

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

May
2021

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
JUNE 2021
MAGAZINE
Sunday
9th May

send to:

Sue Tatham
St Anthony Pilgrim's Way
Westhumble
Dorking RH5 6AW
01306 882547
editor@micklehammag.co.uk

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



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Dear friends

As we come out of the third lockdown, we hope that this brings to a close these difficult times. The vaccine rollout has been an amazing feat with millions vaccinated which is a testament to the heroic NHS and the envy of the world.

We are not there yet, and people still need to be careful but so many people are looking forward to seeing friends and family that they have not seen for over a year. It is a good time of year to open up with the leaves coming out, the flowers starting to bloom, the weather gradually warming up and the sun coming out.

During May we celebrate several things in the Christian calendar. Trinity Sunday occurs at the end of May, where we remember the Father as our Creator, the Son as our Saviour and the Holy Spirit as our Comforter.

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek pentekoste, 'fiftieth'). It is also called Whitsun but nowadays it does not necessarily coincide with the Whitsun Bank Holiday in the UK.

Ascension Day occurs 40 days after Easter Sunday, it marks the end of the Easter season. It commemorates Jesus Christ's bodily ascension into heaven. According to the New Testament in the Bible, Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings.

It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven. Christ sacrificed himself for us. And if we think about personal sacrifice, we think of Prince Philip who gave up his dreams and life to serve the Queen and country. How often do we see that it is the people behind the scenes that make the difference to so many. I have learned a great deal about Prince Philip that I did not know before, from recent television programmes which showed the personal impact he made to so many people. He gave up his life to serve his wife, family and ultimately the nation.

It shows the compromises given and importance of relationships. How important it is to have someone to turn to, to discuss things with, to laugh to cry and bounce things off. Whether from a partner, children, families or friends, we all need someone to be there for us. As much as lockdown has been hard, I believe the whole country has found a greater element of community, reaching out for help and finding new friends and ways of helping one another.

We should be comforted and proud by what we have achieved as a church and a community over the last year. Local businesses, schools and people have had to adapt to ever changing circumstances and may still have to do so in future. However, we have learned to adapt and change and face up to a new reality. We see a beacon of light in the distance, further dates for opening up and getting back to normal.

S Blake

Sarah Blake
Church Warden



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St Michael's Church Services

Sundays at 10 am
in church and via Zoom

We were delighted to be able to celebrate Easter in church as well as on Zoom, and for the time being we will continue to hold our Sunday services in St Michael's Church and via Zoom.

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online, which is sent to all church members 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/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjJBlw>



Services in the Westhumble Chapel to resume

We are starting monthly 11.30 Mattins services in the chapel in Westhumble starting from 9th May and on future second Sundays.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 2nd May at 12 noon on Zoom

Easter Sunday Flowers

Photograph: Suzie Wood



As for previous Easter Services St Michael's was bedecked with lilies given by members of the congregation in memory of loved ones. Their names were read out at the beginning of the service. This year we enjoyed two large arrangements for which we thank Wendy Wyatt and Judy Wilcox. A delightful Easter garden made by the Wilson family was also displayed. Many thanks to Katie, Becca, Gill and Jason



Bible Study Groups

The Monday Evening Chapel Group
8 - 9 pm

Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

The Thursday Morning Study Group
11 am - 12.30 pm

Contact Alison Wood
01372 376443

alison.wood29@btinternet.com

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St Michael's Church Community Group

The Grand Charity Easter Monday Auction

Despite significant trepidation on behalf of the Group itself, regarding the technology, sale-ability, and timing of the whole event, a seamless on-line event emerged. 64 lots were offered and all except three were sold. A virtual Easter Egg Hunt was completed and there was an online quiz, with little-known snippets about the meaning and traditions of Easter. Everything was sold within the scheduled two hours.

Some 50 bubbles were online, with the whole family in several cases, and the many emails which followed had, in the main, the one common denominator being what a fun two hours it had been. Faces were able to be put to names and vice-versa, and some extraordinary purchases were made by the most unexpected people.

Perhaps of secondary importance was the extraordinary amount of money raised by the generosity of the bidders – over £6,000 on the night. Some 70% of this was allocated to St Michael's School and to the Nursery and the remainder to the Allsaints coffee shop and the

Leatherhead Youth Project.

All the vouchers from our pubs were bought at more than face value as did that for the Dorking Butchery. Francesca and Katie's second/third hand Renault Clio, and also the two holidays in Tignes and Cornwall went for a good price, these three items raised about a third of the total. Many of the smaller items too sold well. I think the Rev Michael Dunk's attempt to abseil down the Spinnaker tower is to be applauded and hopefully recorded in a future issue. Andy Diamond bought a piano and Frances Presley cello lessons: we await their first joint recital with interest. All of the food items – home-made bread and cake, afternoon tea and a celebration cake were snapped up, as were the music lessons. Sheree's signed print raised a good price, and David Kennington's chainsaw massacre and the Fredley Flamethrower gardening promises exceeded £300 between them. Even the African Fertility Doll, which the auctioneer repeatedly described as

'worth more as firewood', fetched £40. There were too many things to mention here, but thank you so much to ALL the generous donors. £6,000 is an incredible result for our first attempt. But as auctioneer, seeing the amount of laughter it generated was very rewarding.

All of the Community Group were involved and it was great to have active involvement from representatives/parents of both the schools, but I hope they will forgive me if I make particular mention of contributions from two 'outsiders'. Without Kelvin Pritchard's generous donation of time and his considerable expertise, the evening simply would not have happened, and in the background Annie Dennis was trying to keep pace with who bought what and for how much. It took her over a week to deal with the considerable aftermath, ie making sure the right items got to the right buyers and that the monies were paid. Huge thanks and applause to everyone.

Mark Day

Suitable items for the Foodbank collection

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Instant mash | Cereal | Hair conditioner |
| Porridge | Tea bags | Shampoo |
| Coffee | Rice | Deodorant |
| Powdered milk | Jam/honey/marmalade/spread | Bar Soap |
| Rice pudding | UHT milk (green and blue only) | Tampons |
| Tinned veg/tomatoes | Long life sponge puddings | Nappies |
| Tinned pasta sauce | Sugar (500g bags only) | |
| Tinned soup | Long life fruit juice | |
| Baked beans | Washing-up liquid | |
| Pasta | Washing powder | |
| Pulses | Cleaning products | |



Please do not include out-of-date items or those that require refrigeration.

Both Dorking and Epsom Foodbanks post an update of particular needs on their websites each week.

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Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: How can we increase the biodiversity of our 'public' open spaces?

We do not have a village green as some parishes do. Instead our open spaces that are administered within Mickleham and Westhumble for other purposes. These include the Rec and the churchyard in Mickleham and in Westhumble there is the Westhumble Field and the verges in Burney Road and Pilgrims Way, which I admit are not really public spaces.

I do not have any involvement in these areas so what follows are mere suggestions. We are very lucky to live so close to some habitats of national importance such as Box Hill, Mickleham Downs, and Norbury Park. However, there is much that we can do to improve the habitats between these three main areas. This is especially important as the soils within the valley are different from those on the chalk and the woods above and could support other species.

