



DNL

Dockenfield Newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield

Issue 300

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Late Spring in Dockenfield

Spring is in her full splendour all over Dockenfield, the bluebells are out, the white flowers and lime green leaves of the Garlic Mustard are burgeoning under the hedges, the trees are bursting with blossom and brand new leaves and around the middle of April, if you are out in the early morning or the lengthening evenings when the air is still, and clear, and quiet, and the birds are in full voice you may be lucky enough to hear, amongst them, the elusive Cuckoo.

Each year Dockenfield residents have traditionally reported their first Cuckoo calls to the DNL, purely for interest, never for competition, and often recording differing dates in different parts of the Parish. This year I received my first report on the evening of the 17th April from Anne Tutt, who heard the distant call at 5.34pm from Old Lane, Clair Jackson also heard it at around the same time, on the same evening, in the same location.

The Cuckoo is a spring migrant to our shores, over wintering in Africa when it leaves us; as early as July and as late as September; although it changes its call the longer it stays so you won't hear it cuckooing much beyond the end of May and only the male cries 'Cuckoo'!

This strange and clever bird is a mimic. It is a 'brood parasite' which means it lays its eggs in other birds' nests, so its eggs mimic those of its host; and its body mimics that of a Sparrowhawk, a predator of smaller birds, which allows the clever Cuckoo time to lay her eggs in the nest of the surrogate parent.



Wily, elusive and clever, you may well hear a Cuckoo in Dockenfield, but you may never see one. So, whilst reading this latest edition of the DNL, with your feet up in the garden and a cuppa for company, deciding what time to pop over to visit the Scarecrow Festival in Frensham or whether you can manage to volunteer for an hour in the tea tent on Dockenfield Day or marvelling over just how much rain we have actually had, listen out! You may hear the distinctive call of the Cuckoo.

Text and Photo Amanda Adolph

FRENSHAM SCARECROW FESTIVAL

4/5/6TH MAY
10.30-4PM



Frensham Scarecrow Festival 4th-6th May 2024

It's back, for the first time since 2018.

We can reveal that the theme for the festival will be: **"Heroes and Villains"**.

For full details, please contact Sharon Turner-Mumford on Fvscarecrows@gmail.com.



Notable May events in History

- 8 May 1429 The French warrior maiden, Joan of Arc, led the Dauphin's troops to victory over the English laying siege to Orleans
- 1 May 1707 The Union between England and Scotland is proclaimed
- 28 May 1759 Birthday of William Pitt (the Younger), English statesman who became the youngest ever British Prime Minister at the age of 24
- 3 May 1841 New Zealand was declared a British colony
- 6 May 1954 Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under 4 minutes, at the Iffley Road Sports Ground, Oxford, England

Celebrate Dockenfield Day: A Tapestry of Tradition and Fun!

Circle the Date! When: Saturday, 8th June. Time: 2 PM - 6 PM Where: Playing Field, Abbots Cottages

Prepare for a day of laughter, community, and joy at Dockenfield Day! This event is the highlight of our village calendar, brimming with engaging activities, scrumptious local fare, and traditional games for all ages. It's a perfect opportunity to connect with friends, neighbours, and family in a celebration of our shared spirit.

Entertainment for Everyone! Be part of the excitement with events like the much-loved Dockenfield Dog Show, bouncy castle and the gripping annual tug of war. Try your hand at Batak, the coconut shy or spin the wheel at the Human Fruit Machine for just 10p! And don't forget to enter our Raffle, featuring delightful prizes sourced right from our community, to name just a few stalls!

Taste the Local Delights! Delight in homemade cakes, juicy burgers, and refreshing beers brewed locally. Why not wash it down with a nice ice cream too? Whether you're craving a sweet treat or a hearty meal, our local culinary offerings are sure to satisfy.

Join the Heart of the Event – Volunteer! Dockenfield Day shines brightest when everyone pitches in. We're looking for volunteers to help with everything from setting up to running stalls and cleaning up. If you have some time to spare, please get in touch with Roly at dockenfield.activities@gmail.com. Your help is invaluable, and volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people and give back to our community.

We Need Your Donations! Our stalls thrive on your generosity – please consider donating garden plants, toys, or items for the Raffle. You can leave your donations at these locations:

Garden Plants: Dan Bosence, Jeffreys Cottage, Bealeswood Lane (Tel: 792442) or Pam Hibbert, Dockenfield Manor, Old Lane (Tel: 792573)

Toys and Raffle Prizes: Roly and Joolz Miles, Orchard End, Bealeswood Lane

Cakes: Please bring your delectable baked goods directly to the fete.

