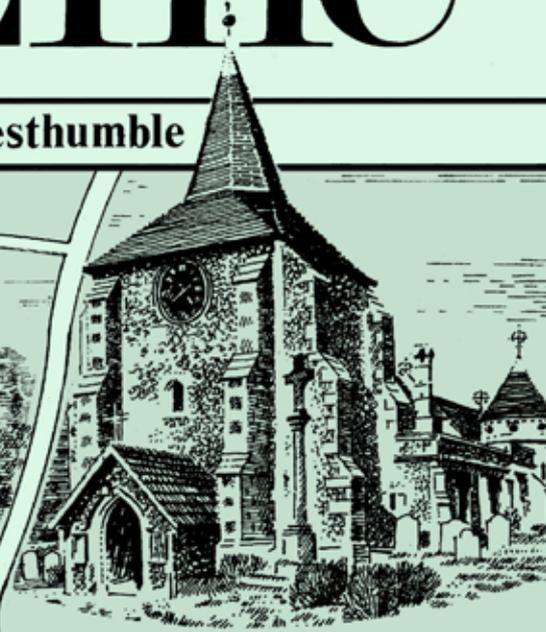


MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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December 2019

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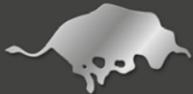
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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

Mickleham Rectory

December
2019

Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

**COPY DEADLINE
FOR THE
FEBRUARY 2020
MAGAZINE
Sunday
12th January**

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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Portsmouth

Dear Friends,

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1952, when Korea was in the throes of civil war, one young woman struggled along a village street, obviously soon to deliver a child. She pleaded with passersby 'Help me! Please. My baby' but no one paid any her any attention. A middle-aged couple walked by. The wife pushed away the young mother and sneered, 'Where's the father? Where's your American man now?' The couple laughed and went on. The young woman almost doubled up from a contraction as she watched them go. 'Please . . .' she begged.

She had heard of a missionary living nearby so she began walking to that village. Shivering and in pain, she struggled over the frozen countryside. But the night was so cold. Snow began to fall. Realizing that the time was near to deliver her baby, she took shelter under a bridge. There, alone, her baby was born on Christmas Eve. Worried about her newborn son, she took off her own clothes, wrapped them around the baby and held him close in the warm circle of her arms. The next day, the missionary braved the new snow to deliver Christmas packages. As he walked along, he heard the cry of a baby. He followed the sound to a bridge. Under it, he found a young mother frozen to death, still clutching her crying new born son. The missionary tenderly lifted the baby out of her arms.

When the baby was 10 years old, his adoptive father told him the story of his mother's death on Christmas Eve. The young boy cried, realizing the sacrifice his mother had made for him. The next morning, the missionary rose early to find the boy's bed empty. Seeing a fresh set of small footprints in the snow outside, he bundled up warmly in a winter coat and followed the trail. It led back to the bridge where the young mother had died. As the missionary approached the bridge, he stopped, stunned. Kneeling in the snow was his son, naked and shivering uncontrollably. His clothes lay beside him in a small pile. Moving closer, he heard the boy say through chattering teeth, 'Mother, were you this cold for me?'

This possibly fictional story reminds me of another mother and Son who sacrificed so much. One winter night, Jesus left his home, His glory and the warmth of heaven to be born in a stable to an unwelcome world. Just before He was born, Mary, His mother, was not welcome in any of the cozy inns in Bethlehem. Instead, she delivered her baby in the darkness of a cold stable. The Creator of the Universe, the Perfect Judge who could destroy the world with a single word, was willing to endure this inauspicious beginning for you and me. That is unconditional love!

We who have experienced God's unconditional love are commanded to share that love with others. We read in 1 John 4:11 '**Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.**' God wants us to express His supernatural love to others. We become examples of God's love to the world as we love our neighbours through the enabling of His Holy Spirit.

This Christmas season, and on into the New Year, let us remind one another that nothing breaks the hardened ground of unforgiveness and bitterness like sincere acts and words of love. There is no power on earth stronger than God's supernatural love.

Sue and I pray that you will all enjoy the blessings of this season of love.



The Reverend Canon John Harkin, Mickleham Parish Priest

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Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 15th December
St Michael's Church 6.30 pm

As in past years additional singers are invited to sing with the church choir.
Rehearsals start in church on Sunday 24th November at 4 pm and will continue for the following two Sundays with a brief one before the service on the 15th.



Advent Course

This year our Advent Course will use the book 'Cover to Cover – Journey to Christmas' written by a team from 24-7 Prayer, to help us on our journey through the month of December, travelling with our hearts, minds and souls.

Group members will need to book a place on the course and follow individual daily readings from the book. The readings begin on Advent Sunday 1st December, and each day will include a short time of stillness, reading a Bible passage, reflecting on it and surrendering ourselves to God's will in our lives.

We will meet on December Monday evenings from 7.30pm at the Rectory to discuss and pray about:

2nd Journeying with Elizabeth and Zechariah

9th Journeying with Mary

16th Journeying with Joseph

23rd Journeying to Jesus

To ensure your place for our evenings, as we journey towards the celebration of Christ's birth together, please contact Canon John and Sue on 01372 378335 or harkin12@btinternet.com

Canon John and Sue



The final preparations are under way for our annual Crib Service but we still need battalions of angels, flocks of shepherds and a camel train of Wise Men. Children and adults alike are welcome to come suitably dressed so seek out your old tea towels, curtains and dressing gowns and join us. Please remember it will be the middle of winter, so dress warmly and bring a torch!

Christmas Eve Crib Service

Christmas Eve at 4 pm

We will be starting our procession at 4 pm on Christmas Eve at the junction of Adlers Lane, Burney Road and Chapel Lane and will process to the Westhumble Bonfire Field where the children will form a tableau to depict the story of Jesus' birth in that humble stable in Bethlehem. Along the way will be readings by the children and carols which help tell the story.

If you haven't been before, make this the year you join us to experience something truly delightful. The Crib Service is not just for children; everybody is welcome. Following the service, which will last no more than 40 minutes, there will be refreshments and the opportunity to exchange greetings with all your friends and neighbours.

The retiring collection this year will be in aid of the Leatherhead Youth Project which aims to help young people, particularly from North Leatherhead, achieve the necessary experience and life skills to help them into work when they leave school. If you have not visited their café at All Saints just off the Plough roundabout in Leatherhead, do try it, the coffee and pastries are really good.

If your child would like to take a leading role as one of the main characters in the tableau or as a reader, please contact Anne Weaver as soon as you can. We look forward to seeing you all on Christmas Eve.