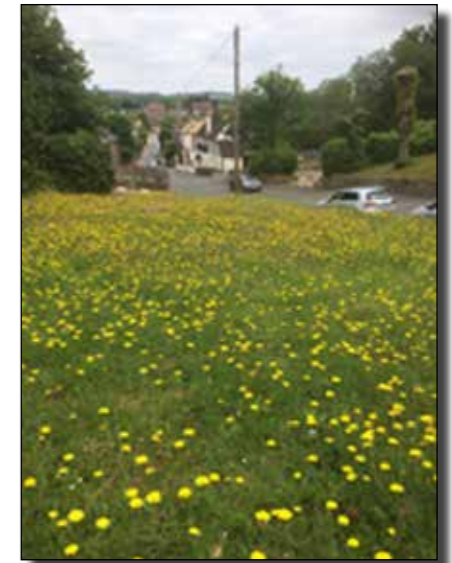
There has been some excitement already about the finding of Bee Orchids on the Rec. The leaving of what, I hope, is a reasonable area around the orchids will also give us a chance to see what else grows there. This children's play area is rather boring at the moment, being basically just a rectangle of mown turf. How would the children like to see it managed? What ideas do they have? It could become much more exciting if the grasses were allowed to grow, with mown curvy paths through them. This would be much more exciting, a bit like the area I played in as a child. Then it could also be a fantastic teaching resource as well, with bees and butterflies using the flowers that would be allowed to flourish. Also remember all the fuss a few years ago when the names of common plants, including trees, were left out of the dictionary? Can the names of common flowers and other wildlife be added to the village children's own dictionaries?

The churchyard is reasonably species-rich, as like most other similar sites, it has not been treated with fertilisers and herbicides nor ploughed – just the occasional disturbance as new graves are dug. Thomas Wood recorded the plants here in 2012 and the church was given a copy. I could send another

if it has been mislaid. There are many initiatives throughout the country to encourage the management of churchyards for biodiversity as well as for its main purpose as a sanctuary. I have also recently heard of an EcoChurch in Egham. The extension of the churchyard in Mickleham presents an opportunity to manage this area as well as the main churchyard in a way which is both respectful of those buried there and their families and which helps increase the wildlife of the area. I include myself as one of these families. Would not those commemorated here be pleased that the plot of land allocated to them will be helping future generations?

I do not know the history of the Westhumble Field but as it is pasture now, there is a chance to increase its plant diversity in a way that is compatible with grazing livestock. It is a myth to think that cattle and sheep require just grass. They can thrive on this but there are many non-grass species that they relish too. In turn, with a species-rich mix, this field could support a whole range of invertebrates and birds. The soil would benefit too. Links or corridors are important in wildlife conservation and this field could help join Box Hill with the Chapel Farm fields where the National Trust has plans for the sympathetic management of these grasslands. See for example the report in the parish magazine of December 2019. Of course all of this would have to be compatible with the tenancy agreement of the Westhumble Field.

A few years ago I wrote about the plants I had recorded in Westhumble, mainly along the verges of Burney Road and Pilgrims Way. The presence of certain species gives an indication of the history of the area. Being quite species-rich, these verges indicate the presence of pasture fields where there are now houses. A few of the verges have been sprayed with herbicides but many have not. The plant conservation charity Plantlife has a campaign they call 'No Mow May' as a way of conserving native species. Not only does this help plants and their pollinators, it can look



Verge in Redhill

lovely too. One species that could be prominent is Cat's-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*). This is one of those 'dandelion look-alikes' that is far more benign than its robust relative. A close look at its leaves and its smaller flower heads will show the difference and its 'clocks' are brown instead of white and are also much smaller.

One of the principles of managing an area for conservation is first to find out what one has as well as what grows nearby. I could help with this if needed.
Ann Sankey

Mark Day adds...
St Michael's Church is just setting out on its response to the CoE Environmental Policy and your PCC has now committed to the Church Eco-Awards scheme. The responsibility for this falls to the Community Group, under the Church Development plan. The goal includes positive ecological management of all church land. The graveyard extension area, not intended for future burials, will have memorial tree planting, but it is also hoped that our chalk geology can be used for some specific wildflower turfing/planting/management. It may be possible to liaise with adjacent landowners to explore the creation of a network of contiguous and complementary habitats. The existing graveyard will also form part of the evaluation.

Therapy Dogs

So my new puppy was going to be a therapy dog... that is what I told the wonderful breeder of the tiny little bundle which I was to call Trumpington Spuffle. I had chosen my new friend very carefully. A Norfolk x Hunt terrier was a major departure from the 15 Dobermans we had cherished as companions over 37 years. This bundle of joy was a livewire to say the very least! I put his name down for obedience training classes with Ruth Dunning, an amazing trainer who suggested that, although Trumpers had not had his vaccinations yet, he could still be introduced to a rich variety of experiences, people and situations even before starting classes. To this end I carried him around garden centres, shops, the stations, to friends' houses, Bocketts Farm and Norbury Park Farm. He was introduced to horses, sheep, cows, cats, dogs, chickens, traffic, trains, sliding doors, ramps and all manner of people.

By the age of 12 weeks Trumpers was a confident little chap who loved everybody and every experience, indeed the main challenge was to get him to greet his many fans with calmness, keeping all four paws on the floor! Three months later and Trumpers had graduated from two puppy training courses, passed his Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze Award, was training for his Silver Award and had embarked on a tracking training course. It was there, that he



was greeted by a new friend, who was asked firmly not to play with him unless he sat down 'as he was to be a Therapy Dog'. It turned out that her own border collie was already a therapy dog and she put me in touch with Therapy Dogs Nationwide. (Charity No.1167622)

Therapy Dogs Nationwide (TDN) is a national charity with more than 900 visiting volunteers, who take their own temperament-tested dogs into establishments to give comfort, distraction and stimulation. We have dogs of all shapes, breeds and sizes from chihuahuas to great danes. Some dogs with three legs, some deaf and one blind. Many dogs are

crossbreeds, some are 'rescues' and have not had the advantage of a loving stable upbringing but each of our dogs has worked with their owner for a minimum of six months before it is eligible to have its suitability assessed by a trained assessor. It has been my privilege to have been trained and accepted as a temperament assessor and it has been a joy to have assessed many dogs across Surrey and Sussex. Once accepted these wonderful dogs along with their owners visit many types of establishments: hospitals, hospices, care homes, prisons, secure mental health units, stroke rehabilitation wards, schools and indeed any such place where the dog can give unconditional love and be totally non-judgemental. Working alongside a psychologist, a TDN dog can help dog-phobic children.

A particularly important part of TDN's work is the 'Paws and Read' scheme. For many reasons, some children are often reluctant to read out loud to their peers. These children often respond to a TDN dog who 'listens' to them reading. Teachers across the UK have reported that many children have gained in confidence while reading to the dog and show at the same time a marked improvement in their personal development. Trumpers and I appeared live on Channel 5 News to

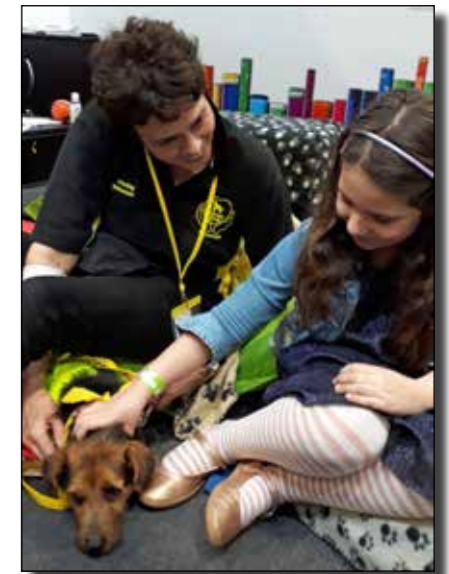


explain the benefits of therapy dogs, including physiological ones such as releasing oxytocin, decreasing the stress hormone cortisol, lowering the heart rate and blood pressure and boosting serotonin levels.

Trumpers has represented TDN at Discover Dogs, at well-being events during Mental Health Weeks at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Brighton, and Thorpe Park. He has provided therapy in parliament, being cuddled by Sir Paul Beresford, Matt Hancock, Jo Johnson, Mark Prisk, Kate Green, and others. He / we were proud to be presented with The TDN Rising Star Award at Crufts in 2019.

Our real passion is our weekly visits (until lockdown) to The Grange in Bookham, where he brings smiles to the faces of many of the residents and to the staff. If Trumpers could speak for himself, he would tell you that he adores his fan club of little readers and ALL the staff at St Michael's School. A little boy in Reception ran to me in the recreation ground last week and told me, 'I know you and Trumpers - your picture is on the wall!' So, during this last year, weekly reading has been replaced by informal 'Conversation and Cuddles' with Trumpers and his niece Purdey (6 months) who will, I hope, follow in his pawsteps.

