

# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

November 2023





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# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

**November  
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  
beginning of each month except  
January and August.

**COPY DEADLINE**

**DECEMBER MAGAZINE**

**Sunday**

**12<sup>th</sup> November**

send to:

**editor@micklehammag.co.uk**

**Co-editors**

**Charlotte Daruwalla**

**07933 300744**

**Jan Budleigh**

**07780 976301**

Contributions in any form  
are welcome as are good  
quality photographs. There  
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local charity and community  
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reserve the right to shorten  
omit or reformat articles  
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depending on space.



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Mickleham Rectory

Hello everyone,

I have been thinking about peace recently, partly because it seems to be sadly lacking in our world. Ukraine is still suffering at the hands of Russia, making us wonder how long it will take to restore peace there and at what cost. There are a lot of tensions, a lot of violence both further afield but also in our own country. Then there are difficult relationships within families, between neighbours, and there is much anxiety around. It is also coming up to Remembrance Sunday when we reflect on the sacrifices made because of war, the cost of war and we pray for peace. Most of us want peace, peace in our own lives and peace in the world.

Peace can be described as an absence, for example, of noise or of conflict. This is a passive and incomplete way to describe it. My house is often peaceful, with just me living there, although my dog Lexi does her best to make it noisy, as do some young visitors. But surely peace must be more than emptiness. Conflict is regarded as bad, yet the expression of conflicting views has a place in communicating well. It is when conflict becomes aggressive, violent or distressing that peace is most needed.

Peace in the Bible is a bit different, conveying concepts of wholeness or safety or harmony or victory. Billy Graham said that the word peace is used in the Bible in three main ways. There is spiritual peace, which he described as peace between God and people. Then there is psychological peace, described as peace within. Thirdly, there is relational peace described as peace among humankind. Christians believe that a consequence of our rebellion against God was loss of peace. The death of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, made the restoration of peace possible in each of these three dimensions. However, peace cannot be passively received, action is needed. The peace of God must be sought, welcomed, and herald a change of heart and mind.

As we think about war and pray for peace this Remembrance Sunday, let's recall the peace that Jesus has made possible and recognise that peace is so much more than absence of conflict. Praying that war may cease is good but praying that warring parties may establish a just peace is even better for it holds more hope for the future. How often war or strife may cease but injustices build walls of resentment which can provoke resumption of fighting. Peace is a blessing given by God, enabling restoration of right relationships in all areas of life, spiritual, psychological, and interpersonal. This gives genuine hope for a different future.

This year the Church Advent season begins on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and at our Christingle service that Sunday, we will use candles and oranges to celebrate the coming of Jesus as the Light of the World. In his light we can find peace and having welcomed it we can pass it on to others.

God bless and may peace be with you.

*Sandra*

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

Remembrance Sunday is 12<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome to a civic service in church at 10 am, followed by wreath laying and two minutes silence at the war memorial at 11 am. Box Hill School will provide refreshments afterwards.






## 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](mailto: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/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>





### Bible Study

Monday Evening Group  
Contact Amanda Wadsworth  
[aewadsworth@hotmail.com](mailto:aewadsworth@hotmail.com)

Thursday Morning Group  
Contact Alison Wood  
01372 376443  
[alison.wood29@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.wood29@btinternet.com)

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4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY

NEXT BREAKFAST

**25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

Book with: Andy Diamond  
[diamo1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:diamo1@hotmail.co.uk)



## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning at Chapel Farm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The sun shone all morning, and we had an amazing turnout of people. I am always humbled that our wonderful, local community comes out to support this event and raises so much money. The total to date is £1,805 which is just brilliant. You are amazing, thank you. The money is put to such good use, helping to support those with cancer. It



means a lot to our family in particular. It was great fun baking for you all and meeting friends old and new. Thanks also to those who contributed to the baked bounty. It was a terrific spread and hardly anything left over.

Liz Absalom



## FoodBank

We continue to increase what we donate to support local people in need, which is amazing and makes me immensely proud of our community, but why is it so important to keep it up?

Recently I was loading my car with food donations from some very generous people, and I was asked by passers-by what I was doing. I explained and with a questioning look, they said, 'surely there is no-one around here who is in need.'

This reaction is not surprising. We live in a beautiful place and most of us are lucky not to have food worries. Generally, we don't notice those that are living hand to mouth. The sad truth is, there are hundreds of families relying on the local foodbank to get through their week. Seeing people queue up in Dorking, in the hope of getting enough to see them through, confirms that if confirmation is necessary.

So please, make it a habit to give what you can by way of food donation or good old-fashioned money, either directly or via the church, so we can keep people going through the next week and hopefully, the weeks to come.

Thank you,

Kelvin Pritchard

## St Michael's Church Community Group

Here is a summary of the Community Group Christmas events. Details at present are preliminary, some dates to be confirmed.

The Sausage and Skittles evening will be reported in the December magazine as it is scheduled just too late for the November issue. It is a sell-out.

Mark Day



The Community Group will be running the **Christmas Fair at Westhumble Chapel** this year, after many years in the safe hands of its originator, Jenny Hudlass. This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will be stalls selling Christmas wreaths, cards and other items. Alison Wood and her quilts will be there and traditional punch and mince pies on offer.



The timetable for the **Advent Windows Gatherings** is becoming clearer. These will kick-off with the 'ceremonial' church tree light-up at 5 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December (Christingle Sunday), directly following Tracy Kennington's afternoon performance of 'The Snowman' in church. Mulled wine/drinks and mince pies will be available too. We have several dates for the gatherings already confirmed, beginning with 51<sup>st</sup> North on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, and finishing at The Courtyard (off Swanworth Lane) in late December. All these seem to fit well with other events such as the Choral Society's Carol Concert (15<sup>th</sup> December) and Singing in The Pubs (22<sup>nd</sup> December).



## Autumn Lunch

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**1 pm at Mickleham Village Hall**

To attend, please complete a registration form from the rear of the church.



A Christmas Concert for Children

## THE SNOWMAN

by Raymond Briggs

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 4 pm**

St Michael and All Angels Church, Mickleham  
Performed by Tracy Kennington, Clare Kennington & friends

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## Harvest Workshop and Service

We started the harvest celebrations on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October with a harvest craft workshop at St Michael's Infant School followed by a trail to the church in time for the family service. It was lovely to welcome the children to this annual event; it was especially lovely to meet some of the new families.

From acorn people to decorating fairy cakes in an autumnal style, from toilet roll scarecrows to helping Farmer Frost find her harvest on the trail, the children excitedly made their crafts while mums and dads enjoyed a tea or coffee. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and all those that came along to enjoy the fun.

Our Christingle workshop is at the school on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 9.30 am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rebecca Bevan  
Friends of St Michael's School



Photos by Rebecca Bevan and Judith Moore

## Mickleham Parish Council Motorcycle Noise in Mickleham and Westhumble

Motorbikes have been frequenting the Mickleham Bends since the dual carriageway was built in 1937. The weekend gatherings at Ryka's have also been popular since WW2. However, there is concern that noise is getting worse and is becoming an antisocial nuisance.

