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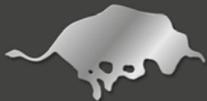
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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

February
2019

Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

COPY DEADLINE
FOR THE
MARCH 2019
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10th February

send to:

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Dorking RH5 6AW
01306 882547
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Contributions in any form are welcome as are good quality photographs. There is no charge for advertising local charity and community events. However the editors reserve the right to shorten omit or reformat articles submitted for publication depending on space.



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Dear friends

It was 3 years ago this month that Storm Imogen lashed the South West and much of southern England and Wales, bringing travel chaos, disruption and hardship to thousands of people. Gales of almost 100mph hit the Channel, with coastal communities bearing the brunt of the storm. As we pass through this life, all of us will face storms at different times and in different ways. I was on a ferry in the Channel as Storm Imogen grew in strength, creating 11 metre waves and up to storm force 12 winds. It is fair to say it was not the most pleasant experience of my life, and I was glad to eventually reach my destination safely, even if it was 3 days later than originally planned!

Of course our storms may not always be literal, they could be a difficult issue in a relationship, a trust broken, emotions battered, it could be deep worries about health or financial concerns, the loss (no matter how long ago) of someone loved and precious to us, perhaps a real fear for the future as we face times of great uncertainty and worry about how we will get through it all. The world is changing so fast all around us, the familiar often being eroded and replaced with new and challenging scenarios which may be difficult for us to adapt to. There are no easy answers when the storms of life batter us, we all have to face them as best we can, and walk through the dark valleys they set before us.

However, many people have found strength and hope in their faith in Jesus Christ as they journey through life. When Jesus died He left behind Him just a handful of men and women who trusted in Him, despite the storms and persecutions they faced. By 381AD Christianity had grown to become the religion of the Roman Empire and today Christianity has approximately 2.2 billion people putting their trust in Jesus. Despite the church growing the slowest in Europe and North America, it is dramatically, even explosively growing in other parts of the planet! The church in Africa has seen a 51% increase, which works out on average at around 33,000 people each day either becoming Christians or being born into Christian families in Africa alone - incredible!

So why is this? What is it about Jesus that draws people to Him, makes them trust Him and hold on to Him in the joys as well as the storms of life. People turn to Jesus for any number of reasons but the promise they get when they truly seek Him, is that He will always be there for them, He will never fail anyone who genuinely wants to turn to Him. And as a result of that encounter with the Living God, people change, they are transformed more and more into the very person they were created to be in the first place!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on the 6th March, and during Lent we will be offering a Lent Course which will delve more deeply into the mystery of God (see page 2 for more details). So whether you are going through a storm in your life right now, or whether everything is going along just fine, this Lent could be a great time to find out more about Jesus, and why one in every three people alive in the world today trusts Him.

With assurance of prayers for you all.

Reverend Canon John Harkin
Parish Priest



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Lent Bible Study Course 2019

'The Mystery of God' is a seven session Lent Bible Study Course for 2019, delving more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for Him. The course follows Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing Him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God's plan of salvation. Whether you are just looking to find out more about the Christian faith or have been a Christian for many years, this course offers the opportunity to find out more.

The evenings will begin on Ash Wednesday and then will be held on the following dates, all starting at 7.30pm, with the following themes explored:

Week One	The Mystery of Life and Death	Ash Wednesday 6th March
Week Two	The Mystery of Good and Evil	Monday 11th March
Week Three	The Mystery of God's Glory	Tuesday 19th March
Week Four	The Mystery of Sin, Suffering and Hope	Monday 25th March
Week Five	The Mystery of Relationship and Reconciliation	Monday 1st April

Week Six The Mystery of Love and Sacrifice Monday 8th April

Week Seven The Mystery of Joy and Salvation Monday 15th April

Please let Canon John know (harkin12@btinternet.com) if you would like to join us for this year's Lent Course.

Prayer



To help us in our understanding and practice of prayer we held a Prayer Workshop in church last October. There were subsequently many positive comments about how helpful this had been, and so we agreed to hold another Prayer Workshop on Saturday 23rd March.

Do please email me to let me know if you will be coming, so that we can seek to be as effective as we can in planning this morning (harkin12@btinternet.com).

We also host a monthly Parish Prayer Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm in church; the remaining dates for this Term are 5th February, 5th March and 2nd April. You are very welcome to join us.

Canon John

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Christmas Eve Crib Service

Once again, Adlers Lane became, for a short period of time on Christmas Eve, our own Road to Bethlehem. Following a short welcome and introductory prayer by Canon John, our procession followed the star to the shepherds' field and then on to the stable. There were readings and familiar carols to help us re-visit the story of the birth of Jesus and the younger children did an admirable job in forming the tableau as the story unfolded, with very little adult help.

There were more people than ever this year, many of whom had come from some way beyond the parish to



join us. One family said that they had been out walking some years ago when they saw the procession and decided to join in. Since then, they have come to join us every year, all the way from Cheam. Another family come from Epsom, having heard about it from a friend; it is now part of their family Christmas tradition, despite having no connection with the parish.

Thank you to Jonathan and Gerry for all their hard work in preparing the stable; to Amy for playing the keyboard; to Karina for preparing the readers and to Sarah for helping with the refreshments. Thank you also to all the families who encouraged their children to take part, and to those of you who came to join us.

Anne Weaver

Church Christmas Trees

Many people have commented on the lovely Christmas trees so beautifully decorated outside the church. This year the cross above the porch was also illuminated and glowed as a beacon of light to witness to all who passed by. One couple emailed to say that they had been driving past one evening and stopped '...to admire the outside of your lovely church. The Christmas trees lit with lights and the lit up cross over the entrance were a joy. We got out and walked up to look through the gates and admire the flowers. Great care and love had obviously gone into them. A big thank you to all the people who made it look so stunning at Christmas.'

Our grateful thanks indeed go to the management of the Running Horses for donating the trees, and to Jason and the regulars who kindly decorated them



and illuminated the cross. Personally, and on behalf of all who enjoyed the sight, we thank you all very much indeed. Canon John

Inconsiderate Dog Owners

On Thursday 27th December there was a wedding at St Michael's Church. That morning I walked down to the church in order to check a few things before the wedding and was absolutely shocked to see that a dog had fouled the top of a family gravestone outside the front entrance where photographs are taken. This could not have been missed by members of the wedding party and shows a total lack of respect for the family whose loved ones are buried there.

The church looked so beautiful with all the Christmas decorations and flowers plus the additional decorations put up in preparation for the wedding that I had no option but to clean up this disgusting mess and wash down the gravestone.

Please can all dog owners who walk through the church yard keep their dogs on a lead and clean up any mess after them as requested. I do not expect to do this job myself.



Mary Flint
Wedding Administrator



A Date for your Diary Mothering Sunday 31st March

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Mickleham Choral Society Carol Party

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Christmas is always a joyous time of year and two of my favourite seasonal activities are singing carols and going to parties, so as a newcomer to the village and the Mickleham Choral Society I must confess to particularly looking forward to the Christmas Carol Concert in the village hall on the evening of Friday 14th December. We had been rehearsing for several weeks and it was clear the programme of music was going to be great fun. I was not disappointed. The hall was packed to the rafters on a cold foggy night and members of the choir resplendent in their seemingly now obligatory Christmas jumpers.