Christine Smyth



Mickleham Village Hall Update



All activity in the Hall stopped in March 2020 except for the Nursery which remained open for vulnerable children and those of key workers. Our income from lettings was greatly reduced but government grants supported us financially on several occasions as the Covid situation developed throughout the year. The grants have continued into the first quarter of 2021.

We were allowed to open in a limited way in September. The reopening required much preparation with many notices, restrictions, a user and cleaning log and provision of hand sanitisers and wet wipes. Even this limited activity had

to stop at the end of October except for the Nursery which was allowed to resume normal service for all their children at the beginning of September and to carry on thereafter.

We are now looking forward to a staged resumption of the normal activities in the Hall but we have to follow Government guidelines and their time table. We all now know how these can change! The first activity to resume will be the Dance First classes for children on 19th April. This will be followed a few days later by Mole Valley Fitness classes and Monkey Music dance classes. At the moment all restrictions are expected to be lifted on 21st June. We are already taking bookings for individual functions from that date onwards. If you wish

to book the Hall for your activity or function, please check government guidance to see when it will be allowed. If you are not familiar with the Village Hall and wonder if it would be suitable for what you want to do, please contact our bookings manager, Deanna Darnell on 07790 941601 or via bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk to arrange a visit.

Ben Tatham
Chairman

MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
AGM
Saturday 22nd May
10 am via Zoom
For further details, please contact
secretary@micklehamvh.co.uk



The Arts Society, formerly the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), is a leading arts education charity with a global network of over 380 local societies, which bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts. Three local societies are inviting non-members to join their monthly lectures on Zoom - all given by Arts Society accredited lecturers. Numbers are limited, so register as soon as possible.

THE ARTS SOCIETY DORKING

Tuesday 11th May 10.30 am *RAPHAEL OF URBINO: ARTIST AND ARCHITECT* by Shirley Smith
Register with: Diana Pledge d.pledge@sky.com £5 per lecture payable by bank transfer.

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

Wednesday 12th May 5 pm *A WALK IN LISBON* with our tour guide Inês Valencia, a native of the city
Register with: John Bloomfield kjbloomfield@btinternet.com £5.

Monday 17th May 2.30 pm *CARAVAGGIO: THE MASTER OF LIGHT AND SHADOW* by Shirley Smith
Register with: Pat Frankland pat_frankland@hotmail.com or ring 01737 842028 £5 per lecture.

THE ARTS SOCIETY LEATHERHEAD

Wednesday 12th May at 7.30 pm *THE COLLECTIONS OF NAPOLEON AND JOSEPHINE AT THE CHATEAU DE MALMAISON* by Carole Petipher. Register with Huw Jenkins theartsocietyleatherhead@gmail.com



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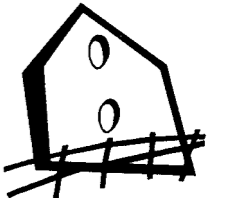
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Westhumble Residents Association

Notes from our Annual and subsequent Extraordinary General Meetings



For those who were not able to attend the virtual meetings this is to provide some details of what happened and where we are hoping to progress in the future.

The AGM was held via Zoom on 9th March and was attended by over fifty people. David Allbeury reported as chairman on the past year's events and thanked the committee for all their work during the year. Links with Mickleham had been strengthened through the formation of the Mole Valley Emergency Plan. This was initially set up to deal with flooding and other unexpected disasters. As it happened it came into use sooner than we expected with the advent of the Coronavirus. The WhatsApp group that was established allowed those who were shielding to ask for prescription and supplies delivery. Both villages reacted with wonderful cooperation.

During the Spring there was a proposal from a 'Greener Lanes' group to close Chapel Lane to motorised traffic using a gate at the top of Bagden Hill to allow deliveries. Following consultation with the group director and Hazel Watson, our local county councillor, the scheme was abandoned.

Following the arrival of a large blue Amazon box in the station forecourt without planning permission or any warning, representations were made to Mole Valley District Council and the box was removed.

One of the more time-consuming problems was the issue of noise at Ryka's and speeding along the A24 predominantly by motorbikes. A Joint Action Group was set up with Surrey County Council that owns the car park at Ryka's. The initial meeting was not a

great success due to disagreements over the nature of the problem. However subsequent action by the police has seen some diminution of the problem. There is a proposal for noise monitoring cameras to be deployed including a fixed camera at Ryka's.

The issue of dangerous parking in Chapel Lane at weekends and bank holidays was discussed and the application for double yellow lines to be installed from the Stepping Stones to Postern House has been sent in to Surrey County Council. Views were varied on the need or efficacy of the measure, but reassurances were given that if permission is granted to install the lines then a full consultation with the village would be undertaken before confirming the work.

A proposal by Elly McIlwraith-Jay to use part of the land behind the Chapel of Ease as a joint playground, orchard and meadow was discussed and was favourably received by many residents. Discussions with SCC will continue to establish the criteria needed for grant funding and permission to use the land which is about 1/3rd acre. Adjacent properties had been informed and were supportive.

Neil Mason confirmed that the bonfire will go ahead this year and asked for more volunteers for collection and construction.

A question was raised about the condition of the station's canopies and it was confirmed that the management were expecting work to commence in late April. Subsequent to the AGM there are ongoing discussions about reinstating toilet facilities as visitors had been using the garden at the Chapel of Ease and residents gardens.

There was a discussion over the change in planning designation of the south side of the village and an EGM was arranged to discuss the full implications. Following on from two revisions of the Local Plan, advice from previous Mole Valley planning officers that the village was 'washed over' by the Green Belt and that any infill development could only be on the frontage of the road, it has transpired the area of Burney Road, Pilgrim's Way and Close and Adlers Lane were to be 'inset' and therefore not subject to Green Belt development rules.

The EGM was held on 30th March, again via Zoom, to discuss this matter. Following on from her initial appraisal of the problem Hannah Baker did a magnificent job in producing an emphatic rebuttal of the planners' proposal. This was a comprehensive review and analysis of the planning laws and their application to the Green Belt.

Subsequent to the meeting Hannah has drafted letters to the Leader of Mole Valley Council, our Surrey County Councillor and we await a response from other interested parties before making a submission to the planning department and organising a petition from the village. It is intended to make the submission before the proposal goes to the Planning Inspectorate in June. We will also have an opportunity to make representations at the examination of the Local Plan by the Planning Inspectorate if the proposal has not been withdrawn by then.

The overwhelming view of those present was that the whole village should remain in the Green Belt.

David Allbeury

Can you help the Parish Magazine?

For several years Fiona Roberts-Miller has been in charge of the accounts for this magazine, the advertising and the mailing list. As noted in the Annual Report for the magazine on page 21, Fiona is moving away. The magazine is reliant on voluntary support from people like Fiona. We are therefore looking for someone, or more than one person, who would be willing to take over one or more of these responsibilities.

Please think whether you could take on a task. If you would like to know more about what would be involved in one or all of the jobs, the best option would be to talk to Fiona on 01306 740851.

Pannnels of Pales – The Old Churchyard

We know that there was a church at Mickleham circa 1080; the Domesday Book records ‘there is a church and two acres of meadow’ and it is this meadow that was the beginning of the well-tended churchyard space that we enjoy today. It was, of course, not always thus and in times past churchyards might be invaded by flocks of sheep being driven to other pastures or cows going to be milked. In some areas farmers were required to maintain fences while in Mickleham the vestry accounts show that the church was responsible for repairs to its fabric and the enclosure of the churchyard which is consecrated ground.

