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A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



April 2021

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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

April
2021

Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

COPY DEADLINE
FOR THE
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11th April

send to:

Sue Tatham

St Anthony Pilgrim's Way
Westhumble

Dorking RH5 6AW

01306 882547

editor@micklehammag.co.uk

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



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Leatherhead Parish Office

Dear friends

As the post-lockdown 'road map' unfolds, the gradually-emerging spring flowers can be seen as a metaphor of our gradual emergence from a year of lockdown, give or take a few weeks of relief. The coming of spring, with bare branches and apparently barren flower-beds bursting into glorious new life, is a perennial reminder to me that resurrection is a reality. The Easter season is a time of renewal and new life, and it is a time to remind ourselves that the fundamental bedrock of any church is individual discipleship – how we respond to the awesome Easter story.

I have always had a soft spot for Simon Peter, the impetuous, tempestuous Galilean fisherman whom Jesus chose to be the rock on which he would build His church. That we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ seems to me to be the cornerstone as we anticipate – and expect – that He is building His church here in Mickleham.

As we celebrate this Easter season, and continue to discern God's call to us as His church in this place at this time, we could do worse than reflect on our own responses to the questions that Jesus posed to Peter in the gospel narratives:

When Andrew first brought Simon to Jesus, he instantly named him 'Peter', the rock (John 1.35-45) – What do you want? He asked. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked Who do you say that I am? and Peter responded 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God' (Matthew 16.10-20). The watery end to Peter's attempt to walk on water (Matthew 14.28-40) posed the question: Why did you doubt?

Remembering the events of that first Holy Week, we recall the foot-washing at the Last Supper (John 13.1-17) – Do you understand?, Peter's threefold betrayal (John 18.15-27) – You aren't one of his disciples, are you?, the empty tomb (John 20.1-10) – The unasked question – where is Jesus?, the threefold forgiveness and restoration at the barbecue on the beach (John 21.1-17) – Do you love me?, ending up with Peter's threefold vision of unclean food and the visit of the servants of Cornelius the centurion (Acts 10.9-23) – Why have you come?

The events of that first Easter are so life-changing that we would do well to refresh our memories of them and think them through thoroughly. If you have travelled through Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter with us, you will have re-heard the story once more. Given the accounts of 1st century historians like Josephus, it would be hard to argue that an itinerant preacher, teacher and healer from Nazareth called Jesus, son of Joseph and Mary, never existed. Nor that he fell foul of the Roman authorities in Jerusalem and was arrested, tried and sentenced to death by crucifixion – a sentence that was carried out with ruthless Roman efficiency.

The crucial hinge-point for Christians is the Resurrection. I would encourage you to review for yourselves what could have happened in that tomb: body-snatchers? grave-robbers? disciples determined to prove their Master right? authorities bent on making sure that this was really the end? or the awesome power of God raising a man to a new form of life? Only the Resurrection gives the cross meaning.

As a Christian church we are called 'to proclaim the gospel afresh in each generation'. This is our generation. This is our church. This is our gospel. Please join me in proclaiming the Good News of God's love for us, His creation.

Happy Easter!

Graham

Reverend Graham Osborne

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St Michael's Church Services

Good Friday 2nd April

2-3 pm Reflective Service


Easter Sunday Service 4th April – 10 am

We plan to hold these services in church. All being well, we hope to continue with services in church. As before services will be via Zoom or to listen to by telephone as well. Please try to join by 9.55 am.



Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online, which is sent to all church members each week. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship. There will be a Zoom 'coffee morning' afterwards to chat.

We pray that everyone continues to stay safe with regard to Covid-19. Under the current National Lockdown restrictions, the church will not be open for private prayer until the situation changes. Please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information.



Bible Study Groups

The Monday Evening Chapel Group

8 - 9 pm

Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

The Thursday Morning Study Group

11 am - 12.30 pm

Contact Alison Wood
01372 376443
alison.wood29@btinternet.com

House-for-Duty Priest Vacancy to be Filled

The Churchwardens are pleased to tell everyone that the Bishop of Dorking has been following our journey and progress and is pleased with the significant amount of work undertaken by the PCC, in reviewing the past and envisioning the future of St Michael's Church. The search for a House-for-Duty priest will be initiated under the leadership of Archdeacon Martin, after Easter. It is hoped that the relaxation of some Covid-19 restrictions will make it possible to have in-person interviews and parish visits.

2021 Church Electoral Roll

I would like to thank Carole Borough-Fuller for the work she has done over the past years as Electoral Roll Officer. I would like to offer an even bigger 'thank you' to Carole for all the help she has given me during the past month in helping me to take her place. I am just beginning to realise that it is not just a list of names! Enjoy your empty files and more time for coffee, Carole.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Sunday 2nd May this year. Its format will depend upon current Covid-19 regulations. Information be made available. As in previous years

now is the time to revise the Church Electoral Roll. Application forms for enrolment, additions, deletions and any other amendments are available from me.

I must receive completed application forms and any new additions or changes by **Sunday 11th April**. Any that arrive after that date cannot be included in the new electoral roll. For any further information or help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Frances Presley, Electoral Roll Officer
01306 882473
jasempres@gmail.com

Hot Cross Buns

A hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun usually made with fruit, marked with a cross on the top, and traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The bun marks the end of Lent and different parts of the hot cross bun have a certain meaning, including the cross representing the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spices inside signifying the spices used to embalm him at his burial.

According to Wikipedia, the origin of hot cross buns is not clear. One theory is that it originates from St Albans, where Brother Thomas Rodcliffe, a 14th-century monk at St Albans Abbey, developed a similar recipe called an 'Alban Bun' and distributed the bun

to the local poor on Good Friday, starting in 1361. Dorking Museum tells us: In his *Recollections of Old Dorking* (1878), South Street linen-draper Charles Rose wrote of life in the town of his childhood in the early 19th century. He recalls that Easter was 'a great Church festival', but that 'Good Friday was not then regarded, either as a holy-day or a holiday, as it is at present' and that shops were 'open throughout the day till dusk. Hot-cross' buns were as plentiful and as generally partaken of



then as now, and in the early part of the morning the youngsters were as active in carrying out the buns, and selling them, as of Good Fridays of the present time.'



St Michael's Community Group

The Grand Charity Easter Monday Auction

By the time you receive this marvellous magazine, it will be Easter weekend. I hope that by now you will have registered to join this fantastic online auction and help us raise much-needed cash for our local Nursery/Infant School and other charities. It's got to be better than another evening in front of a rectangular arrangement of gas-filled cells – for that is what it is!

We have 59 donated lots going under our virtual hammer. But the main idea is to have a FUN evening. As it is designed to be a family fun evening there will be mini competitions, with prizes, every 10 lots. The items vary from holidays, to home baking, from *objets d'arts*, to objects less *d'arts*! It would be good to have a lot of familiar faces on the same screen at the same time. Hopefully, with a less screen-oriented life in the not to distant future. So REGISTER TO WATCH/BID/BE ENTERTAINED. There is no charge, but the more we have taking part the better.

To be involved in any way:
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GRAND EASTER MONDAY ONLINE CHARITY AUCTION

IN AID OF   AND OTHER LOCAL CHARITIES **5th April 2021 6-8pm**

NO MORE LOTS PLEASE - WE HAVE ENOUGH!

BUT HERE'S HOW TO TAKE PART ON THE NIGHT

This is a Zoom event that you have to register by sending your email to anniehallfarm@icloud.com

It doesn't mean you're committed to bid, just that you can receive the Zoom invitation to be there on the night and join in the fun.

It'll be a jovial evening, more than just the auction. There will be games and family activities every few lots.

BUT WE ALSO NEED PEOPLE TO BID

LOOK OUT FOR THE FULL AUCTION CATALOGUE COMING OUT SOON

You can also leave a bid in advance of the night by emailing Annie at the above address.

