

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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July / August 2020

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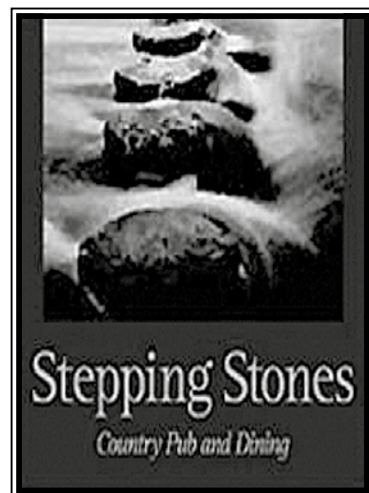
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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

July / August
2020

Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

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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

Ralph Waldo Emerson's attributed words 'Life is a journey, not a destination' may be misinterpreted by some, but they certainly contain an element of truth. So often it is on the journey rather than arriving, where we mature and grow, through experience, through life-long learning.

Over the past two years in the parish I have experienced much on my journey, yet sadly this stage of ministry as parish priest has come to a close. There are in the Diocese some parishes with specific short-term needs and, as you may have heard, the Bishop had asked me if I could support one of them. Despite so much that God is blessing here in this wonderful parish, I know that as ever God's timing is perfect and so I accepted the Bishop's offer to serve in another parish on a short-term (open-ended) interim ministry. Sue and I will continue to live in Mickleham Rectory for the foreseeable future. After we have enjoyed some holiday time (sadly not abroad despite being booked last year!) and I have been on retreat, I begin my interim ministry at the start of July.

So what, in this my last letter to you all, has my journey been like these past two years? Here are three relevant areas where I am still learning:

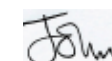
- To be increasingly aware that the Christian gospel is indeed good news. St Paul wrote 'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...' (Romans 1:16). Good news is something that is positive, encouraging, uplifting, desirable, it is something new that will be useful, and the gospel certainly is good news for those whose lives are being transformed across the parish. It is good news for everyone, not just those who have made the decision to accept and believe, but also those who are either not sure yet or have already decided it is not for them; it remains good news for them in the fullness of time.

- To be as empathetic as I possibly can, trying to understand others, to put myself in their shoes. During the time of Covid-19 lockdown for example, I am increasingly aware that for many people experiences of isolation and loneliness may be the norm, whatever the reasons for this may be. Am I doing all I can to support them, practically as well as spiritually in prayer? At this stage of my journey the challenge for me is to try and understand, to 'feel' how they might be feeling and to respond appropriately.

- To be as loving, caring and empowering as possible. The church here will reach its full potential when members continue to be released to use their personal talents for God's glory. It is wonderful to see individuals here growing in confidence as God blesses what they are seeking to do in His name, and being empowered and encouraged to be fully the person God has created them to be.

Sue and I have been humbled by the many expressions of gratitude for our time back in this lovely parish, and deeply touched that so many of you were able to express that in a socially distanced manner in the churchyard on Sunday 7th June - our thanks to you and those who were unable to join us on the day as they were self-isolating.

With our love and prayers



The Reverend Canon John Harkin, Mickleham Parish Priest

The unexpected news of John Harkin's withdrawal from ministry in Mickleham has come as a shock and is a great sadness. Both he and Sue have been very much a part of our community during their two years here and we shall miss them very much. We thank them for their spiritual leadership and guidance, and their many contributions to our parish life. And we say farewell with love and every good wish.

Services via Zoom

The true meaning of what it is to be a community was demonstrated to tremendous effect on Whit Sunday 31st May when John Harkin set up a Zoom Family service for Pentecost. It was a joy to experience a packed 49-screen view (the maximum for us mere mortals) which represented, allowing for family members, 100+ individuals coming together to celebrate. It was a revelation – please excuse the pun – as we all imagined ourselves together at St Michael's.

After an opening prayer we sang together, but with muted audio, otherwise it is a cacophony of harmonious noise! John was able to add a personal message to all members of our community, whether they choose to come on Sundays or not, to wish them all safety, love and strength to withstand the stress imposed on us during lockdown.

It does make one think of the value of our community and how lucky we are to live here. Certainly, we all have our individual trials to deal with, for some the great sadness of losing a loved one to Covid-19, but this coming together meant a lot to me, and I am sure to all those who joined in. If I may, on a personal note, say how lovely it was to see everyone. Ordinarily, I am in the choir stalls so can only see the first row of pews and our choir members opposite: our lady contraltos, the tenor(s) and the back of our organist, David Fishwick. Lovely and cheery as they always are, it was a delight to see everyone in the congregation, albeit on a screen the size of a thumbprint. It also proves that the Lord indeed moves in mysterious ways as for some people attending morning service is a hardship owing to poor health, frailty, or recovering from serious illness (good to

see you, Tim). It also proves that age is no limit to modern technology as there was at least one nonagenarian.

This success was followed with another zoom service on Sunday 14th June and again the maximum number of screens were visible. We sang, *I the Lord of Sea and Sky* and the perennial favourite, *The Servant King*. John then gave us a poignant talk about the Disciples and explained their reaction when they realised Christ would be leaving them in body, but not in Spirit. After prayers we ended with *Guide me, oh thou Great Redeemer* a re-broadcast from the Royal Albert Hall to that greatest of hymn tunes, 'Cwm Rhondda'. Sadly, this was to be John's last service with us as he is called to serve a parish in Godalming. He left us with wonderful words from the book of Numbers, The Lord bless you and keep you. Thank you, John.

Stephanie Randall

STOP PRESS – Paul Brown

It was with great sadness that we learned that Paul Brown of Old London Road, Mickleham, passed away on 12th June at the Royal Marsden

Hospital. We send our love and deepest sympathy to Jo and daughters Sarah and Emma and their families. We hope to include an obituary in the next issue.

Mortar Bomb in Mickleham

A Mickleham resident writes ...



A bomb was found in the River Mole by someone fishing with a magnet at the Weir Bridge from the A24 over to Norbury Park on Tuesday 2nd June. It was not an actual bomb but a test mortar shell. The device was taken to the field next to the River Mole and placed in the corner near the trees. We were asked by a community Police Officer to move back as we needed to be 200m from the explosion site. The result of the explosion was a bang heard as far as Westhumble I was told and a plume of dry soil rose about 10m into the air. The area was quickly cleared and this is when I took the photograph below. The man from the bomb squad did not wish to have his face in the photograph.

Editor's note: The Dorking Advertiser reported later in the week that it was a young teacher from Dorking who pulled the mortar bomb from the river.

Community News

Congratulations to

• Anne and Gerry Weaver on the safe arrival of their third grandchild, Xanthe, born on 26th May to daughter Becky and Matt Boyes who live in Newdigate. A sister for Phoebe.

• Sherree and Mark Rowbotham on the safe arrival of granddaughter, Peaches Rose Pebbles, born on 19th May to daughter Lettice and partner Charlie Stoop, who live in Dorking.



Lockdown project: Anne Weaver finished this lovely baby shawl just the day after her new granddaughter, Xanthe, was born.

Mickleham and Westhumble Local History Group The History of Mickleham Church Part IV Graffiti in St Michael's

Over the ages graffiti has appeared in all sorts of public places and our church is no exception. The first recorded example is the date 1018 which was found marked in red on the plaster coating by the tower during the rebuilding of the church in 1823. Antiquarians are doubtful if the tower was actually built at that date but suggest that it recorded the rebuilding of the nave. Churchwarden and historian Archibald Gordon Pollock (1850-1936) pointed out that there was a major Viking invasion at the end of the 10th century and the nave may have been damaged then. The Vikings often targeted church buildings during their raids.

Although there are numerous examples of names or initials with ancient or more recent dates to be found scratched into the plaster or wood in the church, there are two in the Norbury Chapel that are particularly noteworthy. Readers may remember that in my last article about the Norbury Chapel I explained how, after the dissolution of the monasteries (late 1530s) the residents of Norbury Park started worshipping in William Wyddowson's mortuary chapel then known as the Norbury Pew. The graffiti shown here has been carved into the eastern end of Wyddowson's tomb. Charles Lock 1770 – 1804 would have been 14-years-old at the time. One can imagine a bored teenager seeking something to pass the time during a seemingly endless sermon. He was the second son of William Lock, who had purchased the Norbury Park estate in 1774. Charles became the British consul-general in Naples during the Neapolitan Revolution of 1799.

