

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



February 2017

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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

**FEBRUARY
2017**

Mickleham Parish Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble, published under the auspices of Mickleham PCC, with an independent editorial panel.

The magazine is published at the beginning of each month, except January and August.

**COPY DEADLINE
FOR THE
MARCH 2017
MAGAZINE
Sunday
5th February**

send to:

Sue Tatham
St Anthony, Pilgrim's Way
Westhumble
Dorking RH5 6AW
01306 882547
sue@thetathams.co.uk

Contributions in any form are welcome, as are good quality photographs. There is no charge for advertising local charity and community events. However, the editors reserve the right to shorten, omit or reformat articles submitted for publication, depending on space.



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Mickleham Rectory

Dear friends

With hundreds of thousands dead and millions fleeing their homes, how do you even begin to pray for a situation as terrible and complex as that taking place in the Middle East? This has been my concern for some months now. When I pray, can I really believe that my prayers will make a difference? 'Dear God, I pray for peace in the Middle East' sounds rather vague and unrealistic.

But recently I came across some thoughts from a frontline Tearfund worker who has been involved in the Syria and Iraq crisis – someone who felt the same challenge as I have felt. Rather than trying to pray for the big picture, this person began to start small:

- If anyone is planning a suicide bombing today, may the detonator malfunction
- May a weapon aimed at an innocent person miss its target
- May a barrel bomb dropped today land on empty ground
- May a weapon shipment be damaged in transit
- May a planned attack be put off by adverse weather conditions (such as a sandstorm)

And what about the many people outside the reach of aid either because numbers are too great for the available resources or because they are trapped in areas too dangerous to access? There is a story in the Old Testament about the prophet Elijah and a widow from Zarephath (1 Kings 17) whose last remaining jar of flour and jug of oil kept flowing without running out. Dare I pray that the food packages would stretch to feed even more people in those areas where supplies are very limited?

Of course, we will never know if such prayers are answered for the media only tells us of attacks that do happen and lives that are lost. But if TOGETHER we prayed, I do believe that the cumulative effect will begin to turn the tide.

Mother Teresa once said: 'We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.'

With best wishes

Malcolm

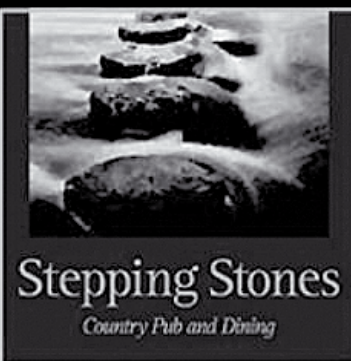
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We shall be running the course on Tuesday evenings from 7th March (missing out 11th and 18th April) and everyone is welcome. Do let Malcolm know directly if you would like to join us (rm.raby007@btinternet.com) so that we can plan accordingly.



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New Mickleham & Westhumble Youth Group

Starting Friday 10th February

See page 26 for further details



The Friends of Leatherhead Parish Church are pleased to invite you and your friends to join them for a **concert by the The Brandenburg Choral Festival of London at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on Wednesday 8th February at 2 pm to 4 pm.**

The Chapel belongs to Her Majesty The Queen in Her Right as Duke of Lancaster. It is the last surviving building of a hospital founded by Henry VII for homeless people in 1512 and is a beautiful, intimate space for a concert with a fine acoustic and a splendid Walker organ. During the interval the Steward will give a short address describing the fascinating history, heraldry and provenance of the Chapel. Further information from June Robinson junerobinson9@btopenworld.com

Malcolm, our Parish Priest, is more than happy to visit people in the parish (with or without church links) to discuss pastoral and/or spiritual matters. He is also happy to offer home communion to those not able to attend church on a regular basis. Just contact him.

Photograph: Colin Wyld



St Michael's by Night

Again this year in mid-December as if by magic the entrance to the church porch was flanked by lovely Christmas trees festooned with lights. Upon investigation we discovered that the trees were supplied by *The Running Horses* and installed and decorated by Jason Wilson & David Mann.

Many thanks to the Runners and to Jason & David. There is no doubt that the trees provide a special festive touch for all to enjoy.

In fact this was the tenth Christmas when the trees have appeared – originally funded by donations and instigated by Mark Day.

Christmas 2016

CHRISTMAS CAFÉ

Another Saturday and another Christmas Café at the Westhumble Chapel began to take shape on its third annual appearance. The weather forecast was not sounding too promising (last year we wallowed in 15 degrees) but then it WAS December. I for one was hoping for dry, warmish weather, being the only stall holder out on the chapel forecourt dishing out mugs of mulled wine (7 litres worth to be precise!)

With a little help from our friends, the chapel became decked out with Christmas foliage and decorations and as the morning progressed our stallholders started to appear with their goods, which included, quilts, Christmas gifts, shoes, cushions, glass items and Angela's excellent-value Barnardo's cards.

By opening time, a steady flow of people had begun to arrive. Mulled wine was proving to be a popular beverage (sorry, Gerry, who was doing a grand job with the tea urn, but no competition for the alcohol).

As daylight faded the chapel took on a real Christmassy feel, with fairy lights both inside and out, and the chapel itself positively buzzing with shoppers. By the end of the afternoon everyone agreed that this had been another very successful 'reach out' to the community and beyond. Once again the chapel had become a place, where the community were making good use of this extraordinary building within their midst.

Jenny Hudlass
If you require any further information about using the Chapel contact Anne Weaver 01306 883932.



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Running Horses was as ever an excellent choice for the Christmas lunch. The food was delicious, all pre-ordered thanks to Stephanie managing to circulate the menu and pin everyone down to making their choice. Attended by a mix of people from the village, spanning the generations, most were members of the breakfast club. As a relative newcomer myself, it was

a great way to connect with some familiar faces and some new ones. Conversation flowed and moving places for pudding gave us all a chance to chat with other people. Thanks to Stephanie for organising such an enjoyable lunch.

Melanie Child



MEN'S BREAKFAST CHRISTMAS DINNER

The merry men of the Mickleham Breakfast Club had the opportunity to become even more merry for the first MBC Christmas dinner the week before the main event. The group, limited to 24, filled the bar of *The Running Horses* for a few pre-dinner beers before moving into the restaurant. Whereas the breakfasts are normally convivial and restrained events given the time of day the dinner became progressively more convivial as the evening went on.

The 'Runners' staff coped admirably, there were no fights, the food was great even though there was not a turkey in sight. Thanks to Andy Diamond for organising the event. Everyone had a good time and tottered off full of Christmas cheer.

Phil Randles



CAROLLING PUB CRAWL

On 23rd December St Michael's Church had organised carol singing: two villages, three pubs in two hours. When I arrived at *The Stepping Stones* (Westhumble) just after 7 p.m. it was filling up with people of all ages wanting to either sing or listen to a few carols. A number of familiar carols were sung including some requests. I really enjoy the evening although it is a little hectic meeting people we already know and making acquaintances along with soaking up the party atmosphere of this festive event.

After a mince pie it was a quick dash to *The Running Horses* (Mickleham). This had a very different atmosphere it was busy with people in the bar, some out for a quick drink which they were not going to get or waiting to be seated in the restaurant area. Our core group sang at all three pubs with others joining for one or two warmed up their

voices for another set of carols as they sampled the drinks on offer. The quality of the singing and enthusiasm of all who participated including the pub's clientele added to the ambience. It was a squeeze coordinating everything in the packed pub.

Then the dash to our third and last pub the *King William IV* where a welcome drink aided the singing of the now well-practised carols. Thanks go to Richard Siberry for leading the singing and all the singers. Thanks also to the pubs for their hospitality, especially *The Stepping Stones* with its mince pies and the King Willie for the nibbles and drinks. During the evening a collection was taken for Kigezi Water Project in Uganda and for those suffering in the Middle East. This along with the collection at the Christmas Eve Crib service came to just less than £400 – a fantastic amount. We should think of those less fortunate than us during this time – thank you for the donations. Looking forward to seeing all of you at next year's carol singing.