All proceeds will go to give much needed help to our local nursery and infant schools, and other local charities such as Leatherhead Start, Leatherhead Youth Project and All Saints Café.

PS...we've even had a bungy jump donated as a lot, so what are you waiting foOOOOOOOOOrrrrrrr....

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More from
St Michael's
Community
Group



Thank you all for your efforts in our 'Feed a Family for Lent' campaign. I am pleased to say that the Westhumble drop-off point is now being well used, and total volumes are up. One thing I would report is that of an anonymous parent who gave kid(s) £25 and the 'items wanted' list. What a good thing to do. Substantial parcels went off to the Meeting Room, Leatherhead Start, and Epsom Food Bank. On the want list for next week are tinned fruit, Easter Treats/small eggs, packet soup, spaghetti in sauce, kids toothpaste, household cleaning supplies, pump soap, long-life fruit juice/UHT milk and Nappies size 2/4/6. See frame on right for drop-off points. Mark Day

Suitable items for the
Foodbank collection

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



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

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

LOCAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

MICKLEHAM
Garden Corner
off Old London Road
Mary Banfield 01372 737912

WESTHUMBLE
St Anthony
Pilgrims Way
Sue Tatham 01306 882547

Charity appeal to help poor
and impoverished children

Westhumble resident Adrian Harding has sent us this appeal.

I work for a major British airline as cabin crew and operate worldwide. Something our crew are exceptionally proud of is being able to help the poor and needy worldwide and we have set up a volunteer charity group of crew which helps poor and vulnerable babies, children and their immediate families worldwide. Some donations go directly to orphanages and some to schools or parents in places such as Africa, India, Pakistan and Haiti to name a few.

What we are looking for:

- Clean (and in reasonable condition) baby and children's clothes up to age 16.
- Soft toys that are machine washable (I will wash)

- Small toys and baby items such as rattles etc
- Baby bibs etc
- Unused cosmetics

And lastly, suitcases or holdalls that are in working order with zip or clasp that can be used to transport the items safely to their destination.

If you can help please contact me on 07771 545126 and I will very happily collect. This is an ongoing request as crew take these items with them regularly. This is a not-for-profit group run locally and all the items go directly to the needy with no costs incurred. No items will be sold nor run through third parties.

With all the current news focused on the pandemic and its effects, other needs can be forgotten.

TOOLS WITH A
MISSION

www.twam.co.uk

TWAM is a Christian charity committed to the recycling and refurbishment of tools which then can provide a means for poorer people in developing countries to learn a trade and be able to support themselves and their families. With this practical help thousands of young men and women have benefited from the skills they have learned. They need tools and machines associated with: gardening, carpentry, mechanics, sewing, knitting and IT.

If you have any of the above which could be used to help someone to have a better quality of life and hope for the future please contact Hilda Burden on 01737 842516.

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

History of the Mickleham Almshouses



Photograph courtesy of Dorking Museum

Watercolour of the original Almshouses by John Hassell 1823

Having read Trevor Haylett's piece on the almshouses last month I had a look through the file in the archive and thought it would be interesting to fill in a few historical details.

The first almshouses were built about the turn of the 18th century on land that was donated by Sir Charles Talbot, then Lord of the Manor and living at Mickleham Hall. It was strictly speaking a workhouse or poor house, built by charity, and supported by alms collected by an Alms Collector. However, after the passing of the Poor Law Act in 1601 it became the sole responsibility of the parish to provide relief. This was levied on the chief householders by the Overseer of the Poor or churchwarden who was responsible for distributing the rate to the 'settled poor' but not vagrants. John Hassell, a watercolour painter of many local landscapes, painted them in 1823 as shown in the March magazine. They are a row of plain two-storey cottages towards the bottom of Byttom Hill, probably providing eight dwellings in all. It was not all law-abiding however as in 1816 the vestry book records some abuse by a few inmates who were clearly 'undeserving poor' as they were able-bodied and earning wages which meant they were not eligible for free places. Notice was served on them to pay a rent of 1 to 2 shillings a week.

This arrangement carried on until 1834 when a rapidly rising poor rate led to the passing of a new Poor Law in which individual parishes were merged into unions and managed by a board of guardians which they elected. Mickleham was one of seven parishes to come under the jurisdiction of the Dorking Union and a workhouse where male and female inmates lived separately was built on the site of what later became Dorking Hospital. With the poorhouse no longer funded and no decisions made for its future it inevitably fell into a poor condition. A Mr Hart was called in by the Reverend Alfred Burmester in 1845 and a vestry note records his desire to have repairs made because of the 'present dilapidated and disgraceful state of the Almshouse property' and the 'indifferent characters who lodged there'. Repairs totalling £20.15s.4d were eventually made but it would seem by this time that more drastic action was needed and an indenture was drawn up in February 1846 whereby Sir George Talbot, Lord of the Manor and owner of Mickleham Hall, demised unto the Rev Burmester and a number of other churchwardens and overseers (and their executors and heirs) 'all those tenements lately used... for the habitation of poor persons of the said parish at Bittom Hill [sic]...together with the forecourt and garden ground in the rear and surroundings for a term of 999 years'.

In addition to the site, Sir George undertook to 'defray the necessary expenses of repairs, alterations and additions to render the buildings suitable for the reception and comfortable abode for four single persons and four married couples.' These premises, refurbished, were from now on to be called the Mickleham Almshouses. Governors and visitors were to be appointed who would have full power and authority to establish rules and regulations and also to see to it that inspections and necessary repairs were carried out. In addition to those in the indenture, the 'resident inhabitants' of Norbury Park, Burford Bridge and Ashurst Warren (actually in Headley parish) were included, ie the great and the good.

All went smoothly until the morning of Monday, 1st August 1864 when disaster struck the eight poor men and women of the almshouses. The National School Master, Caleb Howard, merely records 'some disruption' close by the school. In fact a fire had all but destroyed the almshouses. While awaiting the arrival of the fire engines from Leatherhead and Dorking, nearby villagers and scholars attempted to douse the flames and to save the old people's belongings. By the time a fire engine arrived the local newspaper reported the building 'little better than a ruin'. The cause was the ignition of fuel at the mouth of the hole for a copper in the washhouse at the rear of the workhouse. Fortunately, there was little financial loss as the building was insured but the reporter expresses the hope that the 'hapless condition' of the inmates would not be forgotten by the wealthy residents of the neighbourhood.

They moved fast in those days and by 4th August the Rector was writing to 'the Inhabitants of Mickleham and charitably disposed persons in the neighbourhood'. It begins 'Dear Friends, Awful Calamity – destruction by fire of my Almshouses, the gift of the late Sir George Talbot, Bart. (What does the 'my' tell us?) He writes of what a boon the houses have been for 20 years and asks for sympathy and support for their restitution for his 'suffering

parishioners'. His appeal was successful. The Church of England and the Misses Talbot (Sir George's daughters) donated £400 each and most of the remainder came from the owners of the big houses, such as Thomas Grissell of Norbury Park and George Cubitt of Denbies among many others. Amounts donated varied from £5 to £100 and a total of £1,310 was raised. The contract for the rebuild was awarded to Charles Driver, a well-known architect and auctioneer in the district, and by 13th October the Schoolmaster records the laying of the cornerstone of the new almshouses in his logbook. The occasion was marked by the attendance of the school children and was followed by a dinner in the schoolroom. This would have been a great treat.

'Opening of the New Almshouses at Mickleham' is the headline in the *Surrey Herald* on 26th August 1865 and what a high festival it was. It began with divine service at the church with all the principal residents present and continued at the

Almshouses which was decorated with flags. Present were the Rev'd Alfred Burmester and his curate, the clergy of the neighbourhood, the trustees of the charity, the surviving occupants (six in number), the schoolchildren with banners and Mr Rose with his harmonium to accompany the singing of the 100th Psalm. A benediction was pronounced on the building by the Rector before he called on Henry Peto Grissell who had superintended the erection of 'such a beautiful building' and presented him with a silver cup as a memento of the occasion and their gratitude and esteem. Henry Grissell declared it to have been a 'labour of love' and complimented the contractor, Mr William Spicer, on the way he had carried out the designs. Mr Spicer too received high praise and a silver cup before the National Anthem was sung and three cheers were given for the Queen and Royal Family followed by three for the venerable Rector, Alfred Burmester.

