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A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



June 2020

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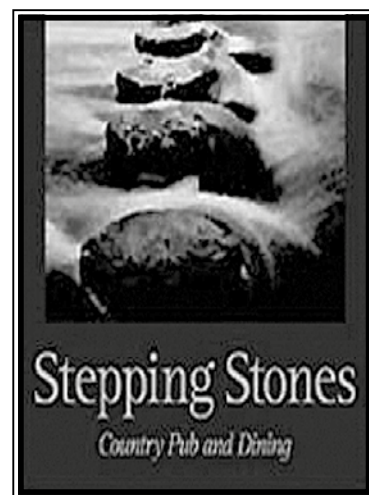
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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

The Rectory, Mickleham

June
2020

Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

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



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Dear friends

As I write this letter our nation has been celebrating VE Day, enjoying a sunny weekend as people have given thanks for deliverance at the end of the war in Europe. Our gratitude was expressed profoundly this year, perhaps particularly so as our world is currently in the midst of an unprecedented crisis. The Covid-19 virus continues to affect millions of people across the planet, impacting on individuals as well as local, national and international communities, and resulting in us all having to get used to living in a very different way, often in extreme isolation.

We are waiting to hear from the Prime Minister about the roadmap for setting out how to unlock the various parts of the UK economy. Whatever that may bring, we will need to take seriously the measures our government is urging us to adopt. Scrupulously observing these measures is not simply a matter of our own protection, but of helping to protect the most vulnerable in our society. As with all such crises, there is a danger that the most vulnerable will be most badly affected.

There are often underappreciated moments in the midst of this pandemic, even when socially distancing, we are all part of a vast and global community, doing our part to get through this together. It has been so encouraging to see how the principle of loving our neighbour has been expressed in manifold ways all over the world, with countless acts of kindness and assistance continuing. All of us know the benefits of practising the virtues of generosity, open-heartedness, and caring for the weak and vulnerable, none more so than when we continue to be attentive to those who are isolated, scared and at risk in some way.

Environmentally there is good news too. From clear blue skies to where, in one report, a professor of earth systems at Stanford estimates that reduced emissions 'likely has saved the lives of 4,000 kids under five and 73,000 adults over 70 in China. Even under these more conservative assumptions, the lives saved due to the pollution reductions are roughly 20x the number of lives that have been directly lost to the virus.' *

Many people of all faiths around the world are praying for this pandemic to come to a swift close; for the medical personnel who are putting their lives on the line to fight it; for the governments and other leaders who have to make wise decisions; and for scientists as they race against time to develop a vaccine.

One of the great strengths of the Christian faith is that it teaches us of a God who 'knows the end from the beginning', a God who is in charge of creation and who is surprised by nothing. The Bible assures us that God is always with us, no matter what we are going through. Indeed, the central tenet of the Christian faith is that God became a human to share our ups and downs, our human frailty, our sorrows and our mortality. He understands what we are going through and reassures us we are not alone.

May we find reassurance in God during these unsettling and worrying times, as the psalmist wrote 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...' Psalm 46:1,2

With assurance of prayer for us all.

John

The Reverend Canon John Harkin, Mickleham Parish Priest

* http://www.g-feed.com/2020/03/covid-19-reduces-economic-activity.html?utm_source=thenewstack&utm_medium=website

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in Lockdown

Service of Commemoration

Photograph: Susie Gowenlock



Canon John and Sue Harkin presided over a 'virtual service' at 10 am. on Friday 8th May, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. A congregation of at least 66 people (and one dog) – logged in via Zoom with desktops, laptops, iPads, and smartphones, to share in a very uplifting service of thanksgiving, and of encouragement in these very worrying times. How lovely it was to see so many of our regular congregation, and also some less familiar faces, and to feel everyone joining in fellowship, with song and prayer – even though the slight time

lag in Zoom transmission meant that our voices had to be muted so that we did not all appear to be singing at different tempos! With newly-acquired technical wizardry John logged on to recordings of 'Songs of Praise' and even an Albert Hall Remembrance Concert to accompany our three hymns and the National Anthem. Our 40 minutes of free Zoom time ran out just as we completed the first verse of 'Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer ... Feed me till I want no more. We were left wanting more ... and hoping that some more virtual services can be arranged.

Richard Siberry

Other Festivities

This year the date of the Spring Bank Holiday was changed from the usual first Monday in May to VE Day, Friday 8th May in order to celebrate its 75th Anniversary. Due to the present corona virus pandemic, these celebrations were rather low key. There were, of course, commemorative programmes on television including a broadcast by HM The Queen. Locally there were several socially-distanced 'street parties' held in back gardens and on the verges of our very quiet roads.

In Dell Close a party was organised by the Flints, which Mary describes here: We decided that we had to do something to commemorate this important date as we have three neighbours who were there on the actual VE Day; Mary Tobitt, Jim Robinson and Derek Bailey. Social distancing was observed but time was

short. There were plenty of things on the internet that could be downloaded and printed eg. banners, invitations, bunting etc, so we rolled up our sleeves, printed off the invitations and gave them to everyone in Dell Close Cottages to meet at 3.30 and raise a glass or two. As our back gardens have access onto the recreation ground we could all sit just outside our own gardens and still be two metres away.

On the day we pinned paper Union Jacks onto our existing bunting and draped it around the hedges. Jim Robinson provided a Union Jack flag he still had from his boy scout days and at the appointed time we all came outside with our own chairs and our own drinks. Unfortunately, no-one had enough flour or butter to make any cakes or scones as we only had two days to plan it, but everyone had plenty of wine, prosecco, beer, tea or coffee. We had downloaded suitable music from the era and everyone had a great time. Just that simple act of being together and sharing memories really uplifted our spirits while in lockdown.

Mary Tobitt writes...

My father CPO Ben Hatter was a Ship's Carpenter on HMS Vanguard (Battleship). At the end of the war he was stationed at Hayling Island to be near Portsmouth. My mother and I went to be with him and stayed with another family in a house overlooking the sea. I missed the VE Day celebrations in Dorking but what excited me more was the view of the



Mary and Eric Flint



Derek Bailey sea from our sitting room. I was nine years old and very proud of my father. I was also pleased that after my mother died, he was able to live with me here in Mickleham for the last 14 years of his life.



Mary Tobitt (inset: her father Ben Hatter)



1945 VE Day Street Party in Lincoln Road, Dorking. Jim Robinson is first on the left in the front row.

Derek Bailey writes...