It is doubtful that Captain M Phillips, aged 34, would have defaced the tomb. As he was a friend of the Locks one suspects that it was one of the Lock boys who did the carving to mark Phillips' birthday. Molesworth Phillips was born in Ireland. His father was the natural son of the 3rd Viscount Molesworth, thus explaining Phillips' Christian name. He first entered the royal navy, but on the advice of his friend Sir Joseph

Banks who had joined Captain Cook's first voyage to the South Pacific as a botanist, Molesworth accepted a commission as second lieutenant in the royal marines in January 1776. In this capacity he was selected to accompany Captain Cook on his last voyage, extending over four years. On 14th January 1779 he was one of the party accompanying Captain Cook on his fateful trip ashore, and according to accounts of the day Phillips was the last man to leave Cook's side when, besieged by angry natives, he ordered 'to the boats'. Cook was attacked and killed as he waded out from shore. Phillips was a strong swimmer and although wounded, turned back to rescue a wounded colleague. When the ship arrived back in England in 1780, Phillips was given a hero's welcome.

So, what is Molesworth's connection with Mickleham? It happens that Phillips' shipmate on the voyage was his close friend, James Burney, brother of Fanny. Soon after returning to England James introduced his much-lauded friend to the Burney family. According to Fanny's biographer, Claire Harman, Molesworth, made a bee-line' for Fanny's sister Susan and within two months they were engaged. They married two years later. They moved to Mickleham and immediately became part of the Lock/D'Arblay social circle. Their house (long gone) was in the grounds of what is now Box Hill School, opposite the Old House and their gate can still be seen in Old London Road. They had two sons, Norbury and William, and a daughter, Frances. But all was not well in the household.

Following their return from the Pacific both James and Molesworth's naval careers foundered. Phillips never returned to active service. Harman suggests that after the adventures and challenges of years at sea both relatively young men found a more settled life difficult. She writes 'from the 1780s onward, James Burney showed signs of disturbance, restlessness in his home



life and an inability to further his career; Phillips metamorphosed into a gambler, drinker and philanderer.'

In 1795 Phillips inherited the Irish estate Beleotton and insisted on the family moving there. Susan had tried to keep her failing marriage from her family, but by this time her unhappiness was so great, she was planning a separation from Molesworth with the backing of her father. But as her eldest son, Norbury was at school in Dublin she knew if she refused to go to Ireland she would never see him again. She and the two younger children moved to Beleotton in 1796.

Susan's life in Ireland was difficult. The house was cold, damp and isolated and her tyrannical, controlling husband often left them alone while he was out with his friends. He had no qualms about getting to debt, never repaid a huge loan from Dr Burney, and often asked James for handouts. Susan, who had always been frail, became very ill, but Phillips put off her return to England until the end of December 1799. When they arrived in Parkgate Cheshire on 1st January 1799, after a long, cold and rough crossing, Susan was emaciated and suffering from dysentery. She died on 6th January 1800, the day after her 45th birthday.

Phillips remarried later that year and was later detained in France for two years. On his return to England he re-entered James' whist-playing circle. He lived in Lambeth and died of cholera there in 1832. He was buried in St Margaret's Church Westminster; James Burney was buried next to him.

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Scrubs by the hundred

No-one could have imagined at the beginning of the year just how dramatically our lives would be changed in such a short amount of time. I was visiting my critically-ill dad in South Africa and helping my mum care for him when I heard the news that Covid-19 had hit the UK. Having arrived on one of the last flights out from Cape Town I had no idea how my life was about to change. Within a few days of arriving home, UK went into lockdown, and the enormity of this silent, unseen virus began to take its toll.

Making garments for others has always been one of my greatest joys, it is what I do! So when confronted with a situation where I knew I could do some good I did not think twice. Scrubs were needed. I got straight to it but first we needed some funding, and so a quick WhatsApp message to our local Mickleham Emergency group to see if anyone would be able to help, and before I knew it we had the money to fund our first batch of scrubs. Jane and Nina from Knight's Haberdashery were very helpful and ordered the fabric for me together with threads and tapes and anything else we needed, while I got on and made the patterns and traced them off in various sizes.

Next I needed people to sew these scrubs, another plea for help to our local Mickleham group and before I knew it, the volunteers to help came pouring in. Sewing enthusiasts from Mickleham, Westhumble, Leatherhead, Dorking and Reigate, the news soon got round.

My home was transformed into a mini factory. My dining room table no longer used for meal times, but reserved for cutting out scrubs. Scrub patterns hung



Tracey with sets of scrubs, and handing over some boxes of scrubs at a hospital.



from door and window handles and scraps of fabric lay everywhere. Sewing bundles were neatly rolled, labelled and left in a bin outside for people to collect, but, what the heck! No one was visiting and we could not go anywhere so it did not matter what the house looked like. Instead we had a great system going

So in the past 2½ months we have completed over 350 scrubs of which 225 scrubs went to The Royal Surrey Hospital, and the rest to various surgeries, like the Wall House surgery and the Jarvis centre. On top of all of this we have also produced over 500 scrub bags that have been donated! These past 10 weeks have been a period of intense effort.

I have been totally overwhelmed by the generosity of the Mickleham and Westhumble communities and people from surrounding areas. As well as fulfilling an important need for scrubs,

I think we have all felt the benefits of being part of a community that cares, and have united in a shared purpose. A huge thank you to each and every one of you that helped with the scrubs. We can all be very proud that, through the lockdown and these unprecedented difficult times, we pulled together and made a difference!

As things begin to return to a new kind of normal, I am pleased to say that, through all this uncertainty, I have made more friends than I ever imagined and hope to meet you all in the not too distant future. One of the people in the volunteer group, who played a key role in helping me throughout the scrubs project was Kirsten Johnson and she and I have joined forces to make masks. This new friendship of ours is taking us to new horizons with new business possibilities. Watch this space!

Tracey O'Hanlon



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

1

Travel

CCCCCCCC

2

VA DERS

Answers on page 26

More memories of wartime from the June 1995 Mickleham Parish Magazine

From VE Day to VJ Day–15th August 1945

Some readers may remember Leslie John who lived at the Old Stables, Juniper Hill for many years. He wrote of his experiences:

VE Day found me at Meiktila in the Central Burma plain where I was sharing a small tent with a lot of mosquitoes and an elusive black scorpion spider. Meiktila had just been the centre of a major tank battle and not much of it was left apart from a large lake into which it was rumoured a Japanese commander had led his defeated troops to drown rather than surrender.

Against this background our victory celebrations were somewhat restrained, the more so because all our supplies had to be flown in from Calcutta and the Army was on half rations. Nevertheless we sat down to our customary chicken curry and ate a great many mangoes, the only fruit available. Unfortunately the mangoes had been grown close to the aforesaid polluted water and shortly afterwards I was in the field hospital suffering from dysentery. The cure for this was to take 12 sulphaguanadine tablets (each about the size of a £1 piece and with a similar constituency) crushed in water three times a day, thus lining one's insides with a liquid cement.

I flew down to Rangoon in a Dakota to rejoin the Advanced HQ of the 14th Army where I was the Chief Cipher Officer. In the absence of any telephone or cable lines all communications - however mundane - between us and the outside world were enciphered and sent by high speed wireless. This had two main drawbacks: atmospheric conditions were bad for transmission and many of the place names were unpronounceable e.g. Ngakyedauk, so that you were never sure whether a message had been corrupted in transmission.

After the fall of Rangoon our troops were regrouped for the seaborne invasion of Malaya and things quietened down. We had a wonderful Forces paper run by Frank Owen, formerly a Fleet Street editor, and thus we were kept in touch with the adventures of 'Jane', the most popular pin up girl of

all time. We also learned that a general Election had been called at home. My opposite number at Mountbatten's HQ in Ceylon, Willy Ross, astonished us all by announcing his candidature for Kilmarnock. His unsympathetic colleagues congratulated him on finding a crafty way to secure an early passage home but he won the seat and went on to become Secretary of State for Scotland.

Alas another colleague, an amusing Irish character, came to a less happy end. His four interests in life were gin, gambling, gee-gees and girls. Our mess supplies of gin were getting dangerously low and as Tony was due for leave in Calcutta we entrusted him with a large sum in rupees to buy as much as he could. Unfortunately on his first day in Calcutta the races were on and Tony lost all our money. He overstayed his leave in the hope of redeeming his fortunes but was eventually brought back by the Military Police. Undaunted he fell back on his fourth interest whilst under open arrest and got engaged to a charming Irish nurse.