Anne Weaver, 01306 883932
weaver_anne@hotmail.com

Children's Christmas Workshop
Sunday 1st December
St Michael's School – 9.15 am
followed by
The Christingle Service
St Michael's Church – 11 am

The editors and the magazine's panel members wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

During your preparations for the coming festive season, spare a thought for those whose Christmas fare may be sadly wanting. Items for the foodbank may be left at the back of the church

Warmest Christmas wishes and a happy & healthy New Year to all our local friends

Bernie & Denis Bailey, Mary & John Banfield,
Jo & Paul Brown, Cathy Cain
Andy Diamond, Carole & Jim Fuller
Rosemary Glover, Val & Mick Hallett
John & Sue Harkin, May Hardwicke
Frances Presley, Stephanie Randall
Fiona Roberts-Miller, Rose & Stan Spence
Amy, Simon, Martha & Verity Ward
Frank Warren, Sue & Ben Tatham

This year we are sending our Christmas greetings through the parish Magazine and giving the money saved on cards and postage to charity. The money raised by this MPM Christmas card will be given to St Michael's C of E Infant School and St Michael's Community Nursery

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Details on page 26

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Christmas Caroling



Carol singing in the
Chapel ruins, Chapel Lane,
Westhumble

Tuesday 17th December
6.30 p.m.

see page 27 for details

Carol Singing Pub Crawl
Friday 20th December

7.15 pm	Stepping Stones
8 pm	The Running Horses
8.45 pm	King William IV

The Christmas Café

returns to (the newly refurbished)

Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 14th December

2 to 4 pm

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For more info

contact:jennyhudlass01@gmail.com



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Japan – Rugby World Cup 2019



Left: David and Angela (in caps) and Emma seen on TV news in England; above: Mount Fuji

When David tentatively suggested a few years ago that we might go to Japan in 2019 for the World Cup Rugby, I was immediately interested. We both enjoy watching top class rugby and had never been to Japan so it seemed to 'kill two birds with one stone'. When England Rugby Travel brought out their packages two years ago (the only way of being sure of tickets for the games unless you are extraordinarily well-connected) we duly paid our deposit and signed on for the semi-finals and finals. At that time England rugby was somewhat in the doldrums so we held no real hope of seeing England play. Nevertheless one always hopes and a

week before we were due to leave we were thrilled to discover that England was through to the semi-final. We were then privileged to see our team beat the All Blacks in what was certainly the best game of the tournament. On our way into the ground with a new friend who was carrying a large England flag we were approached by a BBC cameraman who duly filmed us for the 10 o'clock news. Several friends who knew we were there spotted us and sent us the attached pictures – fame at last! Members of our party were filmed a few days later visiting Mount Fuji and appeared on ITV News at Ten. We were also filmed by Japanese networks so it was a bit of a media frenzy!

Nothing prepares you for Japan and the Greater Tokyo area in particular, with its huge population of over 40 million, its remarkable train networks where 12 seconds is counted as 'late' and bullet trains cover journeys of 300 miles in just over 2 hours, or the city's pedestrian crossings which are 10 people wide and fully occupied whenever lights allow crossing. And where there is such an extraordinary range of shops, restaurants and

entertainment venues, all fronted with huge fluorescent advertising boards which make the streets seem like a Disney Park.

We British felt very much at home as the Japanese are so law-abiding and are even better than we are at queuing! There are orderly queues for all the trains but they come so frequently that you have nothing to fear as everyone gets on. They queue for the pedestrian crossings but again, as they are so wide, everyone gets across. There are fines for jay-walking but you really would not want to as the traffic is constant and the lights change frequently to allow pedestrians to cross. You are not allowed to eat or drink in the street and nobody, but nobody drops litter. How amazing to train a whole nation not to drop litter! On trains there are frequent announcements reminding you to put your phone on silent and not to take calls. Almost everybody has their phone in their hands on a train but nobody breaks the silence rule. Instead of talking they pass their time watching videos, playing games or browsing the internet. This was the only rule which was a little difficult for excited England supporters, particularly after the semi-final!

We enjoyed the most fascinating fortnight, in no small part due to our excellent Japanese hosts and to cap it all saw some brilliant games of rugby - despite our momentary disappointment after the final. Roll on France in 4 years' time!

Angela Ireland

Mickleham Choral Society Remembrance Concert



It is good to see how highly such concerts are valued: the church was packed: those arriving last had a struggle to find anywhere to sit. This was the second concert of the Society that I have attended. The first, in mid-summer, was a delight, leading me to have high expectations this time. I was not disappointed.

The theme – Eventide – captured the sombre mood of the day that had earlier seen a large crowd assembled around the churchyard Memorial to hear the names of the fallen and observe the two minutes silence. Then we had been in bright sunshine. As I arrived for the concert, the moon, near to full, hung above the church in an increasingly hazy sky; with no intrusive lighting to spoil it, the scene was perfectly matched to the occasion.

What of the music?

William Henry Monk was a Victorian organist, composer and editor. His most famous work is 'Abide With Me', which the choir sang to a soft organ accompaniment, humming the tune while Martin Cox, (the announcer on Britain's Got Talent, among his other roles) read aloud in strong clear tones words that set the Remembrance scene.

Our conductor, Juliet Hornby, then introduced the next item, Mendelssohn's 'Hear My Prayer'. She reminded us that this was sung by Ernest Lough on a world-famous recording from 1927. I remember it well myself as one of the staples of 'Your Hundred Best Tunes' when Alan Keith was the presenter; usually you only got the last part, 'O For The Wings of a Dove'. Anna Leon took the solo part, and having sung 'Summertime' so exquisitely in the summer concert, gave no less beautiful a performance of this. She has that rare ability to let her voice soar to the highest notes with perfect phrasing and absolute sweetness, even at the very softest level of volume. And the acoustics of St Michael's, which are very dry, could do nothing to spoil any of it. When the choir entered, their own singing was well balanced and controlled.

Martin then read 'Shadows' by DH Lawrence. The choir sang 'The Long Day Closes' by Sir Arthur Sullivan, whom I have always thought to be a greatly underrated composer. I have sung this myself and it is packed with feeling, yet free of mawkishness. And then Brahms: 'Der Abend' – unknown to me; but I shall listen out for it again.

Three Yiddish folk songs followed, set by Ian Assersohn. (His wife Jan was our superb accompanist: for these pieces she moved from the organ to the piano.) The songs are strong and rhythmic, the setting inventive, and the choir members were soon swaying in time to them with obvious delight and enthusiasm.

Another reading by Martin, this time of 'The Music is Always the Same' by Ralph Hittman. The theme essentially 'count your blessings!'. And I think we did.

Lastly, two beautiful pieces for the Choir: 'Jenny' by Mike Myers, and 'The Poppy Red' by Park: an evocation of Flanders' Fields. The singing was simply lovely: it put me in mind of those words of Siegfried Sassoon in 'Everyone suddenly burst out singing' where he says '... the singing will never be done'. May he be right!

As the church lights were dimmed Patrick O'Neill took up his trumpet and sounded 'The Last Post' – a fitting end to a fine concert for which we must give heartfelt thanks to everyone concerned. Not least to God, for the wonderful and sublime gift of good music.

David Fishwick

Here we go again – another
Greek Evening & Movie Singalong
Saturday 18th January 2020

Come on you Dancing Queens! A reminder that tickets are selling fast for Mickleham's January 18th post-Christmas blues Greek island event.

Here We Go Again to the magical island we visited via the big screen last year, and moves the story on a few years. All your favourite ABBA songs and more.

Tickets £15 from Annie Dennis
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The Changing Nature of Chapel Farm

Chapel Farm

Exciting news about the future of the Chapel Farmland.

National Trust's ambitious strategy 'Land, Outdoors and Nature' (LON) aims to help reverse the declines in wildlife and deliver a healthier, more beautiful environment, with at least 50% of its farmland to be 'nature-friendly' by 2025 and all of it eventually. I have been working on behalf of NT together with Steve Conisbee, NT Tenant Farmer, to put this into practice at Chapel Farm.

