

# DOCKENFIELD

## newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield  
Issue 246

Published 24 November 2014

### **'It's the people who make Dockenfield: they are just so very special'**

No, not my words but the spontaneous words of a friend at a village dinner party this September. How right she is: the sense of community here is one of main features of what is always a very happy place to live. And what better time to be part of that community than at Christmas, when the village puts on some truly delightful and very traditional events to which you are all invited. Putting up the Christmas Tree, the Village Carols, and not one but *two* Christmas parties at the pub are the headline events, but there are lots of other things going on this festive season. Do try and get to as many as you can. In the meantime time, from me and everyone who helps make the Newsletter happen, a very Happy Christmas to you all.

**Michael**

### **Christmas in Dockenfield**

#### **The Village Christmas Tree**

**Sunday 7 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street**

Christmas in Dockenfield starts with putting up of the village Christmas tree. If you've driven or walked past and wondered how it's done, then join us to find out. Lots of adults are needed to pick up and position the tree (it's very heavy) and we also need children to help decorate it: wrap up some empty boxes, cover them in cling film and bring them along. The whole thing takes no more than an hour.

#### **Village Christmas Carols**

**Monday 8 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street**

Following rapidly on the heels of the tree raising is the traditional Carol Singing. For anyone who hasn't attended before, it's held by torchlight around the bus shelter which is decorated with lights, making for a lovely atmosphere. 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, making it a great event for children and adults alike.

#### **Christmas Parties**

**Saturday 13 December from 3.30pm (Children) and 7.30pm (Adults)**

Following on from the successful party last year, Robin and Lucy have kindly agreed to host the Christmas parties at the Bluebell again this year. The format will, however, be different:

- Children's party from 3.30-5.30pm with music, games and party food.
- Santa is hoping to visit, please call the pub for more details!
- The cost will be £5 per child (presents not included) and places must be reserved in advance by phone  
Tel: 792801 or email: [info@bluebell-dockenfield.co.uk](mailto:info@bluebell-dockenfield.co.uk).

The children's party will be followed by an informal party for adults from 7.30pm til late. Tickets will be £10 per head and need to be purchased in advance, but no table reservations are being taken. The ticket price includes a traditional Christmas buffet and a full bar with, of course, TEA on tap (*please note this supersedes the information given in the Parish Magazine*).

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**

### **Dockenfield Day 2015**

Dockenfield Day next year will be on **Saturday 6 June**. Full details in the New Year, but put the date in your brand new 2015 calendars now.

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

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
<b>Tuesday, 25 November</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
<b>Wednesday, 26 November</b>	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 13
<b>Friday, 28 November</b>	7.30pm	Horticultural Society President's Supper	Marindin Hall	Page 13
<b>Monday, 1 December</b>	3pm	Village Tea	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 13
<b>Sunday, 7 December</b>	10.30am	Help put up the Village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 1
<b>Monday, 8 December</b>	6.45pm	Village Christmas Carols	The Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 1
<b>Tuesday, 9 December</b>	7.30pm	Frensham and Dockenfield History Group Xmas Party	Marindin Hall	Page 13
<b>Saturday, 13 December</b>	3.30-5.30pm 7.30pm	Children's Xmas Party Adults' Xmas Party	The Bluebell pub	Page 1
<b>Tuesday, 16 December</b>	tbc	Frensham and Dockenfield History Group Xmas Party	The British Legion	Page 13
<b>Thursday, 18 December</b>	7pm	Carol Singing for Christmas	The Holly Bush Pub	Page 3
<b>Thursday, 18 December</b>	7.30pm	Millbridge WI Xmas Party	Marindin Hall	Page 13
<b>Wednesday, 24 December</b>	From approx 8pm	Live music with Micky Kemp	The Bluebell Pub	Page 5
<b>Monday, 29 December</b>	10.30am	Marindin Hall Village Walk 2014	Starting at the Marindin Hall	Page 3
<b>Monday, 5 Jan 2015</b>	3pm	Village Tea	Church Hall, St Mary's	Page 13
<b>Tuesday, 20 Jan 2015</b>	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 4
<b>Thursday, 22 Jan 2015</b>	8pm	Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society	Marindin Hall	Page 13

### Church Services at Christmas

#### Church of England services

*For more information [www.frenshamchurches.org.uk](http://www.frenshamchurches.org.uk)*

**Sunday 30 November:** 6pm Advent Carol service at St Mary's

**Sunday 14 December:** 4pm Christingle service at St Mary's

**Sunday 21 December:** 6pm Christmas Carol service at St Mary's

**Wednesday 24 December:** 4pm Crib service at Good Shepherd

**Wednesday 24 December:** 11.30pm Midnight Mass at St Mary's

**Xmas Day 25 December:** 9am Holy Communion (BCP) at Good Shepherd

**Xmas Day 25 December:** 10.30am Family Communion with Carols at St Mary's

#### Frensham Baptists services

*Services are held at the Marindin Hall*

**Sunday 21 December:** 4pm Carols by Candlelight followed by mince pies, coffee and mulled wine

**Thursday 25 December:** 10.30am: A short Christmas Day service followed by canapés

*For more information: [www.fbf.org.uk](http://www.fbf.org.uk) or Tel: 07092 003414*

#### Roman Catholic services

Services are held outside Dockenfield and Frensham at the St Joan of Arc Church, Tilford Road, Farnham, where the the Parish Priest is Fr Niven Richardson (Tel: 01252 716711).

*For more information on their services visit <http://www.sj Joanofarcfarnham.co.uk>*

## **Marindin Hall Village Walk 2014**

**Monday 29 December, 10.30am. Meet at Marindin Hall**

The date has been chosen to appeal to families and individuals who wish to enjoy some post Christmas exercise and fresh air and have the opportunity to meet up with friends before the New Year celebrations. This year's walk will again take us through the Pierrepoint permissive footpaths and farm where Mike Clear has kindly agreed to open the robotic dairy to view the automatic milking of his Jersey cows and show off the herd's new calves.

If foraging and rambling appeals to our would be walkers then you will need to look no further than the newly established Frensham Brewery located in the old Pierrepoint Farm milking parlour. Miles and Emily are opening their new venture to enable you to see and learn about the brewing process first hand and to sample their delightful Forager and recently introduced Rambler beers. Orders can be taken and we will arrange for them to be collected at the Hall at the end of your walk.

