



Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 – February 2017 Editor: Sue Tatham

Task Group Report: The Village Archives

I am pleased to be able to report that the majority of the documents that make up the Mickleham Archive have now been catalogued and there is a useful description of the items on Excel. There are still some outstanding files to sort and enter, and meanwhile there is the inevitable backlog of new material that is donated or acquired and needs both to be catalogued and filed.

We have had an exciting year for new finds that have added to our knowledge of the history of both Mickleham and Westhumble. A reorganisation of the Churchyard shed revealed a number of items that were stored there during the work on the new Vestry. Of particular interest was a second album of photographs taken by the Bryant family of Juniper Hall towards the end of the 19th century. One is already at the Surrey History Centre, donated by another family. Our album contains

many photographs of the church and a number of local people who are named in Mr Bryant's handwriting, which makes it very useful for identification. The book itself was intended to be kept in the church, its loan to visitors monitored by Mrs. Pack the pew-opener (this was when the pews were boxed). Two books containing about 30 articles written by Samuel Woods, a Mickleham resident and amateur historian, on the village history including the manors, were also found. The originals of these appeared in the 19th century parish magazines, of which we have some but not a complete set. Even more importantly, Burial Register 13 which had been thought missing surfaced and will prove useful to Brian Wilcox in checking some of the details on his burial records.

All these books have been photographed

(with many thanks to Roger Davis) and digital copies kept so that when they are stored in the Surrey History Centre we shall have easy access to them. Their condition and importance make it necessary for them to be kept in optimal conditions for their continuing conservation.

Ronnie Shepperd was a local historian

who is known to many of us through his books but another resident, A. Gordon Pollock, who lived at the Old House during the first half of the 20thC, was also fascinated by our local history and researched many of our vestry records while they were still stored in the church. He transcribed many of these and his notes have been rediscovered. We are grateful to the PCC for allowing us access to them. The material is wide-ranging, from 17thC residents to 18thC tradesmen and much else which will repay closer study. It would seem we did have village stocks (opposite *The Running Horses*) and a pound in the vicinity of Byttom Hill.

Work in the churchyard has also led to research into a number of families, especially Thomas Broadwood of Juniper Hall, and we were able to assist the work of a National Trust researcher into the Broadwood Folly. We met the descendants of the Patrick family which led to researching their history at the Forge (now the Frascati Restaurant) and this led to further research on two other farrier families, the Tidy's and the Guyatt's. We have also assisted a number of families who are researching their family history.

Judith Long is essential to our research and her expertise is amazing. We could not do without her. Angela Ireland continues to work on the parish magazines – a long and detailed job. Roger Davis has enabled us to make digital records of important documents. Thank you to all.

Judy Kinloch



This drawing entitled 'At Westhumble' showing a small shed next to the Chapel ruins was found in a sketchbook dating from the 18thC, held in the Surrey History Centre archives. The artist is unknown.

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The Group's website

www.surreycommunity.info/mwlocalhistorygroup/

Many thanks to Judith Long who updated our present website. Roger Davis has now taken on the task of creating a more user-friendly forum. This is very much a work in progress as he explores possible website packages to find one that best fits our aims. Watch this space.

M&WLHG Programme for 2017

Friday 24th February

7:30 for 8 pm start. AGM in Mickleham Village Hall to be followed by a talk on Betchworth Castle by Martin Higgins, Historic Buildings Officer at Surrey County Council.

Wednesday 7th June

10:30 am. Visit to Warren House in Kingston. Includes a talk on the history of the house followed by a guided tour of the gardens by Andrew Fisher Tomlin, renowned horticulturalist and garden designer. To be followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Wednesday 27th September

11 am. Guided tour of Dorking by volunteers from Dorking Museum Walks Team. To be followed by lunch at Côte Brasserie.

Our Third Annual General Meeting

On 23rd February 2016 following the AGM of the M&WLHG in Mickleham Village Hall we were treated to a fascinating presentation by Andrew Tatham on his Group Photograph Project. The following report appeared in the April 2016 edition of the Mickleham Parish Magazine.

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group A Group Photograph ... Continued

Many of you will have read the excellent articles by Chris Budleigh and Stephanie Randall in the November 2015 magazine about Andrew Tatham's Group Photograph Exhibition at the Flanders Field Museum in Belgium. In February, almost 80 people attended Andrew's presentation in Mickleham Village Hall on his Group Photograph project, after the AGM of the M&WLHG. The photograph in question is of the 46 officers of the 8th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, taken in May 1915 at their training ground on Salisbury Plain shortly before they were due to leave for France. Andrew's great-grandfather, Colonel William Walton, was the battalion's commanding officer and, at 50, the oldest man in the group. The battalion first saw action at the Battle of Loos (where the British first used chlorine gas) which began on 25 September 1915. Only 21 of the men in the photograph would survive the war.

Andrew's presentation began with his animated film which shows the men's family trees growing over 136 years, from 1864 when William Walton was born to the start of the new Millennium. Music from each year is included and photographs of the families appear next to those

of significant historical events – including the sinking of the Titanic, coronations of British monarchs and the appearance of the first crossword.

Andrew then gave us a 'History of WW1 in Five Objects', based on some of the items belonging to the men in the photograph. These included a seating plan for a dinner in Bombay in 1910 during the visit of Crown Prince Wilhelm of Germany which, together with letters sent home to England after the visit, was an interesting way of showing the dramatic change in the relationship between Britain and Germany which was to occur soon afterwards.

Letters played a significant part in Andrew's talk. A set of letters from one of the soldiers showed how the horrific soon became commonplace. Another described the struggle to come to terms with the loss of a son. I could not help thinking that future generations of historians will be deprived of an immensely valuable resource now that letter-writing has been replaced with communication by email, texts and social media.

The talk ended on a rather more positive note as the last of Andrew's objects was the helmet which saved the life of Mervyn Pugh, the only man



Andrew's great grandfather, Colonel William Walton takes the salute as his men parade through Reading

in the photograph still fighting on the Western Front at the end of the war.

Many congratulations are due to Andrew for such a remarkable piece of research. Could any of the men in the original photograph have imagined that, one hundred years later, 135 of their descendants would come together for their own group photograph?
Judith Long



We Need Your Help

This newsletter gives you an idea of the great variety of things we have been doing, but there is only a small group who are actively involved.

We would welcome additional helpers – all sorts of skills needed.

Do join us – it's interesting work and great fun too!

Please contact Ben Tatham 01306 882547 ben@thetathamss.co.uk or Judy Kinloch 01372 375358 mail@jkinloch.plus.com if you would like to get involved.

The following history researched by Judy Kinloch and Judith Long appeared as a series of three articles in the February, March and April 2016 parish magazines.

Schools in 19th Century Mickleham

Part 1 Sunday Schools

A little while ago, Anne Weaver sent me a copy of her translation of a plaque that is on the outside wall of the church. It reads as follows:

In this churchyard lie the remains of M. Rose for many years a most excellent schoolmistress in this parish who taught with ability and diligence all under her care both by precept and good examples.

Out of respect for her worth and gratitude for the assistance she gave him instructing the young to perform their duty to God and their fellow creatures during the time he was Rector of this Parish the Dean of Canterbury places this stone.

The Rector at this time was Gerrard Andrewes. We know a little about him as Samuel Woods in his research into vestry records published in 1900 tells us he was 'a popular man and an attractive preacher, drawing full congregations'. Long before the general introduction of Sunday Schools, he

assembled children in the chancel of the church to give them Bible lessons on Sunday afternoons probably helped by M. Rose. At the Surrey History Centre (SHC) in Woking you can look at two tables of attendance for the 'Catechism School of Mickleham on Sunday' for October to June and November to December of 1804, 1805 and 1806. A total of 52 children are recorded and 100 years later many of the surnames are familiar, appearing in the parish magazines, the school's admissions register and the census. Stratton the sexton, Pullen, Letford the Chandler and Flatt are only a few of those that recur. The Rev Andrewes resigned in 1813 and was appointed to the Rectory at Great Bookham.

