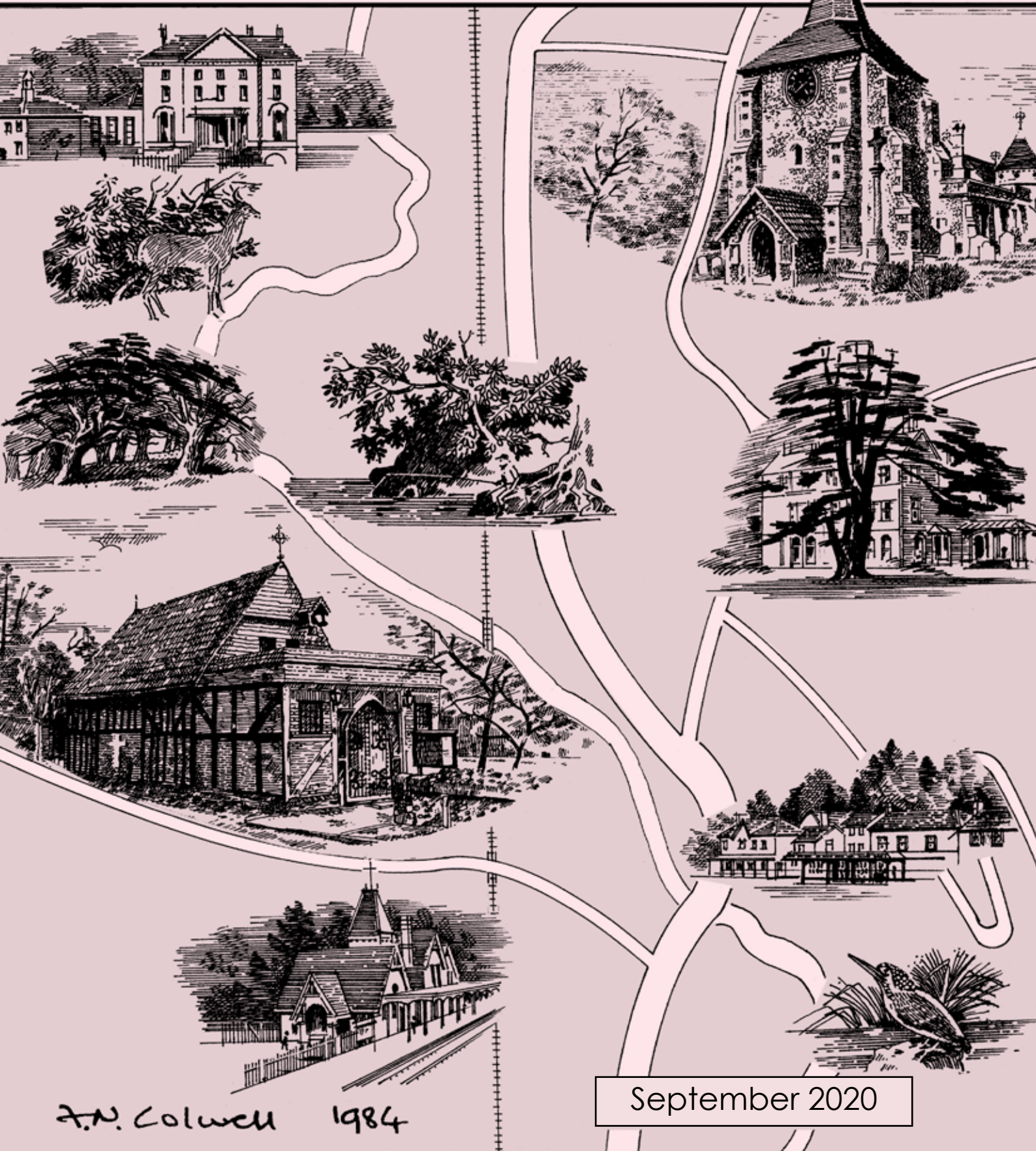


MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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September 2020

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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

September
2020

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
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send to:

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St Anthony Pilgrim's Way
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01306 882547
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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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The Parish Office
Leatherhead Parish Church Hall

Dear friends

As we emerge from lockdown, perhaps hesitantly, even a little fearfully, we will be discovering what our 'new normal' will look like. My experience is that, even in the darkest of times, the Lord will be working to bring something good, some form of redemption, out of the chaos.

The Sunday Bible readings over the last few weeks have all illustrated God's extravagant generosity, both physical provision in the form of food and water, and spiritual provision in the offer of salvation through His Grace.

The Revd Dr Charles Stanley, former senior pastor at the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, tells the story of his time at theological seminary in order to illustrate the concept of Grace.

One of his professors set a fiendishly difficult exam paper on the subject of Grace. The rubric at the beginning of the paper instructed students to read right through to the end of the paper before starting to answer the questions. As they read through the questions, each student felt their hearts sink as they realised that they had not done anything like enough study to answer the questions properly.

At the end of the paper there was another rubric. It said 'you now have a choice either sit the paper and answer the questions as set or sign your name here and get an A grade'. Charles Stanley and his classmates could not believe it, so read through the whole paper again. It was very clear: sit the paper and have it marked, or sign it and get an A grade. Charles Stanley signed.

One student decided to answer the questions. His paper was marked and he got a C+ grade, rather than trusting the rubric, signing his name and getting an A grade. Our culture insists that you never get something for nothing 'if it looks too good to be true, it probably is'.

The good news, the extravagantly generous good news, is that God's Grace and salvation are free to those who accept it.

Enjoy discovering your 'new normal', revelling in God's Grace.

With every blessing

Graham

Graham Osborne
Rector, Leatherhead & Mickleham

Memorial Lilies



In past years the flowers in church on Easter Sunday included an arrangement of lilies given in memory of a loved one. Sadly this year it was not to be as St Michael's had closed as part of the lockdown measures to combat the corona virus.

This lovely arrangement of lilies by Wendy Wyatt was on display on Sunday 9th August when we celebrated our first Holy Communion in St Michael's since the middle of March.

Lilies were given in memory of:
Ray Butcher, Joyce Nix, Angela Waters,
Joyce Salisbury, John Watson and
Eve Watson, Jane Blake, Kathlene
and Gordon Brown, Paul Brown,
Barrie Allen, Sean and Alice Harkin,
and Ron Presley

Want to Access Church Services via Zoom?

All our church services can be watched via Zoom. The weekly Zoom codes will be available in Pews News Online which is sent to all church members. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk or phone 01372 376443. The services are also available to watch on the church website: <https://www.micklehamchurch.org.uk/sundays.htm>

So what has been happening at St Michael's Church over the hot summer months of July and August?

The strict covid-19 restrictions which had closed the church completely from mid-March were eased from the beginning of July. The Churchwardens have had to battle with weekly detailed Church of England briefings about what can and cannot be done, but it was finally possible to open the church, initially for private prayer twice a week on Mondays and Fridays. Sunday services resumed from 26th July with visiting priest, Revd Michael Dunk. Social distancing rules mean that numbers are limited, everyone has to wear a face covering, and there is no singing of hymns, so things are still far from normal, but it is good to have the option of worshipping in the church building once again.

Some people are, of course, still being careful about going out and about, and Zoom has become a familiar part of church worship over recent months. For a time, we only had the option of Zoom services, a new experience for everyone but it is amazing how adaptable we have all become. We even carried on after the end of the Zoom services for Zoom coffee and chat, when some of our congregation appeared to join us from a boat in Turkey or a Caribbean beach, depending what virtual backgrounds they chose.

Now, thanks to the technical expertise and tireless efforts of Jonathan Blake and

Kelvin Pritchard, the church services can be live-streamed for those who cannot attend in person, or viewed later in the week on the church website. More information about how to access the Sunday services is given below.

Zoom has crept into other church activities: the two Bible Study groups and the monthly prayer group have continued throughout lockdown, meeting by Zoom. One group has met for socially distanced coffee on the Rec each week in August. These groups have been important support networks for many, and they were especially important in the early months of the pandemic. Unfortunately, Tea@3 and Breakfasts cannot now take place, the Lent Lunches had to be cancelled, and it may be some considerable time before we are able to host social events such as the Harvest Supper.

Surely none of us could have expected six months ago such a change in our ways of 'doing church'. We are thankful for the benefits of the technology and for the creativity and dedication of all who have contributed in whatever way to our continued church life. We hope and pray that in due course we will be able to be together face-to-face in church without masks and once again able to share the Peace with a handshake. Alison Wood

Brief Notes

Unfortunately there will be no Harvest Supper this autumn but we are investigating alternatives which might be a Zoom Quiz Night. More information to follow, but if you have any brilliant ideas, please let Sarah know: SarahJBI@outlook.com.

There is no news about when the Westhumble Chapel of Ease will be opening.