On arrival at the Hall you will be given details and map of the walk and, before setting off, a hot drink and muffin. On return we are providing homemade soup, hot dogs and refreshments.

In 2011 we introduced a village walk in support of the appeal for urgent repairs at the Hall, principally to the small hall roof. By popular request we repeated this in 2012 and rested the event in 2013. However, the concept had been well received and not forgotten so we have decided to organise a walk for 2014. Apart from bringing people together during the festive season the event is being organised mainly to showcase the hall and raise awareness of the facilities this attractive asset offers our community. The cost is £5.00 for adults, £2.50 for children 5 to 15yrs, no charge for under 5s and tickets will be available at the Village Shop from 1 December. Dogs will be welcome and well exercised, so clean off the boots and join us for a very enjoyable experience. **Malcolm Green**

## **Christmas around Farnham**

*These are some of the Christmas events in and around Farnham that you might like to put into your diaries:*

**Saturday, 6 December**, 3 & 6.30pm: Candlelit Carol Concerts at All Saint's Church, Tilford. With the new Tilford Bach Choir.  
[www.tilbach.org.uk](http://www.tilbach.org.uk)

**6,7 & 13,14 December**, 'Santa Specials Railway Rides' at the Rural Life Centre, Reeds Road, Tilford.

**Sunday 14 December**, 10am-4pm: Farnham Christmas Market, which will take place in Castle Street and the Bush Hotel. Also that day is the December Farmers' Market from 10am-1.30pm, in the Central Car Park.

**Sunday 21 December**, 2.30-3.30pm. A Winter Celebration. Carol Singing around the Christmas tree in Gostrey Meadow, an event that is also in celebration of Farnham in Bloom's 'golden success'. And let's not forget the part that that Dockenfield's very own Chippy Cooper played in this success. He is a member of Farnham Town Council's 'Outside Work Force' whose role in making Farnham so successful in the competition this year was recognised with a front page picture on the Farnham Herald in September.

## **Carol Singing for Christmas**

**Thursday 18 December, 7pm at the Holly Bush**

Everyone is welcome to come to these carols which will be sung by St Mary's Church Choir and the Frensham Baptist Fellowship. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and soft drinks. **Jane Walker**

## **The unsung heroes and heroines of the Newsletter**

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 with Janette Platt as co-coordinator. A thank you also to Debbie Foster for helping on the layout and to our growing list of contributors who write so wonderfully and who make it such a valuable read.

## **Please save your stamps at Christmas**

Christmas is surely the time that you get more cards and envelopes with stamps on them than at any other time of the year. So, please can you remember to save all those stamps for charity? Just collect them together and deliver them to Jack Bessant, No 1 Beales Cottages, The Street. All stamps are welcome from the UK and all foreign countries, and in whatever condition. The stamps are sold and the proceeds go to charity and so you are helping good causes at Christmas.

## **Welcome to John and Emma**

A warm Dockenfield welcome to John and Emma Green who moved into 'Stannards' in early September, then ten days later got married and went on honeymoon. So welcome and big congratulations to them both. Clearly a couple of enormous energy, just what the village needs!

## A New Year's Resolution

The new term of Pilates starts on Monday 5 January at the Good Shepherd. Each session lasts for just an hour, gets you fitter than you otherwise would be, has an ace tutor, and is good fun into the bargain. Oh yes, its good value for money too. For more details contact Christine Jason on Tel: 07896 293203.

## Cherubs at Dockenfield

We have had a baby boom in Frensham and Dockenfield lately – there must be something in the water! Cherubs toddler group is flourishing as are the babies and children that come. The Mums and Dads come along to chat and relax amongst other like-minded tired parents; the children play or just gurgle; there is singing, playing, a little time of prayer, and children's snacks, all in a warm, welcoming and loving environment. We did a wonderfully creative poster with poppies on it for Remembrance Day, which was used in both churches. We are very much looking forward to Christmas and our Christmas Cherubs tea party will be on Thursday 18 December in the Church of the Good Shepherd.

**Jane Walker**

## Help With Your Maths?

I am a Year 11 student at Churcher's College and achieved an A\* in my GCSE maths exam in August 2014. If you would like a little help with your maths school work or your revision for exams I might be able to help. I am raising funds for a trip in 2016 to South America and am offering maths tutoring as part of my fund raising effort. Please contact Owen Tutt on 01420 478094.

## Folding bed for sale

For Sale: brand new, Jay-Be, folding guest bed 70cm wide, with mattress, cost £100, will accept £50. Tel: 794421.

## News from Dockenfield Parish Council

**Christmas Events.** Although the colourful leaves of autumn are still enhancing our trees, you will see the Activities Committee is already working on the build up of Christmas events... hopefully as many residents as possible will join in.

We are sad to hear our **Village Milkman**, Steve, is hanging up his milk crates and will no longer be delivering milk, a helping hand and good humour to our doorsteps. He has decided to move on to pastures new and his last day was Saturday 22 November. Dairy Crest will continue to deliver and our "normal" relief milkman will be in Dockenfield for the foreseeable future. Steve has been delivering to our village for over twenty years and I am sure we will all miss him but at the same time, wish him well in his new career. Who knows, we may come across him on our train journeys from time to time in his new job.

A number of people have expressed concern about the amount of timber being felled in and around **Flat Copse** opposite **Abbotts Cottages**. Having enquired at the Forestry Commission regulatory office, a licence has been granted to the landowner to fell 198 trees by thinning consisting of Ash and Oak. Not a clear fell. This information can be accessed by any member of the public from the Bucks Horn Oak Office, as it is a public document.

The Parish Council has advised the Environment Agency of the large numbers of fallen trees upstream from **Frensham Mill** on the Wey. This has been noted and hopefully will be cleared. On the note of rain and water, don't forget to clear your **ditches and drains** before the winter frosts and subsequent ice sets in.

**Future Parish Council Meetings** are as follows. We are always pleased for residents to attend for all or part of any of the meetings that take place at 8pm in the vestry of the Good Shepherd. Tuesday **25 November**; no meeting in December; Tuesday **20 January**.