I have found no other written records about the Sunday School until much later in the century. The parish magazines of the late 1800s do contain references to Sunday School and there is a small attendance book at the History Centre with printed ecclesiastical advertisements which seems to have been a standard printed format provided by the Church. There are names on four of the pages, again some of them very familiar in the

history of the village, and a total of 111 girls. This booklet is dated by the SHC 1895-96, and young ladies from the big houses, such as *Carriden* where Col Eyre Crabbe's family were in residence during the Boer War, seem to have been recruited as teachers. (However, girls were certainly not the only members. I have found a reference to Bible classes being held for 'Elder Lads' who have left Sunday School).

The bound copies of the parish magazines, that we have, do sometimes mention the Sunday School during the late 19th century, but it is not clear how consistently it was held or whether it was just taken for granted and therefore not worth special mention. Thanks to the Sunday School teachers for their 'kind and self-denying labours' are expressed in one issue and the children sometimes have their own prize-giving and entertainment as well as taking part in outings arranged for the school children. In 1897 the magazine notes that 'Sunday School is held each Sunday at Mickleham and Westhumble at 9.45. Parents are urgently requested to see their children attend punctually and regularly.' The Sunday School Teachers'

Instruction was also held in the church twice a month at 11.30, for those taking the classes I presume. Each month, four lessons to be learned by the children were published, one for every week. For example, on 7th November 1897 the lesson was 'Healing of Nobleman's Son'. The children were required to learn St John iv 52, 53 and to read St John iv 46-54.

I am sure today's children would find this task extremely difficult, unused as they are to rote learning, but it does not seem to have deterred their forebears from attending, although I am sure there was a fair degree of pressure from parents then when the church was such a major part of village life. ❖



The plaque (encircled) on the wall to the left of St Michael's west door.

Part 2 The First National School 1832

Samuel Woods in 'Mickleham Records' expresses his surprise that Mickleham was so backward in introducing education for the village children, given that there were many well-educated and indeed well-off families in the neighbourhood. He thought the first National School was established in 1844 with the building of a school house and master's house in Byttom Hill on land given by the Talbot family. In fact, it was Sir George Talbot who surrendered the land to Alfred Burmester of the Rectory, Charles Milner, Esq., i.e. a gentleman, Henry Haynes, grocer, and William Charman, innkeeper, 'to the intent and purpose that a school shall within the period of three years be erected and built upon the said piece or parcel of land for the education of Poor children of the parish of Mickleham'. The surrender is dated 18th November 1843. SHC have a copy of the Rector's printed report of the opening of the school and school house with accounts and an illustration which many of us will be familiar with as it is quite commonly reproduced and is now the Old School and School House, both private properties, sold in 1907 when the current school was opened. Samuel Woods is absolutely right about the opening of the school building but this was not the start of education in Mickleham.

A report for the first National School for the Education of the Poor in Mickleham was written in 1832 having been first discussed by a vestry meeting on 27th July 1830 when it was resolved to form a national school and to provide a suitable building by subscription. A committee of residents met which included H.P. Sperling (the owner of Norbury Park House) who was Treasurer, and the Rev'd Alfred Burmester, the Secretary. They were looking for subscriptions for the building and annual expenses. The next vestry was held on October 30th, 1830. Present were HP Sperling, Mrs Sperling, Miss Beardmore, Miss B C Newcombe, Thomas Hudson and Richard Sharp, all local gentry and landowners. They decided to make enquiries regarding parents' wishes for a school including whether both

girls and boys were acceptable as well as unemployed boys.

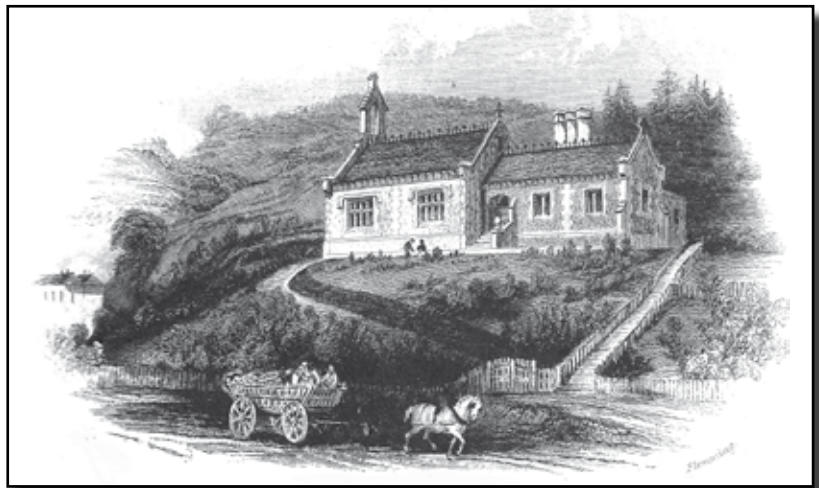
Firm evidence for the existence of a school dating to this time is in the Surrey History Centre archives although exactly where it was held is uncertain, although one year's rent was £12. The 1st Annual Report, with Accounts, seems to be a proof copy of a printed document with handwritten deletions and corrections. However, the details are convincing. The school opened on Monday, 14th February 1831 with 25 boys and 27 girls. Although the intention had been to use the Sunday school room, a line is drawn through this in the report. A mistress was however appointed at a salary of £36 p.a. and she should also receive 1d. a week from each child. 'She' is not named but given the 'warmest approbation.' The committee approved and adopted the regulations put forward by the Secretary and agreed a weekly visit to the school should be made by a member of the committee in turns. This practice was carried on for many decades with the signing of the daily log book entries made by the headteacher. In school, we are told time was devoted to reading and writing for the boys while the girls spent one half day in needlework.

A year later, up to 14th February 1832, the number of boys attending had risen to 37, the girls to 39. 'Of Boys, 2 have left going in for service, 3 dismissed for gross and repeated misbehaviour, 1 dead. Of Girls, 5 left going into service, 1 dead. 7 may be said to have completed their education.' Attendance is reported to be highly satisfactory and punishments very few.

Corporeal (sic) punishment is never resorted to but by the immediate direction of the committee. Rewards were given out at Christmas 1831 and an account kept in every child's name.

The writer goes on to say that he would be fearful of commenting about the moral or religious benefit of school attendance, but that there had been considerable alteration for the better in the behaviour of children at church as well as in other respects. Parents had witnessed with thankfulness the improvement in learning. Some had requested admonition and corrections. 'The crime of lying is far less frequent and overall there have been real benefits.' The accounts are then given: expenses amounted to £77 2s. 3d. and was spent on items such as slates, salary, coal, rewards, etc. Annual subscriptions which were received from all subscribers (but not named) came to £62 11s. 0d. That is the sum total of the information we have about this early school. Although without a purpose-built building until 1844 it may have continued but equally it might have been abandoned or simply run irregularly. With no log books or other evidence we just cannot say.

(N.B. We do not know if there was a school log book kept for the years 1844-63 but if there was there is no record of it. We do know that Caleb Howard was Headmaster during 1845-1873, living in the school house, and wrote the log books from 1863. It was certainly the usual practice to keep records and to be accountable to the subscribers who met the school expenses.) ♦



*Mickleham National School, Byttom Hill c 1844
Now 'The Old School House' and 'School House Cottage'*

Schools in 19th Century Mickleham continued...

Part 3 The Dame School

At almost exactly the same time that the first National School was being proposed, Rebecca Reynolds was starting her own Dame School in the north lodge of Juniper Hill. Called Dame Schools because they were usually run by a woman, quite often a widow, they catered for small numbers of pupils and were held for the most part in their own homes. The education they offered varied widely. A survey of 1838 found that only half the pupils in such schools were taught spelling and a negligible number mathematics and grammar. (A building in the churchyard at Thursley is a rare survival of a Dame School and has recently been restored.)