Please see the centre pages for information about services in St Michael's and the times it will be open for private prayer.

Reflections on walking over Roundshaw Down

Or Croydon Airport as it once was. It is my back garden, and the London Borough of Sutton has kindly turned it into a nature reserve – a great expanse of chalk meadow and heathland, dotted with spinneys, and spreading into vast playing fields, framed by walls of trees and hedges on all sides.

I see a thrush in the wood banging a snail against a stone. I haven't seen thrushes for many years, but they are on the way back. Today we have our visit from the kestrel; she is not hovering, but 'off, off forth, as a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend'. The wind is up to a strong breeze, which means I am nearly being blown away: it is in my face and the July sun is hot on my back as I walk under Hopkins's 'skies of couple colour as a brindled cow'. I reckon I shall do two-and-a half miles today. It is usually about that. Seldom less than two and seldom more than three. Along the dried-up river bed – no, of course it isn't anything of the sort: just a rugged and rutted mud path between the brambles and the hawthorn that most people shun for an easier route, and where the breeze is stilled and the air becomes a crucible. Up to the pheasant paddock, all fenced off, but you can get into it through several breaks in the fence. I call it that because we had a cock pheasant strutting through the long grass a couple of weeks back, with, on a second occasion, his mate shyly creeping along the hedge. I hope they are still about and not now on someone's dinner table.

That was when the cowslips were out; many more than I have seen in previous years. Now they have all been well and truly cooked by the June sunshine and hopefully we shall have even more of them next year when their seeds have been dispersed. The yellow rattle is over, too, and the field belongs to wild carrot and meadow cranesbill; to every sort of grass; to antirrhinums and kidney vetch; to dandelions and knapweed; to scabious and – soon – to tansy. Tansy is the name I gave one of my favourite characters. I love both the girl and the flower, and make a pilgrimage to find it along the bank that runs down the hill, parallel to the Purley Way, the back that forms the border with Croydon.

Croydon used to present a rather

attractive skyline, two miles away: like a graceful bar chart rising in the middle and falling off at the edges. Not so, now the monstrosity of a super-skyscraper has appeared at the north end. Luckily, from my kitchen window two or three trees have burgeoned in the last year or two and screen the horrible sight. I like those trees! I can't help remembering how, years ago, we had a drunken man reeling up the path towards them at about eight o'clock of a July evening. The treetops were the haunt of what we children used to call doodlebugs (cockchafer), and they were on their mating flights I suppose, looking for suitable sites to lay their eggs(?). Anyway, they came diving down to investigate our friend, who must have thought all the devils in hell were after him. I stood at the kitchen window and watched delightedly as he danced and flailed about.

We used to get the doodlebugs down in Kent when I was a child. They were the size of rottweilers. My sisters' bedrooms (but not mine – I was in the box room ('Well, a girl needs a bigger room, so there!')) – had open fireplaces, and the poor doodlebugs would fall down the chimney as we were getting into bed, land on their backs in the grate and struggle noisily to get onto their feet, before making their way, usually via the girls' hair, buzzing loudly, to the part of the window that didn't open (why do insects always do that?). I am ashamed to say I thought it was very funny. Come to think of it, I still do.

I shall miss out the ruined temple today: that lies at the other extreme of the reserve. I guess it is an old airport outhouse of some sort: almost buried in another stretch of woodland, long and low, one side dressed in ivy, and the end adorned with colourful and indecipherable graffiti on the crumbling brickwork. Sinister visions of Aztec sacrifices come to me when I see it.

In the middle of the field we have a fenced-off area where cattle are brought to over-winter, eating up the taller plants and letting the meadow flowers have their opening for the following year. And now it is home to meadow pipits, more again than I have seen before, and very pretty birds when you see them close-to. Easily

confused with skylarks for they behave similarly, hovering and trilling above your head, before parachuting down to the ground and then creeping around as if they really don't know what all the fuss was about. My favourite butterfly, the marbled white, is in command of the flowers. This year, though, no red admirals. Earlier, we had peacocks aplenty and lots of speckled browns. One special joy: more bumble bees than I have seen in many a year: last year, I might count fewer than ten on the walk. Not so now: they are all over the place. Honeybees too. But where are the wasps? I haven't seen any.

In previous years the blue sky has been ruined by con trails from all the jets heading for Heathrow. You see them coming over from the west, lining up on Croydon two miles away, and swinging around to establish their final run of some fifteen miles as they come in to land. In the old days, about four o'clock every day, Concorde used to come over. What a glorious sight that was! It had its own special roar: you could never mistake it. But the absence of the other jets has been a bonus down here on the ground. We can hear the birds. And in the night you can see the stars once more. (Well anyway, more than you could, this near to London.)

It is time to go back. Already this has been a lovely day. The Zoom service that Sarah organised, for which I played, was so beautiful. Later this afternoon, the first of this year's F1 races will be screened. But my book also awaits attention. 270 pages, and I am getting tied up in metaphysical knots that I must sort out. I don't know what my characters will think! Two years on it so far: none of the others took more than six months. And I must do some organ practice, ready for the session with my coach, Lizzie, on Wednesday; I am working up one of the Mendelssohn sonatas, which is well suited to the instrument I have at home. How will it sit with the Mickleham organ? Rather well, I fancy, but it certainly will not be easy. Let G M Hopkins have the last word. 'Generations have trod, have trod, have trod... The world is charged with the grandeur of God...' And so be it.

David Fishwick, Church Organist



We are hoping to run the Alpha Course starting at the end September. Graham Osborne will be leading it and it will be hosted by Liz Absalom at Chapel Farm in Westhumble (depending on covid-19 restrictions).

Please contact Sarah Blake on 07736 235709 or at churchwardens@micklehamchurch.org.uk if you would like more details.

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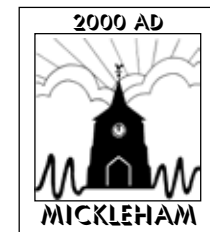
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BUS SHELTER
The end is
in sight for the
parish council
in its protracted

efforts to install a bus shelter at the
stop opposite the Running Horses
public house. With a breakthrough at
last in most of the negotiations to win
permission from Surrey County Council,
the highway authority, councillors were
left with one significant challenge to
overcome – raising the money to fund
the project.

An anonymous benefactor had kindly
offered some time ago to put £4,500
towards the cost, leaving another
£2,500 to be found. An appeal went out
to residents last month and very quickly
the target figure and more besides was
raised thanks to the generosity of a
number of individuals.

One final stumbling block with SCC
has now to be overcome and then the
order can go in. One possibility being

Mickleham Parish Council

considered is for the shelter to bear a
commemorative plaque to give thanks
for all those, nationally and locally, who
have played their part in tackling the
impact of covid-19.

• **ROAD NOISE** Councillors are
encouraged that the problems of noise
and disturbance caused by speeding
motorbikes and other vehicles along the
A24, and also through the village, are
being taken seriously by the authorities.
A Joint Action Group meeting to discuss
the subject has been called by Mole
Valley District Council and members
of the parish council have been invited
to attend.

There appears to be an understanding
now that the positive effects of the
speed cameras on the Mickleham
by-pass have had a negative effect on
Old London Road and it is hoped that
solutions can at last be found for the
on-going problems.

• **WHATSAPP GROUP** During
lockdown, the WhatsApp Group

proved of immense help to residents,
whether they were shielding or just
unable to get to the shops in the
normal way. Including residents in
Westhumble as well as in Mickleham,
numbers rapidly increased from 12 to
140 and gradually morphed from a
forum requesting and offering help,
to one providing a village information
service. It is now being considered
whether to split the group in two – one
channel to continue the community
forum and the other used solely as
an Emergency service – but for the
moment it is carrying on as one.

• **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** The
impact of covid-19 meant that the
Annual Parish Meeting, traditionally
held in May, had to be postponed. It
was hoped that it could be rescheduled
for September, but current restrictions
make that unfeasible. Councillors will
attempt to fix a new date at their next
meeting on 9th September.

Trevor Haylett, Clerk



The Dorking Group of Artists
October Exhibition 2020 at Denbies
Tuesday 6th – Sunday 11th October 10am – 4pm

The Dorking Group of artists is
an association of both full time
professional and serious amateur
artists. The Group's annual exhibitions
are an established part of the local
calendar and have become an eagerly
anticipated event.

Exciting News! The partial lifting of
lockdown and the re-opening of Denbies
Wine Estate, albeit with restrictions and
safety precautions has meant that the
autumn exhibition is now planned to
go ahead, but with an intriguing twist.
What will be unique and unusual this
year is that people will also be able to

view and purchase from the exhibition
concurrently online on a dedicated
website www.DGA.gallery which
will launch on 1st October while visitors to
Denbies themselves will be able to view
and purchase the actual paintings in the
Denbies Gallery.