The newspaper continues for a full column more describing the substantial dinner that was served to the almspeople in the upper apartments while visitors had lighter refreshments downstairs and the children ate in the schoolroom. Speeches were again the order of the day, the children being addressed in turn by the Rev'd Burmester, the curate Mr Smart and Caleb Howard, the Master of the school. Finally, the children sang 'God bless the Prince of Wales' and everyone dispersed congratulating themselves on the excellence of all the village institutions and agreeing that Mickleham stood first among surrounding parishes.

Judy Kinloch.

PS With £280 left over, the trustees decided to build Byttom Cottage as an investment to benefit the Almshouse Trust. To begin with it was occupied by the curates of the parish but was then let out to various tenants who added to it. By the early 1930s it had been sold.

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Byttom Cottage (left) and the Almshouses viewed from Norbury Park

Dorking Museum Nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



The Museum is excited to be one of ten Surrey organisations nominated for the 2021 awards. The QAVS is the highest national honour presented to local volunteer groups across the UK, awarded to exceptional groups of volunteers who regularly contribute their own time to enhance and improve the lives of others, and

whose level of initiative and impact are truly outstanding. It is the MBE for volunteer groups and is awarded for the lifetime of the organisation.

We would like to thank those who nominated, supported and recommended the Museum. Winners will be announced on 2nd June.



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Some unconnected legal memories from a Burney Road resident

I qualified as a barrister in 1973 having 'eaten my dinners' at Lincoln's Inn. My first head of chambers was Douglas Lowe, Olympic 880 yards champion of 1924 and 1928. One of my very first cases as a pupil was in June 1974, appearing at the old courthouse on Dorking High Street, representing a remand prisoner who had committed a truly appalling offence within yards of the 5th green at Walton Heath. I then practised in Cardiff on the Wales and Chester Circuit from 1974-1979. I had such a slow start that I spent many a summer afternoon watching Glamorgan playing cricket and was eventually obliged to change course. For the next 32 years I worked for the Director of Public Prosecutions and Crown Prosecution Service in London, I did a little advocacy, not always with great success and concentrated mainly on case preparation.



I moved to Burney Road in 1985 and the next time I appeared at Dorking it was in 1987 in their new courthouse, when I prosecuted a resident of Camilla Drive, who was alleged to have driven into and demolished the wooden gate of the Leladene arch. Out of the blue during the trial the defendant called a witness who admitted that he had been the driver at the time, it was a pity the defendant and his witness could not have cleared everything up before the trial and saved everyone a wasted afternoon! It was weeks before the wooden gate was repaired.

The court site in Dorking has now been demolished to make way for a block of luxury apartments (far too smart to be called flats) called Taylor Place. I sometimes wonder if I might end up living there one day when our garden in Burney Road gets too much for us.

I retired in 2011. On my final day at work, as I was leaving the office in Croydon, a colleague referred one of his cases to me, it was an 'historic' abuse case, where the alleged offence dated back more than 60 years to 1948, the year before I was born. I decided it really was time to leave. My boss in 2011 was Sir Keir Starmer but our paths never crossed.

Some of my days were memorable for all the wrong reasons, not least when I prosecuted a list of motorists speeding on the M25, many doing just 71 mph, in the days before the 10% margin of tolerance was introduced. The films of the speeding vehicles had to be retrieved from the overhead gantries in those days. I also recall being asked to agree to a *racially* aggravated prosecution where a drunk insulted a PC by calling him a 'sheep sha**ing Welsh git'. I declined. I also recall a rape case where three of the victims picked out the wrong person at the ID parade, the same wrong person each time. There was so much other evidence that, fortunately, the defendant had no choice but to plead guilty.

In 1995 I authorised proceedings for a charge of handling stolen goods, to whit a parrot called Barney, whose ownership was in dispute, and when the young female owner of the parrot entered the court to give evidence, the parrot obliged by letting out a piercing wolf whistle. The parrot later bit the leg (drawing blood) of the pedantic police officer when he gave evidence. The story was reported all across the world and was even noticed by my New Zealand cousins. Fame at last.

My favourite story was related to me by a colleague who had been prosecuting a shoplifting case at Richmond Magistrates Court. The defence was absent mindedness (lack of

any dishonesty). The defence advocate was unable to get the store detective to concede that the defendant's behaviour could possibly be explained by a wandering concentration. That was 'simply not possible.' When the next witness (the arresting Police officer) entered the witness box, an impatient court clerk ticked him off for wasting time and not taking the oath. The officer explained he could not find the court's Bible. A hurried search met with no success, until an embarrassed store detective opened her handbag at the back of the court and produced the missing Bible from it. A conviction followed, notwithstanding.

Told to me by His Honour John Bishop, Judge at Kingston County Court and a former resident of Burney Road.

A juror in a criminal trial was being sworn in and was asked to take the oath by reading from a card. The juror was unable to commence speaking. The judge, believing that the juror might be unable to read and trying to spare him any embarrassment, commented that the juror must have mislaid his reading glasses and invited the juror to repeat the oath following the words of the usher. At this point the juror finally managed to stutter his first words: 'Your Honour, it's not my glasses, it's my false teeth, I've left them at home'.

Told to me by His Honour Stephen Lloyd, Circuit Judge at Lewes Combined Court, recent resident of Burney Road

(Stephen bought his house from John Bishop's father). One day Stephen received a letter from the Lord Chancellor's Department. (Maybe it crossed his mind that, finally, this could be news of his promotion to the High Court!) Instead, it was a notification that, as from Monday, he was being transferred to Hiroshima County Court. He was hugely excited, before it dawned on him that Spellcheck was at fault and he was off to darkest Horsham for a week instead. Robert Dyson





Thinking globally, acting locally Environmentally-friendly flower arranging

Who doesn't love a vase of cut flowers in the house? With Valentine's Day and Mothering Sunday behind us, and Easter about to happen, there is still the prospect of a long and glorious summer of flowers ahead.

You may have a garden full of blossom and blooms and regularly grow your own for cutting. You may be spending your evenings gazing at colourful packets of seed and your mornings inspecting the seed trays in the greenhouse or on the windowsill for signs of life. Or you may be planning to make a cutting patch this year for the first time: Sarah Raven has done much to encourage us all to have a go with amazing colours and interesting varieties which last well in the vase. Her catalogue is a feast for the eyes, and the tulip and dahlia varieties are particularly stunning (when I was growing up tulips only came in red or yellow, and dahlias the same, or so it seemed to me).

However, if you don't plan to grow your own, or need larger quantities for a special occasion, have you thought about buying locally grown flowers? Towards the end of last summer, I discovered that we have a flower farmer on our doorstep at East Clandon and another just the other side of Farnham, and I started to think a bit about the environmental implications of NOT buying locally.

Currently 90% of all flowers sold in the UK are imported, many grown in Holland or Kenya. While the growers in other countries do a wonderful job of supplying vast quantities of the flowers, we have come to expect all year round, there are increasing concerns about the amount of CO₂ emissions involved in production and transport, with associated issues of pesticide use and water resource management.

If you are interested in the numbers around the environmental impact of cut flowers, there is a detailed article on the website of 'Flowers from the Farm', an organization which represents nearly a thousand British flower farmers, growing from Cornwall to Inverness: <https://www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/why-british-flowers-1>.

