

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

July/August 2023



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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

**July/August
2023**

**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
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editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Co-editors

Charlotte Daruwalla

07933 300744

Jan Budleigh

07780 976301

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depending on space.



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Mickleham Rectory

Hi everyone

I hope you are enjoying the warm sunshine now that the summer has finally come. However, what I have noticed, and you probably have too, is the increase in litter. Litter not only takes away from the beauty of our countryside and harms wildlife, but is also a reminder of a major global issue. Our world has a rubbish problem. What follows is a shortened version of a Sunday talk I gave in early June, based on information from Tearfund.

Around six billion people in the world, including us in the UK, have access to waste management systems which means that our rubbish is collected and taken to a local waste centre where the various materials in the waste are sorted. Some of it is burned, which results in carbon emissions and contributes to climate change, some of it is recycled and the rest goes to land fill. Worryingly less than half of our plastic waste is recycled in the UK; most of it is exported to other countries for recycling because we do not have capacity to deal with it all. Apparently, we throw out enough plastic every minute to fill four double decker buses!

The remaining two billion people in the world do not have a safe way to dispose of rubbish and so burn or dump it. Burning the waste will release toxic fumes which are a health hazard and cause pollution. Some of the waste will end up clogging drains, rivers and streams making flooding worse and damaging homes and infrastructure. Our oceans are badly affected by plastic pollution too, causing depleted fish stocks and hazards for livestock, which will affect incomes. Gathered waste will attract pests that carry diseases. The diseases caused by mismanaged waste result in up to a million deaths each year: mostly of those living in poverty.

Part of the problem is our desire to make our daily activities more convenient and efficient. Plastic, especially single use, has enabled a throwaway culture. There are some essential uses for plastic, for example in medicine, but many of us have bought into a consumer-driven way of living that benefits companies which produce single-use products. We need to change attitudes and lifestyle and begin to see our consumption as part of a cycle that seeks to reuse and repair goods to keep them in use for as long as possible.

Christianity encourages us to follow the example of Jesus whose teaching often mentioned the natural world and whose compassion and sense of justice was so evident. Let us pause and wonder what we can do differently to avoid spoiling God's creation, work for more of his justice on earth and help those most in need. All of us can take steps to reduce our dependence on plastic products or products in plastic containers or plastic wrapped products. I am going to try harder! We can also pray and sign petitions in support of some ongoing negotiations over a global plastics treaty, for example through charities such as Tearfund.

Have a beautiful summer!

God bless.

Sandra

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest


St Michael's Church Services

10 am Sunday Services available on Zoom

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online each week. 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 / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship.

Please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information. If you missed any of the services or would like to revisit them all are available on the church YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCL4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>





Bible Study

Monday Evening Group
Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

Thursday Morning Group
Summer break meeting 13th July
Restarts 14th September
Contact Alison Wood
01372 376443
alison.wood29@btinternet.com
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Saturday 1st July

Saturday 5th August

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For further information call

Jonathan Blake 07787 126966



St Michael's Church Community Group

Sausages and Skittles

October 14th at 7.30 pm



Put the date in your diaries now! Another chance to see Jim's bouncing bombs, or Mel's effective 'do you think this ball will reach the skittles' style.

Last year, this was very well attended and really good fun. Sandra's team won. Clearly there must be no repeat! There will be a re-run on Saturday 14th October at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Debbie the Sausage will be on hand,

with an array of sumptuous sausages, as her name suggests, and there will be a bar, of course.

Teams of 5-8 please. If potential team captains can start nominating themselves, rather than our doing the volunteering for them, that would be good. It is hoped that teams may be organised beforehand, but do not let that put you off entering as individuals/pairs: we can sort out teams for you

on the night. Cost, to include Debbie and her sausages £40 per team/£8 per person. Please register with Denise Darling by email to denisedarling4@btinternet.com She will organise payments.

And remember, Points Mean Prizes! Last year's engraved Champions fridge magnets were highly prized, although I did see one on eBay.

June Coffee Morning

The coffee morning on 3rd June was enriched by a new venture: a spirited performance in the Chapel of Ease by Jerry and his Jazzmates, led by Jerry Lassen of Westhumble. They

played a variety of jazz music which was much appreciated by the audience. As usual, beverages, cakes and cupcakes were consumed with enthusiasm. Thanks to the organisers.



URGENT FOODBANK NEED

STOCKS RUNNING LOW: URGENT HELP NEEDED!

'Fewer people are giving, and need has ballooned!' These were the words last week from one of our selected local charities, the Meeting Room in Leatherhead. Gayle Scrivens, manager there, had been waiting for our supplies to arrive as she was loading up the outgoing weekly food packs. Our UHT milk was transferred directly into the pack she was loading, intended for a single father with two kids.

Their normal storage cupboard was bare! She has had an unanticipated big drop in donations, as have many FoodBanks, as well as the more predictable exponential rise in need. AND THIS SITUATION IS UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. **So please, more givers, supplies are genuinely and critically required.** The stuff which is **always** needed; loo rolls, UHT milk, shampoos etc, and TINNED FOOD (meat/fish/fruit/veg) - see page 26. WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE HERE.

DROP POINTS: The Tathams, **St Anthony, Westhumble**, halfway down Pilgrims Way on the left. The Banfields, Garden Corner, entrance off Old London Road into **Mickleham Hall**, and first right to the end house. Or at the back of **Church** at the weekends.

The Eco Church Group June 2023

The Eco Group for the church of St Michael and All Angels is a group set up by Sandra and the PCC to encourage direct action by the church to reduce the carbon footprint of the church and to encourage consideration of the natural world in its activities. Launched just over a year ago, the group meets to advise the PCC and secure permission for actions which are then carried out by Eco Volunteers. A few of the recent plans are listed below, but if you feel you have something to contribute please contact David Kennington, Chair of the group (01372 362309 or davidkennington144@gmail.com).

General: During the winter we planted a new hedge and put in nine orchard trees which are doing well (except one pear tree which has developed fireblight). The Eco Volunteer Group has met once since and a variety of small tasks were completed, such as weeding and mulching the new trees and freeing the hedge plants of nettles and other competitors. We have also shaped the hedge around the compost area to form an 'A' rather than a 'V'. Wildlife prefers a hedge that is wide at the bottom and narrow at the top as this makes a far thicker hedge at the base and a better place for animals to hide or build nests etc

Garden of Remembrance (GoR): The plan is to replace the box hedge that was taken out (suffering from both box blight and predated by the box caterpillars *Cydalima perspectalis*). The replacement will be with lavender interspersed with rosemary. Both plants attract bees and insects and will be kept reasonably formal as befits the garden

area. The plants have arrived but need to be grown on to become hardy and sturdy enough to withstand the weather. Plans to plant last week were put on hold until there is a break in the very dry and hot spell we are currently experiencing. We are considering the remodelling of the entrance to the GoR with a metal pergola up which could be trained flowering plants such as roses or honeysuckle or clematis. This would be complementary to the border at the back of the GoR which has been lovingly tended for many years.

Grassland Management: The PCC has agreed a plan for grassland management. The plan incorporates formal close mown areas, with areas left to grow on in a wilder way for the benefit of wildlife. If you walk round the churchyard it will be clear that the church frontage and the most recent grave areas retain the formality of close mowing. The areas immediately behind the church as far as the fence will be allowed to flourish and will be cut annually. The new churchyard beyond the fence will be allowed to grow wild and will be cut on a three-year rotation (the area divided into thirds and one third cut each year). This allows plant and animal lifecycles to complete their full annual cycles, but the ground is cut often enough to prevent the establishment of tree or scrub seedlings. You will notice that generous paths are cut through to allow access. It is not intended that access to any grave is denied and all requests for closer mowing for good reason will be accommodated.

Plastics: As far as possible the use of new or single-use plastic in church life

will be phased out. Sandra preached on the subject recently and has asked us all to consider our use of plastic in the light of the harm that it does to the environment. One recent development has been that the use of 'Oasis' has been stopped. Oasis is the usually green coloured block that is used by flower arrangers into which flower stems are pushed - it is quick and easy to use and holds water, but at what cost to the environment? It is entirely made of tiny plastic beads bonded together with chemicals and is eventually discarded once worn out, from there it progresses to the tip or is just discarded and breaks down into tiny fragments which are then taken up by wildlife with devastating consequences for small organisms. The alternative, as now practised in the church, is to use scrunched up chicken wire through which flowers can be held along with a container to hold water. With practice, a great job and harmless to our world - bingo! Many thanks to Alison Wood for promoting this change and seeing it through with the help of the church flower arrangers.