Mickleham's 'Dame' was Rebecca Reynolds, known affectionately in the village as Auntie Reynolds. She was born in 1788 and died in 1887, aged 98 years. Her father, Richard Arthur, was gardener to Sir Charles Talbot of Mickleham Hall and she married John Reynolds, who may well have been the lodge-keeper at Juniper and she certainly lived there until two years before her death when she moved to Dorking. The parish magazine obituary of 1887 tells us that she opened her school in 1832. The censuses of 1841, '51, '61 and '71 all record her as the school mistress of a Dame School at Juniper Hill Lodge and as 'formerly schoolmistress' in 1881. For most of this time she seems to

have lived alone, although two nieces aged 9 and 11 were staying with her in 1851 and she had a 'scholar servant', Elizabeth Mercer aged 11, with her in 1871 when she was 82. Somewhere in the churchyard is a stone marking the couple's joint resting place, erected in their memory in December 1887.

We have some reminiscences. Without them she would remain a distant figure, but George Laxton Rose brings her to life. He was born in 1862 but his father, T E Rose, who took over the business of what we know as Rose's Stores in 1854 from Henry Haynes, was born in 1831 had also attended the school as a tiny boy George tells us. He also mentions other well-known village names before George's time, such as Wm J l'Anson, racehorse trainer, at Rose Cottage and the Child family, carpenters and builders, at Laurel Cottages. George reports that in his day she taught the '3Rs' with good results but had an utter disregard for grammar; a little history and paragraphs and weekly repeating of the Catechism completed the programme. For this she charged 6d. per week.

Rebecca Reynolds taught in the 'little end room' of the lodge, where she also cooked, ate and fed her cats. She was a great lover of flowers 'with no mean knowledge of botany' and she brought her flowers in at the onset of winter on a wooden stand. George wonders 'where we sat'! He also recollects her telling the tiny flock 'the most grim tales of murder, highway robbery and of ghosts and claimed to have heard



*Believed to be Rebecca Reynolds
(as identified in the early 20th century).*

the shot by which the Revd. Filewood killed himself. She held the Rev'd. Burmester in the greatest contempt and having quarrelled with him never entered the church again: a lady with a mind of her own. Of her upbringing by an old lady of 100 she said 'the world went very well then'. Would that we could say the same today!

Her last resting place was marked by a stone which said, 'There rests beneath this stone John Reynolds who died in 1831, aged 53 years; also Rebecca Reynolds, his wife, who died 18th February 1887, aged 98 years. The adjacent lodge of Juniper Hill was her home for 63 years, during 45 of which she taught the village children'. RIP

Judy Kinloch

PS Does anyone know where this stone is?



Dorking Museum
and Heritage Centre
62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS

Open
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10 am - 4 pm

Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.
admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk
01306 876591.

Task Group Report: The Churchyard

The aim of the task group is to produce a spreadsheet containing a complete record of burials from the various plans and records accumulated to date and link it to a map of the churchyard, thus enabling graves to be easily identifiable.

A great deal of progress has been made over the last twelve months towards the goal of recording the inscriptions on all the gravestones in the churchyard. To date all the inscriptions in the eastern part of the churchyard have been recorded, except for those where the lettering has worn away.

Members of the task group spent two hours each Wednesday morning throughout the spring and summer deciphering a fascinating variety of inscriptions, including the rather abrupt 'Gone', a variety of biblical quotations and complete stanzas of Victorian poetry. Where the inscriptions were in poor condition we soon discovered that by wetting the

stone the letters became more legible, although we did get some odd looks from passers-by who were clearly wondering why we were watering the headstones with a watering can!

Over the summer, we became increasingly concerned that some of the graves were overgrown with ivy and others were being damaged by large trees and shrubs in the churchyard. We discussed the possibility of cutting back some of the excess vegetation with Eric Flint, who organises this type of work for the PCC, and were delighted when the PCC generously agreed to pay for it. After the work was completed Eric pointed out gravestones which had been completely hidden from view under a large tree. One of these was the grave of Sarah Pack, whose gravestone, inscribed with Tennyson's poem *Crossing the Bar*, is shown in the photograph.

It would be almost impossible not to wonder about the lives of the people whose inscriptions we recorded and consequently we have carried out a substantial amount of research into some of the families buried in the churchyard. For example, Sarah Pack,

who died in 1892 was the sister of George Pack, the sexton, whose wife Mary was the church pew-opener.

Another notable example is that of the family of Thomas Broadwood, of piano manufacturing fame, who bought Juniper Hall in 1814. All that remains of the Broadwood family 'vault' in our churchyard are three small corner stones, each inscribed TB 1820, with a large yew growing in the middle of them. TB does not refer to Thomas himself, as he died in 1861, and both he and his wife, Annie, are buried in St John the Baptist's church in Crawley. Sadly, the Mickleham burial records show that five of Thomas and Annie's young children, all under five years of age, were buried in Mickleham between 1820 and 1833, even though the family had moved to Holmbush, near Crawley, in 1825.

Many thanks go to Roger Davis, Judy Kinloch, Ben Tatham, Rosemary Robinson, Carole Brough Fuller and Maggie Lloyd for their help recording the grave inscriptions, to Eric Flint for arranging the tree pruning, to Ian Wright for the churchyard plans and to Brian Wilcox for help with the burial records.

Judith Long

Photograph: Ben Tatham



The churchyard before and after the tree cutting. Some stones, including Sarah Pack's (left) were completely obscured.

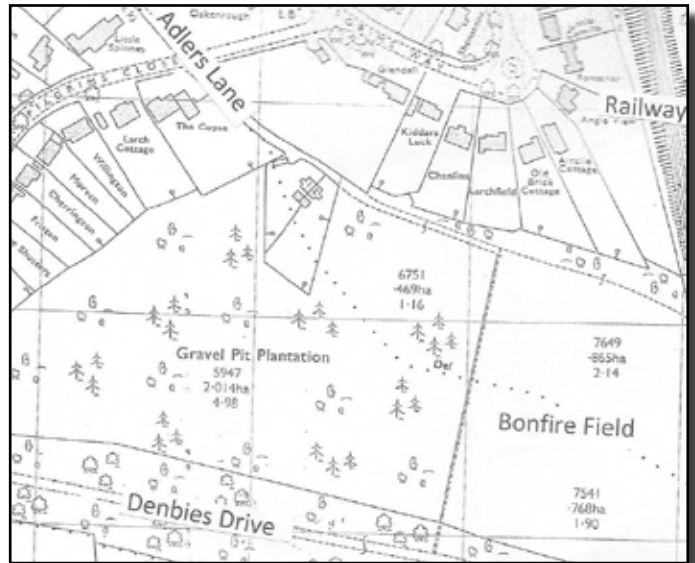
Gravel Pit Plantation, Westhumble

The field in Westhumble just to the west of the field where we now have the Guy Fawkes bonfire is labelled as 'The Gravel Pit Plantation' on this extract from the 1969 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. Roger and Rhona Howell, who have lived at Afton Cottage since March 1966, have very kindly explained to me the history of this field and provided photographs taken by their son Bob as part of a Boy Scout project. The front garden of Afton Cottage is known to us all as the home of the gnomes who have provided much pleasure to so many children.

The field is thought to have been dug up to provide gravel for the construction of Adlers Lane – this must have been many years ago as Adlers Lane is shown on maps long before the opening of the Dorking to Leatherhead railway in 1867. 1867 also happens to be the year that Afton Cottage was built: Roger found that date inscribed on the inside of a well which he uncovered

when he built an extension to the house. The exposed bank on the edge of the woodland next to Denbies Drive marks the southern edge of the gravel pit.

The Denbies Estate owned the gravel pit area and in 1939 planted conifers on it, and by 1977 the trees had grown to the size shown in the first photograph. On 1st January 1978, a storm with very strong winds from the north, instead of the usual southwest, blew down many of the trees and virtually destroyed the wood. A contractor was then employed to clear the wood and



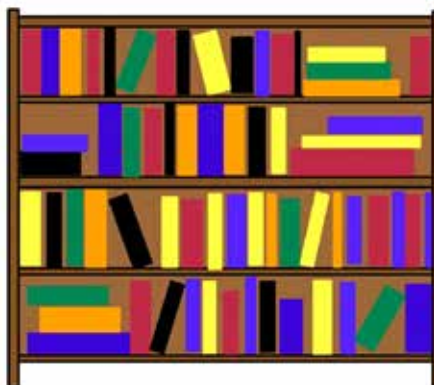
the land was sold to Chapel Farm who transformed it into pasture land. The loss of the trees proved to be a benefit to the Howells as they have since been able to enjoy the afternoon sunshine instead of losing the sun an hour or two after lunch.