Jonathan Blake

Many thanks to Jonathan for organising this very special festive event.



CAROLLING IN THE CHAPEL RUINS

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Chapel ruins in Westhumble on 20th December to join our band of carol singers. The weather was very nearly perfect, almost completely dry and a little bit cool to put us all in the Christmas spirit. Malcolm kindly led the singing and a very hearty sound was made. After about half an hour of stirring singing we de-camped to Chapel Farm for mulled wine and mince pies. It was lovely to welcome so many of you to the farm and to see lots of new faces. The horses and donkeys enjoyed meeting you all too! It is a treat for them to have so much attention. We took a collection in aid of The Gambian Horse and Donkey Trust and counted an amazing total of £250. Your support for this great little charity is much appreciated. Do have a look at their web site to see the work that they do in Gambia. Looking forward to seeing you all again at the end of this year.

Liz Absalom

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Photographs: Meridith Shiers

Christingle Sunday

For our annual Christingle Service and workshop this year we tried a new format – holding them both on the same morning rather than the workshop on the Saturday followed by the service on the Sunday. A good number of families congregated in the school hall at 9.45 on Sunday morning for an action-packed hour of craft making activities. Letters to Santa, decorated crowns, Christmas decorations, baubles and a host of other Christmas-themed crafts were set about with great enthusiasm. The children were ably assisted by parents, grandparents, church members, school governors and students from Box Hill school. An efficient production line was

set up for the assembling of Christingles – holes in oranges to hold a candle, red ribbon around the orange and of course the cocktail sticks holding the sweets and dried fruit. Around 80 were produced, the children proudly holding their own and trying to avoid eating all the sweets before arriving at church! Some spares were also available for those who went directly to the service. The school hall was buzzing with excited children in what was, of course, the run up to Christmas.

At 10.50 a.m. a steady procession of happy children clutching their precious Christingles and a glittery bag of home-made Christmas crafts set off for church

from the school. The climax of the church service was the children holding the lighted candle in their Christingle. A reverent hush fell as each child concentrated on holding tightly to their candle and trying to avoid setting light to the hair of the little girl in front! The children sang beautifully and listened attentively as Malcolm explained the meaning behind the Christingle.

All in all it was deemed to be a successful morning. Thanks must go to Meredith who prepared all the crafts, set up the school hall and arranged refreshments for helpers, parents and children. A great start to the Christmas preparations. Sue Raby

Christmas Eve Crib Service in Westhumble Fields

On a lovely dry and mild Christmas Eve, a large collection of people met in Alders Lane for our annual crib service. A number of sheep, lambs and a donkey joined our largest procession to date. It followed the star to a field outside of Bethlehem (Mickleham) where, around a fire, the story of Mary and Joseph was superbly read by a number of narrators.

The procession was led to a stable where Mary and Joseph came to rest, in time

for the arrival of baby Jesus – Oliver Kirk, who following in his brother Benjamin's footsteps from three years ago, played the role brilliantly, lying quietly in the manger. The story continued at the stable with shepherds and wise men visiting Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and more sheep and lambs came to visit the stable and settle around the manger.

There were mince pies at the end of the service, providing a tasty finale to

a memorable crib service and evening. We would like to thank everyone who came on what was for most a very busy day. Thank you also to all the children who took part, to their families for supporting us, and a special thank you to Gerry Weaver and Jonathan Blake who provided all the technical support and built the stable, it looked beautiful.

Thanks too to all the people who helped and to Anne Weaver and Malcolm Raby for putting it all together. Nicola Kirk

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

Mickleham's Three Farriers

Part 3 - 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.



The Guyatt Forge date unknown

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 >>>>

This photograph, date unknown, 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!

The Guyatt Family continued...

>>>> 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 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.

Mickleham War Memorial Booklet

We have a few spare copies of the recently published booklet recording the historic profiles of all the men listed on the Mickleham War Memorial. If you would like a copy (£5), please contact Sue Tatham 01036 882547 sue@thetatham.co.uk

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

AGM followed by

'The History of Betchworth Castle'

An illustrated talk by Martin Higgins, who bought the castle for £1 in 2008

Friday 24th February

7.30 for 8 p.m. Mickleham Village Hall

Photograph from the Brockham Village Website



The Year of the Rooster

Photograph: Royston Williamson



At the end of January we entered the Chinese Year of the Rooster – in fact, this year, the Fire Rooster or Red Fire Chicken. Surely this has to signify a special year for the Dorking area, with its famous Dorking Cockerel. Visitors to the Dorking Museum are often intrigued by the magnificent Dorking specimens displayed and the fascinating history of this renowned breed, dating back to Roman times and much favoured over the years by poulterers, breeders and exhibitors – and Queen Victoria. See more in the museum (and our popular little book on The Dorking Cockerel, available in the Museum, online and at local outlets, £2.50).

Dorking Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

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Mickleham Parish Council Our 465 bus service is under threat!

Transport for London (TFL) are reviewing a number of bus routes including that of the 465 which links Dorking, Westhumble, Mickleham, Leatherhead and Kingston. One of the options under consideration is to terminate the service at Leatherhead, where the bus would turn round and return to Kingston, thereby leaving the residents of Mickleham without a bus service to Dorking or Leatherhead. The 465 is used by a large number of people in our community, for some it is the only

means to travel further afield. We must ensure it has a future.

Please send your individual emails, outlining your dependency on the service to all of these addresses:

• Leon Daniels, Chief Officer for Surface Transport, Transport for London at leondaniels@tfl.gov.uk and also at customerservices@tfl.gov.uk

• Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, SCC mike.goodman@surreycc.gov.uk

If you do not have an email account, ask a neighbour to assist you.

Please also copy to Duncan Irvine duncan.c.irvine@googlemail.com and Tim Hall cllr.tim.hall@gmail.com because they will be collating the main body of correspondence to re-present to TFL if and when the time comes.

It is vital as many emails as possible are sent as soon as possible. If we wait until the public consultation process has officially started it will probably be too late. And once the service has been discontinued, it will prove incredibly difficult to get it reinstated in the future.

Trevor Haylett, Clerk

Knitting for Charity



No doubt many of you will remember being asked at some time to knit blanket squares for charity; in fact, I probably knitted several myself because it was a good way to practise my stitches.

I would like to introduce you to another charity which is in desperate need of blankets, but these are special, they are small, baby blankets for memory boxes. You may have a family member, friend or have personal experience of the devastating effect of a stillbirth or neonatal death. There is a charity called 'Sands' which supports families, friends and professionals through this dreadful time and one way in which they do it is by giving memory boxes. An important item in each box is a small, white baby blanket. This can be knitted or crocheted to their specific pattern.

It would be wonderful if we, as a caring community, could supply some of these blankets. The patterns can be

downloaded from the Sands website <https://www.uk-sands.org/get-involved/other-ways-to-help> or I can give you a copy if that is easier. If you do not knit or crochet but would like to be involved, then ask a friend to make a blanket on your behalf and give them the wool. The patterns are very easy to follow and can be completed in a couple of evenings while you watch your favourite programme or during a long journey.

Completed blankets may be left at the back of the church, or given to me, and I will send them off in one parcel on behalf of everyone. I would like to send the first parcel off in time for Easter, and if there is enough interest, then a further parcel could be sent at the end of summer.

Thank you for your help in this. Do not hesitate to contact me on 01306 883932 or weaver_anne@hotmail.com if you would like further details, or a pattern.

Anne Weaver

REMEMBER!

Will Dennis is abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in aid of local charities on 2nd April.

Donations to:
www.virginmoneygiving.com/WillDennis
Help make this a whole Parish outreach.

Dorking Barnardo's Helper
Group invites you to

SHRUBS FOR SEASONALITY

a talk by JIM GARDINER
Former Curator of RHS Garden, Wisley and
Executive Vice-President of the RHS

Wednesday 15th March
7.30 p.m.