Anyone who wishes to have their email address added to the **Village Email List** please contact Jessica Hobday (Clerk) at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk This will only be used in emergencies and for village notices.

**Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday (www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk)**  
*Please also see page 9 on the article on Preparing for Winter in Dockenfield*

## Stop Press! Consultation on Public Transport

Surrey CC are continuing to look for ways to reduce their outgoings, and have turned their attention to Public Transport. In other words, what further reductions they can countenance. Surrey CC has therefore launched a consultation, and residents are urged to either complete the questionnaire at **surreycc.gov.uk/transportreview**, where there is also additional information, or seek printed copies from libraries or council offices. The deadline for responses is 14 January 2015.

**Ian McLean**

## 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 2015**, 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.

## Events at the Bluebell

**Opening times:** **Monday-Friday** Bar: 12-3pm and 5.30-11pm. Food 12-3 & 6-9pm; **Saturday** Bar: 12-11pm Food 12-3pm & 6-9pm; **Sunday** 12-8pm. Food 12-4pm. Please book for food, especially on Sundays.

**Menu:** currently their autumn menu is available with delicious meals including breast and leg of pheasant, slow cooked pork belly and smoked haddock carbonara plus some pub classics: fish and chips and their popular fish pie. They have a bar snack menu running alongside this. They have also updated their kid's menu; which is available all week, including Sundays. Their winter menu will start first week in December.

**Special Offers:** they have specials available every Tuesday and Wednesday lunch for £7.45. Tonic is free on a Thursday, so you can sample their gin range. They also have some great deals on bin end wines.

**Two Christmas Parties:** both on **Saturday 13 December**. Children's party, with music, games and party food (and hopefully a visit from Santa) from 3.30-5.30pm; followed by an informal adults' party from 7.30pm til late including a traditional Christmas buffet. The tickets cost £5 (excl presents) for children and £10 for adults. Please reserve your tickets in advance by calling the pub on Tel: 792801. See page 1 for more information.

**Christmas Eve:** live music and fun with Micky Kemp. If you wish to eat please book, otherwise you are welcome to pop up and have a boogie!

**Christmas Day:** open for drinks 12-2pm.

**Boxing Day:** features the return of their very successful game menu, which is already getting pretty booked up so reserve your table asap.

**New Year's Eve:** a special menu and special music. They will have a set menu available, families more than welcome – or you can pre-book your meal, for example: Chateau-Briand plus a bottle of champagne for two £90; or Dover Sole and a bottle of Nyetimber (award winning English sparkling wine) for two £70. They will be open until late with music from the 60's to the 90's – everyone is welcome; no tickets required if you're popping in for a drink.

**New Year's Day:** go along for a hair of the dog; they will have their all day breakfast menu running – once more please do book if you are planning to go along.

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

## And at our other local venues

*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](http://www.bw-frenshampondhotel.co.uk))

The hotel has a Christmas Eve dinner, a Christmas Day lunch, and a New Year's Eve gala dinner dance. Contact the hotel for full details of these and other seasonal entertainment and accommodation packages

**Hare and Hounds, Rowledge** (Tel: 792287)

**Open (Acoustic) Mic Night:** 8.30pm on Fridays **28 November**.

**Music Night:** Saturday 20 December: Phil Aaron, a swing singer who evidently is very popular and so booking for tables is advisable.

**Christmas Menu:** starting from 4 December, with a 3-course meal at £19.95.

**Christmas Carols:** a choir will visit the pub to sing Christmas Carols, but the date is yet to be confirmed.

**Cherry Tree, Rowledge** (Tel: 792105, [www.cherrytreepub.co.uk](http://www.cherrytreepub.co.uk)) The new licensees at the Cherry Tree are Chris & Kelly Pullinger who tell DNL that their Xmas and New Year events include:

**Christmas Festive Menu** from 24 November, £23.50 for three homemade courses using fresh, local, seasonal produce.

**Open** Christmas Day and Boxing Day for lunch 12noon - 3pm.

**Open** New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

**21 January** Burns Night Supper with Scottish Piper.

**Millbridge Court.** Following extensive refurbishment to the old 'Bridge' property, Millbridge Court is now open for business. Please call 01252 413282 for more information or visit [www.millbridgecourt.co.uk](http://www.millbridgecourt.co.uk)

**The Holly Bush, Frensham** (Tel: 447060 [www.thehollybush.co.uk](http://www.thehollybush.co.uk)); **Frensham Royal British Legion** (Tel: 793014).

Cont/

## **And at our other local venues (cont/)**

**Frensham Brewery** has now been granted their premises licence, which is great timing just before Christmas. Now you can visit the brewery to buy direct Tuesday – Friday 12 - 5pm and Saturday 12 - 4pm (closed Sundays and Mondays) Late opening on Thursdays throughout December for late night shopping and until 6pm on Christmas Eve. They are closed from 25 - 28 December, reopening for telephone orders on Monday 29 December. For last minute New Year's Eve orders and deliveries, please Tel: 07917 696069. The brewery is open to the public for business as usual from Tues 30 December (except for New Year's Day). They also offer private tours of the brewery on a Saturday morning, and gift vouchers; call for further information.

If you want to join their mailing list for updates and special offers email: [info@frenshambrewery.co.uk](mailto:info@frenshambrewery.co.uk), send a message via the website or call the brewery on Tel: 01252 793956.

**The Halfway House.** The 'rumour' I mentioned in the last edition appears to be gaining credibility. There is now a planning application (SDNP/14/04236/FUL) on the fence at this pub asking permission to demolish the existing building and replace it with one detached and four semi detached houses.

## **News from The Village Shop**

We're gearing up for the Festive Season with all the usual favourites, and some new offerings besides. If you came to our AGM this year, you'll have heard Ian from Newlyn's Farm describing the complexities of getting the turkeys and geese in prime condition for the Christmas market. Well, they'll be with us again, delivered early in the morning of 24 December (along with ham, beef, and any other meat you choose). If you want local produce, superb flavour, farm-gate prices, and the convenience of local collection come and put in your order, and for all the trimmings too!

