



Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 – February 2019 Editor: Sue Tatham

The Chairman writes ...

It has been another busy year for the Group's researchers as you can see from the reports on our activities which follow. We would welcome more people to help with this work and to extend our activities. Would you like to contribute to the subjects which we are already researching? Are there particular things in our local history which interest you? If there are, please get in touch so that we can

help you to get started. An example of what you might do is researching the history of your own house. We have the information and people who can help you to do that.

Another matter with which we would like your help is finding a suitable place to store our archives. We have had to take all our material out of the National Trust offices in Warren Farm Barns as the room we used is

now an office. At the moment our archives are stored in the houses of three committee members. We need a place which is warm, dry, secure and easily accessible with about 10 metres of shelving about 50 cm deep and a spacing of about 40 cm.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM meeting and at our other events.

Ben Tatham

ben@thetathams.co.uk

From our archives - then and now photographs



Dell Close, Mickleham in the before 1920 with the village hall on the right and Eastfield Cottage at the far end of the road.

*Same view today.
The village hall car park has replaced the hedge on the right. The house on the right beyond the hall was originally the police house.
The 12 semi-detached cottages on the left were built by the district council in 1920.*



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The Group's website

www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/

Manager: Roger Davis

M&WLHG Programme for 2019

- Friday 22nd February
 AGM at Mickleham Village Hall followed by a talk by Robin Daly 'The Story of Broadmoor - the Village'
- Thursday 6th June
 Guided tour of Charlwood & Charlwood Church followed by a pub lunch
- Saturday 5th October (provisional date)
 Village Walk along Old London Road starting at the Burford Bridge end.

Task Group Report: The Village Archives

This year we have welcomed some more visitors. The first was not strictly an historical researcher at all but a Californian lady called Abigail Bok who is a novelist. She fell in love with Jane Austen as a 13-year-old and consecutively read all her books five times she says! Her interest did not wane, and she wrote her undergrad thesis on 'The Watsons' before writing her own contemporary version of 'Pride and Prejudice' which she called 'An Obstinate Headstrong Girl'! Since then, possibly inspired by Box Hill, she has embarked on a new series of novels, 'The Darking Hundred' set in Surrey circa 1800, the first of which was called 'Coldharbour Gentlemen', about the smuggling trade.

Abigail came to the UK again this year in order to research Fanny Burney and the Locke family of Norbury. Her heroine will we understand be one of William Locke's sisters but I'm not clear about any further details. We introduced her to Norbury Park House (seen through the bars of the gates!) and spent some time in the church looking at the Norbury Pew with the graffiti on the rear of the altar tomb. We also arranged to visit the Templeton Room at Juniper Hall and were able to look through the 19th century album of the house and garden. Abigail was also interested to see our archive of photographs taken at Norbury during Leopold Salomon's ownership. Although these were a little later than the period Abigail was interested in, she was able in particular to view the famous Painted Drawing Room which

was commissioned by William Locke in the 18th century which would be a fitting scene for a romantic encounter! We were also visited by a number of members of the Mortimore family who were interested in tracing the various descendants of Robert Mortimore, headmaster of St Michael's School (then the National Schools) for 33 years, who died in 1907. More on this family is to be found in the report on the churchyard.

Last year we deposited at Surrey History Centre (SHC) a photograph album of Theodore Henry Bryant who lived with his family at Juniper Hill towards the end of the 19th century. One album had already been deposited some years before by a descendant of the Rose family of the now sadly defunct Rose's Stores, but this one is of particular interest as it focuses on Mickleham villagers, the church (including late 19th century works such as the temporary iron church while restoration was carried out), and various notable residents. We have been able to add to the information on the original captions in the album which are now included in the SHC catalogue. This album contains a note written by Bryant presenting the album to the church for the interest of visitors and parishioners and names Mrs Pack, the pew opener, as custodian. It can now be viewed on the our history group's website although the quality of the pictures varies.

Our own research into the war service of the names on the Mickleham War

Memorial have made a contribution to the hugely successful research project undertaken by the SHC over the period of the Great War. To find all the above items in the SHC catalogue they are available on reference no. 9572 and there are no access restrictions. They are also posted on the Dorking Museum website.

Other material, minute books and papers, that came to light from the attic of a Westhumble resident were also deposited at the SHC last year. These date back to the period immediately at the end of the Second World War when residents felt that action was needed on a number of fronts and so formed what was then known as the Westhumble Association. The inaugural meeting was reported in the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser on 20th July 1945. To view these, the catalogue number is 9189. Last year Michael Hallett wrote a comprehensive account, 'A History of the Westhumble Residents' Association' which has now been edited by Sue Tatham for publication in the parish magazine; the archive holds the full version.

We continue to catalogue the material that we hold and receive. It is being put on to Excel spreadsheets and now amounts to 2017 items.

Thanks must go to Judith Long for her impeccable research and her IT skills, as well as to Angela Ireland who continues to work on cataloguing the historic parish magazines.

Judy Kinloch

Photographs: Village Archives



Views of the painted room in Norbury Park House circa 1900

Our Fifth Annual General Meeting

On 24th February 2018 following the AGM of the M&WLHG in Mickleham Village Hall we were treated to a fascinating presentation on the History of Dorking Pubs by David Langford. The following report appeared in the April 2018 edition of the Mickleham Parish Magazine.

Time Gentlemen, Please The Story of Dorking Pubs

Photographs: From Clare McMillan, copy in Village Archives

On February 16th, following the AGM of the M&WLHG, we were treated to a very entertaining talk by David Langford about the history of Dorking pubs. David, together with Jim Docking, thoroughly researched the subject (requiring the enjoyable task of visiting the surviving pubs) for an exhibition at the Dorking Museum last year and published a book on the subject. Working out when and where the various hostelries were located turned out to be quite a challenge. Pubs and beerhouses would sometimes have their names changed and it was not uncommon for landlords to take the name of a pub with them when they moved to a different establishment. Some streets were also renamed. For example, East Street became High Street, Back Lane became Church Street and Church Lane is now North Street. In the 1930s the Post Office added to the confusion by renumbering both South Street and the High Street.

David explained that the records from the 1892 Dorking Petty Sessions were an invaluable resource. These documents contain detailed information about each of the licensed premises in the area, including the names of both owner and licensee, whether tied to a brewery, distance from the nearest licensed house and the accommodation available. The type of clientele was also recorded, such as tradesmen, working men or 'respectable class of people'!

We learned about the major factors influencing the growth and decline of the pubs, namely the town market and trading, transport and travel and, perhaps the most significant, the Licensing Acts. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries pubs such as the Queen's Arms, the Chequers and the Bell opened near the old market hall which was close to Pump Corner where one of the town's main wells was located. More licensed premises opened as the market



Ernest Arthur, grandfather of Clare McMillan of Westcott, outside the Railway Arms – now the Stepping Stones

expanded along the High Street and the services they provided were not just confined to drinking. Trading such as corn pitching took place where buyers could purchase corn more cheaply than at the market.

Following the construction of the turnpike road in the mid-18th century and the resulting improvements in road travel, several coaching inns were established, the Bull's Head on South Street and the White Horse on the High Street being notable examples. With the coming of the railway a century later and the growing popularity of Box Hill, more licensed premises opened, including the Railway Arms in Westhumble (now the Stepping Stones).

In 1830 the Beerhouse Act reduced restrictions and taxes on the brewing and sale of beer. The government wanted to encourage people to drink beer rather than spirits to reduce public drunkenness. Consequently, the number of beerhouses increased significantly. By the end of the 19th century there were 46 licensed premises in the parish of Dorking. However, the influence of the temperance movement and the 1904 Licensing Act resulted in the closure of some. The 1904 Act gave magistrates

the power to refuse to renew a pub's licence if they felt there were too many similar premises in the area.

David then told us about the history of some of the individual pubs and inns. We were intrigued to hear that the Rose and Crown on West Street (where Christique is now located) had an underground passage leading from the cellar to a brothel across the street. In contrast, the Wheatsheaf on the High Street (now home to the Quilt Room) had a large cock fighting pit in the cellar. The inn was also, reputedly, home to the largest hog in the land. After the hog and its keeper disappeared, the landlord reared a replacement hog. On the death of this second one, the landlord had it stuffed and put on display where it became quite an attraction.