So where are these local flowers farms I mentioned? The one I visited last summer is West End Flower Farm (not the West End near Esher, but at Lower Froyle, in Hampshire, just the other side of Farnham). I know this isn't on our doorstep, but I can recommend it for a visit as there is a little café and small shop with bunches of flowers to buy (or you can pre-order and collect), and they run workshops in a teepee on flower growing and arranging. I attended a couple of these which were very enjoyable, and I also ordered some buckets of cut flowers for a wedding I was helping with. Have a look at their website: <https://westendflowerfarm.com/>

A little nearer to home (thinking about our own travel miles), there is Plant Passion at Staple Lane, East Clandon. The grower Claire Brown is not open every day and only delivers locally, but you can order and collect from the barn by arrangement. Claire also runs workshops and open days, and she will provide flowers for weddings or DIY events. The flower season is just beginning so you need to keep an eye out for updates: subscribe to her newsletter www.plantpassion.co.uk or follow her on Instagram hashtag plantpassion.

Having grown or otherwise acquired your blooms and foliage, how are you going to arrange them? Nothing wrong with a wide-necked jug or vase for a relaxed bunch for the home, but if you need to make something more formal, what should you do?

You may immediately assume you have to use a block of Oasis, also called wet floral foam, a green brick which holds water and has been used extensively by professional and amateur florists alike for many years. However, Oasis is made from petroleum and is not biodegradable, so after a single use it has to go to landfill. There are concerns that not only is it bad for the environment, but it may contain unpleasant chemicals which aren't terribly good for us either.

Now there is a significant movement in the trade towards sustainable methods, also called 'mechanics', to support more

complicated and larger arrangements. These include the use of chicken wire and pinholders (called 'flower frogs' but more like prickly hedgehogs, I think) – which makes me laugh as I remember my mum (now ninety) using rusty old lumps of chicken wire and pinholders in the bottom of her vases. There really is nothing new under the sun!

If you are interested in following some florists who are using their Instagram accounts and websites to spread the word about the new methods, you could have a look at Philippa Craddock, who did the flowers for the Sussexes' wedding at Windsor. She has a ten-page free guide to her sustainable methods (<https://www.philippacraddock.com/sign-up-top-ten-sustainable-mechanics>) and often posts short free video demonstrations to help you arrange your own flowers. Another florist I follow on Instagram is <https://www.thewhitehorseflowercompany.co.uk/> for lots of gorgeous photos and inspiration.

Both these florists have a very natural style where the flowers are the focus, and this goes back to the use of locally grown and seasonal flowers and foliage, often from the garden or wider landscape. I just love the instant boost I get when I see photos of gorgeous bunches of flowers, or flower farmers showing their trays of seedlings ready to be pricked out. There are many small businesses out there being creative online and generous with their tips and tricks and showing great commitment to our environment. Florists and flower growers had a very tough time in 2020 with Covid restrictions effectively cancelling almost all of their wedding business. Let's see what we can do to support them this year and enjoy a glorious summer of flowers.

Alison Wood



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society Gardening in harness with nature

As the year advances and the growing season is upon us, I thought it would be a good moment to talk about how we could consider our native wildlife at the same time as producing lovely flowers and vegetables and enjoying the many benefits of a well-kept garden.

- Can you go peat-free? All peat product has to come from stripping the land thereby damaging our natural resources (eg, undisturbed peat locks up carbon) and particularly the assemblages of plant and animal life that depend on wet boggy areas. Ask if bought plants are grown peat-free. There are many alternatives available: give them a try!
- Can you avoid artificial fertiliser? Soil from your own compost heap or from a local source of manure will improve not just soil fertility but soil structure and water retention too. And will be good for worms and other important soil improvers. Win, win! I can tell you of a local source of manure, delivered to your door! Improves fitness too!

• How about not mowing the lawn? Not all of it, as obviously we all love the short lawn to sit or lie on or as part of the garden vista – but what about those odd corners or even a deliberately unmown bit to allow wild flowers to flourish and let our bees and butterflies have food and shelter – nature is beautiful too!

• What about pests? Tricky one. None of us wants to grow flowers and vegetables only for wildlife to devour the lot. But also, how unfortunate if the wildlife we enjoy gets harmed by what we do to get rid of pests. Think of strategies that don't use non-specific poisons: slug pellets are a prime example as poisoned slugs get eaten by birds and other animals who then in turn get poisoned. A most undesirable consequence.

• Plea for a bee! If you are buying some plants this year, take a look on the web for one or two that will benefit bees – they are under threat but are one of



the key factors in pollination, especially fruit. A lot depends on bees and they need a hand.

• A toot for fruit! If you have space (and you don't need a lot) plant an apple or pear or plum. If you keep them well-tended they produce masses of fruit for you to store and use. If some drops off it will all be eaten by wildlife, so nothing is wasted.

This may all seem very obvious but I hope relatively easy to consider. You will reap a natural reward and something to marvel at besides the prize courgettes and dahlias!

David Kennington

Parakeet Shooting Licensed for Mickleham from April

Parakeets are not native to Britain. One popular story is that Jimi Hendrix released a pair, Adam and Eve, in Soho in 1967, and now we have an estimated 80,000 birds. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Reg. GL40), parakeets have been included on the General Shooting Licence from 2009, along with Canada geese, wood pigeons, and to my surprise, jays. This means you can shoot them on your own land or with the permission of the landowner WITHOUT ANY FURTHER OR SPECIFIC PERMISSION.

Subsequent studies though are showing that these horrible green raucous creatures, are causing damage to roofs, electrical supplies and significant crop damage and, more importantly, causing significant depletion to some of our native bird species. Nuthatches used to be one of our star Mickleham birds, when was the last time you saw them regularly?

As a result of representations from various ecological bodies, both local and national, it has been recognized

that further spread from London and other largely urban areas, into the wider countryside is highly undesirable, and that 'special measures' have thus been introduced. DEFRA-organized shooting parties are to be tasked with control by shooting and trapping in vulnerable areas. The North Downs is one of the vulnerable areas identified where these 'special measures' are urgent.

Notice has already been given to the parish council, although specific landowner permission is no longer required, except for small residential plots of less than one hectare. Notices, like planning applications, will be posted on poles/trees etc close to those areas where shooting is envisaged. You will start to see these notices appearing shortly, probably around the Rec, the graveyard, the Gallops, Box Hill School etc. The Shooting Groups will be DEFRA-approved, licenced and experienced operators. Local shooting licence holders can join only with the supervisor's permission.

The Mickleham and Westhumble population is estimated at around 40 birds. Three-days shooting is envisaged to be enough to eliminate this burgeoning population, starting on 1st April, no earlier than 7am. Apparently they taste a bit like chicken, if anyone is interested.

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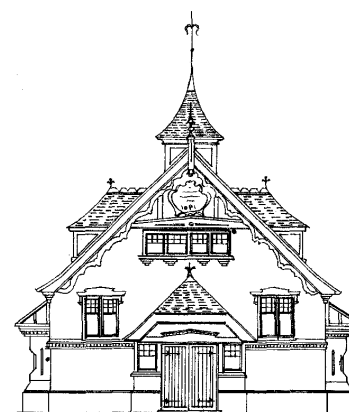
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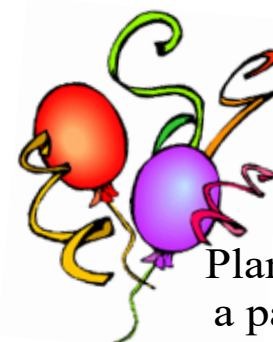


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enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

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

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

PARISH PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday 6th April

We are continuing to hold our monthly
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- 12 Illuminated letter P
- 13 Cream tea for 6
- 14 Sporting print
- 15 **Abseil off Emirates Tower!**
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- 21 Made in Mickleham hamper
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- 31 Signed tennis ball
- 32 Pair of brandy glasses
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Continued from page 13

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Vincent John Smyth 1946 – 2020

Following Vincent Smyth's death on 5th October a Requiem Mass in remembrance and thanksgiving for his life was celebrated at St Michael's Catholic Church, Ashted on 19th October. We print here extracts from the tribute to Vincent from that service written by Christine, his wife for 43 years:

I would just like to give a brief insight of a wonderful man who had a profound impact on so many lives.