The programme started with all the lights being turned off and the ladies of the choir singing a simple but moving introduction called *Illa lucem extendebat* which translates from Latin to 'She was extending light' and indeed as the piece developed each member of the choir began to illuminate lights around their necks until the whole stage filled with sparkly singers. Robert Dyas in Dorking did cracking business in small battery powered light sets! Then onto the programme starting with a very African style carol complete with drum, tambourine and wood block

accompaniment called *Alleluia, Alleluia*. Now, if the audience thought they had come to sit back and enjoy the choir doing all the work, they were wrong, because every so often there were carols for all to sing, with some arrangements to test the alertness of the audience such as in the first such carol *Good King Wenceslas* where the ladies would sing the words of the page and the men the parts of the King. In between a few carols at a time we were treated to four readings of Christmas stories, mostly humorous and read with great gusto.

In the final section of carols the audience were put to great test with *The Twelve Days of Christmas* with sections of the hall given each one of the twelve days to sing and act out in turn. It resulted in much activity and fun for all.

The final choir contribution was *It's beginning to look a bit like Christmas* with choir members adorning festive hats, glasses and other accessories but completely outdone and surprised by the appearance at the side of the stage of an enormous rapidly inflating snowman before the concert ended with all singing a rousing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* with much enthusiasm.

Following the raffle we were treated to an extensive and varied buffet with a welcome glass of warm mulled wine (or two) and much conversation and merriment.

A large number of people contributed much to the enjoyment of the evening from setting up and decorating the hall (and clearing it up afterwards) helping in the kitchen, light and sound, raffle prizes and ticket selling and collecting, the choir themselves for their hours of rehearsal, but if I had to single one person out (and I do) then huge thanks to our amazing conductor Juliet Hornby for managing to bring such a large group of singers up to an impressive standard - herding cats springs to mind.

A fabulous evening of music, readings and fun heralding in the start of the Christmas festivities thoroughly enjoyed by all. James Cartwright

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J S Bach's
St John' Passion
Sunday 10th March
Dorking Halls – 7.30 pm

The Beach at the top of Crabtree Lane



If you walk to the very top of Crabtree Lane, past Crabtree Cottages, across Norbury Park and keep going due north west, and on and on... you eventually reach the sea at Barmouth in North Wales. Which is how I spent the last week of August 2018. A bit over 200 miles by foot from Westhumble, Barmouth is where we had spent several holidays - a rather old fashioned place, but with a certain charm, nestled between the Irish Sea and Snowdonia.

I set off early on a bright Friday morning, through Fetcham, Cobham and the suburban sprawl of Weybridge and Byfleet to Windsor Great Park (beautiful, but not designed to be crossed in a straight line), arriving in time for dinner at an old friend's house in Maidenhead (35.3 miles). The next day was over the Thames at Marlow and through the Chilterns to Oxford. Excellent walking country, along quiet roads and footpaths, through pretty villages and down the scarp of the Chilterns at Watlington. The final stretch across the flatlands south of Oxford was rather dull as the sky clouded over, so it was a relief to arrive at the Premier Inn in picturesque Cowley (31.2 miles).

At this point my feet were still in decent shape, but day 3 - from Oxford to Boughton-on-the-Water was a more of a trial. Leaving Cowley before 8 am and walking north along the Thames towpath, the heavens opened just as I turned west towards Eynsham. Through Witney in driving rain, sheltering in the Co-op to try to straighten out my disintegrating map, and on to Burford, trudging through brambles alongside

hurting traffic on the A40. Definitely character building. After Burford, the rain eased and the last 10 miles to Boughton-on-the-Water were along dead straight ancient tracks over the Cotswold Hills. But a long day walking in wet boots had not been kind to my feet. (33 miles)

Bank holiday Monday was from Boughton to Malvern. The weather had dried up and I made good time through a string of pretty villages, but my boots were still wet from the previous day and by the time I crossed the Severn at Tewkesbury around tea-time, I was hours behind schedule, with miles still to go. An hour later, I found myself wandering round a field near the M50, looking for the footpath out, closely followed by a herd of 50 excitable bullocks. Fortunately the friendly farmer turned up to check his livestock, told me where the footpath sign had dropped off the gate and I was on my way again, but with another half hour lost. At 8.15 pm, four miles short of that day's destination, I called the friends I was staying with to say I would be at least another hour. 'Would you like a lift?' to which the only answer was 'Yes please.' (Walked 35.6 miles; Car 4 miles - a long day).

After a good night's sleep at my friends' rather luxurious B&B, I was in top form - from the ankles up. I had booked accommodation that evening in Ludlow and despite my sore feet I made good time as far as Bromyard. The afternoon was tougher - a route-march to Tenbury Wells, and by the time I got there, with Ludlow still six

miles away, my feet had had enough. Standing on the High Street wondering what to do, a kind lady found me a minicab and a cheerful driver took me to the Travelodge outside Ludlow. That evening, it took me over half an hour to hobble a mile into town for dinner, so the following days were going to need a rethink... (Walked: 27.6 miles, Minicab: 6 miles)

The next day was to have been a modest 27 mile stroll to Montgomery, but my feet called for something a bit more achievable. I hobbled into Ludlow (a beautiful, friendly, medieval town) and caught a train north to Craven Arms, from where I walked slowly north-west through the hills to Bishops Castle. This part of the county is wonderful - endless rolling countryside, hedgerows full of sparrows, more pretty villages, and the perfect weather for walking. Crossing the border into Wales I did something I have not done for 35 years; I put my thumb out. The very first car that passed stopped and a kind Frenchwoman took me into Montgomery. (Train: 6 miles, walked: 17.1 miles, hitched: 4 miles)

Montgomery is perfect. Fantastic views in all directions, interesting buildings and the Dragon Hotel in the Market Square full of quirky rooms (as least mine was) and a fine restaurant which fed me a huge dinner and breakfast, after which I was ready to get my boots on again. The easier pace the previous day had helped my feet recover a bit but the 33 miles I had planned was still way out of reach. So

continued on page 7



Far left to far right: Crabtree Lane - on a clear day you can almost see the sea...; border country; idyllic Montgomery; journey's end at Barmouth, North Wales.

Photographer Chris Budleigh

another day of ambling through the beautiful countryside of the Welsh Marches. Birdsong, fields of sheep, and enormous views of rolling green hills and distant mountains. At Llanfair Caereinion, I hitched the remaining stretch with a friendly tree surgeon to Dinas Mawddwy, a tiny village nestled into a fold in the Cambrian Mountains, where I was one of only two guests at the Buckley Arms. If you like Victoriana, go there. Gay, the landlady, is a fantastic cook. Order the bacon and mushrooms

in stilton sauce. And then the Tuscan stew. You will not be disappointed. (Walked 14.8 miles, hitched: 18 miles). The final day took me over the 1,200 ft Oerddws pass and down to the coast. Leaving Dinas, I passed a group of Duke of Edinburgh walkers sitting on their packs and a mile further on, their supervisor waiting for them to appear. He told me the Pass was horrible for walking – fast traffic and no footpaths. And so it turned out, so when a car pulled in and the D of E supervisor offered me a ride through, I could not refuse. He dropped me just outside Dolgellau from where a footpath along

the Mawddach estuary took me all the way to our holiday apartment in Barmouth. (walked 17.6 miles, car: 2 miles).