Programme Highlights:

2:00 PM: Opening remarks to kick off the fete.

3:15 PM: Dockenfield Dog Show – furry friends welcome!

4:00 PM: Children's races, from sack races to egg-and-spoon!

4:30 PM: The thrilling tug of war challenge.

5:00 PM: The big Raffle draw.

Helpful Reminders for Stall Holders: Ensure your stall is set and ready to charm by the time the festivities begin!

Parking Courtesy: We ask everyone to park considerately to ensure there's plenty of space for visitors. Let's keep the nearby spots clear for guests who need closer access.

Responsible Enjoyment: Alcohol will be available for those 18 and older. Please enjoy responsibly and remember, no spirits will be sold or allowed on the premises.

Dockenfield Day isn't just a fair – it's a day to revel in the heart of our community. Come out to support, participate, and create memories that will last a lifetime. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Frensham Fayre -Rose Competition- Saturday 15 th June

Due to the continued success and popularity of the Rose competition, we will be holding this once again at the Frensham Fayre, all classes are open to everyone and are free to enter.

You may enter as many classes as you wish.

How to enter – Please bring exhibits, with entry form below to the Marquee and register entries by 1pm on the day of the Fayre.

Voting - To commence at 1pm and Winners to be announced around 3pm

The classes are as follows:

1. Best scented rose
2. Best rose bud
3. Most unusual rose
4. Most romantic rose
5. Best wedding buttonhole

Rose Competition Entry Form - Frensham Fayre

Name

Tel. Number

- 1. Best scented rose
- 2. Best rose bud
- 3. Most unusual rose
- 4. Most scented rose
- 5. Best wedding buttonhole

Rainfall Totals.

Our rainfall total for February 2024 was 138.3mm and March 2024 114.3mm. This is compared to 120.6mm in February 2023 and 6.3mm March 2023.

An incredible increase in March of nearly 2000%

Jack Bessant.

Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society

Spring Show 2024

We held another successful spring show with 189 entries. Once again Squires Garden Centre kindly sponsored the show and their Chairman, Sarah Squire, presented the trophies.

For the first time in many years, home industries scooped The Darling Cup, for the exhibit of highest merit in the show, Sharon Bleach's oven glove was the worthy exhibit. Penny Hearn however won the overall home industries section.

Annabel Sommerfelt won the Huitfeldt Cup, for a third year in succession, for best Floral Arrangement and both the Wood Cup for the best exhibit in classes 19 and 20- shrubs and the Diver Cup, for highest points in the flowers and shrubs section. Other winners included:

Frensham Spring Cup judged the best exhibit in classes 5-9, daffodils: Penny Hearn, Simon Bleach won the Peattie Cup for best photographic exhibit. The Pat Mattin Cup for the best floral arrangement in the Junior Section winner was Lily Easton. The Dene Cup for highest points for a junior: Imogen Huband and the People's Choice award went to Stuart Easton for his basket of dried vegetables.

Up and coming events

QUIZ NIGHT at the Hort and Prod. Thursday 23rd May- 7.30pm or 8pm start at Marindin Hall

At our May meeting we will be holding a light-hearted horticultural quiz and cocktails. If you are a non-member but would like to join us, please do.

FRENSHAM AND DOCKENFIELD HISTORY GROUP PROGRAMME FOR 2024

Meetings take place at the Marindin Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Contact Chris Bonner (01252 793668 or 07498916505) for further information

Tuesday, May 14th

Speaker: David Rose - Witley Camp

Tuesday, June 11th

*An 80th Anniversary D-Day themed meeting at The Frensham RBL Club.

Tuesday, September 10th

Speaker: Andrew Negus - History of Portsmouth Part 4

Tuesday, October 8th

Speaker: Professor Dan Bosence - 120 Million Years of History; The Geology of Frensham and Dockenfield.

Tuesday, November 12th

Speaker: Roy Waight - 2 Local Illustrators (Pauline Baynes & Randolph Caldecott)

Tuesday, December 10th

Christmas Party and Robert Grimmond - Yet more Old Artefacts!