We signed an agreement that will enable viable farming with farmland that will support more diverse flora and fauna in a sustainable way. Chapel Farm is ideally placed near to other NT sites so we can work on a landscape scale and create wildlife corridors to connect to these other sites.

Some of the fields will be divided into smaller parcels to produce grazing/silage fields plus wildlife fields. The higher fields will be used to create a wildlife friendly habitat, probably grazed early April and then late July after flowering. Key to increasing the diversity is to create a varied sward, so no rolling, harrowing or topping of the fields. This means the fields will look less 'tidy' but will provide more suitable habitats for a greater variety of species.

The wildlife fields will not be fertilised, although there will be low-level fertilisers in some grazing fields to allow Steve more grass production. Wormers and herbicides will not be used except for spot spraying of ragwort, creeping thistle and spear thistle.

New double fenced hedgerows will be established consisting of English native species and including fruit bearing trees



such as crab apples. In addition to this some open grown trees will be planted. We will establish an orchard in the southern corner of the field closest to the village and would like to find out if Westhumble villagers might like to be involved in this in some way. This has worked well in places such as Outwood where they even have an annual community wassail. If you have any thoughts on this please email me, Mark Dawson, on mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk. We are also looking to see if any beekeepers would like to establish hives in the orchard.

All of this is to be implemented in the next two years, longer term there are plans for further wildlife improvements including field margins cultivated for birds and invertebrates. We will be organising a date late next spring to show villagers what we are doing.

Both Steve and I are fully committed to the proposed outcomes of farming in a way that benefits both the farmer and the environment. This is a big project with significant costs associated with double fencing and planting new hedgerows and carrying out surveys to be able to monitor progress. The cost of this project has now been approved to receive NT LON funding which is a huge boost for all of the NT team involved and Steve Conisbee. The project is now up and running and we look forward to seeing the valley becoming increasingly rich in wildflowers, insects and birds as the years pass.

Mark Dawson, NT Lead Ranger



Pop-up Conservation



In October Box Hill had a visit from the well-known, passionate supporter of wildlife, Chris Packham. He carried out a pop-up conservation event on the Viewpoint – 'Let's go Fly a Harrier' - to raise awareness of the loss of the birds and other wildlife in the UK. He had 100 hand-painted paper hen harrier kites for sale to raise funds. Chris chatted to everyone who wanted to and autographed kites. There was a slight design fault though – they did not fly! Chris gave an amusing explanation for this and then talked about the plight of the harrier generally. People did not seem to mind that the kites stalled as it was all in a good cause.

BRAIN TEASER

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

E anything
anything
anything
anything

Answer on page 26



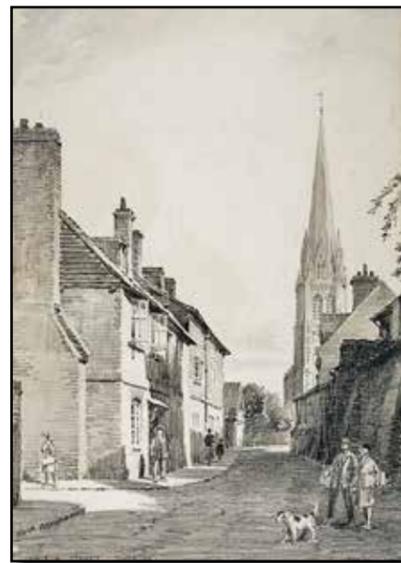
Dorking Museum

Dorking Museum offers seasonal greetings to all readers and to our supporters and friends. As usual, there is always a lot going on at the Museum.

Our new exhibition, 'Dorking: the Town and its Landscapes from 1900 to the Present Day', opens on January 23rd. The Museum's curator of paintings, Sandra Wedgwood, has been gathering together paintings and drawings of the area, from conventional views to interesting interpretations of the local townscape and landscape. The exhibition documents how the topography that we all know has been

interpreted over this period, including works by prominent local artists like Charles Collins and those who visited and captured local views like Arthur C Fare as well as more contemporary interpretations such as that by Harvey and Ackroyd and even views from a drone. As Sandra says, 'I want people to look closely at the images on the wall rather than to read words about them. I hope that they will find them fascinating.'

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.



Church Street by A C Fare (Dorking Museum Collection).

Leatherhead Community Centre

At the Leatherhead Community Association. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the many events that will take place over the next four months. These include trips to London and beyond, short and longer walks that so many enjoy (with the pub visits) and tickets for some lovely

concerts in the Festival Hall in the New Year. Every month there is Tea and Talks, a recorded music afternoon and Book Club, Scrabble every other Friday, Table Tennis and snooker every Monday and Social Bridge every Friday. Also, there are many classes to join, Art, Languages or Keep Fit to name only three, and rooms for hire in the

Institute maybe to give classes or for a one-off lecture.

The Institute is on the left at the top of Leatherhead High Street and full details are available from the office where Trudy is always happy to help you with any questions between 9 am and 12 noon every weekday morning - lca2@btconnect.com 01372 360508

Becky's Bus in Lesvos

Rebecca Dykes was living in Lebanon in the British Embassy working for the Department for International Development, helping Lebanon cope with the number of refugees from the war in neighbouring Syria, before she was senselessly killed 2 years ago. Since her death, her family have set up The Rebecca Dykes Foundation and Becky's Showers and Bus.

'Becky's Bus' provides mini-buses for women refugees in Lesvos to have safe transport to and from 'Becky's Showers'. Tracy Kennington helped raise funds for the first mini-bus with two recitals last year and this provision is now so popular that another mini-bus is needed.

A week ago the man who murdered Becky was given the death penalty

in Lebanon and Tracy would like this concert to be a big push to help raise as much as possible for this second bus in memory of Becky and to continue to help her family move forward.

Tracy is arranging another recital in January (see below) to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause. Your support at this first of 2020's Sundays at Seven would greatly appreciated.

Sundays at Seven

Sundays at Seven

Song Recital Joshua Geddes with Tracy Kennington piano.

5th January 7 pm

St. Michael's Church, Mickleham

Joshua will be singing Wagner: Wesendonck Lieder followed by Hans Sach's Wahn Monologue from Meistersinger.

Joshua is in his final year at Cambridge reading Music. He was Tracy's piano pupil at St John's Leatherhead for five years taking his ABRSM Diploma and entering Cambridge as a pianist, but secretly, singing was always his first love.