Mickleham Village Hall
Tickets £12.50
to include refreshments

Angela Gilchrist
01306 884613
ar.gilchrist@btinternet.com



Lent Lunches

St Michael's Church is looking for people willing to host a lunch in their home sometime during Lent. The idea is to provide a simple lunch (eg. soup, bread & cheese and coffee/tea) and for people to give a donation.



The host can deduct any expenses and the money raised will go to local projects such as the Food Bank and Kids for Kids. For more information please contact Malcolm Raby 01372 378335 or rm.raby007@btinternet.com

November Westhumble Talk

Emptying the dishwasher will never be the same again...

Those of us who attended the last Westhumble talk of 2016 were in for a real treat. Peter Spence, well-known comedy scriptwriter, told a series of funny stories and accompanied himself on the piano singing some hilarious songs. There was a serious underlying message too, about the decline of true comedy writing and shortage of meaningful or witty lyrics in modern songs.

Peter, who lives in Dorking, has contributed to a series of radio panel games and television programmes over the years, being best remembered for *Not the Nine O'clock News*, *Father's Day*, *Rosemary and Thyme* and his own creation: *To the Manor Born*.

This latter programme was so amazingly popular that it still appears twice in the top twenty of the 'All Time Best Watched Television' ratings list, with approximately 24 million watching one episode and 22 million viewed another. Over a third of the country's population tuned in regularly on a Sunday evening. Pubs, snooker halls and churches were emptied, causing many

evensong services to be rescheduled to accommodate viewing habits. Peter chuckled over this point when he recalled that the local vicar's wife had previously advised him 'It's a bit of a waste of your life – writing skits for TV'.

Fittingly, the theme tune of *To the Manor Born* by Ronnie Hazlehurst was the first piece that Peter played for us on the piano. Then we were treated to a comic song about the pitfalls of staying in other people's houses with their idiosyncratic plumbing, obstacles and hazards for the unwary. How difficult it can be, though, politely to refuse such an invitation and one hears oneself saying 'How kind!'

Bawdy madrigals were possibly the first record of comic songs in this country, followed by sea shanties, Victorian Music Halls, musical theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, singer-songwriters like George Formby and Hollywood Theatre. The Jazz Age also produced such memorable lines as Fletcher Henderson's 'My sweet tooth says I wanna, but my wisdom tooth says No!'

fame in their own right in the 1940s. They were all cool dudes, like Lerner and Loewe or Cole Porter, with their customary smart outfits, two-tone brogues and cravats. Their songs were written with precision engineering; they were well-crafted, interwoven and easy to remember.

Very few of these household names were women, with the exception of Dorothy Fielder with *The Way you look tonight*, *Sunny side of the Street* and *Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again*.

Peter illustrated their craft of slick writing and clever rhyming with *You're the top* from 'Anything Goes' by Cole Porter in the English version by PG Woodhouse. This is an excerpt:

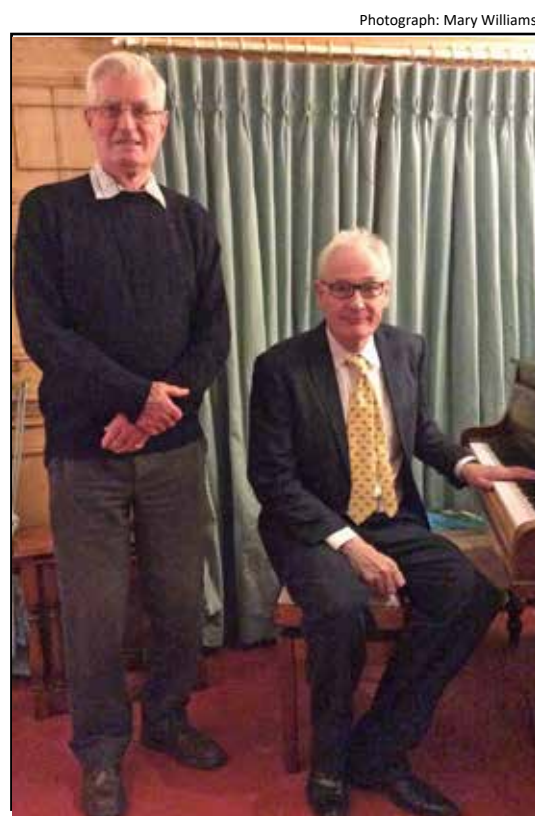
'...You're the Nile, You're the Tower of Pisa. You're the smile on the Mona Lisa. I'm a worthless cheque, a total wreck, a flop. But Baby, if I'm the bottom you're the top.'

What went wrong? Why did song lyrics decline from the 1950s onwards? Even when the artist gave a good performance, the words were often dreadful. Peter put the cause of this demise down to the growing popularity of the guitar in all its forms.

That instrument, especially the electric guitar, had taken over from other forms of music. Songs had become rhythm-based, with the lyrics drowned out by a series of chords that are difficult to transcribe. It was no longer about the music and lyrics, but rather the visual performance, with stage shows and dance steps. People rarely listen to the words nowadays and there is no longer that implied contract of communication between the listener and the performer.

There were a few notable exceptions who could still write meaningful words, like Paul McCartney and Bob Dylan (recently awarded the Nobel Prize for poetry) as well as the late lamented Leonard Cohen. On the whole, though, craftsmanship was beginning to wane as witnessed by Don McLean. When he was asked what the words of his song 'American Pie' meant, he said "It means I never have to work again in my life".

>>>>



Westhumble Talks Chairman, Mick Hallett (left) and Peter Spence

The mid-twentieth century was rich in talent, like Flanders and Swann, Bernard Cribbins (*Right, said Fred*), Peter Sellers (*Goodness Gracious Me*), Tom Lehrer (*A song for WWII*). People such as Victoria Wood and Jake Thackeray wrote songs for real drawing room entertainment. Unusually, that was what we were enjoying on that evening in Westhumble in the Gilchists' lovely drawing room, but it is a disappearing pastime.

Cue another of Peter's own witty songs about the mail order catalogue with the odd things you can order that you never knew you wanted – the answer to a prayer – like bedroom slippers with headlights or a bra that turns into a putting green.

There are not many well-known lyricists nowadays in the way that they enjoyed

Westhumble Talks continued...

>>>> Peter finished with a few more of his own songs, in particular one about nervous young love. When he was a teenager he said that his glasses used to steam up at the thought of being in a room with a pretty young girl. (If only he'd known then what he knows now – that he could achieve the same effect just by emptying the dishwasher). Anyway, the nervous young man in the song found himself on the sofa with a young lady and started to unbutton, unzip, unclip and untie. He thought he

was making progress until finally... the sofa-cover came off in his hand.

Once before, when Peter had told that story, an elderly lady had approached him and he expected to be reprimanded until she confided in him that 'Emptying the dishwasher will never be the same again'.

Most songs are written by young people for young people. To redress the balance, he sang one for older people on the theme of 'What did I come upstairs for? I forget' and the last line was '...in a bungalow'. He finished

with the lyrics 'Let there be love in your hearts and may the sum of your parts add up to more than your whole'. Not a bad maxim for us to take home.

These songs and stories all sounded so much better when performed by Peter Spence with his mastery of comic timing and a twinkle in his eye. The audience really appreciated the fun and enjoyed a most entertaining evening. Our grateful thanks must go to him and also to Angela and Clive Gilchirst for hosting the evening and lending their fine piano for the occasion.

Mary Williams

Next Westhumble Talk

Climbing The Munros

by David Kingham

Wednesday 22nd February

8 p.m. Chapel Barn, Westhumble



Please book your place with

Secretary Stephen Lloyd

01306 883482 / shlloyd@btinternet.com

Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society

Leave the mess until Spring!