Overall distance. Walked 212 miles; Hitched 24 miles; Train 6 miles; minicab 6 miles; car 4 miles. It had been a fascinating opportunity to grasp how British geography works and how one landscape leads into another. From crowded Surrey to the empty Welsh borderlands over the space of a few days was quite a contrast.

And three days later my daughter dragged me up Snowdon...

Chris Budleigh



The Brigitte Trust is seeking more Trustees. We are particularly looking for people with skills and experience in accounting, palliative care or the hospice movement, and marketing. The Dorking based Trust is an independent registered charity offering emotional support and practical help at home to people and their families living with cancer, MND, MS, heart and lung failure and other life threatening illness across Surrey. A small professional

team supports 90-100 volunteers who provide front-line service free to over 350 clients a year referred by health professionals, hospices, who self-refer or are introduced by friends or family. The Trust's volunteers help in many ways, providing:

- Emotional support and a listening ear
- Respite for carers
- Transport to hospital appointments, shopping and trips out
- Bereavement support

The Brigitte Trust has been based in Dorking for over 30 years and from small beginnings the Trust has developed to cover the whole of Surrey. The Trust is part funded by Surrey Downs CCG. Income is also raised through fundraising activities, donations and charitable trusts.

All our clients are living with a life threatening illness. Our volunteers can transform the lives of such people by providing a regular weekly visit of

up to three hours at a time, offering emotional support and companionship. For many of our clients this helps to lessen social isolation and reduce feelings of loneliness. In addition, volunteers can offer practical help such as making a cup of tea, preparing a light meal or helping clients with paperwork.

Our service also affords an opportunity for respite for the client's carers and family members. This enables them to leave the house, meet a friend for coffee, do a grocery shop or simply take some time out for themselves.

All our volunteers undergo a rigorous initial training programme and attend bi-monthly support groups.

If you would like to support our work by becoming a Trustee or in any other capacity - fundraising, as a client facing volunteer, or perhaps giving a few hours to help with office work, admin or IT, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ingrid Walker at brigitteadmin@btconnect.com.



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Cryptic Delicacies

It is just before New Year as I write this and so far I have not spotted the strange Christmas tradition that was the theme of my last crossword (December magazine). Maybe the TV schedulers thought THE GREAT ESCAPE was not suitable fare given the current political climate, though why it should be thought of as suitable for any Christmas is beyond me; and I see that ITV4 has kept up a steady drip feed of Nazi gold being stolen, Nazis being killed in the mountains, footballers escaping from Nazis, Nazis being killed in the desert and Nazis being bombed in Norwegian fjords. The answers that linked with THE GREAT ESCAPE were from the three escape tunnels Tom, Dick, and HARRY, 'The COOLER King' played by Steve McQueen, and 'The Scrounger' & 'The Forger', the two prisoners who tried to escape together in a plane, played by James GARNER & Donald PLEASANCE (though I must apologise for having spelt this as PLEASANCE – I am thankful to an eagle-eyed retired National Trust manager for shattering my illusion of omniscience).

In researching this article, I discovered that this evening as I write this, THE GREAT ESCAPE is showing at cinemas in Addlestone, Crawley, Epsom, Guildford, Richmond, Sutton, Wimbledon and London – it is good to know that the

Christmas spirit still burns bright despite the best efforts of the TV scheduling Nazis.

Here are some of the other clues dissected:

2D Business is odd to see, tried tennis return for diversion (8)

DEFINITION: 'Business' or 'Diversion'

The odd letters of 'To SeE tRiEd TeNnIs' when returned (or reversed) spell the answer

ANSWER = INTEREST

This was the first of these alternate letter clues I have tried to do – given that I have not found a programme to do the job for me, it was quite difficult to find words that fitted let alone then gave a nice surface reading of the clue.

17D e.g. Australian: marsupial that is two-thirds wasted (8)

DEFINITION: 'e.g. Australian'

This includes a low-down sneaky trick by making use of the punctuation: ':' can be read as COLON – and then if you get rid of two-thirds of 'marsupIAL' that gives you the rest.

ANSWER = COLONIAL

25D Comic actor or comic character appears before opera overture (5)

DEFINITION: 'Comic'

This clue has a lot of distraction and it's all about how you split it up, with the definition being 'Comic' rather than 'Comic actor'. The end of the answer



Harry, one of the tunnels

comes from the overture (or first letter) of Opera, but the 'actor or comic character' is BEAN, as in Sean Bean or Rowan Atkinson's creation Mr Bean that has been sold to TV companies in 245 territories worldwide.

ANSWER = BEANO

19A With stress, the heart of good sympathising is love (4)

DEFINITION: 'With stress, the'

It was only when I started writing the clue that I realised how hard it is to come up with a succinct definition for THIS, but it is a way of saying 'the' with more stress and then it is hidden right in the heart of 'good sympaTHISing is love'.

ANSWER = THIS

10 To back 100 men with debts is disreputable (9)

DEFINITION: 'disreputable'

'100' = ton, put that back to give NOT, men = OR (the army acronym for 'Other Ranks'), 'debts' = IOUs

ANSWER = NOTORIOUS

Always glad 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 Tatham

Mickleham and Westhumble Village Show and Fête

Now that you have your 2019 diaries, I hope that you may already have entered the date of the Mickleham and Westhumble Village Show: Saturday 6th July 2019. If not, I would urge you to do so. It is going to be a lot of fun for all ages.

The last time we held the Fête was in 2016, and this year is going to be extra special as for the first time we are combining the Fête with the M&W

Horticultural Society's Summer Show. The events will complement one another and take place in and around the Village Hall and Glebe field in Dell Close, Mickleham, so you will be able to take part in both. There will be lots of interesting things to look at and join in, and we will be releasing more information in future Magazines.

For now, please save the date for the two events, and as well as planning

your entries for the Show, do think about whether you might be able to spare an hour or so to help on one of the stalls or activities which will be on offer throughout the afternoon.

If you would like to be involved in any way or have a good idea for a new activity or stall, please telephone me on 01372 376443 or email alison.wood29@btinternet.com.

Alison Wood Fête Co-ordinator

Kenya Healthcare Project

Photographs: Chrissie Starsmeare



Last September Fiona Taylor held a coffee morning to raise funds for Chrissie Starsmeare's trip to Kenya. Chrissie, a practice nurse at the Medwyn Surgery, Dorking, has sent us this report of her experiences there.

In November I joined Camps International for a two-week healthcare project in Kwale county, eastern Kenya. This is a tropical coastal region where 70% of the people live below the poverty line with limited access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation, healthcare and education. I had always hoped to do some nursing overseas and finally took the plunge after hearing an inspirational presentation on medical volunteering at a travel health conference.

This was the eighth year that volunteers from the UK collaborated with Kenyan healthcare staff and Red Cross workers to provide free medical clinics for several of the poorest rural tribal communities of the region. The main language spoken is Swahili and we were all encouraged to learn some essential phrases but were very relieved that we had the local staff to interpret for us.

For two weeks the volunteers lived together in a camp which we shared with monkeys, bush babies and a variety of large insects! It took us all a few days to acclimatise to the extreme heat and humidity, but we were very well looked after during our stay. Compared to the local population we had the luxury of three good meals a day, showers (albeit cold) and proper beds with mosquito nets.