News of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki filtered through without our being able to assess their real significance. Thus it came as a total surprise when early in August I was working quietly in my office when the sergeant major on duty came in to tell me that a MOST IMMEDIATE TOP SECRET message had been received from the War Cabinet Office in London which began 'officer decipher' and required my attention. It was to advise the army commander that the Japanese surrender was shortly to be signed and that an aircraft would be arriving in Rangoon with their representatives to arrange the cease fire on our front! The Japs duly flew in and we installed their signal officers in our General's own personal communications caravan so that they could transmit instructions back to Saigon. This they did very promptly whilst complaining bitterly of our radio equipment. We laughed at this at the time but post war events have proved them right.

Rangoon, once a beautiful city of lakes and temples dominated by the great

Shwedagon pagoda, with its golden spire rising over 300 feet (about 90 metres), was not in a fit state for a big victory parade but we did our best with Gracie Fields and a football match. Dressed in a very tight pair of bright green trousers which made the Shwedagon look rather dowdy she sang *Sally Pride of our Alley*.

Nothing prepared us for the shock of meeting our prisoners of war who had been working on the River Kwai railway. Physically they were walking skeletons, ridden with malaria, dysentery and beri-beri - badly swollen joints due to living entirely on rice - and covered in jungle sores that would never heal. Most distressing of all was the mental lethargy that came from being completely cut off from the world for 3 or 4 years and which left them unable to comprehend what had happened in their absence.

Our re-conquest of Burma met with a very different response from the local population from that which our troops in Europe had experienced. The Burmese were glad to see the Japs go but not pleased to see the British back. Some had fought against us with the Burma National Army under the leadership of Aung San, who prudently changed sides in the later stages of the war.

There were also the remnants of the Indian National Army formed by Subhas Chandras Bose, an astute Bengali politician, with substantial support in gold bullion from the Japs. There were no 'exit polls' in those days but Bose was well able to detect that his days were numbered. Accordingly he loaded the gold on to his own plane and flew off eastwards - neither he, nor the plane, not the bullion were ever seen again. Another of the fortunes of war?

Shortly after VJ Day my repatriation orders came through. I flew back to Bombay to sail home on a P & O liner and was lucky to be allocated a banquet in the ship's cinema to sleep on during the long voyage. I recalled how, as a young subaltern outward bound in May 1943 to join a defeated Indian Army, I had shared

continued >>>>

>>>> a 1st class cabin with another officer and we had a batman to bring us tea in the morning and to make up our beds. Now, 2½ years later, homeward

bound and victorious, having served with Indian, Gurkha, West African and East African troops from the Khyber Pass in the north to Ceylon in the south,

and from Bangalore to Burma, how happy I was in my banquette. Such are the fortunes of war!

Leslie John

Geoff Suckling, late of Camilla Drive, joined the Royal Navy in 1939 at the age of 15 through its 'Y' Entry Scheme and, after extensive exams and tough navigational training, was duly commissioned at the tender age of 16 to HMS 'Chanticleer', used to decoy German submarines. Following the eventual sinking of his ship and his miraculous rescue, he was then assigned to a Landing Ship Tank (LST 5) for the D-Day landings. Unfortunately, the bow doors were damaged on the first landing and the ship had to proceed without them during the whole operation until September 1944. Continuing in LST 5, still minus bow doors!, his vessel was then sent to assist in the Far East. He wrote:

In Burma, we spent several weeks travelling up and down the Irrawaddy River which was extremely fast-flowing and full of mud. In fact, the mud went out for some miles into the sea. Our mission was to try and cut off the Japanese from their supplies as they were struggling through the jungle to get through to conquer India, their next objective. This was easier said than done. We were able to get up the Irrawaddy, simply because we had a flat-bottomed ship which was able to cope with the shallow, fast-flowing water of the river.

After the Irrawaddy, we came down to an area close to Port Swettenham, near Kuala Lumpur in Malaya because we had been specially selected to land tanks and heavy vehicles on to the soft sand. The only problem was that the people who had organised it had made an awful mistake because it was quicksand on which it is totally impossible for anything to land! They started unloading but the vehicles immediately disappeared - it was appalling and very fortunate that nobody died. So, we tied ropes round the rear axles of jeeps and lorries which we could use and pulled them out after they had disappeared in the quagmire. *And later...*

It should be appreciated that we were in the Malacca Straits which was strewn with land mines, and we had to keep strictly to the swept channels, which was difficult. We were instructed

to go and try to rescue some of the Dutch people because they had been thrown out by the Japanese. The local population were only too pleased to get rid of them and they were in great trouble. The locals were blocking the roads, making travelling very difficult. Fortunately, we had the vehicles we had rescued and so we used these to take members of the crew and form a small armed force, thus carrying the Dutch people to safety. We eventually took them to Singapore.

Then we went on down the Singapore Strait. The swept channel was only just wide enough for our ship, when along behind us came the 'Richelieu', France's biggest battleship. They told us to get out of their way because they wanted to be the first ship into Singapore. This was supposed to have been our prerogative, but they forced us to go into the minefield in order to let them past. There was no alternative but to cross our fingers, go off the swept channel and keep the ship going any further because obviously every inch we advanced we were more likely to hit a landmine. When the 'Richelieu' had passed, we inched out into the swept channel again and continued right behind her as she was proceeding carefully and therefore not very fast. Unfortunately for her, however, there was a mine which had been missed by the sweepers and so the 'Richelieu' went into it, going out of control when it exploded. She was forced to beach on



the far bank which was the only place she could get into. So we went straight ahead and left them to their problems. Consequently, our ship was the first British ship to enter Singapore, which was quite welcome - to us, anyway.

On arrival in Singapore, we were first required to go to Borneo where they needed some help to clear out the Japanese, in which we were successful. We were then ordered back to Singapore for further instructions. We relieved the Changi Camp, captured the Japanese and put them to work. I couldn't speak Japanese but we managed with hand signals. They could run faster than I could! They were very tough and I had difficulty keeping up with them.

Compiled by Liz Weller

Geoff often mentioned that he had had some extraordinary experiences in his lifetime: he was not exaggerating!



Please clean up after your dog

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

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

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



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News from Mickleham and Westhumble
Horticultural Society

September Horticultural Show

Firstly, with regret we are sad to say that the September Horticultural Show is cancelled for this year. It just does not seem possible to hold a show that will offer enough social distancing to be safe for the community. This is all the more sad because this year of all years your gardens and veg patches will no doubt be better maintained (drought notwithstanding) than at any time in recent years, with all that time on your hands! This is probably the second time since the Second World War that the show has not gone on, but we are determined that next year we will bounce back.

With next year already in mind we propose that this year is merely deferred - so for 2020 read 2021. The year will start in April 2021 with the Spring Show

and AGM at the Village Hall and continue with the main Autumn Show in September. Exact dates to be announced later.

In respect of annual subscriptions we suspended collections in March, although some had already been paid. Our proposal is that the 2020 subs already collected will be carried over to the year 2021. For those who did not pay subs this year the usual collection will take place in 2021. All subject of course to government guidance at the time.

Alison Wood has very kindly been selling plants to raise funds for the Society and has just announced that she has raised £212 from recent sales - so thank you very much Alison! She

has now run through her stash of black 3 litre plant pots (the ones measuring 19cm / 8 inches in diameter). If you have any that size please do not throw them away as Alison will recycle them in the autumn by filling them with more plants for sale. If you have surplus pots this size or larger (No 4 inch / 10cm pots required) please let Alison know: alison.wood29@btinternet.com.

For now, may I wish you all a safe summer, lovely and bountiful gardens and the hope for better things in the very near future.

David Kennington



Hawk Moths

Graham Revill writes ...

On 19th May I noticed a Poplar Hawk moth settled on the wall of the A24 underpass opposite one of the fluorescent lights that stay on all day and night. Clearly it had been attracted by the light, as many moths are, and was waiting for darkness to return before flying off. On the 22nd it was still there in the same position. To help it escape its world of perpetual light and to avoid the likely damage to it from a passer-by, I released it after dark.