Visitors to both the virtual and the
physical exhibition will be able to view,
browse and choose from 100 original
works of art – in addition, purchasing
could not be easier with fast and secure
online payment. With the focus this
year on affordable art, we are also
offering free local delivery. If we are
unable to exhibit at Denbies because
covid restrictions have changed, our

exhibition will still be online to view
and purchase.

On a note of reassurance, there will
be stringent precautions in place at
Denbies with hand gel dispensers at
various points of entry, including entry
to the exhibition, social distancing,
clear signage and the requirement
to wear a face covering, to ensure
everyone's safety.

Art takes on a completely new
dimension and value in such uncertain
and troubled times as it brings happiness
and possesses the ability to uplift,
intrigue and inspire. We therefore hope
you will be able to join us in October,
whether in person or online.

Please clean up after your dog

Dog fouling is a problem everywhere, but especially around the flats in Swanworth Lane.

This is a nuisance and a potential health risk and can incur a £200 fine.

Dog walkers are asked please to be extra attentive about clearing up wherever
they are. Dog mess is extremely unpleasant, especially when so many people
are taking exercise in the surrounding countryside.



Impact of Lockdown on National Trust and the Management of Box Hill*

Because of the huge loss of revenue due to the Coronavirus pandemic National Trust nationally needs to cut costs and plans to do this by restructuring its organisation to make it slimmer and more flexible. This will include making 1200 staff redundant. This will affect all parts of the NT including the Surrey Hills. Properties within NT will now be treated differently, concentrating on what is particularly significant for them and smaller properties will have less happening at them. Box Hill is categorised as a priority 1 property because of its importance for conservation and urban visitors and its complexity.

A new structure has been proposed for the Surrey Hills which is intended to support this by having people able to focus either on managing the visitors and ensuring they have a good time or on conservation.

Many of the posts at Box Hill are likely to change and this means that some current staff will have to apply for the changed posts or volunteer for redundancy or be made redundant. As you can imagine this is very unsettling for everyone and will remain so until the end of September when the consultation period ends, and people

have been appointed to new posts.

Despite this uncertainty, staff who are not furloughed are having to manage continuing high visitor numbers and enormous amounts of litter. They are also having to work out how to open facilities more fully whilst keeping a safe environment.

The servery is already open and there is a food van serving ice creams and drinks. The aim is to open the café as a 'grab and go' facility from 15th August with a one-way system and no indoor seating. Toilet facilities are open but with reduced cubicles which, as always, affects women more than men. Plans to expand Box Hill's facilities have been stopped together with almost all other projects across the NT. Sadly, the Discovery Zone will understandably remain closed and be the last facility to open.

Despite bringing back staff from furlough to do litter picking this has not been sufficient to address the problem. As the litter has not reduced with more places opening, NT has now made available money to bring in contractors to help. They will be picking up litter every morning throughout the summer period. The team are also looking at facilitating more local community litter picks and taking part in further

countryside awareness campaigns.

While all this is going on, the Box Hill countryside has been having to deal with very warm weather and drought with just a couple of weeks of drizzle and then extreme high temperatures. The good news is that most of the plants in new hedgerows planted at Chapel Farm just before the lockdown have survived.

*Extracts from the Friends of Box Hill Summer Newsletter

M&W Litter Heros at Work

Photograph: Kirsten Johnson



Photograph: Ben Tatham



Children playing in the Mole near the Stepping Stones



St Michael's Soups

Many thanks to all those who have bought St Michael's Soup Cookbooks or homemade jam during lockdown. We are delighted to report

that thanks to your generosity we have been able to send £300 to All Saints Coffee Shop in North Leatherhead; Allsaints is a social enterprise where local young people are trained in the skills of the barista and helped into work.

We still have lots of cookbooks left. Now that autumn is at hand, we hope your thoughts may be turning to warming fare. All the 27 recipes are tried and tested and delicious, and favourites of the contributors.

Mickleham Village Hall

Mickleham Village Hall has been closed since the lockdown started in March except for the Nursery which has continued to operate until it closed for the summer holidays. Normally there are few bookings for the main Hall during August. The government now permits community centres such as the village hall to open again except for certain activities like singing which by its very nature increases the risk of spreading the virus

We have received 37 pages of guidance on what we need to do when we re-open and we have prepared a plan for re-opening based on that guidance. However, as the situation continually changes and nobody knows what the virus is going to do next, we are not activating that plan until later in August. Just today (8th August) we were notified of another government directive that requires people in village halls to wear masks unless they are taking part in dance or keep fit classes.

We are in contact with DanceFirst who are keen to restart their dancing lessons in September and we hope that some of our other regular hirers will follow.

We will be operating a one-way system with people entering the main door at the Dell Close end and leaving by the fire exit door on the car park side. We will be installing hand sanitisers and putting up many notices telling people what they should do when they are in the building.

Most of our normal expenses have continued while all our income has disappeared except that from the Nursery. We have had extra expenses including re-filling the 'sink hole' earlier in the year, upgrading the electrical distribution boards due to a change in the regulations, and removal of ash trees due to dieback as well as extra expenses due to covid-19. Fortunately, we qualified for a government Business Support Grant of £10,000 which was paid via Mole Valley District Council.

That is the position at the time of writing. If you would like to hire the village hall either for a one-off event or a regular activity in September or later, please check with our Bookings Manager, Deanna Darnell on 07790 941601.

Ben Tatham
Chairman, MVH Trustees

Photograph: Kayleigh Hunter



Many thanks to David Kennington and his team of volunteers who cut Juniper Hall's Hedge

The booklet would make an attractive 'stocking filler' if you are looking ahead to Christmas. It costs a mere £5 and all of the proceeds of sale will go to Allsaints, the printing costs having been met by the parish magazine.

If you would like a cookbook (or two or three!) please contact either Sue Tatham (email sue@thetatham.co.uk or call 01306 882547) or Alison Wood (email alison.wood29@btinternet.com or call 01372 376443) and we shall be pleased to deliver and collect payment.

Updates in Brief

Mickleham Choral Society

• This letter from chairman David Kennington to choir members says it all: In normal times we would be looking forward to 3rd September and the raising of the conductor's baton after the summer break as we start the autumn programme of Remembrance Concert followed by the Carol Concert. Unfortunately, we have no possibility of meeting together for rehearsal at the moment and we will just have to wait until Government guidance gives us the all clear.

In the meantime, keep the voice in good fettle in the bath or shower, entertain the dog/cat or keep posting songs on the WhatsApp group. I have been singing to my vegetables and they are amazingly appreciative - the courgettes in particular have gone berserk...

Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks

• The Westhumble Residents Association committee have decided to cancel this year's Guy Fawkes celebrations.

Tuesday Toddlers

• Hopes to resume in January 2021.

M&W Horticultural Society and The Garden Shed

• No events planned until 2021.

M&W Local History Grp

• No further events this year, but individual work continues as do researches carried out in response to requests via our website.



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Cryptic Delicacies

With summer in the air and the general lunacy surrounding us, I based the last puzzle on MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN. It wasn't really a themed puzzle because there wasn't much linking of the clues but there were various words from the lyrics: SWOON, IMPERVIOUS, PERSPIRE, TOPEE, TROPICAL – as well as an allusion to the whole thing from EXPAT. Noel Coward first performed the song in 1931 having amazingly written it while driving from Hanoi to Saigon 'without pen, paper, or piano'. As he said: 'I wrestled in my mind with the complicated rhythms and rhymes of the song until finally it was complete, without even the aid of pencil and paper. I sang it triumphantly and unaccompanied to my travelling companion on the veranda of a small jungle guest house. Not only Jeffrey [his companion], but the gecko lizards and the tree frogs gave every vocal indication of enthusiasm'. There cannot be many people who have ever lived who have been able to perform such a feat of musical and verbal dexterity and memory.

Here are some of the clues, with definitions underlined:

13 Rochdale Velodrome provides stern indoor test (1,5)
A LEVEL

This is a hidden word clue: 'rochdale VELodrome'. I included the word 'stern' in the definition to improve the reading of the clue, and after all an A LEVEL could be described as a 'stern indoor test' – however it has been pointed out to me by one of my correspondents that 'stern' meaning 'back' had made her think that the hidden word was included backwards and by strange coincidence that leads to 'O Level'.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Performed by Paul Brown, Richard Siberry, Martin Cox and Will Dennis in Jo Brown's 2005 Mickleam dram Revue 'Upstairs and Downstairs'

Apologies if that led to some confusion. It's a tricky thing this English language but sometimes one can see tricks where they are not there.

17 Worn by 14 in the desert to 1 (5)
TOPEE

The answer to 14 DOWN was 'Englishmen' and the thing they wore on their heads in the desert was a TOPEE, which comes from 'TO' then 'number one' (as opposed to 'number two'). I shall not be explaining this further.