Over the course of the fortnight we held healthcare clinics in seven

different villages. Community elders were notified in advance, so they could spread the word and on average 300 people attended on each day. Our visit coincided with a half term break so we were able to run our clinics in empty schools.

We were transported to the various locations in a large army-style truck along with our food, water and all the medical supplies needed for the day. The clinics offered a variety of services including medical consultations, an eye clinic, dentist, skin clinic, physiotherapy and pharmacy. There was also a mobile laboratory which carried out rapid diagnostic testing for several conditions including malaria, HIV, TB, anaemia, pregnancy and urine infections. People presented with an array of health issues but most commonly tropical parasitic diseases, infections, tooth decay and eye problems. The majority of conditions could be dealt with in the clinics, but a small number of people were referred for hospital treatment. Although we had had an educational workshop with the Public Health officer and Kenyan medical staff, I was still unprepared for people's very poor living conditions or the sight of huge numbers of people who had come long distances to attend the clinics. I was particularly shocked to see several children as young as four and five who had walked to the clinics by themselves with no shoes.

Deworming formed a major part of the service with every person over two years visiting the clinic being offered

treatment. Soil-transmitted worm infections are among the most common infections in deprived communities and are a major cause of illness and malnutrition.

Another objective of the project was the treatment and prevention of 'jiggers', a skin condition caused by sand fleas burrowing into the skin of hands and feet causing sores and infection. It makes walking very painful and is often a reason why children are unable to make the journey to school. In this part of Kenya, it is very common, and children are most at risk as they do not generally wear shoes. In the clinics we washed and treated affected feet and provided shoes or flip flops from the stock of donated items. It could often be very upsetting working in the skin area as some children's feet were covered in infected sores and the treatment was obviously incredibly painful for them.

Besides the treatment of disease, health education and disease prevention was an important part of the programme. Ongoing work continues in the areas of hygiene, dental care, first aid, sexual health and contraception. During the two-week programme we kept a log of all the consultations, diagnoses and treatments prescribed. This data will be passed to the public health office to help them to monitor disease and plan future health interventions.

The trip was hard work and emotional at times, but also hugely rewarding and

continued on page 11



enjoyable. It provided an opportunity to work as part of a great team to use our skills to help people in need as well as the chance to see and experience some of this beautiful country. The people we saw were extremely poor and many had multiple health problems, but I was amazed how patiently they waited for hours to be seen and how appreciative they were for the smallest thing. The children were lovely and always

came out of their houses to wave and shout when our truck passed by. They seemed to have little or nothing in the way of toys and we caused huge excitement one day by blowing up medical gloves to make balloons! If I go back I shall definitely be taking a big bag of balloons along!

I would like to thank all those who contributed funds and items for me to take to Kenya. All the donated items

from shoes and clothes to knitted teddies, toothbrushes and reading glasses were distributed and gratefully received. I was able to buy medical equipment to take with me and donate to the project and also to give money directly to the eye clinic to fund cataract surgery and other treatments. It was a very positive experience and I very much hope to be able to join another trip in the future.

Walking with Mole Valley Ramblers

Feeling a bit overfed and under exercised? Still clinging to your New Year's resolutions - just? Looking for some inspiration?? We are very lucky to have some of the best and most beautiful walking countryside in the whole country right on our doorstep and walking in winter brings its own

wonderful surprises – with no leaves on the trees, the views are more frequent and even clearer. Part of the Ramblers Association, Mole Valley Ramblers organises friendly group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances and difficulties.

The list of walks can be found at www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk. Plenty of choice with a walk almost every day, a choice of two on some days. Do come and give us a try and start off the New Year on the right foot.

A Goosander and a Gas Pipe

Photograph: Ben Tatham



What might you see on a Mole Valley ramble? A goosander has recently been spotted on the Mole in Norbury Park. A large duck (not a goose

in spite of the name), normally seen on fast flowing rivers in more northerly locations, they seem content to spend winter in calmer southerly waters.

In Westhumble you might spot the work in progress to replace ageing gas pipes, with plastic pipes being fed into the old metalwork.



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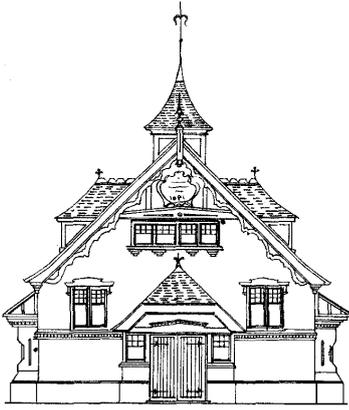
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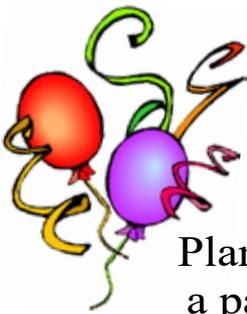
Deanna Darnell

01372 388474

07790 941 601

d_darnell_MVH@hotmail.co.uk

[www.surreycommunity.info/
micklehamvillagehall](http://www.surreycommunity.info/micklehamvillagehall)



Planning
a party?

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Equipment hire

Mary Banfield

01372 373912

mgbbmw@aol.com

Community Directory

BOX HILL (National Trust)

Head Ranger – Mark Dawson

01306 885502

mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards

01737 842889

lyn@mra.uk.net

BOX HILL SCHOOL

Headmaster – Cory Lowde

01372 374814

hmsec@boxhillschool.com

DORKING CRICKET CLUB

Chairman – David Spackman

07831 859232

david@theimagecompany.co.uk

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS

Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth

01737 24491

patricia booth100@gmail.com

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

Jim Cattermole

01306 883629

jim.cattermole@uwclub.net

DORKING RUGBY CLUB

Jim Evans

07789176417

jim@flintcottage.net

THE GARDEN SHED

Pauline Davis

07759 646 353

paulinemdavis@gmail.com

Susie Gowenlock

07768 923 088

susiegowenlock@gmail.com

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE

01306 734501

enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

Head of Centre – Simon Ward

Simon.lr@field-studies-council.org

Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes

01372 275393

suzyhughes@businessetiquetteint.com

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

Secretary – Sarah Parfitt

07767 891772

sarah@sarahparfitt.com

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

THURSDAYS 8 - 10 PM – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Conductor – Juliet Hornby

01372 373106

Secretary – Anne Weaver

01306 883932

www.micklehamchoral.org.uk

weaver_anne@hotmail.com

MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Secretary – John Atewell

01372 374745

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland

01372 379381

rev.ireland43@btinternet.com

Parish Clerk – Trevor Haylett

trevor.haylett9@gmail.com

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01306 882547

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MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

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01306 882547

ben@thetatham.co.uk

Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell

01372 388474

07790 941601

d_darnell_MVH@tmail.co.uk

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice
of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

INCUMBENT

The Reverend Graham Osborne 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

The Reverend Canon John Harkin 01372 378335
harkin12@btinternet.com

Duty days primarily Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

CHURCHWARDENS

John Banfield 01372 373912
banfieldjohn@aol.com

Anne Weaver 01306 883932
weaver_anne@hotmail.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alison Wood 01372 376443
admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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eliz.moughton@btinternet.com