We're also ready to take your orders for Christmas cakes from Dean Farm, decorated, or ready for you to ice if you prefer. Lucy also makes Yule Logs (to order) and *hundreds* of her famous mince pies.

Paul's special offers on selected wines will be continuing up to Christmas. Currently cheaper than the major supermarkets, and changing weekly, it's worth popping into the shop to see how the offers fit with the needs of your wine cellar!

The 2015 Frensham & Dockenfield calendar is proving popular, with some spectacular and unexpected photos. Christmas cards, traditional, charity and hand-made are available now, creating your own gift hamper or Post Office Gift Cards could resolve your present problems. Christmas stamps are now on sale. And if you want a change from Christmas pud, Manda's Sticky Toffee Pudding is back. Flowers, wreaths, table decorations? We'll order them from Francesca for you. Is there anything you can't buy from your Village Shop? If so, please let us know! We look forward to seeing you soon.

*We now open 364 days a year, closed only on Christmas Day. Bank Holidays are treated like Sundays, opening 9 – 11am.*

### **Christmas Opening Hours**

Wednesday 24 December	8.30am – 1pm
Thursday 25 December	CLOSED
Friday 26 December	9am – 11am (Sunday hours, PO closed)
Saturday 27 December	8.30am-4pm (Normal hours, PO 9.00am-12.30pm)
Thursday 1 January 2015	9am – 11am (Sunday hours, PO closed).
Friday 2 January 2015	BACK TO NORMAL HOURS

### **POST OFFICE - Last posting dates:-**

#### **International:-**

Wednesday 3 December	Asia and Far East
Friday 5 December	most international airmail
Monday 8 December	Eastern Europe & Canada
Friday 12 December	USA
Saturday 13 December	Western Europe

#### **UK:-**

Thursday 18 December	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class and Royal Mail Signed For (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Saturday 20 December	1 <sup>st</sup> Class and Royal Mail Signed For (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Monday 22 December	Parcelforce Worldwide Express <b>48</b>
Tuesday 23 December	Parcelforce express <b>24</b> + Royal Mail Special Delivery

**Mayonne Coldicott [www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk](http://www.frensham-village-shop.co.uk) , Tel: 795240**

## Letters to the Editor

### The Good Shepherd

Once again it is time to send a vote of thanks to all those stalwarts on the Mowing Rota who help to keep the churchyard looking well cared for. As always, there is room for new volunteers. The task is not onerous - each person is called on just once a year for an hour's mowing. Please let me know if you would like to help next year.

Many thanks. **Patrick Rendell (Tel: 794761)**

### Former resident meets Ann Widdecombe

I met Ann Widdecombe for a cup of coffee last week, here in Christchurch. Ann had read my first book '*The night I danced with Rommel*'. She really did like it.

I by now have written the second book in the 'Unbroken Bonds' series, called '*Liverpool Connection*'. It was launched at Foyles in Bristol in June. I am writing the third one at the moment, release date Spring 2015 '*Cuckoo Clock-New York*'. Meanwhile I have also translated the first book into German and it was published in April 2014.

With kind regards.

**Elisabeth Marrion,  
formerly of Goose Cottage, Green Lane**

### New Café opened in Rowledge

I just wondered if you could mention the new Citrus Café in Rowledge in the next Dockenfield Newsletter? I was there yesterday meeting the mums from Imy's class at St Mary's (can't believe she is at school already!) for a coffee, as one of the parents in fact runs it - Ivan, dad of Daisy Clements! It is next door to the butchers, and makes for a great place to stop for a hot cuppa and I highly recommend the pecan pie. I think sandwiches and paninis will also be offered soon too. I thought as it's a fantastic local addition for Dockenfielders, it would be a great business to support.

**Abi Shaw, Bealeswood Lane**

### Stray Cat

I would be grateful if you could spread the word or better still place a notice in the next DNL regarding a stray cat that is living in my one of my barns. Not sure of sex but he / she is black with white feet. Very nervous and is raiding my recycling bins for food! Has been around my property for approx 3 weeks (*as of 5 November*).

**Fiona Jones, Keepers Cottage**

### Pat Sanders

The Newsletter was very sad to hear of the death of Pat Sanders on 2 October at the age of 86. Pat and her late husband George lived at the Old Cottage in Bealeswood Lane for over 50 years, where they brought up four children, two girls and two boys. They eventually left the village in 2005 to live in an apartment in Waverley Lane.

Many of her long standing friends were present at a Memorial Service held at St Mary's on 14 November to celebrate the life of one of the Parish's loveliest ladies. I will leave it to her son, Andrew, to sum up the feelings that friends and family felt towards Pat. In the eulogy he writes:

*'I think when describing Mum the same words keep coming up; loyal, discrete, calm, uncomplaining, stoic, caring, kind. But what did people remember above all else? Her smile. It rarely left her face even when times were not good'..... 'Even after she tragically and very suddenly went blind. Despite a face swollen from the steroids her smile still shone through'*

Prior to her marrying George she led a remarkable life, working for ten years for Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace and so was present at many key moments in history: she was on the Commonwealth Tour in Kenya when the King died and Princess Elizabeth became Queen; she had ringside seats for the Coronation, and it was she who typed the announcement of the birth of Prince Charles to hang on the Palace gates.

In later years she received wonderful care at Moorhouse Nursing Home where she died last month. She will be greatly missed by her family and her many friends.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Another garage was broken into in Dockenfield during the night of 15/16 October near to the premises from which a ride-on mower was taken at the end of August. Please be alert and keep your garage and outbuildings locked (and alarmed if possible) at all times. **If you see or hear anything suspicious and believe that a crime is being committed, please notify the police immediately by dialing 999.** If you wish to report any other incidents to the police which do not require an immediate response, then please ring the non-emergency number 101.

The police have a website "**Surrey Police immobilise**" on which they recommend that any valuable household or garden equipment be registered, including serial numbers where relevant. This scheme is designed to help the police identify immediately any items believed to have been stolen and the address of the registered owner.