26 Pan around on ship to see this man make a catch (4)
HOOK

This is actually a double definition, though the first one is a bit tricky in that 'Pan' is Peter Pan who would be 'around on ship to see' Captain Hook.

4 Thing entered first to escape when dropping cloak upside down in liquid manure (8)
USERNAME

'cloak' = 'cape', which when dropped from 'EScape' leaves ES, which when upside down is SE, put in 'liquid' (anagram of) MANURE, to get what you enter first when logging in on a computer.

5 I jump bail before start and desert (4)
GOBI

Apologies that I ended up using some youthspeak in this clue. A young friend of mine says that he is 'going to bail' when he means he is going to GO, and 'jump bail' fitted together so well to make the clue work that I couldn't not use it, and I thought you would get it from the crossing letters and the definition 'desert' and work backwards. So 'bail' = GO, 'Before start' = B, and 'I' jumps those to go on the end.

22 WC Fields's debut took place after onset of another cold (5)
ALOOF

'WC' = LOO, 'Fields's debut' = F (first letter), all after 'onset of Another' = A

24 Got out of the way of sound from singular pipe (4)
DUCT

'Got out of the way of' = ducked, and its sound gives you the answer.

Always good to get ideas of things to discuss in my article, so any responses or queries will be happily received at andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk

Andrew



Heritage Open Days 10th–20th September

Includes a series of free walks organised by Dorking Museum

- The Deepdene Trail (including access to the Hope Mausoleum)
- Mayflower 400 Walk – Dorking in the time of William Mullins
- Betchworth Castle Tours (including access to the Castle enclosure)
- Hidden Dorking Historic Walk

Further details of these and other events in HOD booklet or see www.molevalley.gov.uk



Photograph: Alice Short

MCC v Jack Frost at at Shere Cricket Club

The Other MCC

Mickleham Cricket Club's season started sadly, with the passing of two of our oldest members, Paul Brown and Jamie Aarvold. Paul was our resident international, having played for England over-60s, and turned over his nagging slow left arm for us until very recently. Jamie was a firm supporter on the boundary and, as importantly, at post-match analysis in the Running Horses. Both will be much missed. Our thoughts are with Jo and Jilly.

And of course our season has been covided. Although the government permitted recreational cricket from early July, we aren't able to get our usual Box Hill School ground this year. Fortunately our excellent fixtures secretary Chris Presley has arranged a series of away games, and Dorking CC have kindly let us use their Westhumble pitch.

So it was that on a damp July afternoon at Coldharbour Charlie Richards kicked off our season, bowling aggressively for 3/18 off 4 overs. MCC continued to take wickets, with Michel Nguedam (our Camerounian international) and Rob Hanvey each getting two. One of these was a spectacular catch by Will Humphrey, who drifted on to the field

half an hour late just in time to dismiss Coldharbour's best batsman. 12 year old Alex (yet another Saffer) and teenager Theo Dudley then combined to bowl Coldharbour out for 122, Theo taking 3 wickets.

Overconfident, MCC made seriously heavy weather of this small target. We were quickly 20 for 3, then Michel and Charlie smacked the bowling to all parts of the ground – until Charlie was bowled and Michel holed out on the boundary. Rob Hanvey (31) and Will Perks briefly steadied the ship, but a second collapse saw Rob, Will, Seb Dudley and Alex all out in quick succession. Last man Will Dennis joined skipper Kevin Walker with MCC still needing 26, and the betting firmly against us. But the bookies reckoned without Kevin, who proceeded to play the definitive captain's innings, while Will held up the other end. We crawled home at one run an over, to win by one wicket! (Modesty forbids your correspondent from revealing which batsman lofted an exquisite drive over extra cover for the winning boundary.) Against Jack Frost CC Mickleham again started well, and with Jack Frost at

43 for 3 the future looked orange. Unfortunately the next two batsmen made 184 between them, neither getting out! Jack Frost finished on 262, with only those two batsmen getting into double figures. Wickets were shared between Henry Smith, Theo, Kevin and Steve Jebson.

A good start was made by our opening pair Chris Presley (32) and Giles Pritchett (30). Michel hit a quickfire 36, but unfortunately Henry was run out just as he and Michel looked to be building a promising partnership. MCC then struggled, with wickets falling regularly and the target looking ever further away. A wag of the tail towards the end (skipper Greg Ayton 30) was too little, too late; and MCC admitted defeat at 177 all out.

So MCC are won one, lost one to date; but we will play, weather permitting, every Sunday afternoon up to and including 6 September. 35-over games, in the Caribbean spirit (mainly Malibu), with low ability levels and high sociability levels, and an expectation of getting to the pub soon after 6. New players always welcome. Will Dennis



Help wanted from local non-cyclists

I am an A-Level geography student in Dorking and am just starting the coursework involved as part of the A-level. The basis of my coursework is the barriers to sustainable transport in the Dorking area, with particular focus on cycling as I am a keen cyclist myself. I would like to conduct a survey as to why people living in Mickleham & Westhumble do not currently cycle, which I would normally complete in person. However, due to covid-19 this is now going to be a confidential online survey (see link below). This is new for me, so please let me know via the editor, Sue Tatham editor@micklehammag.co.uk if you experience any issues with the survey. I will do my best to sort it out. Thank you!

Thomas Harrington

forms.gle/GUWNMUBYxFCn6jE7



The Gardener's Curse

Lady Maconochie of Inverewe denounces all who appropriate from three famous Scottish gardens.

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Play havoc with his garden plot,
And a late frost destroy the lot.*

June Lockdown Garden Opening

Photograph: Angela Gilchrist



For the past eighteen years we have opened our garden at Ashleigh Grange in Westhumble for charity under the National Gardens Scheme. Over that time, we have raised well over £30,000 for charity, split between the entrance money to the NGS charities – mainly nursing and cancer charities, and refreshments and plant sales to Barnardo's.

But under lockdown, this year was not meant to be. Then, in early June, the NGS announced that they had received government go-ahead to allow gardens to open on a controlled basis – online booking, social distancing, no refreshments etc. This was only if owners wanted to so, we thought, why not give it a go.

We always try to keep the garden tidy, it is my hobby and I spend a lot of time out there, but there is a difference between keeping it tidy and an NGS garden for paying visitors. Could we raise the standard sufficiently in just two weeks? There was also the question of access and parking; normally the National Trust and Steve Conisbee, the tenant farmer, very kindly allow us to use the adjacent field for parking with our narrow drive one way up with people driving down the field to exit at the bottom. But that takes time to organise, time we did not have.

So, with no idea of the likely demand, we set the numbers at a level we thought could park in our drive, eighteen people per slot, around nine or ten cars. We had decided to open for three days over the weekend of 19th – 21st June, and with four slots a day, there was a potential for 216 visitors. I emailed around locally, the NGS put it up on their website, and I put some signs up in the drive and on the North Downs

Way, but with people having got used to being locked in for three months, would anyone come?

It was a sell-out. Every slot was filled, and I had calls from people who saw my signs, walkers just passing. They were a bonus, there was no constraint on people in the garden, the limit on numbers had been set for parking, walkers (and a curious young French cyclist who happened to be passing) were in addition.

The plants that I had cultivated over the winter that I thought would go to waste sold like hot cakes (amazingly people had cash for the Honesty Box), though unfortunately real cakes were off the menu this year.

We raised over £1,800 for charity, which was immensely satisfying, and well worth the hard work we had put into it, but what was most satisfying was the reaction of visitors. We received numerous comments from people, many of whom had not been out of their homes for three months, it was worth it just to see them enjoying themselves. One elderly lady was driven by her son in a van, he had rigged up a seat in the back so he could drive her and remain distanced. An undying memory is of a couple sitting on a bench enjoying the view to Box Hill – and wearing masks. Who knows what lies ahead, but I hope it is not a future where masks are needed to enjoy the fresh Surrey air.

If you have not yet visited our three-acre sloping garden on the outskirts of Westhumble, then I hope you will be able to come next year when we should be back offering our delicious tea and cakes.