Retiring Collection for Becky's Bus In Lesvos. 01372 362309 or tracykennington@gmail.com

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

Researching the History of your House

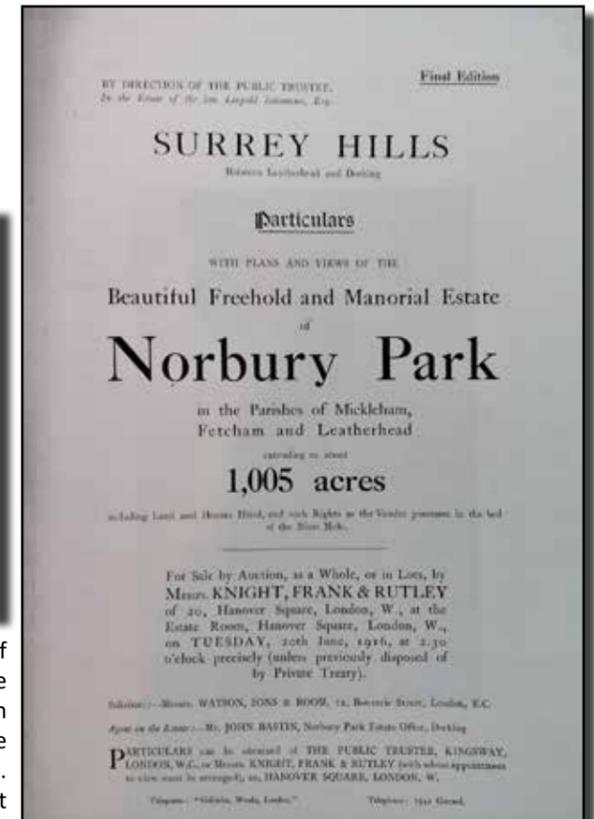


Have you ever wondered how to research the history of your house? Would you like to know when it was built or who the former occupants were? Finding the answers to these questions can seem a challenging prospect but on 5th November our group of sixteen house history enthusiasts arrived at the Stepping Stones pub, ready to learn from local historian and genealogist, Lorraine Spindler, how to become successful 'house detectives'. Lorraine began by telling us that establishing the age of a property can be difficult because many houses now look totally different from when they were built, having been added to over the years or almost completely rebuilt. I immediately thought of our house, Mickleham Cottage, which had three separate additions in the 19th century, hiding the original cottage in the middle.

Dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) can be used to date timber-framed buildings. Analysis of timber from Fyfield Hall in Essex established that it was constructed in the second half of the 12th century. Architectural experts have dated stone buildings such as Saltford Manor in Somerset and the Jew's House in Lincoln to the mid-12th century from a study of the windows and doorways. Old photos and sketches of Saltford Manor show some of the changes it has undergone in more recent times. Although it is probably unlikely that any of our group will live in such an ancient building, Lorraine stressed the importance of putting together a photographic record of both

the inside and outside of our house (including the garden) and a written description of the architectural features. These can be useful not only for us now but also for historians in the future.

Lorraine then gave us an introduction to some of the many resources available. Detailed historical information about Mickleham and Westhumble can be found free of charge online and eBay is a useful source of old postcards and photographs (and, luckily for us, old Mickleham Parish magazines). Manorial court rolls, held at the Surrey History Centre, can help pinpoint owners of the land on which a house was built as they contain names of tenants and descriptions of properties although they were written in Latin until 1733. Maps are also a vital resource, the tithe maps and apportionments of the 1830s listing landowners and occupiers, property details and the rent charged. The original Mickleham tithe map is at the Surrey History Centre and we have a copy in the History Group archives. Ordnance Survey maps show how an area changed over time and, depending on when a house first appears, can give an indication of when it was built. The Valuation Office Survey, also known as the Lloyd George Domesday Survey and begun in 1910, combines maps and field books to give detailed information about individual properties. Sales particulars are invaluable as they normally contain photographs and



Left: a post card of Byttom Hill in the early 1900s; above: sale details of Norbury Park in 1916

often describe individual rooms in a house. A variety of tax records are now becoming available. Although most of us are familiar with the poll tax (levied for centuries, not just by Margaret Thatcher!) and possibly taxes on land and windows, there were also taxes on hearths, bricks and even wallpaper. Many people will not have the title deeds to their house but information on previous owners and dates when the property was sold can often be found in old newspapers. Those of us particularly interested in researching the former occupants will need to look at documents such as census returns, birth, marriage and death records and electoral registers. Although available by paid subscription from genealogy websites Find My Past (which includes a newspaper archive) and Ancestry these can be searched free of charge in Surrey Libraries.

Finally, Lorraine pointed out that it is also possible to employ professional house historians. This, however, is the expensive option. It is surely much more fun (and cheaper) to use the information Lorraine gave us to begin our own detective work.

Judith Long

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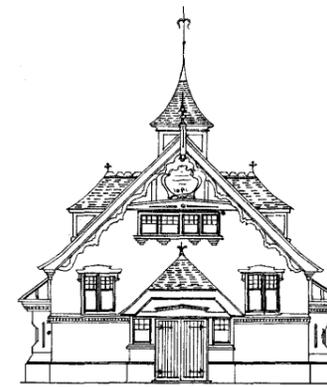
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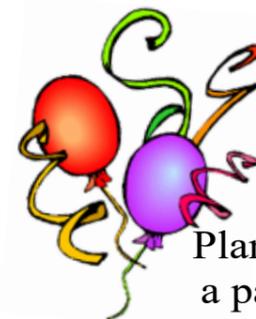


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Community Directory

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Head Ranger – Mark Dawson 01306 885502
mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk
01737 842889
lyn@mra.uk.net
- Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards
- BOX HILL SCHOOL
Headmaster – Cory Lowde 01372 374814
HMPA@boxhillschool.com
- DORKING CRICKET CLUB
Chairman – David Spackman 07831 859232
david@theimagecompany.co.uk
- DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth 01737 24491
patriciabooth100@gmail.com
- DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB
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jim.cattermole@uwclub.net
- DORKING RUGBY CLUB
Jim Evans 07789 176417
jim@flintcottage.net
- THE GARDEN SHED
Pauline Davis 07759 646 353
paulinemdavis@gmail.com
07768 923 088
susiegowenlock@gmail.com
- Susie Gowenlock
- JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501
enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org
Head of Centre – Simon Ward Simon.lr@field-studies-council.org
Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 01483 281935
suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt 07767 891772
sarah@sarahparfitt.com
- MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106
Secretary – Anne Weaver 01306 883932
www.micklehamchoral.org.uk secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk
- MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB
Secretary – John Atewell 01372 374745
- MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES www.micklehampc.org.uk
Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland 01372 379381
rev.ireland43@btinternet.com
trevor.haylett9@gmail.com
- Parish Clerk – Trevor Haylett
- MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE
Editor – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
editor@micklehammag.co.uk
01306 884025
editor@micklehammag.co.uk
Administrator – Fiona Roberts-Miller 01306 740851
admin@micklehammag.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
chairman@micklehamvh.co.uk
07790 941601
bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk
- Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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Duty days primarily Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

CHURCHWARDENS
John Banfield 01372 373912
churchwardens@micklehamchurch.org.uk
Sarah Blake 07736 235709
churchwardens@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Alison Wood 01372 376443
admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC SECRETARY
Elizabeth Moughton 01306 883040
pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

TREASURER
Richard Siberry 01372 375303
pcctreasurer@micklehamchurch.org.uk

WEDDINGS CO-ORDINATOR
Elaine Machin 01372 724972
weddings@micklehamchurch.org.uk

BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR
Vickie Leney 01306 884054
baptisms@micklehamchurch.org.uk

FUNERALS ORGANISER
Brian Wilcox 01372 374730
funerals@micklehamchurch.org.uk

WEBSITE MANAGER
Sarah Ward 01372 383350
website@micklehamchurch.org.uk

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

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

REGISTERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE
1st November David Bates



Calendar of Events December

1 SUNDAY 1st Sunday of Advent 8 am
9.15 am - 10.45 am
11 am
2 Monday 7.30 pm
3 Tuesday 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm

8 SUNDAY 2nd Sunday of Advent 8 am
10 am
11.30 am
9 Monday 7.30 pm
10 Tuesday 5 pm
13 Friday 8 pm

13 Friday 10 am and 11.15 am
14 Saturday 2 pm to 4 pm

15 SUNDAY 3rd Sunday of Advent 8 am
10 am
6.30 pm

16 Monday 7.30 pm
17 Tuesday 6.30 pm
20 Friday 1.30 pm
7.15 pm

21 Saturday 9 am
22 SUNDAY 4th Sunday of Advent 8 am
10 am
20 Saturday 9 am
23 Monday 7.30 pm
24 Wednesday Christmas Eve 4 pm
11.30pm

25 Wednesday CHRISTMAS DAY 10am
29 SUNDAY 1st Sunday of Christmas 10am

Holy Communion
Christingle Workshop at St. Michael's School
Christingle Family Service
Advent Course at the Rectory
Prayer Meeting in church

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Morning Prayer at the Chapel
Advent Course at the Rectory
Box Hill School Boarders Carol Service in church
Mickleham Choral Society Carol Party Mickleham Village Hall
Box Hill School End of Term Services in church
The Christmas Café in Westhumble Chapel

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Carols by Candlelight in church

Advent Course at the Rectory
Christmas Carols in Westhumble Chapel ruins
St. Michael's School End of Term Service
Carol singing around the Pubs see p5
Men's Breakfast

Holy Communion at the Chapel
Holy Communion
Men's Breakfast
Advent Course at the Rectory
Crib Service in Westhumble Field
Midnight Communion

Family Christmas Day Communion
Holy Communion

January

5 SUNDAY The Epiphany 8am
10am
7 pm
6 Monday 7.30pm
7 Tuesday 7.30pm - 8.30pm
11 Saturday 5pm - 10pm

12 SUNDAY 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 8am
10am
11.30am
13 Monday 9.15am
18 Saturday 10.30am - 4pm

19 SUNDAY 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8am
10am

26 SUNDAY 4th Sunday of Epiphany 8am
10am

Holy Communion
Family Service
Sunday at Seven Recital In church
PCC meeting in the Ranmore Room
Prayer Meeting in Church
Pop-Up Pub in Westhumble Chapel

Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Morning Prayer at the Chapel
St. Michael's School Assembly in Church
PCC Away Day at Westhumble Chapel
Greek Evening & Movie Singalong
Mickleham Village Hall

Holy Communion
Holy Communion

Holy Communion at the Chapel
Holy Communion

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

Requests to Mary Banfield 01372 373912
or leave a message on answerphone.

Callers will be contacted within 24 hours

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

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BOOK CLUB**
Bernice Bailey 01306 741310
bpbailey_uk@yahoo.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB**
Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbelle0044@hotmail.com
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE CRICKET CLUB**
Membership contact Will Dennis 07903 842674
wdwdennis@icloud.com
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**
Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com
- MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
ben@thetatham.co.uk
www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/
- MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Councillor Elsie Rosam 01306 885001
01306 885695
elsierosam29@gmail.com
- THE ARTS SOCIETIES (FORMERLY NADFAS)**
Betchworth – Mary Venning 01306 883301
Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
Leatherhead – Sarah Sheridan 01306 883699
- ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (A) INFANT SCHOOL** 01372 373717
info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk
- Friends of St Michael's School
Co-chairs Danielle Morrison and Debbie Turner
friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com
- ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY**
WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Supervisor – Hilary Budd 01372 361021
stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com
- SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL** 03456 009 009
Councillor – Hazel Watson 01306 880120
hva.watson@btinternet.com
- SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST** 01483 795440
info@surreywt.org.uk
- WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**
David Allbeury 07860 227451
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com
- WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**
Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury 07860 227451
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com
- ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**
- CITIZENS ADVICE**
Dorking – Lyons Court 0844 4111 444
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 0844 4111 444
- CRIMESTOPPERS** 0800 555 111
- POLICE Non-emergencies** 101
(often quicker to make online report) <https://report.police.uk/>
Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East
PCSO 8761 Dave Sadler To contact a member of the
PCSO 15904 Sophia Manelfi team call 101 and your call
PC 2799 Sue Gargini will be put through.
General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk

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Alasdair Wise 01306 884694
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Issy Nash* 01306 742762
Skye Moran 01306 640043
Patrick Moran 01306 640043
Amber Miller 01306 883659
Katie Light 01306 881953
Rory Lee **07973 360 950
Ellie Kim 07773 395 575
Tatiana Fleming-Smith **07799 061 288
Chelsea Edwards 01306 884133
Philomena Ala 07789 727682
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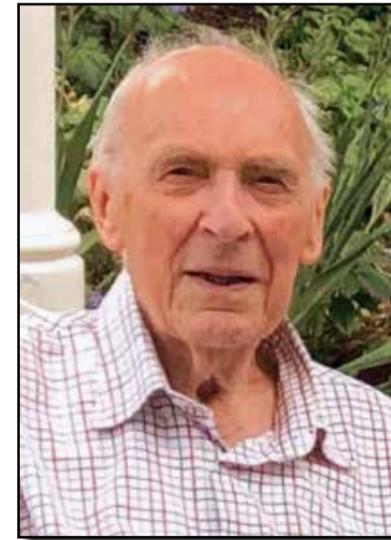
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David Bates 1932 - 2019

after he answered the phone at home
to Edward Heath.

What they were not aware of then,
but has been repeated many times in
letters after his death, is that those who
worked with David at Freshfields were
in awe of his intellect, his rigour and his
unswerving decency.

Matthew said that the family memories
are linked to places. Home in East
Horsley in the early years; holidays
in Tresco reached by sleeper train
and helicopter; time spent in Corsica
where David took the family while
on sabbatical. David bought a sailing
dinghy which he towed behind the car
all the way from Surrey to Corsica. The
naming of the dinghy illustrates much
about David. He loved words – the
games and the tricks they could play.
He named the boat Provided. He said,
'Provided I don't capsize' or 'Provided By
the fees I charge my clients', of course,
said Matthew, now I also see the boat
was also 'provided' for the family by his
generosity and foresight.

For nearly 40 years family holidays were
on Paxos where everyone, children,
grandchildren, friends, boyfriends,
girlfriends, was welcomed into the
family circle. The Paxos holidays
provided very happy memories and a
glue that has bonded the family.

Matthew concluded with words for
David's grandchildren. 'Your grandfather
was an extraordinary man. Remember
him with love. And through your long
and complicated lives keep the memory
of his unfailing kindness as your guiding
light. That light will bring you to the
right destination.'

Six grandchildren then finished the
ceremony with bidding prayers.

We send our deepest sympathy and
warmest wishes to all the family.

David Bates passed away in October.
At his funeral his son Matthew paid
tribute on behalf of the family. He spoke
of the Bates family's background - happy,
loving parents, a solid, welcoming home
and the ever-present Labradors. He
acknowledged that the family were very
fortunate people and that they had their
father to thank for this good fortune.
Through his hard work, intelligence, his
honesty, but mainly through his love
and his kindness, he provided a world of
love and stability for his children.

David was born in Kingston. His father
was a lawyer and his mother had
briefly been an actress. Prep school and
Haileybury were followed by national
service in the Royal Navy and then into
a career in the law.