The Red Lion, also on the High Street, was built on the site formerly occupied by one of the town's oldest inns, the Cardinal's Hat, and has now been replaced by the rather less attractive building housing Oxfam and Vision Express. The Red Lion was one of the most important inns in Dorking. Court sessions were held there, and election results announced

Continued >>>

>>> on the steps. In 1830 magistrates even read the Riot Act to an angry mob of starving labourers. On a less serious note, a demonstration of one of the first vacuum cleaners took place at the inn and a *Daily Express* correspondent

attracted a crowd of about fifty people when he installed a television in his room in 1936.

At the end of the talk we were pleased to hear that David and Jim plan to extend their research to cover more

of the pubs outside Dorking, including the Running Horses and William IV in Mickleham, and we very much look forward to the publication of their second book. Judith Long

From July-August 2018 Mickleham Parish Magazine

The Laundry at Flint Cottage

Photograph: Village Archives

There are three Flint Cottages in Mickleham but I think the earliest is situated high up on the London Road (A24), some distance from the Old School House. In 1841, James and Elizabeth Andrews (aged 20 and 25 respectively) from Headley arrived with their one-year-old son. The family settled in Mickleham and had a total of nine children. James is described as a carter or carman and we know he was respected in the village as he was voted on to the Parish Council. He died sometime in the 1860s and by 1871 Elizabeth is described as the head of the household with three sons working, one as a labourer and two as farm boys, two children at school and the youngest at home.

My information about the family and the laundry comes from Mrs Dorothea Puttock, born Zillah Dorothy Twort in 1896/7. As a young girl she used to visit her Uncle Jim (son of James) who was head of the family in 1881 and her Aunt Ann who at this time was running a flourishing laundry business, most likely for the Gordon Clark family at Mickleham Hall. About six or seven girls were employed, 'mostly from the Home in Dorking'. Dorothea in her old age was an inveterate letter writer from her nursing home in Reigate and her letters make fascinating reading about her childhood in Dorking and visits to Mickleham where a rabbit was always a present to take home.

Dorothea tells us how the cottage was organised. 'In the house was the washing room, all tubs and things;



upstairs the ironing room, the stove in the centre and all the irons were around it.' Another letter describes how the house was fitted up as a laundry for the big mansion. 'First a room full of tubs for washing and the long dolly sticks. I'd see them all but was not allowed to stay in there as it was all steam. We sat in the front room where the piano and organ was.' 'Myself I loved to go into the ironing room upstairs. Everything was scrubbed snow white, a big stove in the centre of the room and all the irons were around it as the stove was so hot all day. Long tables to iron on and the girls would talk to me as they ironed great long table cloths and then to goffer* the lace with special tools and to damp the starched things. Well I never seen anyone

work so hard as those girls did'. Hard to imagine those conditions today.

The third generation, Eleanor (Nelly) died aged 76 in 1948 after playing a significant role in the life of the village. She was still at Flint Cottage in 1938. Her sister Kate died in 1944 in Thorn Cottage aged 71. Both married but Kate's husband was killed in 1941 on the London Road and Nelly's husband was a rogue who married her for her money.

There is much to tell about the Andrews family and I shall write more in future. The photograph shows the girls holding the tools of their trade, apart from the third on the right who holds a kitten!

Judy Kinloch

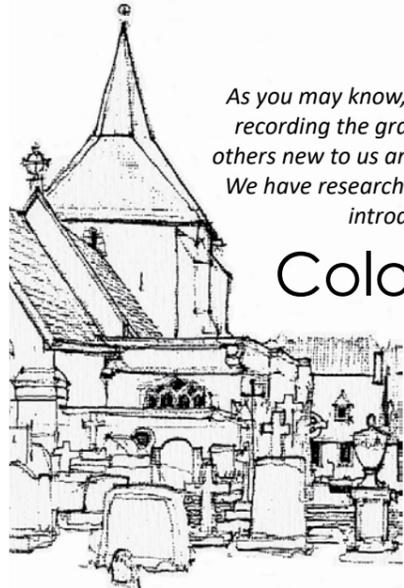
Goffer - make wavy, flute or crimp (a lace edge, a trimming etc) with heated irons.

Our Scrapbook

When the local history group was formed in 2014 one of our first activities was to start a scrapbook of clippings and articles about our area and its residents that appear in current newspapers. Wendy Roberts was our first scrapbook custodian and when she moved away Rosemary Robinson took over the task. The scrapbook will be on show at the AGM. If you see anything relevant in the press, please will you take a copy or check that Rosemary has one for the scrapbook.

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Hidden Histories

As you may know, members of the Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group are in the process of recording the grave inscriptions in St Michael's churchyard. Some of the names recorded are familiar, others new to us and it is impossible not to be intrigued by the personal stories behind these gravestones. We have researched some of these 'hidden histories' and in this article, the first of an occasional series, introduces Colonel Nangle who had some very unexpected family connections.



Colonel Walter Chidiok Nangle

We found Colonel Nangle's headstone by chance. It lay under a tree, covered by dead leaves, and some distance from the actual grave. According to the inscription, Walter Chidiok Nangle, late Royal Artillery, died aged 70 in 1900. His father came from Ireland and his mother was the daughter of Sir Henry Tichborne, Bart. The Mickleham burial register confirmed that he was buried in 1900, on 26th September, and gave his address as Cowslips, Mickleham (in Norbury Park) and his age as 69 (which was correct). Judy Kinloch pointed out that, given the unusual names, he might be related to Chidiok Tichborne, an Elizabethan poet remembered now for his Elegy which begins: 'My prime of youth is but a frost of cares'. These words are made more poignant on discovering they were written to his wife on the eve of his execution for treason in 1586. Tichborne, a staunch Catholic, had taken part in the failed Babington Plot to murder Elizabeth I and put the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, on the throne. He was a second cousin of Sir Benjamin Tichborne from whom Colonel Nangle's mother was descended. The stain of treason on the family name did not however prevent Sir Benjamin being created a Baronet by James I.

Walter Chidiok Nangle was born in Lymington, Hampshire in 1831. In 1849, after two years as a Gentleman Cadet, he earned his commission as

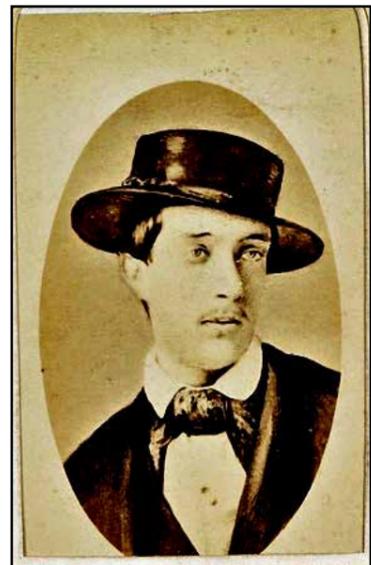
a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. He served in Canada, Jamaica and the Crimean War, where he witnessed the capture of Sebastopol. In February 1855 he married Mary Annesley, granddaughter of the 11th Viscount Valentia. For the next twenty years, like many others in the military, he moved repeatedly with his growing family in tow. A short stay at Sandhurst was followed by several years at Woolwich in the 1860s. By then a Captain, he was transferred to the Control Department and appointed Assistant Controller (equivalent to Lieutenant-Colonel) of the depot at Bull Point in Devon where 40,000 barrels of gunpowder were stored. During his time at Woolwich and Bull Point he had three patents granted provisionally, for inventions relating to armour plating and to improvements in paints for coating metals, although these later became void due to non-payment of the required stamp duty.

In 1874 Walter was posted to Gibraltar where five years later his wife died tragically after fracturing her skull in a fall. Between 1860 and 1875 Mary Nangle had given birth to ten children of whom two died in early childhood. Not only had Walter now to cope with the loss of his wife but he was also left with six children still under the age of sixteen. Perhaps due to this situation he left Gibraltar to become Chief of the Ordnance Department in Ireland, before transferring to Portsmouth and retiring as an honorary Colonel in 1885. In 1883 he married Alicia Almeida Mackenzie and, although his personal life presumably improved, his finances deteriorated until he was declared bankrupt in 1889. This did not prevent the Nangles from remaining in their house in Kensington, as Walter was still on the Kensington Electoral Register in 1896. Kelly's Directory for 1898 lists

them at a cottage in Hampshire so they could only have lived in Mickleham for a brief period before Walter's death.