Joan Judge sent this photo of a Lime Hawk Moth to neighbours on WhatsApp. She noticed it near the Denbies Farm Shop. Joan was chatting to a friend she happened to meet there on one of the hot days in May. It seems the Lime Hawk Moth which was also looking for a shady place.

Charlotte Daruwalla had a sad moth story...

Quite early on in lockdown I thought it would be a good opportunity to do a bit of spring cleaning. The bathroom



Clockwise from above: Poplar Hawk Moth; the A24 underpass (both by Graham Revill); Lime Hawk Moth (Joan Judge); Elephant Hawk Moth (Mike Thurner).

was first. I picked up a plastic container with dusty bottles of shower gel, sunscreen, hair conditioner and the like and started to clean or cull them. I noticed something at the bottom of the box: was it a label which had fallen off a bottle? I took it out and saw that sadly, it was an Elephant Hawk Moth, pink and green, beautifully preserved but dead as a door knob. I do not know how long it had been there or where it came from. I remember seeing them as a child in our Sussex garden but not since.

The spring cleaning bug did not survive either.





Closed Open Gardens

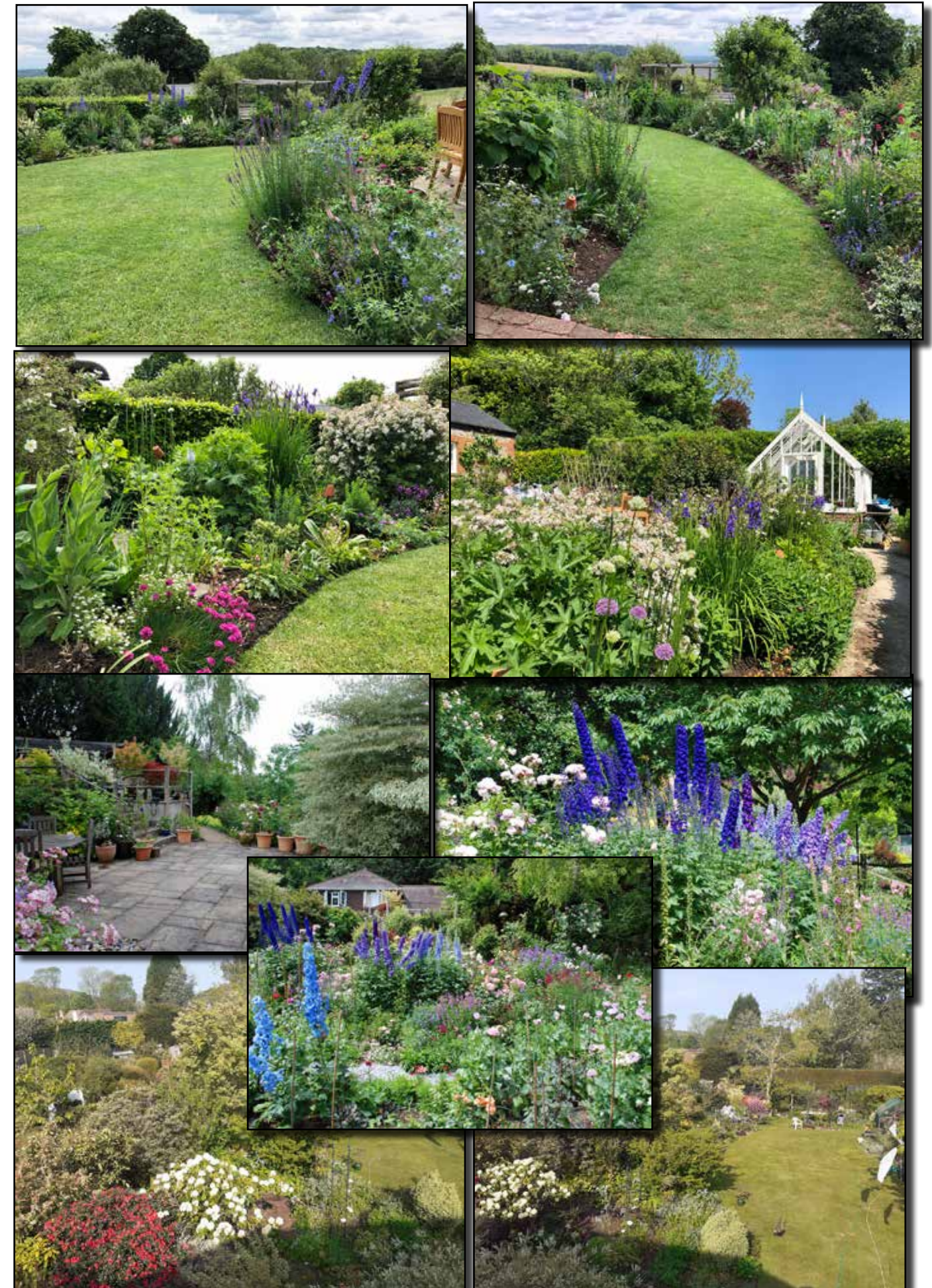
If you can remember the days when the Garden Shed sent out a programme of forthcoming activities, you had in your diary that several gardens would be open in Westhumble on 21st June

For obvious reasons, the programme has been put on ice and many activities will have to wait. But gardens wait for no man (or woman), and flowers and shrubs are blooming in the lovely sunshine we have experienced. Just as it seemed as if drought was the next plague coming our way, we have had a small amount of rain. Everyone hopes it is enough to keep grass green and flowers flourishing for a little longer.

The owners of the gardens that were to have opened have provided photographs, some taken a few weeks ago, to remind readers what they are missing. Let us hope visits in the flesh will be possible next year.



Left, right and below: Woodpeckers (Adshead); other pictures on this page Chapel Farm (Absalom). Opposite: top 4 Crabtree Cottage (Davis); lower 2 Faircross (Dyson); middle 3 Ashcombe (Murch).



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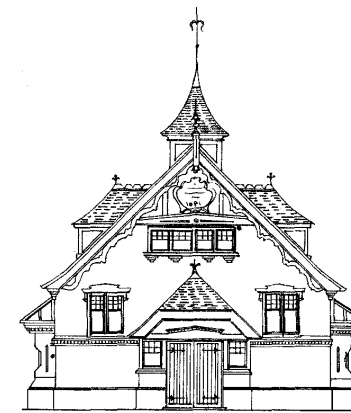


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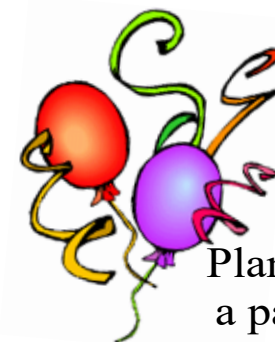


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lyn@mra.uk.net

Box Hill School
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HMPA@boxhillschool.com

Dorking Cricket Club
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Tree diseases ravage woods

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Surrey Botanical Society had planned on surveying as many woods as possible whilst it was still safe to do so. The relentless march of Ash dieback disease means that in a few years time, some woods could become unsafe to venture into. When dead, the trees become very fragile and may collapse with little warning. Unfortunately no sooner had I announced this plan than the coronavirus lockdown was brought in. So instead of ranging widely throughout Surrey listing all the plant species found in a variety of habitats, I was confined to my garden and local area. For me, this was no great hardship and I selfishly enjoyed the peace and quiet, especially when the Zig Zag was closed. I was able to record in detail parts of Box Hill that I had not thoroughly investigated for some time. I found new species in new places, all of which will contribute to the database of plant records for Surrey and to the national database too. Luckily both my garden and Box Hill in general are a rich source of plant species, including nationally rare ones. On my daily sorties, I have also taken lots of photographs. Some more recent ones show the sad state of the turf on some of the more popular areas of Box Hill. All those visitors that we witnessed coming here during May have had a harmful effect on the chalk grassland which is home to some rare and precious orchids and other species. Box Hill is of European importance for its wildlife. Other photographs are of views, including across the valley towards Norbury Park. At this time of year one expects the woods to be a glorious mix of greens. Sadly instead there are extensive grey patches too, as the photograph shows. These are the dead and dying ash trees. Both the National Trust (NT) and Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) have policies of leaving the dead trees where they fall, except for public safety issues. The other photograph shows a tree recently fallen across a path. I suspect it came down on a particularly windy day earlier in May. On this same day I had planned to go along this path. Fortunately, I became worried about the crashing sounds as the wind knocked dying young ash trees together and I diverted out into the open. Interestingly this tree was not an ash but an oak and the exposed timber shows no sign of rot. Many trees will be stressed this year because of the unfortunate combinations of drought, high temperatures and windy conditions, all of which may be a consequence of human-induced climate change. NT and SWT do inspect their woods on a regular basis but cannot check every tree. The message about the woods is clear, try to avoid walking in them when it is very windy.