#### Patrick Rendell

*Please also add your name to the Dockenfield Parish Council email list which exists amongst other things to advise residents of any burglaries or other emergencies that happen in the village. Just email Jessica Hobday at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk and ask to be added to the list.*

## Comings and Goings

September is usually a quiet time for our birds, as they recover from their breeding season. In many cases they go into moult and replace their worn and tattered feathers. They become less agile in flight, so they lurk out of sight of predators, in trees and bushes and in the undergrowth. They go quiet, too, as the males no longer need to attract mates, and are less concerned with defending territories. Almost all our summer visitors are long gone, though a few late Martins may still be about.

This year the quiet season extended into October. Fewer birds than usual appeared in our gardens. Food which we put out for them went largely untouched, and some of it may have needed to be removed before it went mouldy and became toxic. Probably a major reason for this was the mildness of the season. Plenty of insects were still about, and there have been good crops of berries, nuts, seeds and fruits for the birds to feast upon. However, in November and December the year turns, and the birds will need the supplements we provide on our bird tables and in our bird feeders as winter comes on.

There are comings and goings among the bird population. For example, our British Chaffinches tend to spend their lives within a few hundred metres of where they hatched. Those Chaffinches you saw on your lawn in the summer are likely to be the same ones, together with their offspring, which you see in the autumn and winter. But this is only part of the story. During October and November there is a huge exodus of Chaffinches from Scandinavia and other parts of western Europe, as they migrate south and west to the milder climate of Britain. They fly in large flocks through the Low Countries, across the North Sea, into south-east England. They then fan out all over the country. The females arrive first, and many of these continue on to winter in western England, Wales and even Ireland. The males tend to remain in southern, central and eastern England. These European Chaffinches stay in their single-sex flocks throughout the winter. They tend to feed together in open farmland, and do not mix with our domestic Chaffinches. If you see a flock of Chaffinches, you will probably notice that most of them are male birds. You may see some Bramblings amongst them, as they, too, migrate here for milder weather and easier pickings, and they often join groups of Chaffinches.

Large numbers of European Blackbirds also arrive here at this time of year, and many of them stay throughout the winter. If the Scandinavian winter is a particularly harsh one, Waxwings may migrate here later, in search of the berries which may not be so prolific at home. Even Great Tits and Blue Tits are known to make the journey across the North Sea for our milder conditions. European Robins, too, arrive in numbers. They tend, like the Chaffinches, to prefer to feed in open country, but you may notice a Robin in your garden which has a more orange-coloured breast and is less confiding than our Robin Redbreast. You may have a European Robin.

Redwings also migrate here from Europe. Flying by night in large flocks, they can be heard overhead, keeping in touch with each other with their *seep, seep* calls. They love berries, so watch out for them in your garden. Fieldfares also arrive, and they tend to feed in open country.

During October and November thousands of Starlings arrive in Britain from Russia and the Baltic States. Feeding flocks forage in open grassland, on refuse tips, and occasionally in gardens. These flocks gather together at dusk and form enormous night-time roosts. You may have seen their spectacular flight patterns as they swirl about before settling for the night in trees, bushes, reed-beds, on urban buildings, or even on seaside piers.

November is the time to start providing winter food for the birds which come to your garden. With your bird table and feeders well scrubbed, and perhaps one or two new feeders, with fresh stocks of foods (peanuts, seeds, fat, fruit etc) you will be prepared to enjoy a range of winter visitors.

**Val Lewis**

## Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

The new tree trail at the arboretum has been officially opened and you can pick up a tree trail leaflet at the entrance to the arboretum. The trail includes 30 of the specimen trees and includes notes from Richard Jinks of Forest Research. Come along and get to know your trees!

We have now come to the conclusion of Phase 1 of the restoration project, with the tree trail established and the main paths restored. But there is still much to do as we move into Phase 2. This will involve the restoration of the lower path, new tree planting and some conservation projects, as well as general maintenance.

The next volunteer working parties are on 14 December, 18 January and 15 February. Come along to the car park off Gravel Hill Road at 10am on those days. All are welcome. Tools are provided. Contact: [chall3422@aol.com](mailto:chall3422@aol.com)

**Colin Hall**

## Preparing for winter in Dockenfield

The last three years' November issues of DNL have all carried some comment on getting ready and surviving winter in Dockenfield – and this, for the most part, has had the desired effect of keeping the village relatively free of emergencies! Last year wet weather was the order of the day, but we are not too susceptible to flooding. Another risk is falling trees and branches if we have high winds, so if this does occur, please take care when out and about. Please report any troublesome trees, branches etc to the Parish Council. However, in case the real cold returns, here are some reminders.

### Grit Bins

We remind you that the three DPC grit bins and six Council bins can be found at:

- 1 Junction of Old Lane & The Street (by Dockenfield Farm)
- 2 Junction of Bealeswood Lane & The Street
- 3 Junction of Lake Lane & The Street (DPC)
- 4 Western Traffic Calming (DPC: key held by Paul Wood & Ian McLean)
- 5 Three Ways
- 6 High Thicket Road
- 7 Entrance to The Old Convent (DPC: key held by Ian Hewitt & Ian McLean)
- 8 Old Lane (by Temple Pool)
- 9 Batts Corner (by The Bluebell)

These were not much required last year, and should be topped up fairly soon. If you notice any empty ones, please let us know. Please do *not* use the contents for domestic purposes.

### Be prepared

Assuming you do not have ready access to a troop of scouts or guides, you might:

1. stock up on a few essential provisions (water, bread, eggs, milk, tinned goods etc) to tide you over a few days
2. ensure you have enough essential prescription medicines and toiletries
3. count your candles and torches (and batteries!)
4. dust off and test your non-digital telephone for when your wireless/mobile battery dies
5. check you have fuel for a fire (if you have a working fire-place – and if you have, has your chimney been swept lately?)
6. dig out your warm weather gear for those forays outside to clear the drive or make that essential journey (do you have a snow shovel and a supply of personal-use grit?)
7. check your outside water pipes and taps are mothballed for the winter
8. locate and test your mains water stop-cock
9. check your gas boiler has been tested recently and your carbon monoxide detector card is in date (what do you mean you do not have one?)
10. check your car has the right fluid in its radiator (I find some European wines do the trick but apparently they invalidate your warranty) and your screen wash is correctly diluted – and when did you last replace your wipers?
11. check your car tyre pressures (which will have dropped dramatically in the recent cold weather) and ensure you have an emergency survival kit in your car
12. bookmark localised weather forecasting pages for those parts of the country you will be visiting over winter