Energy Audit: The PCC have agreed that they will commission an Energy Audit to evaluate the church's energy footprint (including Westhumble Chapel) and see by what means it may be reduced. It is hoped that there will be some quick wins, but accepted that some changes may take longer to achieve. The audit and an agreed action plan with timescales will be a huge step forward towards the achievement of the Bronze Eco Award for which we are striving. I will report more on this next time.

David Kennington

Hidden Talents - a new series about local people



Gerry in his back garden

If there have been any benefits at all to our recent lockdowns, one might be bringing home to us the importance of our local communities, and, it is in this spirit of social cohesion and harmony that we are introducing a series of local residents, so that newcomers might get to know neighbours to speak to, even just to say 'good morning', rather than walk past every day not knowing who they are, or anything about them. One such person is Gerry Weaver, who I have often walked past on my way to catch the train from Westhumble Station.

Gerry has lived in Westhumble for decades with his wife Anne. A calm and quiet man with some astonishing talents.



The editors, former and current, have for a while discussed the desirability of introducing a series about local people and their talents often hidden or not widely known. If you would like to suggest any neighbours, friends or others who might fit the series (which will probably be irregular, depending on what other material we have for future issues), please let the editors know.

Gerry Weaver

Bigger people need bigger toys and, decades ago, Gerry acquired an old adult-sized Land Rover which he bought in order to strip down and totally rebuild, and now, twenty years on he's half way through the task. Anne was none too pleased when the huge Land Rover first made its appearance, but she has now got used to the competition for her husband's affections!

As well as being handy with metal and wood, Gerry also used to have a flock of sheep which he and Anne kept in nearby fields.

Gerry is from a long line of farmers, at least back to his four times great grandfather who owned a farm in 1782; a farm which is still to this day owned by a cousin called Weaver.

His father had been farm manager of various dairy farms (including one in Staffordshire which supplied the milk to Cadburys for its dairy milk chocolate). As a child he was feral (his word!), free to roam the countryside and play with his friends. His parents had no academic expectations of Gerry and he himself assumed his future lay in the army, REME as an engineer. (His father had been a mechanic in the army in WW2.)

It is funny how one incidental person in your world can come along and completely change the course of the rest of your life with one sentence; and with Gerry this person was a teacher. It was at secondary school that he discovered he was good at woodwork and metal work. His natural talents at these subjects were such that he received top results at A Level, along with A Level technical drawing. He was still planning on signing up to the

Left: Gerry with the little battery-powered Land Rover that he made for his grandchildren.



Gerry sitting on a chair he made for Anne with another he made for his daughter, Rebecca.

army when a teacher told him that he was good enough to be a teacher and he could go to craft college for three years' teacher training. No-one was more surprised than his mother at this news, but Gerry completed his training at Shoreditch College, and met his wife Anne there (so 'Thank you again' to that teacher), and then got a job in a school (back in the days when woodwork and metalwork were on the general curriculum for everyone).



Working model of a beam engine, Gerry's final piece at college, which formed part of his final exam

When Anne inherited the cottage where they now live, Gerry decided to hang up his teachers hat, and have a different style of life. This is where the sheep come in. Gerry and Anne tell a lovely story of how they would often mislay their sheep and go hunting around the fields for them armed with a packet of rich tea biscuits (apparently sheep will do anything for

a rich tea biscuit – who knew?) and the mere sound of the packet rustling would have April (she was the boss sheep) come running followed by all the others. Happy days.

The sheep are now long gone, but as you see from the pictures, Gerry's skills with the old woodwork and metalwork have anything but. Jacqueline Kenny,



Work in progress

2023 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition: The experience of a hopeful artist

This annual, weird and wonderful exhibition attracts much media attention for its often outrageous selections. It's a light hearted event and unpredictable.

This year the RA set a limit of 16,500 submissions of art to be entered online. It accepts art from all over the world from aspiring and professional artists. Rather daunting, as only 6% get through the selection process to be finally hung in the exhibition. But nothing ventured nothing gained.

I decided to give it a go. I really enjoy entering local exhibitions, getting to know my loyal buyers but it is good to reach a wider audience. However, paintings are a real luxury and are low on the must have list for many.

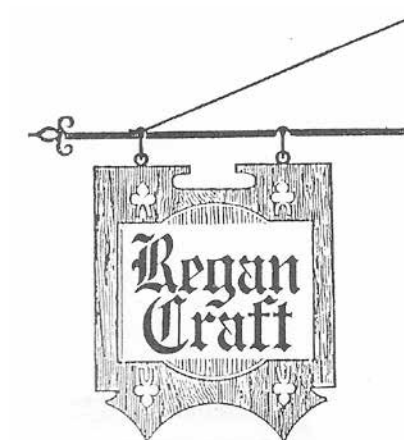
So which painting to put forward? The theme this year is 'Only connect' so something with an interesting association in it. The exhibition is renowned for showing some quirky art, so something not too bland or

traditional. I chose 'Doughnut Treats', which seemed to fit the bill.

It is an oil painting about moderation. A treat is a wonderful thing, but too many treats' can have unwanted consequences. Hence the scales and the price ticket.

Only 25% get through the first online cull. The next step is taking it to be viewed by the hanging committee, the Royal Academicians who will curate each room of the show. Hooray! On 22nd March, I had made it onto the short list. Even more exciting, receiving the next notification on 24th May saying 'We are delighted to tell you that your artwork has been accepted for this year's Summer Exhibition'. One of the lucky ones. A bucket list tick!

I get an invitation to the Varnishing Day where there is a service of blessing at St James Church Piccadilly, followed by a reception for all the successful artists. It will be fun to be involved this



It appears that Gerry did not reveal in his interview that when he and Anne moved to Westhumble he set up a business making furniture and fitted bathrooms and kitchens. This he called Regan Craft (a combination of Rebecca and Anne), and for a time had his workshop at Chapel Farm.

Many local houses, including ours, had/ still have Gerry-built kitchens. However, as this Gerry was a master joiner these were built with great skill and precision. Regan Craft advertised in the magazine for many years. Sue Tatham



Doughnut Treats

time, rather than watching it on TV.

One snag, the trains are on strike that day so getting there will not be easy, but worth it! Pauline Allbeury

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1 Dell Close Cottages, Mickleham

It is with regret that Mary Tobitt has left 1 Dell Close Cottages after 68 years living in the same house. The Tobitt family have lived there since 1935.

The houses were built in the 1920s, and the Tobitt family moved into No 1 in August 1935, moving from Hall Cottages, just behind the Running Horses pub. Maurice Tobitt paid the princely sum of 10/- (50p) to secure the tenancy of No 1 for May, Maurice Jr and his new baby brother, Peter.

Maurice and May continued to live at No 1 and both took an active part in village life. Maurice was a painter and decorator and May belonged to the WI, the Mothers Union and other village organisations. Maurice Sr became the local fire warden during WW2. During his tenure, he was also the caretaker at the village hall opposite Dell Close Cottages.

Maurice Jr, 13 years older than Peter, was a mechanic and had left home by the time Peter started at the village school. He trained as an upholsterer and carpet fitter at Granthams, Leatherhead. His mother May died in 1955 but by that time, Peter had met Mary Hatter, a local girl from Dorking. So in 1955 on Peter's 20th birthday, they were married at St, Michael's Church, Mickleham. Mary was 19 when she moved in to look after 'Grandad Pops' and Peter. Two years later, David was born followed by in 1959 by Michael who was born at home at No 1. Like their father, the two boys also attended St Michael's primary school and then Sondes Place School (now known as the Priory). After Grandad Pops died in 1963 Peter and Mary took on the tenancy from the council. In 1972, under the Thatcher 'right to buy' policy



From left: Grandad Pops outside No 1;
Peter and Mary by the front door;
Mary in a green jumper.

the couple purchased the freehold of their council house from Mole Valley District Council. They built a garage and pond and modernised the inside of the house, replacing the Ascot water heater for gas central heating and over time refurbishing the rest of the house.