Ben Tatham

Photographs: Bob Howell



Left: Rhona Howell in garden of Afton Cottage before the storm and on the right the woods after the storm



Today's events make tomorrow's history

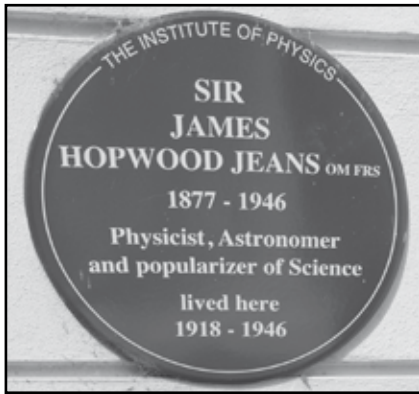
We are not just interested in old documents and pictures. If you have any material recording what has been happening locally now, please remember to set aside a selection for our village archives.

Contact our librarian:

Judy Kinloch 01372 375358 mail@jkinloch.plus.com

Westhumble Walk

M&WLHG Summer Event



Following two successful walks around Mickleham, our Summer Event this year took place in Westhumble on 16th July. We met in the Westhumble Chapel of Ease where our guide Ben Tatham showed us a series of maps of Westhumble spanning the years 1781-1977, taken from Ronnie Shepperd's book *The Manor of Wistomble* (the old name for Westhumble, meaning the place of the wych elm stump). In the 1860s the Chapel, then a barn, was used as a rest area for the navvies building the railway, thanks to the determination of Miss Elizabeth Vulliamy of Old House, Mickleham who was concerned for the welfare of the men. She also introduced mission services and the building was eventually licensed as a Chapel of Ease in 1904.

As we set off up Chapel Lane Ben pointed out Leladene Arch, built by Victor Freeman in memory of his wife Lela who died soon after he bought Camilla Lacey in 1922, which he then renamed Leladene. The original Camilla Lacey (much changed from the time it was Camilla Cottage, the home of Fanny Burney) burned down in 1919, destroying many of the original Burney manuscripts. The owner was away in France and Sandra Wedgwood told us how her grandfather, Sir William Lawrence, sent him a telegram worded 'Deepest sorrow'. The butler's message was more direct: 'Come home'. According to Derek Grieve, the ice house on the property was used to store emergency supplies for Westhumble during WW2.

Walking up Chapel Lane, we passed Oakburn, the cottage where Anne

Weaver lives, and part of a row of three built to replace cottages belonging to the Camilla Lacey estate which were demolished to make way for the railway. Some of the timbers were recycled and Anne has found door and window lintels re-used in her house. Her great-uncle bought the row of cottages from the estate in the 1930s and all three cottages remained within the family until the 1980s.

We then turned down Pilgrims Way, formerly the entrance to Home Farm which was also part of the Camilla Lacey estate and built for Victor Freeman in the 1920s. Tudor Cottage housed the farm manager and St Anthony (where the Tathams live) and Barn End were for senior farm workers. When the estate had financial problems in 1932, Home Farm was turned into houses by Portwell Ltd, a firm owned by John Portwine and John Weller of AC Cars fame. Ronnie Shepperd married John Portwine's daughter Joy and the couple lived at Dunheved, further down the road.

Another notable, and surprising, resident of Pilgrims Way was Tom Wintringham, 'The English Revolutionary', who lived at Cottars. He was a member of the Communist Party who fought in the Spanish Civil War and on his return to England campaigned for an armed civilian guard which later became the Home Guard.

After walking down Adlers Lane, thought by some to have been part of the original Pilgrims Way from Winchester to Canterbury, we returned to Chapel Lane and paused to admire the view from the path into Norbury Park. Turning down Westhumble St we passed the old Infant School (now Catbells) en route to the station. We have Thomas Grissell, the owner of Norbury Park in 1867, to thank for the rather ornate design of the station. He also required the railway line to go through a tunnel as it crossed Norbury Park.

Our next stop was Cleveland Court, originally the site of Westhumble House and later renamed Cleveland Lodge after the Duke of Cleveland lived there in the 1830s. The eminent astronomer,

physicist and mathematician Sir James Jeans bought the house in 1918. After his first wife died he married Susi Hock, an Austrian organist. Sir James also played the organ and the couple had two organs installed in separate soundproofed rooms so they could play at the same time without disturbing each other! After Sir James died Susi stayed in the house and held the annual Box Hill Music Festival there until 1992, shortly before her death. The house has since been demolished and rebuilt as flats and townhouses.

Another notable resident of Westhumble Street was Sir Jack Norton-Griffiths, a mining and construction engineer, who lived at Mole Cottage and later at Mulberry Cottage in the early part of the 20th century. In WW1 he was in charge of the tunnelling operations where large quantities of explosives were detonated under the German lines. Later in the war he destroyed the Baku oilfields thereby preventing fuel supplies reaching the Germans. He died from a gunshot wound in 1930 in Alexandria after problems with a contract relating to the Aswan Dam. Although a verdict of suicide was recorded there were suspicions that he had been murdered.

After a quick look across Burford Meadow to Burford Lodge, where the renowned horticulturalists, Sir Trevor Lawrence and his son Sir William (great-grandfather and grandfather of Sandra Wedgwood) lived, we finished our walk outside the Stepping Stones pub. This opened soon after the railway was built and was then called 'The Railway Arms'. Clare McMillan, whose father and grandfather were landlords of the pub, remembers when Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Home Secretary Chuter Ede dined there in 1946 to celebrate the re-opening of the stepping stones across the River Mole.

We would like to thank Ben for a fascinating tour and we were delighted that other members of the group were able to share their additional knowledge of Westhumble and its very diverse occupants.

Judith Long

Task Group Report: War Memorial

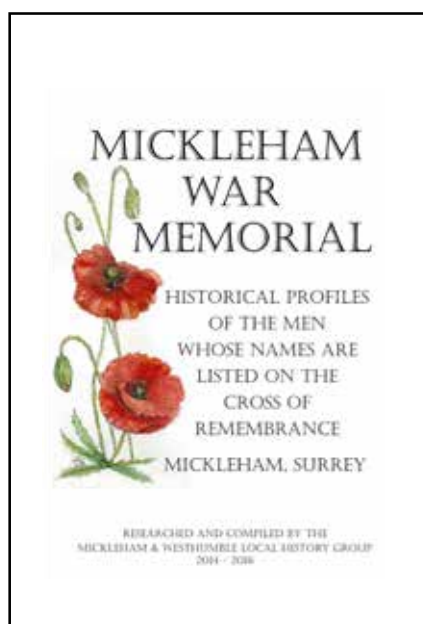
Researching the names listed on Mickleham's war memorial was identified as a potential project at the inaugural meeting of M&WLHG in November 2012. The task group was set up in 2013 and work continued until early autumn this year when we felt we had gone as far as we could for the time being. (No doubt this will need to be updated when further information becomes available as

more documents from WW2 and censuses are released.)

A booklet entitled *Mickleham War Memorial – Historical Profiles of the Men Listed on the Cross of Remembrance* was printed in time for Remembrance Sunday this year. Two copies are available to read in St Michael's Church. Other copies have been given to participating families and various museums and

archives. M&WLHG members have been sent digital copies and the booklet may also be viewed on our website www.surreycommunity.info/mwlocalhistorygroup/ We have also sold some of the few remaining copies.

The following review of the booklet by Chris Budleigh appeared in the December edition of the parish magazine.



Mickleham War Memorial A review

a huge amount of work and all those involved deserve to be congratulated on their perseverance and attention to detail.