I was 17 years when a few weeks before the end of the war I volunteered to join the RAF. On VE day I was living in Brighton and had a great time. There

were street parties everywhere. Lots to drink and a girl on each arm. Not long after that I was posted to South East Asia and spent three and a half years in Malaya.



Rosemary and Jim Robinson

Jim Robinson writes...

I can't remember very much about VE day except that we had a street party. I was only five years old and my father didn't return until 1946

What do our gardens mean to us?

A house with a garden is what most people aspire to, yet it seems that the space it offers is often seen as a chore – the lawn that has to be mowed each week in summer, or the flower beds that need weeding. Then there are families who use the garden as a children's playground filled with trampolines and goal posts. You might do all these things and have a wildlife area as well as keep chickens. Always the case, but perhaps more than ever in recent years, the garden has become an 'outdoor room', a place for entertaining, barbecuing, or just relaxing on the latest garden furniture, glass in hand. This is not everybody, of course, there are those with greenhouses, garden sheds, flower borders and veggie plots who actually enjoy the process of gardening and creating a space that pleases them.

The lockdown ordered by the government in March meant many more people have had time to spend at home and certainly those of us with a garden have much appreciated being able to go outside. These weeks enabled us to inhale a breath of fresher air than we have known for some time given the lack of traffic of all kinds. Aided by warm and sunny weather just as Spring was about to take off, the urge to grow things seems to have overtaken a public who

normally would have been occupied in other activities.

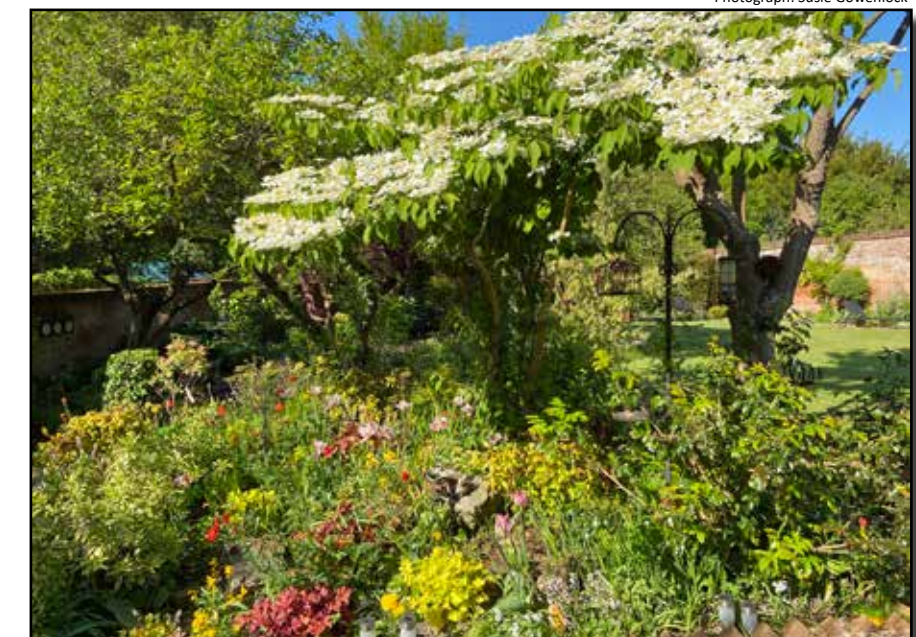
Of course, just when hordes of people might have descended on the garden centres whether in search of plants, seeds or compost, they closed, and the search for alternative sources was begun. Ordering seeds on line was a popular option but the demand was overwhelming – never have the seed companies had such a captive audience

and with the simultaneous closure of schools, parents looking for sunflower seeds faced a shortage only matched by loo rolls.

So, in whatever way you choose, enjoy your garden. Unlike a show garden at Chelsea that we might have been admiring it will never be finished but lockdown may have resulted in some new projects being undertaken or just smarter gardens than usual!

Judy Kinloch

Photograph: Susie Gowenlock



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More memories of wartime: After VE Day

from the 1995 Mickleham Parish Magazine

Life in China as VJ Day Approaches

Many readers will remember Ken Kilburn who lived in Pilgrims Way for many years

Three weeks on a troop ship, a three-day rail journey to the southern tip of India and a boat across to Ceylon had left me travel-weary. Then my boss in Kandy told me I was to go to China. So, up to Calcutta, a three-week wait for a 'plane, then over the 'Hump', (the Eastern Himalayas) to Kunming, the capital of the province of Yunnan. Our radio station was thirteen miles out of town in the home of Miss Tindall, an Anglican missionary who had kindly moved out into an outbuilding to let us use the main house. We were at a height of 6,000 feet in the foothills of the Himalayas. The northern end of the Burma Road was a few hundred yards away, and Tibet was up and over the mountains.

Unlike the Germans in Europe, the Japs had occupied only a limited area of China - Peking, Nanking and coastal cities such as Shanghai, and Hong Kong and the communication routes between. Large areas were unoccupied and agents with wireless sets were stationed there to keep an eye on what the Japs were doing. We also provided wireless links for the so-called British Army Aid group, whose real purpose was to get prisoners out of POW camps in Hong Kong.

A radio link that affected me more personally was the one operating to agents in French Indochina (modern Vietnam). We had equipped the Frenchmen with portable sets and pedal-operated battery-chargers for their journey south by horse and mule and then passed on their messages to the Free French. My particular interest was that the radio set for this link was on a table in my bedroom and I was regularly awakened early by a wireless operator coming in to open up the first transmission of the day. It was in my bedroom because it was strictly illegal.

The majority of the transmitters and receiving sets were in a special radio hut, all duly licensed by the Chinese authorities. But Indochina, like Tibet, was one of those border regions over which China had had a long-standing

territorial claim against the French. If we had applied for a permit to transmit to French guerrillas in Indochina it would never have been granted. I think the authorities knew but looked away in the interests of solidarity against the Japanese.

The official free Chinese government at this time was that of Chiang Kai-shek in Chungking, but away to the north-west, were the rebel communist forces of Mao Tse-Tung, anathema to Chiang, who, however, took no action against them for the duration of the anti-Jap war. As in Europe, Churchill maintained his policy of supporting virtually anyone who would fight the enemy. In the Far East we gave support to Mao and had links with him - radio links too, another unlicensed set. One of our British signals officers was actually with Mao in Sian.