Vincent was born and raised in Coventry, the firstborn of devout Catholic parents. He showed his considerable intellectual capacity and lifelong thirst for learning throughout his Catholic schooling and was on track to read science at Cambridge. However, as his parents wanted him to become a priest, he was steered down a very different path, and after sixth form went on to study divinity and education at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill.

There he was extremely involved in the television studio and developed his childhood passion for photography and drama. He also sang and acted in several Gilbert and Sullivan operas.

I always say that Vincent and I met in 1972 in a psychiatric hospital, and indeed we did spend every Sunday afternoon with patients at St Ebba's hospital, singing to and chatting with them, as we were part of the St Vincent de Paul Youth Group from St Joseph's Church in Epsom. We bonded as we both enjoyed working to build relationships with the most challenging, long-stay, physically disabled residents. Especially after one visit when Vincent rescued me from the very strong clutches of a rather over amorous patient – he truly was my knight in shining armour. After the visits, the group would go and sing for the Sunday evening Folk Mass, before repairing to The Rising Sun.

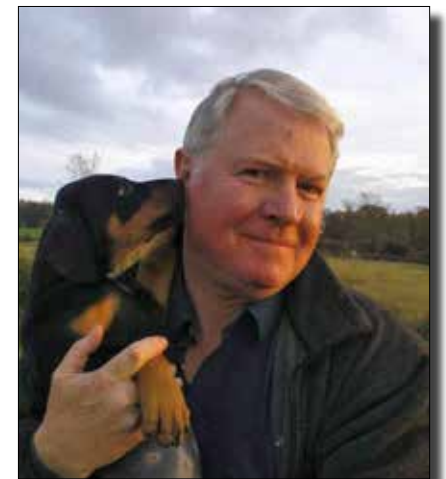
Vincent taught religious studies on Saturdays at King's College Wimbledon. In the week he taught at a middle school in Merton, later becoming a senior teacher at Dundonald Primary School. To provide a greater challenge and experience, he went to Melrose School on the Phipps Bridge Estate in Mitcham, a special school for secondary pupils

with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties. He taught six murderers during his 18 years there. Vincent was incredible with these young people, earning respect and teaching them life skills, mechanics on real (donated) cars and motorbikes, electronics, gardening and photography. Additionally he taught literacy and numeracy in an attempt to give them a sense of self-worth and to break the culture of violence, drug abuse and sexual abuse which engulfed them. Vincent studied for an Advanced Diploma in the Education of Maladjusted Children during which he trained and worked as a counsellor – a valuable experience for his next career move.

In the mid-1980s Vincent joined the staff of St Margaret's School Tadworth Court and taught profoundly multi-handicapped children for about 13 years. He is remembered for being a super colleague, a great Father Christmas and for dancing as the sugar plum fairy, dressed in wellies and a tutu! In 1977 we were married at St Clement's Catholic Church in Ewell, my family church. During our courtship, Vincent had learned to ride a horse pretty competently, taught by me, and this proved very useful during future holidays.

Vincent's life has been punctuated by horses and dogs. He was fiercely loyal and supportive of me and acted as groom for the ten years I was show jumping and 13 years crewing me at endurance rides all over the country. He had huge affection for my horses and for all the many assorted dogs and cats that have shared our lives. Despite protestations, he coped with rescue dogs joining us for foster too – they each ended up with him ministering to them and even sleeping on the sofa to look after them.

We both enjoyed rifle and pistol target shooting. Vincent shot competitively and successfully, and we made many good friends through shooting. The National Smallbore Rifle Championships week at Bisley Camp was, for many years our annual holiday. Coaching rifle and pistol shooting was a logical progression from competing for Vincent, a born teacher.



Scuba Diving was another key passion and as active members of Dorking BSAC we spent many a stomach-churning trip out from Littlehampton, in choppy waters aboard the club's speeding RIB to dive down to wrecks and view the fish.

Photography was a lifelong interest – Vincent had done wedding photography for many years before we met and returned to it after leaving teaching. It was Vincent who gave me a taste for mountain walking. We had so many wonderful holidays to all parts of the world.

Vincent's diagnosis of a particularly aggressive cancer in early 2018 was devastating. His doctors were truly flabbergasted and overjoyed at his response to treatment and by his stoical acceptance, resolve and positivity. His fitness and strength and his immense determination to live for me was truly astonishing.

That Vincent finally died in my arms in the hospice is some comfort. He has always been my strength and my rock, as well as my companion, mentor and friend (as well as my mechanic, plumber and walking encyclopedia!) We have been richly blessed to have shared so much together for so long.

My memories will be of amazingly talented, loyal, patient, generous and wonderful man. I give thanks to God for his life and his love – the love which is interwoven into every aspect of my life and which I know will sustain me and make me smile in the years ahead.

We moved to Mickleham in 1986 and Vincent loved living here. His ashes are now interred in the Garden of Remembrance here at St Michael's, a wonderful resting place.

Community News

Congratulations to:

- Anne and Gerry Weaver on the safe arrival of their fourth grandchild, Winston, born to Lucy and Daniel Weaver on 19th February. A brother for Baxter.
- Juliet and John Lowes on the safe arrival of their second grandchild, Hector Falcon, born to daughter Jessica and James Sharp on 22nd January. A brother for Lyra Juliet.

James Riches

It is with sadness we report the sudden death on 6th March of James Riches of Swanworth Lane. James had recently returned home following a lengthy time in hospital where he was being treated for a Covid-19 infection.

We send our deepest sympathy to Lindy and family and hope to include a tribute to James in due course.

Spring is coming



Thank you to Mike Weller for these photographs and to all the others who sent us their lovely spring flower pictures. Sorry we don't have space for all of them.

Ticks, my dogs – and me!

When I first became associated with a black labrador in 1968, finding a tick on a dog was an extremely rare occurrence. Through the 1970s, 80s and early 90s, with yet more Labradors, ticks remained quite rare. From 1998 onwards I began to notice more ticks. I remember one notable occasion in 2000 when I picked 50 crawling ticks off my dog after I had been investigating some orchids in a little visited area of Box Hill. I now always think of this area as 'Tick Alley'!

Ticks belong to the group of invertebrates known as the Arachnida. This group also includes spiders, harvestmen, scorpions and mites. They are characterised by having eight legs. They appear to have just one body part with a beak at the fore end containing the mouth parts. Ticks have four stages to their lifecycle: egg, larva, nymph and adult. They locate potential hosts by sensing odour, body heat, moisture, and/or vibrations in the environment. Hosts can include a range of mammals, from woodmice and voles to sheep, deer, cattle and horses. Birds can be hosts too and last year I found a dead wren with an engorged tick on its back. Once on a host, ticks use their mouthparts to inject an anti-coagulant and then to suck blood. It is during this process that any disease-causing organisms such as bacteria many be injected into the host.

Since 2000, there has been a seemingly exponential increase in the number of ticks per dog per year. For example, by the end of March last year I must have taken about 18 ticks off my dog. The image below shows six ticks removed from her in one day. Six because the ticks upside down have another smaller tick attached. I assume that they are mating. The image also shows the device I use for removing ticks from the dog. It is about 4.5cm long. I carefully insert the device under the tick close to the skin. Then, without pulling, twist the tick anti-clockwise. Not sure why this direction but I always get the ticks off alive with their legs waving and mouthparts complete. It really is important to remove the whole tick, including its mouthparts.

A note of caution: I do not use any chemical treatments on my dogs to prevent ticks, preferring not to use

potentially harmful chemicals on them. If you wish to use chemicals, do check on the ingredients used. Have they been independently assessed for toxicity to wildlife? Frontline's main ingredient is Fipronil which has been shown to have quite wide toxicity. See my article on 'Pet treatments poison rivers' in the January edition of this magazine. So be aware of this toxicity if your dog likes water!