MPC has undertaken a survey to gauge the level of concern. Thirty-one households along the Old London Road and in Fredley were approached. Twenty-eight responded. Ninety percent felt that the problem was getting worse, especially this summer

with the new Wednesday evening meetings. Activities, such as having a conversation outside curtailed, were reported by 40%. Several households in lower Mickleham were regularly affected at night by bikes revving along the road, while upper Mickleham and Fredley were mainly affected by Wednesday evenings and the use of the Zig Zag. For a small number, the issue was not a problem with a 'live and let live' attitude.

Only the police and county council can enforce legal noise limits, so they need to be made aware of the problem. The

parish council can engage with district and county councillors, local businesses, and police liaison teams, but residents must also act. Few officially complain. If you do not, nothing will change. Complaints are logged and when numbers become large, police and county council will have to take action. Complain as often as necessary. Use these two links:

Police: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/antisocial-vehicle-use/>  
Environmental Health: <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/pollution/noise-complaint>

John Lowes



# Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society



1, the vegetable section

It might be tempting fate, but we enjoyed another hot and sunny day for the horticultural show again this year. We had a sizeable number of entries, 180 in all, including at least

ten entrants who had not previously entered. This is most encouraging for the future and is proof, if proof were needed, that there is something for almost anyone to show given a moment's thought. Our stalls were well visited, with the Reigate Beekeepers attracting a constant stream of people to the demonstration hive and honey sales. The garden tool sharpener was kept busy for nine hours without a break! Many thanks as ever to the St Michael's Nursery mums, who kept everyone supplied with tea and cakes throughout the afternoon. All their sale proceeds go directly back to the nursery.

Before the prizes there was a special announcement that Judy Kinloch would become our President, following the recent death of Alan Edwards. Our VIP for the day, Pauline Davis, then presented the cups to the winners. Special mention to Sophie Adshead for winning the Salomons Cup for Overall Best in the Show with 40 points, and to Judith Long for taking home the Bronze Banksian Medal for most points in flowers, fruit and vegetable sections.

Our next show will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024. We very much hope to see you there.

David Kennington



2, cup winners the Adshead family behind the plant stall they ran



4, Moby Dick, winner of amusing vegetable



3, Judith Long receiving the Banksian medal from Pauline Davis, with Chair of the M&WHS, David Kennington, looking on



5, cup winners the Ward family



6, overall view of the show



7, Surrey Sharpeners courtesy of The Garden Shed

# Autumn Show, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September



8, the Reception Class entry



11, prize winning grapes, Valerie Leake



9, Sarah Penry's perfect onions



12, the egg section



10, St Michael's Nursery entry

Photo credits  
Paul Beck 4, 6, 7, 13, 15  
Chris Budleigh 2, 3  
Kate Cox 5  
Judith Long 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16



13, the beekeeping stall



14, prize winning rose



15, The Garden Shed stall

## Cup and medal winners

- Paynter Cup, an attractive and productive vegetable plot.
- Aitken Cup, an area for nature.
- Ellman Cup, most outstanding exhibit – flowers.
- Robson Cup, most outstanding amateur entry – vegetables.
- Schreiber Cup, most outstanding entry – fruit.
- Gordon Clark Cup, most outstanding entry – floral arrangements.
- Dennis Trophy for the most outstanding entry – cookery.
- Vi Bullen Trophy for the most outstanding entry – arts and crafts.
- Alan Huggett Memorial Cup, best dahlias.
- Taylor Cup, most points – cookery.
- Colwell Cup, most points – arts and crafts.
- Bronze Banksian Medal, most points – horticulture.
- Salomons Cup, most points in show.
- Irvine Cup, most outstanding children's entry 3 - 4 years.
- Heygate Cup, most outstanding children's entry 5 - 8 years.
- Wilkinson Cup, most outstanding children's entry over 9 years.
- Hudlass Cup, best entry St Michael's School.

- Adshead Family
- Pauline Davis / Sandra Wedgwood
- Valerie Leake
- Sarah Penry
- Valerie Leake
- Alison Walton
- Simon Ward
- Sophie Adshead
- Sophie Adshead
- Sophie Adshead
- Amy Ward
- Judith Long / Sandra Wedgwood
- Sophie Adshead
- Robyn Rawson-Cain
- Verity Ward
- Martha Ward
- Georgia White



16, one of Alison Walton's floral arrangements

Apologies to the winners of individual categories who are too many to print here. They are listed on the M&WHS website.



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## Memories of Childhood

What were we about to see and hear? It transpired that Anne Weaver, who organised the evening, had persuaded four people to reminisce about their childhood. Each of them had what might be called an unusual start in life. The reminiscences were interspersed by readings from well-known books about childhood.

Liz Absalom was born in Sri Lanka (still called Ceylon at the time). Her father managed one of the large British tea companies. The family lived in the capital Colombo. Liz had memories of the ayah who effectively raised her, of annual beach holidays and seeing exotic animals when they stopped to break a long journey. They left Sri Lanka in 1973. Liz returned with members of her family in 2018 and enjoyed revisiting some of the places she remembered. The family house has become a United Nations Office.

Anne read from Winifred Foley's book *Child of the Forest* about childhood in the Forest of Dean, and Flora Thompson's semi-autobiographical *Lark Rise to Candleford*. Water came from wells. Both wrote about the humiliation of having to wear 'hand-me-downs', particularly underwear. Flora, teased by schoolmates about the lace on her drawers, took them off and hid them in a haystack.

Next up was Rick Singh who recounted his memories in the form of an interview by his wife, Lin. Rick and Lin are 'long-standing members of the extended Weaver family'. Rick was born in Darjeeling, (another tea connection, and famous for climbers on their way to the high mountain ranges) into a family with three sisters. They lived in the most basic of houses with one room, no electricity or running water. Water was fetched and carried from far away

but a railway line ran near home and the water supply for the steam engines was surreptitiously 'siphoned off' to save the long and arduous trip. Rick's grandfather was a shaman or witch doctor. In the monsoon Rick's school clothes were always damp as there were no facilities to dry them overnight. The children loved to play football but having no real ball they had to make do with some fabric stuffed to make one instead. If one of the children had a real football, they had to be captain of the team.

Gerry Weaver's grandfather lived in rural Shropshire with two siblings. The family had encouraged him to record his childhood memories. He was close to his older sister. The day she went to school he missed her, so the next day he went with her. He was not sent home so continued to go from then on. He had reminisced about getting up at 6 am and doing daily chores on the farm before having breakfast and going to school.

Winifred Foley told of childhood disappointment that the doll she wished for was never forthcoming. One year she decided that shouting up the chimney to Father Christmas was more likely to succeed than the usual letter. On Christmas Day she was rewarded with 'the ugliest apology for a doll ever seen', possibly a sock stuffed to look like a doll.

Tracy Kennington was born in Luton where her father was a teacher but the family soon moved to Northern Rhodesia. They spent a short time in Wales when Tracy was six, then out to Africa again when she was eight. Her main recollection was spending a lot of time outdoors collecting a massive number of insects. Tracy did not enjoy nursery school as she hated being away from home and her parents. Her mother was a singer but it was the



Rick with a photo of Darjeeling and mountains in the background

pianist who accompanied her who may have inspired Tracy's musical career. She started piano lessons at the age of five.

Judith Kerr wrote the *Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Ostensibly a children's story about a visit from a tiger who ate all the food at tea, this was an allegory for the rise of Hitler in the 1930s. The Kerr family, Jews in Berlin, moved to Switzerland and ended up in England, escaping the fate of those who stayed in Europe.