Life in our compound was pretty uneventful - our diet was a mixture of Chinese and western food, the weather was mild, there were some good walks in the hills and some superb Buddhist carvings in hillside shrines; we had a party once a month when the RAF brought in the rations; there was a splendid lake with sampans and egrets. Our cable linking the station with the office in town was regularly stolen by the local thieves.

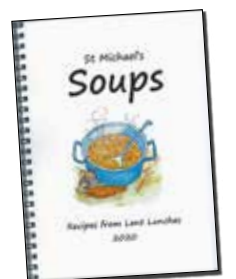
VJ Day brought local celebrations and a garden party in the local state governor's compound. There were dragons and plenty of fireworks, though I remember thinking that skyrockets in the daytime were rather a waste. Then trouble between the local governor and Chiang's central government led to fighting and the arrival of the 3rd Route Army from Burma, one of the toughest bunches of men I have ever seen. We kept within our compound walls for three days until it was all over, and the governor's side was duly suppressed. I remember the first day after the fighting stopped, I drove the jeep into the town and had to take care to steer round bodies of dead soldiers in the road. Meanwhile released prisoners

from POW and internment camps in Hong Kong began to arrive - a pitiful group of very thin people, delighted to be on their way home at last.

The end of the war saw changes in our transmissions - messages no longer had to be encoded and we could use plain English. The Far Eastern airwaves became full of intelligible morse messages and voices, mostly American. Radio amateurs of pre-war days, 'hams' now in the services, took up their old hobby, using service equipment, of course, and all unlicensed. We did a bit of it, contacting hams in Hanoi, and even in Germany before we were told to stop.

So our job was at an end. Some were drafted to Hong Kong. I was drafted to India and a more routine army life.

Ken Kilburn



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Daily exercise – Upsides and Downsides

While being 'locked down', what with fantastic weather and the need to exercise, I have discovered more of Box Hill, Juniper Hill and Norbury Park than I would have done.

However the downside of this is that it is necessary, most of the time, to go uphill almost immediately after leaving my front door. I fear, by the time we wrinkleys are given our freedom, my quads will be the size of melons! That would definitely be a downside, but maybe the upside is that it is nearly always downhill on the way home.

A downside is taking a wrong pathway, then walking and walking looking for a picture sign to tell you where you have gone wrong, not finding one and realising that you are nowhere near where you had meant to be. A bit like driving in an unknown city which directs you to the centre and then after a while the signs stop and you realise that you are completely lost. This happened to me when I was on Juniper Top, I was actually looking for Happy Valley! I took a wrong pathway to the right and found myself on a very steep downward path amongst fallen trees, branches and undergrowth, and ended up in the car park at the bottom. But the upside of that mistake was suddenly to come across the most beautiful swathe of bluebells that seemed to go and on.

After going upwards for what can

seem like for ever, the upside is to be presented with a most stunning view, which may be to the North, South, East or West. This is true after toiling up the 275 steps, from the Stepping Stones when, on arriving at Salomon's memorial, on a clear day the South Downs can be seen. Going down the 275 steps is much worse than going up! Talking about memorials, I always pay my respects to Major Peter Labilliere's grave and often wonder if one of his descendants is Brigadier Peter de la Billière who commanded the SAS in the Falkland war.

One of my biggest downsides was to set out for a walk in, what seemed to be, reasonable weather to run into a deluge after only half an hour. After a very short time I was, literally, soaked to the skin as my Mac was only shower proof. To make matters worse I had, yet again, followed the wrong path. The trees got denser and the rain got harder and my speed was reduced from slow to very slow. Then, on a straight stretch of pathway and about a hundred metres away I saw a deer outlined in the gloom. We both stood for about five minutes just looking at each other, but he gave up first. A definite upside.

One of the best upsides is the way that nearly everyone you pass, either on paths or roads, either walkers or cyclists, and the occasional motorist, will smile and say hello. They must

have learnt something from the French as when walking there everyone will say 'Bonjour', and I have often nearly replied here with a 'Bonjour'.

Before I leave the house I make sure that I have four items with me: water bottle, walking stick, key to get back in the house, and my iPhone. This last on my family's orders, but the upside of this is that I have been taught how to key in the mileage, or should I say 'kilometreage'. This I put in my back pocket, and after every kilometre passes this lady can be heard telling me how far I have walked, my speed etc etc. I have had some very strange looks from fellow travellers wondering what is being emitted from my backside. Now is that an upside or a downside for them?

Frances Presley



Photograph: Richard Gowenlock

A novel form of exercise on the Zig Zag

Will Dennis writes ...

We found this Bird's Nest Orchid while walking on Mickleham Downs. Note the remains of last year's blossom next to it.

Annie has become obsessive about orchids ever since we had a Airbnb lodger, who was a nature photographer who came here specially to see orchids, and showed her various local sites. There are several species to be seen in the vicinity. There is a good local book called the 'Friends of Box Hill Book of Orchids' if you are interested, by Ann Sankey with illustrations by Joyce Lloyd's daughter, Elizabeth.

These Bird's Nest ones are not the prettiest, but they are quite striking and their complex relationship with tree roots and fungi is well explained in Ann's book.



Wild Flowers in the Vineyard

Chris Budleigh writes ...

I liked the daily exercise photos and agree that the vineyard is not great for flowers, but it wasn't always like that. I have attached a couple of pictures from about 1989 when Jan and I were living in a flat in Dorking. We went for a walk around Denbies (which I think was quite new at the time) and were amazed by all the wild flowers.

Barbara Jones writes ...

On 7th March I walked across the vineyard on the track from Yew Tree Road to Denbies Drive passing just above of the hotel and winery. I strolled along taking about 30 minutes and looking for wild flowers. At times I wandered no more than five yards off the track between the rows of vines and found 18 species in flower.

On a patch of waste ground just off the track immediately before the hotel I also saw an additional eight species also in flower.

That is a grand total of 26 species in flower. I also noted eight species not yet in flower and if I was better at recognising non-flowering plants I could probably added a few more. I also saw four different grasses in flower and several Sycamore seedlings not in flower.



It is true that we may not have the long history of the Horticultural Society or the numbers of the Choral Society, but across our community, there are many volunteers and supporters of the Brigitte Trust. You probably will have heard of us, but even so, you might be a little unsure about what we do – let me explain.