In 1640 the parish paid out for ‘workmanship about ye church gate and barres’ and the cost of timber and iron, all of which came to 16s 11d (not quite 85p) the money being found from a rate of 8d (a little more than 3p) in the pound. A hundred years later, in 1761, this expense had been transferred to local householders and the vestry records note that the churchyard’s ‘pannels of pales’ should be maintained ‘in order as they are in the churchyard by designated local households. For example, the parish was responsible for the ‘lock bars’ (the

stocks opposite The Running Horses or The Chequers as it was then), whereas Arnold ‘of ye pound’ (at Byttom Hill) had two panels to maintain. Thomas Tooth of the Old House had two for his house and a third for Franks (wherever that may have been), while Norbury, Burford and Fridly (sic) were unsurprisingly listed too. In all 24 people or houses are named. This system was probably in operation from 1700 as the original vestry entry was copied later by the 1761 churchwarden and farmer, John Hall, his note still existing in the old vestry minute book.

The pales, literally stakes, were ‘ganged’ side by side although, as the (undated, circa 1800) drawing shows, this duty was not always kept to the letter. Interestingly, this pencil drawing also shows steps leading up from the road in the same place that the lych gate now occupies. In 1780 new posts and rails were erected on the street side of the church but on the north and much of the east side there was hedging, as seen in an etching of 1798, which has a group of travellers resting outside the boundary, probably not



having a picnic as we know it but taking sustenance!

White picket fencing along Eastwick Drive and the churchyard walls came later, as did the Burmester Gate and the Lych gate at the end of the 19thc. Currently we have no records in the archive of the construction of the walls other than a detailed specification and estimate drawn up for the wall fronting the London Road. It is not dated but the writing has that distinct florid Victorian style and there is an early photograph said to be taken in 1899. The red gates have retained the same style for many years and certainly go back to the 1930s. So our churchyard is now secure from marauding animals unless you count canines! Judy Kinloch



Sponsored bike ride for Maggie's charity

Last year several of us took part in a sponsored bike ride for Maggie's, a cancer charity at the Royal Marsden which provides free support to anyone living with cancer. This year, as last year, the ride will start and finish at Box Hill School. The date is 19th September. I cannot enter this year, but it would be nice to have a local team again. The route is mostly minor roads and not too hilly, although it does start up Box Hill. There is a choice of a 50- or 100-mile route, with a stop at Maggie's centre in the Royal Marsden for well-deserved refreshments.

For thousands of families living in Surrey and beyond, Maggie's centre is somewhere to seek expert advice,

meet others facing similar challenges and get vital support at an incredibly difficult time. Maggie's helps people to take back control when cancer turns their life upside down. With free support for anything from treatment side effects to money worries to coping with bereavement – their professional team provides 1:1 advice and runs support groups all designed to make coping with cancer easier to bear. All their support has always been and will continue to be free.

The pandemic has had, and is continuing to have, a devastating impact on people with cancer. The cancellation of cancer treatment, financial worries and the impact

on mental health caused by self-isolating away from loved ones, are all causing heightened anxiety and stress. Last year, the BBC reported that because of the pandemic, an additional 35,000 people could die of cancer this year. Maggie's is needed now more than ever, and the team are working tirelessly to ensure that they are there for everyone who needs them. Your support will help to ensure they can be! For more information and to register:

<http://aggiesurreycyclechallenge21.eventbrite.com> A promo code of [SCCTHANKYOU5](https://www.sccthankyou5.org) might get you a £5 discount, but don't tell them I said that.

Will Dennis

What's Happening on Box Hill

Extracts from the Friends of Box Hill Spring Newsletter

Photograph: Ann Sankey



Box Hill has been a source of freedom and enjoyment for many, many people over this difficult last year and this is shown by the smiles on families' faces, the many dens in the playtrail and this wonderful piece of art in Happy Valley!

However, the huge number of people visiting the Hill, many of whom had not been to the countryside let alone Box Hill before has resulted in significant wear and tear on the footpaths, steps and the habitats. A lot of new paths have been created by people trying to keep their distance from other people and avoid the muddy paths. Also, mountain bikers have become more numerous, and several have created their own routes. Some of these new paths made by a range of users are going through sensitive wildlife areas.

All of this plus the untold amounts of litter and trying to operate in a Covid-safe way has placed enormous pressures on the NT staff. As you know the NT has also had to reduce costs and reorganise to help achieve this. The new structure is designed to try to address

some of the problems of increased visitor numbers. The NT Surrey Hills will operate more as a team providing support across the different areas when needed.

There will be two main teams within the Surrey Hills structure which includes Box Hill: the Countryside team and the Visitor Operations and Experience team.

Mark Dawson is the Lead Ranger within the Countryside team responsible for Box Hill, Headley Heath, Reigate Hill and Oxted Downs. In his Box Hill team will be Fede Ghittoni as Area Ranger with a full-time ranger and part-time ranger reporting to him. These latter roles are additional roles that should be able to help increase the amount of conservation and repair work done.

Catherine McCusker is the Senior Visitor Experience Officer, within the Visitor Operations and Experience team, that is responsible for ensuring that visitors are both welcomed and managed. She will have a team of five part-time permanent staff to help with this, who can spread all over the property. They will raise visitors' awareness of what makes Box Hill special and how to operate in the countryside. The aim is that their presence will encourage visitors to follow the countryside code and increase their enjoyment and appreciation of the wildlife. They will also manage the car parks, Zig Zag road and litter at the centre, thereby enabling the countryside team to concentrate more on conservation work.

Both teams will continue to rely on volunteers to support them. Some NT and local community volunteers

have been regularly collecting litter which is incredibly helpful to the NT and the welfare of Box Hill. The countryside team is currently focussed on recruiting the Headley Area Ranger and the other two Box Hill rangers. The newly recruited staff will then need careful training. Once the staff are up and running it is hoped to bring other volunteers back. They cannot be brought back until there are sufficient staff to manage them on both Box Hill and Headley Heath as Fede is currently doing both jobs single handed.

The team is identifying the infrastructure ie footpaths, steps, fences etc that need attention with a view to working on them over the next few months. They will also look at what can be done to deter people from damaging sensitive wildlife areas. This may occasionally include fencing to restrict access. They are also looking at the possibility of fencing both sides of the road by the Viewpoint and hard surfacing the rest of the play trail.

Some limited conservation work that can be carried out during bird nesting season may also start to happen then with more extensive work being carried out in the autumn.

Catherine is working hard to educate her team about Box Hill, the different areas, its history, wildlife and how to inspire the visitors. They also need to learn to be able to respond to all sorts of different issues, which in the last few days included industrial scale picking of wild garlic by the Stepping Stones and unhelpful stickers on notices.

Lyn Richards

Henry Smith Charity

Mickleham is one of 159 parishes in England that are fortunate enough to receive a modest sum of money each year from the Henry Smith Charity to 'assist the poor, the sick or disabled, and the elderly' within our parish.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this charity or you would like more information please contact Mary Banfield (email mgbbmw@aol.com or telephone 01372 373912). All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Henry Smith Charity which dates back nearly 400 years and is one of the largest grant making charities in the UK, the website has lots of information: <https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/about-us/history/>

Citizens Advice

We are following UK Government advice and have suspended our face-to-face services until further notice. This includes all our local outreach services.

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www.citizensadvice.org.uk

See p16 for new phone numbers

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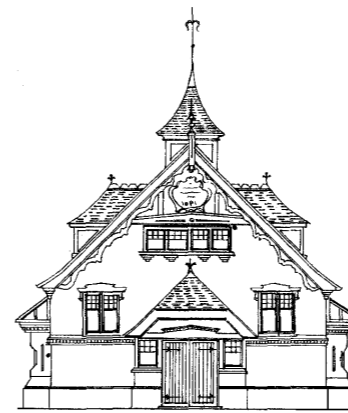
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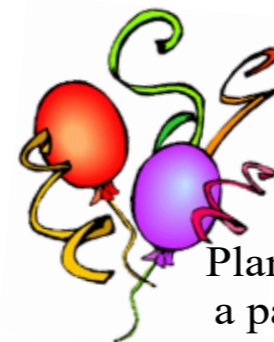
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mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

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For information about services for other
denominations see website pages.

Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

PARISH PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday 4th May

We are continuing to hold our monthly
prayer meetings on the first Tuesday of the month
at 7.30 pm via Zoom. See Pews News Online
for joining details. Everyone welcome.

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15th April James Riches

Photograph: Runaway Adventures



Sunrise at Leith Hill Tower

Plus ça change

At the foot of the sharp shoulder of the Leith Hill crowned by the tower stands the modern Surrey Trust Inn, where breakfast is served in the early hours of the morning to the youthful who make the adventure from distant towns to see the sunrise from the highest point in Surrey. It certainly requires youthful legs to make the scramble up the slippery footpath that scars the brow of the hill summit. Ponderous middle-aged can walk up the deep sandy lane on the right, under the shade of the pines.

Once I climbed the hill to greet the dawn, but my early devotion at the altar of Pan was rudely broken into by a cycling party resonant with cockneydom. I had started from my home at eleven o'clock, and after resting for an hour on the banks of Anstiebury Camp, I made my final climb to the summit. On the bare crown of the hill, around which usually a strong wind is blowing, the earth this morning seemed to be holding its breath, so still and silent was it, as I watched the silver streak of light tiptoeing over the tops of the larches, firing them into lance-heads.

I held my breath too, as I rose from the short down grass. Then suddenly these words broke upon my ears: "What O, 'Erry! Ain't this a bloomin' knockout?" and about thirty jolly, panting, perspiring cyclists pushed their bikes up to the summit, invoking the gods of great cities as they threw themselves to the ground. The air suddenly lost its virgin purity, and a streak of red stained the sky. Still, I was glad these young fellows had accomplished their job, and had made an effort to slough off the mire of the city. I descended the hill, and slept soundly under a hedge until I was wakened by a shepherd.

FEGreen

Many thanks to Jenny De Soutter who sent us this extract from *The Surrey Hills*, published in 1915 by Chatto and Windus



Blackthorn blossoms covered by snow on 12th April

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Continued from page 13

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- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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- MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
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Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
Leatherhead – Sarah Sheridan 01306 883699
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info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk
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Co-chairs Nicole Harcombe, Tracey Harwood, Amy Rieley
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- WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury 07860 227451
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Skye Moran 01306 640043
Patrick Moran 01306 640043
Amber Miller 01306 883659
Rory Lee **07973 360 950
Ellie Kim 07773 395 575
Tatiana Fleming-Smith
** 07495 014 427
Chelsea Edwards 07834 695816
Philomena Ala 07789 727682
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* Holidays only
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Alexa Running the London Marathon



My name is Alexa Dewar. Having
lived in Westhumble my whole life
and having a mother and father who got
involved in numerous sporting clubs, I
am surprised it took me until I was 20
years old to discover the Dorking and
Mole Valley Athletics club and a zest
for running during lockdown last year.

After beginning my running journey
following an 8-week half marathon
training plan, I not only smashed my
time goal of 2 hours, but found a new
and exciting hobby that not only helps
you appreciate our gorgeous natural
surroundings, but also facilitates a free
mind in a time of social constriction.
The sport particularly helping me, as I
sadly lost my grandmother (who some
of you may have known) to Alzheimer's
last June.

In wake of this, I decided that even
though I had only been running for 8
months, in November, after a new half
marathon PB, that I would sign up to the
London Marathon in aid of Alzheimer's
UK. I so fortunately received a place
and have since been working with



one of the wonderful coaches in the
DMVAC to reach my target of a 3:45
marathon. The goal is going to be
difficult, but hopefully achievable,
relying on whatever conditions October
may bring.

I hope to raise £2,000 for my charity so
that other families do not have to go
through the same hardship ours did.
If any readers feel inclined to help, the
link to my Just Giving page is [https://
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/
alexa-dewar](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alexa-dewar). Every little bit helps and I
would be unbelievably grateful for any
donations.

If a further incentive is required I
will also be offering birthday cake
orders if anyone so desires (subject
to time/flavour availability, contact
me if interested – 07568 434980). All
proceeds go to charity and an example
is pictured so you can see I can bake!

Over the next six months I am sure you
will see me out on the trails, racking up
the miles. If you do, feel free to say hi
(it's always nice to have a little boost!).

Thank you so much to those who have
already donated and supported me in
any way, I am really so grateful.

Community News

Farewell to Sue and Nick Forte who
have moved from Pilgrims Way
to Shepperton on their way to the
Cotswolds.

Welcome to Suzanne (Sue) Hibbert
who has moved to Pilgrims Way
from Cobham via Cleveland Court.

Best wishes to Agatha (Aggie)
Dombrowski and Duncan Irvine of
Westhumble Street who will be married
in St Michael's on 15th May.

Tony Hoare

With great sadness we report the
sudden death of Tony Hoare
on 14th March. Although they lived
in Givons Grove Tony and Gay were
great supporters of village activities
including Mickleham Choral Society and
especially the Friends of Juniper Hall.
Many will remember Tony's talks of his
travels far and wide and his stunning
photographs of butterflies. We send
our love and deepest sympathy to Gay
and their family.

Grace MacKay

We are sorry to record the death of
Grace MacKay on 3rd April. She
had been frail for some time, but bore
it bravely and died peacefully at home
with her husband, Neil holding her
hand. They lived on Box Hill but were
long-standing members of Mickleham
Choral Society and participated in the
many summer concerts organised by
John Batt. We send our love and sincere
condolences to Neil.



Looking for a House

I am planning to move to Mickleham
or Westhumble and am looking for a
3-bed+ detached house. I have already
sold my house, have no chain and will
be a cash buyer. If you are thinking of
moving and want to avoid agency fees
then please give me a call on 07770 280
410. Thank you.

Auction Thank You!



St Michael's
School

The Friends of St Michael's Infant School and St Michael's
Community Nursery would like to say a massive thank you
to everybody who was involved in the auction:
the instigators, organisers, donors and buyers.

It was a fun evening and raised more money than we could
have imagined.

In these unprecedented times, it is so valuable to be part of
such a supportive community. Thank you.



ST MICHAEL'S
COMMUNITY
NURSERY

Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society
Protecting Bee Orchids

In last month's magazine, I mentioned the benefits to nature of leaving a bit of the lawn un-mown. Regrettably I failed to say that it is also a labour-saving device, leaving more time for sunbathing or whatever, something that I am now happy to correct! Anyway, an eagle-eyed nature lover has spotted the basal rosette leaves of several bee orchids growing on the Mickleham Recreation Ground (affectionately known as the 'Rec') and the Parish Council have very kindly agreed to let a patch of the Rec grow wild this year, to see whether the orchids will flower and set seed. It will also be a good moment to see what else comes up on this chalk-rich ground formed from river deposits (different from the chalk grassland of Box Hill).

Bee Orchids are among the most spectacular of our wild orchids, and so it was a wonderful surprise to find at least a dozen or so growing on the Mickleham Rec. As Bee Orchids take seven years to develop from seed, it is likely that these have been here for generations, but of course have had no chance to flower as the field is always kept so immaculately mowed.

The Bee Orchid is an intriguing plant. It has evolved so that both by a subtle fragrance, mimicking the scent of a female bee, and by its appearance, it entices certain male bees who, mistaking it for a female, are attracted and in the process pollinate it. Unmistakable for its pink and chocolate bee-like flowers in June, the Bee Orchid can also be identified throughout the winter by its rosette of thick, leathery, pale sea green leaves clearly visible in short grass.

The appearance of these in our village at a time when we are increasingly concerned about biodiversity loss is a hopeful and timely reminder of just how rich and resilient nature can be: how much that is hidden may be revealed, if only nature is given a chance. Now is a good time to check the lawn for leaf rosettes before mowing, although you will only have Bee Orchids in your garden if you are on the chalk in this part off the country.