Overall, I find January a rather depressing month. Celebrations are at an end and it seems a long haul before spring and warmer weather. So, what should we be doing? Traditionally, from autumn onwards we should have been cutting back dead stems in preparation for a fresh start when the growing season kicks in. This appeals to those who like a tidy garden, no brown stems or mush BUT you tidy up at a price. Mess is what you have to embrace so the entomologists and biologists tell us if you wish to provide insects of all

kinds with somewhere to hibernate. Old stems, dead leaves and spent seed heads will all protect insects, their pupae and larvae, and help prevent the top layer of soil being washed away by heavy rain or high winds.

Meanwhile, if you are at a total loss, you can always keep busy pruning apple trees or vines as long as it is not too cold. The compost bins, if contents are sufficiently rotted, can be spread on to flower beds or vegetable plots as a mulch as long as no frost is on the ground. I shall not be doing this on the

vegetable garden just yet as there is a good growth of annual winter weeds, such as chickweed, and their reliable flowering provides a source of pollen and nectar. These can remain in the ground until they are about to set seed as emerging pollinators will welcome them. The problem is to catch the right moment to take them out!

So put down those secateurs (you might send them off for sharpening if you have Felcos, as they do a full service for a minimal cost), and your hoe. For the time being, just leave it be.

IN MEMORY OF RAY WILSON:

There is a full obituary to Ray Wilson elsewhere in this magazine but I would like on behalf of the Horticultural Society to record our sadness at his death at the end of last year. We knew that Ray was not well during the year but he continued to contribute in every way he could and in August he chided me when I questioned whether he was well enough to put up the

show banner and posters in Westhumble for thinking him no longer capable. Needless to say, he and George Swallow carried on regardless.

Ray had been a long-time member of the committee, preceding me by some years, and carrying out numerous roles during this time. Latterly we relied upon him to charm the judges for the show to

come to us; no one could charm people like Ray, as witnessed by his huge number of friends and acquaintances, as well as his outstandingly successful collection of membership subscriptions each year. Ray, you will continue to be much missed.

Judy Kinloch





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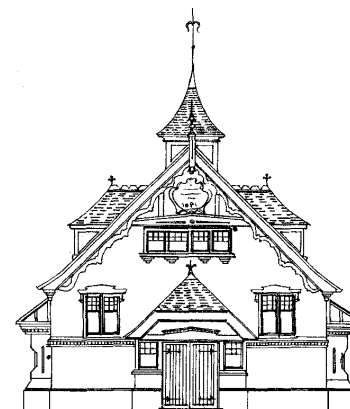
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01306 885502

mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Mrs Lyn Richards

01737 842889

lyn@mra.uk.net

Box Hill School

Headmaster – Cory Lowde

01372 374814

hmsec@boxhillschool.co.uk

Dorking Cricket Club

Chairman – David Spackman

07831 859232

david@theimagecompany.co.uk

Dorking Concertgoers Society

Ian Codd

01306 882544

Dorking Group of Artists

Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth

01737 24491

patriciabooth100@gmail.com

Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

Jim Cattermole

01306 883629

jim.cattermole@uwclub.net

Juniper Hall Field Centre

01306 734501

enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

Head of Centre – Simon Ward

Simon.lr@field-studies-council.org

Friends of Juniper Hall – Mrs Suzy Hughes

01372 275393

suzyhughes@businessetiquetteint.com

Mickleham Children's Playground Association

Secretary – Mrs Sarah Parfitt

07767 891772

sarah@sarahparfitt.com

Mickleham Choral Society

THURSDAYS 8 - 10 P.M. – Mickleham Village Hall

Conductor – Miss Juliet Hornby

01372 373106

Secretary – Mrs Anne Weaver

01306 883932

www.micklehamchoral.org.uk

weaver_anne@hotmail.com

Mickleham Old Box Hillians Football Club

Secretary – John Atewell

01372 374745

Mickleham Parish Council

SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES www.micklehampc.org.uk

Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland

01372 379381

rev.ireland43@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk - Trevor Haylett

trevor.haylett9@gmail.com

Mickleham Parish Magazine

Editor – Mrs Sue Tatham

01306 882547

sue@thetatham.co.uk

Mickleham Village Hall

Chairman – Ben Tatham

01306 882547

ben@thetatham.co.uk

Bookings Manager – Mrs Deanna Darnell

01372 388474

07790 941601

d_darnell_MVH@hotmail.co.uk

Mickleham & Westhumble Book Club

Mrs Bernice Bailey

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bpbailey_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Continued on page 16.

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of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

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01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd Malcolm Raby 01372 378335
07810 088594
rm.raby007@btinternet.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Anne Weaver 01306 883932
weaver_anne@hotmail.com

Simon Ward 01372 383350
simonward@btinternet.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Sarah Ward 01372 383350
sarwar_63@hotmail.com

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Elizabeth Moughton 01306 883040
eliz.moughton@btinternet.com

TREASURER

Richard Siberry 01372 375303
Siberrman@aol.com

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Christopher Connett 01306 743061
c.connett@btinternet.com

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Mrs Vickie Leney 01306 884054
vleney100@gmail.com

WEDDINGS CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Jane Denny 01306 883107
carsondenny@aol.com

FUNERALS ORGANISER

Brian Wilcox 01372 374730
dbrianwilcox@sky.com

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

*For information about services for other
denominations see website pages.*

Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

CAN YOU HELP BY HOSTING A LENT LUNCH?

SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS

PLEASE CONTACT MALCOLM RABY
01372 378335
rm.raby007@btinternet.com

FOOD BANK

Donations for the food bank may be left
at the back of the church

Calendar of Events February

2	Thursday	11 a.m.	Bible Study Group meets
5	SUNDAY – 4th before Lent/5th Sunday after Epiphany		
		8 a.m.	Holy Communion (Order 2)
		10 a.m.	Worship Together & Fairtrade stall
9	Thursday	11 a.m.	Bible Study Group meets
10	Friday	15 p.m.	New Youth Group starts. Village hall
12	SUNDAY – 3rd before Lent (Septuagesima)		
		8 a.m.	Holy Communion (Order 2)
		10 a.m.	Holy Communion
		11.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer. Westhumble Chapel
18	Saturday	9 a.m.	Men's breakfast. The Running Horses
19	SUNDAY – 2nd before Lent (Sexagesima)		
		8 a.m.	Holy Communion (Order 2)
		10 a.m.	Holy Communion
20	Monday	8 p.m.	Worship Group meets
22	Wednesday	8 p.m.	Westhumble Talk -'Climbing the Munros.' Chapel Barn
23	Thursday	11 a.m.	Bible Study Group meets
24	Friday	7.30 for 8 p.m.	M&W Local History Group AGM and talk on Betchworth Castle. Village hall
25	Saturday	9 a.m.	Women's breakfast. The Running Horses
26	SUNDAY – Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)		
		8 a.m.	Holy Communion (Order 2). Chapel
		10 a.m.	Holy Communion
27	Monday	3 p.m.	Tea@3. Old House, Mickleham

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th March – WRA AGM
Wednesday 15th March – Barbardo's talk 'Shrubs for Seasonality'
Sunday 2nd April – Will Dennis' abseil for charity

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Downtown Mickleham 13th January 2017

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*More helpers needed – please contact
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Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE CRICKET CLUB

Team Secretary – Will Dennis 01372 372684
will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Chairman – Mrs Judy Kinloch 01372 375358
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs mail@jkinloch.plus.com

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
ben@thetatham.co.uk

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor – Duncan Irvine 01306 885001
07738 384287
duncan.irvine@molevalley.gov.uk

NADFAS SOCIETIES

Betchworth – Miss Mary Venning 01306 883301
Dorking – Mrs Sue Tatham 01306 882547

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Ranger – Graham Manning 07968 832508

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (A) INFANT SCHOOL

Headteacher – Jeremy Smith 01372 373717
info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

Friends of St Michael's School – Mrs Meredith Shiers

meredithshiers@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY

WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Supervisor – Mrs Hilary Budd 01372 361021

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor – Mrs Hazel Watson 03456 009 009
01306 880120
hva.watson@btinternet.com

WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman – Mike Giles 01306 884598
mike.giles@mac.com

WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury 07860 227451
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE TALKS

Secretary – Stephen Lloyd 01306 883482
shlloyd@btinternet.com

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE

Dorking – Lyons Court 0844 4111 444
Leatherhead – Swan Mews, High Street 0844 4111 444

POWER CUT HELPLINE

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CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

POLICE

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Dorking Police (non-urgent) 01483 630370

Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural North

PC 40541 Lee Munday leemunday@surrey.pnn.police.uk
PCSO David Sadler Sadler8761@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Babysitting by local teenagers

Chris Rowland 01372 376712

Freya Pearce 01306 884724

Olivia Parkin 07887 367850

Isabella Pererira 07515 489067

Issy Nash 01306 742762

Ailsa McNaughton* 01306 887408

Patrick Moran 01306 640043

Ellie Kim 07773 395575

Ailsa Graham 01306 889855

Anna Forti 07557 964530

Alexa Dewar 01306 884744

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* In holiday time only

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Ray Wilson 1932 – 2016

Ray Wilson was born in 1932 to a family with deep roots in the countryside of East Kent. His childhood and teenage years were spent in Canterbury where his father Albert was a clerk in a local electricity company, with summer holidays spent picking apples and hops with his brother Edmund and mother Olive.

In 1939, Hitler stepped in and brought an end to this peaceful and uneventful childhood, and although Ray and Edmund were too young to take an active part, Canterbury was targeted during the 'Baedeker Raids' of 1942. These attacks devastated the centre of the city but also affected the outskirts where the family lived. Ray had clearly developed a mischievous sense of humour by this time. In addition to more standard pranks such as pushing a pin through an eraser and placing this on his father's dining-room chair, on one occasion he substituted a fire-poker for his father's Home Guard bayonet holder, only to be discovered at the evening parade. During the blitz he became adept at imitating the sounds made by falling bombs, with which talent he terrified the more elderly inhabitants of the local air-raid shelter.

During his schooldays Ray made a name for himself with his sporting achievements, excelling at racket sports and long-distance running. He continued playing squash for many years and was a member of cross-country running teams during his time with the police. His days at Simon Langton School ended in 1950, having distinguished himself by his aptitude for languages. As normal for the time, Ray was then called up to fulfil his national service obligations and he chose to join the RAF. His language talents were immediately appreciated, and he was recruited to the newly established Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL), which ran a very intensive two-year course in Russian. It was the time of the cold war and should it ever have developed into something warmer, Ray's training would have been of essential service.

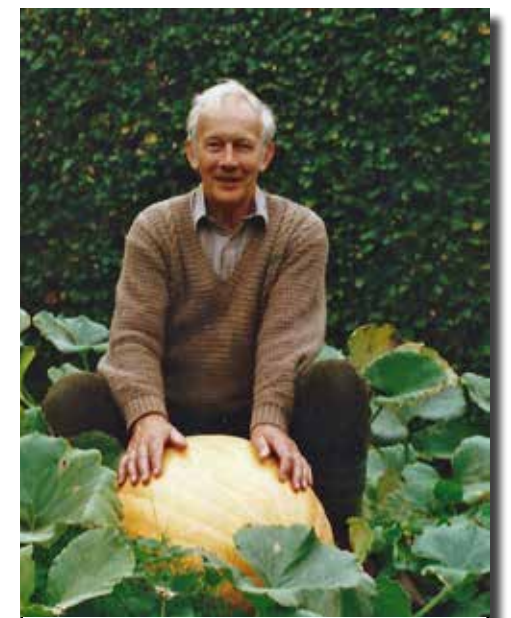
While the JSSL was initially based in

Cambridge, it moved in 1951 to sites in Coulsdon and Bodmin. Fortunately he was posted to the second of these, and it was here that he met Maureen McCabe. The relationship had initially to be conducted at a distance, but Maureen pursued Ray to London on completion of his national service, and they eventually married in 1956 in Bodmin.

In 1953 Ray joined the Metropolitan Police. After spending a three-year apprenticeship on 'the beat' in London which included being propositioned by prostitutes in Soho, and being baffled by his first encounter with a - then - novel group of cannabis-smokers, he joined the Special Branch, dealing with terrorism and diplomatic protection. He spent 27 years with the Special Branch, rising to the very senior rank of Chief Superintendent. The highlight of this career was the time he spent as the personal protection officer to the foreign secretary Lord Home (aka Sir Alec Douglas-Home) in the early 1970s. This work involved a considerable amount of foreign travel including to China, USA and USSR, where his rather rusty translating skills were invaluable. This knowledge was put to good use some 30 years later, when in his retirement he wrote (together with his ex-colleague Ian Adams) the definitive history of the Special Branch. His leadership style can be best summed-up by some of the many tributes that have been paid by former colleagues:

'Ray's soft spoken, calm confidence was a welcome change from those used to a more obvious style of management. He was clever, witty, and good company'. 'Ray was such a kind man, and had an impish sense of humour, mostly self-deprecating. I have never heard a bad word about him.' 'The very epitome of what a senior officer should be.'

While serving with the police Ray lived initially in police accommodation in central London, then with Maureen in Putney and in Carshalton, where in 1960 their only son, Philip, was born. This gradual movement outwards from London then took Ray and family



to Carshalton Beeches, Tadworth and eventually Westhumble, where Ray and Maureen lived from 1983 onwards. Tragically, Maureen died in 2000 from cancer, and perhaps Ray never fully recovered from this. In her memory Ray helped to endow a prize for exceptional students of nursing and midwifery at The University of Surrey where Maureen had worked for many happy years.

After leaving the police force in 1983, Ray joined a 'branch of the civil service' which can now be referred to as MI5. After nine somewhat secretive years, he finally retired to take up more leisurely pursuits. He will be well known for his love of gardening, entering much of his produce in the Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society shows. The pumpkins were notorious. In his 70s he embarked on an academic career, taking a BSc in English Literature at Birkbeck College, followed by an MSc in Victorian Studies and several other courses. He could not be persuaded to start a PhD! After he finished writing his book in 2015 he suffered a potentially serious illness from which he made a total and very rapid recovery, and he was planning to make a start on the family history. This was sadly never to be, as he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September 2016, from which he died at the age of 84 on October 27th. He will be greatly missed by his innumerable friends, neighbours, ex-colleagues and family.

Phil Wilson with help from
Bob Bryan and Edmund Wilson

Reginald Percival Carter 1922 – 2016

We were very sorry to receive the sad news that Reg Carter had died on 30th December. Reg was born in Carshalton in 1922 where he and his two sisters started school life at St Mary's Convent School. He later attended independent schools. In 1936 he entered into an apprenticeship for shopfitting, but this was interrupted by WW2. He joined the RAFVR as a Radio & Signals Operator. In his memoirs he recalls that he 'landed in Arramanches on D6 (six days after D-Day, 6th June 1944) with my squadron whose task was to follow the army, setting up airfields on our way up through Northern France and the Low Countries to Germany. There were four of us in our Bedford truck which was fully equipped with communications gear and our job was to follow the convoy, acting as a mobile communications unit at each of the airfields being built *en route* to Germany. Although hampered by bad weather, we managed to accomplish the task'. Shortly afterwards he was posted to Egypt and then Kenya before making his way by land and sea back to Lancashire where he was demobbed.

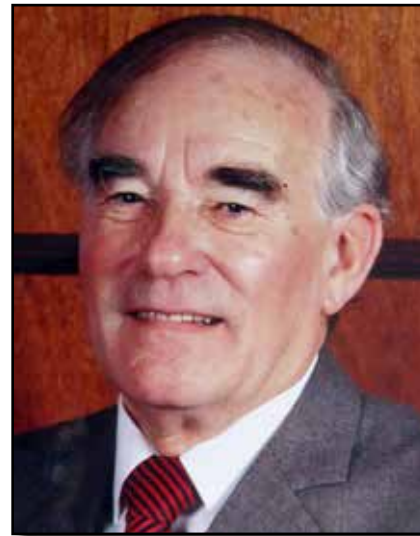
After the war Reg emigrated to South Africa where he joined a large shopfitting organisation with Head Offices in London. During the following six years he completed his studies and gained valuable experience in all sections of the industry. On return to England he re-joined his pre-war company and was very much involved with the building and fitting out of the London Planetarium. His company had its own amateur dramatic group which he joined as a stage hand and it was there that he met his future wife, Joan. They married in 1953 and had three sons Neil, Stephen and Ian.