Our primary role is to offer support, in their own home, to people who have a life-threatening disease such as cancer or Motor Neurone Disease. This support may be practical, including transport to a hospital appointment, shopping and trips out or assisting with everyday tasks such as form filling or helping with correspondence. Also our visits, which are up to three hours long, will often provide much-needed respite to the primary carer – sometimes this the only

So I would take issue with Charlotte who, in last month's article 'Daily Exercise' commented that "Denbies Vineyard ... is not a very good place for wild flowers, but if you look at the base of the hedges they survive the mowing regime and lighten up any walk." I did not look along the hedges but a very much doubt I would have seen as many species.

As for lightness what could be brighter, on a sunny day, even to someone not into wild flowers than thousands of dandelions and buttercups enlivened with daisies and splashes of blue speedwell here and there.

Charlotte replies ...

Oh dear, I didn't mean to start wild flower wars! I was very interested to see Barbara's article and I was grateful to her for pointing out an area where there are plenty of wild flowers. After reading it I walked across Denbies, nearly to Dorking, and saw almost all the species she lists. I missed two or three because I am not as skilled at identification as Barbara, but she has taught me a lot. I was able to add clover, red and white.

However, I do not think Barbara walked all the way to the North Downs Way.

occasion that they are able to get out during the week.

Perhaps though the bigger part of our role is the emotional support that we can offer. We are not fixers, in fact, it's likely that their problems are beyond being fixed, but what we can do is be alongside them, listen to their concerns and, if a response is needed, respond in a helpful way. Believe me, listening without butting in, offering well-meaning advice or bringing in your own life is harder than you might think. Fortunately, all the volunteers for the Brigitte Trust, and there are over 100 of us, will have gone through a very thorough training course to equip them for their role and are supported by a professional team at the trust's head office in Dorking High Street.

Of course the Coronavirus pandemic has put a temporary end to our home visits but we continue to offer support over the phone and have in fact extended



Photographs: Chris Budleigh



Wild flowers in Denbies about 30 years ago

The rows of vines between the concrete drive and the NDW have very few wild flowers, mostly dandelions, a few buttercups, nettles, some very squashed plantains. I agree that the dandelions and buttercups are very bright and cheerful, but I would love to be able to see the same variety of species as Barbara saw on the Dorking path.



Sue Crawford, Roger Davis and Lynda Johnston manning the Brigitte Trust stall at last year's village fête

this service to offer emotional support to any adult in the Surrey area who is vulnerable, lonely, isolated, bereaved or a carer that needs someone to chat to. If you know of someone who might benefit from our support or are interested in becoming part of a well-run local charity, please either phone Sarah Pattenden (07712 602698) for referrals or Mandy East (07814 747585) to find out more about volunteering.

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Juniper Hall Update

As many of you will be aware, Juniper Hall has been having extensive works over the last few months where we have had investment of over £1 million in refurbishing the main house. It has been a fantastic project with many bedrooms now *en-suite*, new disabled and carer rooms installed on the ground floor and overall an upgrade to 21st century living.

However, as with so many local businesses, the Covid-19 pandemic has hit us hard. While we did manage to keep a large number of group visits going into mid-March, we had to shut our doors as the lockdown began. At the same time building works stopped just three-and-a-half weeks before completion and a large number of our team were furloughed as part of the government's job retention scheme.

At a time when we should be in our busiest season, we are strangely quiet. At the start it was so noticeable that the noise from the roads, planes and busy life was gone. The birdsong was amazing, the wildlife flourished and we have seen such a beautiful Spring.

While we hope that we may start to see some schools return as early as possible, we don't know when that will be. So we have really had to take a look at FSC and see how we can develop and move forward. One such project that I had the real pleasure in leading was #FieldworkLive.



The original idea was that we could see there would be a number of students who would not be able to go on trips before their exams in May and June 2020. However, with the cancelling of exams and lockdown, the programme changed several times! In the end we designed teacher resources and ran a series of live fieldwork sessions every day over the last two weeks of April. This was such a huge success with over 377,000 students registered by teachers and parents to take part. We have also



Juniper Hall in its idyllic setting as it appeared on TV

had over 85,600 people watch since the live sessions on YouTube which has been fantastic! In the subsequent three weeks we ran a series of teacher follow-up webinars to help them develop these studies further with their students. Please do take a look at the sessions if you can at <https://encounteredu.com/live-lessons/fsc-fieldworklive-2020>

Juniper Hall was approached to be put on the list for supporting the new NHS Nightingale Hospital at Headley Court, by providing staff accommodation. As such, we were able to recommence our building works on site at the start of May which was a huge relief. Since then we have seen reduced numbers of contractors and social distancing but this has allowed us to get to a point where we will finish by the end of May with all our furniture returning shortly after. Unfortunately, a large chunk of funding we had for our second phase, knocking down the prefab building and replacing with a state-of-the-art eco building, has gone. This would be a great space for our new dining room, lectures and as a hub that can be used by the local community. Our task now is to raise approximately £750,000 to add to the £250,000 we have raised so far to complete our works, but this will be difficult.

We were also very excited to have been featured on BBC's Countryfile on 10th May which had some fantastic shots of the Centre and local area. We really believe the outdoors has such a beneficial role in the recovery from this period of lockdown and it is those who are really disadvantaged that will have missed these opportunities recently. While digital opportunities help us bridge the gap at this time, nothing

beats getting outdoors! Countryfile really helped us get the message across about how outdoor opportunities are vital in engaging young people in relation to their mental health, wellbeing and development of life skills.

We have also started to look at future projects and I have recently started on the new Strategic Advisory Board for the new GCSE in Natural History that launches consultation at the House of Lords soon. I have also recently become a trustee of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom at a time when it has never been so important.

The key thing, however, is for us to open the doors of Juniper Hall when we can. We want to do this in a way that keeps our staff safe, allows our education delivery to be done effectively in a post-Covid approach and allows us to positively influence mental health and wellbeing. The longer the crisis, the more difficult our recovery is. We work with so many young people each year and if you are able to support us in any way then that would be fantastic. 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/>

In the meantime, we continue to plan for a Village Party and the date will be determined soon when we have guidance from the government. Please do stay safe and hopefully we will see you all very soon.

Simon Ward
Head of Centre

Lockdown Letter

For a small community, somewhat decentralized and split by the A24 for 80-odd years, it is both remarkable and heartening that such a sense of togetherness and neighbourliness has been reawakened so quickly and eagerly during the seven weeks of the lockdown.