Ann Sankey

NB: Surrey County Council (SCC) have now taken on responsibility for all tree safety on their estate. That includes all round the car parks and rights of way and also in the wider woodland. Thus tree safety in Norbury Park is a SCC matter.



Left: The fallen tree - not ash but oak, a near miss. Right: Norbury Park from ZigZag Valley

Bonfires

At a time when we are all doing that we can to remain healthy and manage existing health conditions in order to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions **the Council asks that you do not have any bonfires at all.**

Smoke from domestic bonfires can cause existing breathing difficulties, such as Asthma, to become critically worse. In addition, COVID-19 can cause respiratory problems for those who contract it. Smoke from bonfires can impact on those who are trying to manage these symptoms at home. Please help by not burning any waste, including garden waste.

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Continued from page 13

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Alan Francis Archer

1943 - 2020

We are deeply sorry to record the death of Alan Archer on 14th May after a long illness. Alan was born in New Malden in 1943. After finishing school, he served a five-year apprenticeship with Siebe Gorman an international aqua lung equipment manufacturer. During this time, he met his future wife, Ann who was a secretary at the factory. They were married in 1967 and set up house in Surbiton and then moved to Bookham in 1971 when their first daughter Clare was born. Second daughter, Jess was also born there, and both girls attended Bookham schools. Alan was immensely proud when they went to university, Clare to Southampton to study graphic design while Jess attended the London School of Fashion. In the early 1990s the family moved to Burney Road, Westhumble.

Alan's career progressed well, firstly at a cosmetic factory in the east end of London. (Completely surrounded by women, he learned many swear words.) In the late '70s he started up his own company, a magazine called Pharmaceutical Business News. The Financial Times became interested not only in his publication but also in Alan's editorial talents which subsequently led to him working for the FT. A few years later, Alan was head-hunted by Smith Kline Beecham, eventually becoming their chief communications officer for research and development. He was very happy there as his job often took him to many parts of the world, an aspect of the work he thoroughly enjoyed. He retired in 2008.

Alan loved all sports, his favourite being football; he remained loyal to Kingstonian and Tottenham Hotspur football clubs all his life. He also enjoyed athletics, golf, squash, cricket and horse racing - he would never miss Glorious Goodwood. Alan was converted to running in the 1970s when he joined a few friends from Chessington and Bookham, calling themselves the Mole Valley Runners. He first became involved in coaching when his daughter Clare started running and this role grew as more youngsters wanted to join them. He gradually improved his knowledge and experience to qualify as a senior coach. His regular Sunday morning training sessions, held in different locations around the area, proved extremely popular with all ages. These were supplemented with Monday evening circuit training sessions and mid-week winter track sessions at Broadbridge Heath. At weekends he would be seen encouraging his charges from the sidelines of cross-country or track meetings. One of his teams won the Surrey junior cross-country championship and finished second in the South of England championship. By this time, the Chessington and Bookham Runners were part of the Dorking and Mole Valley AC.

Alan also organised a number of legendary spring training holidays in the Algarve, well-remembered by all who went. His coaching was not, however solely aimed at achieving elite performances - he welcomed runners of all abilities to his sessions.



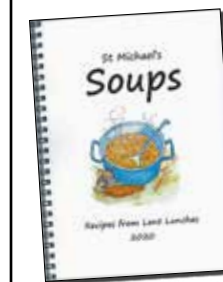
His own running ambitions were mainly focussed on MABAC Running League events which he continued to support well into his veteran years.

Alan has been sorely missed since a debilitation illness forced him to stand down. His wife, Ann has written 'It has been heart-warming to remember the fun Alan brought to everyone, especially the youngsters he coached who are now 20 - 30 years older. They have never forgotten what he brought to them in their lives as their coach.'

Above all else Alan was a loving husband, father, grandad (to five gorgeous grandchildren), brother, uncle, and friend. He will be much missed.

We send our sympathy and very best wishes to Ann and family at this sad time.

Ann Archer adds: I would like to thank everyone who has paid tribute to Alan with their many cards and flowers.



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PLEASE NOTE: Both Alison and Sue are willing to make arrangements to get copies to people now and sort out what is owed for later settlement. Please contact them as above. Alison also has jam home-made by Sophie Adshead available for sale with the recipe book. Raspberry or gooseberry, it is £3 a jar or £5 for two. All proceeds to the AllSaints Coffee Shop.



The mystery tree shown in the June magazine has been identified as 'Ekiantus campanulatus' by both Judith Long and Laurence Bridges.



Kenneth John White 1931 – 2020

throughout their lives. After leaving school Ken started work in the commercial side of the Oxford University Press where he met Joan. They were married in 1956 and five years later Ken was posted to their branch in Capetown, South Africa for two years. Joan accompanied him and their daughter, Jane, was born there. After a short time back in England the family were sent to Ghana. They lived in Accra for about a year before returning to England where Ken's work covered London and the West Country. Second daughter, Sarah was born while they were home. Two further postings took them to Lusaka, Zambia and Nairobi, Kenya.

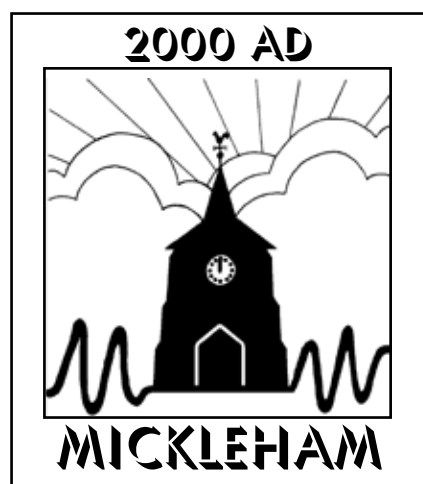
The family moved to Burney Road, Westhumble in 1975. After he retired

from the Oxford University Press, Ken decided to join a small children's book publisher named Ragged Bears in Dorset, which he enjoyed immensely. He eventually stopped working in the late 1980s.

Ken was an excellent squash player and actually played for Kenya while they were there. He became an active member of the Dorking Squash and Tennis Club where he played for some years. When he was no longer playing, Ken was made an Honorary Member.

He is sadly missed by his family: Joan, Jane and Sarah, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. We send them all our sincere condolences and best wishes.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Ken White on 15th May after a long period of ill-health. He was born in London in 1931 and went to a local school where he made many friends, several of them were with him in the Boys' Brigade and they kept in touch



Restrictions on public gatherings meant that the Annual Parish Meeting (APM), traditionally held in May, had to be postponed. Although hosted by the parish council, this is a meeting for residents to learn more about what is happening in the community, to comment on local issues and to ask questions of councillors.

The bi-monthly parish council meetings are still taking place via Zoom video technology but it was not thought appropriate for the APM to be held remotely if it meant that those who would normally want to attend were unable to do so.

It is hoped that the restrictions will have been lifted to enable the APM to take place in the normal way before the autumn parish council meeting which has been fixed for Wednesday 9th September.

Mickleham Parish Council

Check the website www.micklehampc.org.uk for updates.

The influx of visitors to Box Hill in recent weeks – exacerbated by the closure of the Zig Zag Road and Ryka's car park - has led to escalating problems in Mickleham and Westhumble with the roads gridlocked and huge amounts of litter left behind.

After the Emergency WhatsApp group highlighted the difficulties, the parish council and the Westhumble Residents Association (WRA), with the assistance of county and district councillors, challenged the authorities to come to the village's aid and tackle the issues of traffic, noise, litter and antisocial behaviour.

It led to a meeting hosted by Mole Valley's Community Safety & Enforcement team at which the police, the National Trust and Surrey County Council's Highways and Land & Property officers were involved. Mickleham's interests were represented by parish council chairman David Ireland, WRA chairman David Allbeury and Kirsten Johnson of Mickleham Community Action.

The Police advised that under Operation Apollo (COVID-19) the Box Hill area was one of three priority sites in Surrey which meant that additional resources were available.