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siberrman@btinternet.com

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Mary Flint 01372 363115
weddings@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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Vickie Leney 01306 884054
vleney100@gmail.com

FUNERALS ORGANISER

Brian Wilcox 01372 374730
dbrianwilcox@btinternet.com

WEBSITE MANAGER

Sarah Ward 01372 383350
sarwar_63@hotmail.com

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

*For information about services for other
denominations see website pages.
Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

REGISTERS

WEDDING

27 December 2018 James Catton and
Harriet Mewis



Calendar

Febr

2	Saturday	2.30 pm
3	SUNDAY	5th Sunday before Lent 8 am 10 am 4 pm
5	Tuesday	7.30 to 8.30 pm
10	SUNDAY	4th Sunday before Lent 8 am 10 am 11.30 am
16	Saturday	9 am
17	SUNDAY	3rd Sunday before Lent 8 am 10 am
22	Friday	7.30 for 8 pm
23	Saturday	9 am
24	SUNDAY	2nd Sunday before Lent 8 am 10 am
25	Monday	3 pm
28	Thursday	12.30 pm



Dates for v

31 March Mothering S
6 July Village Show

of Events

uary

Friends of Box Hill AGM and talk

Holy Communion
Family Service
Micklehymns 3
Parish Prayer Meeting

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Morning Prayer at the Chapel
Men's Breakfast

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
M & W History Society AGM
and Talk – Village Hall

Women's Breakfast

Holy Communion at the Chapel
Holy Communion
Tea at 3
Friends of Juniper Hall Talk and
Lunch

your diary

Sunday Children's workshop
and Fête



MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

James Aarvold John Banfield Sarah Blake
Mark Day Andrew Diamond Jenny Hudlass
Elizabeth Moughton Frances Presley James Riches
Richard Siberry Amanda Wadsworth Simon Ward
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www.twam.co.uk

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- garden forks & spades saws hammers drills pickaxes etc
- sewing or knitting related tools thread zips scissors
- fabric and sewing machines
- wool and knitting needles patterns, knitting machines
- machine and electrical tools

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- Visiting / befriending
- Home-cooked meals for local families going through difficult times

Requests to Mary Banfield 01372 373912
or leave a message on answerphone.
Callers will be contacted within 24 hours

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

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BOOK CLUB
Bernice Bailey

01306 741310
bpbailey_uk@yahoo.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB

Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE CRICKET CLUB

Membership contact Will Dennis 07903 842674
will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
ben@thetathams.co.uk
www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Co-chairs Danielle Morrison and Debbie Turner
friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY

WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Supervisor – Hilary Budd 01372 361021
stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor – Hazel Watson 03456 009 009
01306 880120

hva.watson@btinternet.com

SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST

01483 795440
info@surreywt.org.uk

WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

David Allbury 07860 227451
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE

Dorking – Lyons Court 0844 4111 444

Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 0844 4111 444

CRIMESTOPPERS

0800 555 111

POLICE Non-emergencies

101

(often quicker to make online report) <https://report.police.uk/>

Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East

PCSO 8761 Dave Sadler To contact a member of the

PCSO 15904 Sophia Manelfi team call 101 and your call

PC 2799 Sue Gargini will be put through.

General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Babysitting by local teenagers

Those listed below are at least
14 years old..

Freya Pearce 01306 884724

Maisy Presley 01306 882484

Issy Nash* 01306 742762

Amber Miller 01306 883659

Patrick Moran 01306 640043

Katie Light 01306 881953

Ellie Kim 07773 395 575

Philomena Ala 01306 885767

Delphine Ala 01306 885767

Chelsea Edwards 01306 884133

Tatiana Fleming-Smith

**07799 061 288

Rory Lee **07973 360 950

Annabelle Prosser

01306 640643

Skye Moran 01306 640043

* Holidays only

** Parent's mobile number

If you would like to add your
name to this list please get in
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Fiona Roberts-Miller
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Carols in the Ruins

Photographer Liz Absalom

The weather was decidedly damp for the carol singing in the Westhumble Chapel ruins so we mustered in the dry in the barn at Chapel Farm to sing. Led by Richard Siberry and with the donkeys providing support from the adjoining stable a good turnout of Westhumble and Mickleham residents raised the roof with their singing.

This was followed by mince pies, brownies, biscuits and mulled wine. It was lovely to see Heather Armstrong from the Gambian Horse and Donkey Trust who came along and distributed newsletters and information about the work that she does in the Gambia. The collection, more than £140.00, was in aid of the Trust. Considering the weather it was a very good turnout and the occasion provided a great start to the Christmas celebrations for some and an opportunity to meet together again and share in the Christmas festivities.



Thank you all for coming along and supporting this charity and our local community.

Liz Absalom



Nicky Rudolf writes: Princess Alice Hospice

I am starting a new project as I want to give back something after the death of my mum, Liz Rudolf, in 2017.

I am working with Princess Alice Hospice in Esher to create boxes for patients in the hospice (there are 24 patients at a time and they stay for varying lengths of time). A lot of the people in the hospice are at end of life care so the idea of the boxes is to provide a gift for them of things they may need or that could bring them some snippets of joy. Ideas of things to put in the boxes are (although other things welcome) - small plant pots with seeds to grow,

notepad and pen, cards to write to loved ones, sweets, lip salve, hand cream, moisturiser, puzzles, colouring books, sudoku, socks, tote bag plus boxes to put them in.

I am asking if anyone has anything to donate or knew of any companies that would be willing to make one off or frequent donations of items towards this as we will need things in fairly large numbers eventually?

My email address is nickyrudolf@hotmail.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Community News

Welcome to Nicky Rudolf who has moved to Burney Road from just round the corner in Pilgrims Way, with Claire Elsworth from London and Iria Fernandez Cernadas from Spain. And Pete, the three legged cat.

With sadness we report the death on 8th November of Tim Gosling, aged 54, formerly of Burney Road. We send our condolences to his mother, Janet and his brother, Stuart.



AGM

Saturday February 2nd
2.30 pm.

The speaker (after tea)
James Power

Wildlife Advisor for the NT
James will talk about the work the National Trust is implementing to reverse declines in nature

Please inform Lyn Richards
lyn@mra.uk.net or
01737 842889 if you wish to attend. Tea and cake £2

Guests welcome

Dorking Barnardo's Helper Group



Charity reg: 216250

Quiz Night

Saturday 16th March 2019 7.30 pm

Mickleham Village Hall

Dell Close, Mickleham RH5 6EE

Hot Supper Bring-Your-Own-Drinks (Glasses Provided)
£20 Per Person

Application forms available from: Angela Gilchrist, Ashleigh Grange, Chapel Lane, Westhumble, Dorking RH5 6AY

Tel: 01306 884613 email: ar.gilchrist@btinternet.com

Dorking Museum in February

Dorking Museum was able to celebrate another amazing year in 2018. Chairman Nigel Arch says 'Dorking Museum is a real jewel in the crown for both the town and the whole district. We reach far and wide, our activities not confined by the Museum's walls, celebrating our shared heritage. Every year our reach gets wider, and more people within our community are able to benefit from our services and facilities. With no paid staff and no guaranteed funding, none of this could have happened without the hard work of our dedicated volunteers.'