Many of our usual activities are on hold but some are continuing, not least this Magazine. I know it has been a pleasant surprise to many to receive hard copy on their doorstep, and it is thanks to Sue, Charlotte and her team that this continues to be the case. The 465 continues on its regular schedule and one driver, in his mask, said that the much fewer passengers were those who were most appreciative, so he was getting a personal buzz from recognizing the reliance and value of the service to the communities along the route. And the church clock continues to be dead on time, thanks to our long-serving (11 years!) Timelord, John Winn. Take-away meals are available from the King Willy and The Stepping Stones, and at the latter, Tina and Sharon seem to have been stockpiling flour and other foodstuffs for those who cannot get them elsewhere. Our postmen and binmen are doing a sterling job too: please yell thank you from a safe distance when you can.

Our Thursday tribute to the NHS/ key workers seems to be widely adopted. A group of a couple of dozen are gathering in the churchyard with various more or less musical equipment for what is rapidly becoming a ceilidh. More direct NHS support is provided via Tracey O'Hanlon's Scrubs production-line, which has grown to more than 40 'scrubbers', 35 or so in our own community. A total of over 300 pieces have to date been sent to East/Royal Surrey Hospitals and to local GP practices. A great effort by all. Tracey and Kirsten are also making rather chic masks too, most of which have also been pounced on locally. More masks, using the off-cuts from the scrub-making with filter material to a particular specification, are being made by Elena Rubio, are being distributed for staff at a care home in Leatherhead: the target of 150 masks for their 60 staff, is near completion.

Charlotte Daruwalla has made masks for a nursing home in Dorking. Include all in your Thursday applause!

The Mickleham Emergency Group was set up by the parish council last year, with the potential for flooding being the most likely envisaged concern: it has proved a suitable base for Covid-19 assistance. Starting with 12 members it has now an active group of around 130, particularly helping others with information and hands-on actions, for those less able to travel or shop. It would be invidious to pick out individual performances in this collaborative effort, but suffice to say that if Jason Wilson doesn't respond to a need for a pick-up within seconds, James Cartwright will. Most of the actions have been the picking up of groceries and other goods, prescriptions, newspapers and parcels. Jason is at Medwyn so often, he is now delivering for them, as far as Bookham/Tadworth and the Holmwoods. I am sorry to say that his shopping has included some non-essential goods... wine! And duck eggs?! But also some medical items which are best kept under wraps.

Eva Dillon is our local coordinator for the Dorking Community Fridge: she is happy to collect surplus or donated fresh/frozen/tinned food and cleaning/ domestic supplies for distribution via the Fridge.

Many thanks to all in bringing David Ireland's original thought to fruition. Mention too of Mary Banfield, who has been quietly coordinating and doing similar things for several years in previous days (remember them?).

The Group has also been able to get access to some public and private funds and provide direct financial assistance in a few cases. As indeed has St Michael's Church. Connections have also been established with and from Citizens Advice and Local Authority Voluntary Action groups from whom referrals have been received and responded to.

This has been a time when the access to Zoom/WhatsApp and other social media have had a positive role. Further sanity is provided by various other active WhatsApp sites for example the Choral Society has



To source face masks like the one being worn here see page 18

one, sharing music and humour and with some 40 participants under the watchful eye of Tracy Kennington. There are book club conversations and Zoom birthday/dinner parties. The upcoming PCC and MPC meetings will be on Zoom. Of note, there was a welcome VE day Zoom church thanksgiving service, which drew a very good attendance including a good clutch of irregular churchgoers. People say it will be a slow path back to 'normality', but as we get move towards it, it may not be there anymore. It is to be hoped that the re-setting of normality will learn from the many positives that have come out of this enforced pause in our lives.

Note, it is inevitable that other activities worthy of mention are not included here. Please get in touch so they can be acknowledged in a further lockdown letter.

Emergency Group Contacts

- Will Dennis 07903 842674
- David Allbeury 07860 227451
- David Ireland 07850 002185

Other contacts elsewhere in this Magazine or via the Emergency Group numbers above.



Box Hill Update

The situation on Box Hill and Headley Heath while we are on lockdown is regularly reviewed by National Trust (NT). NT provides general briefings for staff on a daily basis with important update briefings on Tuesdays and Thursday and then local staff consider how this should work in their own areas. All of this is, of course, carried out online. As you would expect with no visitor income and investments affected by the volatility of the stock market, NT are maintaining strong controls over all spending, and budgets are being reduced by nearly 50%. This means that most projects have been stopped or deferred. NT has furloughed around 80% of their staff and no volunteers are working. Only those staff deemed to be essential remain.

Andy Wright is the only Countryside Manager operating, and there are seven staff made up of Lead Rangers and Rangers covering all the Surrey Hills countryside. Federico Ghittoni (Fede) is working on Box Hill and Headley Heath and Mark Dawson is the Lead Ranger for Box Hill, Headley Heath and all the other East Surrey countryside properties, Francisco Martinez (Fran) has been furloughed. Fede is undertaking tree surveys and Mark and Fede have to carry out building checks and inspections that were previously carried out by non-countryside staff and make regular tours of areas to look for potential problems.

The whole issue of implementing social distancing has been problematic for the police on Box Hill and on weekends leading up to Easter there were significant numbers of people sunbathing on the Box Hill Viewpoint and Donkey Green and groups of cyclists and motorcyclists congregating there. This resulted in the decision by the NT in conjunction with Surrey County Council and the Police to close the NT Car Parks. When this did not reduce the problem sufficiently, Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) were implemented on the public highways at the top and bottom of the Zig Zag Road, thereby closing the Zig Zag Road to all traffic. This was implemented over Easter together with

frequent patrols by the police and penalty notices being applied by the police in some circumstances. This was effective and resulted in far fewer people visiting Box Hill and infringing social distancing requirements.

With the changed guidelines allowing people to travel to take exercise, many more visitors were parking on the roads and verges so following consultation with SCC, local neighbourhood councils and the police, NT opened the Zig Zag Road and the NT Car Parks from the 15th May. This situation will continue to be reviewed and NT will close the Zig Zag again if needed. The normal charges for parking apply. There is no catering and the toilets remain closed for safety reasons.

Andy and Mark have been working hard throughout this time to work out and implement the best approach to the various problems, to patrol the Hill thereby showing a presence and to contact the police when they see problems. They can only ever have one person in a vehicle and they must endeavour to maintain social distancing at all times. This is proving difficult at times with people keen to talk or complain and coming far too close. Mark is keen to stress that if anyone sees someone causing



Fallen walnut tree in the Weypole

a problem on any of the properties they should not approach or speak to them about it. Some people's fuses are short at the moment and a well-meaning member of the public has been attacked for calling someone out on their behaviour.