Closing the access gates to the Zig Zag was discussed but it was generally considered that this would cause more congestion in

the area, and would also be counter to the government's current guidelines.

Ways of preventing people parking in the area were also debated. This included extra parking enforcement/emergency restrictions and signage on A24 near the Stepping Stones. Preventing access to Box Hill except for cyclists was also discussed.

Before that meeting the WhatsApp group had sprung into action and a survey was put together to gauge the thoughts of residents. Among other things, it showed a big majority in Mickleham in favour of intermittent yellow lines to create frequent pull-in zones and also provide road parking along Old London Road. In Westhumble there was an even bigger majority for almost continuous yellow lines along Chapel Lane.

In addition residents were contacted and urged to report instances of illegal parking, antisocial behaviour, etc to the police and National Trust. A volunteer group has been established to tackle the litter problem and it is hoped help might be available from MVDC.

Residents have been encouraged by enhanced police visibility in the area since the problems first emerged but the fight goes on.

Trevor Haylett



The plaque on our wall

We have a plaque hanging on the wall by our back door which says *He who plants a garden walks hand in hand with God*. In the June issue of this magazine Judy Kinloch posed the question 'What do our gardens mean to us?' Well, our garden means a lot to us. First and foremost, I must make it absolutely clear that I do not consider myself to be a gardener, I am a potterer. I love being out in the garden, I enjoy weeding and growing things but I have little idea of what I am doing. I know that when you put a plant in the ground, the hairy end goes in first, bulbs are pointy end up and I do not believe the blurb on a plant label when it talks about height and spread, these are usually vastly under-estimated. However, against all the odds, our garden survives and puts on a pleasing display of colour and scent from early spring to early winter. I am not like my dear friend May, who knew not only the name of every plant in her garden but usually where she bought it, who was with her, and possibly what they had with their cup of tea that day. No, my plants are categorised by their colour, whether or not they have prickles and do they have a scent? But our garden is so much more than this.

When I was growing up, the garden was my playground. I built dens under the elm tree, raced around it at top speed on my bike and slid down the long slope on a tin tray when it snowed. I was out in all weathers. I do just remember one occasion when I was quite small and not having graduated to a two-wheeler, I was riding my tricycle down the slope, lost control (I know, I was even

dangerous on a trike) and went flying into my father's prize bed of dahlias, not a popular outcome. As I grew older my bike became an imaginary pony and I rode round and round pretending that I was at various horse shows. I always got the red rosette, of course. Tennis was another popular occupation and how I envied the grown-ups who could carry on playing after I went to bed. I used to watch them all from behind my bedroom curtains until I was spotted and had to make a quick dive for the bedcovers.

The garden has also provided the venue for various celebrations. My father slept in the marquee the night before our wedding reception because he was worried that someone might come and steal the wine. I lost count of the number of people who slept in the marquee after our ruby wedding, all I remember is making endless bacon rolls for their breakfasts the next morning. Oh yes, and last October it provided the space of a fourth birthday party. All the children came in wellies and they had tremendous fun. Surprisingly, the garden survived the experience pretty well.

As our children began to enjoy this same space, they too rode their bikes around it for hours on end. There was a Wendy house – nothing posh, more of a small tent really, which they enjoyed throughout the summer months. Then, on one Sunday afternoon when they were playing happily in this little tent, I looked up to see a couple of teenagers being pursued by two fleet-footed policemen up the lawn and over the fence into Pilgrim's Way. The children



were so engrossed in their game that they had no idea of what was going on. I do not know what had caused this incident, nor indeed whether the youths were eventually caught.

Then there was the climbing frame, not your run-of-the-mill climbing frame for us, oh no. When your Dad is a resourceful re-user and recycler, why go to the expense of buying a climbing frame when there are ladders and planks to hand? I hate to think what the safety elf would have to say about the perilous construction that went on but neither of the children fell off, and they had hours of fun.

Now it is the turn of the grandchildren to enjoy the garden. The paddling pool comes out in the sun, the sand and water tray, the scooter and a few other bits and pieces. Plants and bulbs are planted in their season and dens are made. Our garden is more than a place to grow plants, it is a place of joy, of exploration and of imagination. So, back to the plaque... 'He who plants a garden works hand in hand with God,' I hope He is pleased with our efforts.

Anne Weaver

Extract from the April 1928 Mickleham Parish Magazine

A Critical Time in Mickleham THE RUNNING HORSE (sic)

It is a pang to see the old place change its outward form. Time's ravages were visible, structurally it is doomed! Alterations were inevitable, but its character untarnished. Mr Hubble, the old landlord, so dignified and the Misses Hubble always in the bar and the inn. The regular customers, the quiet, the warm parlour, the dominoes.

It was so homely, so like a family party! You could enter, hear nothing unpleasant, have a glass, go or stay as you wished. Will this last? Under the new regime and new buildings can we retain the character which pervaded the old system? The new building has to be paid for and there lies the danger! Whatever happens let us not forget

that hitherto 'The Runner' was never a nightmare to mothers and wives. It had a friendly face, a smile which said, 'We will take care of you; you will be safe here.' So farewell Miss Hubble for the present and thank you kindly...

Printed in the next issue, May of that year: 'The Running Horse is to preserve its familiar face'. So all was well!



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Obviously things will run differently, a skeleton staff, limited customer numbers and social distancing. However we at the Willy are probably uniquely positioned to meet this challenge. Predominately an outside pub with lots of garden space, we are able to distance the tables and chairs without too much difficulty thus ensuring our customers are safe and relaxed while they enjoy table service. The sun always shines at the King William. Thanks so much for all the messages of support and encouragement. So pleased to be back. See you soon Eamonn and Anne

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Cryptic Delicacies

Very loosely themed around the penumbral LUNAR ECLIPSE on 5th-6th June, with musical references in TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART and DARK SIDE OF THE MOON that I hope were sufficiently clued as to be answered by those of you not up on the modern beat records of the 1970s and '80s. That said, I have just heard from a friend who was struggling with the top left of the puzzle and discovered she had put in TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE EARTH which does make a sort of sense given the current state of world affairs and just might be the title for Bonnie Tyler's forthcoming comeback album about Covid-19 (rush and make your pre-orders now!).

Here are some of the clues, with definitions underlined:

6A Hallo!? Buckles around outside of lord's bag? (7)

HOLDALL

Here 'Buckles' is used as a verb in the sense of 'to bend, warp, crumple' in order to anagram 'HALLO', and that is put around the outside of 'LorD' i.e. LD

11 Most dear golf supporter after introduction to sex is the next thing to nuisance (8)

STEEPEST

'golf supporter' = TEE, intro to Sex = S, nuisance = PEST

19 Outerwear's strange lustre (6)

ULSTER

A straight anagram of LUSTRE but some of my correspondents were not familiar with ULSTER as a coat, as pictured. It was referred to in the Sherlock Holmes novels and still exists, although it generally lost its cape after the Edwardian period and is now taken to refer to a long loose heavy overcoat.

28 Jaguar maybe regularly entangled in blood bath (7)

CARNAGE

'Jaguar maybe' = CAR, regularly eNtAnGleD = alternate letters give NAGE

8 Stir to mix up duck recipe (7)

RISOTTO

Mix up STIR TO and add to 'duck' = O (as in the number of runs you have in cricket when you haven't scored any)



An Ulster

14 Compel half to join English kingdom by 50 AD (10)

COMMERCIAL

Half of 'COMpel' = COM, English kingdom = MERCIA, 50 = L in Roman numerals. A tricky clue if seen on its own but hopefully the crossing letters gave you an idea of what the word was and allowed you to spot how the cryptic part was made up and then to work out from what was left that the definition had to be AD and that it was being used for 'advertisement' rather than the Anno Domini of the surface reading.

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

Andrew

The Grumpy Old Mickleman Non-Rhyming Poems (and similar things)



I would rather not offend those who have poetry at the top of their cultural menu, as I seem to have offended enough people recently!... I do appreciate meaningful prose on a meaningful subject, but all too often such 'poetry' is set out in a way designed to purport to have greater depth and emotive significance than the subject matter deserves. And where a simple rhyming ditty would be more appropriate and 'rememberable'.