Upon leaving his London firm Reg set up his own company R P Carter (Shopfitters) Ltd in Horley; Joan was Company Secretary. The company expanded and after eight years moved to larger premises in Crawley. Its clients were banks, airlines and multiple retailers.

Reg was a keen Rotarian and an active member of the Horley Rotary Club and through his contacts in Rotary he formed an associate company with a long-established building firm based in Amsterdam. The company continued to expand including acquiring a long-established business in Shoeburyness. During his years in business Reg held several key positions in the industry and at East Surrey College, ultimately becoming a Fellow of East Surrey College and of the Faculty of Building as well as an Honorary Life Member of the Building Employers Confederation.

In 1992 when Reg turned 70 he decided to retire and Neil became Managing Director.. Joan had already retired as Company Secretary. They had moved to Burney Road, Westhumble in 1970 and in their retirement they became even more active in community activities as well as enjoying many holidays abroad. They were both regular members of St Michael's congregation and enjoyed the social events in the parish, generously supporting local projects.

Reg liked to have things just so – his immaculate lawn with its precisely mowed stripes bears witness to this. Joan's sudden death in 2007 was a great shock to him. He once confided that Joan, 10 years his junior, was not supposed 'to go first'. There is no doubt that he found being on his own quite a challenge, but he continued to take a great interest in community



and church activities. He arranged for Neil to make the display case for the Book of Remembrance in church. Neil's company also made the cupboard which houses all the equipment for serving refreshments in church.

With increasing age Reg became less mobile, but with magnificent support from his neighbours, friends and latterly carers as well as his loving family he was able to stay in his own home until nearly the end when a chest infection took him to hospital.

One of Reg's projects in his retirement was to compile a scrapbook of photographs, newspaper cuttings and other memorabilia about local events and people which he kindly gave to the village archives about a year ago. On the last page he included his own photograph and a copy of his 'memories', which ends with the statement that 'living in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with a loving family and friends, life was all worthwhile'.

We send our deepest sympathy to Stephen, Neil and Ian and their families.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Reg's life will be held in St Michael's Church at 12.30 on Monday 30th January.

Tony Gosling

We are sad to record the death of Tony Gosling (87) of Burney Road, on 30th December and send our condolences to Janet, Stewart and Tim. We hope to include Tony's obituary in next month's magazine.

Local Home wanted for Fred

In April, Ann Vickers, daughter of a former landlord of *The Running Horses*, is planning to return to Mickleham from Spain. She will be living at the Almshouses and won't be able to keep her lovely German Shepherd, Fred (10) which she does not wish to leave behind. If someone nearby can offer it a home, Ann will pay its expenses.

If you can help, please email Ann at r.a.vickers1@gmail.com

Westhumble Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting 2017
Tuesday, 14th March
8 p.m. at The Stepping Stones

Mike Giles will be standing down as chairman, but most of the committee are happy to continue. We would like some new residents to join the committee – membership is open to all Westhumble residents. If you are interested, please contact Mike Giles mike.giles@mac.com or make yourself known on the night.

Also contact Mike if you wish to add a topic to the agenda or for a copy of the agenda, 2016 AGM minutes, annual report and accounts before the meeting.

The WRA Email List

The WRA regularly sends security bulletins and local information to residents on its email list. To add your name to the list email: wra.list@icloud.com – your personal details will not be shared with others.

Community News

Deepest sympathy to Liz Weller whose brother, John Elton, died unexpectedly in Ledbury on 30th November.

Farewell to Yvette Lane who has moved from Dell Close to Dorking.

Welcome to:
• Steve Lawrence and Carol Alexander and their children Ellie (15) & Jake (19) who have moved to Dell Close from Bookham;

• Paul and Gina Bowie and family who have moved to Camilla Drive from Bookham;

• Alison Dudeney and Nick Dodds who have moved to Old London Road from Outwood via Leith Hill;

• Angelina and Elton James Rae who with Callum (7) & Valentina (5) have moved to Pilgrims Way from Pixham Lane.

• The Woodall family who have returned to their house in Dell Close.

Congratulations to Sebastian Fleming-Smith (11) who won the top prize in a national competition to design a new board game. He is the son of Chandos and Pandora Fleming-Smith of Mickleham Hall.

Congratulations and best wishes to Rosana Elias and Max Henderson who were married in London on 10th December. Rosana is the daughter of Marta and the late Chris Elias of Pilgrims Way.



JACK

Answer on page 26.

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KING WILLIAM IV



Hey Peeps

I am writing this by the pool in Cape Verde – our reward for surviving a crazy busy December. It was fabulous that so many of you came to see us for carols, quizzes or drinks - thanks

The team and I will hopefully be refreshed and raring to go for 2017 now that we have had a break. I have some fresh ideas, one of which will be of direct benefit to our neighbours in Mickleham and Westhumble. Will keep you posted

Happy new year – hope to see you at our **Pub Quiz on Monday 6th February.**

Eamonn and Anne

Byttom Hill, Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com



Update on the situation for Superfast Broadband for Mickleham on the 01372 Telephone Exchange

Given that this article went to press on 8 January, some parts of it will inevitably be out of date by the time you read it. Many of you will have received this information via email. If not please contact Mary Flint maryflint8@gmail.com to be put on the mailing list to receive the full information. Also by doing this you authorise your email being added to the mailing list which is also used for parish council purposes.

Important decisions are needed on the options available to us and this is too big an issue to be left to one or two people within Mickleham. This must be a collective decision from a defined working group representing Mickleham. There is a short time scale – mid-February. This is the future of our village.

In the email we asked for a reply by 29th January. If you have not already replied it is still important to email us. **We need your commitment. It is not too late to let us know whether you favour Option One or Option Two.**

Option One – Funding from Surrey County Council (SCC)

With this option we wait for the Superfast Surrey programme to come to its conclusion, continue to lobby and hope that we are included.

As it stands, a sum of £3.8 million has been approved to provide fibre infrastructure to as many of the 15,300 premises in Surrey that have been identified as 'Target White'. Mickleham is a Target White area. However, Superfast Surrey (the SCC broadband entity) is at pains to point out that if a solution is identified for us, SCC will not know for some time if any, all or some of the Mickleham premises will benefit from this further funding and that this solution may not be the same as (ie. as good as) the solution provided by a Community Funded Partnership. SCC should be able to confirm by 'early 2017' what postcodes will benefit but not the actual premises. To quote from Superfast Surrey:

In any given Intervention Area postcode, all, some or none of the premises may benefit. SCC will not have sight of which specific premises will benefit from further funding until the deployment has taken place.

In short, Surrey are unable to tell us if all, some or none of us will benefit from this further funding. We will only know once it is done. How long the deployment will take is also unclear.

Will Dennis has been working extremely hard in trying to seek clarification for us. However, to date we have no clear indication that Mickleham postcodes will be included.

Option Two – BT Community-Funded Partnership

With this option we contract by mid-February 2017 to pay BT up to £8,339 (half then and half on completion of the work within 12 months), plus set-up and running costs of an operating company.

Will Dennis has been negotiating with BT regarding their 'Community Funding Partnership'. This is when a community raises the funds needed to have a new cabinet (green box) installed close to the area in question, e.g. outside Frascati. Will has managed to bring the cost of this down from over £20,000 to £8,399. For this, BT have stated that we would achieve a likely download speed of more than 24Mbps for most premises in Mickleham. But please note: (a) not all premises will benefit to the same level; and (b) Mickleham Parish Council probably is unable to contribute to the cost (this is being checked and considered). Most properties can expect a speed of more than 24Mbps. Some, mostly in the Norbury area, can expect a speed of less than 24Mbps. For the full list please contact me.