Are you making the most of the Museum? In 2018, we welcomed 4,000 visitors to the Museum; took 660 people underground on Cave tours; guided 450 people on walks in Dorking and on the Deepdene Trail; benefitted 385 children on school and youth group visits; welcomed 300 participants to our school holiday and half term family activities; attracted over 650 people to our temporary exhibitions 'on the road' and 200 to our regular Gallery Talks; as well as adult group visits, Open Day tours of the Dutch House and much more besides. We hosted several community activities, mounted three all-new temporary exhibitions, hosted two film-makers, funded and unveiled two blue plaques, and, of course, played a key role in the Rob Walker Centenary Festival.

Our current exhibition: 'Lord Ashcombe's Minerals – the gentlemen collectors and the advance of science'. The Museum's spring exhibition showcases the history of and examples from Lord Ashcombe's stunning mineral collection. In the 19th century, George Cubitt, the first Lord Ashcombe, amassed an extensive and impressive collection of fossils and minerals, which were displayed at his Denbies home. The collection was donated to Dorking Museum in 1948 by his grandson, Roland Cubitt, the 3rd Baron Ashcombe. The fossil collection, fondly known as 'Lord Ashcombe's teeth', is on regular display at the Museum and is a favourite for many visitors.

Apart from the fossils, mineral specimens were also collected by Lord Ashcombe. Many of the quartz crystals originate from Derbyshire, some from other parts of the country (Cornwall and Staffordshire) and from overseas (India and Italy). Cubitt displayed these dazzling minerals in glass-fronted cases at Denbies for the enjoyment of his family, friends and visitors at a time when there were few museums and no television or internet so these were the only opportunities that people had to view the wonders of the natural world. However, this part of the collection –



Lord Ashcombe

some of the pieces up to 20kg in weight – has not been on regular display, so the exhibition provides a rare opportunity to view. As Museum curator Clare Flanagan says 'we want to retain the collection as a whole for historical and research purposes and to give a full picture of what Lord Ashcombe was trying to achieve. The collection if all displayed would take up four times the amount of space we currently have in our prehistoric / geological area. It is a magnificent collection and we are proud to be able to retain it for visitors now and for future generations.

Lord Ashcombe's collection and those of other gentlemen collectors played an important role in an age of amateur science, in the development of the study of geology and palaeontology and the scientific understanding of the earth's history.

Wonderful English from around the world

In a Nairobi restaurant: Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

In a Bangkok temple: It is forbidden to enter a woman, even a foreigner, if dressed as a man.

On the main road to Mombassa, leaving Nairobi: Take notice: when this sign is under water, this road is impassable.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

Hotel, Yugoslavia: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery

where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest: It is strictly forbidden on our Black Forest camping site that people of different sex, for instance, men and women, live together in one tent unless they are married with each other for this purpose.

Hotel, Zurich: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen: We take your bags and send them in all directions.



A laundry in Rome: Ladies, leave your clothes here and spend the afternoon having a good time.

Very funny. Of course, we Brits are such brilliant linguists that visitors to this country will never find reasons to make fun of signs in *their* language.

Mickleham and Westhumble Badminton Club

The Club has grown enormously in numbers since it began in May of last year, and now has nearly 40 members. We meet on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm in the new Sports Hall at Box Hill School and have the use of four courts, which means plenty of playing time for all those who attend. The club welcomes those of all levels of experience and provides a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

We still have room for a few more members at present, but will soon have to start a waiting list.

If you are interested please contact our Club Secretary, Sarah Blake on tinkerbello044@hotmail.com



Mickleham &
Westhumble Local
History Group

AGM

followed by

*The Story of Broadmoor
– The Village*

A talk by
Robin Daly

Friday 22nd February
7.30 for 8 p.m.

Mickleham Village Hall

For further information
please contact Judith Long
judith.long2@btinternet.com
or 07904 160961

The Garden Shed

On Saturday 8th December The Garden Shed held their annual Wreath Making Day at Mickleham Village Hall. The scene was even busier than last year, with 24 people choosing to make a wreath, while a few decided to make table decorations.

The hall looked very festive, with a large collection of different decorations for the participants to choose from, along with many varieties of greenery. First there was a demonstration on how to make your door wreath or indoor decoration. Then the participants set to work with everyone very busy on making their own creation. Christmas carols played in the background, with mince pies, mulled wine, tea and coffee regularly served to the enthusiastic workers.

By the end of the morning, everyone had completed their task. There were many different ideas used, and a lot of very proud, happy people left the hall, complete with their work of art, samples of which are shown here.

Many thanks to our helpers for making the morning run so smoothly.



Gardening Hints and Tips with John Clachan

Monday 25th February 7.30 pm
at The Stepping Stones Pub, Westhumble

Tickets are £7 at the door

Everyone Welcome - No Need to Book

Fruit Tree Pruning No.2 with Alex Valsecchi

Sunday 3rd March 10 am – 1 pm at Chapel Farm

Cost £12.50 Booking Essential

More details: www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs/the-garden-shed/events/

Contacts Pauline Davis 07759646353 or paulinemdavis@gmail.com

Susie Gowenlock 07768923088 or susiegowenlock@gmail.com

Note from the Editor

This being the first edition of the year, we have some new advertisers.
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KING WILLIAM IV



Hi all, it was great to see so many people over the Christmas & new year along with all our lovely regulars & locals. All the staff have had a well earned break over the last 2 weeks and are very much looking forward to seeing you all again.

I have now had an opportunity to re-charge my batteries and catch up with family slightly up north.

After being here for over two years I have made some fantastic new friends and been made to feel very much a part of the community; and now I have finally been given the ultimate responsibility of writing in the Mickleham Parish mag. Amazing!

Looking to do a pub quiz later this month so I'll keep you all updated as and when you pop in.

Best wishes, Kat.

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com



National Trust Box Hill

We started 2019 at a run. Families flocked to Box Hill on New Year's Day and just kept coming during the rest of the school holidays. The volunteers and rangers worked hard to find parking spaces for everyone and there was a constant stream of visitors wanting hot coffee and soup and despite some over indulgence at Christmas it did not stop people having just one more slice of cake up here.

Schools going back have left us a bit quieter midweek which has given us time to re-evaluate our menu, spring clean the café, sort out our store rooms and look more closely at our environmental impact. All our cups, plates and cutlery are compostable but we would like to make better use of the compost and ideally encourage

people to bring their own cups. Behind the scenes we are using our own mugs, switching off lights, being careful about the quantity of hot water we use, using compostable plastic bin bags and looking at other ways we can save energy and be more environmentally conscious. We want to make significant changes in 2019.

February brings Valentine's Day and the chefs are working on a special cake, as well as heart-shaped shortbread biscuits and, after some staff pressure, their white chocolate and raspberry muffins! A week later and the children have their first half term of the year so we hope to have some nice treats here in the café and some lovely family walks.

Sadly we have to say goodbye to our wonderful Assistant Manager, Steve.



He has been with us for five years but has decided he would like to be closer to his family in Wales. He is not leaving the Trust but will be working at another property just over the border. We all wish him every happiness in his new role.

I hope everyone's New Year has started as happily as ours and look forward to seeing all our local friends in 2019.