### If you need help, or want to pass on some information

Batts Corner - Patrick Rendell: Tel: 01252 794761  
High Thicket Road - Richard Blackburn: Tel: 01252 797167  
*The Old Convent Flats - [vacant – a volunteer contact will be most welcome]*  
The Old Convent - Ian Hewitt: 01420478949  
Old Lane - Pam Hibbert: 01252 792573  
Abbott's Cottages - Matt Barnes: 01252 790312  
Bealeswood Lane - Debbie Foster: 01252 792142  
The Street (East) – - Seb Fox: 01252 792080  
The Street (West) - Peter James: 01252 793133  
Green Lane - Paul Wood: 01252 793470  
Lake Lane - Raf Wane: 01252 790841

Cont/

### **Cont/**

Alternatively, you may prefer to contact one of the **Parish Friends**, and full details of how they operate and which Friend covers your part of the village can be found below.

### **Your community**

Check you have contact details for neighbours, friends or relatives who may need your help if things become difficult.

### **Rubbish Collection**

Where Council contractors cannot get vehicles to residents in the side-roads, they will collect from the junctions on the The Street, if residents can get their black bin bags to those points.

### **Emergency Email List**

Don't forget that emergency messages will be sent via our Emergency Email List (our "EEL"), via the Parish Clerk (Jessica Hobday Tel: 07881 932363 or dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk). Please contact Jessica to be added to this list, most vital during the winter months.

### **Some useful "interweb" sites you should bookmark**

Follow Waverley Borough Council on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WaverleyBC>

The Met Office portal: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/public/winter-weather>

Surrey County Council: <http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/winter-general-advice>

Have a safe and problem free winter!

**Ian McLean**

## **Parish Friends**

I have been asked to write a note on the help that the Parish Friends are able to offer to the parish, and in particular Dockenfield. It will help first, I think, to know a little of the background to the Parish Friends (PF), all of whom are volunteers.

The PFs' group was formed in 1987 by the Reverend Maurice Kirby to care for the community on behalf of the church. When I completed my Pastoral Assistant training I was asked to take over the chair during an interregnum. The Reverend Jane Walker is however also fully involved and supportive of all that the PFs do on behalf of the parish. Each PF has an area that they look after and will be a support when needed, in a general practical way – such as a lift to the doctor or collect a prescription for anyone who might be housebound. A full list of PFs in Frensham and Dockenfield, their telephone numbers and the areas they cover is inside the back cover of the Parish Magazine. If 'your' PF is not available to help then any other PF would be happy to be called or call me and I will find someone for you.

People who are new to Dockenfield will hopefully know who their Parish Friend is as they will have been visited by them soon after moving into the village and given a copy of the Parish Magazine and a 'Welcome to the Parish' booklet (produced by the church) with details of a number of the local organisations etc that might be useful to a newcomer. If you are not sure who your Parish Friend is they are below. Dockenfield has had three PF changes recently as Sally Vardy has just retired, having been one of the founder PFs and co-coordinator for Dockenfield. So a big 'thank you' to Sally for many years of care for the people of Dockenfield.

DOCKENFIELD		
Abbotts Cottages	Diana Parratt	794168
Bealeswood Lane and The Street from Clock House to Bealeswood Lane	Debbie Foster	792142
The Street from the School Room to Bower Hill	Sarah Stirling	794552
Lake Lane and Green Lane	Jean Rendell	794761
Batts Corner and Boundary Road	Rosemary Faun	793810
Great Holt	Sandy Taylor	01420-478278
High Thicket Road and Old Lane	Barbara Carpenter	793271

**Morag James, 793133**  
**Chairman and Co-coordinator Parish Friends**

## **Poppy Appeal 2014**

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 £370 between them. Well done to all 3 of you and thank you to everyone who kindly donated.

I am delighted to report that our area of Dockenfield, Frensham and Tilford collected an amazing total of over £7,600 (a record amount!), which includes 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. Thanks also to the 3 Dale Ponies ridden by Jessica Blowers, Sue Hobday and Jill Trout who were part of the parade at the very moving village Remembrance Day War Memorial service in Dockenfield, conducted by the Reverend Jane Walker, where wreaths were laid by Mrs Pat Paull, Captain David Stirling of 4 Rifles and Jasmine Lee, Girl Guide, on behalf of the village and the Legion.

My personal thanks also to Gordon Carter and members of the British Legion Club who give me such invaluable support throughout the whole appeal period.

**Peter James**

*How nice it was, at the end of the service when most of the crowd had dispersed, that a lady by the name of Camelia Parratt turned up at the Memorial. It transpires that her father, Percy Parratt (who served on HMS Roberts) was born at Weyside in the village, son of Mabel Parratt (nee Marshall). Her mother, Patricia Lynch was also born in Dockenfield. Although she never lived here Camelia spent a great deal of her childhood playing in the village and remembers more about her happy times here than she does of the 59 years she has lived at her present house in Churt. She came to the Memorial to remember her mother's brother Frederick Marshall who is commemorated on the War Memorial. It was also lovely to see a picture of the Remembrance Day service appearing in the 14 November edition of the Farnham Herald alongside a report of the event.*

## **Remembrance Sunday, 9 November**

Sunday was a very special day for us, as a family, here in Dockenfield. My mother, Patricia Paull, was invited to lay a wreath being, at 93, the oldest resident of the village, ably assisted by my brother Chris Paull. My parents moved to Manor Farm, Old Lane in 1981 where we have continued to breed the Dales Pony. My mother and I started Sunglow stud in 1968.

If villagers see a black hairy pony with 'mudflaps' it has probably started its life in Old Lane. Three Dales Ponies also took part in the Remembrance Service to represent the part their ancestors played in the war effort. They were: Jill Trout on her Pandora, Jess Blowers (Hobday) on Philomena and Sue Hobday on Black Pearl.