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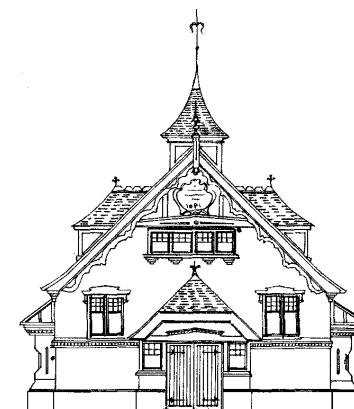
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lyn@mra.uk.net

Box Hill School
Headmaster – Cory Lowde 01372 374814
HMPA@boxhillschool.com

Dorking Cricket Club
Chairman – Andrew Homewood homewooda@hotmail.co.uk

Dorking Group of Artists
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth 01737 24491
patriciabooth100@gmail.com

Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
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susiegowenlock@gmail.com

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enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org
Head of Centre – Simon Ward Simon.lr@field-studies-council.org
Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 01483 281935
suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk

Mickleham Children's Playground Association
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt 07767 891772
sarah@sarahparfitt.com

Mickleham Choral Society
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – Mickleham Village Hall
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Secretary – Anne Weaver 01306 883932
www.micklehamchoral.org.uk secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk

Mickleham Old Box Hillians Football Club
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Mickleham Parish Council
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES www.micklehampc.org.uk
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rev.ireland43@btinternet.com
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SarahJB1@outlook.com

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admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Elizabeth Moughton 01306 883040
pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

CHURCH REGISTERS

BURIAL IN THE CHURCHYARD

24th June Paul Arnold Brown

BURIAL OF ASHES

8th July Josephine 'Rosemary' Langford



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

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Sunday 6th September – Morning Prayer

Sunday 13th September – Holy Communion

Sunday 20th September – Holy Communion

Sunday 27th September – Holy Communion

Please let Alison Wood know if you are planning to attend a service
as numbers are limited for social distancing reasons.

All church services will be live-streamed and can be watched via Zoom.

The weekly Zoom codes will be available in Pews News Online which is sent to all
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for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News

The services are also available to watch on the church website:

<https://www.micklehamchurch.org.uk/sundays.htm>

Alison Wood's contact details

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ZOOM DETAILS IN PEWS NEWS

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

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MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB Membership Secretary Sarah Blake	tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com
MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE CRICKET CLUB Membership contact	Will Dennis 07903 842674 will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk
MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Chairman – David Kennington	01372 362309 www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com
MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP Chairman – Ben Tatham	01306 882547 ben@thetatham.co.uk www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/
MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL Councillor Elsie Rosam	01306 885001 01306 885695 elsierosam29@gmail.com
THE ARTS SOCIETIES (FORMERLY NADFAS) Betchworth – Mary Venning	01306 883301
Dorking – Sue Tatham	01306 882547
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Co-chairs Nicole Harcombe, Tracey Harwood, Amy Rieley	
ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL Supervisor – Hilary Budd	01372 361021 stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL Councillor – Hazel Watson	03456 009 009 01306 880120 hva.watson@btinternet.com
SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST	01483 795440 info@surreywt.org.uk
WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION David Allbeury	07860 227451 westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com
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Paul Arnold Brown 1937 - 2020

We were very sorry to hear the sad news of Paul Brown's death in the Marsden Hospital on 12th June. He had been very much a part of village life since he and Jo moved to Mickleham from Epsom in 1999. Paul was born in Epsom in January 1937; his only brother was nine years older and his hero. After leaving Epsom College Paul filled in time before doing National Service by working as a lifeguard at Surbiton Lagoon and Epsom Baths, which is where Jo aged 13 first met him. National Service in the Royal Signals took him to Cyprus for 18 months and he loved it. Upon his return he began his studies at Ewell Tech to become a quantity surveyor. He was a member of Epsom YCs and started going out with Jo (who had marched from Aldermaston the previous year) in 1961. She was a student at Goldsmiths College, London University at the time and they used to meet on Friday evenings under the clock at Waterloo Station – a favourite rendezvous location for many through the years.

After they married at Headley church in 1965 they moved to Middlesbrough where Paul was working. Daughter Sarah was born there in 1966 and Emma followed 17 months later. After the family returned to Epsom in 1968 Paul qualified as a quantity surveyor. In the 1980s he went to Illinois and got his pilot's licence flying Cessnas. After he retired, he and Jo enjoyed travelling to many far-flung places. Closer to home he joined the Epsom and Ewell U3A, walked with Mole Valley Ramblers and the Scramblers (old cricketers) and helped with Epsom and Ewell's Talking Newspaper.

Paul was kind, funny, sociable, and totally unassuming. The above account does not really convey what an exceptional man he was, for in addition to his family his abiding passions were sport and amateur dramatics. Paul was a talented sportsman who preferred team sports – he never took up golf. Rugby, cricket, water polo and highboard diving were his favourites. He participated in comic displays at local swimming galas and in 1959 he was the Surrey Highboard Diving Champion. He played rugby for

Middlesbrough and upon returning to Surrey joined Sutton Rugby Club. In his 30s he switched to football.

In his 50s Paul joined Banstead Cricket Club for whom he played until 2017, then their oldest player at 79. He also played for Surrey Seniors and went to Australia with the England Seniors Ashes team in 2011. Locally he played for our own MCC. His cricketing career ended in 2017 after a serious head injury following an accident on the pitch.

How he became involved in acting is probably best explained by the biographical details he provided for a play programme. 'Paul Brown took up amateur dramatics to escape gardening and mowing the lawn. He quickly came to enjoy the challenges, sociability, and teamwork of drama and has played many roles He has performed in pantomime, musicals and in the odd show or two in Mickleham where his lovely director wife ensures disciplined performances. She also ensures that he keeps gardening and mowing.' Between 1975 and 2005 he appeared in more than 70 productions staged by mostly Surrey-based amateur dramatic companies, bringing much to the joy and delight especially to his friends in the audience.

Above all Paul was a devoted family man. He was a tremendous support to Jo and marvelled at her achievements. At Jo's 70th birthday party, remarking on her energy levels he said, 'About twice a week, I get quite out of breath watching her and have to sit down.' Another time he claimed, 'Jo has kept me in the luxury I thoroughly deserve.' They seemed to argue frequently, most likely due to Jo's frustration with Paul's easygoing persona. This quality however was the perfect foil to Jo's dynamism - she called him her 'molehill minimiser'. Paul was also immensely proud of his daughters and five grandchildren and their achievements.

Jo, Sarah and Emma are extremely grateful that despite covid-19 restrictions they were able to be with Paul at the end. He died a contented man. He told Jo and the girls 'I'm not afraid of dying, I've done all I've wanted to do and I've got my memories.'



Paul at the Oval 2018

Paul was buried in St Michael's churchyard. on 24th June with just ten of his family present. He will be much missed by his loving family and all his many friends.

We send love and deepest sympathy to Jo, Sarah, Emma and their families at this sad time.

Jo has been quite overwhelmed by the many cards, letters and messages from Paul's friends and acquaintances. She wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, kind wishes, love and support. She is planning a Service of Thanksgiving for Paul's life on Wednesday 7th April 2021, timed to coincide with university holidays so that his grandchildren can attend. This will be held in St Michael's Church at 2.30 pm.



Josephine 'Rosemary' Langford 1920 – 2020

On Wednesday 8th July, the ashes of Rosemary Langford were buried in the grave of her husband, Desmond Cecil Langford, in St Michael's churchyard.

Rosemary lived with her family at Number Three Mickleham Hall in the 1950s leaving Mickleham in about 1962 following the death of her husband. More recently she had lived in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.



Jamie on his 74th birthday
1st March this year

We were very sad to hear of Jamie's death at home on 24th June, surrounded by his family, and would like to pay tribute to this much loved and highly respected member of our community. Jamie was born at Foxbury, Crabtree Lane, Westhumble where he lived for much of his life. When he married Jilly in 1976 they lived in Putney before returning to Foxbury in 1990 where their three children, Tom, Sander, and Pippin grew up and thrived.

Jamie went to Marlborough College where he excelled at all sports,

Community News

Farewell to:

• Jan and Nick Richards who have moved from Old London Road to Hampshire.

• Patricia Reynolds who has moved to East Sussex from Westhumble Street

• Lucy and Rama Ramasawmy, formerly of Cleveland Court, who have returned to Edinburgh.

Welcome to:

• Kate and Roderick Beer and children: Harry, Theo and Joe who have moved to Old London Road.

• Brendan and Jane Cross and son Paddy who have moved to Westhumble Street from Ashted.

Congratulations to Annie and Will Dennis on the safe arrival of their third grandchild and second grandson. Tom Dennis, was born to Dave and Lucy on 14th June – a brother for Robyn. They all live in Ashted.

James Hillary Aarvold 1946 – 2020

particularly rugby. He was in the Marlborough XV team that not only was unbeaten (1963), but had no tries scored against them! Jamie then went on to play for Richmond Rugby Club where he became a regular back-row player in their First XV team.

After school, Jamie worked as a porter in Dorking hospital and volunteering at Toynbee Hall working with communities in the East End of London. He then started his career at Lloyd's of London where he was an Insurance Broker (Marine) until he retired.

His great friend, best man and colleague, Steve James, gave a moving eulogy of Jamie at his service of thanksgiving on 17th July. Steve, who was also in Lloyds' Marine Insurance sector, described Jamie as a leading light both there and at Richmond RC. He said that mischief and fun were two of his most charming qualities, but also loyalty, integrity, generosity, and courage. These qualities served him well at Lloyds where he was much respected and well known. But his greatest achievement was his family.