David Kennington claimed that he was also born abroad – on the Isle of Wight. One recollection was seeing ocean-going liners passing the kitchen window along the Solent, (perhaps bringing his future wife back from Africa?). But the main memory was a childhood roaming freely: 'be back for your tea'. Unlike today.

The evening ended with a reading from *The House at Pooh Corner* with an emotional - but stiff upper lip - discussion between Christopher Robin and Pooh about the end of childhood.

It was fascinating to hear this varied selection of childhood memories, all unique, but all almost unrecognisable compared with childhood in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The event raised £350 for St Michael's Community Nursery.

Charlotte Daruwalla



**Mickleham Parish Magazine  
'Christmas Card'**

As in past years readers who would like to send Christmas greetings to their local friends by way of the magazine and donate the money saved on cards and postage to charity should contact Charlotte Daruwalla 07933 300744

[editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

**The copy deadline for the December magazine is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

The charge is £10 per person (£20 per couple), or more if you like.

Proceeds again this year will go to St Michael's C of E Infant School and St Michael's Community Nursery.



# Mickleham's Creative People

First in a series of occasional articles about creative people connected to Mickleham included in Sue Tatham's recent Heritage Open Day talk.



John Keats by William Hilton

John Keats was born in Moorgate, the eldest of four children. His father, Thomas was an ostler and later became manager of the Swan and Hoop Inn owned by his father-in-law. Thomas Keats appreciated the importance of education and sent John to the best school he could afford. This was John Clarke's small progressive boarding school in Enfield.

Tragically Thomas Keats died after a riding accident on his way home from visiting John and his brother George at school when John was eight. This, and his mother's subsequent disastrous second marriage, brought an end to this close-knit family's happy early life.

His mother died of consumption (tuberculosis) when he was 14. At this time there was considerable stigma associated with consumption as it was linked to suppressed sexual passion and moral weakness. It was not until 1820 that tuberculosis was recognised as a disease caused by a single organism.

At school John was an able and diligent pupil. He was outgoing, made friends easily and fought passionately in their defence. The school encouraged wide reading in classical and modern languages as well as history and science. Clarke encouraged him to turn his energy and curiosity to their library where he became a voracious reader. Throughout his life his friends remarked on his industry and generosity. The headmaster's son Cowden, became John's life-long friend and mentor.

Poetry Foundation

## John Keats 1795 – 1821

As the eldest son, John felt fierce loyalty to his younger brothers and sister throughout his life. Their maternal grandparents had left them a considerable legacy, but their guardian was either incompetent or dishonest and dispensed the children's money grudgingly. Money was always a great concern

for Keats as he struggled to stay out of debt and make his way independently. At the time of his death Keats was unaware that about £2,000 had been withheld from him. This would have made a great difference to his life as at that time £100 a year would have provided a comfortable existence. It was not until 12 years after his death that his sister Fanny managed to regain the family money via a legal settlement.

At the age of 14 John left school to be apprenticed to a respected apothecary and surgeon. After the five-year apprenticeship he became a medical student at Guy's hospital. His medical aptitude was quickly recognised and within a month he was accepted as a dresser, assisting surgeons during operations. At this point John was very enthusiastic about a medical career which would provide financial security for him and his younger siblings.

In 1816 he received his apothecary's licence which made him eligible to practise as a surgeon and apothecary. (He was not eligible to call himself a physician as he did not have a university degree.) However the long hours and heavy responsibilities left him little time for writing poetry which had become his passion.

Throughout his medical training he had continued his study of literature and started experimenting with verse forms, particularly sonnets. His friend Cowden Clarke had introduced him to various

influential people including Leigh Hunt, a close friend of Byron and Shelley.

In 1816 John published his first book of verse, *Poems*, which aroused little interest. However, John's friends recognised his potential and introduced him to many prominent people, including William Hazlitt a powerful literary figure of the day. Charles Brown one of Keats' most loyal friends recalled, 'Everyone who met him sought for his society, and he is surrounded by a little circle of hearty friends.'

Keats gradually established himself in the public eye as a member of what Hunt called 'a new school of poetry'. Lockhart of *Blackwoods' Magazine* used the defamatory term the 'Cockney School of Poetry' for Hunt and his circle, which included both Hazlitt and Keats. The dismissal was as much political as literary, aimed at upstart young writers deemed uncouth for their lack of education, non-formal rhyming and 'low diction'. They had not attended Eton, Harrow or Oxbridge and they were not from the upper classes.

By this time Keats had given up his medical career. He had become disillusioned, fearing he might not be good enough to avoid inflicting needless suffering. Furthermore he wished to devote himself to poetry. He had moved to a house in Hampstead with his two brothers, George and Tom, who was becoming ill with consumption.

In the spring of 1817 Keats decided to write a long poem on a great theme, which he had found produced his most serious thought. He chose the Greek myth of Endymion, the shepherd beloved of the moon goddess Selene. It was to be in four parts of 1000 lines each. He aimed to write forty lines a day and finish it by the autumn. This proved to be an unrealistic target and after completing the first two parts found himself completely bogged down. He was distracted by family worries as well. George was out of work and Tom's consumption was worsening. When

it was planned that Tom would go off to the Continent for his health, Keats' friends advised him to leave London to finish *Endymion*. Hazlitt suggested the 'pleasant suburb' Burford Bridge. Keats took a room overlooking the garden at the wayside inn by the bridge, then called the 'Fox and Hounds' in Mickleham.

### *Endymion*

*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:  
Its loveliness increases; it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and  
quiet breathing ...*

Keats' epic poem was published in 1818 and met with ferocious criticism from Lockhart and other 'old-school critics'. According to the Poetry Foundation, 'The poetry of *Endymion* varies widely from some thoughtful speeches and lovely description to some of the most awful and self-indulgent verse ever written by a mature major English poet. Most of Keats' circle, including Keats himself, recognised its weaknesses. Yet as a long, sustained work that would broach Keats's most serious concerns, it was a breakthrough for Keats' career.' In the years that followed it was common to believe that these attacks had shaken Keats' resolve and broken his health. However, he had written to a friend 'I was never afraid of failure; for I would sooner fail than not be among the greatest'.

The winter of 1818-19 saw the beginning of his most mature work such as *Ode to Psyche*, *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode to a Grecian Urn*, and *To Autumn*. It was a sad time as well. His brother George had emigrated to America, leaving Keats as sole carer for Tom who was gravely ill. Tom died in December 1818 and Charles Brown invited Keats to live with him at Wentworth Place, now the Keats House Museum, Hampstead. A widow, Mrs



Early 19<sup>th</sup> century drawing of the Fox and Hounds (later Burford Bridge Hotel) showing it beside the Old London Road on the left and next to the River Mole on the right

Frances Brawne lived next door and Keats fell in love with her daughter, Fanny. They became engaged in 1819, but decided they could not marry until Keats' future was more secure.

Keats had enjoyed robust health except for the occasional cold or sore throat, but in 1819 he began displaying symptoms of the 'family disease'. At that time, however, diagnosis was not clear-cut and he was thought to be suffering from mental exhaustion. The disease progressed rapidly and during the early part of 1820 he experienced several severe haemorrhages. He was nursed by Fanny and her mother, but his health had deteriorated to a point where moving to a warmer climate was his only hope for recovery. He left for Rome in November 1820 accompanied by his friend the artist, Joseph Severn.