**Sue Hobday, Old Lane**

*The following is the tribute to the role played by Dales Ponies in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, that was read out at the service by Rev Jane Walker. According to Sue it was written by the Dales Pony Society's secretary's mother, Mrs FitzGerald who wrote the official book on the Dales Pony published in 2000.*

‘2014 marks the centenary of the start of World War 1 and it seems fitting to remember the part played by the Dales Pony in that devastating conflict. Ponies were required for pack work in mountainous regions, mainly with the artillery. Ammunition had to be continually carried to the gun emplacements, which were often in high inaccessible places, and the Dales ponies had the size, temperament and strength to be ideal for this work.

Upward of 200 ponies at a time were purchased by the army, from the dales of Durham and Northumberland and the description of the type of animal they were seeking acts as a wonderful accolade to the breed of the time: “All were over 14h.h. and not exceeding 14.2h.h. All over 5 years and weighing half a ton, with a girth of 68 inches or more, and able to carry 21 stones on the mountain. General Bate, the Army buyer, would not look at any pony with the slightest sign of carthorse blood.” It is almost certain that few of the ponies returned after the Armistice, and many bloodlines must have been lost during the conflict.

This demand for pack ponies for the Army was the very reason that the Dales Pony Society was begun in 1916 and it was also the reason that the Army began to award premiums to stallions in the north-eastern dales. Payments were made by the War Office. The Dales Pony was classified as “rare” by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust in 1977 but numbers are now rising as its qualities are more appreciated. Today it has been reclassified as “critical”.

*Note: in October 2014 Jessica and Philomena won the supreme title at The Rare Breeds of The Year Show having qualified by becoming Dales Champion. An amazing feat for a Dales Pony bred in Dockenfield!!*

## **News from our Local Police Officer**

### **Christmas is coming**

Following on from Halloween, Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday thoughts now turn to Christmas festivities and it is time for me to give you a little reminder regarding actions you can take so you can enjoy a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

#### **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](http://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.

### **Tyre Safety: take the 20p test**

As we are now approaching the winter its more important than ever to ensure that the tyres on our cars are safe and legal. This can be done quickly and easily using a 20p coin to check tyre tread depth, helping to keep both you and your passengers' safe on the roads.

Simply insert a 20p coin into your tyre's main tread grooves to see if the outer rim of the coin is covered by the tread. Repeat this in all the main grooves and at several points around its circumference. If you can see the rim of the coin when it is inserted at any point, your tyre may be illegal and should be checked by a tyre specialist. The condition of a vehicle's tyres are critical for acceleration, braking, steering and cornering and it is the responsibility of the driver to make sure tyres are legal and roadworthy.

### **Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 9 September to 10 November 2014**

We have the following four reported crimes for the area:

- The window of a parked vehicle has been forced down and a wallet containing various items including cash, credit/debit cards and a driving license has been taken.
- A ladder has been stolen from outside a property.
- A vehicle has been driven into the entrance gates of a local scrap yard.
- A garden shredder has been taken from a locked garage.

Wishing you all continued good health and prosperity.

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

## **Why do we kiss under the mistletoe?**

Mistletoe was held sacred by the Norse, the Celtic Druids and the North American Indians. The Druid priests would cut mistletoe from an oak tree with a golden sickle. The branches had to be caught before they touched the ground. They then divided the branches into many sprigs and distributed them to the people, who hung them over doorways as protection against thunder, lightning and other evils. The folklore continued over the centuries. It was believed that a sprig placed in a baby's cradle would protect the child from goblins. Giving a sprig to the first cow calving after New Year would protect the entire herd.

Mistletoe is a symbol for peace and joy. The idea originated in the ancient times of the Druids: whenever enemies met under the mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce until the next day. From this comes the custom of hanging a ball of mistletoe from the ceiling and exchanging kisses under it as a sign of friendship and goodwill.

In the 18th Century, the exchanging of kisses between a man and a woman was adopted as a promise to marry. At Christmas a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe cannot refuse to be kissed. The kiss could mean deep romance, lasting friendship and goodwill. It was believed that if the girl remained unknissed, she cannot expect to marry the following year.

*Taken from 'The History of Christmas' on Google*

## **Adele RIP?**

We went with pals to an Adele Tribute Night in October. They in turn told their daughter where we were going, to which she responded: *'Adele Tribute? I didn't know that she had died'*.

## **Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society**

This is a good time to review the new events that we introduced to the Society's programme for 2014. We resurrected our once popular coach trip to visit gardens and introduced a new members' evening event; a Rose Evening. Both these were very successful. We also experimented holding one of our evening lectures in Dockenfield church rather than the usual Marindin Hall venue.

The coach trip to East Sussex (Pashley Manor and Merriments) was so popular we had to order a larger coach and by including pick-up points in Frensham, Dockenfield and Rowledge we made it easier for people to join the trip. The warm early summer weather helped to show these gardens off at their best. And how relaxing to have someone else to do the driving so that you can sit and chat with friends or cast a critical eye over other people's gardens.

The Rose Evening was introduced so that we could show off what to many is a favorite flower. Members were asked to contribute to 5 classes of rose; the best scented, the most romantic, the most perfect, the best rose bud, and the most unusual rose. The Marindin Hall was filled with the scent of summer and members voted for the winners in each category. The thorn proof gauntlet has been firmly thrown down by the Frensham gardeners so I am hoping to have better roses and more of them from Dockenfield next year as the event will definitely be repeated. I thought roses were supposed to grow better on clay than sand!

Our evening meetings are normally held in the Marindin Hall, Frensham but with a talk on the butterflies and flowers of Bealeswood Common (Philippa Hall and myself) proved a good opportunity to try a different venue within the Society's catchment area. Because of the local interest this was made an open meeting and the Church was filled to capacity for a discussion on the relationship between the butterflies and their larvae and the flowers/foilage they feed on (including our cabbages). Surveys of the flowering plants and the butterflies of the common are now building up reliable year on year records. News of the talk seems to have spread so we have now been asked to present it to the Sandhurst Garden club; a rather larger event as that Society has 230 members and 100 plus turn up for the talks. We are very fortunate that Alex Potts from Batts Corner has been taking some stunning photos of butterflies and flowers on the common and these will significantly improve the authenticity of our PowerPoint. Because of the successful change of venue we plan to hold at least one talk a year in Dockenfield.