With the reduction of NT budget, many of the projects that were planned for Box Hill within the Estate Management Plan will, at the very least, be deferred. Luckily the fencing and hedging on Chapel Farm was put in place before the lockdown and Steve Conisbee has drilled one field with a herb rich mix that can be grazed rather than made into silage as before. This should result in richer wildlife, hopefully even this year. Planned work for Box Hill Farm has been deferred.

All other activities and conservation work on Box Hill have stopped.

Lyn Richards
Chair, Friends of Box Hill

Plant Sale

Have you found gaps in your borders after tidying up your gardens during the lockdown? Alison Wood has a limited selection of homegrown herbaceous perennial plants for sale. These were intended to be sold at the Horticultural Society's cancelled Spring Show in April. It would be great if homes could be found for them to settle into before the heat of summer; they are all 'good doers' and split from Alison's own plants, and most are filling their 3-litre pots.

She suggests a of donation £3 per plant in a 3-litre pot but offers considered for bulk purchases. The proceeds will go to the Hort Soc to support the cost of



Siberian Iris Iris sibirica – one of the plants on offer

putting on future shows when we are able to get out and about again properly. Alison can arrange for the boxed up orders to be collected from her doorstep without need for interaction or she can deliver locally - if you are interested please call or email her 07372 976443 or alison.wood29@btinternet.com.

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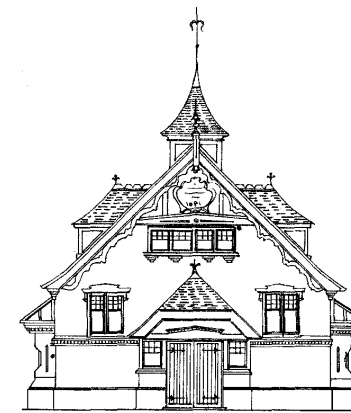


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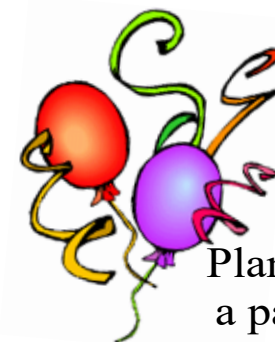


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mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk
Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889
lyn@mra.uk.net

Box Hill School
Headmaster – Cory Lowde 01372 374814
HMPA@boxhillschool.com

Dorking Cricket Club
Chairman – Andrew Homewood homewooda@hotmail.co.uk

Dorking Group of Artists
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth 01737 24491
patricia booth100@gmail.com

Dorking Lawn Tennis & Squash Club
Jim Cattermole 01306 883629
jim.cattermole@uwclub.net

Dorking Rugby Club
Jim Evans 07789 176417
jim@flintcottage.net

The Garden Shed
Pauline Davis 07759 646 353
paulinemdavis@gmail.com
Susie Gowenlock 07768 923 088
susiegowenlock@gmail.com

Juniper Hall Field Centre 01306 734501
enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org
Head of Centre – Simon Ward Simon.lr@field-studies-council.org
Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 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
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Duty days primarily Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

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churchwardens@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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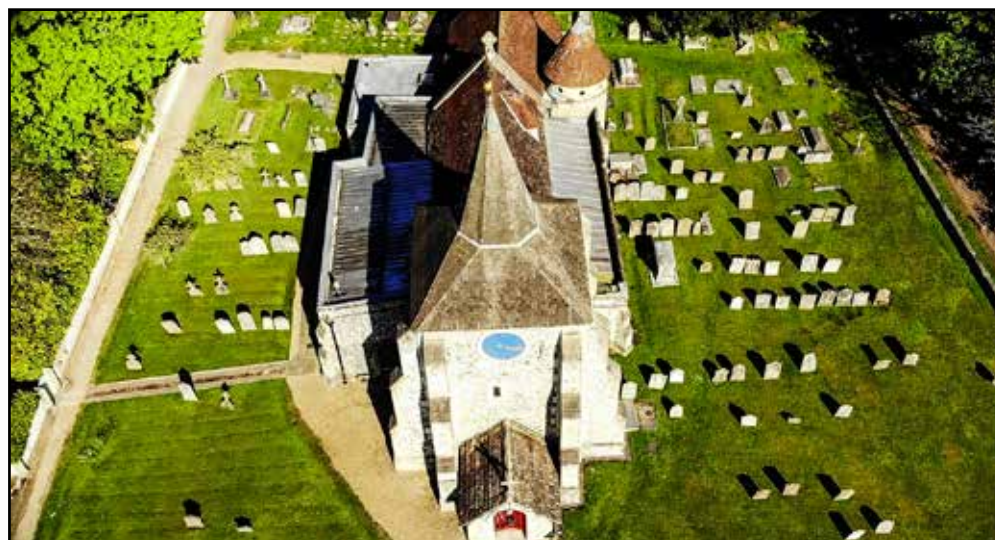
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*For information about services for other
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Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

PARISH PRAYER MEETING

Although we cannot meet in church at present, we shall be continuing to hold our **monthly Prayer Meetings** but online instead, so you will be very welcome to join our Zoom Prayer Meeting on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30 pm via Zoom. Please contact Canon John and Sue for the ID and password numbers. You will be very welcome!.

St Michael's from Above



*These great sunset shots were taken by Matt Clark, grandson of Pauline.
Should anyone want some photographs of their house, aerial shots or
footage of events at the church or in our community,
Matt's contact details are clarki.drone@gmail.com Telephone 07557 352377*

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Continued from page 13

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bpbailey_uk@yahoo.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB
Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE CRICKET CLUB
Membership contact Will Dennis 07903 842674
will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com
- MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
ben@thetatham.co.uk
www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/
- MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL 01306 885001
Councillor Elsie Rosam 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 friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com
Co-chairs Nicole Harcombe, Tracey Harwood, Amy Rieley
- 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
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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
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| Alasdair Wise | 01306 884694 |
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| Maisy Presley | 07720 657327 |
| Freya Pearce | 01306 884724 |
| 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 |
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May Hardwicke 1920 – 2020

The sun shone and the birds were singing lustily as May Hardwicke was lowered into the ground in the woodland section of Dorking Cemetery on 16th April. The view of Box Hill was very pleasant and the camellia flowers, from her garden, scattered over her coffin, were a riot of colour. That only David and I and our two daughters were allowed to be there was a shame but all in all I think she would have been pleased with the occasion.