Both David and Michael met and married local girls and moved out of No 1 in the 1970s and 80s. In 1983 Mary's father moved in with Peter and Mary and for the next 14 years until his death in 1997. During that time he was able to enjoy the company of his great grandchildren. They all loved coming to see Nana Mary and Grandad Peter and stay for the fabulous Sunday lunch or enjoy Mary's delicious cakes, as she was so good at baking.

David and Michael's families continued to visit regularly and enjoy the house and the garden. Following Peter's sudden death in 2007 Mary carried on living there maintaining the house and garden and entertaining the Tobitt family.

Following an injury earlier this year Mary was no longer able to remain at No 1. After 80 years the Tobitt family decided with great regret to leave Dell Close.

The great, great, great grandchildren of Maurice and May have also been enjoying visiting Nana Mary at No 1.

We, the Tobitt family – all have so many happy memories of life at 1 Dell Close. The best Sunday lunches, sleepovers, Mary's fundraising events in the garden, Easter egg hunts, Sunday afternoon teas, badminton in the garden in summer, and many, many more enduring memories of this happy, family home. We are all sad to see it leave the family, but we wish the new owners many happy years in this lovely house. It will always have a special place in our hearts.

Linda Tobitt

This article was sent in by Mary's daughter-in-law Linda, David's wife. Mary is missed in Mickleham. She and Peter were real assets to the community and we wish her all the best in her new home where Linda says she is very happy. Editor.



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The Festhumble Committee have been getting into mischief again. We have only gone and organised another music festival!

Festhumble'23 is a community-run event, raising money for a very worthy local charity, The Meeting Room, which supports homeless, vulnerable and socially isolated people in the Mole Valley and Epsom areas.

OK, so Westhumble might not be the first place that comes to mind when you think of a music festival, but I once saw a Bugatti in the car park at Lidl, so anything is possible. Trust me, my sceptical friends, this festival is a hidden

gem (but those of you who have been before already know that).

A big thank you to Tina for providing the venue free of charge and to everyone who has donated raffle/tombola prizes to help us raise money for The Meeting Room. I would also like to thank our fabulous bands for donating their time and talent. We really appreciate all your generosity and support.

Forget the crowds and chaos of those behemoth music events and come join your friends, neighbours and other fun-loving locals to enjoy food, drink and tuneful talent in this vibrant home-grown extravaganza. As we revel in the

music, we also have the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of those less fortunate, proving once more that music can be force for good.

For more information about this event follow our socials on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, or our website: www.festhumble.wixsite.com/dorking

So, mark your calendars, slap on the sunscreen and don your loudest Hawaiian shirt, then come along and join us at Festhumble'23, the small music festival with a big heart.

Ange Treanor

Chair of the Festhumble Committee

Fiona Harrison and guitar for Sundays@Six

Fiona Harrison, classical guitarist, performed a superb concert on 4th June: a more charming and charismatic person you could not wish to meet as she explained that she would take us 'around the world'. First to Spain and Joaquim Malats's *Serenata Española*, a piece originally written for piano. Next to Paraguay with *La Catedral* by Agustín Barrios Mangoré. He wrote the 2nd and 3rd movements first, then the 1st movement many years later for his wife, Gloria. Towards the end of his life he performed in national dress.

Sakura Theme and Variations by Yuquijiro Yocoh, is based on a popular Japanese folk melody *Sakura* (meaning

cherry blossom), and sounds reminiscent of the Japanese musical instrument, the koto. It uses many guitar techniques: brushing of strings, artificial harmonics and pizzicato. Next was *Recuerdos de la Alhambra* by Tárrega. This is one of the most famous pieces written for classical guitar and uses the tremelo technique, which is fast repetition of thumb and three fingers. When Fiona played this, it sounded as though several guitars were being played at once: tremendous. Then came *Hot Club Français* by English composer/guitarist, Gary Ryan, a joyous modern piece.

For our last treat, Fiona tuned a second guitar to the unusual key of C# minor (where five of the strings were tuned



differently from normal) and then played *Koyunbaba* Suite op.19 by Carlo Domeniconi, an Italian composer who lived in Istanbul for a while. The piece is inspired by nature and influenced by Turkish folk music. Our thanks to Fiona for a truly delightful evening. A leaving collection raised £300 for the British Stroke Association. If you missed Fiona's concert, here is a taster: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOZjBTcYIPA

Yellow lines in Westhumble

Everyone had a chance to vote on the proposals for additional yellow lines as discussed at the AGM and in the email and Parish magazine.

The results were conclusive. As a reminder the options were:-

1. Install additional lines along Westhumble Street from the bridge to the Stepping Stones and short additions

above the bridge in Chapel Lane.

2. As above but with the yellow lines in Chapel Lane extended as far as Burney Road. There is also an issue with parking in the passing place opposite Postern House.

In favour of option 1:- 23 votes

In favour of option 2:- 48 votes

In addition some residents chose to

express other views. Those in favour of no more lines:- 6 votes.

Those in favour unspecified:- 1 vote.

I will therefore start the process of applying for the additional lines to be installed and request that they be installed as 'conservation' standard which means they are a paler colour and narrower.

David Allbeury

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Brookwood Cemetery

On the 12th April, Kim Lowe, chair of the Brookwood Cemetery Society, gave our group an introductory talk about the cemetery before our guided walk in May. Brookwood, near Woking, is now a Grade I listed Historic Park and Garden and is the largest cemetery in the UK with an estimated 235,000 people buried there, covering all levels of society.

In the mid-19th century London was running out of room to bury its dead and a serious cholera epidemic made the situation worse. A plan for a large metropolitan cemetery in the suburbs was conceived and the London Necropolis Company purchased more than 2,000 acres of heathland near Woking. Roughly 400 acres were planted for use as Brookwood Cemetery which opened in 1854. The cemetery had its own private railway station in London, The London Necropolis Station, next to Waterloo and trains arrived at the two Brookwood stations on a dedicated branch line. Brookwood's North Station served the non-conformist side of the cemetery while the South was for the Anglicans. Trains had first-, second- and third-class carriages for passengers, with Hearse Carriages reserved for the coffins. The railway service ended in 1941 after the London station was bombed.

Those who could afford to pay for a first-class funeral were able to choose a grave site anywhere in the cemetery, rather than being assigned a numbered location. Kim is involved in a project to map the graves in the cemetery which is a quite a challenge as record keeping was often minimal at best. Grave positions described as 'next to the large rhododendron at the end of the path' are not very useful a century later! There have also been many reburials in Brookwood after various churchyards in London were demolished during engineering projects in the 19th century and, most recently, from St James's Gardens as a result of the HS2 work. The HS2 memorial is due to be completed by the end of June.

The talk ended with an aerial video of the cemetery which gave us a much better appreciation of the enormous area it covers. A month later 20 of

us met Kim in Brookwood's North Cemetery, ready to explore what could only be a small fraction of the cemetery in our allotted two hours. Several people remarked on how impressive the trees are, a reminder of the large numbers of redwoods, pines, cedars and sequoias originally planted.

Our first stop was Actors' Acre, reserved for members of the Dramatic, Equestrian and Musical Sick Fund Association which was set up in the 1850s by the actor John Anson. Brookwood was unusual in allowing burials on Sundays, making it a popular choice for actors as theatrical performances were banned on Sundays at that time. There are more than 500 graves here including that of Willy Carson, a costume designer and wigmaker who was involved in the Dreadnought Hoax in 1910. He disguised members of the Bloomsbury Group (including Virginia Woolf) as a delegation of Abyssinian Royals who then persuaded the Royal Navy to show them around HMS Dreadnought. This caused huge embarrassment to the Navy when the perpetrators owned up soon afterwards.

We moved on to the grave of Charles Bradlaugh, founder of the National Secular Society. Although elected to parliament in 1880 he was not allowed to take his seat until 1886 as he refused to swear an oath on the Bible. With Annie Besant (a social activist and theosophist with several connections to Mickleham) he republished the 'Fruits of Philosophy', an American pamphlet advocating birth control. As a result, they were prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act although their conviction was quashed. More than 3,000 people, including Gandhi, attended Bradlaugh's funeral in 1891. A large bronze bust on top of the grave pedestal was stolen twice and has now been replaced by a resin copy. Nearby is the grave of Charles Drysdale, first president of the Malthusian League which was founded to promote contraception after the Bradlaugh trial. His partner, Alice Vickery, was the first British woman to qualify as a chemist and pharmacist and one of the first to obtain a medical degree.