For those who died in the Great War, many of the occupations listed seem to come from a different age – gamekeepers and grooms from Norbury Park, labourers, gardeners and footmen. Most of them would probably have been in the same job since completing a perfunctory schooling more than a decade before. But their last addresses are all too familiar – Railway Cottages on Swanworth Lane, Byttom Hill, Chalkpit Cottages.

Those who died in the Second World War were in many ways quite different to their Great War forebears and much closer to our own time. The average age of the eleven servicemen is significantly younger – typically 23 or 24 – and several of those listed had studied at university and were enlisted as officers. And while most of the First World War casualties were from Mickleham, almost all the dead from the Second came from Westhumble – two from Burford Lodge, two more from Hollies and Woodbury in Pilgrim's Way, one from Loveden Cottage and two from Pilgrims Close. It does not take much imagination to picture the young families, who could only have moved into their newly built houses a few years earlier, seeing their sons off at the station for the last time...

The circumstances of each man's death are described. Many of those who fell

in the first war have no grave – Private William Collins and Private Oliver Snelling, missing at Arras, Private Edward Clarke missing at Ypres. In the Second World War, the circumstances are much better known, but no less tragic. Dunkirk, El Alemein, Italy, Lancasters and Wellingtons shot down over Germany.

What comes across is the terrible sense of loss – Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Grissell from Norbury Park, who was killed in 1917, leaving four children under nine, and Lieutenant Peter Odhams of the Fleet Air Arm, whose Fairey Swordfish crashed on a training exercise in Scotland a few months before his first daughter Jacqueline was born, (and whose brother and brother-in-law – both flying officers in the RAF, were also killed). And yet, in a similar way to Andrew Tatham's Group Photograph project, what also comes through is a sense of life carrying on. Many of the children and siblings of the fallen went on to have long, and in some cases fascinating lives, and their stories are also told here.

I am not a regular churchgoer but I do try to attend the Remembrance Day service at St Michael's, as much as anything to express my gratitude to those who fell, that I have been able to live my whole life in peace. This year, as Jack's replacement reads out the list of the fallen, thanks to this remarkable book, I will now know the story behind each name.

Chris Budleigh

Like most of us, I have walked past many war memorials simply absorbing the sheer number of individuals listed, without really stopping to think of the men behind the inscribed names. On Remembrance Sunday, standing in the autumn sunlight and listening to Jack Richardson read out the names of the dead, they have really been no more than a list. But the Mickleham War Memorial project by the Mickleham and Westhumble Local History Group has now brought all those names to life.

The project explores the stories behind each of the names listed on the memorial in St Michael's Churchyard, eleven from the Great War and another eleven for the Second World War. For each one there is a list of personal details, their military record, circumstances of their death, facts about their lives and those of their descendants and for most of them, a photograph. This has clearly involved

Task Group Report: Oral Histories

Feeding the Family – an Oral History Project



Do you ever regret not asking more about your parents' or grandparents' lives? Have you ever wondered how their daily lives in the middle of the last century compared with today's rather cushioned existence? Although many history books are written about the great events of the past, such as wars, elections and other notable events, there are often gaps in our knowledge when it comes to recording the day-to-day life of people like us. This is where our oral history projects come in.

September 2016 saw the completion of our second oral history project, 'Feeding the Family'. Over the previous nine months fourteen residents kindly gave their time to tell us about their earliest recollections of how food was obtained, stored, prepared and eaten. This topic was chosen as it allowed us to glimpse into the domestic lives of a wide section of the community starting in the 1930s through to more recent times. We heard that home life in the Mole Valley was very different to nowadays, often

with all members of the family, even the teenagers, sitting down together at set meal times for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Our modern day habits of eating on the go, getting a take away or popping down to Dorking for a pizza were unheard of in those days. Instead feeding the family was a major part of the housewife's day – men it seems were rarely involved, beyond perhaps looking after a vegetable patch or keeping chickens. Due to the lack of refrigeration, shopping was often a daily event

although many goods such as bread and meat were delivered to the door, something we have seen a return to with the recent advent of online shopping. People often told us that their mothers were good but basic cooks. 'Nothing fancy' was a phrase we frequently heard usually referring to a meal of meat and two veg, or a Sunday roast with cold meat on a Monday. There was no mention of convenience food or foreign dishes and apart from Christmas, where a glass of sweet white wine or sherry may have been enjoyed, alcohol it seems was rarely drunk.

We celebrated the end of the project by inviting all our participants to afternoon tea and cake, as this seemed a fitting way to thank them all for what has been a most enjoyable and hopefully worthwhile endeavour. All the recordings and transcripts have been archived at the Surrey History Centre and we also hope to have them available soon on the M&WLHG web site. Although we don't as yet have our next oral history project planned we are always happy to hear from any local residents who have a tale to tell, no matter how ordinary, and are willing to help us fill in some of the gaps in our memories of the past.

Roger Davis & Anne Weaver.

PS As a result of their work on our 'Feeding the Family' oral history project, Roger and Anne have been invited to speak at the launch of the Oral History Forum at the Surrey History Centre.



*MICKLEHAM HALL (Southern aspect)
Another drawing from the 18th C
sketchbook found at the Surrey
History Centre*

Guided Tour of St Michael's Church

M&WLHG's Autumn Event

Everyone in our community knows St Michael's Church (St Michael and All Angels, to use its full name), for many centuries a familiar landmark in the heart of Mickleham village. However, even the most well-informed member of the group who attended Sue Tatham's guided tour of the church on 25th September came away with a wealth of new information.

Sue began with a presentation on the structure and architecture of the church and described the numerous additions, alterations and restorations that have taken place. A church in Mickleham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the original church may have been built when Viking invasions were at a lull during the reign of Edgar, 959-975. In the Norman period the chancel and a new nave were added, the arch at the entrance to the chancel being remarkably similar to one in William the Conqueror's manorial church in Caen. Sue pointed out that St Michael's has a 'weeping chancel', one that is out of alignment with the nave. Various explanations have been proposed to explain this, the most appealing being that, in a cruciform building, it

depicts the head of Christ on the cross. Unfortunately, ecclesiastical architects do not accept this hypothesis.

An important addition to the church was the Mortuary Chapel, built on the north side of the church in 1514 for the London mercer William Wyddowson, Lord of the Manor of Fredley. This was later known as the Norbury Pew or Chapel. The walls have a chequerboard design, uncommon in Surrey and made of flint and clunch (rock chalk), a type of soft limestone (possibly better known now as a Farrow & Ball paint colour!).

The early 19th century saw the church undergo many changes. The architect P F Robinson was employed initially to construct a gallery and new pews but discovered the church was in such a bad state of repair that major rebuilding was necessary. In 1824 he published *An Attempt to Ascertain the Age of the Church of Mickleham, in Surrey*, containing many diagrams and drawings of the church interior and exterior of the which now serve as a valuable historical record. In the mid-1820s Robinson also designed and built a portico at Treliwick House in Cornwall for Thomas Daniell, who was the father-in-law of the Rector of Mickleham, Alfred Burmester. Interestingly, both Robinson and Daniell went bankrupt and fled to Boulogne, apparently a refuge for bankrupt English gentlemen at that time!