Humans too can get ticks. If you do get a tick attached to you, as against one just crawling on your skin, make a note of the date, keep a watch on the inevitably itching spot but do not scratch it! How you remove the tick is up to you but I would suggest never pulling out the tick. I sometimes use the illustrated device on myself too.



Watch out for any adverse effects you may suffer. Lyme Disease, which does occur in Surrey, can usually be treated effectively if reported to your doctor in time. Check on an official website for symptoms. Yes, another disease!

So do we have any explanations for this increase in ticks over the years? There are at least two possible hypotheses. One is the increase in host numbers – are there more dogs and cats around, as well as small mammals? Judging by the way small mammals attack my vegetables, there certainly could be. Another one is of course climate change. With generally much milder winters, is this allowing more ticks to over-winter? Research in the USA indicates that this is so, together with an increase in the number of tick-borne diseases. Like everything in this world, climate change, biodiversity loss and disease are inter-linked, as we are all too well aware at the moment.

Ann Sankey



The last year, like for so many, has been a rollercoaster for Juniper Hall and the FSC as a whole. Last February and March our refurbishment was nearly complete and we were working with a number of groups at other sites, including Nower Wood and the Sussex coast. Juniper Hall's visitor numbers were at an all-time high, and the Centre was playing an important environmental, educational and scientific role. Our Easter re-opening and the unveiling of our spectacular refurbishment had been imminent.

To date, no school group has been able to stay. As you can imagine, as a charity our turnover has significantly reduced and we, like so many, have had to look for new opportunities and be resourceful wherever possible. Since January our doors have been closed again. This has been a difficult time. We do not receive statutory funding and fall outside many sectors, hence often missing out on government support. Yet, the demand for our courses has not gone away: we have a large and loyal customer base, and as soon as our doors can open again we will welcome them back.

There have been positives. Last summer we were able to run our residential summer holidays for families while Christmas saw a highly successful Winter Wonderland programme. Last Autumn we also welcomed school groups back for day visits, with nearly 2,000 young people attending Covid-

Juniper Hall Update

secure courses in the outdoors between September and Christmas. Our refurbishment has now been completed and the Centre looks amazing if we say so ourselves! We have had many positive reviews and hope to invite you to come and see in the not too distant future, as soon as restrictions allow.

On a personal note, the Ward family are going to see some changes as, after six and a half very happy years, I will be leaving Juniper Hall this April to become the new Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Entomological Society. It has been a real privilege to work for the FSC and to lead Juniper Hall and the East region. It has been great to build so many links with the local community and of course, Maddy Jones, who is our Centre Manager, will be carrying this on.

Working and living in Mickleham has been fantastic. I would like to say a big thank you for welcoming us as part of this community. Our eldest daughter was born ten days after we moved into Juniper Hall, and is now in her final year at St Michael's School, with our second daughter hopefully starting in September. Both of our daughters have attended St Michael's Nursery, and my wife Amy continues to be Nursery Chair. I will continue to be a governor at the school. We have so many happy memories of village parties, village fêtes, carol singing round



the pubs and in the Chapel ruins, choir concerts, quizzes, fireworks in fields, church, weddings, parties and socials. But far more than this, we have made so many friends. We have moved just up the road to Great Bookham, very close to Polesden Lacey, so we are still close by and intend to continue as fully-active members of the Mickleham and Westhumble community. Do drop by for a coffee or a glass of wine soon.

If you are able to support our work at Juniper Hall that would be hugely appreciated. You can do this by purchasing FSC publications (we have some great fold-out guides) by visiting <https://www.field-studies-council.org/product-category/publications/> or if you are able and wish to make a donation so we can continue to support thousands of children's learning each year please do visit <https://www.field-studies-council.org/donate/>

So, this will be my final report from Juniper Hall, but I look forward to seeing many of you very soon.

Simon Ward, Head of Centre

Photographs: Simon Ward



Interior photographs of Juniper Hall after refurbishment



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KING WILLIAM IV

Hello all
Spring is in the air – covid in retreat – jabs are being rolled out – things are looking up!
This is the spring to celebrate with friends and family, how great it will be to meet up once again and laugh and hug loved ones. This year has really emphasised what life is all about – coming to the King William IV sitting in the gardens and enjoying good food and drinks and good company. We are hoping for a long sunny summer and to banish the dreadful year just gone into a distant memory. Thanks for your continued support and kind messages of encouragement. The takeaway service we provided has been a great success and allowed us to stay in contact with so many. Also we hope we gave our loyal friends and neighbours a bit of cooking respite. We have redone our website, so check it out.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Eamon Anne and Kat

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

Cryptic Delicacies

Last month's puzzle was themed around George Orwell's book which had the full title 'ANIMAL FARM – A Fairy Story', with characters being pigs NAPOLEON, SQUEALER & SNOWBALL, horses BOXER & CLOVER, and dog BLUEBELL. The idea for the book came in 1937 after Orwell's experiences in the Spanish Civil War, but he only got round to writing it at the end of 1943. By that time Stalin's evils were apparent to those in the know, but Stalin was also an ally against a different evil and that made publishers very shy of taking on the book, especially when warned off doing so by the Ministry of Information. Orwell's original preface decried the self-censorship of the British literary establishment and the suppression of any criticism of the USSR. It was not included in most editions of the book (which just goes to prove its accuracy), but at least the book was published. The Germans nearly had a hand in the book never reaching its audience, with Orwell's house in Kilburn being destroyed by a V1 flying bomb in 1944 and Orwell only finding the manuscript after hours and hours searching through the rubble. Orwell later wrote about the origins of the book in a preface for a Ukrainian edition (his original English version has been lost so it had to be translated back from the Ukrainian), including these words:

'I saw a little boy, perhaps ten years old, driving a huge carthorse along a narrow path, whipping it whenever it tried to turn. It struck me that if only such animals became aware of their strength we should have no power over them, and that men exploit animals in much the same way as the rich exploit the proletariat.'

Having just re-read the book, I can see that its scope is far more than just a re-telling of Soviet history. It continues to be relevant in its observations on the use and misuse of propaganda and the submission of populations to governments whose flaws are hiding in plain sight.

10 Sounds like that man is a thing for worshipping (4)

HYMN

'that man' = him, which sounds like HYMN

11 Morning, Father! In France I can be measured with this (6)

AMPERE

'Morning' = A.M., 'Father in France' = PERE. In scientific terminology, the symbol for current is the letter I, and that is measured in AMPERES, named after André-Marie Ampère (1775-1836) who invented the solenoid and the electrical telegraph. He was entirely self-taught through use of his father's library, his father being a successful merchant who followed the teachings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, including the idea that young boys should avoid formal schooling and pursue instead an 'education direct from nature.' Having such progressive ideas did not save Ampère's father from the guillotine, but it did lay the foundation for an amazing scientific career that still resounds today (though I have just discovered the root of the word 'amp' as in 'electronic amplifier' doesn't come from Ampère but from the Latin *amplificare*, (to enlarge or expand) which gives a rather tenuous nominative determinism to how he spent his life). How amazing to be remembered worldwide for having made such a huge contribution to humanity and the understanding of the world around us.

12 All dandy when squared away to the letter (8)

LANDLADY

'when squared away' is being used as an anagram indicator to ALL DANDY – maybe a bit loose, but if you square things away you put them in a different order – and a LANDLADY could be someone who lets property, i.e. a letter

3 Is able to get face lift and make controlled use of gravity (6)

ABSEIL

'to get face lift' is an anagram indicator which is applied to IS ABLE.

5 Do this with a prune can? Utter nonsense! (8)

TRUNCATE

It seems that a number of people have seen 'utter nonsense' as an anagram indicator applied to 'prune can'. I was just trying to get the clue to read well and hadn't realised that 'prune can' was the same number of letters as 'can utter' which were the real letters

to anagram. The lessons to be learned are that punctuation in a clue may be a distraction and may need to be ignored, and that you need to try and break down the clue into its components and combinations of components to see how to read it. If the anagram was of 'prune can' what would have been left as a definition? Also 'prune can' is a misdirection in making you think of the fruit, rather than 'a prune' being something you do to cut something short.