***If any residents have any family connections with D-Day the History Group would be delighted to hear about them.**

A warm welcome to Dockenfield.

The village is pleased to welcome Rob and Sue Drinkwater to Farm Cottage, and to John and Victoria McKenzie and family to Bealeswood House. We hope they will be very happy here.

We also send our good wishes to Debbie and Michael Foster as they settle into their new home in Swanage.

If you know of any new people who have moved in and would like a DNL welcome, please contact the editorial team. dockenfieldnewsletter@gmail.com

Frensham and Dockenfield Village Lunch

Please note with immediate effect the numbers for Village Lunch are having to be limited to 70 people on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS due to the success of the Lunch. Please note that there is no admission before 11.15am as we need to get set up.

The meal for May will be curry and rice with a vegetarian alternative with the normal range of puddings to choose from and the charity stall will be the Bowls Club and in June the lunch will be Bangers, Mash and Beans and the charity stall will be Woodlarks.

Pam Watmore

Ladies Nights at the Bluebell

***Thursday, June 20th,*Thursday, September 5th, *Thursday, November 21st**

Join us at the Bluebell around 7:30 pm(ish) for a relaxed evening over a glass of your favourite drink. It's a chance to unwind, catch up with friends old and new, and enjoy the cosy atmosphere. Plus, if you're feeling peckish, the pub offers some tasty treats to nibble on alongside your drinks – so feel free to come hungry or just for a glass and a chat!

Want to get event reminders? We've got our own WhatsApp group where we share updates and friendly messages. If you'd like to join, simply send a message to Joolz Miles at 07833355359, and she'll add you to the group.

So come and join us for some laid-back evenings filled with laughter and good company. We can't wait to welcome you!

Joolz Miles

Men's Night at the Bluebell

Dockenfield Men's Night: join us on the second Thursday of each month at 8.00 pm at the Bluebell. If you're new to the village, it's a great way to meet other people in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. The next meetings are 09 May and 13 June, and if you wish to be added to the email list, please let me know via sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk.

Seb Fox

The Art and Craft of our Parish, 2024

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 18/19/20 October.

Preparations are underway for our second community exhibition at our village church on October 19th and 20th . We're excited that new talent in the parish of Frensham and Dockenfield will be exhibiting this year, as well as some who showed their work in 2022, so please make a note of the dates!

This is a fundraising event for our church, so important to Dockenfield, as it is also our only gathering place for local events.

There will be a ticketed 'gala preview evening' on Friday 18th , with work on show ranging from paintings, sculpture, and textiles to greetings cards, and will include sales of a new calendar showing local wildlife captured by our talented photographers. This year, St Mary's school will also be taking part in the exhibition with a group project.

We are looking for volunteers over the weekend. If anyone has an hour or two to spare, we would love help: at the bar on Friday the 18th , to welcome visitors during the weekend, setting up and taking down, and to join in the fun!

Please contact Alison Bosence at albosence@yahoo.com

FRENSHAM ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB

Upcoming events:

Saturday 4 – Monday 6 May 10.30am to 4pm: Scarecrow Festival – the Legion will again be the base for the Scarecrow Festival and on all three days we will be serving bacon rolls for breakfast followed by burgers for the rest of the day.

Thursday 9 May 7.30pm: Music Night - anyone is welcome to come along and perform, or just turn up to listen to a variety of live music. New performers frequently take part, so if you have not been for a while, come and see who is playing.

Saturday 8 June time tbc: Ibiza Night – a party night with a local DJ is planned – please check for more details nearer the day.

Thursday 13 June 7.30pm: Music Night – see under 9 May for more details.

Saturday 22 June 7.30pm: D Day Quiz – to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings there will be a quiz with a mixture of D Day themed questions and general knowledge. Sandwiches will be served in the interval. This event will be to raise funds for the Royal British Legion charity.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council.

All Parish Council meetings are held in the Church of the Good Shepherd.

If any residents wish to speak at the meeting or bring any issues or ideas to our attention there is always a slot in the agenda for you, but please could you advise the Clerk beforehand.

The agenda can be found on the Parish Council website a week before the meeting. Our web address is www.dockenfield.org.uk.

Alternatively, if you have any questions, you would like discussed at the meeting, please contact the Clerk at dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Dockenfield Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024, 8pm at The Church of the Good Shepherd.