Top: John Anson, actor
above: Charles Bradlaugh, founder of
the National Secular Society.

On the way back to our cars, Kim pointed out numerous interesting burials, including the grave of Dr Robert Knox, an Edinburgh anatomist who obtained the bodies he needed for dissection from the body-snatchers Burke and Hare. He died in London and was buried in Brookwood because the heather growing there reminded him of Scotland. The tour ended with a quick glimpse of the South Cemetery from the lodge where refreshments were served. The Brookwood Cemetery Society also offers guided walks to the public on a regular basis, with themes as varied as Victorian Symbolism, Geology, Unsung Heroes and Mausoleums. For anyone with an interest in cemeteries or social history I can highly recommend them.

Judith Long



There cannot be many people over the age of, possibly, fifty who have not heard of the Nicholsons and the Sackville-Wests, or even the Bloomsbury Group. Harold and Vita led a rather unconventional married life in the early 20th century, to say the least but they had a common love of gardens and gardening. Although their professional lives were completely different, when it came to gardening they worked as a team. I have the feeling that it was not for the benefit of the general public to come and see what they had created, but because it was an inborn instinct to create something beautiful.

Sissinghurst, in Kent, is one of the National Trust's most visited places, but Long Barn is not so well known. Long Barn is set in eight acres in the Weald near Sevenoaks and it was the Nicholson's first family home. It was a cottage with an adjacent barn and by joining the two together they ended up with a lovely 'L' shaped Kentish house where they lived for fifteen years before they moving to Sissinghurst. There are vistas towards the South Downs everywhere and this is where their distinctive style of creating a garden was developed.

Garden Shed visit to Long Barn Gardens and Sissinghurst



Both had an unorthodox approach to creating a garden. Harold provided the architectural structure – box-hedged rooms, walled terraces and parterres, and columns of yew, whereas Vita planned the artistic planting with colours in great profusion with her great love of roses in evidence.

We were made very welcome by the present owner, Rebecca Lemonius, who had bought the property in 2007 having had her eye on it as a neighbour for some time. She described it as a 'romantic garden in a rural setting'. Her love for the whole place was plain to see. She does most of the planning and gardening herself and she said that she was very conscious of what Vita would have wanted. Pre-booking is essential.

We then moved on to Sissinghurst for lunch. So far that day the weather gods had been kind to us, but from then on it was 'wet, wet, wet!'

Like Long Barn, when Sissinghurst was bought in the 1930s it was in a derelict state. Harold and Vita rebuilt the house and created the world-famous garden using the same principles they had used at Long Barn. It was not the weather for strolling so we made a quick dash to the famous tower which is where Vita had her study/office, and where she did most of her writing. However, what is not so well known is that in the mid 18th century it was rented by the then government to imprison 3,000 French sailors captured from their ships.

We then did another quick dash to the Long Library which houses most of their enormous collection of some 4,000 books and where, at the old table, the whole family would have their meals.

Sadly it was not possible to visit the gardens, please don't take my word for it, just go, but check the forecast first!

Frances Presley

Celebrating St Michael's Community Nursery's 30th birthday

St Michael's Community Nursery will be 30 years old this year. One wonders just how many children have enjoyed and benefitted from the wonderful care and early education that has been provided in the village hall during this time. To start the celebrations, two events are planned in September. Firstly, an evening of reminiscences about childhood from an adult's point of view. Included will be poetry, prose, extracts from much loved children's books and personal experiences. The cost will be £12 per person to include light refreshments.

If your experience of childhood was a little different from that of most people,

for example, you lived abroad, you were in a remote community or perhaps your parents were in the services and you would like to share this experience with others, please get in touch.

Secondly, a short afternoon session of stories and drama for pre-school children. Space will be limited to 10 families at a cost of £8 per family to include a drink and a biscuit for the children plus a cup of tea or coffee for the adults. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Pre-booking will be essential but if it is over-subscribed, we may be able to offer a second session.

Anne Weaver

Mickleham & Westhumble
Local History Group

Guided tour of Reigate Caves

Tuesday 5th September 10.30 am

The tour will include both the Barons' Cave, the only remaining part of the old Norman castle, and the Tunnel Road East caves which were originally used for beer and wine storage. During WW2 some of the tunnels became a public air raid shelter.

The cost for the tour is £6 per person. Numbers are limited to 20 so booking is essential. For further information, or to reserve a place, please contact Judith Long: judith.long2@btinternet.com or 07904 160961.

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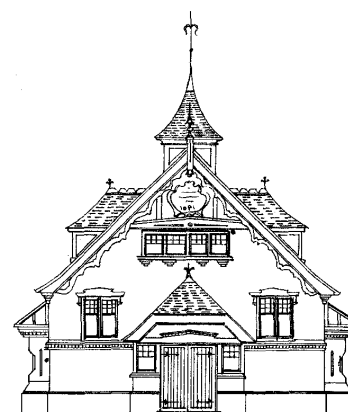
Summer is well and truly here. We have a wonderful seasonal menu; Anne tells me she thinks it is our best ever, which is good because we have been relying on it quite a bit as she badly sprained her ankle on a local walk.

I have been non-stop but enjoying the special spot we have created here, and seeing the younger staff blossom into amazing colleagues. We even have the wonderful Abbie back daytime on Thursday/Friday, blending this with her dream job of historical guide at Westminster Abbey three days per week. She got to see all the rehearsals for the Coronation - amazing!

We have live music every Sunday 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm. And an additional one-off music evening on Friday 25th August. Booking recommended.

Hope to see you very soon, Eamonn

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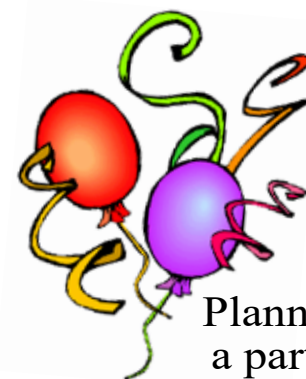
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07811 088097

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889
lyn@mra.uk.net

BOX HILL SCHOOL 01372 374814
Headmaster – Cory Lowde HMPA@boxhillschool.com

DORKING CRICKET CLUB
Chairman – Andrew Homewood homewooda@hotmail.co.uk

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth patriciabooth100@gmail.com

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB
Maddy Halliwell madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk

DORKING RUGBY CLUB 07789 176417
Jim Evans jim@flintcottage.net

THE GARDEN SHED 07759 646353
Pauline Davis paulinedavis33@icloud.com

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501
enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

Head of Centre – Maddy Jones m.jones@field-studies-council.org
Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 01483 281935
suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION 07767 891772
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt sarah@sarahparfitt.com

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY www.micklehamchoral.org.uk
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106
Secretary – Mike Benson secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk

MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB 01372 374745
Secretary – John Atewell

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL www.micklehampc.org.uk
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES 01372 379381
Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland rev.ireland43@btinternet.com
clerkatmpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk – Feena Graham

MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 07933 300744
Co-Editor – Charlotte Daruwalla editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Co-Editor – Jan Budleigh 07780 976301
editor@micklehammag.co.uk

MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL 01306 882547
Chairman – Ben Tatham chairman@micklehamvh.co.uk

Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell 07790 941601
bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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INCUMBENT — The Rev'd Will Perry 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini * 01372 417664
07763 488961

parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk

* Main working days: Monday, Tuesday and Sunday

CHURCHWARDENS

Timothy Mathieson 07555 597163
TimothyMathieson@aol.com

Catherine Diffey 07790 473167
Mickleham@diffey.me.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alison Wood 01372 376443
admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Caroline Jones 07504 271376
pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

TREASURER

Richard Siberry 01372 375303
pcctreasurer@micklehamchurch.org.uk

ORGANIST

David Fishwick 0208 7732420
organist@micklehamchurch.org.uk

WEDDINGS CO-ORDINATOR

Elaine Machin 01372 724972
weddings@micklehamchurch.org.uk

BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

Vickie Leney 01306 884054
baptisms@micklehamchurch.org.uk

FUNERALS CO-ORDINATOR

Carole Brough Fuller 01737 842918
funerals@micklehamchurch.org.uk

WEBSITE MANAGER

Kelvin Pritchard 07770 280410
website@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC ECO GROUP

David Kennington 01372 362309
davidkennington144@gmail.com

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

*For information about services for other
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Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