David's career at Freshfields was long
and successful. He was one of a handful
of partners who transformed the firm
into the global entity it has become
today. His family could see as they grew
up that their father worked hard. And
once in a while they would be reminded
that he worked for exceptional people.
As children they were fascinated to
find out that he had meetings with
Princess Margaret, and teased their
brother Paul (then aged about 6 or 7)

Community News

Congratulations to Liz and Mike
Harper on the safe arrival of their
third grandchild Sophia Elizabeth born
to Clare and Mark in Dorset on 12th
November.

If you have any community news,
for example, new neighbours, old
neighbours moving out, new babies etc,
please let us know. We do not specify
the house, but people appreciate
keeping up with local news.

Send any information to editor@
micklehammag.co.uk



Wassail
Pop-up Pub
Saturday 11th
January
5 pm to 10 pm

Come and catch up with friends
and meet up with neighbours at the
Westhumble Pop-up Pub. Everybody
is always welcome - bring others or
come on your own.

Beer, wine and warming wassail
cup on offer as well as soft
options. Help us celebrate the first
Pop-up in the newly refurbished
chapel!

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Westhumble's Annual Bonfire and Fireworks Display

Photographers Christie, Budleigh and Daruwalla



The weather was not very kind to the bonfire builders this year, so we owe them all the more gratitude for the great job they did. The morning of 2nd November saw heavy rain and the field was very muddy. However, by the hour designated for the torchlight procession the skies were reasonably clear and families gathered to walk down Adlers Lane following the Guy to his fate. At this stage the crowd seemed smaller than in recent years but more and more people arrived and drifted into the field.

The Guy was lifted up the ladder to his perch. The bonfire was a brilliant success, lighting up the field and keeping us warm. Guy did not have a chance but at least it was all over quickly for him. This year he was made by the Christie family - many thanks to them.

By the time the bonfire was lit a massive crowd was assembled, with so many very small people running around, enjoying the alternative 'sparklers', the hot dogs and the fireworks. Most of them seem quite unperturbed by the bangs. Not so sure about some of the adults!

The display was spectacular, with rockets soaring high into the sky before bursting in to multi-coloured showers. Every year it seems that the fireworks have become more ingenious, although some of us still miss the Catherine wheels that were reluctant to spin and the 'Goodnight Everyone' which ended the display for many years.

As usual, many thanks to Neil Mason for the firework display, Mike Weller and Chris Budleigh as the master bonfire builders and all the others who helped. If you were unable to help this year, please make a point of doing so next year. Do not leave it to the same small band who have done it for many years now.

Thanks also to Lucy Mason, Anne and Gerry Weaver and their helpers for the hot dogs and soup. A very good evening was had by all.

Top left: the Guy with Tom, Mia and James Christie; right and below: bonfire building, the bonfire burning well; the firework display.



Our first two events for 2020

Basket Weaving Course

Nicki and Jaz Rowling will help us each to make our own basket

Sunday 12th January 9.30 am to 5 pm

Mickleham Village Hall

Cost £80 including materials

Booking essential

Rose Pruning Course

with Will Burridge

Saturday 22nd February 10 am to 1 pm

in a garden at Westhumble

Booking is also essential for this event - Cost £20

To book contact Pauline Davis

paulinemdavis@gmail.com or 07759 646353

See the website for more details – <https://www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs/the-garden-shed/events/>

Any questions - Contact Pauline (details above) or Susie Gowenlock 07768 923 088 or susiegowenlock@gmail.com



National Trust Box Hill

It is hard to believe that the glorious hues of Autumn have already come and gone. We have had our half term hunt for mushrooms, the Ballbuster Race has run, fireworks are over and Christmas is only just around the corner.

We are happy to see our little Bugs again, our pre-school group enthusiastically led by Catherine, discovering the joys of the natural world. They are full at the moment with toddlers and carers but there are some places left for January 2020.

A month ago the Café and Servery changed the menu to dishes that are more warming in keeping with the change in the weather. We have some delicious one-pots to take away the chill of a winter walk. We have a tasty Squash

and Butterbean One Pot, a Vegetable and Coconut Curry and our customers' favourite, Mixed Bean Chilli is back. Soups are always very popular and this year our menu includes Parsnip and Apple, Cream of Mushroom and Leek and Potato to name a few. We will keep changing the selection offered for all our visitors that come on a regular basis. Do not forget we always have vegetarian, vegan and gluten Free options.

This is a lovely time to visit the shop as we have a great selection of Christmas goodies and gifts. There are special accompaniments for the Christmas meals, mince pie fudge, Christmas pudding chocolate and, of course, Christmas cards as well as calendars and diaries for 2020. For those hard to buy for people we have some warming



and popular rugs, games and outdoor equipment for sale as well as some charming stocking fillers for children.

We look forward to seeing everyone over the Christmas break, but remember we are closed on Christmas Day although the car park is still open for those who want some peace and quiet or to walk off their Christmas Lunch.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Trish Manuel

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Hello everybody

Its Christmas time at the Willy. The decorations are up and all the office party bookings are coming in. We set a record this year, Christmas Day lunch was fully booked by September this year, how crazy is that?

Greg and Leigh did a great quiz for us in November and it was great to see every seat taken. Congratulations to team Priestley the worthy winners - enjoy the bubbles!

As per usual we will be closed for part of January from January 6th to 22nd inclusive.

Seasons greetings Eamonn and Anne

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Cryptic Delicacies

As I sit to write this on Remembrance Sunday it is fitting to recall that the theme for last month's crossword was reflective of this time, featuring WILFRED OWEN and his ANTHEM FOR DOOMED YOUTH. For those of you not familiar with post First World War slang, PIP, SQUEAK and WILFRED were the nicknames given to the trio of MEDALS worn by veterans. As pictured, they were the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star (for those who had served overseas at the beginning of the war), the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal with its rainbow ribbon (it is inscribed on the back 'The Great War for Civilisation' which to me seems oxymoronic given the depths of barbarity that gripped all of the combatants and polluted their memories for the rest of their time on Earth). The nicknames came from a comic strip that ran in the Daily Mirror from 1919 to 1956, based on a family that was refreshingly free from genetic prejudice given that the 'father' PIP was a dog, the 'mother' SQUEAK was a penguin, and the 'young son' WILFRED was a rabbit with very long ears.

Here are some of the other clues:

9 Pine about the first cowboy? (5)

'cowboy' = INEPT (as in a cowboy builder)

'PINE' is anagrammed about followed by 'The first' = T

11 Stone made this as well in step-by-step procedure (7)

'Stone made this' = PLATOON (i.e. the Oscar-winning film directed by Oliver Stone)

'as well' = TOO, placed within 'step-by-step procedure' = PLAN

19 Maybe spatula stirring lust in nether place (7)

'Maybe spatula' = UTENSIL (i.e. 'maybe' is pointing to 'spatula' being an example of something). 'nether' is a way of referring to the last letter of 'place' which is stirred up with LUST IN

15 Unhappy smile may be produced by this tip? (7,3)

'Unhappy' = CHEESED OFF

'smile may be produced by this' = CHEESE (as used by photographers) and



Pip, Squeak and Wilfred

'tip' = DOFF (as in what is done to a hat).