Further renovations took place later in the 19th century, including the construction of both the round organ tower and a new gallery in the main tower, plus the installation of a new organ and open pews. From 1891-2 services even had to be held in a specially constructed iron building while work continued on the church. Alterations to the church are not,

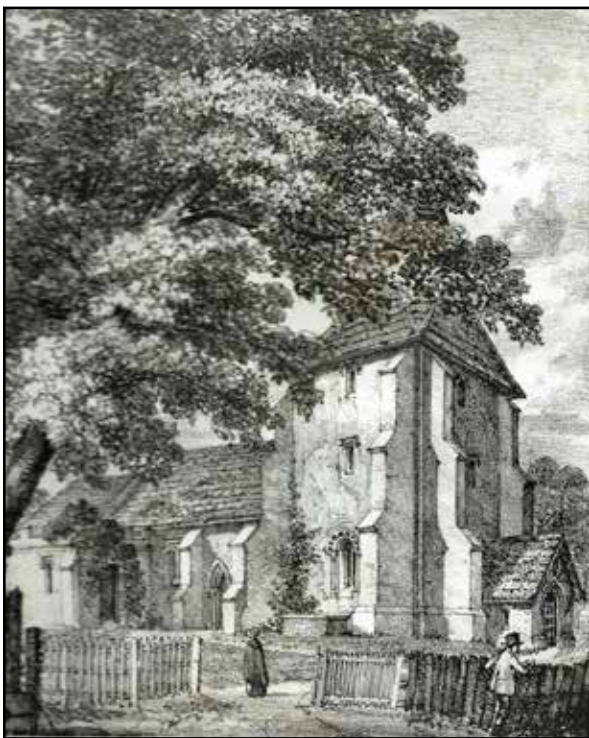
however, just a thing of the past. In 2009 an extension to the Vestry was built and many of us will remember the delays caused when 17 skeletons were unearthed, thought to date from the late 18th or early 19th century.

After the presentation we began our tour of the church, stopping first to admire the 13th century baptismal font. Sue then explained the significance of the colourful hatchments, the diamond-shaped heraldic paintings seen hanging in several places in the church. When a member of the gentry died a hatchment, bearing their coat-of-arms, would be hung over their front door and later in the parish church. Very specific rules governed the form and colour of the hatchments, enabling the sex and marital status of the deceased to be readily identified.

On entering the Norbury Chapel we discovered that St Michael's has not been immune to graffiti, albeit of the 18th century variety. At the far end of the Wyddowsons' tomb the words 'Capt M Phillips 15 Augst 1789 Aet (i.e. aged) 34' can just be deciphered. Molesworth Phillips was married to Fanny Burney's sister Susan and the couple lived in a house, now demolished, opposite our house, Mickleham Cottage.

As we approached the chancel, Sue encouraged us to look at the pulpit where 16th century Flemish carved wood panels, brought over from Belgium by Alfred Burmester around 1840, were worked into a new pulpit, replacing the previous three tier one. In the chancel itself there is a memorial to the Reverend Burmester who was Rector of Mickleham from 1813 until his death in 1867. He is buried in a vault under the chancel along with his wife Jane and two of their young sons who died when babies.

Walking back down the nave, Sue pointed out two memorial plaques: one commemorating Sir Jack Norton-Griffiths, the engineer responsible for the successful WW1 operation to detonate mines under the German lines and the second in memory of Sir Carl Aarvold OBE, who at various times during his career was the Senior Judge

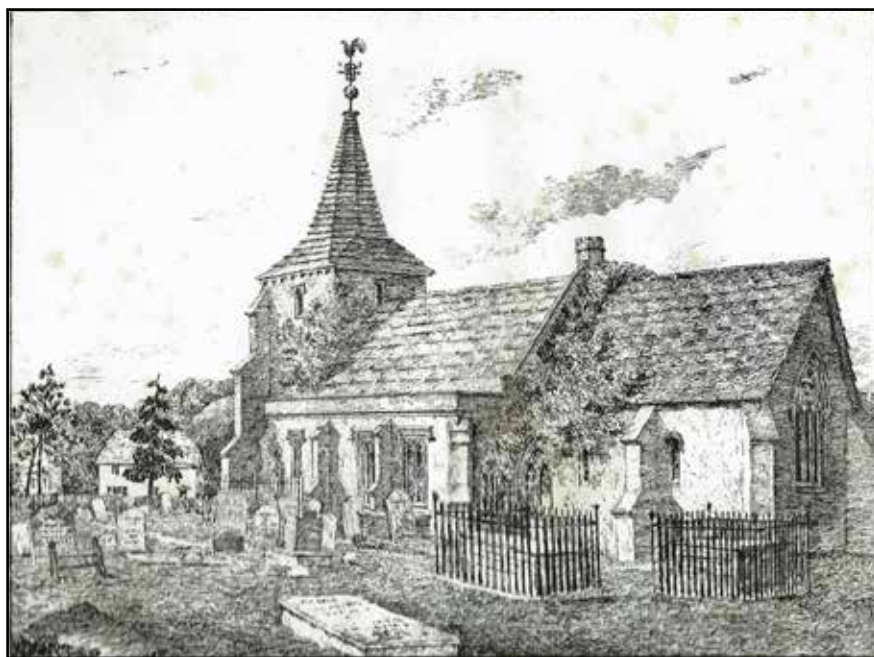


Drawing of the northwest view of Mickleham Church around 1824. Taken from Robinson's book.

at the Old Bailey, President of the Lawn Tennis Association, Captain of the England rugby team and a highly entertaining after dinner speaker! We also looked at the banner hanging on the south wall of the nave, which belonged to Sir Francis Stydolf, the owner of Norbury Park in the 17th century. His helmet used to hang with the banner but was stolen in 1967.

Back at the entrance to the church there was just time to look at the oldest and newest glass in the church: the oldest being 16th century German in the window above the west door and the newest is the stained glass window installed last year in memory of Andreas Vracas. Very welcome refreshments followed, kindly organised by Stephanie Randall and Alison Wood.

Over tea we had a chance to look at some of the books Sue had used for her research including a copy of Robinson's book, Ronnie Shepperd's *Micklam – the story of a parish* and the *Record of St Michael's Church Furnishings* compiled in 1986 by the Dorking Decorative and Fine Arts Society's Church Recorders. There



Southeast view of Mickleham Church circa 1824

was also a display of mounted copies of the very fine photographs, taken by Sir George Gordon Pollock for the record. These had been donated by the Gordon Pollock family and were sold in aid of church funds, raising a total of £100.

We very much want to thank Sue for opening our eyes to the magnitude of the changes that have taken place at the church over the centuries and for introducing us to some of the many people who have shaped its history.

Judith Long

This talk was attended by 37 members and guests, and at the request of those who missed it, Sue gave an encore in January 2017. Sue plans to write a series of short articles about Mickleham Church for the parish magazine.

From the December 2016 Parish Magazine

26th August Anniversary Dinner at The Running Horses

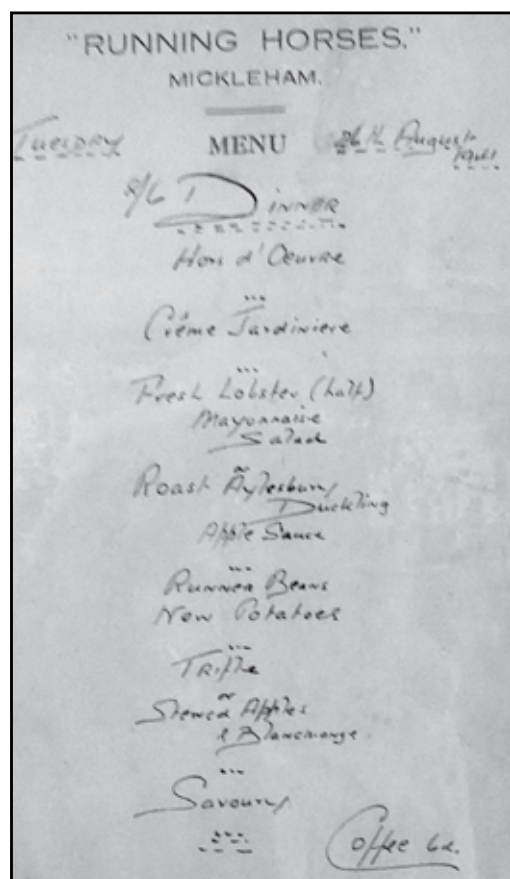
During Brakspears' refurbishment of The Running Horses in 2014 a menu for an anniversary dinner on 26th August 1941 was discovered. The five-course meal seems very lavish for wartime, but severe rationing of almost everything except vegetables and bread was not introduced until 1942. Priced at 8 shillings and 6 pence it was quite expensive for its time. (10 shillings in 1941 would be worth £17.65 now.) Also in 1942 the Ministry of Food & Agriculture imposed a restriction on the number of courses that could be served and the maximum price a restaurant could charge.