May along with her husband Alan, her step-son, Peter and I (and not forgetting Woozle the cat) moved into Fairfield, Chapel Lane in the autumn of 1948. And, as she latterly so hoped, she was able to end her days there. 1948 was not her first arrival in Westhumble or Dorking. For a while in 1939 the family had lived at Tudor Lodge opposite Dorking station and after year or two living in various flats in the Highgate area of London they returned in 1942 to live at Five Trees (now Cottars) in Pilgrims Way.

May was born on 5th May 1920 in central London and brought up there. Her German mother and French-speaking Swiss father met and married in London, having arrived in England before WWI. Both worked in hotels. May's childhood was not the happiest, as her mother died when May was only six and she was acutely embarrassed to have had a German mother especially as her best friend's father had lost an arm in that conflict.

May did however have happy memories of her dog Mimi who roamed the streets chasing the few vehicles that passed by and of trips to Regents Park with Mimi on the open topped buses. She also had happy memories of seaside holidays in Tenby staying in a beach chalet with a friend's granny.

After leaving school May's became a 'junior' with the fashion designer Isobel. Her job was to receive the grand ladies arriving for fittings and make them cups of tea. Isobel was apparently quite a name in her time. A recent V&A exhibition included a wedding dress designed by her. This early job probably explains May's keen interest in clothes and fashion that lasted all her life.

May met my father, Alan, a solicitor, shortly before WW2. When asked

how they met all she would say was 'At a party.' Strangely enough early in the '30s my father lived in B&B accommodation belonging to L'Etoile restaurant on Charlotte Street. At the time May's father was working there.

I arrived on the scene in October 1943 and soon after that they moved to Nottingham. As was so common in those days, May dedicated herself to being a devoted wife, mother and housewife. Once they moved back to Westhumble, more leisure-time activities became possible and where my father led so May followed.

They spent many happy holidays still walking in North Wales and the Lake District. My father bought a sailing dinghy and May bravely embraced that too. I well remember my father insisting on sailing in quite rough seas with one or other of my little friends on board. I can hear May imploring him to return to calmer waters saying, 'What will the coroner say?' Later he bought a small cruiser and May gamely sailed with him to the Scilly Isles and over to France.

When my father retired they started going horse racing but Alan decided it was feeble to watch other people flying over the jumps. He took himself off to a riding school explaining that he wanted to learn to ride so he could take part in the Grand National! They were certainly willing to help with the first bit but were not so sure about the Grand National.

And learn to ride he did and so did May. Many a time out on hacks her horse would bolt off with her and I guess she must have had a good few falls. Eventually they bought a horse and Alan went hunting while May adopted a supporting role helping to keep the tack clean and Alan looking smart in his hunting outfit.

In between times they had granddaughters to stay especially in the summer holidays and gave them riding lessons and took them on day trips to the seaside.

At some time May did strike out on her own. She joined the local flower club and also transformed the rather bare garden. She was never one for sowing seeds, transplanting seedlings and awaiting results. She wanted instant results so trips to the garden centre always resulted in plants and shrubs



May with her great-great grandson

coming home in flower. And it was no good planting anything at the back of the borders 'They won't be seen there.' They had to go in front.

After Woozle the cat there was a steady stream of six others including Tabitha who May inherited along with a television (Alan didn't believe in them) from Margaret Probyn who lived in Pilgrims Way. May was a long-term member of Cats Protection and for many years sold plants and cuttings from the garden, from a couple of cardboard boxes, at the garden gate. Over the years she made about £500 for the charity.

Sadly Alan became confined to the house and then bedridden. May spent many years devotedly looking after him without complaint and resisting all suggestions, until near the very end, to accept outside help for him.

He died in 1993. They had been together for about 50 years and May missed him dreadfully. Her last thirty plus years were spent in increasing pain from arthritis and in much loneliness. No amount of visits from family and friends; holidays with family or trips away with NADFAS; tea parties with Norah Hallet; pub lunches and garden visits with the Wellers or trips to the races with Janet Curran could really console her from being parted from her beloved Alan.

May was just a few weeks short of her 100th birthday when she died. It is sad that she missed that milestone when hopefully she would have enjoyed seeing two of her five granddaughters, four great-grandsons and two great-great-grandsons. May she rest in peace and maybe find herself reunited with Alan.

Barbara Jones

Community News

Many congratulations to new grandparents David and Tracy Kennington of Headley Lane on the safe arrival of Henry David, born on 9th May to their daughter Clare and partner Pete Billington, who live in Dorking.

Farewell to Liz and Mike Harper who have moved from Camilla Drive to Ferndown, Dorset.

The Baird family have moved from Burney Road to Camilla Drive.

Welcome to John and Sara who have moved to Burney Road. from London Bridge but originally from Guildford and Glasgow respectively. They are very much looking forward to enjoying the fresh air, walks, bike rides and even pubs (some day soon hopefully).

Face mask project in Mickleham

We often hear about the sadness and dark days of lockdown, we hear also of all the great things people are doing volunteering, scurrying around aiding others and the wonderful sense of community it is bringing to society. We can better hear the bird chorus as well! For some it has been a time of heartache and worry while others calm and quiet, gardens and DIY jobs are getting done. For others like myself and Tracey O'Hanlon, our feet have not touched the ground, our acquaintance made through the pandemic (sewing and fundraising) is now blossoming into a small industry in Mickleham.

After the government updated its website about face 'coverings' we had many requests from people seeking masks and so, while waiting for the new fabrics to arrive for the next batch of NHS scrubs, we set up www.surreyfacemasks.com.

Both of us are learning on our feet, juggling our own work and households, making NHS scrubs and pouring through the 'shoulds' and 'should nots' of an e-commerce business. It has been fast and, despite doubts both of us agree that even if it stops tomorrow we have learned so much and that can only be a good thing. The support we have had has been amazing and we thank all of our customers, your feedback has inspired us. The only downside is the garden is not being tended and the washing is piling up—small price to pay for such an experience though!

Please think of us if you want a face covering. *We have stock in a range of colours and patterns and beautifully handcrafted by Tracey, MADE in MICKLEHAM, SURREY. Kirsten Johnson
*To see an example of one of Tracey's masks, see page 10.

The Grumpy Old Mickleman on Brian Blessed

I realize that Brian Blessed has done many worthy things in his life – charity work, Shakespearean roles and so on – but he seems to have made an awful lot of money by shouting. I can shout too, but I remain penniless. Life's a bitch. Apart from his debut on black and white TV as the inaptly-named 'Fancy Smith' in Z-Cars, Mr Blessed seems simply to have shouted his way to a fortune.