Suzanne Taylor



Carol singing round the pubs at Christmas

On the last Friday evening before Christmas, if you went out for a quiet drink in the local pubs you would have been interrupted by some carol singers. It has now become a tradition to sing carols in the three pubs around Mickleham and Westhumble just before Christmas to ensure everyone is in the festive mood.

This year we started at the Stepping Stones pub; all was quiet until just after 7 pm when people started arriving to either listen or join in carol singing. By 7.15 the pub was bustling with people, during the next 30 minutes a number of traditional carols were sung, many requested by visitors. It was fantastic to see so many people participate. Mince pies were supplied courtesy of the pub – thank you.

We then moved on to the Running Horses in Mickleham. On arrival even more people had joined and it was difficult to actually get through the doors. What was impressive was the quality of the carol singing and the gusto throughout the evening. The main singers included members of St Michael's church choir and Mickleham Choral Society together with others who had just come along for the evening. They were joined by people who were in the pub many of whom had come to hear and participate in the carol singing.

If this was not exhausting enough we had another quick move to the third pub The King William IV. By this time we had lost a few singers but gained others on the way. At the King William a beautiful spread of nibbles and drinks had been laid on much appreciated by the carollers. Thank you to all the pubs for their hospitality.

A special thanks to Richard Siberry who led the singing and all those

who attended to make the evening so atmospheric. All involved enjoyed themselves and many said it was the highlight of the Christmas season. The Collection this year was for Mission for Seafarers and raised £300. Thank you to all who contributed. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event.

Jonathan Blake



BRAIN TEASER

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

LITTLE, LITTLE
LATE, LATE

Answer on page 26

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Box Hill School celebrates 60 years

It is a very special New Year for Box Hill School as we are delighted to celebrate our 60th anniversary. Mr Roy McComish, a Housemaster from Gordonstoun School in Scotland, founded Box Hill School in 1959 on its current site, Dalewood House. To mark

this milestone, we have an exciting programme of events and activities scheduled throughout the year.

We launch our season of events with the Box Hill School 60th Anniversary Visual Art Exhibition. The exhibition will showcase creative work from current pupils, Alumni and Artistic Friends of the School. Our Fashion and Textiles department will also be presenting

pieces of current work in their fashion show.

We would be delighted to invite members of our local community to our Visual Art Exhibition on Friday 29th March, 7 pm-9 pm and Saturday 30th March, 11am-2pm. No tickets are required – we look forward to seeing you there!

Emma Bushnell

Friends of Juniper Hall

Lunch and Talk Thursday 28th February

at FSC Juniper Hall Centre, Mickleham RH5 6BZ

Lunch at 12.30 pm followed by talk by

Glen Skelton, Surrey Wildlife Trust Wetland Landscapes Officer.

Come and learn how improving our wildlife habitats in the Mole catchment can protect us from flooding and give us clean water. Learn how this is being achieved by staff and volunteers in co-operation with other organisations.

Tickets £10 members; £15 Non-members.

For more information and bookings contact Suzy Hughes on 01483 281935 or email suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk

The Friends of Juniper Hall raise funds to support the Field Studies Council Centre at Juniper Hall by providing furnishings, equipment, and other improvements to the centre.



Audacious Daylight Robbery

Photograph: Ben Tatham

At about 9 am last Friday (11th January), a sharp-eyed neighbour rang to say there was a white van parked outside our house and two men were loading large blocks into it. Just then Ben returned from shopping and the men drove off. About 15 large York stone paving slabs were missing from in front of our house.

Luckily our neighbour had taken a photo of the van with her phone, so when Ben rang the police he was able to give them details of the firm whose name was written on the side. About an hour later the police rang to say that a van full of paving stones had been stopped and one man had been apprehended – the other had run off. We understand that this man was known by the police and has now been arrested as well.

Another neighbour's CCTV captured the whole incident and, following the previous theft of York paving from our front path, all our stones had been



marked with DNA gel, so we are very hopeful that the missing stones will be returned.

We are most grateful to our neighbours for their vigilance and help, and to the

police who acted so quickly to catch the culprits.

We hope this incident might lead the police to those trading in stolen paving stones as well as other thieves.

Sue Tatham

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New year, new beginnings

Well, we survived another frantic term and just about managed to fit in all our planned activities before the Christmas break.

Our Christmas Fair (see page 26) was a great success and we had a first in the raffle – the offer of a free bungee jump! We will let you know how the lucky recipient got on in a future edition.

The fair was swiftly followed by our Christmas production which was 'The Sleepy Shepherd', the tale of a lovable shepherd who just cannot keep awake. All children at the nursery took part with younger ones taking roles as angels, sheep or nativity scene animals. Older children had specific roles and did a fantastic job in front of a crowded hall of parents and carers. We may have lost a few 'sheep' whilst the shepherds were busy, all contributing to the entertainment of an early years nativity!

Our day-to-day activities took on Christmas themes with delicious

smelling gingerbread playdough available for some tactile play and children could 'mark-make' or glue and stick lists for Father Christmas.

Mark making is the term typically used to describe the scribbles that early years children make with a wide range of media - pens, pencils or crayons, or by using their hands, paintbrushes or sticks. We give our children the opportunity to explore lots of different materials for mark-making – sand, shaving foam, and playdough being just a few examples.

When children are making these early marks, they are practising holding a pencil and are attempting to control their marks with their muscles. This helps improve their fine motor skills and develop their hand-eye coordination. As they develop, their marks become more complex and sophisticated and their creativity blooms.

These marks can also support emerging concepts of maths, and we had loose parts snowflake provocation and a set of real antlers available for mathematical exploration on offer too.

The colder weather in the winter terms does not mean we use the outside space less; with the right gear it is just as accessible as in the warmer months. Before Christmas children could deliver bean bags down 'chimneys' or use the large block play outside, seasonal build of sleighs ensued!

In our Forest School, children used a bow saw to cut discs of hazel, they then watched as the adults used a branding iron to make a snowflake



print. Children then used a palm drill to make a hanging hole for their own Christmas decoration.

We are also delighted to have a new boat in place, courtesy of our 2018 leavers and the 'Jolly Roger' has been very popular. We are looking forward to using it even more as the weather warms up and we enjoy some Spring-based activities. Watch this space!

Hilary Budd

From top: cutting wooden discs for our Christmas decorations; gingerbread play dough; our finished decorations; Left: visiting Church to see the nativity scene.





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Tuesday Toddles

A new friendly group in Mickleham for kids aged 0-5 years to play along side their Childminder or Registered Nanny

Mickleham Village Hall

Every Tuesday Term time only 9.30 -11.30 a.m.

For more information please contact:

Natalie 07790 318 653 or ask to join our closed Facebook group for Tuesday Toddles for regular updates.



For more info or to register contact:
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill/features/box-hill-bugs
or phone 01306 878554

BRAIN TEASER answer: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE



Above: A busy atmosphere at St Michael's Community Nursery Christmas Fair;

Below: Young people taking part in the Christingle workshop;
Right top and bottom: the Christingle service at church



Festive Fare at St Michael's



**St Michael's
School**

www.stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

We are already back in the swing of things at St Michael's following an extremely busy but enjoyable Christmas period.

The Friends started off by joining the St Michael's Community Nursery Christmas Fair, with our very popular teddy tombola stall. This was followed by over 20 parents, staff and friends learning how to make Christmas wreaths under the expert tutelage of parent Amy Ward. Amy is a resident of Juniper Hall and it was fantastic to make our beautiful wreaths (see below) with greenery sourced just up the road from the school.

