow'

Summer had turned to autumn and the wind had begun to blow just as I was walking down Bealeswood Lane in early October. And with each fresh gust, a new shower of acorns fell to the ground, which was already crunchy underfoot from the many hundreds lying there.

Which made me think. How many acorns does the average mature oak tree produce in a year? And the answer is (in a good year) between 70-150,000 acorns. Wow.

News from the Robbie Boyd Band

This is the band, of course, that features Dockenfield's very own Mared Evans. They brought a new single and music video, both entitled 'Under my Skin' out in late October. This was followed by a two week UK tour covering England, Wales and Scotland.

Mared was only able to join the tour for the second week, starting in London but doubtless brought her own special brand of stardust to each concert. For more information visit www.robby-boyd.com/live

Rising numbers

Did you realise that on 11 December at 2.15pm it will be 11.12.13.14.15?

The village website

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

Golden brown

By the time you read this I am afraid that the very best will probably be over. But I just wanted to comment on the spectacular autumn colours of the trees around the village this year. When the sun shone on them their leaves became an almost perfect gold. Wonderful.

The final word

Did you know that the word 'Goodbye' is a contradiction of the words 'God be with ye (you)?'

Things you might not know about Christmas

- Robins on cards were a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.
- In Victorian times, mince pies were made with beef and spices.
- The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.
- Carols began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life and weren't sung in churches until they were introduced by St Francis of Assisi in the 13th century.
- Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.
- The abbreviation Xmas isn't irreligious. The letter X is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.
- The world's tallest Christmas tree at 221ft high was erected in a Washington shopping mall in 1950.
- The chances of a white Christmas are 1 in 10 for England and Wales, and just 1 in 6 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.
- In 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned festivities. The law wasn't lifted until 1660.
- In 1999, residents of the state of Maine in America built the world's biggest ever snowman. He stood at 113ft tall.
- Many parts of the Christmas tree can actually be eaten, with the needles being a good source of Vitamin C.
- Hanging presents on trees may come from the Druids who believed the tree was the giver of all good things.
- Santa has different names around the world - Kriss Kringle in Germany, Le Befana in Italy, Pere Noel in France and Deushka Moroz (Grandfather Frost) in Russia.
- Since 1947 Oslo has sent a Christmas tree to London to thank us for our help in the Second World War.
- Christmas pudding was originally a soup made with raisins and wine.
- London sweet maker, Tom Smith, created the first Christmas crackers in 1847, based on the sweet wrapper design.
- Santa Claus comes from a Dutch folk tale based on Saint Nicholas, or Sinterklaas, who gave gifts on 6 December.
- Boxing Day gets its name from all the money collected in church alms-boxes for the poor.
- Kissing under the mistletoe is thought to spring from Frigga, the Norse goddess of love, who was associated with the plant.
- Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer was invented for a US firm's Christmas promotion in 1938.
- Gold-wrapped chocolate coins commemorate St Nicholas who gave bags of gold coins to the poor.

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 15 January**, 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.