Even at this late stage his doctor in Rome did not diagnose tuberculosis, and thinking he was suffering from a stomach complaint, placed him on a very strict diet which increased his weakness. Keats died in February 1821, aged just 25.

At the time of his death his poems had been in publication for less than four years. He published only fifty-four poems... in three slim volumes and a few magazines. They were indifferently received in his lifetime, but his fame grew rapidly after his death.

According to the Poetry Foundation '... Keats today is seen as one of the canniest readers, interpreters, questioners, of the 'modern' poetic project (which Keats saw as beginning with William Wordsworth) to create poetry in a world devoid of mythic grandeur, poetry that sought its wonder in the desires and sufferings of the human heart... he developed with unparalleled rapidity, in a relative handful of extraordinary poems, a rich, powerful, and exactly controlled poetic style that ranks Keats, with the William Shakespeare of the sonnets, as one of the greatest lyric poets in English.'

Although he spent only a few months in Mickleham, let us hope Keats was inspired by our beautiful countryside and the peace and quiet it provided.

Sue Tatham

## Heritage Talks to View Online

As Sue mentions, this article is taken from a talk she gave on 17<sup>th</sup> September in St Michael's Church. Forty-seven people attended and seven more joined online, including a relative of the Flints in California. It was fascinating. Following on from a talk the day before by Brian Unwin on the well-known local, Fanny Burney, Sue had identified more than 30 other famous people linked to various buildings in Mickleham and Westhumble. She discussed eleven in detail. We plan to feature each of these in an occasional series in the magazine, but if you wish to see the talk itself it is available online at

**Mickleham's Other Creative People:** <https://youtu.be/KDYVtpN169E>

If you would like to see the Fanny Burney talk, it is online at

**Fanny Burney and Juniper Hall:** <https://youtu.be/aTilyupTk18>

Thanks to Kelvin Pritchard for setting up the links.



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## KING WILLIAM IV

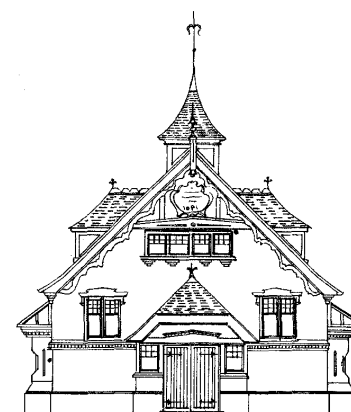
Dear Friends & Neighbours,

We enjoyed some fabulous extended summer days, for which we as a business are grateful. They also mean a shortening of the dark winter. The fine weather was interspersed with torrential thunderstorms and a concerted effort to rebuild Byttom Hill was needed after some of it washed away. We are blessed with a fantastic gardener and lovely neighbours. A huge thank you to you all.

We are closing briefly between 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November to give our staff a break. We then have plenty to look forward to, including an Autumn Quiz on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm. We hope to see you at this great event hosted by Greg Ayton, booking essential. We are also looking forward to creating our magical Christmas garden, hosting your events, and the annual visit from the Christmas carolers.

See you soon, Eamonn & Anne x

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 [www.thekingwilliamiv.com](http://www.thekingwilliamiv.com)



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## Community Directory

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Lead Ranger – Meredith Westall (Merry) [meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
07811 088097

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889  
[lyn@mra.uk.net](mailto:lyn@mra.uk.net)

BOX HILL SCHOOL 01372 374814  
Headmaster – Cory Lowde [HMPA@boxhillschool.com](mailto:HMPA@boxhillschool.com)

DORKING CRICKET CLUB  
Chairman – Andrew Homewood [homewooda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:homewooda@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS  
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth [patriciabooth100@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabooth100@gmail.com)

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB  
Maddy Halliwell [madeline\\_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING RUGBY CLUB 07789 176417  
Jim Evans [jim@flintcottage.net](mailto:jim@flintcottage.net)

THE GARDEN SHED 07759 646353  
Pauline Davis [paulinedavis33@icloud.com](mailto:paulinedavis33@icloud.com)

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501  
[enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org)

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

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION 07767 891772  
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt [sarah@sarahparfitt.com](mailto:sarah@sarahparfitt.com)

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Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106  
Secretary – Mike Benson [secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk)

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

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL [www.micklehampc.org.uk](http://www.micklehampc.org.uk)  
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES 01372 379381  
Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland [rev.ireland43@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.ireland43@btinternet.com)  
[clerkatmpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com)

Parish Clerk – Feena Graham

MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 07933 300744  
Co-Editor – Charlotte Daruwalla [editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)  
07780 976301  
Co-Editor – Jan Budleigh [editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL 01306 882547  
Chairman – Ben Tatham [chairman@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:chairman@micklehamvh.co.uk)  
07790 941601  
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## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice  
of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

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  
denominations see website pages.  
Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

### REGISTERS

#### FUNERAL SERVICE

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October Mary Rondel

#### INTERMENT OF ASHES

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November Shane Worth

## CALENDAR NOVEMBER

4	Saturday	10 am to noon 5.30 pm	Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel p2 Bonfire and fireworks in Westhumble p18
5	<b>SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> before Advent</b>	10 am	Family service focusing on 'Love in a Box' p23
6	Monday	9.30 -11 am	Open Day at St Michael's School p27
12	<b>SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> before Advent</b>	10 am 11 am 7 pm	Remembrance Service Wreath laying at the war memorial and refreshments MCS Remembrance Concert p23 <i>December parish magazine</i>
16	Thursday	3.15 - 4.45 pm	Messy Church p3
18	Saturday	9 am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones p2
19	<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent</b>	8 am 10 am	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion
20	Monday	3 pm	Tea@3 p2
22	Wednesday		Deadline for Christmas tree orders p27
23	Thursday	1 pm	Autumn lunch in village hall p3
25	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Men's breakfast at the Stepping Stones p2
26	<b>SUNDAY next before Advent</b>	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Chapel Holy Communion

*Copy deadline for*



Dates for your diary

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
Christmas Eve



Christingle workshop p27  
Christingle Service p27  
Performance of 'The Snowman' p3  
Lighting of church tree p3  
Christmas Fair at Westhumble Chapel p3  
Choral Society Carol Party 7.30 pm  
Carols by Candlelight at the church 6.30 pm  
Carols at Westhumble chapel ruins 6 pm  
Ex Crew get together  
Christmas carols around the pubs  
Crib Service Westhumble Field p25

## MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Blake	Elaine Machin
Mark Day	Tim Mathieson
Andy Diamond	Beverley Mehta
Catherine Diffey	Kelvin Pritchard
Caroline Jones	Richard Siberry
Vickie Leney	

## 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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(who can put requests onto WhatsApp)  
Mary Banfield 01372 373912 [mgbbmw@aol.com](mailto:mgbbmw@aol.com)  
Frances Presley 01306 882473 [jasempres@gmail.com](mailto: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  
ben@thetatham.co.uk or www.micklehamwesthumblehistory.co.uk

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  
info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

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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Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East  
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Martha Pearce\* 07514 080005  
Rory Lee 07503 702517  
Daisy Armitage 07891 188142  
Olivia Newby 07703 110363  
Eva Lanceley \*\*07903 630567

\* Holidays only  
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# LINDA ISHBEL CUBITT 1934-2023

A memorial service was held at St Barnabas Church in September for Lady Cubitt, who died earlier this year. The Cubitt family has a strong connection to that church. Her daughter, Victoria Harding-Rolls, has shared here the tribute from the service.