Clearly, having to raise money for what should be a universal infrastructure is not ideal. However, there are some members of the community who take the view that a pragmatic, proactive approach would benefit us all. The

purpose of this article is not just to update you but to judge the wider community's appetite for pursuing this course of action.

On a very simple level if every household contributed equally, it would amount to less than £100 per household. However, we will be looking into other options such as reducing the cost by vouchers worth £350 per house whose current speed is less than 2Mbps, via a government funded Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme.

If we do attempt this, each individual household will then need to rent a fibre broadband line from an ISP in the usual way. This can be your current broadband provider. The new cabinet will remain the property and responsibility of BT. There will be nothing to prevent those who have not contributed to the one-off capital cost from taking advantage of it, so the project would require a certain amount of community goodwill. If we do go down this route, we would also disqualify ourselves from the SCC programme, further details of which should be available in 'early 2017'.

If your household would be prepared to contribute to this Community Funding Scheme, could I ask you to contact Mary at maryflint8@gmail.com by email as soon as possible indicating this? Obviously this would not be in any way binding – it's just a straw poll to see how the economics would work and whether the idea is worth pursuing.

Mary Flint
maryflint8@gmail.com

Will Dennis
will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

Update – since this article was submitted for publication, it was announced at the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 11th that Surrey CC will confirm by the end of February 2017 which postcodes (not actual premises) within Surrey would benefit from the additional funding and have access to an improved Superfast Broadband service.



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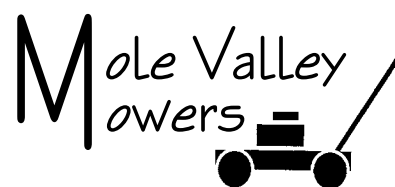
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Chris and James's Charity Drive around Europe



James Mcloughlin (left) and Chris Monella
with their trusty Peugeot 406 in the Alps

The Charity rally was a complete success with the £150 Peugeot 406 serving us well with no issues at all surprisingly, seeing us there and back. We even managed to be featured on a German prime time TV show driving the 406 around the Nürburgring. It was here we met another group of people doing another fundraiser for The Children's Trust so we decided to join forces and convoy for the rest of the journey with them. After returning to England we even managed to auction the Peugeot, achieving a further £400 for cancer research.

Along the trip, we travelled through France, Belgium, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Italy and San Marino. During the trip, we visited some amazing cities and landmarks including the single-track mountain passes on top of the Alps.

Since leaving in September for our journey around Europe we have been flooded with donations from friends and residents. Both of us would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you for helping us raise just over £2000 which went directly to Cancer Research.

Chris Monella and James Mcloughlin



Norbury Park – Winter 2016/17

A mild autumn was followed by some 'proper' winter weather – frosts and icy ground, and almost alternate days of thick fog or clear blue skies and sunshine. Norbury Park can look as stunning in its winter greyscale shades as it can in full summer colour!

Some of the Trust's beautiful Belted Galloway cattle grazed the various areas of SSSI chalk grassland from the end of August right through until the week before Christmas, 21 altogether but in two different groups. For the first time the whole of Walnut Tree Clump grassland was grazed as one area, with huge thanks to the Norbury Volunteers for their sterling work in putting up over 1000m of electric fence. Also thank you to the public who seemed to cope well with the squeeze gaps we provided to allow them, but not the cattle, continued access in and out of the area. Much as we hope that the cattle will keep the scrub down, even

this hardy native breed are in fact 90% grass eaters rather than liking bramble or more woody vegetation. So this year some areas have had a follow up cut by the tractor just to help control the scrub so that it doesn't start to dominate the more specialist chalk downland grasses and wildflowers.

A small amount of ride widening and coppicing has been done, again by our volunteers, in the southern end of Bookham Wood, but this year there were no major woodland projects planned – just a few little bits where necessary. One of the most important task though is Tree Risk Assessments, where the whole of the site is walked, assessing any trees that may pose potential safety issues particularly over public footpaths, bridleways and tracks. As you can imagine, on Norbury, with its vast network of paths, this takes a huge amount of time and diligence so I am extremely grateful to one of my colleagues, currently on maternity leave

(and fully trained at tree inspection) who has surveyed nearly all of Norbury this year, complete with infant (and Jack Russell)! If you do see any trees with a small green dot on them it doesn't necessarily mean they are condemned, just that they are worthy of further assessment and then work as and if necessary.

Did you know that historically there was a holly plantation in Bookham Wood and that this was harvested every December and taken up to London for people to buy to 'deck the halls' at Christmas time? If you have any bits of local knowledge or historical information like that about the Park, please do let me know.

Norbury Park Volunteer Group meets every third Friday of the month carrying out various tasks to help look after this valuable area of Surrey countryside. For more information, contact the Ranger Andrea Neal: andrea.neal@surreywt.org.uk / 07990 582291

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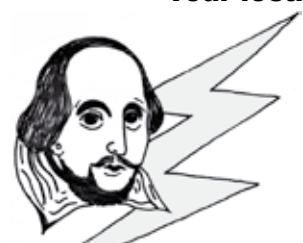
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The Animal and Plant Health Agency informed us at the beginning of January that our Captive birds (the chickens) should now remain housed until the end of February. This is due to the avian flu prevention zone, which has been extended from the initial month back at the beginning of December. So the chickens get to spend another month at chez Budd, and I get to really appreciate the automatic door the chickens have at nursery. Sadly chez Budd does not have such luxuries, but taking the chickens away from nursery, where they could come into contact with wild birds, does at least mean we are complying with the instructions of the Chief Veterinary Officer. So no eggs

for the child who is 'Star of the day' to collect at the moment.

Being 'Star of the day' is something the children really look forward to. Not only do they normally collect the eggs and take them home, but they get the chance to bring something in for 'show and tell.' We have a wide variety of show and tell items brought in, from a collection of shells to an old wasps nest, special toys and cuddlies, holiday photos, pictures of being a bridesmaid or even photographs of the new puppies their pet dog has just had, or... it may be a visit from the actual pets! Show and tell is a great opportunity for children to share their special things and events with their peers and the adults at nursery. The star also helps the adult find things from our sound box to show all the other children, and they help prepare the food for snack time.

Our snack is usually fruit, under the watchful eye of an adult, the star may use a sharp knife to cut fruit in half and quarters, to cut cheese into cubes, butter toast and to divide and count orange segments so we have the same



Star of the Day showing her new ballerina jewellery box

number in each section of the snack tray. Great mathematical learning!

This term we are using well known stories as a theme to our activities, starting with 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Please do be careful if you are walking about in Mickleham... you might spot a bear or two! Hilary Budd

Mickleham Choral's Christmas Carol Party

As we entered the village hall on the evening of Friday 16th December, we could not help but become part of the happy buzz of villagers and friends gathered to hear (and join in with) the choral society's Carol Party. Friends had been greeted and the swapping of news achieved when the choir began to assemble and a hush fell on the expectant audience. The choir, with ladies resplendent in Christmas glitter and the gents sporting seasonal pullovers, were ready to bring traditional (and modern) music to the waiting audience.

The opening 'Gaudate' was sung with skill and enthusiasm conducted by a shimmering Juliet Hornby. This was followed by more well-known carols before Katie Cox read a 1901 account of *Christmas in France*. In the next section of carols, Poppy Parfitt's young voice sounded sweet and clear over a ladies' choir in an arrangement of the Polish carol 'Rocking'. Mark Eagers read an extract from *The Diary of a Nobody*

before the third section of carols which included an ensemble performing to perfection

'Something Told The Wild Geese' by Beck and Field. This was, for me, one of the highlights of the whole programme. Mike Gibb had chosen a short reading from *A Letter to St Nick* by Alan Titchmarsh.