The menu card had been written by the then landlord, Owen Stuart. It was framed and now hangs on the pub wall along with a photograph of Owen and Queenie Stuart.

Earlier this year, at the suggestion of the present manager, Iain, The Running Horses replicated the menu at a dinner on the said date when the guest of honour was Owen Stuart's daughter, Ann Vickers. She along with family and friends as well as several of the village regulars enjoyed the excellent meal, which, priced at £41, was extremely fair for such a feast. Afterwards Ann stayed the night, occupying the room which was once her nursery.

The Running Horses' management plans to repeat the 1941 anniversary dinner annually – what a brilliant idea.

Rosemary Robinson



Mickleham's Three Farriers

Thomas Tidy, Frederick Patrick and Frederick Guyatt

Firstly The Tidy Family

It is hardly surprising, given Mickleham's proximity to Epsom, that there were a number of racing stables in the village and that Mickleham Downs was an excellent training ground. In the 19th century a number of well-known trainers resided in the village. Robert l'Anson lived at Rose Cottage with his family and 11 apprentice jockey lads, the youngest of whom was 15. Many of these came from all over the country. In Mickleham Street the trainer George Drewitt lived with a total of six young men, the youngest and most famous being George Fordham, 14 at the time, who went on to win numerous prestigious races including the Derby in 1879. William Edwards and Thomas Sparks ran stables at Mickleham Cottage and at Mole Cottage lived John Fordham with his wife and six children, all born in Newmarket. Dockeray is another trainer with stables situated on the A24 near to where Ilex Trees now is. In addition, all the large houses in the neighbourhood had their own stables and some tradesmen too kept at least one horse to pull a cart. George Rose in



1890s photograph of The Forge on the corner of London Road and Byttom Hill

his reminiscences of the 1850s writes of famous horses such as Cobweb, Bay Middleton and Blair Atholl and of watching the final gallops on the Downs before the Derby.

Hence the clear need for a farrier, one who shoes horses, although the term is often used interchangeably with smith or blacksmith. The first reference to one in the village is to William Tidy, aged 25, described in the 1841 census as a smith. Further evidence comes from an auction catalogue describing 'a dwelling house and smithy', situate in Mickleham and close adjoining the village, let to William in 1843 on a 100

year lease for the sum of 1 shilling per annum. Today, this site is that of the Frascati restaurant, and the house is still recognisable.

William, the eldest of ten children born to a Leatherhead blacksmith, must have handed it on quite soon to his brother Thomas who appears on the census as living at the Forge from 1851 all through the century until 1891. In 1845 he was married in Mickleham to Jane Wiles, a local girl, whose father was a carpenter. By 1851 he is described as a farrier employing one man, living with his wife Jane and their two children, Frederick aged four years and Henrietta aged ten months. They went on to have two more surviving children, Caroline and Thomas, and two more who died in infancy, Fanny in 1849 aged seven weeks and Arthur in 1855 aged eight months. On Jane's gravestone in the churchyard (on the LH side up from the main gates) both she and these two little ones are remembered – both described as beloved – and I find it touching that Thomas remembered them on their mother's memorial stone. She was only 56 when she died in 1874.

Of Thomas and Jane's other three children, we know that Frederick also worked as a farrier at the Forge with his father and that Caroline married Benjamin Haynes, whose father sold the village shop to



Left: Thomas Tidy (on right) in front of the Forge, early 1890s.



Right: The elderly Thomas Tidy probably with his housekeeper Ellen Rowe taken in front of the house that is now the Frascati. Note sign for the King William IV on the right.

the Rose family, in 1873. Frederick seems to have left the village by 1881 and the younger son, also Thomas, is now working alongside his father. By this time, Jane has died and there is a housekeeper, Ellen Rowe, living in the house. Between 1881 and 1891 Thomas lost his sight and she must have been essential to him, especially when young Thomas died, reasons unknown, in August 1888 aged 33.

With no family to carry on at the forge, it would seem that Thomas decided to employ Frederick Patrick who is listed on the 1891 census as a blacksmith and lodger at Flint Cottage (north of the forge). He is 29, not an apprentice. Both he and his wife came from Hampshire. Before we start that story, we must see Thomas through. He died in March 1895 aged 77 years and probate was granted to Henry Tulett, gardener, and Robert Mortimore, headmaster of our then so-called National School; his effects amounting to £141 2s 2d. The house and forge was put up for auction in April of the same year, as 'The West Australian Forge', a name whose origin is a complete mystery. Apart from the blacksmith's shop and the shoeing shop, there was stabling, a coach-house, harness room, yard, and as well as all the usual tools of the trade, a grey cob gelding and a light spring cart. All this and the contents of the house too point to a man who had made a good living, whose skill was much in demand and who was described as 'famous for plating of racehorses' in his day. ♦

Secondly The Patrick Family

In 1891, Frederick Patrick was living as a lodger in Flint Cottage, aged 29, occupation blacksmith. As young Tom Tidy had died, probably unexpectedly, in 1888 and Tom's father (born 1818) was already more than 70, someone was needed to run the forge if it was to be kept going. The fact that old Thomas Tidy was reported to be blind in the 1891 census, and may have been losing his sight for some time, it would also have made it essential to employ someone. This he did, and he was able to stay in his home until his death in 1895 when the forge, the house and the contents were all put up for sale by White & Sons, an old-established Dorking agent.

By 1901, Frederick is listed on the census as living at the forge with his wife and family (see photo above). He is said to be 40, a blacksmith/farrier and employer, born in Emsworth, Hants. His wife Elizabeth, aged 30, came from South Hayling. By this time they had three children, Frederick Felix (4), Mabel (2) and Olive Mary (6 months), all born in Mickleham. Elizabeth's young brother Ernest Farmer, (10) is also living with them as well as a blacksmith's assistant, Edwin Harryhy (17), born in Llanhennock in Wales. Business must have been good enough to keep the two men occupied but no racing trainers are listed on the census.

By the time of the next census, in 1911, the family are still at the forge



Frederick Patrick and his wife Elizabeth with Frederick, Mabel, Olive (called Mary) and Ruth Gladys, taken about 1904. With kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Griffiths.

but with the addition of Ruth Gladys (8), Iris Kathleen (3) and Charles Farmer, Elizabeth's father (69), also from South Hayling. He is said to be married, not a widower, so it is likely he is visiting his daughter and grandchildren. All the children except Kathleen are listed in the Admissions Register of the National Schools in the village. The Register lists birth dates, admission dates and leaving dates and sometimes the standard they have reached. Surprisingly I found all the three eldest children left on the same day, 29th November 1905. This was a bit of a mystery, given their ages, until I turned to the School Log of that day written by Robert Mortimore, the Headmaster. He writes firstly that the Patrick family were absent but later in the day receives a 'note from Mr Patrick to the Mistress (his wife) saying that 'Miss Miller (a pupil teacher) had marked his child's face and he had taken them away'. 'Miss Miller denies having done so, and I can obtain no proof that the Patrick child spoke the truth. He has before accused Miss Miller and his statements were then untrue. He appears 'bitter' against the teacher for some fancy or another.' By 4th December, Mr Mortimore writes that 'Patrick has had a week to get over his bad temper. As he says he has taken the children away I have removed their names from the Register and reported the case to the School Attendance Officer for him to deal with'. >>>>>



Mickleham Hall farmyard at the top end of Swanworth Lane.

The Patrick Family continued...

This accounts for their removal on the same day. The outcome is brief: on 6th January 1906, the log reads 'Re-admitted Frederick, Mabel and Mary'.