REGISTERS

WEDDING

Saturday 3rd June Thomas Howe and
Buntly Rowbothan

CALENDAR JULY

1	Saturday	10 am to noon	Coffee morning Westhumble Chapel
2	4TH SUNDAY of TRINITY	10 am	Family Service
3	Monday	3 pm	Tea@3 See Page 2
4	Tuesday	7.30 pm	Garden Shed Talk at the Stepping Stones
9	5TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	10 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion Matins at Westhumble Chapel
15	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones
16	6TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	8 am 10 am	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion
17	Monday	3 pm	Tea @ 3 see page 2
22	Saturday	9-10 am from 3 pm	Men's breakfast at the Stepping Stones Festhumble Music Festival
23	7TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion
30	8TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	10 am	Morning Prayer

AUGUST

5	Saturday	10 am to noon	Coffee morning Westhumble Chapel
6	9TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	10 am	Family Service
<i>Copy deadline for September parish magazine</i>			
13	10TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	10 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion Matins at Westhumble Chapel
15	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones
20	11TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	8 am 10 am	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion
22	Saturday	9-10 am	Men's breakfast at the Stepping Stones
27	12TH SUNDAY OF TRINITY	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion

Dates for your diary

Friday 15th to Sunday 17th September

Saturday 16th September

Heritage Open Days
at St Michael's Church
Flower Show

MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

Mark Day 07852 117249
mickleham@hotmail.com

Denise Darling denisedarling4@btinternet.com

Andy Diamond 07789 775354
diamo1@hotmail.co.uk

Kelvin Pritchard 07770 280410
Kelvin@wan2lan.com

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Mary Banfield 01372 373912 **mgbmw@aol.com**

Frances Presley 01306 882473 **jasempres@gmail.com**

*More helpers needed – please contact
Frances if you can spare some time.*

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB
Membership Secretary – Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

MICKLEHAM 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 or davidkennington144@gmail.com

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
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MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL 01306 885001
Cllr Chris Budleigh 07801 520059
councillor.budleigh@molevalley.gov.uk

Cllr Abhiram Magesh 07765 126399
councillor.magesh@molevalley.gov.uk

Cllr Leah Mursaleen-Plank 07803 353352
councillor.mursaleen-plank@molevalley.gov.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETIES (FORMERLY NADFAS)
Betchworth – Mary Venning 01306 883301
Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
Leatherhead – Sarah Sheridan 01306 883699

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (A) INFANT SCHOOL 01372 373717
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Friends of St Michael's School – friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY
WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Supervisor – Hilary Budd 01372 361021
stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL 03456 009 009
Councillor – Hazel Watson 01306 880120
hva.watson@btinternet.com

SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST 01483 795440
info@surreywt.org.uk

TREE WARDEN
David Kennington 07546 952521
davidkennington144@gmail.com

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

WHATSAPP GROUP
Will Dennis will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE
Dorking – Lyons Court 01306 732302
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 01306 732301

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111
POLICE Non-emergencies 101

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Rory Lee 07503 702517

Ellie Kim 07773 395575

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Edward Moran 07740 088124

Daisy Armitage **07580 473812

Olivia Newby 07703 110363

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** Parent's mobile number

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Rhona Buchan Howell

1933 - 2023

Rhona Buchan Howell passed away peacefully at home in Westhumble. She had stayed there for almost a year since her husband Roger died in 2022 with sterling support from her family to whom we send deepest condolences.

This obituary is drawn from a family tribute read by her daughter-in-law Sandra. It contained more memories than it is possible to include here. As Rhona's full name makes clear she was a Scot through and through, born in Lanarkshire. Her funeral reflected that with a piper opening the service with *Highland Cathedral* and piping her to her resting place playing the *Skye Boat Song*.

Rhona was an only child but made plenty of friends as a child and never felt lonely. She played marbles, snakes and ladders and Ludo with her Dad and played the piano. Summer holidays were a fortnight in Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. They used to take their bikes and cycle round the small island.

As she got older, Rhona became very involved with the church. She enjoyed the social side and was part of the drama group. She learned shorthand and typing and worked in office jobs

including working in the telephone manager's office doing accounts.

Readers will recall from Roger's obituary in this magazine that their courtship started with him being shown a photo of Rhona (when he met her parents on holiday in Worthing). After corresponding with her for six months and subsequently meeting up they were married in 1958. This was in spite of her thinking 'she could not imagine marrying an Englishman'. Roger worked on farms in Scotland. They had two children, Rhona and Bob. Roger then found a job working at Chapel Farm in Westhumble for 50p more than his salary then. Rhona bravely moved south and her father, by then a widower, moved with them.

Rhona became a registrar, she enjoyed this work for 30 years; it suited her sociable nature. She never learned to drive a car but had a moped and she loved nipping about on 'Susuki Susie'.

She was a devoted wife, a wonderful mother and, when two grandchildren were born, grandmother. She was also a person of strong faith and worshipped at the United Reform Church (URC) in



Dorking. She was an Elder for 23 years, visiting people who needed support. The UR was also important to Rhona. She joined in many other activities too numerous mention here.

She received a long-service award from the Royal British Legion for collecting donations locally for the annual Poppy Appeal. She was very proud of this well-deserved accolade and continued to collect (with help from Roger) almost until his death.

At her funeral at the URC there were many more tributes from family and friends. All had wonderful memories of a much-loved lady. Rest in peace, Rhona.

MCC: An Amazing Start to the Season



What an amazing start to the season. Our game was against a new competitor, the Eagles, filling in as Effingham had pulled out at short notice. The sun was out and our ground looked wonderful. Kevin won the toss and chose to bat giving his team a chance to warm up their athletic bodies.

Chris and Nick opened for us and after a few balls Nick was back in the hut for one. Michel sadly followed also out for one. In stepped Kevin with the weight of captaincy hanging over him. With Chris's helpful advice Kevin and Chris steadied the ship taking MCC to 61. Kevin 25 and Chris 24 set the scene for a magnificent batting cameo by Sunjo

who scored a sparkling 66 including three wonderful sixes.

We posted a good score of 166 against a skilled young side the Eagles.

After a fantastic tea centred around Jebson's cocktail sausages (delicious) we took to the field. We fought valiantly taking wickets at regular intervals. Michel bowled particularly well 7 overs, three wickets for 31 runs. Kevin, Sunjo and Jake took a wicket apiece. As the game was slipping away in came the Jebonator for 3 overs he took 2 wickets for 16 runs. Inexplicably the Jebonator was taken out of the attack by Kevin (does he have an eye on the bowling trophy this year?)

Our fielding was of the usual high standard with three dropped catches but it's still early in the season and this could clearly deteriorate.

The Eagles were a passionate great side to play against and a wonderful way to start the season. We did lose but actually all won on the day.

Kevin Walker

Community News

We were saddened to hear of the death of Lady Cubitt at the end of April. Her funeral was strictly private but a Service of Thanksgiving will be held on 13th September at 12 noon at St Barnabas Church, Ranmore and afterwards at Denbies. All are welcome to attend. We hope to have Linda's obituary in early autumn. She and Sir Hugh, who died in 2020, had lived in Westhumble since 1960.

John Parr also passed away recently, a Mickleham resident until the nineties. His funeral will take place at the end of June and again we hope to have an obituary after that.

Their families are in our thoughts and we offer warmest condolences.

Farewell to Gene Knight, who has moved from Mickleham to Leatherhead; and to

Ian and Jill Wright who have moved from Mickleham to West Horsley.



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society

Village Show

Saturday 16th September 2.30 - 4.30 pm

All readers of the parish mag will have received a lurid purple schedule for the Autumn Village Show. It was sent to you early so that you can make room in your garden for some produce to enter the show. Anyone who lives within two miles of the church or who is a member of The Garden Shed or any family member of St Michael's Infant School or the Nursery can enter.

We particularly welcome entries from children. Please have a go and encourage your children or grandchildren. The day starts with show entries brought to the village hall by 10 am, followed by judging. Then at 2.30 pm the doors are thrown open and everyone can come and see the displays and admire the produce. Prize giving is at 4 pm and the Show closes at 4.30 pm. In between there are stalls to enjoy and teas and cakes to purchase - all in all a great day

for the family and lots to enjoy.