*It arrived
This Morning
Wrapped. Brown paper
String.
Please sign: no pen
Postman took it
Away.*

*A package came, and all seemed fine.
There was no pen: I couldn't sign
But if the postman has a brain
I'm sure he'll bring it back again.*

The first uses more paper, and has no happy ending. I put it to you that the rhyming version is more appropriate to the subject matter. But rhyming has to be precise: a near-rhyme merely draws attention to itself. Hymns are major culprits in this respect. How many times have you winced when trying to rhyme 'lamb' with 'home', or 'God' with 'blood', 'grace' with 'praise' or 'Alleluia' with 'Ooh-la-la'?....(I made up the last one, but you see my point).

It is vital therefore that rhymes are not forced, nor that they are borne out of desperation as in many songs, such that the need for a rhyme is more important than the 'story' of the song. It is only when you have been singing along numerous times that you realize you have been singing a load of rubbish.

*I am, I said, to no-one there: And no-one
heard....not even the chair.*

Neil Diamond, 1971

*So happy together: And how is the
weather?.* The Turtles, 1967

*I don't like cities, but I like New York:
Other places make me feel like a Dork.* Madonna, 2006

*Never by the hands of a broken heart:
Now that I became who I really are'* Ariane Grande, 20??

*Moving like a tortoise: Full of Rigor
Mortis.* (NWA, 1980)

And, most spectacularly:
*Papa said to Mama as he passed the
black-eyed peas:
Well Billy Joe never had a lick of sense...
pass the biscuits please'.*

Bobby Gentry, 1967

The latter is even more remarkable in that the 'Ode to Billy Joe' refers to him throwing himself off the Tallahassee Bridge!

Mark Day

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More VE Day Memories

Laurence Bridges lives in London Road in a house built by his father. Before coming to Mickleham, the family lived in Hook. Having seen last month's article of VE Day memories he sent photographs of the celebratory party and bonfire that took place in Hook. He reminisced: 'One incident which I remember well is when a neighbour appeared, chamber pot full of beer in hand, offering to top up the glasses of the men present! My mother, who was inclined to be prudish, was not amused.'



Left: Hook street party. Right: The bonfire. Laurie is the boy depicted to the left of the unlit fire, accompanied by his elder sister and grandmother.

A New Book by Andrew Tatham

I know it will come as a shock that I have time for anything other than fiendish plotting of impossible clues for this esteemed publication's crossword, but I have to confess that I have been moonlighting. In fact at the time I was setting my first puzzle for the magazine back in September 2017 I also started work on a new book. This was to be based on the letters of one of the men in my Group Photograph. I had already typed them up and thought I would be able to put something together in a couple of months. And then I had the idea that it would be interesting to investigate the people mentioned in the letters – all 300 of them – followed by also deciding to make the book a tactile visual sort of time machine with scans of the letters as well as illustrations.

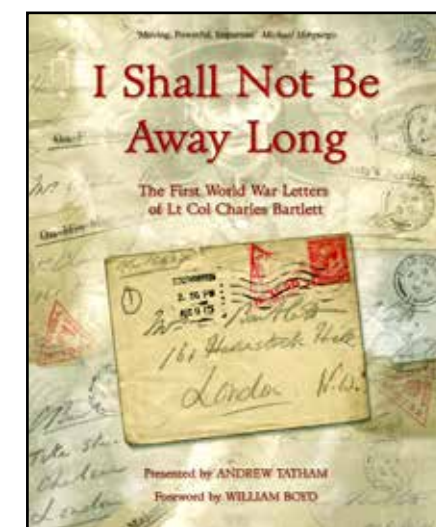
It was Christmas 2018, 15 months later, before I managed to complete my first version of the whole book – and now here I am another 17 months on and I have at last finished the editing and checking and tidying up of the lay-out, making use of feedback from my first readers. A key part of the process has also been trying to work out how to get this book noticed when it is published.

There are great advantages to self-publishing and selling directly to readers via the Internet - not least that you do not have to give 40% to 60% of the book price to booksellers and so can make books that are expensive to produce

still affordable to the general public – but one serious disadvantage is not having the publicity reach of a major publisher. With that in mind, I sent it to some people I hugely respect to see if they might have some words to open others' eyes to it.

Firstly I asked William Boyd to write the Foreword and I was beyond thrilled when he agreed, though that was tempered by the fact that he said he had a lot on his plate, including finishing his latest novel, and that he hoped I would be able to wait until early 2020. In the end that worked out well because it gave me the time to knock my first go into better shape, and when his Foreword came at the beginning of May (he seemed to have found that he had time on his hands then for some reason), it showed how worthwhile the wait had been. It included these words:

This is not only a beautiful-looking book, generously and wonderfully illustrated, it is also a remarkable human document, as rich in detail and commentary on the human condition as a long novel. Tens of thousands of books have been written about the First World War and who would have thought that, over a hundred years since it ended, there was anything more to say. But 'I Shall Not Be Away Long' fully earns its place in the Pantheon of literature about the Great War. We come away from it amused, moved, informed, baffled, shocked,



saddened and, with a bit of luck, wiser. It is a classic of its kind.

William Boyd has long been a hero of mine and it was beyond a dream for him to write in a such away about what I have done. I hope his words and the 'Moving, Powerful, Important' quote from Michael Morpurgo on the front cover will go some way in reaching out to the audience that I think there is for this book. My aim really is to learn from history, not just in a way that increases knowledge of people and events but also sparks ideas of how to live a life when faced with the choices that we all have to make in extraordinary times. There is still a bit of road to be travelled towards publication, but if you would like to find out more and stay in the loop about when you might be able to get hold of a copy, please keep an eye on www.groupphoto.co.uk or email me on andrew@groupphoto.co.uk to be added to my mailing list.

Andrew Tatham

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Nurseries have gradually reopened for the remaining weeks of the summer term. 30 of our 44 children have returned with 9 of our 12 staff members. We are so fortunate to have such a lovely outdoor area so, with the knowledge that the risk of transmission of Covid-19 is significantly lower outdoors, we are using our garden and Forest School as fully as possible.

We have organised the children into groups ('bubbles'). Our older children have been allocated two bubble days and our younger children one bubble day. A 10-child bubble is not as loud as a normal 26-child day but we expect you will still hear the children if you happen to walk past the nursery any morning of the week!

Luckily the government recognised that early years children cannot (and should not) be expected to socially distance themselves from each other and staff. If a child is exuding bodily fluid (commonly known as snot!), a side-by-side cuddle is currently more appropriate at this time than a face-to-face one.

One of the challenges we have faced is giving consideration to our

environment. The cleaning required between bubbles has meant that we removed some furniture and some of the harder-to-clean toys and resources. However, we have had to ensure that the environment does not look too different to how the children remember it as that would have a negative impact on their mental wellbeing.

Mental wellbeing is what we will be concentrating on with our children. They are missing their friends and the ability to play socially in wider groups. It is really important for their transition into schools to re-establish those skills, to communicate with their peers and their teachers and to be able to follow a routine and some structure of a day that is not in their home.

Twenty seven of our children will be leaving to start school this summer. We wish them well for their future educational journey. At the time of writing we wonder what this will look like and how challenging it may be. For our 21 new children starting in September, we are currently wondering how we will ease their transition into nursery, especially with the expectation that whatever plans we make can all be scuppered at the last minute. However, working with very young children means that we, as a staff body are constantly adaptable, and it is that adaptability that has ensured we have coped so well with the changes since the end of March. We will of course continue to do all we can to support the current and future nursery children in their learning, their development and their place in our community.



Dorking Museum

Dorking Museum's Cockerel Press and the Dorking Museum archive are appealing for images of local children, photos taken by children and art created by children to illustrate the Covid-19 crisis for a children's action book which is currently in development. This is for a chapter, yet to be written, with the working title 'Eyewitness to history - Outbreak2020'. Items will also be added to the Museum archive for the benefit of future generations.

Please do take a moment to capture what life is like for our children and grandchildren during lockdown and beyond. These might include images

that represent Dorking and surrounds during the lockdown, images of children's video calls, art activities, diary entries, keeping up with schoolwork, enjoying family activities, exercising, looking after pets or livestock, allotment or garden activities, photographing wildlife, etc.

Please offer anything you think might be of interest and be sure to write a line or two about it, including the names of the children. We promise to keep images in a safe and secure place and double check your formal permission before we publish anything. Please send to: admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk.