Linda Cubitt lived at Chapel House, Westhumble for 63 years with her husband, Hugh, who died in 2020. They had three children, Joanna, Jonathan and Victoria, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Linda was the youngest of three daughters of Joan (née Packenham) and Angus Campbell. Her early years were spent at Doddington Cottage, near Nantwich in Cheshire, with her sisters Judith and Fiona. Schooling was at Southover in Sussex, where she made some lifelong friends. Life in London followed, working for the BBC, for the John Lewis Partnership and in PR. She and Hugh met at a ball, much to the displeasure of her oldest sister, Judith, who claimed the dashing ex-naval officer was her friend! They married in 1958 and moved to Chapel House when Joanna was born in 1960.

Hugh led an active business and political life, particularly involved with Westminster City Council, culminating in being elected Lord Mayor of Westminster in 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee year. Linda threw herself into the role of Lady Mayoress with fantastic energy and determination, while still carrying on her own range of charitable roles. She was involved with The Grange at Bookham, a centre for the handicapped, for 40 years, a governor of Stanway School in Dorking for 10 years and latterly involved with fundraising for St Catherine's Hospice until a few months before she died. She was also a long-standing Vice President of the London Members Centre of the Scottish National Trust.

Linda and Hugh were great travellers, and there is a map of the world at Chapel House, covered in red dots, showing the countries they had visited. From Alaska through the USA to South America and the Galapagos Islands; Africa, which they particularly loved; widely in Europe, including the far north in Svalbard; east through India to China and Hong Kong, and south to Australia. Many of these were cruises

and in the latter years, art-inspired tours and painting holidays took over, reflecting their joint interests.

Domestic holidays were centred around ponies in the school holidays, ferrying children to various Pony Club events and hunting, as well as helping at Pony Club Camp at Denbies. Early days summer holidays were spent in Devon with Hugh's sister Sylvia Dallas. Sandy sandwiches, cream teas, rock-pooling and bodyboarding at Westward Ho feature strongly. Scotland took over when a chance invitation to join friends on the Isle of Colonsay one summer led to a 15-year love affair with the island and its inhabitants. Memories are of white sandy beaches, azure seas, beautiful views, mackerel fishing and sailing from the trusty boats Sea Worm and Sea Pie, with little mention of the rain-sodden picnics, leaking house, howling winds and broken boat engines.

All these holidays took Linda away from her beloved garden. She was one of the few women on an intensive horticultural course at Merrist Wood, which she attended to expand her already considerable knowledge. This encouraged a meticulous regime of garden care and pruning, to which anyone who has helped her in the garden over the years can attest! Hours spent 'bottoms up' in the garden, while Hugh's plaintive cry "Are we ever going to have dinner?" echo down the years.

Linda was a loving and dedicated grandmother, zigzagging her way across the country to the many and various school and sporting events, taking in numerous friends along the way, much to Hugh's exasperation, complaining that Linda could never go anywhere in a straight line. She had an immense curiosity about people and the lives they led, called the "Walking Debrett's" by her grandchildren! Her worship of, and dependence on, the telephone was legendary, never hesitating to ring anyone she felt



needed a chat.

She had a wonderful sense of fun and humour, a wicked, snorting laugh, flashing blue eyes, a sparkling personality and unstoppable energy. She was also practical and down-to-earth, independent, thoughtful and put her family first in every way. She lived a long, well-lived, well-travelled, well-loved and hugely respected life, and died how she wanted, peacefully in her own bed at home, surrounded by her beloved garden. She was an amazing tour-de-force and will be much missed by all who knew her.

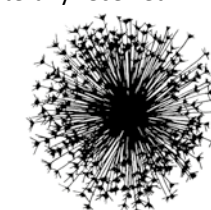


# Time for the Future

Apologies, there was an error with the email address in last month's article about the church clock. Catherine would love to hear from anyone who would like to donate to the project for the installation of an automatic winding system and pendulum regulator. She can be contacted on

**mickleham@diffey.me.uk**

The project has now raised almost £1,000 but that still leaves £9,000 so any expressions of interest would be very gratefully received.



Editors' note, the illustration is a dandelion clock in case you were wondering.



# Maureen Mary Chisman 1932-2023

Maureen Mary Chisman, known as Mo, was born in Kennington, London to Fred and Mabel Jordan, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1932. She was an only child until her brother, Robert, was born in 1943. Mo was evacuated with her cousins to Weston-super-Mare during the war and often recalled school days playing hockey on the beach. After the war she worked in London for Liberty and Odhams Press, which could have been the place that sealed her love and passion for books and reading.

She met John Chisman following his return from Korea. They were married and bought Old House Cottage, London Road, Mickleham in 1953. Jim and Louise followed shortly after. Mo was a stalwart for village activities and was very much part of the community spirit for more than 50 years. She was temporary post-mistress at Mickleham for several years and belonged to everything; the Young Wives, Mickleham WI, the Choral Society, the Cultured Pearls and church choir, including being laundress for the surplices. She was a school governor for Mickleham Infant School and a dinner lady. She was parish clerk for the parish council for many years, including a stint as chairperson too. She raised a young family while John was away with motorsport, held numerous part-time jobs, tended a large garden and enjoyed many personal hobbies including decorating, needlework, knitting and making home-made wine (the famous peapod).

She joined Leatherhead WI Country Market in the 1970s and baked solidly every Friday for years. Her kitchen was a food factory! Through a theatre colleague, Mo was invited to make mince pies for the London production of Sweeney Todd. She and Lou went to

see the play at the National Theatre and watched the actors, incredibly, eating and singing their way through her pastry. A testament to a good short-crust mix.

After the loss of John, she ventured into the B&B business and Old House Cottage became a popular place to stay. She recounted many anecdotes of her customers, some very funny, some sad but this enabled her to enjoy another passion - to travel. With her friend Jean, she set off on many fun adventures around the world including trips to China, Canada, Russia and Europe. She was a founder member of the Old Tarts, along with Vi Bullen, Beryl Icke and Rose Spence and Mo always subscribed to the Cultured Pearls coach tours, with visits to Holland, France and UK destinations.

Mo was exceedingly well read and had a passion for history. Her love of jumble sales, charity shops and a bargain are legendary and she will go down in history as always looking stylish, immaculate and beautifully dressed courtesy of the Princess Alice!

She was passionate about her family, and matriarch to us all. An inspirational nanny to her four grandchildren, James, Emma, Nina, and Thomas and she was so proud of her 'netball team' of seven great grandchildren, Maisie, Florence, Lilah, Harry, Molly, Charlie and Raffy. Mo did not suffer fools gladly and a feisty comment would often be her sharp retort, but she was kind, fun, compassionate, loving and had such a bright spirit and love for life, engaging in everything that life had to offer her. Mo made the best out of any situation and was always willing to lend a hand with a sense of fun and a generous heart. She made hundreds of friends



and acquaintances in Mickleham, Westhumble and Leatherhead.