If you find any, do report them to Ann Sankey, directly if you know her, or via www.surreyflora.org.uk so that they can be added to the County records.



As Bee Orchids cannot survive without their fungal partners, they cannot be transplanted. So a Bee Orchid growing in your garden is a very special honour that cannot be easily come by!

David Kennington

Norbury Park Update

Surrey County Council's proposed survey of local residents about the future uses of Norbury Park has been delayed. We hope to include more information about this in the June magazine.



Can you translate this diagram into words?
 Say what you see.

13579 coming

Answer on page 26

Devastating impact of dog waste on Norbury Park Farm's cattle

Litter and in particular dog waste are having a highly damaging effect on the health of our cows and their calves on our farm. While countryside access has been a welcome reprieve for many over the past year, this increased footfall has led to an increase in the amount of litter and dog waste being left in countryside sites. Our main hotspots are the field opposite Young Street car park, the two fields above the railway and our fields at Crabtree Lane Westhumble.

Dog waste can contain within it a parasitic microorganism called *Neospora caninum* that can infect cattle. If dog waste is left on a field, then a cow may come into contact with it either while grazing or eating harvested grass. Neosporosis can potentially cause cows to miscarry their calves or cause the calves to

be born with neurological problems. Even if a dog is healthy and up to date with vaccinations, it can still carry *Neospora* without their owners knowing.

Because of public access, we have always had to deal with some cases of Neosporosis. This has been about 5% in the past, but we are now up to a quarter of the herd infected because of the unprecedented year we have just had. We have calculated that on a yearly basis the disease is now costing us between £7,000 and £8,000. My father has been farming here for 42 years, and this is the most worrying time we have experienced. If this continues it could have huge implications: we could get to the point where we cannot carry on.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR WASTE AND TAKE IT HOME. Mark Frost



Please watch Surrey County Council's video on https://youtu.be/L1_nT3ACoSQ Also Mark was interviewed on Radio 4's Farming Today on 9th April. You can hear him on BBC Sounds.

Mickleham Parish Council

As we prepare for lockdown easing, Mickleham Parish Council is still meeting virtually and will continue to do so until the end of restrictions. The Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed to Wednesday 14th July, when it is hoped that face-to-face meetings will be able to take place. More details will be posted on the website. At the last meeting the council paid their respects to a former Parish Councillor, James Riches, who sadly passed away on Saturday 6th March. In the last few months the Parish Council has created two Working Groups to support the extra work.

The Norbury Park Working Group deals with last year's announced plans by Surrey County Council (SCC) for the development of Norbury Park with a 'Master Plan'. There was an initial flurry of emails and meetings but since this January everything has gone very quiet. 'We are still working on the plans and how we bring this together and engage with local residents and users of the park in the most suitable way' is the latest communication. A Surrey County Council website for consultation has been promised for May, but nothing has been confirmed. Outside consultants,

Rural Solutions have been appointed by SCC.

The Community Project Fund has submitted two proposals, as outlined in last month's magazine: a modest extension of the playground and a proposal which seeks to make pedestrian access on Stane Street safer. The group now waits to hear if either of the proposals are successful. If approved, further consultations with the local community and relevant land owners will be undertaken. If you would like further information on these proposals please contact Kayleigh Hunter on khatmpc@gmail.com.

The issue of traffic calming is still on the agenda and submissions for yellow lines and white H-bars along sections of Old London Road have been submitted and are awaiting approval, as well as investigating other forms of calming equipment such as vehicle activated signs.

The website holds information regarding the council and the area we live in. When I took over as clerk to the council I was tasked with updating this site, which was created by a former chair and an active member of the community, Richard Roberts-Miller, who sadly



passed away in 2017. Mickleham residents can sign up to alerts from the website and view various items, such as minutes of previous meetings, articles and e-copies of this magazine can be viewed, as and when they are published. If you have any suggestions or comments about the site I would be grateful for any feedback, via the contact link on the website.

As I finish writing this article we hear the breaking news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip. We join with our local communities and the whole nation in expressing our heartfelt condolences following the sad death of His Royal Highness and extend our deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the extended royal family. May he rest in peace.

Feena Graham
 Clerk to Mickleham Parish Council
www.micklehampc.org.uk

Westhumble Open Gardens
 Sunday 6th June
 2 pm – 5 pm

Refreshments and Plant Sale
 Admission £3 per person to visit all participating gardens.

Programmes containing a list of the gardens and a map, are available from Pauline and Susie now and at every participating garden on the day.
 All proceeds will go to The Brigitte Trust

A Visit to Hardy's Cottage Garden Nursery
 Thursday 22nd July meeting at 10.15 am
 Whitchurch, Hampshire

Behind the Scenes Tour Followed by lunch at a local Pub
 Booking for this event is essential
 All events are subject to Covid rules
 Further details from
 Pauline Davis 07759646353 or paulinemdavis@gmail.com
 Susie Gowenlock 07768923088 or susiegowenlock@gmail.com



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Hello all

It has been great to welcome so many of you back already, and we look forward to catching up with everyone over the Spring/Summer.

As you can imagine our beautiful pub gardens and views are proving as popular as ever, so early booking is very much recommended (weekends essential). So if you would like to dine with us, or for guaranteed warmth and shelter under our canopy then book on our super new website www.thekingwilliamiv.com

However, if you are popping by on the off chance and see our 'we are full sign' please COME IN. We will always try to find our locals a table - if you are greeted by a newer member of staff who does not recognise you, just say the magic words 'I live in Mickleham/Westhumble and Eamonn says he would try to find me a table' and we will do our very best to get you in. Our locals have been very supportive to us and we appreciate it!

See you all soon, Eamonn, Anne and Kat

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

Cryptic Delicacies

It being Easter, I included some treats, with a couple of big anagrams that I thought would give a lot of crossing letters with other clues. Unfortunately there are a lot of treats out there in the world, so just having 'treat' as a clue maybe was not as helpful as I intended! Anyway, the various treats were DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE, (CHOCOLATE) MILK, DEATH BY CHOCOLATE, LEMON (CAKE), BATTENBERG, and (CHOCOLATE) EGGS. There was also ETON MESS but I thought the reading of the clue was so perfect that it did not need an extra treat.

9 Dissatisfaction with how contrary bipolar issue is sorted out (5)

ENNUI

'is sorted out' points to an anagram of 'issue' but 'contrary bipolar' is applied to 'issue' first, the two poles in 'issue' being SS which contrarily would be NN giving you INNUE to anagram. A bit tricky but I thought that crossing clues giving you E_N_I would point to only one possible word.

11 Note: I object to being stuck in a box as a stereotype (4)

MIME

'Note' = MI (as in do, re, mi), 'I object' = ME (where 'ME' is the objective form of 'I') - and when people want to demonstrate a MIME they typically pick moving their hands to act like being stuck in a box.

28 Information that is being rubbed out from story (5)

GENIE

'Information' = GEN, 'that is' = I.E., 'being' is not being used as a verb but as a noun, as in the entity that could be said to be rubbed out of the magic lamp, from the story of Aladdin.

30 Half of what needs to be minded when receiving gift book (6)

PSALMS

'what needs to be minded' = Ps and Qs, so half is PS, gift = ALMS, to give the book of the Bible.

1 Walter Mitty and Don Quixote

smears bananas over Arnold Schwarzenegger's bottom (8)

DREAMERS

'bananas' points to an anagram of SMEARED including R as the 'bottom' or last letter of 'Arnold Schwarzenegger', and with the limited number of anagrams of those letters I hoped that you would fit DREAMERS with the idea of the characters of Walter Mitty and Don Quixote. I would like to claim this as the first use of those three names together in one sentence.

10 Nonsensical film embracing the route to stuck-up views in childhood (8,5)

CLIMBING FRAME

A straight anagram of FILM EMBRACING but I was very pleased with the

misdirection of the definition which might have led you away from the



idea of a little person enthusiastically doing the climbing without any thought of how to get down once up at the top and then screaming 'Mummy, I'm stuck!'