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New Normal at St Michael's School

A little bit about how we moved to a 'new normal' in June

We have very much enjoyed welcoming back some of our families with our transition to a 'new normal' here at St Michael's school. Our youngest children from Otter Class (Reception) returned at the beginning of June providing them with a warm, welcoming and comforting environment to come back to. The children had forest school twice a week, daily phonics sessions and maths sessions as well as free flow play with allocated resources for each day. We have been focussed on ensuring the children are in a safe and hygienic environment without this impacting on their enjoyment of school life as we are aware that school is going to look very different for a while. We continue to support our key worker families whose children have been in our 'Owl' bubble also learning across focussed literacy, numeracy, creative and outdoor education sessions in a small group. Our Year 1 children also returned to school. It has been wonderful to see lots of smiling faces coming back through the school gates once more! We wish every success to our Year 2 class Woodpeckers, as they move onto the next chapter in their lives as juniors.

Home learning during lockdown

While the children have been spending time at home, all of the staff have been

contributing to our 'home learning platforms'. We have put together different learning ideas for every year group. It is amazing to see the team pulling together to keep the children's learning fun and exciting. Video home learning to Reception has meant the children still get to see us and the familiarity should be a comfort during uncertain times. The best part of the home learning is that the children will often delight us by sending fantastic videos and photos in response to the tasks they have been sent. Here is an example of one of the challenges we sent home to our Reception class: can you make a rainbow using objects from around your house?

Our 'forest school lead' Jane Stewart has been coming up with fantastic activities encouraging the children to explore the outside environment and our 'Music specialist' Tasha Guegan has also been entertaining the children with videos to watch and exciting music activities to follow.

We are pleased that we have so many different ways to communicate with our families during these times, a good old fashioned phone call has also been a great way to have a catch up. It is important to keep the communication flowing so the children know that even though we may not be meeting face to face we are always thinking of them!

Two very imaginative rainbows made from objects found around the house.



**St Michael's
School**

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Temporary Change of Leadership at St Michael's

We would also like to share the news that we will have a change of leadership in September as Mrs Sandra Peers (current Head of School) will have her baby girl in August.

Here is a message from the new Head of School:

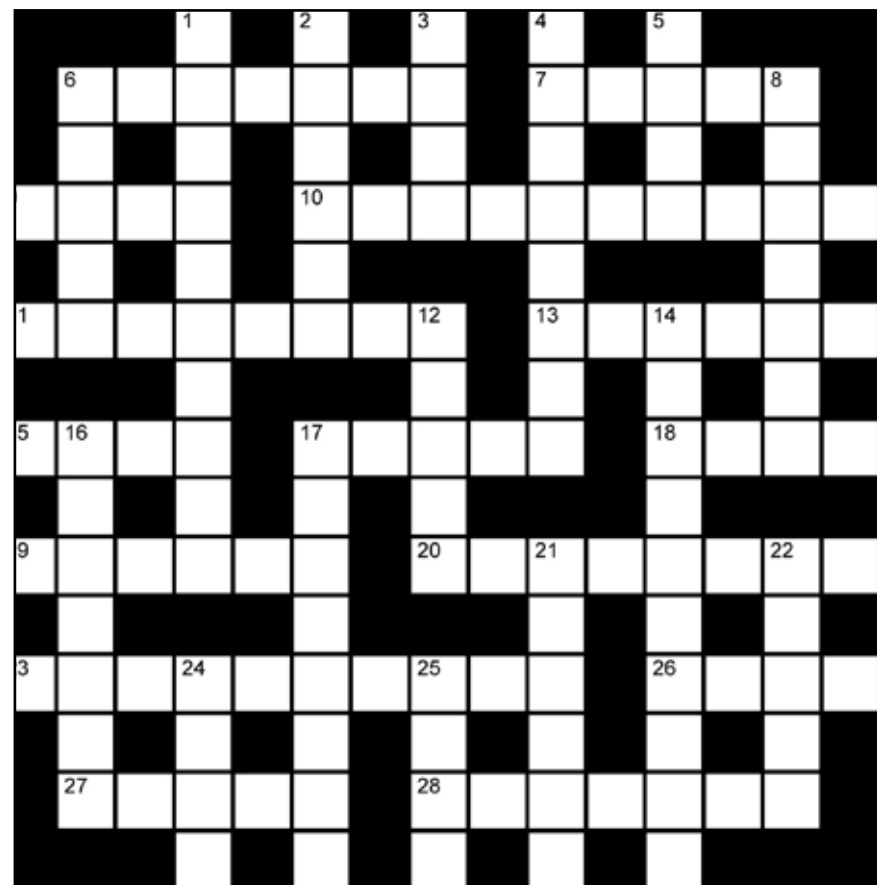
My name is Nicola Cleather. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Acting Head of School for the next academic year. A bit about my background! I have been working in a school with an almost identical setting for the past eight years. I have taught across all year groups at Infant level, spending the last few years in Year 2. I have been a member of the senior leadership team for several years and have been acting Co-Head of School for the last two years. I am excited to take this new step at St Michaels and very much look forward to meeting the St Michael's community.

Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 6 Unlikely hybrid of swimmer and insect is the thing to keep the water out (7)
 7 Try to find attraction between two poles, though it's faint (5)
 9 A sewage farm surely can't be presumed to contain things that can be folded? (4)
 10 I'm deviant with lots, owing to having the quality of my very effective mackintosh (10)
 11 Get the result of effort from each church construction (8)
 13 Rochdale Velodrome provides stern indoor test (1,5)
 15 Even so I found it's a mystery in the mountains (4)
 17 Worn by 14 in the desert to 1 (5)
 18 Rave about fast jet (4)
 19 Programme shows middle class sex report (6)
 20 Shake it or clap to 'Hot Hot Hot!' (8)
 23/14 Mindless gang had demon jiggered up to make their celebratory song? (3,4,3,10)
 26 Pan around on ship to see this man make a catch (4)
 27 Mrs Thatcher points to one after the end of a sentence? (2-3)
 28 Hot and free, free of that (7)



Down

- 1 Masses join improvised musical gig (3,7)
 2 Two islands are united with that crazy place that obsessed Gauguin (6)
 3 Cats and dogs could be hung by their tail to be rung (4)
 4 Thing entered first to escape when dropping cloak upside down in liquid manure (8)
 5 I jump bail before start and desert (4)
 6 Behold! Surrounded couple in orgy (5)
 8 Enter us for 'Dancing and Doctors' (7)
 12 Postman is after divorcée or someone who doesn't live at their original home (5)
 14 See 23 Across
 16 Impress deeply in using French accent (7)
 17 Making noise of flapping gnat wing (8)
 21 Lots of headless dogs (6)
 22 WC Fields's debut took place after onset of another cold (5)
 24 Got out of the way of sound from singular pipe (4)
 25 Hill dwellers in deep forest can't see the sky (4)

Andrew Tatham

Solution to the June crossword

Across: 6 Holdall 7 Lunar 9 Fast 10 Capitalist 11 Steepest 13 Excite 15 Fete 17 Ditty 19 Ulster 20 Lancelot 23 Spoilsport 26 Cute 27 Emend 28 Carnage
 Down: 1 All the best 2 Gauche 3 Clip 4 Flattery 5 Anal 8 Risotto 12/16/22/6 Total Eclipse of the Heart 14 Commercial 17/22/18 Dark Side of the Moon 21 Nature 24 Ices 25 Ouch

Headley Poetry Group

Reading poetry aloud, familiar and unfamiliar poems and poets, sharing a discussion about meaning and form, that's what Headley Poetry Group does. We are not a writing group. Our main purpose is to share our love of poetry. If you love reading poetry, you are welcome to join one of the monthly meetings of the Headley Poetry Group. (On-line meetings actually during social distancing.) From June onwards we will be choosing, reading and sharing on subjects such as Poems on Art/Paintings, Philip Larkin, Poets Laureate and Poets born after 1975.

For more information or to join the mailing list contact Charles on charlesholme@aol.com.



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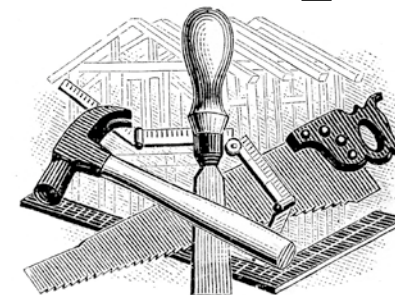
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