Colonel Nangle's obituary appeared in newspapers throughout Britain (including the Shetland Times!) and almost all referred to him as a witness in the Tichborne trial. This now a forgotten case, involving a claimant to the Tichborne baronetcy, fascinated Victorian society in the 1860s and 1870s. The case hinged on the disappearance of Roger Tichborne, heir to the baronetcy. Roger was Walter Nangle's cousin, Roger's father being the brother of Walter's mother. Roger's parents did not have a happy marriage and he was brought up in Paris by his French mother, speaking mostly French. In 1854, while sailing from South America to Jamaica, the ship sank and Roger was presumed drowned. Rumours suggested that survivors of the wreck had been taken to Australia and Roger's mother, Continued >>>>

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Roger Tichborne

>>> Lady Tichborne, offered a reward for information about her son. In 1865, a poor Australian immigrant named Thomas Castro, thereafter known as 'The Claimant', declared himself to be the missing Roger, who by then would have become the 11th Baronet. Lady Tichborne was convinced by the Claimant, despite the fact he was significantly heavier than her son, of poor education and had little knowledge of French. Other family members believed him to be an impostor and their investigations led to the discovery that he was possibly Arthur Orton, born in Wapping, who had lived in South America before immigrating to Australia.

A civil case was brought in 1871, which the Claimant hoped would confirm his identity. However, the jury rejected his claims and he was arrested on charges of perjury. The criminal trial

that followed was then one of the longest in English legal history, lasting from 23 April 1873 to 28 February 1874. Public opinion was divided over the case, with many in the working classes believing it exemplified their difficulties in obtaining justice through the legal system. Walter Nangle testified that he was intimately acquainted with Roger Tichborne in Paris and was constantly in his company. He said the Claimant had failed to recognise him twice since returning to England and bore no resemblance to Roger. The Claimant was found guilty of perjury and sentenced to fourteen years in prison. He died in poverty in 1898 and was buried in Paddington cemetery. The Tichborne family allowed the name 'Sir Roger Charles Doughty Tichborne' to be placed on his coffin and the name Tichborne was entered in the burial records.

Judith Long



'The Claimant' c1880

From December 2018 Mickleham Parish Magazine

Local History Group visit to the Guildford Workhouse 'The Spike'

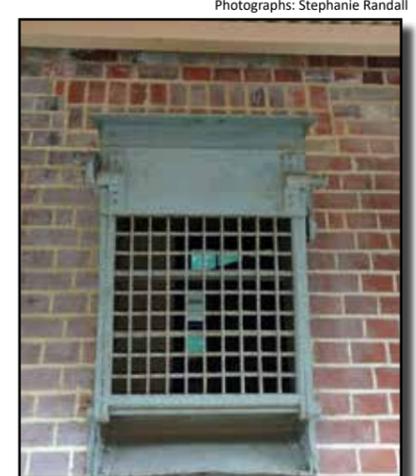
We associate workhouses with bowls of gruel, *Oliver Twist* and Charles Dickens. Provision for the poor was not a matter of which we can be proud. The origins of the 'Old Poor Law' date from the 15th century, with the decline of the monasteries. Charity was gradually replaced by a land tax levied at parish level. The Poor Law Act that we recall from school history lessons came about in 1601. Nearly all workhouses were built to a design by Scott and Moffat, few remain, but there is an intact one in Tavistock. The workhouse in Guildford was built in 1838 as a result of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. It housed the, 'forgotten classes of Victorian England: the poor, the infirm, the ill and the destitute'. On old town maps, the workhouse would be found in Union Street, although the name was later 'updated' when the workhouse was demolished. Guildford's Union Street was re-named Warren Road in about 1966.

The Spike you can see today is a purpose-built Casual Ward erected

in 1906 to separate the 'undesirable' vagrants from the routine of the actual workhouse. Each cell measured 2.4m x 1.4m (8' by 4.6') and had a simple bed frame. There was no sanitary provision, merely a bucket. There was a room with one, maybe two enamelled tubs, but the same bath water was shared multiple times. Considering the skin diseases, sores, infection, lice and worse ... well, it hardly bears thinking about.

To occupy a 'cell' for the night a homeless person (mostly men, although there were a few women) was expected to pay and if he could not pay, he had to work. The illustration shows one of four grids each measuring about 90 cm by 60 cm (3'x 2'). The expectation was to crush about 100 kg of rock into pieces small enough to pass through the small slots, about the size of a matchbox. It was dusty, back-breaking work conducted in a space with barely enough room to swing a sledgehammer. Supper was broth, bread and maybe some cheese.

So why, I hear you say, is it called The Spike? It relates to another task for the



homeless. Ships had sails and sails need rope, lots of rope. Old ropes could be re-sold if the hemp was broken down into strands, which was done using a pointed tool, known as a spike. Hence the expression, *money for old rope*. For more information go to www.guildfordspike.co.uk. How fortunate we are to have modern plumbing, sprung mattresses and families that love us. Have a lovely Christmas.

Stephanie Randall

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

The Village Archives

This year we have donated to the Surrey History Centre (on long loan) the minutes and records of the Westhumble Residents' Association from 1945-2017. They can be viewed at the SHC in Woking, reference nos. 9189/1 and 9189/2. Mick Hallett has produced an extensive account of the contents which we intend to make available to members soon.

Other donations (approved by the PCC) include assorted churchyard plans, a second Bryant photograph album of village scenes and parishioners, including the late 19th century restoration when the church was closed and services took place in an iron building, and other records of Mickleham history written by Samuel Woods in the 19th century. These can also be seen at the SHC, reference nos. 9752/1, 9752/1/2, 9752/1/3, 9752/2. If you order the day before, they can be available on arrival. All these documents have been digitally copied for our archive.

After the sad and sudden death of Richard Roberts-Miller, Fiona asked that we take away the records that Richard had kept of Parish Council business over the 20 years that he was chairman. Unless needed by the current PC these papers will be lodged

in the archive and cover many areas of contention that have arisen over the years, such as the plans to reduce the tragic accidents on the A24, and the leasing of Norbury Park to Surrey Wildlife Trust. Ranging from historical planning applications to allotment holdings, the scope is hugely various. Currently these papers are being catalogued and entered on the archive spreadsheets, as are the many items that add to our growing collection of the village's history.

We have dealt with a number of queries over the past year, some of which are covered in the churchyard section. We spent some time looking for the history and whereabouts of a house called simply The Cottage, which is shown on the 1895 Ordnance Survey map but which was very hard to pinpoint. Our enquirer was looking for a guesthouse where Annie Besant and Charles Leadbetter of the *Theosophist movement had stayed while developing her clairvoyant powers and astral vision. They received important guests of the movement and used to conduct their psychic research in the back garden before walking up the hill. There was a good reason for our difficulty as we finally discovered that it must have been demolished

and Bencomb, now Glenrose, built in its place. Our research showed that it was leased to Allan Chaplin while he was serving in Ootacamund in India in 1898; he and his wife built the new house and lived there until their deaths; both are buried in Mickleham churchyard. Later it was occupied by William Whitely, the department store owner. The name Annie Besant is one we have come across before as she is said to have led the strike of the matchwork girls who worked for Bryant & May (Bryant being the owner of Juniper Hill in the late 19th century.)

Every bit of research leads to another. Looking for The Cottage we discovered a lot about Pinehurst, the coachman's/gardener's cottage (now Little Pinehurst) and another that was then called Coal House Cottage. There is a tablet in the tower of the church which records a grant of land by Henry Thomas Hope of Deepdene for the benefit of the Mickleham Coal Charity. A cottage was built on the site 'furnishing a lodgement for the coals and the rent of it is appropriated to the funds of the charity'. The grant was made in 1839 and vested in two trustees who charged a peppercorn rent for 99 years, 'reversible to the donor and his heirs when not used for the purpose for which it was given.' The space for coal storage is still to be seen under one of the bedrooms, supported on columns. It is now owned by the National Trust, given in lieu of death duties by the Corbet Hue family who then lived at Pinehurst and was the main benefactor of St Faith's Trust for children in destitute or straitened circumstances and unmarried mothers.