Our Annual Parish Meeting this year will feature our guest speaker **Mr. Roy Waight** and his talk **"Beyond Narnia to Dockenfield...Pauline Baynes"**, refreshments, and the opportunity to meet, chat with and pose questions to your Parish Council representatives.

We do hope you can join us; it is always an interesting, friendly and productive evening and a great opportunity to meet the community especially if you are new to the village.

Hatch Field.

The hard work of the Parish Council's Open Spaces Group is beginning to pay off this spring. The newly seeded butterfly bank is covered with new growth and as the spring season progresses into summer, we will start to see the flowers blooming, hopefully bringing in a proliferation of butterflies.

The ephemeral pond has filled over the winter and is being colonised by a plethora of aquatic plants whilst its marshy edges are adding a further dimension of plant diversity.

The new hedge, that has been carefully tended, and protected by deer fencing over the last two years, is showing lots of strong fresh spring growth, and is thickening up nicely. In the future we will be able to remove the deer fencing as the hedge becomes more resilient to their browsing habits.

The scrub at the southern end of Hatch Field is becoming well established and is already home to several species of nesting birds.

Finally, DPC have been working on a long-term project to improve the grassy surface of part of Hatch Field. We are pleased to announce that over the next few months we are hoping to have a drainage system installed below the surface of the field's central section, south of the pond and north of the scrub. In the short term there will be some disruption on the field, and it will probably look quite dramatic, however, over the coming months as the sward recovers and starts to dry we believe that we can look forward to a better drained and drier section of the field in all seasons.

As the surface dries, we hope to cut the southern half of the grassland more regularly whilst leaving the northern grassy area to grow. This section will receive a twice-yearly cut designed to encourage an abundance of meadow wildflowers and increase biodiversity even further in what is becoming a wonderful haven of wildlife in the parish.

Amanda Adolph (dockenfieldchairman@hotmail.com) and Jessica Hobday (dockenfieldclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

To the Cuckoo. By William Wordsworth

O blithe New-comer! I have heard,
I hear thee and rejoice.
O Cuckoo! shall I call thee Bird,
Or but a wandering Voice?

While I am lying on the grass
Thy twofold shout I hear;
From hill to hill it seems to pass,
At once far off, and near.

Though babbling only to the Vale
Of sunshine and of flowers,
Thou bringest unto me a tale
Of visionary hours.

Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring!
Even yet thou art to me
No bird, but an invisible thing,
A voice, a mystery;

The same whom in my school-boy days
I listened to; that Cry
Which made me look a thousand ways
In bush, and tree, and sky.

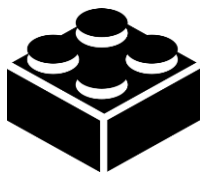
To seek thee did I often rove
Through woods and on the green;
And thou wert still a hope, a love;
Still longed for, never seen.



Photo Ian Ralphs

And I can listen to thee yet;
Can lie upon the plain
And listen, till I do beget
That golden time again.

O blessèd Bird! the earth we pace
Again appears to be
An unsubstantial, faery place;
That is fit home for Thee!



Cherubs Toddler Group

**Thursday mornings 9.30 - 11.30 (term time)
at the Good Shepherd
A great space for all with fun; refreshments;
sociability and singing. £2.50 per family per session**

Coffee Stop

**Enjoy a hot drink and homemade cake and a chat at
Coffee Stop at the Good Shepherd every Friday
10am - midday. Barbara Potter.**



Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars

Frensham and Dockenfield Peddlars kicked off their fourth season early April with stunning rides cycling through bluebell woods and along garlic scented paths which I am pleased to say I now drying out.

We have welcomed one new member from Dockenfield this year and he has joined up as a regular. F&DPs are a small group of local cyclists who meet every Thursday evening at 6pm for an approx 10 - 15 mile bike ride, the emphasis being on exploring our wonderful countryside and sharing stories along the way. There is a refuel along the way!



All bikes plus e bikes suitable except your road bikes. Please do get in touch with vicki.hinde22@gmail.com if you would like to come along and find out what we are all about. The ride goes out in all weathers and we will continue until late September.

The Elder Tree

This lovely native tree has white sweet-smelling clusters of flowers which appear in late spring.

The flowers can be used to make herbal tea; champagne and wine; they can be eaten, battered whole and deep fried, delicious dipped in icing sugar. But by far my favourite thing to do with an abundance of gorgeous Elderflowers is to make cordial.