Jilly was instrumental in introducing Jamie to sailing where he excelled because of his charm, courage and willingness to play his part in the team. It was a marvellous and well-deserved honour for him to represent Great Britain in the winning Admiral's Cup boat, 'Battle Cry', in 1975.

In 2008, Jamie and Jilly moved from Foxbury to Mickleham Hall where they were very happy. Jamie threw himself into village life and service in the community. He was a governor at Box Hill School for 23 years, the last 15 of which he served as Vice Chairman. Whilst there, to celebrate their Jubilee, he created the school's 'Tolerance Project' which was supported by many notable leading figures, such as HRH The Princess Royal, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This is an inspirational project which has been circulated to every secondary school in England - a creditable legacy on Jamie's part. He was also active at St Michael's Church and served on the PCC for many years. His trouble-shooting skills were invaluable on committees, as was his aptitude for compromise. Jamie also undertook a five-year Open University course in Social Sciences.

During the course of his life, Jamie made numerous friends. He helped many people who in difficult times sought his advice. And he set an outstanding example to his children, leaving them with many treasured happy memories. The family's philosophy of love, laughter and tolerance will be an enduring comfort and inspiration to them all. We send our sincere condolences to Jilly, Tom, Sander, Pippin and their six children/grandchildren.

Liz Weller



Home Wanted for Guidebook Collection

I have inherited a collection of 150 - 200 historical guides and brochures for various churches, abbeys and cathedrals around the UK, dating from 1940s through to 1980s. It seems such a shame to just recycle them if there is anyone out there who might be interested in having them.

They are free and I am happy to deliver locally.

If anyone would like them please call Judith Cobby on 07790 614448.

Barbara Mary Goodall 1927 – 2020

In writing these words, reflecting back on my mother's life, I am in course indebted to her in so many ways; however no more so that the efficient way that she prepared for her own demise. A detailed order of service (with directions) and a potted history of her life. In many ways that sums up my mother – she was to the end very ordered and thoughtful.

My mother was sharp and informed almost to the end never losing her grasp on current affairs and never afraid to offer an opinion.

Barbara was after all a Lancastrian, born on the 6th September 1927 in Freshfield, not far from Southport. Her early and formative years were spent there. In 1939, the family moved south, to Coldwaltham, near Pulborough in Sussex. Her father was away in the RAF and they seemed to live an idyllic country life as the Battle of Britain was played out overhead. The new home became a guest house as her mother and sister eked out a living, with a plentiful supply of eggs from their hens. On leaving school Barbara attended the Brighton School of Art, art remained a passion for her over the years ahead.

She then took to employment, traveling by train up to London where she worked for the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association and it was on that train journey that she met Norman, her husband to be. They married on 12th October 1951.

On 15th August 1953, Norman's birthday, they moved into Mount Cottage, nestling below the William IV on Bytton Hill, where my mother lived until the ageing process and the steep steps that led up to the house got the better of her. In late 2016 Barbara moved to live with us in Southampton. Norman having passed away some 24 years earlier.

She loved her time in Mickleham and was a regular attendee at village events and of course St Michael's Church. For a period she served as a school governor at St Michael's school.

In 1968 she re-entered the world of employment and purchased (in a blind auction) what was even then an old and somewhat difficult car to drive, 'Ruby' a 1932 Austin 10. She mastered Ruby and fittingly found a job at Polesden Lacey where she worked for the National Trust in the regional office for nearly 20 years. Here both Ruby and my mother seemed



to be very much at home and Barbara described these years as being 'one of the happiest periods of my life'.

One of the things that gave and continued to give her immense pleasure was drawing and painting, something that sustained her to the very last.

Barbara grew increasingly frail, following a hospital admission in February, sadly she was not to return home. Barbara passed away in a nursing home in Alverstoke, in Hampshire on 3rd July.

Peter Goodall

A Service of Thanksgiving for Barbara's life is planned for Monday 12th October 2020, at 2 pm in St Michael's Church, followed by the interment of ashes in the graveyard. At Barbara's request part of the service will be conducted by Peter who is being ordained the week before.

Michael John Finlay 1936 - 2020

We are sad to record the death of Michael Finlay on 26th June, just four days before his 84th birthday. He had been unwell for about two years but managed to live at home until just a few weeks before he died. Michael was born in 1936 in Kingston-on-Thames, he was evacuated in 1941 to Lancashire. He really enjoyed his two years there and his wife, Rosemary remembered him saying that he liked to be first in the village square to pump the water for washing.

He met Rosemary in 1960 in Kingston when he was 23. They married 18 months later, and moved to Surbiton, where they bought their first house. Michael was a master builder and worked for himself for over 50 years. Rosemary recalls: 'We have lived in Mickleham for over 42 years and were

the first people to live in the *New House*. We only found the house by chance as we had the details from the local estate agent, but kept missing the turning off the A24, until Michael remembered he had built a temporary building for the local school in the 1960s. So round Givons Grove roundabout again, up School Lane and there it was, just started but we were hooked and bought it immediately. We both agreed that Mickleham has been the best place to live.'

Michael was a keen sportsman, he weight-trained until he was nearly 70 and rowed for Lensbury Club as Rosemary worked for Shell he could row for them using her card. He played rugby and football for Mickleham, a few times as well as playing darts for the King Willy. He also enjoyed all the trips



with the Cultured Pearls, even if he was one of the few men who ventured on these trips.

After his retirement, he was quite happy to sit in the garden which he had designed and built or go to the pub. According to Rosemary 'no pressure suited him down to the ground'. They were married for nearly 59 happy years and she misses him very much.

We send Rosemary our sincere condolences.



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Dear friends & neighbours,

Huge thanks for your fantastic custom and support since we reopened our gardens. We have missed those shielding – look forward to seeing you when things improve. On this note my brother has recently left hospital after five months in intensive care, I thank you for all your prayers for him; they definitely worked. We plan to remain open in our fairy-light-filled gardens for the foreseeable

future with extra awnings, heaters and umbrellas to keep us sheltered from any elements; and will hopefully open inside around late September/October subject to the covid R-rate remaining low. Our now famous fish & chips will back along with beefsteak nachos, Sunday roasts, sticky-toffee pudding and other long-standing favourites when the menu changes next.

We have recently been acknowledged with a Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Award 2020 – one of less than 5000 establishments worldwide to receive this accolade. A great boost for us and our wonderful team. Stay well everyone. Eamonn & Anne

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

Feeding the Cattle

In June Mandy Jillings wrote: 'I am very lucky to live in a beautiful part of Surrey, overlooking Box Hill. In between the villages of Mickleham and Westhumble lies a valley where farmer Nick Bullens' cattle and sheep graze the land. While walking my three labradors I often bump into Nick who is super-friendly and always makes time for a chat. Over the past three-four weeks we have noticed the cows being particularly vocal at night as well as more incidences of them escaping from the field. During our chat last week I mentioned this to him; his reply was not what I had expected: 'they are hungry'. April and May saw beautiful sunshine with no rain which depleted the grazing. Nick even planted a fast-growing grass in the winter-crop field but without the

rain it has failed to grow to an adequate height. June promised rain, but in the micro-climate of this valley rain clouds tantalizingly appear only to dissipate or change direction.

Walkers, residents, and day-trippers all benefit from our countryside and the way in which it is farmed and managed. In these difficult times I wanted to show Nick that the community cares, so I set up a crowd-funding account, using the following calculation: Nick has 85-90 cows which require 4 bales of hay a day @ £40 per bale (including haulage). Therefore, a month's feed (30 days) costs £4,800. I appreciate the pull on everyone's finances at the moment, but if you have anything spare – no matter how small – I am sure we can reach the target.'



Just recently Mandy reported: There has been an incredible response with donations coming in from more than 72 people so far. We have reached 75% of our target of £4,800 total, leaving only around £1,200 yet to raise. Nick has been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of everyone; some lovely words of encouragement were written.

The JustGiving page is still up and running if anyone wishes to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/feed-a-herd-of-cattle>

Second Mortar Bomb fished out of the Mole



In early July, when Londoner Ben Austin and his 6-year-old son Finley came to stay at the Shepherds Rest for a couple of days of adventure, they were not disappointed. Ben relates:

'We decided to cycle along the cycle path on the A24 with our adventure kit and stopped at the bridge over the River Mole. Finley threw our new

magnet line over the bridge, and after finding an old penny pulled out what looked like a small bomb. In utter disbelief, I immediately called the police, although Finley thought it could not be a real bomb and that calling the police was a daft idea. The police confirmed my suspicions after I sent photographs to their control room and brought in the bomb squad which carried out a controlled explosion in the nearby field. We were surprised to hear later that a similar mortar had been pulled out of that same stretch of water by a magnet fisherman just a month ago.'