7 Surrounded by millions in donations (4)

AMID

'millions' = M which is put in AID = 'donations' (one of those times where a plural can have a synonym that is a singular noun)


29 Having a laugh with the English way of speaking is a sign of the Irish (4)

HARP

'a laugh' = HA, 'the English way of speaking' = RP (for Received Pronunciation). In 1541, the harp was adopted as the symbol of the new Kingdom of Ireland, established by Henry VIII – and then again, upon the secession of the Irish Free State from the United Kingdom in 1922, the harp was taken as the emblem of the independent Irish state.

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



BRAIN TEASER

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

PUT TON

Answer on page 26

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Life in Retirement

For those who do not know me or for those who have forgotten me (perish the thought!) I lived and worked in the area from 1982 when I took up a post as teacher of chemistry at Box Hill School. For the first ten years I lived in school in various pastoral roles related to boarders. Then I met Jim and we married and settled in Beare Green. In 2015 I retired but also lovely Jim died so I decided to relocate up north (of the Watford Gap).

Some will recall that in order to make sure that I was really going I was flown out of school in a chartered helicopter. It was exciting and should anyone be interested I have some good aerial photos including everyone's favourite road the M25. It was surprisingly good on that Friday evening.

It was not the first time that I had been in a helicopter (therein lies another incredible tale) but it did give me a taste for this mode of transport. Since then I have flown over the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney Harbour, Uluru at dawn and the Pacific Ocean coast in Melbourne. All this while doing a tour of Australia in 2016. Later that same year I toured Canada and flew over Niagara. 2017 took me to New England then a month later I had a wonderful trip to New York with my niece. We saw a show on Broadway, drank cocktails in the Rockefeller Centre and The Russian Tea Rooms (vodka based of course) and did Central Park, New World Observatory and Statue of Liberty. Most poignant

of all the museum dedicated to the events of 9/11.

I have developed some useful roles in retirement as a volunteer receptionist at our local hospice, a volunteer with Victim Support and now, most recently, I have been appointed as a magistrate. I did my training by Microsoft Teams and took my Oath of Allegiance in December. My first day in court was 8th January and I now have sittings booked through until September. I am finding the whole experience fascinating and I am meeting lots of new people. I am also a governor of a lovely primary school near Chester. Those who know me might wish to guess how long it took for me to become Chair of Governors. Speaking of chairs I am also chairman of the board: not ICI or IBM but Fernwood (Wirral) Co Ltd. This is the self-managing group for the apartments where I live.

All this brings me to my blossoming TV career. It was in the role of manager that I was contacted by the BBC and asked to appear on *Rip Off Britain*. Many such retirement places pay exorbitant fees for very little so I was speaking in favour of self-managing. I am an avid quizzer and now belong to two quiz leagues. I joined Soapsuds in 2016 (they have roots in Unilever) and we have had great success over the years resulting in promotion to the first division. I discovered that quizzing is big business and very popular. Many apply to TV quizzes so I followed suit and in 2016 my niece and I were contestants on



Marianne (left) with her niece in the Big Apple

The Code on BBC 1. In 2018 I appeared on the Chase and we have very recently appeared on *Pointless*. The filming at Elstree was on 8th December. It has yet to be broadcast but will be late spring or early summer. Personally I am hoping for on or after 21st June so we can have a Pointless Party. Does that mean we won? Well you will just have to wait and see!

I have been back to beautiful Surrey and marvellous Mickleham on several occasions and always found a very warm welcome. A part of me will always feel that it is home. I spent most of my working life there, made lots of friends over the years and of course all of my life with my beloved Jim was in Surrey. I will visit again sometime this year but until then I wish everyone who knows me the best Easter possible. What better indication of great times ahead than the celebration of the Resurrection. Marianne Sunter



Online Lectures on the Arts

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

THE ARTS SOCIETY DORKING

Tuesday 13th April 10.30 am *CLEOPATRA: THE MOST WOMANLY WOMAN, THE MOST QUEENLY QUEEN* by Lucy Hughes Hallett
Register with: Diana Pledge d.pledge@sky.com £5 per lecture payable by bank transfer.

THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

Monday 19th April 2.30 pm *THE ART OF DANCE* by Jennifer Toynbee Holmes
Register with: Pat Frankland pat_frankland@hotmail.com or ring 01737 842028 £5 per lecture.

THE ARTS SOCIETY LEATHERHEAD

Wednesday 14th April at 7.30 pm *Caravaggio; Murderer or Genius?* by Julia Musgrave
Contact Huw Jenkins theartsocietyleatherhead@gmail.com

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Fostering a love of books

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) suggests that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than family circumstances, parents' educational background or their income. Books and stories are an essential part of the nursery day. We have what we call our 'core' texts (classics and new favourites) and also like to have a plentiful supply of good quality books both fiction and non-fiction for different occasions or situations being experienced by our children, such as the colour monster mentioned in last month's magazine. In March we celebrated World Book Day by having a month using traditional stories as a focus. Children have access to so many very excellent books, our traditional tales sometimes get forgotten or 'Disneyfied'. We have used visual props and story drawing

to enliven these traditional tales. With *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, we used some of our soft teddy bears and a doll to act out the story, had porridge oats to use in our manipulative play, and focused on small, medium and large, developing our early maths skills. The same early concept development was repeated with *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. We also had bridge designing and building with both large blocks and traditional lego, with adults taking turns being the troll. Continuing with threesomes, *The Three Little Pigs* saw children acting out the story, using straw, sticks and pretend bricks to build houses, playing *What's the Time Mr Wolf?* and using tally sheets to find elements of the story hidden around the nursery. With coronavirus in mind, the huffing and puffing was replicated by creating air movement using flapping newspapers! At the time of writing



we are looking forward to decorating gingerbread man biscuits and will certainly play some team chasing games to run as fast as we can.

While DEFRA has yet to lift the avian flu restrictions, we are keen for the children to experience new life at Easter time, so currently have a batch of eggs in our incubator. Hopefully you'll get some of our hatch pictures next month.

Hilary Budd





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Solution to the March crossword

Across: 8 Soil 9 Boxer 10 Hymn 11 Ampere 12 Landlady 13 Squealer 15/32 Animal farm 17 Wallaby 19 Head off 22 Clover 24 Snowball 26 Napoleon 28 Neighs 30 Acne 31 Inner

Down: 1 Zoom 2 Bluebell 3 Abseil 4 Explore 5 Truncate 6 Chilli 7 Amid 14 Quail 16 Awful 18 Barges in 20 Debriefs 21 Asinine 23 Violet 25 Owners 27 Arch 29 Harp

BRAIN TEASER answer: Put on weight

Pedants' Corner The split infinitive dialogue

Will Dennis: Frances Presley does indeed get a gold star for her persuasive writing in your March edition. It would have been platinum, but for the split infinitive in the last paragraph.

Frances Presley: Thank you for your plaudits, I must confess that I did not realise that I had split the infinitive and I plead totally guilty. I can only think it

was in the 'scrabble' to get it finished. I tell my family every time they have split one and my mother would have been horrified as it was one her *bête noirs*. I sit corrected.

Will Dennis: One of my team in my last job was a terrifyingly intelligent Oxford graduate who challenged me on split infinitives and produced some

entry from some dictionary somewhere saying that they were now regarded as acceptable. This led to an all-day exchange of emails and neither of us got any work done at all.

Judy Kinloch (retired English teacher): Language is for communicating and as long as it does that a split infinitive here or there is not the be all and end all.