So here especially for you dear DNL reader is my recipe for Elderflower Cordial.

Ingredients:

10 large or 20 small elderflower heads (wash gently in cool water and lay on a tea towel to dry, remove most of the stalk),

1kg sugar (any kind, the darker the sugar the browner the cordial),

2 litres boiling water,

2 medium lemons (keep zest on and cut up),

1 medium orange (keep zest on and cut up),

40-45grams edible citric acid (a preservative, I use an organic version made from lemons, available online or a regular version from most chemists).

Method:

Place the boiling water in a large pan, (take care),

Add the sugar and stir until completely dissolved then bring to the boil (a rolling boil),

Turn off the heat, then add all the other ingredients and stir well,

Cover and leave to infuse for 24 hours.

Strain through a muslin lined sieve, reserve the liquid.

Pour into sterilized bottles and seal with airtight corks or lids.

This will keep for a few months, but not in our house, we drink it too quickly.

The cordial can also be frozen in ice cube trays and stored in a bag or tub in the freezer. Dilute to taste - we like 1:3 cordial: water.

N.B. If foraging anything from the wild, make sure you have the landowners' permission; only pick if you are 100% sure what you are picking; and always wash foraged produce thoroughly before use.

Text and photos, **Amanda Adolph**



News from Bealeswood Common.

Following a mild and wet winter we have now had a mild spring with no April frosts that normally hold the wildflowers back. This means our wildflowers are blooming earlier than normal this year. But how much earlier? Our characteristic springtime flower, the Lesser Celandine, had its earliest flowering I have ever recorded. It was spotted flowering in the last week of December (2023) on Bealeswood Common before being knocked back by early January frosts. Most of our spring flowers have been in bloom a lot earlier than their recorded average over the last 15 years, some by over a month.



If you, or your family are keen to learn more about the wildflowers we have in the village, then why not join our summer walk over Bealeswood Common? Meet at the bench and noticeboard at the top of the Common (follow the track down past the Bluebell and it's on your right at the end) on Sunday 16th June, 10:00 - 12.00. (Leaders Dan & Alison Bosence; contact dwjbosence@btinternet.com or phone 792442, or text 07775964553) to reserve a place)



If our bountiful birdlife is more your thing, and you rise early like a lark, then hopefully DNL will be out in time for you to join our guided dawn chorus walk on the Common: **Sunday 5th May 05:00 - 06:30** (meet at bench and noticeboard on Common), leaders Colin Hall (contact CHall3422@aol.com) and Alex Potts. However, if you are more of a night owl, then why not join our village bird expert Alan Cox to experience Nightjar & Woodcock evening calls and fly-passes at the bench (see above) at 20.45 on Friday June 7th? (to reserve contact: Alan Cox alanfjcox@gmail.com).

For the last of our summer Wild Dockenfield walks join Philippa Hall (to reserve, contact: phall3422@aol.com) and Claire Jackson to see butterflies, and hopefully the magnificent Purple Emperor, on Saturday 29th June, 09:30 at the bench (see above). Or, alternatively, join at Abbots Wood Inclosure carpark GU10 4AH at 9.45.

Dan Bosence, on behalf of Bealeswood Wildlife Recording Group. More details at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife

Surrey Artists Open Studios:

In June, artists will be opening their studios to the public all over Surrey. Two of them are in Docketfield, conveniently placed in the village to take in refreshments at the Bluebell and a walk over Bealeswood Common!

Jeffreys Cottage in Bealeswood Lane GU104HS is open for three days only this year, on June 7th, 8th and 9th from 11- 5 each day.

Ruth Taylor is back with her paintings, inspired by the Sussex Downs, and Alison Ellen with her knitwear. Both artists trained originally in textiles at UCA Farnham, and love introducing people to their work. They will be demonstrating some of their working methods: Ruth painting, and Alison dyeing wool, with a drop-in knitting workshop for anyone who wants to have a go at 11 am and 2 pm each day.

Lynne Thomas and Sarah Watson (Mawgans candles) will be open at The Oaks, the Street, GU10 4JF, on June 1st & 2nd, 8th & 9th, and 15th & 16th, from 11-5 each day.

Lynne is showing her wildlife and landscape drawings and paintings, prints, cards, coasters and cushions, and Sarah her range of scented candles and reed diffusers in ceramic, refillable pots.

<https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk/open-studios/>



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