In her retirement she moved to Leatherhead and set about joining every club there, including Fetcham WI. She belonged to the Leatherhead Institute and often went to poetry and book readings. She did keep fit on a Tuesday morning and then did a shift in the charity shop. She was a regular visitor to the library, on first-name terms with the staff. Radio 4 was permanently on both night and day and her knowledge of the world, and what was happening, was often shared in a forthright manner.

Mo suffered with Alzheimer's and vascular dementia in later life, a problem she took on the chin. Her wonderful carers, Cheryl and Mel, were daily and weekend treasures for us all and as a family we cannot thank them enough for their care, love and attention to Mo.

In June 2022, Mo moved to Felbury House Care Home and, following a fall, was transferred to Cedar Court Nursing Home. Mo, challenged by Alzheimer's and her lack of understanding, remained frustrated but stoic until the last. Mo was someone who had a real impact on all who knew her - a life well lived.

Louise, Jim and families



## Bonfire & Fireworks Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Torchlight procession will leave at 5.30 pm

from the junction of Burney Road, Chapel Lane and Adlers Lane

Everyone in Mickleham and Westhumble is welcome to attend along with their relatives and friends. With more people attending the charge per person can be kept down. We are asking for donations of £8 per head **in cash** at the entrance to the field, including children.

Soup and sausages will be available from the barbecue in the field for a small **cash** donation.

## Community News



**New Baby**  
Congratulations to Agatha and Duncan Irvine of Westhumble on the arrival of Emily, a sister for Annabel.

**C**ongratulations to

- Emily Garbett and James Brooks (far left), who were married at St Michael's Church on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Clare Kennington and Peter Billington (left), who had a humanist wedding celebration on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Mickleham Village Hall.

**F**arewell

Sadly, goodbye to Melanie Child moving to Dorking, after ten years in Mickleham, to be nearer to family. Mel says 'I have made many friends here and hope to visit, probably on the 465 bus!'



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## The Way to a Wimbledon Lawn

Paul Patton

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

7.30pm

The Stepping Stones, Westhumble

Tickets £6 on the door

Covering all aspects of lawn care, including the essential cultural activities, the control of pests, moss and weeds and establishing a wild flower area.

## Garden Shed talk by Benjamin Pope

The working garden, creating movement and interest while frozen still

**W**e very much enjoyed this talk on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Ben touched on visual interest, seeing where the eye leads along lines, such as a path. Should the line be straight or curved? Shapes are important, as are repeating patterns. Surfaces can be used to make interesting contrasts or create harmony. Space is also important. It could be tight, bordered by hedges, or open and relaxed.

In winter, the light is different from other times of the year. The low angle of the sun can give rise to interesting shadows. Grasses and seedheads can be effectively backlit or highlighted. It can make the trunks and bark of deciduous trees, such as Tibetan Cherry and Betula, stand out. At a certain time of day, the sun may be framed between hedges or seen through a deciduous tree. Make the most of reflective

surfaces in your garden, such as small or large expanses of water (emphasised by eco-friendly black vegetable dye) or vertical mirrors. Repetition of shapes or plants, natural or formal, gives the eye something to follow. False perspective can make a near object seem further away or your garden will appear longer if the path narrows into the distance.

Lastly, Ben mentioned plants for winter interest, particularly grasses such as hakonechloa and miscanthus, their texture and form providing movement within borders. Whorls of spent phlois can last all winter, as do the gnarled branches of fruit trees. Garrya can provide amazing vertical movement with its hanging pendants. Many straw-coloured skeletons of plants and seedheads stand out against a dark backdrop. Bulbs come into their own, such as cyclamen flowering in January/

February with marbled leaves. Eranthis are a cheerful yellow. Snowdrops, narcissi, crocuses and hyacinths provide scent. Primulas, and pulmonarias offer flowers and are early pollinators. The rusty-coloured, vertical fronds of the shuttlecock fern look stunning against the bronzed new leaves of epidemics. Several winter flowering shrubs are good for scent, such as hamamelis, daphnes and winter honeysuckle. Garrya and various skimmia are good value. Leave last year's bare stems of cornus, rubus and willow, but remember to prune these in the spring to produce colour next winter. Vines and wisteria, climbing roses and blackberry canes, depending on how you have trained them, can create waves, movement and interest, and the promise of future fruit.

Diana Dyson





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INCORPORATING  
**John Wadsworth**

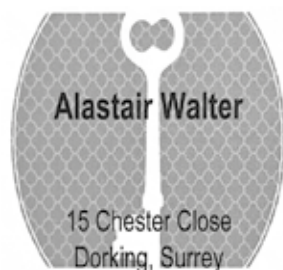
### John Wadsworth joins the Curchods family

After 27 years in Bookham, John and Amanda Wadsworth have stepped into well-deserved retirement and John Wadsworth estate agents has joined the Curchods family.

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## A Few Walks from Westhumble



North to St Albans

I try to take a walking holiday each summer but, in 2021, lockdown meant there was nowhere to stay, so I opted instead for a series of day walks from Westhumble. I decided on four, heading due north, south, east and west with the distance governed by how far I could walk in a day and still get home in time for dinner. One of the objectives was to find how Westhumble fitted into the wider geography of the south-east, which in turn is largely governed by geology. As I moved away from our village, nestled in the chalk downs, the rocks and soil under my feet largely determined the nature of the landscape I was passing through.

The first walk, in late June, was a 40-mile hike north through the west of London and into Hertfordshire, finishing at St Albans. As with all the walks, the first few miles were very familiar, up through Mickleham and the priory, through Leatherhead and up the A243 to Kingston. Continuing along the Thames, through one of the leafiest parts of London, Ham, Richmond and over the Thames at Kew. Halfway was marked by a maze of subways under Hanger Lane interchange before embarking on the endless (well, six miles) of Wembley suburbia, passing the huge and rather



West to Hampshire

beautiful Hindu temple in Alpertown (all the stone brought from India). Geology on this walk was kind, almost flat across the Thames basin, rising almost imperceptibly to Stanmore, where I could turn round and see London spread out into the distance. London more-or-less finishes at Stanmore. What the author Iain Sinclair describes as the edgelands are benign here; hospitals and private schools with extensive leafy grounds rather than the light industrial sprawl which often rings large cities. This came slightly further north, where Watling Street crosses the M25, where long rows of faceless warehouses line the road. It was good to arrive at St Albans, looking welcoming in the warm, evening sunshine.

Walk number two was east into Kent. This started with a climb up Box Hill and along the downs to Gatton, before dropping down into Merstham, Tandridge and passing just south of Oxted. From then on, the route generally followed the Greensand Way, but unlike the chalk downs which tend to go up and stay up, the Greensand Way is a series of peaks, many with pretty villages at the top. I should have guessed from the names that some climbing would be involved: Crockham Hill, Ide Hill, Toys Hill. Continuing east past Sevenoaks, through the grounds of Igham Mote, and deep into Kent, the paths became harder to follow. Several times I was helped by friendly locals. On one occasion the footpath went into an apple orchard and disappeared, and then a Spitfire flew over. Definitely Kent. After more tiny country lanes, I arrived at the day's destination, Watlingbury on the River Medway, 42½ miles in all.