If you join the Society we run a great scheme to buy garden manure and excellent quality compost at much reduced prices. Our Membership Secretary Judith Long (07904 160961 or judith.long2@btinternet.com) would love to hear from you regards membership. Lucy Adshead will be taking orders for the autumn compost and manure (07773 294026 or lucyadshead@lapurple.co.uk)

Beautiful Brides (and Handsome Grooms)



We have not reported on weddings very frequently in the magazine, so May and June have provided a welcome contrast with three taking place.

Matt Wilkins and Kerrie Mason married on Saturday 13th May at Gildings Barns

in Newdigate. Kerrie is the daughter of Neil and Lucy Mason of Chapel Lane.

Stephen Tillie and Jillie Cooper of Westhumble were married on Saturday 3rd June at Cluny Castle near Aberdeen. Stephen and Jillie both originate from Scotland. They have lived in

Westhumble for about 18 months.

Bunty Rowbotham and Thomas Howe also married on 3rd June, at St Michael's Church. We hope to have a photo in the next issue.

Congratulations and very best wishes to all of them.



Left: Matt and Kerrie; above Stephen and Jillie

Bonfire Night & Fireworks



Dear neighbours,

We are delighted to confirm that there will be Bonfire Night & Fireworks on 4th November. We will communicate further details closer to the time, but for

now please put the date in your diary.

A new team has stepped in to organise the event and we will need all your enthusiasm and support to make the event its usual success. If you want to get involved in preparation, offer help during the bonfire build, or make some suggestions on how to enhance the event, please feel free to send us an

email at v.l.kim@hotmail.com

In the meantime, let us thank Neil Mason and his trusted crew for running the event for so many years! Brilliant job (and we still count on your guidance and help this autumn).

Have a great summer.

Clinton, Doug, Jon, Rob,
Toby, Vladimir

Remember to send in your seasonal sightings please, so that we can build a local record over time.

Grumpy Old Mickleman - Job Titles



Until recently, job titles basically described what people did. Binmen dealt with bins. Cleaners cleaned things. Carpenters carpented and plumbers plumbed. This was a sensible world which had been wholly satisfactory over generations. Hence, the gradual adoption of jobs as surnames, Carpenter and Plummer being good examples.

I do not know which idiot started it, but in half a generation these logical and long-accepted job names have been assigned new, dynamic titles. A bin man is now a 'Waste Management Technician', but still empties the bins. The traffic warden, still has the main task of giving out tickets, but has morphed into a 'Parking Enforcement Operative'. This sounds as if you will be dragged into a waiting van for delivery to the Enforcement Pound, where you will be personally clamped and crushed unless you pay your penalty charge.

Similarly, surely flight attendant did not need to be replaced by 'Passenger Experience Facilitator', which is perhaps open to misinterpretation.

The man on the chicken production line is now senior feather inspector. And the top-man at the hairdressers has become 'Head Manager (Head Management)'.

It's all nonsense. They are still doing the same job. It may make people feel important, but it just creates confusion. 'Meet Tim, he's a 'Green Space Management Officer'. 'Oh I see!' You don't see, but it soon becomes apparent that he has his own leaf-blower.

In future generations, if the past surname trends continue, we will all be hyphenated, like 'Mr and Mrs Procurement-Specialist', or Demelza Hair-Engineering-Manager. Heaven

help the Welsh. Instead of 'here comes Jones the Steam', it will be 'Jones the Mobile Boiler Officer'. Not quite the same ring to it.

Best of all are the titles given to those with wholly generic jobs in personnel, secretarial or support roles. They can hold their heads high in the pub with completely incomprehensible titles. 'Yes, I'm a Dynamic Configuration Specialist' or a 'Text Delineation Curator' or a 'Company Functionality Head'.

Personally, I prefer Wing Commander (Retd), to 'UK Protection (Airborne Division) Action Performance Director (Non-Active).

Mark Day

The Village Hall Mickleham The Chairman's Report 2022

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022. With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, the nursery and our regular users were able to operate throughout 2022. We also saw a gradual return to our more normal level of one-off bookings during the year.

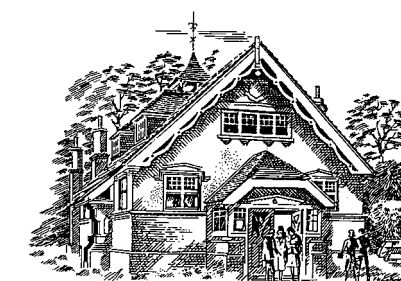
During the first 4 months of 2022, we continued to receive help from the government through Business Support Grants, in respect of Covid-19, via Mole Valley District Council. This helped offset the lower level of one-off booking income during the early part of the year.

We carried out all the many usual

maintenance activities throughout the year. We also replaced part of the car park fence blown down by a storm, installed solar lights in the car park extension and ordered replacement chairs which arrived in February 2023.

We continued to develop our website, with the testing and introduction of an on-line booking facility during late 2022/early 2023. This speeds up the booking process, makes information available to trustees and reduces the amount of paper we use.

On the costs side we have benefitted, and continue to benefit, from a fixed four-year tariff in respect of both gas and electricity which runs until October



2023. Similarly, we have been able to negotiate a new contract on the hall's insurance. At the end of 2022 we purchased 160 new folding chairs and four trolleys which are lighter, easier to store and save space.

If you wish to hire a venue for a family event or other activity, please come and have a look at our hall. Just call our Bookings Manager, Deanna Darnell, on 07790 941601 to arrange a visit.

Ben Tatham

Anyone for ~~tennis~~ BOWLS?

Have you ever played bowls, or do you fancy trying? It is truly a sport for all ages and is a most enjoyable way of taking gentle but purposeful exercise. Pippbrook Bowling Club's green is next to Pippbrook House, behind the Mole Valley council offices, and the club is keen to recruit new members. But if you have not played before, or have

not done so for a while, why not come along on a Friday afternoon at 2 for a 2.30 pm start, where David Pettman, a club member who leads the U3A bowls group, will introduce the basics for those new to the game. Bring some soft, flat shoes, or you can borrow shoes and bowls from the club for starters. There is an informative video on the bowls

section of the Dorking U3A website, or on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJDHdvCucIO

For information about membership of the club, or to ask about the U3A option, call David Pettman on 01306 883043, or send him an e-mail david@pettman.co.uk



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Container Gardening

Containers: a great way to achieve flexible planting in your garden. Moving containers to areas on your patio and flowerbeds, they help provide year round interest and colour to your beds and garden. Using containers gives you the flexibility to control soil type and contents, enabling you to grow plants that will not tolerate local garden soil, for example, rhododendrons will only grow in acid soil. Tender plants can be moved to a warm area during cold weather. The benefits are endless.

To find out how to create the best conditions for growing plants in containers, we visited The Rainbow Nursery in Ashted, where Andy Scott, an experienced horticulturalist shared more tips than we have space to cover, so below are some of the highlights:

Containers: almost anything will do as long as it has drainage that does not get blocked with soil, hence using something like broken crocks to cover drainage points. Andy has used compost bags turned inside out, ceramic and terracotta pots, metal containers and of course, hanging baskets.

Growing medium: being an expert in soil science this part of Andy's presentation was very interesting and quite technical. To summarise, he explained that garden compost is not the best growing medium for containers as it is not sterilised and contains microorganisms that could result in weeds and diseases. Also it is not possible to control nutrient concentration, which is important for young plants. Instead use appropriate growing compost from a garden supplier, mixed with a product to aid drainage and water retention. Good examples are perlite and vermiculite, the latter having the added benefit of retaining nutrients. Sharp sand is also useful for bulking out your growing medium when planting up large pots.

Nutrients: nutrients contained in growing mediums usually last three to four weeks, after which time you will need to use a feed. To get the best from your plants, it is important to provide the right nutrients for their growth stage. To do this, check the feed container for levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, which will all appear in different quantities; anything over 10% is high. If you wish



Attentive students

to bring on leaves and shoots on small plants, the nitrogen content needs to be higher, if wanting to develop roots look for a higher content of phosphorus, potassium will bring on flowers and fruit.

Watering: ideally use clean tap water for your containers and if you have a number to water, consider using an irrigation system. Tap water is alkaline and should not be used for ericaceous plants. Instead, soak teabags in water and use this liquid for watering. Water gel mixed in with the compost will also help to keep plants moist, but read the instructions carefully to check the correct quantity is added to the growing medium as each granule will increase up to 50 times its size when watered.