Next was a Christingle workshop followed by a service at St Michael's church. Dozens of families came along to make Christmas crafts including carefully decorated Christingle oranges, after which we made our way across to the church for a wonderful Christmas service. Many thanks to Canon John and all those from the village who came along to help at this event.

Also in December we offered Christmas trees for sale and were delighted to have so many local residents choosing to support us by buying their trees from the Friends. We have had great feedback on the quality of the trees and are sure that the local neighbourhood was proud of its beautifully bedecked trees!

The last Friends event was the ever-popular Christmas story telling night. The children returned to the school on a dark December evening in their pyjamas to find it covered in fairy lights and decorations. They visited each classroom in turn to hear a story from one of our volunteer readers, while parents enjoyed catching up over mulled wine and mince pies in the hall. Finally, there was a packed house for both showings of the Christmas production this year which was 'The Innspectors'. Children from across the school took part with the Reception Class starring as angels and sheep, up to the older Year 2 children with speaking

parts. They all did an amazing job, and it was obvious that lots of hard work had gone into the production from both the children and staff alike.

Into 2019 and the Friends started off this year quietly as we appreciate the amount of time and effort given by our parents and carers to support the many events over the busy Christmas period. However, after a well-deserved break we will be back on the fund-raising trail with a quiz, race night and family disco all planned for the months ahead. To support or attend any of the Friends activities at St Michael's, please contact us – friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com Debbie Turner



Above and below and top right: the school Christmas production



Staff and Friends with the wreaths they made

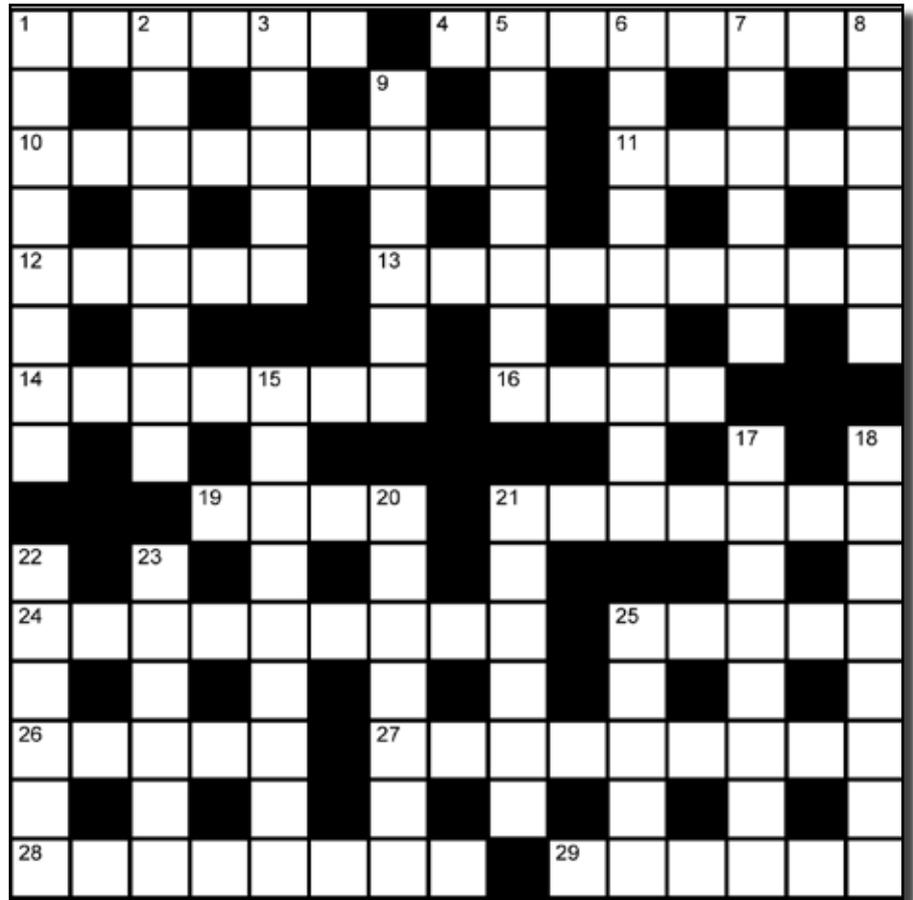
Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 1 Cat play? (3,3)
- 4 Send across with German (8)
- 10 Sadly keen to make these predators wild (9)
- 11 Blue whale's 23 gone from harpoon explosion (5)
- 12 One got free from urinal, accidentally displaying moon-like appearance (5)
- 13 Cara can be saucy dish (9)
- 14 Pound on track in elegant dash (7)
- 16 My first kind exploit (4)
- 19 Driver to court disaster at the start (4)
- 21 Old man's gone off nuts (7)
- 24 Take nothing back to town in 3 16 19 (home of 26 7) (9)
- 25 Having airy ideas kindles up the beginnings of a poem (5)
- 26 Groan about thing that is played with fingers (5)
- 27 Crackpot entering a vivid shade of consequence (9)
- 28 Choke or gas quicker with this? (8)
- 29 Warburtons like Richard or Stanley? (6)

Down

- 1 Four-footer to run off after six-footer (8)
- 2 Education is to sprinkle in bright sound (8)



- 3 Subject to French and German articles (5)
- 5 In Germany, Red Rum is about to start singing for the stage (7)
- 6 You're welcome to perverted noble romp (2,7)
- 7 Sports car marque 1026 (6)
- 8 Magician with words at the heart of this puzzle gets zero in maths problem (6)
- 9 Replace the heart of love with hurt, sound disreputable (6)
- 15 To end up being tight in nick, stole when drunk (5-4)
- 17 Keen to chisel the Prince Regent's number inside (8)
- 18 Shrewdly made up, yet a slut (8)
- 20 What is made of fingers but has no hands? (7)
- 21 Also instead of scarlet cap can appear with no colour (6)
- 22 Nearly nearly, all all, second second, top top (6)
- 23 Mashers members to provide an alliterative example, but when the start is dire, peril is the result (6)
- 25 Scavenger grabs trophy, enabling victory drink to be held inside (5)

SOLUTION TO THE DECEMBER CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Cliché 4/21D The great escape
 10 Notorious 11 Often 12 Early 13 Pleasance
 14 Enslave 16 Save 19 This 21 Earlobe
 24 Anaerobic 25 Brown 26 No one 27 Emphasise
 28 Reaction 29 Cooler
 Down: 1 Cantered 2 Interest 3 Harry 5 Hostess
 6 Gloss over 7 Extend 8 Tandem 9 Toupee
 15 Abhorrent 17 Colonial 18 Reindeer
 20 Subzero 22 Garner 23 Pagoda 25 Beano

Andrew Tatham

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Photographer Ben Tatham



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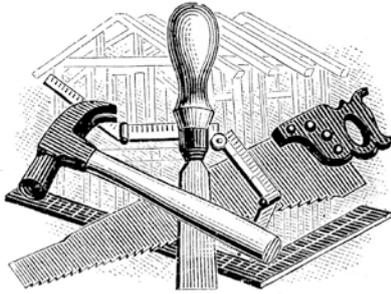
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