Close-harmony duets by Clare Kennington and Emily Heuvel were followed by Martin Cox telling us of Joseph's frustration at finding that his hotel booking had not been honoured. There was nowhere for him and his now-very-pregnant wife to bed down other than in sub-standard accommodation with animals. He was not happy! The audience were then galvanised into action for 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. We were split into twelve sets and Juliet demonstrated



Photograph: Ben Tatham

the action for each gift beginning with yes, 'a partridge in a pear tree'. I was very glad to be in the twelfth section as the 'partridges' had to bounce up and down twelve times to my section's one!

We were then able to relax in our seats to enjoy the last of the choir's individual items, sung with obvious enjoyment: the uplifting spiritual 'I Can Tell the World'. The choir finished with Ian Assersohn's arrangement of 'Jingle Bells' followed by everyone joining in with gusto for 'Hark the Herald'. Then, with all the chairs cleared away we tucked into the feast that was magically set before us.

A joyous evening full of 'The Christmas Spirit'.
 Beverley Mehta



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BRAIN TEASER answer: JACK IN THE BOX

PRESS RELEASE

Mickleham School a 'Hidden Gem'

OFSTED December 2016

The staff and children of St Michael's C of E, Infant School received an early Christmas present at the end of last term following a surprise visit from Ofsted, the schools' regulator. The 2016 Ofsted Inspection praised the progress children make, the high standards of achievement by the end of Year 2, the nurturing and caring ethos and the environment that the school provides.

Notable comments from the report related to the Christian ethos of the school and how it was evident in the children's attitudes and behaviour.

Pupils' spiritual development is very strong, supporting the clear Christian ethos of the school. Pupils are certainly well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Children get along with each other well, demonstrating strong personal, social and emotional development. Children make good progress from their starting points.

Ofsted December 2016

Headteacher, Jeremy Smith, who is in his third year at the helm, was delighted to share the news with parents of the attainment of a 'good' rating. Ofsted noted that the school continues to maintain its high standards following the previous inspection in 2012.

'We are very pleased with the positive feedback we have received, especially as government targets have been consistently raised. Our staff and governors will continue to work on improving our school to make it the best school possible' said Mr. Smith. St Michael's, located on School Lane, Mickleham, was described in the report as a 'hidden gem' which more people need to be made aware of. There are currently 70 children at the school across three year groups, with smaller class sizes, providing a small family feel in which every child is known by name. The school also shares close links with St Michael's Church, which continues to strengthen the



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School**

www.stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

Christian ethos the school provides, whilst also welcoming children of all faiths into their school family. St Michael's draws its pupils from the immediate locality but have many families travelling in from neighbouring Leatherhead and Dorking. The school provides a unique opportunity for those who are seeking a small school in a unique semi-rural setting.

If you have a child who can benefit from St Michael's, the team at the school are on hand to provide you with a tour so you can see first hand what the school offers.

To find out more about the school and admissions criteria visit www.stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk or call the school office on 01372 373717.

Prayer Spaces in Schools

Just before Christmas we ran our first 'Prayer Space' event in church for pupils of St Michael's (Church of England) School. Developing the spiritual awareness of children is an important part of education, and a 'Prayer Space' event offers the opportunity to reflect (at an appropriate level) on some aspects of the Christian faith. Each class came for 45 minutes and was divided into three groups. Each group looking at a particular aspect of the Christmas story. We heard from Mary (Sue Raby) about the birth of Jesus, from a shepherd (Jenny Hudlass) about what happened on the night of Jesus' birth and from two wise people (Julia Siberry and Alison Wood) about the visit to Jesus. Each story ended with an

appropriate activity to help children gain a deeper understanding of the events of Jesus' birth. Children left with a Christmas-shaped piece of shortbread, which was probably eaten on the way back to school!

The event was greatly appreciated by the children, and the staff at the school also felt it had been a positive experience for everyone and certainly something worth repeating in the future.



Many thanks to those who helped on the day and who dressed in appropriate costumes to make the morning memorable for all.

Answers to Christmas Bird Quiz

ROBIN, SPARROW, PUFFIN, OWL, WREN, NIGHTINGALE, QUAIL, EAGLE, IBIS, TIT, DUCK, BUZZARD, AVOCET, KINGFISHER, CUCKOO, MERLIN, FIRECREST, LAPWING, GANNET, VULTURE, HOBBY, JAY, UPUPA, YELLOWHAMMER, ZION, XMAS

Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 1 Defensive wall for regimental mascot (7)
5 Drive around Ulster for TV (7)
9 Interior can get a bit 18 (11)
10 How to get immediately won over (3)
11 Sorcerer may fascinate the queen (9)
12 Dog sounds hoarse (5)
13 Portray as boss in department (6)
15 Backslang is allowed in these messages (7)
18 The blazing heart of a dichotomy (3)
19 A chair - or the person in it? (7)
21 Dawns in America, finds French article in drinks (6)
24 Strips off to go back for a nap? (5)
26 Early form of 15 used by map heroes at sea (9)
28 One among the cetaceans? (3)
29 Bikes career around, but do they serve to relieve tension between people? (11)
30 Faces risks around the south-east (7)
31 Admitted you were fooled (5,2)

Down

- 1 Quietly floated the idea of getting hitched (6)
2 Regarding bike as alternative to using 9 (7)
3 Swing camera about a monarch during flat landing (9)
4 Cards volunteer nonsense (5)
5 Who complains most about cyclists? Mo sorts it out! (9)
6 Heading in yon or thither direction (5)
7 In a suit tailored for North Africa (7)
8 Disorderly 'Howdy Sir', a bit like Clint in Rawhide (8)
14 Rocket rests hurt - damaged nozzles (9)
16 Scottish go softly with limp to disembark here (9)
17 Panic is over sailor - here's a snack (8)
20 How to economise? In one word: futile! (7)
22 Said to be, for an adolescent, an essential part of life (7)
23 Time to add a little spice? (6)
25 Bird subject of petty verbal attack (5)
27 Strong point of US university visited by queen (5)



Snowman on church wall discovered early on the morning of Friday 13th January

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Parapet 5 Monitor 9 Incinerator
10 Now 11 Enchanter 12 Husky
13 Depict 15 Signals 18 Hot
19 Lounger 21 Sunups 24 Peels
26 Semaphore 28 Ace 29 Icebreakers
30 Kissers 31 Taken In

Down

- 1 Paired 2 Recycle 3 Pancaking
4 Tarot 5 Motorists 6 North
7 Tunisia 8 Rowdyish 14 Thrusters
16 Gangplank 17 Flapjack 20 Useless
22 Protein 23 Season 25 Snipe
27 Merit

RR-M



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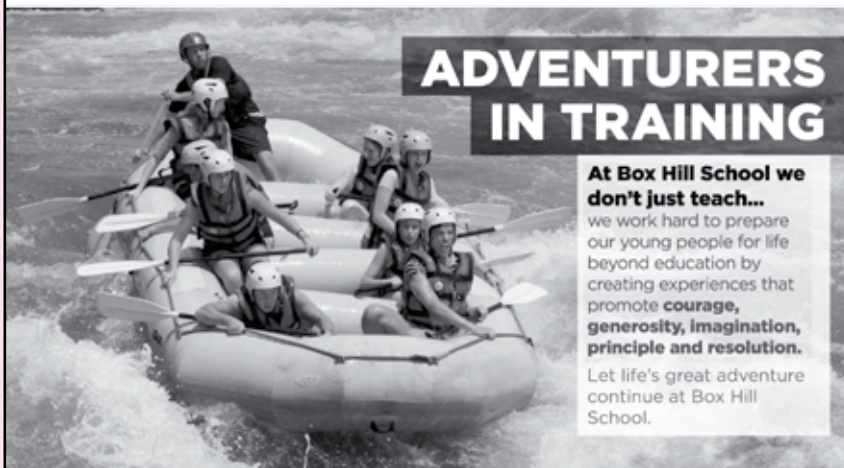
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