Planting Your Container: this is the fun part so be creative and do not be afraid to plant climbers in baskets and let them hang down, or place canes in containers to add support for plants. As mentioned earlier, the possibilities for containers are endless.

Letter to the Editor

Madam

I hate to disagree with our esteemed vicar on matters ecclesiastical, but surely the preferred translation of Ecclesiastes 3 verse 1 is not, as she quotes it in her leader in your June, 2023 edition 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heaven': but rather the King James version 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven'.

In case you're asking, how does an atheist like Will Dennis know this, the answer can be found in the Pete Seeger song *Turn, Turn, Turn*, which quotes from the King James version of Ecclesiastes 3, and was memorably covered by the Byrds (as well as being the title track of their second album). It's also one of the few Byrds singles which isn't about drugs, unless of

course you take the Marxian view that religion is the opium of the masses.

Bet you don't print this!

Will Dennis

Comment from Sandra

I am disappointed that Will Dennis disagrees with my use of a more scholarly, up to date version of Holy Scripture and that this seems to be based on song lyrics. The key for me is that the Bible is the Word of God and hence I use a version which helps me get to the meaning behind the text. However as a Christian I believe respect is a key value and so I respect those with whom I disagree, including those who prefer the ancient King James Version of the Bible or other translations, the views of atheists and those with differing musical tastes.

Next Garden Shed Talk

Steve Edney
Drought
Tolerant
Plants

on
Tuesday 4th July
at 7.30 pm

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CRYPTIC DELICACIES

Last month's theme answers were
GAZELLE, WESSEX, BATTLEAXE,
TOMAHAWK, MACHETE, and APACHE
and the golden squares could be
configured as CHOPPERS (as they
were either helicopters or bladed
implements). Further unheralded
themed answers were ROTOR, PILOT
and MASSIVE.

Before I pick out some clues, just
a reminder of the basics of clue-
solving. Most are made of two parts:
a definition and a cryptic part (or
another definition). The first thing I
usually do is look for the definition
(i.e. the synonym for the answer). The
definition is usually at the beginning
or the end of the clue. Then look for
keywords that point to what sort of
clue it is or actions you have got to do
(e.g. hidden words, anagrams, putting
words inside others, using initial or
alternate letters, homophones). And
the most basic thing is to look at
every single word in isolation from
the rest of the words in the clue and
think of every synonym for each
word (including abbreviations) – and
particularly any synonyms that have
nothing to do with the sense they are
being used in the phrasing of the clue!
Somewhere there will be a trigger that
wakes up your brain to a way into the
possibility of an aha of an answer. And
don't forget to make use of the theme
words and the golden squares – mark
up the relevant clues and target them
because once you've got the theme
word, suddenly you have a load of
extra help.

Here are some of the clues with

thoughts about solving (as ever,
definitions are underlined).

**5 Top promotion for starting to serve
when observing thirst (1-5)**

T-SHIRT

'starting to **Serve**' = S, if you observe
the word **THIRST** there is an S and if you
promote it up the order of letters in
the word you can end up with **T-SHIRT**
which is a type of 'top' (note: (1-5)
as the number count for the letters
in the answer should immediately be
flagged as a bit of an oddity – there
aren't many words like that. Always
be prepared to ignore any punctuation
(in this case the hyphen) when doing
letter manipulation).

**30 Maybe has a daughter outside,
bearing down (8)**

FEATHERS

'Maybe has a daughter' = FATHERS,
which is outside E (for bearing on a
compass) – and 'down' is one of those
lovely words for crossword setters in
that it can be used as an instruction
of what to do with some letters or it
can be one of many widely varying
synonyms (e.g. towards the bottom,
unhappy, or, as in this case, what you
can stuff pillows with).

**6 Female spy gets a bit of sleep in all
the excitement (9)**

SHEMOZZLE

'Female' = SHE, 'spy' = MOLE, 'a bit of
sleep' = ZZ (which gets put in MOLE).

**8 The Conservative party lose their
head having presumed perfect
outcomes (8)**

THEORIES



'Conservative party' = **TORIES** –
remove its head and put the 'the' in
front to get **THE ORIES**.

**4 Mother's riddle is heard to be
fantastic (7)**

MASSIVE

'Mother's' = MA'S, 'riddle' = sieve,
which when said sounds like the
second syllable of **MASSIVE** (which
means 'fantastic' in current young
people speak).

**7 I am exhibiting bitterness about the
ruling body of Europe - what an idiot! (8)**

IMBECILE

'I am' = I'M, 'bitterness' = **BILE** which
is put about EC (for European Council,
which is 'the ruling body of Europe').

**27 A small altercation with a source of
violent spitting (6)**

LLAMAS

'altercation' is a pointer to an anagram
of **A SMALL**. The definition is somewhat
cryptic but then how many things
are renowned as a source of violent
spitting?

I hope this helps and it would be great
to get any feedback via andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk

Andrew

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www.micklehampc.org.uk

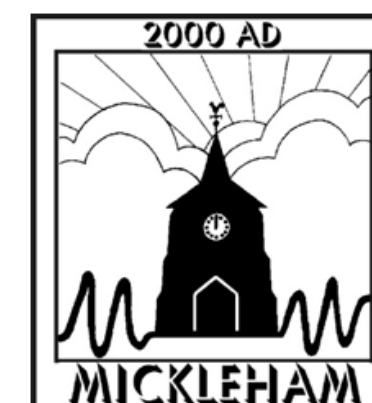
Future Council Meetings @ 7.30 pm

Wednesday 12th July 2023
Wednesday 13th September 2023
Wednesday 8th November 2023
Wednesday 10th January 2024
Wednesday 13th March 2024

Details of agenda/minutes will be
available on the website.

www.micklehampc.org.uk

Anyone wishing to attend please email:
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ST. MICHAEL'S

COMMUNITY NURSERY



This is the term that as nursery practitioners we truly see the fruits of our labour! Our older children are so independent in their play and exploration, we can really enjoy this last term with them before they move on to their new schools. However, that does not mean that our learning stops, adults in the nursery are often heard saying every day is a learning day, and that is for the adults.

A few weeks ago we discovered a caterpillar in with our stick insects; it had obviously arrived on the privet twigs that our stick insects eat. So a few google searches later, matching our caterpillar to images on the internet, we discover all about the

privet hawk moth, their long life cycle. Long (but not as long as a stag beetle's) grenade shaped poo, and should the young larvae meet that they fight to the death. Luckily, we only had one. Now pupated, we have to wait a year to see if our caterpillar will become an adult moth. We have seen decapitated heads, evidence of stag beetles in our forest school area, had a visit from a cinnabar moth, and learnt that some sharks actually lay eggs and not live young as we thought. A child brought in an unusual object they had found on the beach on holiday in Wales. It was an egg case, colloquially known as a 'mermaids' purse' that surrounds the eggs of oviparous (egg laying) sharks, or skates or rays. I am pretty sure we have all improved our potential quiz answering scores this month!

With the arrival of the warmer weather, our forest school areas give us lovely, cool, shaded areas to both play in and continue our exploration of the natural world. Some children have been stripping the bark of willow twigs. We then burn this off in the forest school fire to make our own charcoal for mark making. If you happen to have an empty small golden syrup or black treacle tin, please donate it to the nursery as ours is getting a little tired and we could do with a replacement.

At the end of July we say farewell to 26 children as they move on to their new schools. We will miss them but look forward to seeing them in their smart new uniforms and hearing the snippets of their ongoing educational journeys.

Hilary Budd



Top left: stripping willow twigs;
above from top: making charcoal;
privet hawk moth pupa; a cinnabar moth;
a mermaid's purse.

heritage open days
15th to 17th September

This year's Heritage Open Days in Mickleham will take place from 15th to 17th September. Really interesting events planned. More information in the next issue of the magazine or at www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Robust carrier bags wanted for delivering parish magazines and food bank items. Please leave at food bank collection points. See page 26. Thank you

Solution to the June crossword

Across: 1 War crime 5 T-shirt 9 Scottish 10 Feeble 12 Extortion 13 Occur 14 Oboe 16 Gazelle 19 Snorted 21 Meek 24 Brawl 25 Rice paper 27 Llamas 28 Replaced 29 Ankles 30 Feathers

Down: 1 Wessex 2 Roosts 3 Rotor 4 Massive 6 Shemozzle 7 Imbecile 8 Theories 11 Snag 15 Battleaxe 17 Isabella 18 Tomahawk 20 Dirk 21 Machete 22 Apache 23 Prudes 26 Pilot



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Situated in the heart of Dorking's Meadowbank Park, Silvermere's newly established softplay centre is an accessible and inclusive space for children and young people to unleash their natural energy through movement, play, and connection with others. We offer soft play sessions; pre-school play and parties. Our aim is for Silvermere Softplay to become a thriving hub for the community, where everyone – young and old – feels welcome. Later this year, we will be introducing structured movement-based groups to enhance wellbeing and connection for adults, as well as for children and young people.