18 Two joints badly articulated in the mountains? (8)

PYRENEES

'Two joints' = pair o' knees, very badly pronounced (hence the question mark at the end) to give PYRENEES.

21 Unable to sell recording about Triumph opposite (6)

CLOSED

'recording' = CD (compact disc), the opposite of 'Triumph' (as a verb) is LOSE, wrap the one about the other and you get the state of a shop when it is 'unable to sell'.

22 Flings a detective's bad report in the air? (6)

AMOURS

A + Morse (for 'detective'), which if I verbally reported it to you such that it went through the air to your ear, might just about sound like AMOURS (hence another question mark!).

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

MPM Annual Report 2020

As with everything else this past year, Covid-19 regulations have affected our activities. However, with various adjustments we were able to continue to publish and deliver magazines as usual. The content was affected as we no longer had local events to publicise and report, but many new contributors came forward to provide excellent and interesting copy and photographs to fill the pages. The production is mostly digital these days, so there were few problems with this. Distribution and delivery required the most adjustments as several of our deliverers were shielding. Luckily, they were replaced by volunteers who were willing to include the delivery of bags and mags as part of their daily exercise time. It was very gratifying to hear

how much our readers appreciated getting the magazine, especially at this difficult time.

Again, we are extremely grateful to all the many people who have helped us with the magazine. There has been little change in personnel this past year, but we will soon be losing our administrator, Fiona Roberts-Miller who is planning to move to Swanage. She has been extremely helpful these past few years and we will probably have to split up all the many tasks she has taken on: accounts, advertising, and mailing list organiser. If anyone would be willing to help with one or all of these, please let me know. We continue to seek new people to join the editorial panel or help with editing and layout.

See Tatham and Charlotte Daruwalla

FSC

Come volunteer at
FSC Juniper Hall

Juniper Hall is looking for more volunteers to help out around the grounds.

We are looking for people who are willing to get stuck in and enjoy working in the great outdoors.

We have 5 1/2 acres of land, including woodland, orchards, lawns and a walled garden. We provide all tools, tea and coffee. Covid-19 precautions are in place.

Our volunteer days are
Thursdays starting at 09:30

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Jeremy Breeveld, Grounds and
Estate officer at
j.breeveld@field-studies-council.org

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INSPIRATIONAL Box Hill School

On Monday 8th March, we were absolutely delighted to open our doors again to our school community. All the meticulous planning and organisation has facilitated a smooth return to our stunning campus, and it has been wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces.

Among their usual timetabled lessons pupils have been actively engaging in co-curricular activities such as

sports, mountain biking, cooking and gardening. The Music Department have been busy producing an 'Easter Soiree' themed around 'Hope and New Beginnings' which was released on the last day of term and can be viewed on our website. We have also celebrated Comic Relief Red Nose Day and Pi Day in the Maths Department. Our year-8 book club have enjoyed book reviews and quizzes, year-7s were congratulated on their 'Great Year-7 Bake Off' challenge entries and life in the Sixth Form continues with heads down working hard towards their

A Level or International Baccalaureate qualifications. Pupils studying A Level drama performed a monologue as part of their exam piece, demonstrating all the skills and techniques they have been taught.

Despite the pandemic, pupils have continued to work hard towards their studies and extra-curricular activities; and for the majority, are back to physical learning and socialising in year group bubbles. For the few who cannot return to our school site, virtual learning is still in place.

Charlotte Fish



Comic Relief Red Nose Day

Great Bake Off presentations

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Update

All our planned events had to be cancelled after the AGM in late February 2020 due to restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, some work including, data recording, archiving and research have continued in a limited way. The 2021 AGM in February was held via Zoom with 27 members joining, including our overseas member, David Flint from California and two new members, Robert Reid and Simon Batchelor who spent parts of their childhood in Mickleham. So that the meeting was legitimate we were required to amend our Rules to read: *Meetings may be held online or by telephone.*

Our subscription covers a household with an approximate membership of 43, including four new members. At this year's AGM it was agreed to waive fees for 2021 as last year's events were cancelled and so far, we have been



Mickleham Church 1803
Watercolour recently acquired for our archives

unable to plan anything for the coming year. We hope that we can arrange an event in the autumn.

Ben Tatham

STOP PRESS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS AND DRIVERS

As a recent survey has shown that the railway bridge at Westhumble is only safe for up to 3 tons, the road width will be reduced to 2.03 m (6ft 6in) by the end of May. It is expected that Network Rail's work to strengthen it will take the best part of two years.

David Allbeury
WRA Chairman

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Chicks, Tea and Technology

As promised last month, you will see some photos below of the children handling some of this year's hatch. The children will get to see the chicks grow and change and now that DEFRA has lifted the avian flu restrictions, they will also be able to collect the eggs from the adult chickens that have now returned to the nursery. Perfect timing as the children do enjoy feeding them the worms picked out from the preparation of our veggie plots (sorry worms!) As we start our Summer term, watching things grow and change will be an ongoing theme.

I understand there has been some village chat about the miniature tea pots and houses that have appeared around Mickleham. Yes, that is us! I would like to claim their addition as an original idea, but it was actually inspired by walks in High Ridge Woods, Brockham. As lockdown has kept us walking similar paths, I do hope these little additions around Mickleham are not viewed as 'littering' but have brought a smile to both villagers and

visitors. For our nursery children they have certainly encouraged exploration, excitement, developed imagination, and added another level of joy to our woodland walks. The teapot with the bird nest is my own personal favourite, have you seen that one yet?

As with many other charities, nursery fundraising during this past year has been challenging. We are immensely grateful to be a recipient of some of the funds raised by the St. Michael's Community Group Easter Auction and hope to put some of this money towards our current project, new technology for children's learning. Our existing computer for children's use is over 10 years old, its functionality is somewhat impaired. We are fundraising for a new computer for the children's use and also wish to address some of the challenges with traditional access to ICT. We hope to replace the computer with a new multi-touch screen table. With the ability for 10 children to use at the same time, the device will allow a far more collaborative use of ICT,



can be used for individual specialist support as necessary and could also be used as a teaching tool similar to interactive whiteboards in schools. Two of our lovely (and soon to be saddle sore) parents are cycling the equivalent distance of London to Paris (315 miles) We have a gofund me page for anybody wishing to donate.

<https://gofund.me/bd4c0854>

Below: Interactive whiteboard table. Children handling chicks; learning about the Easter story and new life; chick-inspired painting.





Mickleham Village Hall Dell Close

Weekdays 9.15 am - 12.15 pm (term time)

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Solution to the April crossword

Across: 1/24/25 Devil's food cake 4 Sketched 9 Ennui 11 Mime 12 Milk 13 Evens 15 Rhubarb 16 Unto 19 Eton
20/10 Death by chocolate 23 Lemon 27 Saucepans 28 Genie 29 Designed 30 Psalms
Down: 1 Dreamers 2 Venomous 3 Loin 5 Knockout drops 6 T-bone steak 7 Hoaxed 8 Dressy 10 Climbing frame
14 Battenberg 17 Shrapnel 18 Pyrenees 21 Closed 22 Amours 26 Eggs

BRAIN TEASER answer: Overcoming the odds

Starting on 17th May

E G FITNESS

Every Monday morning in Mickleham Village Hall – just turn up

9.15am step – 10.30am legs bums & tums – 12 noon freestyle yoga (45min)

Classes £6 per session (pay as you go)

Due to Covid Restrictions please bring your own equipment ie matt, hand weights, activation band, step if possible. I will try to have some spares for beginners and sanitize these after use.