Photographs: Angela Ireland



Tickled pink, growing green and purple polishing pens

We were very impressed with Frances Presley's Persuasive writing attempt last month! We have without doubt been persuaded that more letter writing is the way forward and the teachers like the argument that this would help the handwriting improve. We are in! If anyone in the community would enjoy receiving a letter from one of our children, please let us know!

This term, as a school, we have been revisiting and reinvigorating our marking and feedback policy. We know that when children take ownership of their own learning and next steps, they make better progress.

We believe children learn best when they have high expectations of their achievements and of the quality of their work. We recognise that Assessment for Learning is key and fundamental to ensuring the highest levels of progression for our children.

By engaging children in purposeful marking, they are given opportunities to develop their thinking skills and critical voice. Self-assessment and peer assessment, when managed effectively by the teacher, builds an atmosphere of trust and respect fundamental to the ethos of our school. Marking shows that teachers care about children's work. It fosters an interaction between the adult and child, giving feedback on the work they have done and guidance as to what the next step is.

Marking is a waste of time if it has no impact. It is most helpful when it gives steps in to support, consolidate, accelerate or challenge.

Here at St Michael's we use 'tickled pink' and 'growing green'. We have coloured pens to show the children what went well (tickled pink) and what they could develop next time (growing green). The children also use these colours to show what they believe they have done well and what areas they want to work on next time. If a child's learning is 'developing', we will give them one pink tick and if a child's learning is 'secure', we will give them two pink ticks.

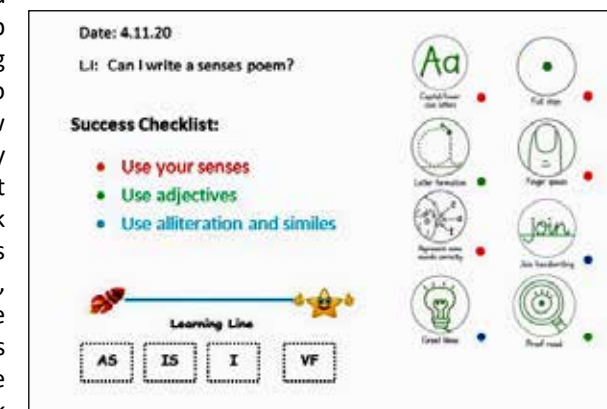
The children also have a 'purple polishing' pen. This colour is used by the children for editing their work and we also use this for 'pupil voice'. The child may write down something they are thinking or sometimes the younger children need their thoughts recorded by the adult and we would do this with the purple pen.

All children have learning labels stuck into their books to show what they are learning in that lesson and what criteria will make that learning successful. This information is shared verbally with the children as well as written. On the



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Example of a Learning Label

English labels, the children have infant friendly marking stamps which show what they must include in their writing all the time (things like finger spaces, capital letters and full stops). These are differentiated so different children will be working at different ability levels.

The children love being in charge of noticing and recording the things that go well in their learning and the things that they need to work on.

Going back to Frances Presley's persuasive writing, we think this piece definitely deserves two pink ticks!

Nicola Cleather, Head of School

Support the Friends of St Michaels while shopping online

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

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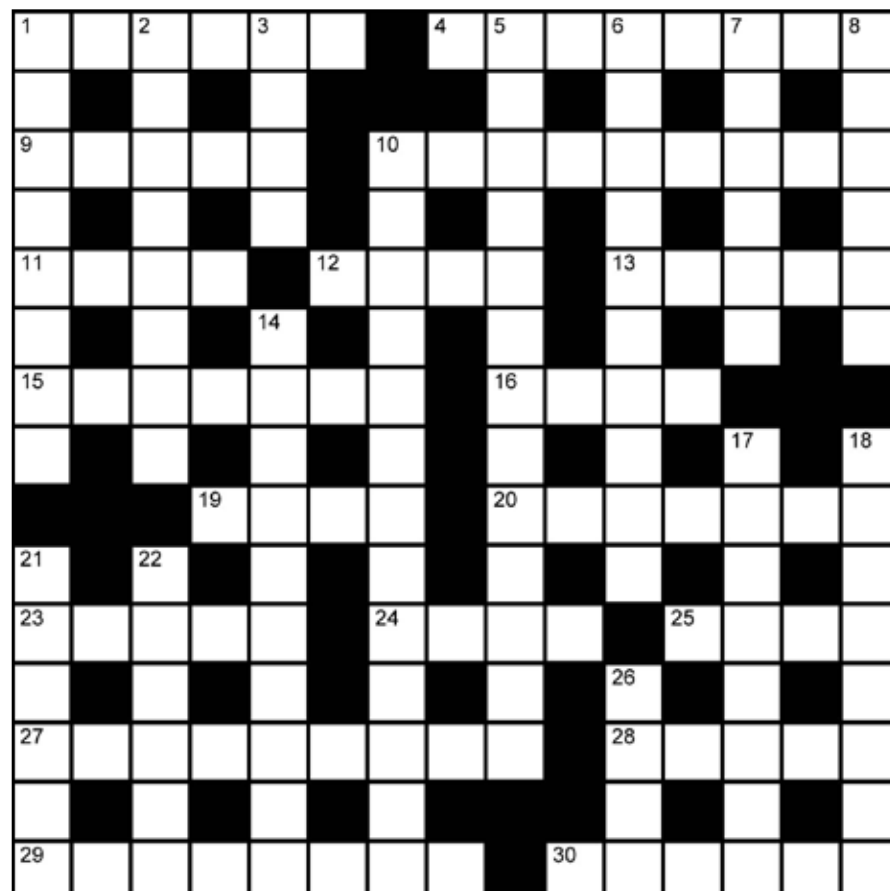
Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 1/24/25 Sold fake video with Charles's head being dolled up a treat (6,4,4)
 4 The decks are wonky in what is drawn (8)
 9 Dissatisfaction with how contrary bipolar issue is sorted out (5)
 10 See 20
 11 Note: I object to being stuck in a box as a stereotype (4)
 12 Exploit after 10 for a treat (4)
 13 Odds are they are the opposite!? (5)
 15 Sounds like slap in the face from Pooh's companion is something that can make you a fool (7)
 16 Till some fields around Taunton (4)
 19 Where Johnson learned to be the precursor of mess (4)
 20/10 For a treat teach a clothed boy somersaults (5,2,9)
 23 Bomb 25 as a treat (5)
 24 See 1
 25 See 1
 27 Pauses can break up what might lead to a great cacophony when striking (9)
 28 Information that is being rubbed out from story (5)
 29 Clever genes did this? (8)
 30 Half of what needs to be minded when receiving gift book (6)

Down

- 1 Walter Mitty and Don Quixote smeared bananas over Arnold Schwarzenegger's bottom (8)



- 2 Deadly model woman eats decapitated man (8)
 3 Back part of pedalo into duck pond (4)
 5 Top cook's drunk, totally drunk, after Mickey being taken (8,5)
 6 Accidentally stab knee to end up with a cut (1-4,5)
 7 Pulled the wool over someone's eyes and forced out a brief but deep laugh beforehand (6)
 8 Smart doctor takes the old back and fills it with empty sausages (6)
 10 Nonsensical film embracing the route to stuck-up views in childhood (8,5)
 14 In rage with BT, bent blasted contraption a treat (10)
 17 Ballistic device destroys her plans (8)
 18 Two joints badly articulated in the mountains? (8)
 21 Unable to sell recording about Triumph opposite (6)
 22 Flings a detective's bad report in the air? (6)
 26 A woman has these after 10 for a treat (4)

Andrew Tatham

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



Mickleham Churchyard 24th February

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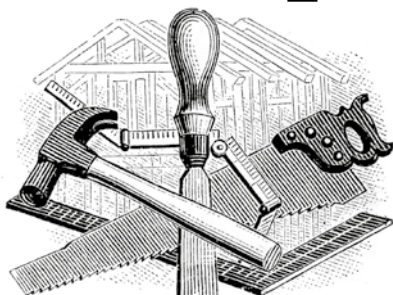
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