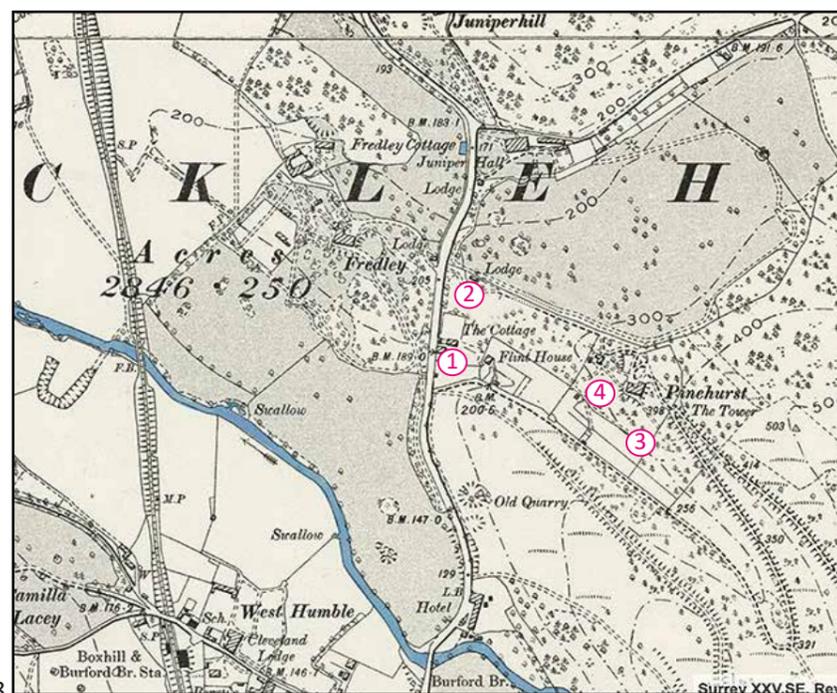
We are happy to research any topic of local interest that members would like to explore.

Judy Kinloch

*Theosophy: occult movement originating in the 19th century with roots that can be traced to ancient Gnosticism and Neoplatonism. The term theosophy, derived from the Greek *theos* ('god') and *sophia* ('wisdom'), is generally understood to mean 'divine wisdom'.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

Detail from 1895 OS map showing:
1. The Cottage; 2. Coal House Cottage;
3. Pinehurst; 4. Pinehurst Cottage.



Task Group Report: The Churchyard

Judy Kinloch and I have made good progress this year and finished recording the inscriptions in the oldest part of the churchyard. Comparing our results with the information from the 1913 map of the churchyard and the descriptions of the graves recorded by Alfred Bax in the 1890s, we found several differences. A significant number of graves were originally enclosed by railings which have since disappeared (perhaps removed to help the war effort in the early 1940s) and, confusingly, some headstones are not in the positions recorded on the original map. The summer heatwave helped us locate one grave when we noticed a large rectangular patch of grass, slightly browner than the rest. The grass proved to be just a thin layer covering a large stone slab which marked the grave of Joseph Nicholson, buried in 1820.

All the inscriptions in the churchyard have now been recorded, except for those on the most recent graves which we will look at in the spring. We have begun checking some of the inscriptions recorded at the beginning of the project (when we were very much 'learning by doing') for any errors and omissions. Several people have offered to help us in the churchyard and, with their assistance, we expect to complete this task next summer.

In June we were visited by members of the Mortimore family, descendants of Robert James Mortimore, headmaster of the Mickleham National Schools (now St Michael's School) for 33 years. Ten family members are buried in St Michael's churchyard. Robert and his wife Jessie, the headmistress of the school, came to Mickleham in 1874, the year of their marriage.



Pupils at Mickleham National Schools with Headmaster Robert Mortimore circa 1900. Mrs Mortimore and daughters Grace and Evelyn, all teachers at the school, are pictured top right.

Mr and Mrs Mortimore were highly respected and much-loved members of the community. In 1899, in appreciation of 25 years of service to the school and in celebration of their silver wedding anniversary, they were presented with a cheque for £65 and given a glowing testimonial to which more than 200 people subscribed. Their three surviving children, daughters Grace and Evelyn and son Robert Charles (a second son, Percy, died aged 3), also made important contributions to village life. Grace and Evelyn both became teachers at the school and Robert Charles was the church choirmaster and organist, plus a stalwart of the Cricket Club. Robert James died in 1907, aged 60, after a brief illness and his obituary in the Dorking Advertiser described him as 'beloved by every child whom he had taught'. Jessie moved to 2 Thorn Cottages on the London Road (now the A24) where she remained until her death in 1928.

Once again, we would like to thank Eric Flint and his team for their continuing maintenance of the churchyard.

Judith Long



Mortimore family gravestone in the churchyard.

M&WLHG Website

It seems that every organisation, from the local cub pack to the UK Government has a website – and the Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group is no different!

We are slowly increasing the content on our website to include more articles of local interest and more

photographs from the archives. There is also a page that will give you details of our upcoming events including outings to places of local historical significance, interesting talks and guided walks that often include a pub lunch! The newsletter page is also well worth a visit, containing as

it does several articles about people, places and events that are linked to the history of our community.

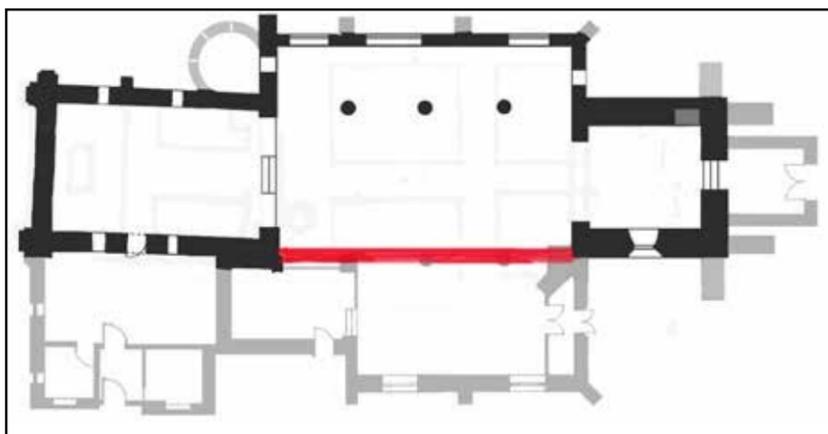
Roger Davis

If you haven't already, please visit www.micklehamwesthumblehistory.co.uk

The Norman Church Of Weeping Chancels and Lepers' Squints

Second in a series of occasional articles on the history of Mickleham Church

My first article dealt with the church that was recorded in the 1086 Domesday Book. This has been described as having a flint tower and a straight nave and chancel, probably timber-built, about half the length of the present one. We also speculated that it could have been built originally, as early as 970 AD but that the nave may have been destroyed and re-built following various Viking invasions. Archaeological data suggests that it might have been built on a previous high-status Roman site. This time we will look at the 11th century Norman church.



Plan of the 1180 church superimposed on the footprint of today's church

Local historian Ronnie Shepperd records that c 1140 is given as the date for the tower (incorporating the lower portion of the Saxon structure including the window mentioned in the last article) and nave with a south aisle. The chancel was added later, c 1180. Later building work revealed that rude arches formed the heart of the lower walls. These 18-to-24-inch diameter arches varied in height and were formed of rough, untooled Reigate stones 6 x 7 inches square and 5 feet long, placed on their ends. The tops of the arches were roughly made. The remainder of the wall was built with rounded flint stones and rubble, heavily plastered on the

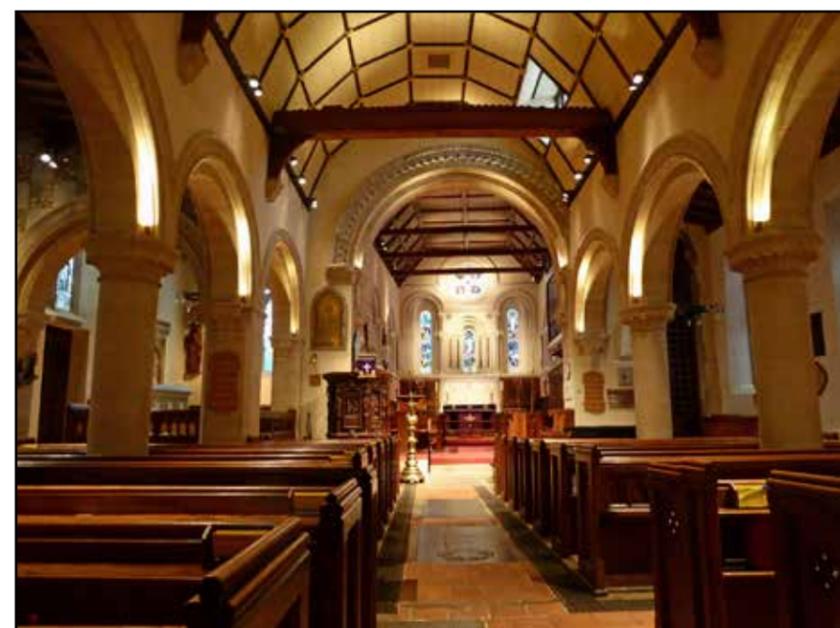
inside. The springing of the arches was about four feet from the paving of the church and all above that was solid flint. In typical Norman (Romanesque) style the rounded arches between the nave and the south aisle were supported by round pillars. These were made of rock chalk, possibly taken from the mine in Westhumble. This gives us the picture of a simple unpretentious building with a large tower.