The third walk, 40-miles due west, was probably the most straightforward, possibly because it was almost all on chalk. The first 12 miles were along the North Downs Way past Guildford, a route I had done many times before. Then over the Wey and along the Hogs Back to Farnham. The North Downs Way finishes at Farnham and the countryside changes, with almost no towns, just tiny hamlets surrounded by endless rolling wheatfields stretching into the distance. This part of the walk was split between country lanes and long straight tracks over the downlands, very Tess of the

D'Urbervilles. I arrived at Basingstoke station just in time to miss an enormous thunderstorm but was slightly annoyed that my journey back involved changing trains at Farnborough and having to walk (!) to Farnborough North station to pick up the Deepdene train.

One of my oldest schoolfriends lives in Arundel and joined me on the final walk, 39-miles from my house to his. This was in late August, after several days of heavy rain. The first part, over Ranmore and the greensand of Leith Hill was no trouble, but the clay soils of the Weald were another matter. Through Ockley, Slinfold and down past Billingshurst, the paths were deep in mud, often churned by cattle, with stinging nettles hanging over the path on both sides. After you've been stung dozens of times you start to ignore it, but it was a relief to get to Pulborough where the countryside opens up. We were worried that Amberley Wild Brooks might have flooded in the heavy rain, but it turned out to be dry underfoot. Back onto chalk again along the Arun Valley. Arundel was holding its annual Festival of the Arts, and we could hear the town long before we could see it.

Overall, the walks gave me an opportunity to find out a bit more about how our communities fit into the broader geography of south-east England. London to the north spreading out on both sides of the Thames. To the east, strings of hill villages nestling in the greensand hills towards the Medway. Forty miles to the west the rolling farmland on the edge of Wessex and to the south the Weald, just as hard going on foot in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the Romans would have found it in the first. And this in just a small corner of our island. Plenty more to discover.

Chris Budleigh



East to Watlingbury



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## Mustard Seed Relief Mission Christmas Shoebox Campaign – 2023

For some years now, the residents of Mickleham and Westhumble have been the generous donors of hundreds of shoeboxes, sent all around the world. Between St Michael's Church, St Michael's Infant School and Box Hill School we have donated thousands of gifts and hundreds of boxes. It is a record of which to be proud.

We will be sending our shoeboxes to children in need again this year, but mostly to Eastern Europe, through a more local charity called Mustard Seed Relief Mission. This organisation is based in Eastbourne.

The Mustard Seed charity has been operating since 1992 and sends out much needed aid to disadvantaged children and young people in Eastern Europe. They run their 'Love in a Box' campaign every Christmas. This project allows schools, businesses, churches and other organisations or individuals

to fill shoeboxes with gifts for the children who would otherwise not receive a Christmas present.

'After being unable to continue our Love in a Box campaign last year due to the uncertainty and suffering of the people in Eastern Europe, we now intend to carry on and this will be our 30<sup>th</sup> year of putting smiles on the faces of underprivileged children' says Lisa Smart, Director of Mustard Seed.

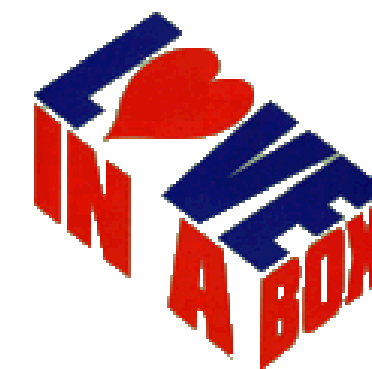
The charity's website is,

<https://www.msrm.org.uk>

It contains all the advice you need to help you pack your shoebox full of toys and gifts for the children. Alternatively, leaflets will be available at St Michael's Church and Box Hill School reception.

There are two ways you can participate in this effort.

Either, please wrap and pack your shoebox and bring it to St Michael's



church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November. The church will be available for you to deliver your boxes until the morning of the Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. After that we ask you to bring your shoeboxes to reception at Box Hill School by the latest, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. They will be collected by Mustard Seed Relief Mission on this date.

Or, deliver a bag of gifts to Box Hill School reception before Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and Box Hill School Charity and Service Committee will pack it for you.

Thank you.

Hayley Osborne  
Box Hill School

## MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY A CONCERT FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

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12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

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## Seasonal Sightings



The blue flower is Chia, as in Chia seeds, *Salvia hispanica*, growing under my bird feeder! Native to central and southern Mexico.

The other two are late flowering and seeding Wild Carrot - *Daucus carota*.

Also in my garden but common in chalk grassland. Fore-runner of our carrots and the only member of the Umbellifer family now called *Apicaeae*.

Barbara Jones



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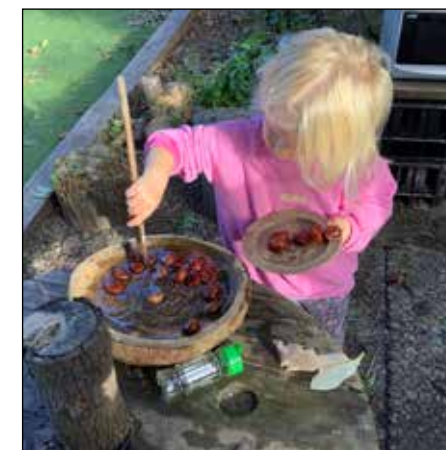





Our new starters this term are settling in and getting used to new rules and routines. We are now open until 2.45 pm every day and able to offer a longer day to younger children, as we now have naptime facilities in the cosy, gingerbread house.

The children are not the only ones settling in. We have a new chicken pen 'Cluckingham Palace'. The new pen complies with the inevitable 'flockdown' for chicken owners. This means our chickens can stay at nursery for the mandatory housing period, which has been implemented in previous years, to help prevent the spread of bird flu. Crucial for the nursery, after several ingresses, was for the new pen to be as fox proof as possible. Fingers crossed, there will be no reports of chicken losses for a good while to come.

We have been enjoying the fruits of autumn, what an abundance of conkers this year! Conkers have been an addition to our mud kitchen, children baking conker pies, and making conker



tea, in Forest School children have learnt how to make conker soap which has been used to wash our Forest School ropes.

Also, we have noticed this year how berry plentiful are our trees and hedges! While the likely reason is the warm and rainy weather at the time of ripening, the old wives' tale of mother nature preparing for a bad winter is more worthy of a Forest School story. Although I certainly don't hope for a bad winter, a couple of snow days with enough snow to build a snowman and have a sledge ride would be welcome.

Finally, a note of thanks to Anne Weaver for organising a fundraiser for the nursery. I attended the evening of reminiscences, which was a fascinating journey into early childhood memories from both near and far. Great cake too! Anne also organised a fun and games afternoon for younger children. Thank you Anne, your support is greatly appreciated.

Hilary Budd



## The Crib Service Christmas Eve 4 pm

Any would be angels, shining stars or inn-keepers of any age who would like to be part of the crib service tableau, please remember to contact Elly McIlwraith-Jay as soon as possible.

[ellyjay@gmail.com](mailto:ellyjay@gmail.com)



## Mickleham Workbooks in Dorking Museum

Recently, we have put on exhibit two delightful sewing workbooks, the work of Edith Marjorie Child and Marion Elizabeth Child who attended Mickleham National School (left). They each consist of a lined exercise book, one with covers strengthened with cardboard and covered with

material. Both contain practice pieces of needlework with various kinds of stitching, and samples of one-dimensional outfits, buttonholes, letters of the alphabet, gathering and pockets. Donated to the museum by the family, they were made by the sisters between 1907 and the First World War. David Burton, Dorking Museum



Come and visit Silvermere Softplay Centre, where the joy and benefits of play are exceeded!