18 Dash off loudly in front of soldiers and flags (8)

'flags' = PENNANTS

'Dash off' = PEN (as in 'to quickly write'), 'loudly' points to a homophone (i.e. PEN sounds like PENN) and 'soldiers' = ANTS

31 Exercise without hesitation is what you're called to do (4)

'what you are called to do' = DUTY
'hesitation' = 'er' and when you remove that from 'exERCise' you get 'excise' which also means DUTY

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



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society Poinsettias – Our Festive Favourite

If you are given any plant over the Christmas season, chances are that it will be a poinsettia, more often than not its showy bracts will be a vibrant red and it will be dead by Twelfth Night! However, they are interesting plants requiring exacting growing conditions, including an uninterrupted 12-14 hour period of darkness over several weeks to bring plants into flower which is when the colourful bracts appear. The true flowers are insignificant, it is the bracts which are formed from modified leaves which change colour to take over the role of petals.

Botanically named *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, its common name poinsettia is after Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American Ambassador to Mexico, who introduced the plant to the USA in 1828. In fact they are incredibly popular there, selling more than 33 million at

Thanksgiving and Christmas, and 12th December is National Poinsettia Day (when this year we may have other things to think about!)

Poinsettias grow wild in Mexico and Guatemala and are much less compact than the cultivars we are used to. Used by the Aztecs for medicinal purposes and dyes, they flower in autumn and winter, a feature which probably led to the plant's commercialisation. And what a success it has been, with breeders creating more robust and long-lasting plants with an increasing range of colours, shapes and forms. Do have a look in a good garden centre or flower shop for something a little bit different.

When buying a plant, choose one that is well grown and whose stems are not bare or yellowing and has its full complement of leaves. Take care when

transporting it home by making sure that it is wrapped up well to protect it from cold draughts. Once you have it home, find it a good place in natural daylight, out of cold or draughty situations but away from direct heat such as a radiator or fire.

Poinsettias will be happy in room temperatures warmer than 13C (55F); only water when the surface of the compost looks dry and if it is wilting do not assume it needs more water – it may be saturated.

All that remains is to go out to choose your plant, perhaps something a little more special than those offered by your local supermarket in the run-up to Christmas!

Judy Kinloch

Penelope Allen

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INSPIRATIONAL Box Hill School

We recently took part in Biology Week which showcased the important and amazing world of the biosciences, getting everyone from children to professional biologists involved in fun and interesting life science activities. Each lunchtime we offered our students the opportunity to attend events which showcased a different insight into an area of Biology. This included sessions and experiments on physiology, creatures of the deep, organics, senses and perception and 'Should We Bother to Save All Keystone Species on this Planet?' These led to further discussions and riveting experiments using a variety of equipment such as dissecting tools, microscopes and natural tie dyes. There was also a biology competition for all years. The correct answers are being collated and a prize will go to

the highest scoring girl and boy in each year group. Prizes were kindly donated by the Royal Society of Biology, we look forward to Biology Week next year as well as the Biology Olympiad competition later in the academic year.

Looking towards Christmas we are delighted to announce this year's winter production of 'Wendy and Peter Pan'. The staff and students have been busy rehearsing and preparing for this spectacular performance. It will also be the first production in our newly renovated McComish Hall. The show will run for three nights, 4th, 5th, 6th December from 7 pm. Please see our advert on the back cover, or visit our website www.boxhillschool.com for more information and how to book tickets.

Top: Students taking part in Biology Week;
below: rehearsals for Wendy and Peter Pan



Leith Hill Place

Christmas is coming! Lots of events and activities at Leith Hill Place. Check out wreath making, ceramics, flower arranging and Christmas cake icing workshops. In addition there will

be festive events with readings and songs and two weekend celebrations for Christmas with craft stalls, songs and carols and musicians to entertain you. Check dates, entry times, charges

and booking arrangements at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place. For more information about all the events, please visit the website (above) or phone the house on 01306 711 685.

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Time for Giving...

As we head into our winter term at nursery, there is always lots of thought given to spreading joy. How can we incorporate joy into our learning? How much joy do our children bring to us, and us to them? What can we do to spread joy to others?

Giving joy is one of the most simple acts of kindness we can do. During this term we baked cakes for Children in Need, a joyous act of fundraising for others; created salad spinner fireworks to see the joy in our children's faces as they see the colours whizzing past; we acted out the Diwali story, a joyous festival of lights; and made Hallowe'en slime, a simple joyful activity of making a mess!

Sensory play is filled with joy. We have been playing with pumpkin playdough, putting water beads in the marble run and threading sparkle pipe cleaners into a colander to continue developing our children's fine motor skills. We love to see our children experience new sights, sounds and smells that they perhaps would not get to try at home, and equally once they have participated in activities at nursery it is always lovely to hear the stories of how they recreate the experience at home. Extended learning with loved ones is great for development, and

gives children a little time to shine with their new knowledge.

And on this train of thought, joy also comes from feeling included. Our play equipment, books and learning areas all have items that smaller hands feel comfier using, ensuring age appropriate development. For the change in weather we have child sized plastic leaf rakes so the children can help rake the fallen leaves – so expect happy garden helpers at home over winter!

Running in the great outdoors, whatever the weather, creates a sense of joy that is amplified with laughter and excitement. In our Forest School we will create challenging activities to help us all stay warm, a joyful act in itself!

And finally, one of the most enjoyable moments for our nursery comes at the end of term; our nativity play. Every child has a part to play, and we spend weeks rehearsing lines and songs. This year our nativity will be Away in a Manger. The story is told from the perspective of the stable animals, especially Maurice the grumpy mule! It is the perfect way to end our term and our parents get to see their children in starring roles, complete with lots of laughter and singing from everyone in the audience. Joy at its finest.



To get you into the mood for Christmas, some silly jokes provided a while ago by the late Ken Kilburn, a resident of Pilgrims Way who was a valued contributor to the magazine.

Who composes the mottos in Christmas Crackers?

They were mottos mostly found in Christmas crackers.

- Tarzipan – sweet icing that swings through the jungle
- Jumbo jet – a flying elephant
- Piano-tuner – a musical fish
- Cheetahs – unreliable card players

- with spots
- 'Ready, teddy, go!' – start of a bear race
- Mews at ten – cat's favourite TV programme
- Columbus – ocean public transport
- 'Freeze a jolly good fellow' – song for a snowman's birthday party



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For more information please contact:

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



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BRAIN TEASER answer: Ready for anything

Solution to the November crossword

Across 9 Inept 10 Warmonger 11 Platoon 12/4 Wilfred Owen 13 Misty 15 Can 16 Rue 17 Pip 19 Utensil 20 Era 23 Nth 24 SOS 25 Cadet 27 Unarmed 29 Ripcord 32/26/14 Anthem for Doomed Youth 33 Sweat.

Down 1 Limp 2 Medals 3 Otto 5 Crow's nests 6 Foul 7 Aggrieve 8 Bridle 13 Map 15 Cheesed off 16 Relic 18 Pennants 21 Apt 22 Squeak 28 Meek 29 Rare 30 Pass 31 Duty

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Friends of St Michael's School Christmas Tree Sale

If you enjoy a 'real' tree at Christmas, please consider ordering yours from the Friends of St Michael's and help raise money for the school! We will again be offering very high quality non-drop Nordman fir trees with the convenience of collecting them from the school in early December. Trees are available from 3ft up to 8ft with prices starting from £28. To register your interest or for more information, please contact us at friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

A Warm St Michael's Welcome!