According to an article by Emma Yeomans in *The Times* (3rd August) 'magnet fishing, the art of tossing a powerful magnet on a rope to collect lost or discarded objects, has exploded in popularity... one group has gained 19,000 members in a couple of years.'

Besides the thrill of discovery, much of the activity is aimed at clearing waterways of pollution and thus improve the habitat for freshwater fish and animals. A club in Northamptonshire claims to have pulled out three tonnes of metal in one day. Besides thousands of drinks cans, finds include house-breaking tools, knives, guns, old safes, scrap, cutlery. These are sorted and sent for recycling. Apparently, there are fewer shopping trolleys nowadays, but a growing number of old parking meters, some still containing coins.

Of course, there are downsides to this activity. First of all, it can be risky because of the possibility of finding weapons, grenades and other unexploded devices. The other problem is that unscrupulous magnet fishermen are littering waterside areas with large amounts of unwanted and potentially dangerous rubbish. Sue Tatham



Can you translate these
diagrams into words?
Say what you see.

U R YY 4 Me

Answer on page 26

Bonfires

At a time when we are all doing that we can to remain healthy and manage existing health conditions in order to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions the Council asks that you do not have any bonfires at all. Smoke from domestic bonfires can cause existing breathing difficulties, such as asthma, to become critically

worse. In addition, covid-19 can cause respiratory problems for those who contract it. Smoke from bonfires can impact on those who are trying to manage these symptoms at home. Please help by not burning any waste, including garden waste.



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INSPIRATIONAL Box Hill School

During lockdown and the summer holidays, Box Hill School has been setting fun challenges for our pupils to keep them busy and active. We have had a whole range of non-compulsory activities for students to get involved with including: 'Cook an International Meal for your Family'; 'Recreate That Scene'; 'Lockdown Bingo'; 'Camping and Cooking at Home' and 'Summer Holiday Challenges'.

The 'Cook an International Meal for your Family' challenge involved students demonstrating their culinary skills by cooking a meal from their favourite country. We had photographs of some amazing and delicious-looking meals sent in and it was a great way to encourage students to cook for and spend time with their family.

'Recreate That Scene' was a challenge that asked students to recreate a scene from a movie, a memorable moment in history or even recreate a famous piece of artwork. Props and costumes made from household items were encouraged! Again, we had some funny and creative entries.

'Lockdown Bingo' involved nine small challenges to complete over half term. Some examples include: clap for the NHS; take part in a virtual quiz and learn a new skill. This challenge encouraged students to try something new and

helping parents/carers around the house whilst having fun completing the bingo board. They also got involved in virtual catch ups and online quizzes.

'Camping and Cooking at Home Challenge' asked students to camp in the garden and cook a camping meal on a barbeque or camping stove if they had one. The response from this challenge was fantastic, with many students spending more than one night camping in the garden with some parents joining in. There were also some creative camping meals and some great toasted marshmallows!

Most recently, we set the 'Summer Holiday Challenges'. There are six fun challenges that the students could choose from to keep busy over the holidays. These included: workout with the headmaster (from Mr Lowde's pre-recorded video); write a song; design the Box Hill Christmas card; explore your family history; create a bug hotel or bird box and create a lockdown scrapbook for your memories.

These challenges were designed to keep our students active during the lockdown period and the response we have had has been brilliant. It has been a great way to keep some fun activities in the students' routines while being at home.

Lily McKeown



Photograph: Ben Tatham



View of Dorking from the Dukes - area on southern side of Box Hill below the viewpoint

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I am writing this article during one of the hottest days of our summer, thinking about the nursery children and thankful that there is no hosepipe ban this year. I am quite sure that every nursery child will, as I write, be in a paddling pool, dashing through sprinklers or having water pistol fights. I hope their carefree, joyous screams of delight are putting a smile on their neighbour's faces. In these uncertain times, spending time with young children, being invited to join in their play is both a pleasure and a welcome distraction.

The new academic term and the lifting of some restrictions for nurseries and schools, means it is back to business as usual for the nursery. We have carried out some essential maintenance to our sandpit and have new astroturf in the garden. Having planned to replace the



Phil Collins and his ladies, Miranda, Madonna and Kylie

turf for several years, it was still quite a shock to see how worn the old turf was. The freshening up of our outdoor space has given us all a lift. We do have a few more adjustments planned and are currently looking to have a permanent outdoor sink which will help us support the additional covid-19 handwashing.

Those of you that follow our articles may recall we hatched some eggs as lockdown started. The fertile eggs incubated with our own incubator were a replacement for an unsuccessful batch

purchased from Ebay. The chicks have been living at chez Budd during the spring and summer. We now have four Brahma chickens to add to our 'flock'; they are huge. We think three are hens, and one a cockerel. No cock-a-doodle doing yet, but when he does, Phil Collins (giant drumsticks) will be rehomed. Phil is already 20 inches (50 cm) tall, fully grown he could be 30 inches (76 cm). Brahmas are the shire horses of the chicken world... could be interesting for future chicken racing! Hilary Budd

St Michael's Community Nursery's Lockdown Quiz

Lockdown has brought many challenges for St Michael's Community Nursery. One of these challenges, which is perhaps overlooked in the grand scheme of things, is the absence of opportunities for us to fundraise during lockdown. In addition to those bigger charitable events from which we benefit, such as our Christmas Fayre and village-organised fête or village party, numerous small-scale fundraisers raise relatively small amounts of money throughout the year. Providing teas and coffees, cake sales and ice-creams, our annual Mother's Day Pamper Night – they all make a

difference, and penny by penny the money raised adds up.

Our Lockdown Quiz at the end of May brought together thirty families from our nursery and village communities in a battle of the brains. A nursery first, the online quiz was aided by the technical wizardry of nursery parent Mark Sartorius. Hosted by Quizmaster Simon Ward, behind the scenes a busy team of markers totted up the totals... all electronically of course. Congratulations to the winners 'About to Pop'. We were glad the imminent arrival of their baby didn't disrupt their taking part on this occasion, and wish them well when their bundle of joy does arrive!

The stars of the show were the nursery chickens. Anyone who has attended a village fête over the last few years will be familiar with St Michael's Nursery's chicken racing, and five chickens competed hotly for the winning places in two chicken races. Much amusement was had as the chickens crossed the finishing line, with Stevie and Rita securing success.

A huge thanks to all involved in making the evening a success behind the scenes, and to all those attending. We raised £291. Your valuable support is helping to secure the success of our nursery for generations of local children still to come. Thank you. Amy Ward



Paint Your Own Biscuits in aid of St Michael's

St Michael's Nursery parent Kate Sartorius of Kate Sartorius Cake Design, is selling a box of six home-baked biscuits ready for you to paint. The set comes complete with two edible paint sets and brushes. The set can be posted or collected from Leatherhead and make a lovely gift for children and adults alike. Kate is donating half of her proceeds to St Michael's Nursery.

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Solution to the July / August crossword

Across: 6 Sealant 7 Swoon 9 Arms 10 Impervious 11 Perspire 13 A level 15 Yeti 17 Topee 18 Gush 19 Agenda 20 Tropical 23/14 Mad dogs and Englishmen 26 Hook 27 Ex-con 28 Thereof

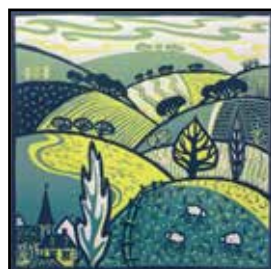
Down: 1 Jam session 2 Tahiti 3 Step 4 Username 5 Gobi 6 Spree 8 Neuters 12 Expat 16 Engrave 17 Twanging 21 Oodles 22 Aloof 24 Duct 25 Ants

BRAIN TEASER answer: You are too wise for me

DORKING ART TRAIL



Genevieve Brown



Diana Croft



Penny Green



Sarah Hudson



Peter Westermann



Jo Olney

19 September to 4 October

11am to 5pm

CORONAVIRUS MEASURES IN PLACE

Leaflet with map, details of individual studios and suggested route available from participating artists and various local sites or see websites @dorkingarttrail www.surreyopenstudios.org

OPEN STUDIOS

Local Artist, Genevieve Brown, is taking part in the Surrey Artist Open Studio event and is part of the Dorking Trail. Her garden studio is in London Road near the Stepping Stones pub. It will be open between 11am and 5pm on the 19, 20, 25, 27 September and 2 and 4 October and is apply to open at other times by appointment; please email info@genbrown.com or call 07717 213144. Her website is www.genbrown.com

We will be ready to welcome all our children in September

The school article in last month's magazine described what was then the covid-19 'New Normal' with only some of our pupils being in school and the rest being supported with Home Learning. In September all the pupils, including our new Reception Class, will be in school. In the new parlance, they will be in one 'bubble' which means that the classes do not have to be kept apart. We are able to do that because, as a small infants school, we have just three classes and have plenty of space both inside and out. Another space we take advantage of is the woodland next door as one of our neighbours kindly allows us to use this for forest school – this has become an important and popular activity.