For the remainder of the winter we shall first be enjoying the ever popular perennial that is the President's Supper (**28 November**) and then we shall start off the new year with an evening of the best pictures of gardens/plants that members have visited during 2014 (Thursday **22 January**, 8 pm Marindin Hall).

The call for membership renewals will be in the December Society Newsletter. Any keen gardeners out there who wish to join the Society please contact Annette Clayson at: [annette.clayson@twopenny.com](mailto:annette.clayson@twopenny.com)

**Dan Bosence, Chairman Frensham and Dockenfield Horticultural Society**

## **Frensham and Dockenfield Local History Group**

**Tuesday 9 December 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall**

The final meeting of the History Group this year is:

**9 December:** Christmas Party.

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

## **Millbridge WI**

**Thursday 18 December, 7.30pm at the Marindin Hall**

The final meeting of 2014 for the Millbridge WI is:

**18 December:** Christmas Party with magician John Field

For more information please contact **Diana Parratt** on Tel: 794168 or **Iris McLeish** on Tel: 792868.

## **Tea at 3**

'Tea at 3' will again be held at St Mary's church hall in December and January, for anyone who would like to come – young, old or in between. In the first two months of holding the tea, there were a number of lovely people attending from both Dockenfield and Frensham and it would appear that it was quite good fun, as well as an occasion to enjoy some lovely (homemade) cakes and scones!

So the next two dates to make a note of are: **1 December** and **5 January** at 3pm in St Mary's church hall. If you would like more information or perhaps a lift, please call **Morag James** on Tel: 793133.

## **Village Lunch**

**Wednesday 26 November, midday at the British Legion**

The last Village Lunch of 2014 is on 26 November and features a lovely Christmas lunch menu. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of Millbridge WI.

## **Are there any Scots living in the village?**

In which case your country has a lot to answer for. An international team of researchers says the first evidence of copulation, or internal fertilisation, took place there. They have concluded that a primitive bony fish called *Microbrachius dicki* (I'm not making this up) is the first-known animal to stop reproducing by spawning and instead mate by having sex. And it lived about 385million years ago in ancient lakes in what is now Scotland.

## **Bang on cue**

The 7am radio news on 30 September announced that the UK had experienced the lowest rainfall for that month since records began, registering just 20% of the monthly norm. The news item finished, I looked out the window and guess what? It was raining.

## **Meanwhile, in Dockenfield**

I then thought to check whether Dockenfield rainfall had behaved like the rest of the country for September, and so asked **Gordon Carter** who has been keeping a detailed record of these things for some years now. So, did the village have the lowest ever September rainfall? This is what Gordon says:

*'Not so in Dockenfield; September was indeed a month of low rainfall, I recorded 0.4 inches against the average of 2.14 inches, however in September 2003, only 0.31 fell on this fair village.*

*October however sees us back to more or less normal rain fall at 5.3 inches, which is not unusual although our average is actually only 3.8". We now go into our real wet season with 12" expected in the three months of November to January.*

Gordon was then kind enough to update DNL with the position as at last Thursday, 20 November as follows:

*This month I have recorded 4.2" so far, against an average for November of 4.26" so we have every chance of beating that. So far 2014 rainfall is standing at 137% of our average expectation with a week left of our wettest month and all of our second wettest yet to come. Normally we would expect another 4-5" by the end of the year, hitting a record (in my book) of 47" or 150% of our expected rain.*

## **Beware of Lightning**

As a dedicated reader of the Newsletter, I was intrigued by the article "Could lightning strike in Dockenfield" (*see edition 245, page 11*). The report of lightning hitting the oak in Bealeswood Lane confirmed my thoughts upon seeing the vertical scar down this tree. During my 26 years managing countryside and nature reserves I have come across a handful of trees that have been struck by lightning. The most impressive of which was a Coast Redwood in a forest between Hastings and Rye. It looked like some over-active beaver had stripped the bark into shards from the tip to the ground and just left them hanging off the exposed trunk. This damage is thought to be caused by the intense heat of the strike boiling the sap into steam, which expands, blowing the bark off.

Oddly enough, the report of the strike to the Bealeswood Lane tree may well marry up with a lightning strike that hit the Frensham Pond Sailing Club clubhouse and the Great Pond visitor centre on 13 May 2007. I was told that it hit a third location, but never knew where it was. It was unfortunate that I was stood outside the visitor centre at the time, as the lightning came off a metal security shutter and hit me in the leg. The bolt that came from the building was about a foot in length and about the circumference of a 50 pence piece. That was about the size of the red mark it left behind. I was very fortunate not to suffer any other immediate ill effects, such as a cardiac arrest, but Frimley Park insisted on keeping me in for 24 hours during which time my pulse dropped to 18 beats a minute. This close encounter has made me far more aware of the advice issued in the September DNL, and led to a healthy respect for lightning when it is around. The old adage of "If you can hear it – fear it. If you can see it – flee it", certainly rings true with me!

*Some lightning facts;*

- The earth receives about 8 million strikes a day, approximately 100 strikes every second.
- It travels as fast as 100,000 miles a second but only lasts between 0.1 and 0.0001 of a second.
- It reaches temperatures of approximately 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit (that's four times hotter than the surface of the sun)
- It has been recorded to travel up to 10 miles from the originating cloud.
- It can deliver between 10 million to 100 million volts, and a current of 50,000+ amps.

**Steve Webster – WBC Countryside Ranger for Frensham, Dockenfield and Tilford**

## **Remember, Remember the month of Movember**

No, that's not a typo. 'Movember' is a play on words, an abbreviation of 'Moustache in November' which is a device for raising money to help in the fight against prostate cancer. This is the most common cancer in men, killing one every hour, or over 10,000 a year. The idea is that men who would ordinarily be clean shaven, grow a moustache or a beard for just this one month, and hope that their friends, relatives and others who spot what they are doing will sponsor them, so raising money for research into this killer disease.

Jon Savage is one man in the Parish who is growing a moustache for this excellent cause and so if you meet him give him a big pat on the back and better yet sponsor him by making a donation to Movember at <http://mobro.co/jonsavage168>

For more information on prostate cancer generally visit <http://prostatecanceruk.org/information>