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.



Our warm and welcoming café – serving a delicious range of homemade, locally-sourced food and drinks – is the perfect space for everyone, including well-behaved pooches, to relax and connect.

For more info and booking: [www.silvermere-softplay.co.uk](http://www.silvermere-softplay.co.uk)  
Proprietors: Katie and Michael of School Lane, Mickleham



**St Michael's School**

[stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/](http://stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/)

## Christmas Tree Sale

If you enjoy a real tree at Christmas, please consider ordering yours through The Friends of St Michael's Infant School. Proceeds will go towards upgrading our classroom equipment to enhance the learning of our four to seven year olds.

We will be offering high-quality non-drop Nordman firs for collection from the school the first weekend in December. Prices are as follows:

3-4 feet	£30
4-5 feet	£35
5-6 feet	£40
6-7 feet	£50
7-8 feet	£60
8-10 feet (TBC)	£90

To reserve your tree please fill in the order form: <https://forms.gle/KXQe5dR2WyUCmNw77>

Please email [friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com) for the link if needed.

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Friends of St Michael's School  
Mickleham  
Sort Code: 09-01-29  
Account no: 20156527

Or by PayPal  
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Please ensure you use the option to 'pay Friends and Family' so that no additional charges are incurred.

Forms and payments must be sent by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

We would be most grateful for your support.

Amy Ward  
Vice Chair of St Michael's Friends

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A pupil expressed the thoughts of other pupils and parents:  
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## Solution to October crossword

**Across:** 9 Service entrance 10 At peace 12/14 Ripstop nylon 15 Cheer up 18 Embassy 21/13 Swiss army knife 23 Ruination 25 Biodata 26 Krishna 29 Church of England  
**Down:** 1 Asia 2 Trap 3 Hijacker 4 Yemeni 5 Unfreeze 6 Drop in 7 Installs 8 Weaponry 15 Cashback 16 Epilogue 17 Portaloo 19 Beatings 20 Spoon 22 Search 24 Ink-jet 27/11 Head torch 28 Aids

## Suitable items for the foodbank collection

Tinned veg / tomatoes / soup / sauces / baked beans Washing-up and cleaning products  
Powdered milk / UHT milk (green and blue only) Tissues / paper towels / tampons  
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 **Please do not include** Nappies  
Jam / honey / marmalade / spreads **out-of-date items or those that require refrigeration** Pet food  
Sugar (500g bags only)



### LOCAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

**MICKLEHAM**  
Garden Corner off Old London Road  
Mary Banfield 01372 373912

**WESTHUMBLE**  
St Anthony Pilgrims Way  
Sue Tatham 01306 882547

Items may also be brought to St Michael's Church on Sunday mornings



## Seasonal Sightings 2

One of the many hundreds of Marbled White butterflies seen at Norbury Park in July this year: it was a beautiful sight.

Wendy Tickner

## Christingle Craft Workshop

### St Michael's CofE Infant School

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
9.30 am

followed by

**Church Family Service**

11 am

A wonderful start to the Christmas period.







I recently had a conversation that has crystallized my decision to retire from setting the crossword in this illustrious magazine. Firstly, I was told that my pages in the magazine were so disliked that they were skipped over without a look. I get that cryptic crosswords are not for everyone, and I have been told that some people who do the ones in the papers can't do mine. I have tried to make them easier, but this is not my full-time job, and I don't have the facility with words for that to happen easily, given that you must stick to the

## Would you like to learn desktop publishing using Adobe ID?

Although Sue Tatham has retired from editing the magazine, she still helps out by creating the adverts for people who don't have their own designs. Some months there are no changes, sometimes, lots.

We would like to find someone to assist Sue when necessary. We can recommend her as a coach - she trained Jan to use ID from scratch.

No experience necessary, though someone with a creative streak would enjoy the work. You need to be able to respond to emails promptly, as advertisers will want changes close to our deadlines.

Contact [editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk) to arrange a chat.

## Vacancy

Puzzle setter for the back page.

Any type of puzzle considered.

Ten per year required.

August and December off.

Contact the editors to discuss at

[editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

# No More Cryptic Crosswords Andrew Retires

rules of cryptic clues and the English language, while also trying to end up with something that entertains. I have tried to encourage and explain in my articles, as well as including miscellaneous fascinations about the world and language but, despite asking for feedback, I get next to none except people getting grumpy with me when meeting face-to-face.

Then in the same conversation, I discovered that Anne Warren had died. I never met Anne but she loved my puzzles, so much so that she wrote to tell me, and we became pen pals for nearly four years. Towards the end of that time, she was struggling with the cruelties of old age. Her brain became her enemy and then she went into a home and there was silence.

The joy of that connection remains but now I have only one person who writes to me about my puzzles. In my day-to-day work I have to constantly motivate myself to plough on while being ignored. It seems somewhat masochistic to also spend days each month on the puzzle and accompanying article with very little response. I am currently head-deep in another huge project. I have limited energy outside of that, so I hope I will be forgiven for bowing out.

Andrew

## CRYPTIC DELICACIES

Last month's theme answers were RIPSTOP NYLON, SWISS ARMY KNIFE, PORTALOO, SPOON, HEAD TORCH (and in extremis: SEARCH AIDS) – all useful for CAMPING.

## Editors' Gratitude

The news that Andrew had decided to retire from composing the monthly cryptic crossword for the magazine has come as an unexpected blow. Particularly sad is that his decision was partly influenced by some readers' reaction to his contributions. All the work on the magazine is done by volunteers. As such, hurtful words are regrettable, even if spoken in a thoughtless moment.

Andrew has been involved with the magazine well before he started to compose for it in 2017 after the sad death of Richard Roberts Miller. It has surrounded him since its foundation in 1984, whether when he was living in Westhumble or since his move to Norfolk. Andrew volunteered and was only the third person to do the crossword in the 39+ years since the magazine was launched. Before that he had provided skilled IT support for Sue and this has extended to helping the co-editors, setting up their systems

so that they can share files. Charlotte confirms that he had the patience of several saints with her and her steam-age computer bringing it all into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We could not have made the jump to co-editing without his support, and we should have expressed our deepest gratitude publicly for that before now.

The process of producing a complicated and interesting cryptic crossword ten times a year must be a massive challenge and Andrew has risen to that, evolving over the years with the introduction of a theme with the golden squares. We shall miss the back page and Andrew's interesting and varied information in his articles about solving the puzzles. We wish him all the best with his current absorbing genealogical project, about which, we are sure to hear more as it develops and comes to fruition. Thank you so much for everything, Andrew.

Jan and Charlotte



Flooded Chapel Lane 21<sup>st</sup> September

Ben Tatham

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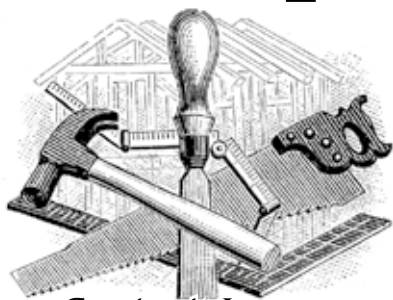
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