The Breakfast and After School clubs will be restarting in September – we know how important these are to many of our parents. It has been tough for some of our parents during this crisis trying to find the time and the energy for their work and the home schooling

and we hope that the arrangements put in place for the coming term will make life easier for them.

All the school staff have coped magnificently with the challenges of the covid-19 crisis and have always done everything to make sure that the children are looked after.

It was sad that the Year 2 children had not been in school since the middle of March and that they missed the usual festivities before they left to move on to other schools. One particular custom I missed was the leaving pupils standing up one after the other in the church and giving us their favourite memories of the school. We wish them all the best of luck at their new schools.

We look forward to the new term with confidence under our temporary Head of School, Nicola Cleather. We hope that by the time this magazine comes out, we will have news of the arrival of Sandra Peers's baby.

Ben Tatham
School Governor

STOP PRESS: Summer Olivia Peers arrived safely on 8th August many congratulations to her proud parents Sandra and Nick



St Michael's School

stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/



At the end of term school leavers autographed the school wall

Leith Hill Musical Festival

In March, at the start of the Coronavirus lockdown, the decision was made to postpone the April Festival with tentative plans for a two-day festival in September 2020. This has now been cancelled.

For some time before March, revision of the festival was being discussed as a three-day event was becoming untenable due to rising costs and poor attendance at some of the concerts. Following extensive consultation *the final shape of the 2021 Festival, which is still subject to confirmation nearer the time in the light of the then current government guidance for the management of the Coronavirus pandemic, will therefore be as follows:

Concert 1- Friday 16 April 2021: Beethoven - *Mass in C*; J Willcocks - *The Song of Mary*

Concert 2 – Saturday 17 April 2021: Bob Chilcott – *A Little Jazz Mass*; Gershwin – *Porgy and Bess Suite*; John Rutter – *Feel the Spirit*

The new choir groupings will be:

Friday Beethoven/Willcocks: Capel, Dorking, Epsom, Leatherhead, Oxshott, Shalford + Independents Choir

Saturday Chilcott/Gershwin/Rutter: Beare Green and Newdigate, Bookham, Buckland and Betchworth, Holmbury St Mary, Horsley, Mickleham

There will be no competitions in 2021 as the Festival seeks to recover from its enforced closure but the intention

is to revert to the past format with competitions in 2022.

For many years LHMf has welcomed independent singers who wished to join us to sing in the March concert. We do not want to lose contact with these singers and are therefore investigating whether it would be possible to raise an 'Independents Choir' to sing with us in the Friday concert in April 2021. This is only possible because there will be no competitions that day. We will start to recruit such a choir once we are pretty sure the April 2021 concerts will be able to take place in the post-covid world and at that stage we will give details.

**Extract from LHMf Chairman's letter to choirs*

Cryptic Crossword



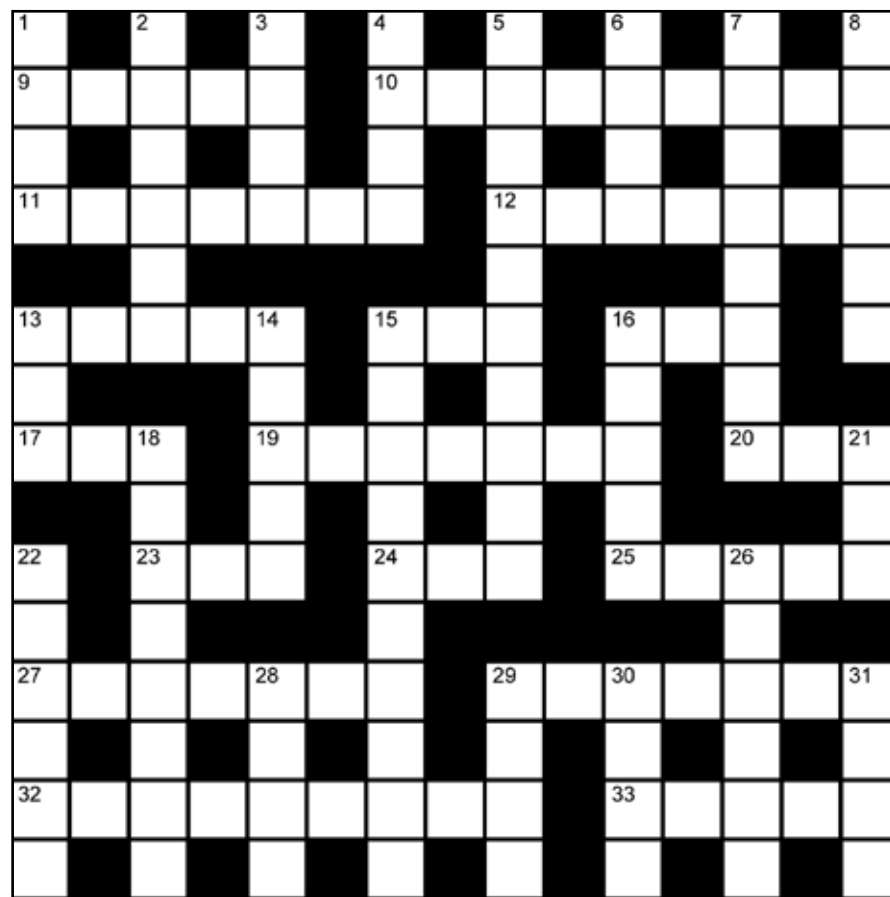
ACROSS

- 9 It's fast living (5)
- 10 Wacky artist hides in motor vehicles to herald the end of violence and damage with intent (9)
- 11 Investigator found very small section of Morse code hidden within two types of gold (7)
- 12 As God is to Eisteddfod in twistedly funny old Chinese saying (7)
- 13 Flinches as a result of reduction on immersion of member (5)
- 15 Unpopular mode of transport in Mole Valley gives the odd bruise (3)
- 16 Ridiculous adornment worn in Arab oasis (3)
- 17 Ridiculous adornment that is following beginning of trend (3)
- 19 Being very bright can still result in second grade with indolence (7)
- 20 In Cockney cheers this is good for the expression of magical being? (3)
- 23 Central trinity of something screwy is something definite (3)
- 24 Pursue scoundrel (3)
- 25 Leading engraver's reproduction was Elizabeth's favourite (5)
- 27 Song sounded like Foghorn Leghorn in the company of Jumbo (7)
- 29 Some answers (including 23 twice) (3,5,5,3,5,4,3,4,3) give the most well-known example of this gnawing animal (7)
- 32 Conductor is chosen before having gone on a bus (9)
- 33 Gordon or Tom or Paddington are toast! (5)

Photograph: Ben Tatham



View of Mickleham, Box Hill and beyond taken from just below Norbury Park House



DOWN

- 1 A non-conformist makes half of himself disappear in water (4)
- 2 Could this be drummed into Mr Cummings by women's groups? (6)
- 3 Turn object beyond far side of desk (4)
- 4 Gove recreates eye test in attempt to hide a load of balls (4)
- 5 Caesar maybe follows single French male in precursor to naturism (10)
- 6 Idle could be zany outside the Hollywood area in the beginning (4)
- 7 Preposterous duchess makes sound that is ROCK! (8)
- 8 A sonic space weapon results in a dead president? (6)
- 13 Scrap leads to plane losing smoke finally for nothing (3)
- 14 Scalping can end up with a load of very fine black hair (5)
- 15 On board new craft to make approach rapidly (4,4,2)
- 16 A military signaller made from passion and hollowed out lice (5)
- 18 Wolf down by lake next to southern refuelling stops (8)
- 21 Trot after this for whirling trick (3)
- 22 Bewildered by commercial featuring central complex puzzle (6)
- 26 Sadness comes from having large female animal eat ring and very expensive car (6)
- 28 Star turn sells out (4)
- 29 Little sound made when working out leads to record (4)
- 30 Points to disrespected senior when after his writing implements (4)
- 31 Can be mean about long flowing locks (4)

Andrew Tatham



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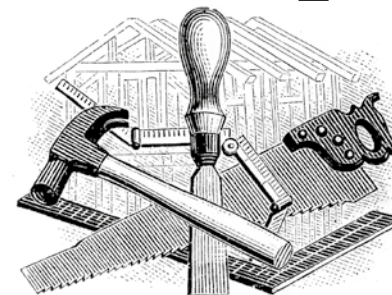
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