Elaine Goodwell

Formerly at Leatherhead Leisure Centre with 30 years' experience in the fitness industry

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Hope Springs Eternal

With the start of Spring, came a feeling of hope for a sunnier time with more social interaction around the corner. It is certainly starting to feel that way with the re-opening of many places and the ability to meet up with more people than before. At school we have been able to expand what we offer now and we are hopeful that there are even more social events to come.

PARENT ZOOMS

Before the Easter break, we were able to organise parent teacher consultations via Zoom. We are all now well used to this way of communicating and it's incredible how useful these types of platforms have been in the last year. The consultations allowed us to find out about each child's journey over the lockdown period. We focused our conversations on both the children's well-being as well as remote learning. Well-being has been at the forefront of many conversations this year. The changes that families have had to adapt to can put an enormous strain on day-to-day family life, especially when trying to combine working alongside their children's learning. We have not underestimated the potential impact of this and so these conversations are vital in supporting our families in the best way possible.

We were also able to gain some understanding of the children's academic journey in their time away from school and this has proved invaluable in helping us plan for the their needs through the summer term.

At the beginning of the academic year, the government allocated 'catch-up' funding to support learners with missed learning. We looked carefully at effective catch-up strategies and put a range of these in place focused on where the most need was. We will continue to do this through the Summer term. We are very conscious that one of the biggest losses for small children is the social interaction they have missed and the effective communication strategies needed to form successful relationships. This is why we intend to give them plenty of time to be learning outdoors through our forest school sessions and PE but also give time to our literacy project 'The Story Project' which focuses on emotional literacy for children.

THE RETURN OF AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We were so delighted to be able to begin after school clubs after an extended period of time not being able to offer these. We are running four clubs per week: a multi-sports club run by our sports coaches Premier Sports, a football club run by Chelsea football club, an arts, crafts and cookery club and a Fun in the Forest club run by Jane Stewart and Vickie Leney. We know that clubs such as these are another way to support children's well-being and social interaction so we are so pleased that we can offer so many through the Summer term.

OPEN BOOK

In the Autumn term we offered parents an 'open book' session. This is where parents came onto the school premises



stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/

and could take some time to look through their child's school books with their child present. It also provided parents with an opportunity to talk to their child's class teacher and find out how they were getting on. This proved to be a huge success and so we are offering more of these sessions in the Summer term. It is an excellent way to share face-to-face communication in a Covid-safe way; to keep our strong relationships going and give parents a chance to engage with their child's school learning.

COMPASSION

Our value last term was 'compassion'. The children enjoyed discussing what compassion meant, how we show compassion to others, how to show ourselves compassion and how to be compassionate in more challenging times. We then linked our learning to Jesus' journey when he walked on earth and the many and varied ways he showed compassion. We considered the challenges for Jesus in showing compassion near the end of his life and the example he set for all of us today.

Nicola Cleather, Head of School

Support the Friends of St Michael's while shopping online

Although shops will open soon, many of us will continue with some internet shopping. Did you know that we, The Friends of St Michael's School, are registered with **easyfundraising** and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself? Since our fundraising events are on hold, this is a great opportunity to keep raising much-needed funds for the school. When you shop online, with more than 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including

John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, notonthehighstreet, you will raise FREE donations for The Friends of St Michael's School, Mickleham. If you are not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway – simply shop online as normal. This will be an enormous help to the school. Visit our easyfundraising page to get started: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstmichaelschool>



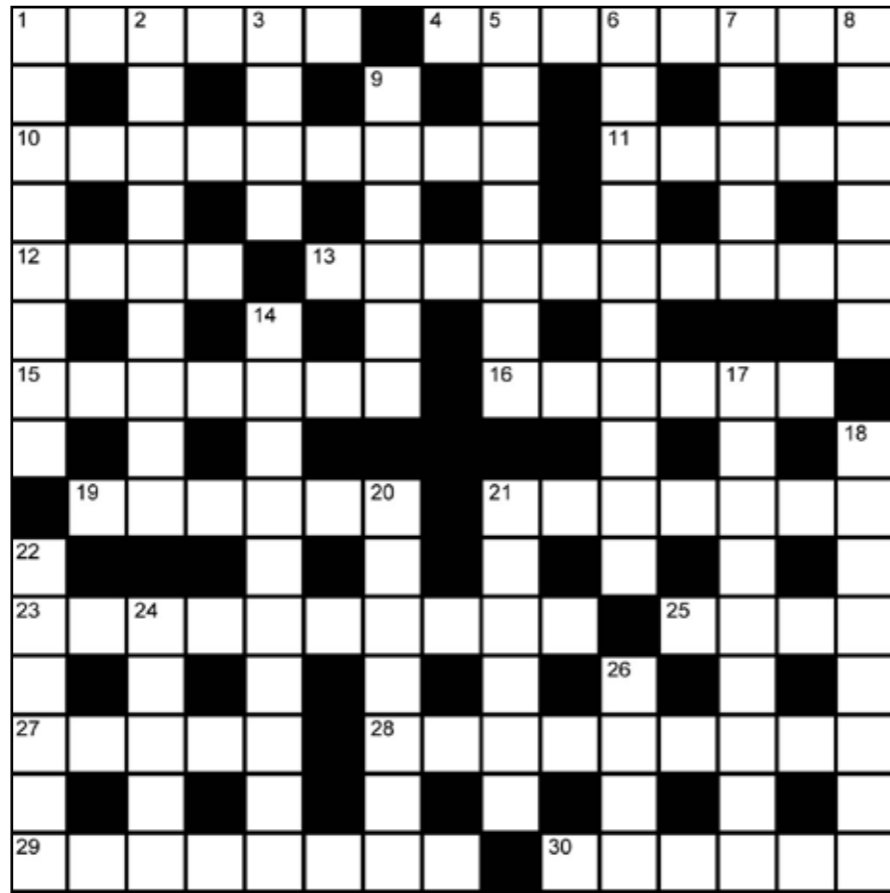
Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 1 Throw over the first person in France to have leading soldier caught behind (6)
- 4 That man will inspire dooladen pandemonium (8)
- 10 Subject known for intricate works displays a mackerel in disguise (9)
- 11 I'm satisfied with this stringed instrument with internal switch (5)
- 12 Tut about our central appendage that's on view for all to see (4)
- 13 What is said after death in street fair is something that is illuminating (5,5)
- 15 Seer of subjects from long ago is very short and slight, I hear (7)
- 16 A delightful confection from 'Watergate' author (6)
- 19 Jumped up hollow showmanship gave a buzz (6)
- 21 Got back past it around half eleven (7)
- 23 Far-sighted subject or a monster playing tricks (10)
- 25/26/21D/5 When replaced in grill, piranha grew irate with cutely exotic subject (4,4,1,5,7)
- 27 Basic modesty protector is in vogue when worn inside by princess (5)
- 28 Comfy outfits and cigars go together in a bizarre way (9)
- 29 Subject with large receptacles directed 'Dial M with Kim' (8)
- 30 Prince casually took drug with Duke and cut a groove (6)

Down

- 1 Astonishingly reveal two thirds of its absolute opposite (8)



- 2 Mac's bag is just the thing for holding lunchbox (9)
- 3 Affected by odd chat with Johnson standing on his head (4)
- 5 See 25 Across
- 6 Zero Delta, for example, could be a subject conveying much emotion (4,6)
- 7 I tell you everything in speech, making you glaze over (5)
- 8 Inflicts former husband on performers (6)
- 9 Second assistant to minister is heard to be someone renowned for their spin (6)
- 14 Blame moist confection for the way your body has grown (10)
- 17 Scaling an assorted group of pillars in the community? (9)
- 18 Most respected broadcast diodes contain lithium (8)
- 20 Sweetheart heard loud bump before dishing up little dumplings (7)
- 21 See 25 Across
- 22 From Zero to 23 or 6 & Omega, the result is just all over the place (6)
- 24 Sing heartily to lure a mischievous dwarf (5)
- 26 See 25 Across

Andrew Tatham

The solution to last month's crossword is on page 26.

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Denbies Roundabout 2nd April

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