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For more info and booking: www.silvermere-softplay.co.uk



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Tinned veg / tomatoes / soup / sauces / baked beans	Washing-up and cleaning products
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Rice pudding / long-life sponge puddings	Men's / women's toiletries
Coffee / tea bags / long-life fruit juice	Laundry products
Pasta / rice / pulses / instant mash	Nappies
Jam / honey / marmalade / spreads	Pet food
Sugar (500g bags only)	

**Please do not include
out-of-date items or those
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End of Term

The end of term has been a time of transitions. The younger children in the school have been exploring their new year group and meeting the new teaching team, and our oldest children are now moving on to junior school. We can see that they are ready for this next phase in their growth and learning and wish them the very best of luck on their new journey. As ever, we do hope they will come back and visit us as many past pupils still do.

Sensory stations

We have been delighted to introduce, and allow the children to explore, all of our new 'calm classroom' sensory resources. We have weight-balancing squishy beanbags to relax on, ambient mood lighting to read stories by, wobble cushions, yoga balls and noise reducing headphones.

We have also introduced our 'calming' trolleys to each classroom which are bursting with different resources a child can independently select to help them feel calm and settled. Well-being is so important for learning and progressing and these resources are a great support to the children to help create an

environment where all our children can thrive, feel happy and settled and reach their full potential.

Anna Fox (SENCO)

Sports Day

Sports Day in any infant school is a fun event, one which we look forward to and this year was no exception! The children practised for several weeks, getting ready for the field events (including speed bouncing, target throwing and the standing long jump) as well as running races and class novelty races.

The weather was beautiful, not too hot, not too cold and definitely no rain (an added bonus!) The children all worked in teams to help and support each other in the field events and to cheer each other on in the running races.

As always, there was a grandparent race, toddler race and the obligatory parent race (lots of training I feel had gone on beforehand...) and the day finished with a family picnic, which is always a lovely way to bring the St Michael's school community together.

Sports Day always involves a lot of



**St Michael's
School**

stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/

preparation beforehand, but this event is great fun. Thank you to everyone for their help and support!

Judith Moore (PE lead)

Leavers' Service

We are incredibly proud of our Year 2 children's performance during their Leavers' Service. There definitely wasn't a dry eye in the school hall. Participants showed resilience, confidence and sang their hearts out. Our weeks of rehearsing paid off and the children really enjoyed themselves. There was a mixture of singing and acting, it was similar to Britain's Got Talent! We are going to miss the children very much but are confident that they are ready for their journey into Year 3.

Becci Chapman (Year 2 teacher)

Photos below: the calm classroom sensory resources






Next Messy Church
September

Harvest Craft Workshop at
St Michael's Infant School
on Sunday 1st October
9.30 to 10.45 am
followed by Family Service in church at 11 am.
More information in the next issue.

Cryptic Crossword



A dance of the golden squares can make a connection between 11, 13, 15, 18, 23, 20, & 27 variously combined (8)

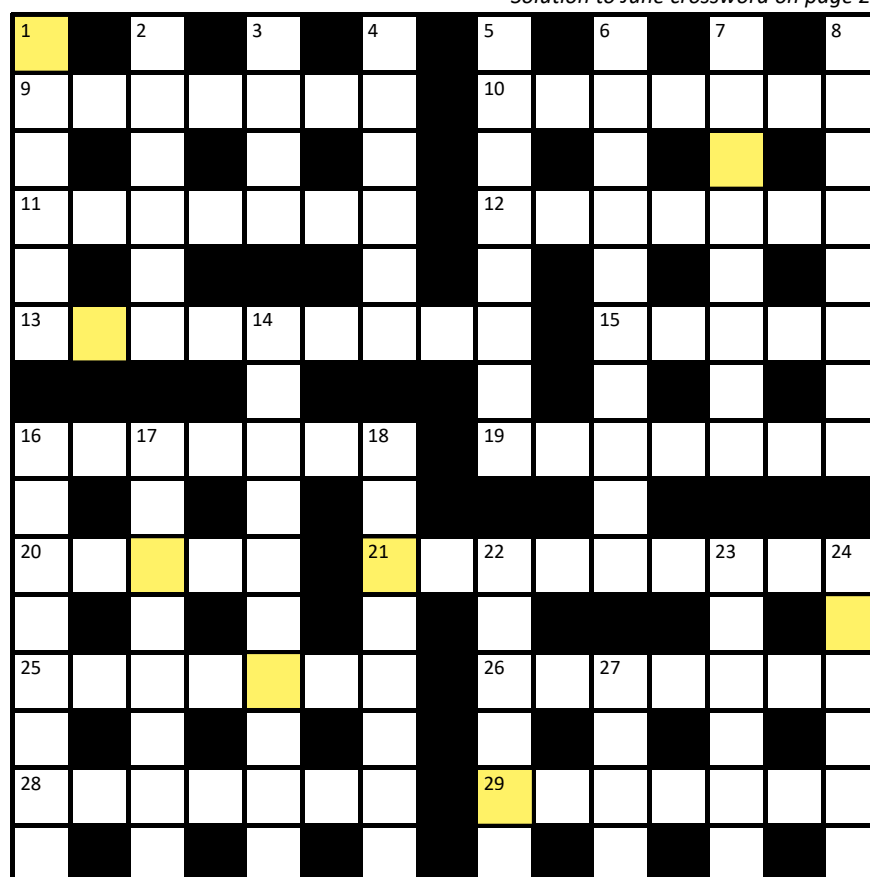
Across

- 9 Originality when leaving hostelry gets great applause (7)
- 10 Amanda is thrown out before tango gets hard and fast (7)
- 11 Fit coin in a spinning machine to get what Boris Johnson is famous for (7)
- 12 In a different way than I will go to a soldier's home (7)
- 13 It sounds like long-eared beings look to God to provide a fix for their beehive (9)
- 15 Sir Lancelot maybe gets his head chopped off in the dark (5)
- 16 What you can eat is dictated by newspaperman stirring bile with his rear end (7)
- 19 Though hiding friend, gave a sign of willingness to join the attack (5-2)
- 20 The beginning of every day holds an intimation of excitement (5)
- 21 The winner of this was half-blind, limbless, dead and square (9)
- 25 UN reacts with panic when head of state leaves with beastly man (7)
- 26 That's the most rotten word suggested by a rotten poet, sir! (7)
- 28 Having each role played without emotion to the fore is something that will lead the audience to throw up and run (7)



Left: Brookwood Cemetery treescape

Solution to June crossword on page 25



- 29 Gives away someone who had an apple shot off their head? (5,2)

Down

- 1 Going back for a laugh with someone known for idiocy is what you really need at bathtime (6)
- 2 Spooner delivered hot beverage as a way to get your limbs moving round very slowly (3,3)
- 3 Sounds like the item for unlocking No 1 is down under bird (4)
- 4 In a nervy state, I'm essentially more prone to saying stupid things (6)
- 5 For example, Garfield getting on a table could be said to be the cause for everything kicking off (8)

- 6 A giant seal floating around one edge of the North Sea (4,6)
- 7 Without a thought for his personal safety, Andy got involved with girl (8)
- 8 With the Environment Agency having gone AWOL, smash up toilet seat with shoe (8)
- 14 How to push out the wattage in Naples - with oral surgery! (5,5)
- 16 Briefly swear when it's too cold with air conditioning inside and you have the power to get things done properly (8)
- 17 Mad scientist might be surrounded by soldiers after discharge (8)
- 18 Audrey sat about avoiding sweetheart for exactly 24 hours (8)
- 22 Took in food without the time to get oxygen in (6)
- 23 Agrees to dance around in lard (6)
- 24 Some long-eared being with a carrot under its chin is chunky (6)
- 27 It sure is sloppy when an Inexperienced driver is held by his future best friend (4)

Andrew Tatham



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