One feature of Mickleham Church is that the chancel was not built in line with the nave. This is occasionally found in ancient churches and is

sometimes called a weeping chancel. In Victorian times it was thought to represent the dying Christ's head falling to his shoulder and was more often found in a cruciform (built in the shape of a cross) churches of this period. Ecclesiastical architects do not recognise this explanation.

One must then ask what other reason might there be for this misalignment in churches of a certain age. It is possible that it was merely a builder's miscalculation when the chancel was added to the nave. Another possible, and in my opinion more plausible, explanation is that during the years between finishing the nave *Continued>>>*

Photographs: Ben Tatham



Current photograph showing the off-centre chancel with its original 12th century arch.



One of the original lancet windows. Note the thickness of the wall. The stained glass is a Victorian addition.

>>> and starting the chancel there was a change in how to measure due east, which the altar should face. There is a theory that in medieval times east was determined by the position of the sunrise on the church's patronal feast day. A poem written in 1823 by Wordsworth supports this view.

Our churches, invariably perhaps, stand east and west, but why is by few persons exactly known; nor that the degree of deviation from due east often noticeable in the ancient ones was determined, in each particular case, by the point in the horizon at which the sun rose upon the day of the saint to whom the church was dedicated.

Subsequent studies have questioned the scientific basis for this theory. Much more sound is the suggestion that the calculations were done using a magnetic compass. This had been invented in the 11th century by the Chinese and studies suggest that it may have arrived in western Europe as early as the late 12th century. This subject continues to be studied by church scholars.

Present day calculations show that St Michael's realigned chancel does indeed face close to due east.

Despite extensive rebuilding in Victorian times several original features of the Norman church can be seen today. The four lancet windows in the side-walls of the chancel date from this time as does the chancel arch. This arch shows a double chevron bead and dogtooth ornament resembling the style of a chapel arch in the castle at Caen, built by William the Conqueror. Originally the arch was much lower but was raised



Left: The squint from the inside; Right: Outside view of west end of church showing position of the squint.

in the 19th century so that those seated in the gallery which was being added could see into the chancel.

Being able to see the 'raising of the host' was vital in the Roman Rite of Mass when the consecrated elements of bread and wine are raised and shown to the people during the celebration of the Eucharist.

This necessity brings us to another original feature: the small window in the west wall of the south aisle. Often referred to as leper's squints or hagioscopes, these small windows were built with inside walls angled so that those looking through could see

the altar and thus the raising of the host. From the inside of the church our squint appears far too high to serve this purpose, but outside one can see that the ground level reaches part-way up the wall (and may have been even higher in the 12th century) so that the squint was easily accessible.

The church described here remained essentially unchanged, but for a few additions eg windows, doors, porch, steeple etc, until the early 16th century when what we now know as the Norbury Chapel was built on the north side. That will be the subject of the next article. Sue Tatham

Task Group Report: Oral Histories

I don't know about you but I regret not asking my parents and grandparents more about their early lives. It didn't seem important when I was young and then, as I grew older, I had other priorities such as work and a family of my own. Apart from a few basic facts I know very little about their daily existence. Was life hard in early 20th century London? Did they have happy memories of their childhood? What were their memories of the blitz? So many things – but alas, as they are no longer with us, I've missed my opportunity to have those conversations. Yes, of course I can

find information about that period in history but that's really no substitute for hearing people tell their own stories in their own way. This is where oral histories become so important and during the past year we have dusted off our microphone to record the reminiscences of members of our community who have been kind enough to allow us a fascinating glimpse into their long and full lives.

We have now started a new project for 2019 based on recording memories of St Michael's School, Mickleham. For our first interview in this series we

have found a former pupil who started in 1937.... can anyone beat that? Our hope is to record the reminiscences of a 'relay of pupils' passing on the baton until we reach someone still attending the school. Of course a school is more than just its pupils, so we also plan to interview other members of the school community including staff and representatives of the parents. Please let us know if you would like to contribute to this project, or if you would like to tell us about your life so future generations will be able to hear how we all lived in the 'olden days'.

Roger Davis



Lest We Forget The Batchelor Family

children, including Leonard, living at 1 Elm Cottages on Byttom Hill.

It seems hardly surprising that after appeals were made for army volunteers, following Britain's declaration of war on Germany in August 1914, Percy, a grocer, and his brother Horace, a carpenter, were keen to enlist. With their mother dead and the family living in cramped conditions, they no doubt viewed going to war as something of an adventure. They travelled to the recruitment office in Kingston on the 30th August and joined the 7th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. This was the same battalion to which Harry Edgington (their Mickleham classmate who died in France in 1917) had been assigned ten days earlier. Horace was given service number 463 and Percy 465 (who received 464 I wonder?). In September the *Dorking Advertiser* published a list of fifty-eight Mickleham men who had joined the army. This included their brother George Victor (by then no longer living in Mickleham) of the Royal Engineers. He is almost certainly the George V Batchelor who was awarded the Military Medal in 1917.

The 7th Battalion arrived in France in June 1915 and from the 30th September took part in the Battle of Loos, followed by the Action of the Hohenzollern Redoubt on the 13th October. Both Horace and Percy were wounded during this period and Horace's wounds were sufficiently serious that he was declared to be no longer fit for service. He was transferred to a hospital in Lincoln where he wrote to Edward Davies, the Mickleham Parish Clerk. His letter, published in the *Dorking Advertiser*, describes how he was hit by shrapnel and that 'the fellows all kept wonderfully cool, though I guess it takes more than a shell or two now to frighten us, for we are used to these long since'. He was given a Silver War Badge, awarded to service personnel who had been honourably discharged due to wounds or sickness. These were worn on civilian clothes and prevented the recipients from being accused of cowardice by avoiding military service.

Lancelot, born in August 1900, was too young for full military service but he joined the Royal Flying Corps as a 'boy' in 1917 before transferring to the RAF on his eighteenth birthday for the last few weeks of the war. The signing of the Armistice must have been a cause for celebration in the Batchelor family with all four sons who served in the military having survived the war. Sadly, their disabled brother Leonard died a few days later and was buried in Mickleham on the 20th November.

After the war, Lancelot, Horace and Ted joined their father in his building company, all of them living to begin with at 1 Elm Cottages, with sisters Queenie and Georgina. In the mid-1920s the family built and moved to Mon Repose on School Lane, running their business from Batchelor's Yard nearby. Even after the brothers married they stayed on in Mickleham: Lancelot at Mon Repose, Horace in one of the newly-constructed houses in Dell Close and Ted back at Elm Cottages until he moved to Downs View (which may also have been built by the family). Georgina married and moved to Dorset, whereas Queenie remained single and moved to 2 Thorn Cottages in the 1950s. She died at Pinehurst Nursing Home in 1990 and there is a bench in St Michael's churchyard in memory of her. The last remaining sibling was Ted who died in 1995. Eleven members of the Batchelor family are buried in the churchyard and I wonder if George and Annie would have been surprised to know that, almost 130 years after they arrived in Mickleham, a significant number of local residents still personally remember some of their children.

But what became of Percy? He pursued a very different career, spending a large fraction of the 1930s and 1940s living and working in Nigeria and the Gold Coast (now Ghana). Ships' passenger lists show that he always travelled first class and his occupation was given as either accountant or company representative. In 1947 he and his wife moved to Guernsey where he died in 1986.

Judith Long

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group History of the Norbury Chapel

Readers who find themselves in St Michael's over the Christmas season may find it interesting to learn more about the side chapel on the north side of the nave.

The first two parts of this series on the history of Mickleham Church dealt with the first church, built by the Saxons, and the 11th century church built after the Norman Conquest. Although there were additions of a porch, steeple and various windows in the ensuing years, the next major change to the footprint was the building of a mortuary chapel onto the northern wall of the building.

William Wyddowson (surname spelt in various ways), Lord of the Manor of Fredley and a patron of Mickleham Church, built the mortuary chapel a few years before his death in 1514. It is constructed of rock chalk and firestone. The chalk probably came from the chalk mine in Westhumble, now the Bat Caves. The stones were arranged in a chequerboard pattern, very unusual in this part of the country. Not only is this pattern visible on the outside of the building, it can also be seen from the north aisle, which was only built in the late 18th century with an archway giving access to the chapel.