Our new reception class who joined us in September have all settled in well and to celebrate their arrival at St Michael's, The Friends organised a welcome party for them. The children rotated around several stations in the hall, making an animal face mask, decorating a cake and then having fun on the dance floor. We had so many comments from parents as to the effectiveness of our newly installed acoustic sound clouds and they really came into their own at the party. We are delighted with how well they work.

We are now gearing up for what is always our busiest (and arguably most enjoyable) term with all things Christmassy at the ready. This started straight after half term, when our hot chocolate café opened its doors. Every Friday, children (and lots of parents!) enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a biscuit to end their week.

Also back by popular demand this year was our wreath-making evening for parents, led by local resident Amy Ward. Mulled wine and mince pies helped us all get in the Christmas spirit as we made our creations and the hall was full of the wonderful smell of pine and other greenery.

On 1st December we have our Christingle craft session and church service, and we are always grateful for the support of village to help us run these sessions. If you have a child, grandchild or young friend who does not attend St Michael's but would like to spend a morning making festive crafts, please feel free to come along. We need to know numbers in advance to ensure we have enough supplies of each craft so please email us at: friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com to book a place.

Hot on the heels of Christingle is our Story Telling Evening. We have a small window of time after the children have left for the day to transform the school into a glittering grotto, before they return in their pj's to enjoy a story in each classroom and some crafts. In the meantime, our parents can socialise in the hall with some Christmas fun of their own with refreshments, stalls and a grand raffle.

Finally, there is the school Christmas production shortly before we break up. We are always in awe of the teachers who bring the whole school together in song, dance, costume and lines for



St Michael's
School



Cecilia, Owls class, enjoys her hot chocolate

our parents to enjoy. It really is the most wonderful time of the year!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas, from all at St Michael's.

Debbie Turner
Chair, Friends of St Michael's



Mole Valley Ramblers Festival of Winter Walks

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Christmas Carolling in the Westhumble Chapel Ruins

Tuesday 17th December 6.30 p.m.

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies at Chapel Farm, where the ponies and donkeys will be waiting to greet you. Do come along.



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www.gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk Further information from Liz Absalom 07801 791123

Cryptic Crossword



Across

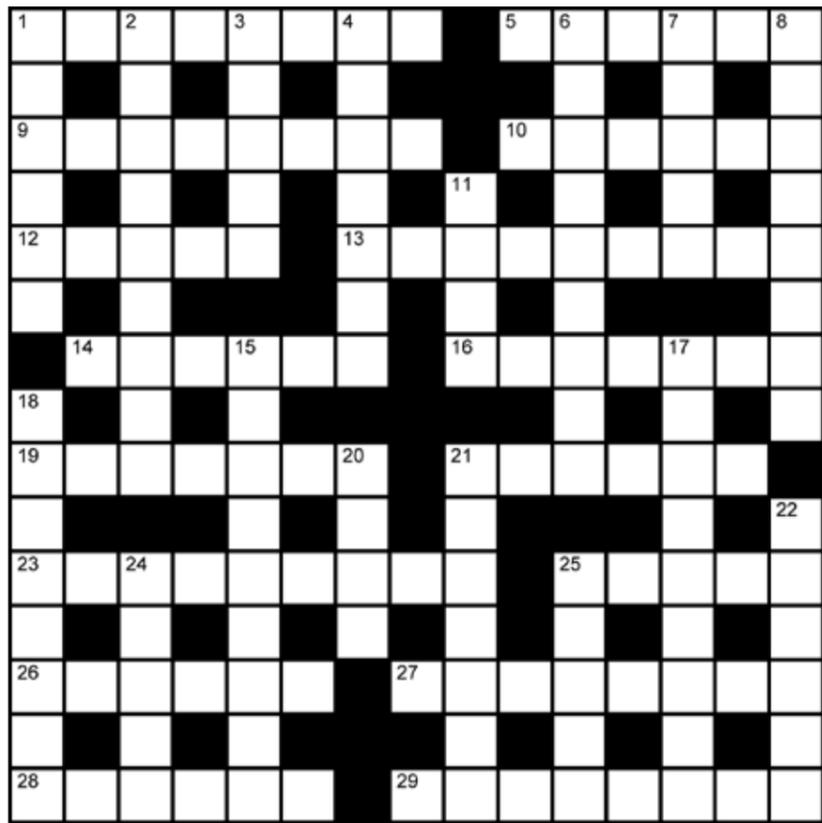
- 1 Can be done for loudly giving money to Mrs Fawcett (8)
 5 Make enquiries concerning a part in 'Softly Softly: Task Force' (3,3)
 9 Arranged neatly or in a fussy manner (8)
 10 Thatcher's things to make you pretend not to be in? (6)
 12 In the old Irish police for H block when there's no fighting (5)
 13 Stick with hard post appears odd to not be included (9)
 14 Cut up about sweetheart leaving without 1D coat (24)
 16 Welcome thing for opening match without companion (7)
 19 Mind-numbing stink short of French spirit (7)
 21 Wobbly nudity is higgledypiggledy (6)
 23 'Bring back control' to Washington as an illustration (9)
 25 Colour mirror, for example, that's blue at first (5)
 26 Give sign away after expression of contempt for dance (6)
 27 Menace subsequently had Romeo to dine inside (8)
 28 Have permission to delay when missing the Spanish call for help (6)
 29 Cream of leak soup - stupid oaf leaves it for the fish course (8)

Down

- 1 Jack, say why there's a snowman in the air? (6)
 2 Ant & Dec initially amuse an assembly to a disgusting degree (2,7)
 3/25/17 In debate with Kremlin about having an apt song for Russia (2,3,5,9)
 4 Garden vegetation that is friendly to wildlife but if you sit underneath it for 10 minutes you will die (4,3)
 6 Patsy cages a top model (9)
 7 Stopped motion short film by Disney (5)
 8 See 15
 11 King's servant did this in Wild West Rodeo (4)
 15/8 Mess this creator sits in, a writer of 3 25 17 (9,8)
 17 See 3
 18 In the audience, see her bum having plastic surgery with insertion of iodine angels (8)
 20 Being objective, I amend no people to make a product from, honey (4)
 21 Hurt ear dancing to pipe organ (7)
 22 Herb is a big smoker blowing out middle candle end instead (6)
 24 Merchant's partner of substance that's long in the tooth (5)
 25 See 3

Andrew Tatham

Answers to the November crossword are on page 26



On a cold dreary winter's day, a reminder of sunny summer gardens entered in the Horticultural Society competition last summer. Left: Liz Absalom's garden at Chapel Farm; right: Val Hallett's border at Burney Cottage.



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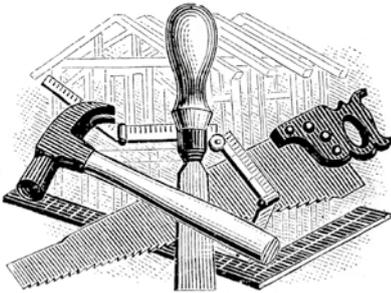
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