At some time early in the 20th century, in addition to running the forge, Frederick leased Mickleham Hall Farm and ran a dairy. The Dorking Advertiser of 25th November 1910 contains a long and convoluted account of the theft by one Charles Orchard (an employee) of a pound and a half of butter, valued at two shillings. This butter, suspected as being one of a number of thefts, was marked with two brass rivets to identify it and PC Grey, our local policeman, was called in to investigate. Later that day he apprehended Charles and found the marked butter in a basket that he was taking home, although Charles claimed all it contained was a bottle of milk. There was then some argument about the freshness of the butter, described at one point as 'blue mouldy', and only fit for pigs, which Charles Orchard claimed meant that it could not be called stealing ... and so on. The Chairman decided on leniency and bound him over in the sum of £10. We have a faded photograph of the farm showing what is now a little way down Swanworth Lane looking towards the church, much more open than now, with cows in a farmyard, which was sent to us by Patrick's grand-daughter, Hazel Griffiths.

This was in November 1910, but less than a year later in September 1911, Frederick was 'quitting' and White & Sons were holding an auction of his Live and Dead Farming Stock, which included nine Jersey and Shorthorn cows, a fat barren cow, a yearling heifer, a Welsh cob mare with filly, breeding sows, poultry and a huge number of farm and dairy implements as well as hay, saddlery and all sorts, including Grayson's 18 ft refrigerator. Frederick's address is given as the West Australian Forge, as it was also called in Thomas Tidy's auction in 1895, – still a mystery.

We do not know the reason for the 1910 sale but we presume Frederick

still owned the forge at this time. He had lived in the village with his family for more than 20 years. It is likely that he was already ill as our next record is of his death aged 50 on 9th November 1911, probate to Elizabeth, widow, with effects of £1,119 7s 9d. He was buried in the churchyard on 13th November but although we know where the grave was there is no evidence of it on the ground now. Elizabeth must have stayed in the village at least until the end of July 1912 when Ruth Gladys left school at the end of term. Perhaps they returned to her family in Hampshire.

By way of a postscript, Mrs Griffiths tells us that Iris Kathleen, her mother's youngest sister, who was only three at the time of her father's death, was brought up by another family and that they never knew the reason for this. It seems likely that she was sent away because of Frederick's illness, Elizabeth having four other children to look after, and settled permanently into her new home. ♦

Part Three The Guyatt Family

Frederick Guyatt was not a local lad and what drew him to Surrey we do not know. He was born in 1877 in Penton Mewsey in the district of Andover. The birthplace of his future wife, Amy Parfitt, was little over a mile away at Foxcott in Hampshire. It is tempting to think that they must have known each other before they moved to Surrey but there is no proof of this.

In the 1881 census, Frederick's father, Alfred, gives his occupation as smith and farrier and by 1891 Frederick, age 13 and still living at home, is described as 'occupation: blacksmith boy' which shows that if he had been to school he no longer was or the census would have listed him as a 'scholar'. This merely meant attendance at school, and was no mark of scholastic achievement. It is very common for the blacksmith's trade to be a family affair, handed down from generation to generation as with the Tidy family.

1901 marks the arrival of Frederick Guyatt in Mickleham. Aged 23, he is listed as a blacksmith living at Mickleham Downs Cottages with a number of others, including

Albert Stacey, also a blacksmith. It seems likely that he worked for the Mackworth-Praed family, then Lords of the Manor of Mickleham. At this time, Amy, his future wife, was living in Sutton with her sister Kate who was already married and had a family.

By 1911, the next census, Frederick (still working as a blacksmith) is 34 and has been married to Amy for 8 years although the census records them as having been married for 10 years. They are now living at Tannery Cottages in Leatherhead and have had 7 children, one of whom, Gladys, died aged 4 months in 1906. Herbert George, their first child, was born in Sutton and they may have hoped to disguise the fact that he was born out of wedlock by writing 10 years, not 8, on the 1911 census return. He died in 1986 aged 85 and his ashes are interred in our churchyard. Five others were all born in Leatherhead: Edith Phyllis, 7, Alfred Frederick, 6, Iris Amy, 3, Kathleen Ivy, 2 and Evelyn May, 4 months. They had four more children after the 1911 census: Joan, Frederick, Doris and Marjorie.

It is likely that Frederick was working at the forge when the Patrick family left in 1912. In that year when Sybil Haslett, aged four-and-a-half, was locked in her bedroom at Rose Cottage and managed to set it on fire, he is one of the two men who tried to rescue her (tragically, unsuccessfully.) At the inquest the jury recorded their appreciation both to Charles Long, a gardener who lived next door, and Frederick who heard the fire bell and ran to help, breaking down the bedroom door but too late to save Sybil. His proximity would suggest that he was working at the forge at the time. In 1913 Frederick is listed on the village Electoral Roll at Praed's Cottages (which were renamed Elm Cottages) but from 1914 to 1925 the family is definitely living at the Forge.

All the surviving children are registered at the Mickleham National Schools in the Admissions Register of 1898-1927. Herbert came from Leatherhead Boys', Edith from Leatherhead Girls' and Alfred from Leatherhead Infants'. Iris Amy (born 1907), Kathleen Ivy (b. 1909), Evelyn May (b.1910), Joan Elizabeth (b.1912), Frederick John (b.1913), Marjorie (b.1918) all

joined the Infant Division in their turn and moved up to Standard 1. Only Frederick John appears in the Punishment Book (boys will be boys?) so clearly it was a disciplined family, in spite of their being nine of them (although the house is said to have six rooms, not a bad size for that time).

During the first half of the 20th century epidemics were rife and one way this can be seen is in the attendance figures kept by the schools. In early January of 1920 whooping cough was reported both at Mickleham and Westhumble. On the 27th a representative of the Medical Officer visited to investigate and report on epidemic sickness and by the 29th when attendance had dropped from an average of 80+ to a mere 39 the Headteacher's log records: 'The Chairman called at noon and instructed me to wire the Medical Officer for permission to close the School'. Later the school was closed for three weeks, a period which was then increased by the Medical Officer to six weeks, and did not re-open until 18th March. During this time, while school was closed, Thomas Viney, the Headteacher, reports without comment on the deaths of three of the Guyatt children Joan, aged seven, Kathleen, aged eleven, both on 12th February, and their older sister Iris, aged twelve, four days later. The cause was not whooping cough but diphtheria and one can hardly imagine the suffering of the Guyatt family at this awful loss. Their grave can be seen in the churchyard.

Left with Edith, Evelyn May, Doris and Marjorie of the girls of the family, one other sadness is revealed in the school log. Evelyn May, aged twelve, left the school in July 1922 to go to a



The Guyatt Forge date unknown

This photograph, supplied by Mark Day, shows some very smart horses – probably hunters: note the docked tails and knee shields; possibly three blacksmiths (one might be Frederick) in the background; a lad holding the horses who could be Herbert George; some of the girls and a very posh gent – boots, cap, pipe and all!

school for the blind at Brighton. As no census returns are available beyond 1911, it becomes harder to follow their fortunes but we do know that in 1926 the family moved into one of the cottages at Fernbank, all later demolished, but which were then situated next to the *King William IV*, and stayed until 1930. On 2nd July 1926 the *Surrey Mirror* reported the sale of the Forge by White & Sons by private treaty and the Guyatts moved to Bookham in 1931. Marjorie's last attendance at Mickleham School is recorded on 22nd December 1930. They must have left with very mixed memories.

Forges and blacksmiths continued to survive, but the advent of the petrol engine and the growing popularity of the motor car in the twenties inevitably meant a huge decline in demand for their services. Some

forges became garages, as many of the same skills were employed. In the parish magazine of February 1927, appreciation is expressed to Mr Barber for the opening of 'an independent smithy at Norbury Farm; so once again horses can be shod and repairs to the kitchen ranges and other domestic requirements can be done locally'. The smith still had an important role to play. The same Mr Barber set up a smithy at Loveden Cottage in Westhumble, followed by his son Bill who was more of a motor mechanic than a smith. He is still remembered by some of our more elderly residents.

Judy Kinloch

NOTES:

- Some years ago Mike Boyle wrote an account of the fire at Rose Cottage for the parish magazine.
- The Forge was renamed Highway Cottage and became a shop, but that is a topic for another day.

Photograph: Ben Tatham



The forge area today