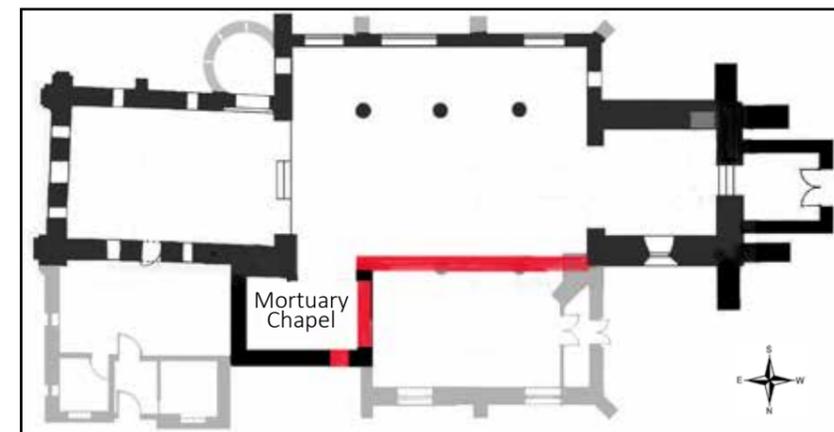
Photograph: Andrew Tatham



View from the north aisle of the patterned stonework on the chapel wall above the arch.

The altar tomb was placed against the north wall; the niche in the wall above contained two kneeling brass figures with scrolls written in Latin issuing from their mouths. Several of the brasses have been lost, probably stolen quite some time ago. Under the figures are the words:

Here lyeth the body of William Wyddolkson, citizen and mercer of London, and of the parish church of Mekyllham late Patron, and here also lyeth ye body of Johne hys wife, which dessecyd the XXVII day of Septe'br the Vth yere of



Plan of the church in 1514 showing the new chapel. At this time it had three outside walls, with access only from the nave. Some of the historic accounts refer to the presence of a hagiastroscope or squint to enable worshippers in the chapel to see the lifting of the host during the mass.

*king Hary the 8th on whoos soul
lys God have mercy. Ame*

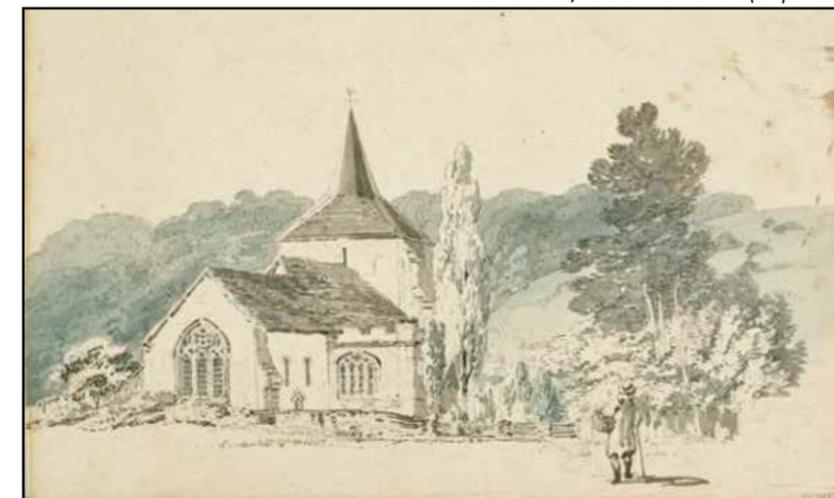
Sometime around 1541 Thomas Stidolph of Norbury bought a part of the Fredley property which probably included the rights to the chapel. Since 1326 there had been a private chapel in Norbury House, but with the dissolution of the monasteries in 1541, Reigate Priory, which provided the priest for this chapel, ceased to function. The family then used Wyddowson's chapel which became known as the Norbury Pew.

When Leopold Salomon bought Norbury Park in 1890, and the estate was no longer entailed he was able to give permission to open up the chapel with an arch into a new north aisle, formed by extending the north wall by three meters.

Over the years many embellishments, windows and memorial have been added to the chapel. In the next part of this series we will look at many of the artefacts in the Norbury Chapel.

Sue Tatham

Photo © Tate / CC-BY-NC-ND 3.0 (Unported)



View of church showing Norbury Chapel entitled 'Mickleham Church, Surrey c.1796 by Joseph Mallord William Turner, Thomas Girtin'. Part of the Turner bequest held by the Tate.



A HISTORY OF THE WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Part 1 - Early Westhumble as we know it 1933 – 1947

When I was asked to write a history of the Westhumble Residents' Association (WRA) (originally the Westhumble Association – WA) I found it much more onerous than I had expected. I have read through all the available minutes and found that they, like most minutes, record the decisions made at committee meetings and not the stories behind those decisions. Therefore, I have had to dig deep to research the background that led to the WRA being involved in the various problems. The net result is that my discoveries have led to what amounts to a brief history of Westhumble since WW2. I have also added a few of my own recollections.

Westhumble, as we now know it, was mainly the Camilla Lacey Estate which comprised virtually all the land between the railway and Chapel Farm. In 1931 the owner Victor Freeman died and his executors found he was deeply in debt, having lost most of his fortune in the great depression. This was the end of a way of life in the 'Big House'. As an example, in 1968 an elderly lady called at *Burney Cottage*, my house, and asked to come in as she used to live there. It turned out that in the 1920s she was a tweenie (between floors maid) at *Camilla Lacey* and she regaled us with stories of the then upstairs/downstairs life. At that time, the unmarried female staff lived at *Burney Cottage* and the

more numerous male workers (mainly gardeners and home farm labourers) bedded down in *Postern House*. The maids had to rise at 5 am to clean the house, light fires etc and retired at 7 pm when the housekeeper locked them upstairs in our house to avoid any hanky panky! However, she, with a twinkle in her eye, said the lads at *Postern House* knew where the ladders were!

To return to our main story. In 1933 Knight, Frank and Rutley sold the estate to a Mr Dibden, but he died before completion and the estate was then split up and sold to various developers. The net result was that by 1939 all the estate roads had been

Continued >>>

>>> constructed and all services connected to each site. Pilgrims Way & Close were about 60% completed, but the remaining roads had only a scattering of houses. Plots were being sold at around £10 per ft of frontage – about £250 – £400 per plot. Completed houses in Pilgrims Way were selling at £1,350 – £1,650. These were expensive – at that time, semi-detached houses in Morden and Sutton fetched £850 – £1,000.

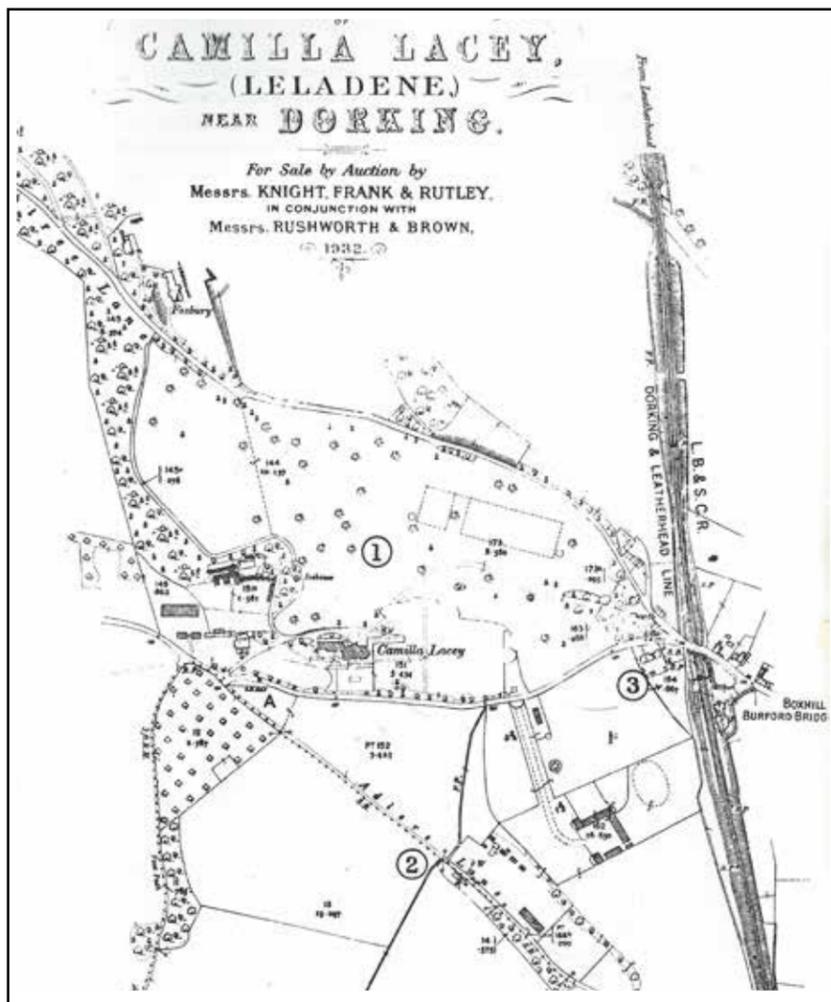
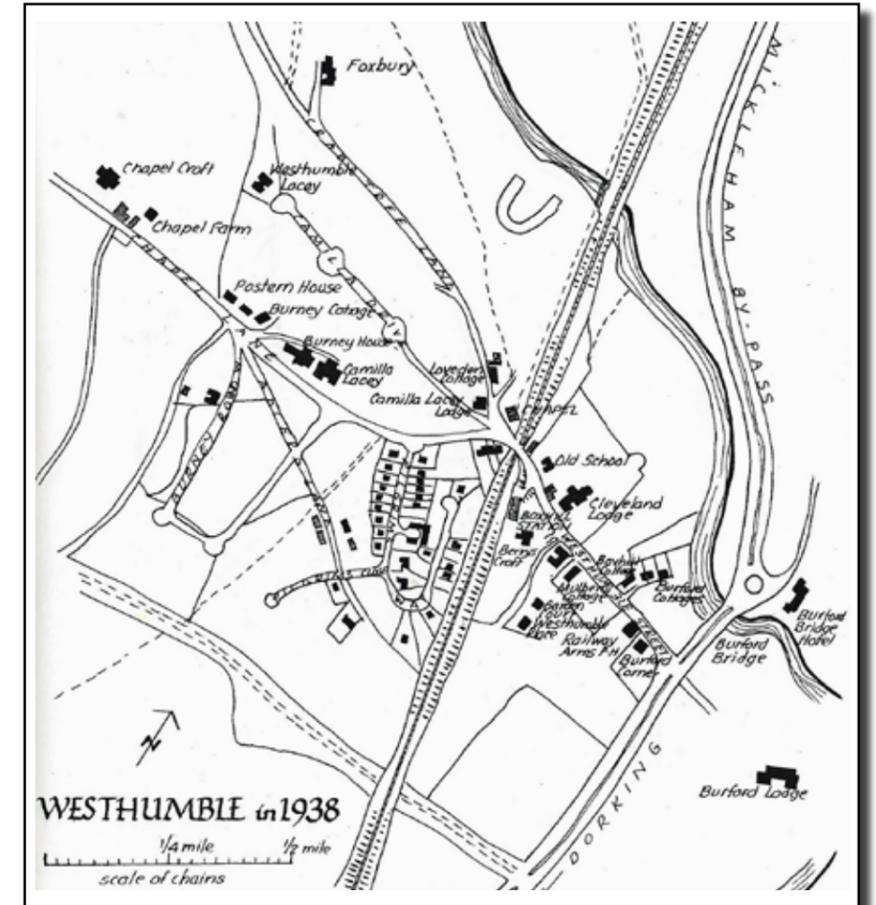
The war ended in 1945, and there was a desperate need for more houses to replace those demolished by bombing. However, the country was in the grips of severe austerity with very few cars, rationing and a lack of building materials. This led to building licences limiting new houses to 1,000 sq ft of floor space. Many of these houses in Westhumble are still standing, although most have now been extended.

The rapid growth of the community prompted several prominent residents to take action to solve problems that needed urgent solutions. Westhumble did not have a parish council and they decided to form a Westhumble Association.

The inaugural meeting was held on 19th July 1945 at *The Railway Arms* – now the *Stepping Stones* Public House, with 80 residents attending. Sir James Jeans of *Cleveland Lodge* was elected president and Judge Lloyd-Jacob KC of *Fredley* as chairman. Rules were agreed (to include members from *Fredley* which at that time was considered part of Westhumble) and arrangements made to have the rules, membership cards and headed notepaper printed. Sub-committees were formed to deal with specific issues.

The WA flourished. By the end of the first year, membership had grown to 197 and at least ten committee meetings were held to deal with the many urgent matters:

- The need for a shop and sub-post office: As few cars were owned and petrol was rationed until the early 1950s all shopping had to be done via a bus or train. It was proposed to rebuild the 'blue box' (the kiosk in the station's car park opposite the entrance to the booking hall). The tenant however was not interested and after two years the matter was dropped. It was not as dire as it sounds – in the 1950s there were house deliveries including milk,



Plan showing how the Camilla Lacey Estate was divided for auction. However the whole estate was bought by a young Property Developer, Lionel Dibden who had already developed much land around Sutton and other areas of Surrey. He and his wife were killed in one of the early passenger airline disasters in 1933.

Lot 1 – All the portion north of Chapel Lane, including mansion, numerous buildings and parkland. In the end the house with five acres was bought by E J Baker founder of Baker Motors Ltd who divided the mansion, naming the smaller portion *Burney House*. He also converted the old riding stables – latterly the garage – into a residence as *Burney Cottage*, and the guest house became *Postern House*. The remainder of Lot 1 became *Camilla Park*.

Lot 2 – That portion south of Chapel Lane, consisting of the Home Farm and all its buildings. This land plus *Camilla Park* was developed as a new residential estate, principally *Camilla Drive*, *Pilgrims Way*, *Pilgrims Close* and *Burney Road*.

Lot 3 – A brick and tiled 'Block of Superior Modern Cottages' near the Drive Entrance, all vacant. These were bought by Anne Weaver's great-uncle Earnest Fitter. Anne and Gerry live in one of these cottages today.

One of the developers of *Pilgrims Way* was *Portwell Ltd*, founded by John Portwine, who with designer John Weller built the AC motor car. They converted the Home Farm buildings into dwellings, and built two thatched houses next to them for themselves.

groceries, meat and bread. When we arrived in the '60s many of these services had ceased.

- Bus stop and shelter: The stop near the corner of Westhumble Street and the A24 was request only with no shelter. After much negotiation, a shelter and compulsory stop were agreed in 1947.

- NAAFI buildings in the field on the corner of Westhumble Street and the A24: These had been erected in 1943 to serve the Canadian Army billeted in Mickleham and Westhumble prior to D-Day in 1944 and were now redundant and an eyesore. The WA pressed for them to be removed.

- An open space (children's playground): As there were young families moving into the newly-constructed houses, a large plot at the very far end of *Pilgrims Way* was identified and could be purchased for £800. This was excessive – £400 was thought to be the value. The developer would not agree, and funds were not available. After three years the proposal failed.

- Street lighting: The only light was on the railway bridge and that was damaged.

It took five years of negotiation for the present lights to be erected.

- A village hall: There was nowhere to meet in the village except at the *Railway Arms* which was not suitable for children's parties etc. It was proposed that *Cleveland Lodge Barn* (by the bridge and now converted to a house) would be suitable. It was occupied by the YMCA whose lease expired in 1946. However, Sir James Jeans would only accept yearly tenancies and it was considered unwise to spend a considerable sum to make it suitable without a long lease. The need for a hall rumbled on for a further 20 years without an acceptable solution being found.

Sir James Jeans resigned as President at the AGM in December 1946 over the issue of the YMCA and Judge Lloyd-Jacob took his place with Mr Burrell as Chairman.

Michael Hallett

Editor's note: The two maps and further information about the development of the Camilla Lacy Estate was taken from *The Manor of Wistomble in the Parish of Mickleham, a local history* by Ronald Shepherd, published in 1982 by the Westhumble Association. Now out of print.

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Visit to Abinger



Goddards' courtyard



St John's Church, Abinger

On a warm, sunny morning in June, our group assembled outside St James's Church in Abinger. Inside, we were welcomed by Tony Berry, the Rector, and Peter Borrowdale, one of the churchwardens. The interior has a very light and airy feel and much of it is modern, for reasons that became clear when Tony gave us an overview of the history. A church in Abinger is recorded in the Domesday Book and it is thought there may have been a Saxon church on the site before the Norman Conquest. The oldest part of the current church is a 12th century wall opposite the entrance. Like St Michael's in Mickleham, St James's underwent extensive alterations and restorations, particularly in the 19th century. Unfortunately, the church suffered catastrophic damage on two separate occasions in the 20th century. In 1944 a flying bomb exploded nearby and brought down the roof of the nave, the belfry and part of the walls, leaving only the 13th century chapel intact. The organ and most of the furnishings were also destroyed. In 1964, only thirteen years after the church had been painstakingly restored, lightning struck the tower and the ensuing fire caused significant damage. Further restoration took place and modern stained glass was installed in the east window in an eye-catching contemporary design. More recently, the cedar shingles on the church spire have been replaced with oak because

woodpeckers were causing extensive damage to the softer wood. In the churchyard we looked at the war memorial, designed by Edwin Lutyens and particularly interesting because it includes the name of a woman, Grace King, *Dames des Cantines Anglaises*. These *Cantines Anglaises* in France were organised by the Women's Emergency Corps during WW1 to provide allied troops with meals, accommodation, cigarettes and washing facilities. Grace King died in Paris in 1917 and was awarded the *Medaille des Epidemies* by France and the British War Medal. She was the daughter of an Abinger builder and is buried in the churchyard with several family members. Following a pleasant lunch in the garden of the Abinger Hatch, conveniently situated directly across the road from the church, we continued down Abinger Lane to Goddards where our guide was waiting. We learned that Goddards was built by Edwin Lutyens between 1898 and 1900 for Frederick Mirrielees, a wealthy businessman who lived in a house nearby called Pasture Wood, where Gertrude Jekyll was making a rock garden for him. He wanted Lutyens to build a holiday home for 'ladies of small means', consisting of a Common Room with a cottage at each end, on a plot of land he had acquired called Goddards. The house had no bathrooms and was intended for summer use only. In 1910, Lutyens

extended the house and modernised the facilities because Mirrielees was expecting his son and daughter-in-law to move in, although it appears this never happened. The 'ladies of small means' were moved to a converted barn at Pasture Wood. Mirrielees died in 1914 and his widow leased the property to Arthur Gibbs who bought it after she died. Arthur Gibbs was a keen local historian and a churchwarden at St James's Church. He wrote a series of papers on the history of the church which have been transcribed and can be found on the church website. Both he and his wife are also buried in the churchyard. After his death, the Hall family bought Goddards in 1953. They were in the building trade and had re-roofed Buckingham Palace. In 1991 they gave Goddards to the Lutyens Trust in memory of their son Lee. To keep Goddards properly maintained it is now leased to the Landmark Trust and used for holiday lets. Our visit was well-timed. The house was unoccupied and we were able to see the first-floor rooms, normally off-limits to tour parties, as well as the ground floor. Approaching the house from the rear we admired the courtyard garden planted by Gertrude Jekyll and surrounded on three sides by the house. At the time the house was built Gertrude Jekyll was writing *Old West Surrey*, which describes the rural way of life rapidly disappearing at the beginning of the

Continued >>>

>>> 20th century. The influence of Jekyll and her book are apparent throughout the house, from the combination of Horsham stone and clay tiles on the roof to the hole in one of the gables made for an owl. Inside the house, the Common Room, which now functions as a dining room, was particularly impressive with a fireplace constructed from local handmade bricks, bottle glass windows

and a decorative but extremely complicated metal door lock. The Skittle Alley was popular with our group and contains the original lignum vitae balls. Running along the south side of the house it was often used by Abinger villagers in the evenings. It was also used for village meetings after St James's church was bombed in 1944. Upstairs we wandered through a series of bedrooms and bathrooms

before ending our tour in the library, where we could browse through a copy of *Old West Surrey* and be thankful we no longer need to suspend kettles over open fires and use warming pans in our beds as illustrated in the book. As we made our way back through the garden to the car park in the sunshine it was easy to see the attraction of Goddards as a holiday destination.

Judith Long

Update on other Research Projects

In addition to the task group activities, individual members of the group have been engaged in their own research. Mick Hallett has written the history of the **Westhumble Residents Association** and Barry Moughton has looked into the history of **Cleveland Court**. Ben Tatham who has been a governor of the school for many years has produced the first draft of a **History of the School Buildings**. We made copies of school records, logbooks etc before they were passed on to the Surrey History Centre, and now we are looking for someone to tackle

the history of the school's educational development and related activities. In addition, Ben has written the first draft of the **Early Years of Mickleham Village Hall**. Here again the history of the hall's management and various activities over the years is awaiting further research. Angela Ireland is searching early 20th century parish magazines for relevant information.. In 2017 Sue Tatham gave the first of her guided tours of St Michael's Church and now she is bringing together the information she amassed during her tour preparation as well as that from

further research to write a series of articles on the **History of Mickleham Church**. The first three of these have been published in the parish magazine. During their work on the churchyard and archives Judy Kinloch and Judith Long have identified subjects of interest and through further research have written individual articles about **local individuals and families**. There is scope for much more individual research and we are hoping to generate further interest in this at this year's Annual General Meeting.

From our archives - then and now photographs



Box Hill & Burford Bridge Station LB&SCR London, Brighton and South Coast Railway became part of Southern Railway in 1923 Note roof over footbridge



Box Hill & Westhumble Station today With Southwestern Railway trains to Waterloo and Southern Railway trains to Victoria

More Then and Now Photographs Mickleham School's Buildings

These photographs and notes were supplied by Ben Tatham who has been researching the history of the school.

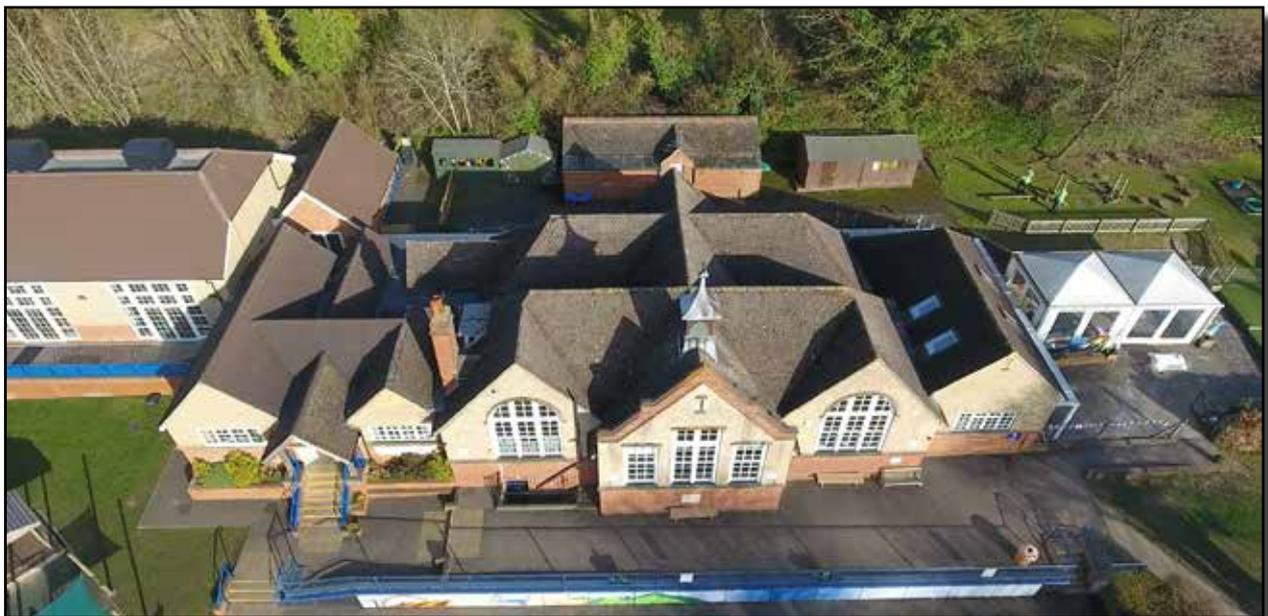


Britain from Above (Aerofilms 1920) aerial photograph of Byttom Hill and the school.

Construction of the new National School, replacing the original one on Byttom Hill, started in 1907 and its appearance had not changed by 1920 – the date of the top photograph. The fence down the middle of the playground was to separate the boys and the girls. The allotments behind the school are believed to have been a response to the food shortages in WW1

Going up Byttom Hill, Elm Cottages are on the left and further up on the right is the King William IV, with the three Fernbank cottages attached to the right. These have since been demolished

This detail from a much larger aerial photograph taken in 1980 shows the original buildings with the addition of a small office at the top left hand corner of the buildings – hidden by trees. It is not known when this was added – it was very small and was used by the head teacher and the administrative staff. The space is now used for the pupils' toilets. The separate building partially hidden by trees near the top left corner of the building is the 'temporary' mobile classroom erected in 1965 and only replaced by the new school hall in 2015. School Lane is in the foreground.



This 2018 photograph was taken by the Diocesan building department to try out a drone for assessing the condition of school buildings. The three bays with the tall windows are the original school buildings.

The rest of the buildings were added in stages between 1995 and 2015.

Note: the name 'St Michael's' was only added in 1980 during Gwyn Anderson's time as head teacher.