If anyone wants a bullying character, Brian is at the top of the list. He seems to have cornered the market in King Herods, Henry VIII's, Vlad the Impalers, Russian Generals, Roman Emperors and King Vultans. All roles in which whispering is not top of the required skills list. You will not be surprised that he was chosen for the yelling voice of Tarzan, Boss Nass in Star Wars and even The Moaning Mountain in an Ivanhoe production. His 'Hound of the Baskervilles' is eagerly awaited! To me

this level of typecasting eventually starts to interfere with one's appreciation of the role. In any film where there is a murdering despot, a voice from On High or a large carnivorous beast, which should have you trembling in anticipation, there is a sense of complete let down when it turns out only to be Brian. If the Dalek voice had been Brian we would have been happily continuing with our tea-time scones, rather than hidden behind the sofa. On the other hand, there is a rather contradictory disappointment too when a voice you had expected surely to be Brian...the Beast from the Black Lagoon', say...turns out to be someone else.

The most annoying part of this sad affair, is when the voice of Mr Blessed himself or an imitator, is used for a wholly inappropriate purpose. The degree of menace afforded by the voice is significantly undermined when he

shouts something out of the television about Hellmann's mayonnaise, or currently the Flash Speed Mop. These are always ads with absolutely no artistic or other merit whatsoever. With subjects so bland that only shouting about them can shock you into noticing Cillit Bang, Domestos or Calgon and the like. But again in contradiction, people would never bet at Ladbrokes if his gigantic form and voice causes them to spill their coffee onto the dog or cause other injuries. One thing I can guarantee, Mr Blessed is unlikely to be using his decibels to advertise Donkey Sanctuaries or Funeral Plans.

His gravestone will be enormous with very large letters saying 'His Contribution was very Loud'. Mark Day



Forty Wonderful Years

Just before lockdown started, the Harpers moved from Westhumble to Dorset.
Liz recalls their life here in her letter of farewell.

Mike and I moved into Camilla Drive on the 3rd December 1979. We both fell in love with the house and during the forty years that never changed. We were very quickly greeted by Janet and Peter Curran who were to be our next-door neighbours. They soon arranged a coffee morning for the ladies and, later a drinks party to include the men. After that we got to know the neighbours very well and had a wonderful time visiting and having lots of lovely dinner parties.

At that time Westhumble seemed a lot quieter. We did not even bother to shut the back gate onto Crabtree Lane never mind lock it. Our two young children would be thrilled, when on his morning rounds our neighbour's dog Pernod would wander into the garden. Another neighbour in a different road used to keep peacocks and so it was quite normal to come home and see them strutting up Camilla Drive.

Chapel Farm was a dairy farm. We could walk round to the farm to get milk in those days. Not all is lost though, now you can take a jug to the brewery at the vineyard and get a jug of beer.

With no computers nor mobile phones, the village store and post office in Mickleham was the hub of the community. That is where we would go for any news or to buy tickets for local events. The post office was always busy and so was the shop. Beryl Icke, who owned the shop, sold the best home-cooked ham on the bone and the creamiest of Stilton.

Rosemary Robinson, and later, Sayda Cole worked hard in the shop especially after school time when it was crammed with children wanting sweets and mothers catching up on the latest news. All other news came with the parish magazine run by Sue Tatham to whom we are very grateful.

After we had been in Westhumble for a while Chapel Farm changed from a dairy farm into a visiting farm. Our daughter Clare was then about 10 years old when she begged me to take her round to see if she could get a job there. Straight away Colin Compton asked her to look after the guinea pigs and rabbits at the weekend. Soon after I also became

one of the Biddies working to make things to sell in the shop for the cancer charity the Comptons set up in memory of their step-daughter. Later I became one of the guides taking visiting children from London round the farm. It was so rewarding; most of the children had never seen fields before never mind animals. They loved every minute of their visit. Many did not want to go home and I am sure they never forgot their day at the farm.

I was there for about twenty years and enjoyed every minute of it. Sheila and Colin were amazing people. Later on, they took in people from a cancer clinic who were in rehabilitation. The women learned crafts and men worked on the farm. The trust and kindness Colin and Sheila showed to those people helped immensely. Some sent me letters as they went on to do amazing things. Chapel Farm had touched so many people's lives.

By now we had a little dog called Oscar and at that stage I met Jenny Desouter. She had a horse stabled in Crabtree Lane and a dog called Bobbin. We got chatting and after a while took the animals together for walks in Norbury Park. She was my David Attenborough. There is not much Jenny doesn't know about plants and animals and so we had the most amazing walks discovering footpaths and plants and enjoying the different seasons. She takes the most wonderful photographs. Our children loved growing up in Westhumble. At one time our son, Paul was in a band which used to practise in the summer house.

It was very loud, but they had fun and all was forgiven. Unfortunately, Mike worked away from home during the week for over twenty years and so missed joining in a lot of things but made up for it when a few of us got together and invented Camilla Capers. We started

off doing safari parties but after having the starter in one house, main in another, cheese in another and dessert then coffee in another, we found we had had far too much to drink. We had messed up four or five houses and it was now getting on for 4 am. Eventually we decided that this format was too much hard work, so we took it in turn to host the dinner in one house. We also went on outings to the races and to excellent restaurants. Wonderful times.

Mickleham and Westhumble are a great community with people working together helping one another. We were very fortunate to have Box Hill, Polesden Lacey, looked after by the National Trust who we hope will conserve the area for future generations.

Now that we have left Westhumble and all the people we made friends with, worked and had fun with, who we have known for many years we would like to thank David Ireland, Neil Mason, Mark Pescud, Steve Stent, Anne and Gerry Weaver and so many more past and present that made the community what it is. We are also going to miss the vineyard for its lovely walks, fun events and of course the shop and farm shop. Thanks to the White family.

Now we are in beautiful Dorset. We are not far from the coast and near to friends and relations. We love our new house and garden and can't wait to get out and about.

To all those friends we have left behind. Keep well and keep safe and we look forward to meeting again soon.

Liz & Mike Harper



Raven and Red Kite over Lodge Field in Norbury Park
Photographed by Jenny Desouter April 2020



1
WEATHER
BIT

Answers on page 26

2
FACE



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Being locked into a pub is many person's dream, but the reality is different with a stream of bills and no custom during our crucial high-season. Some of you also know my brother Jason is very unwell. However we are part of a special village, and we really value your very many messages of support, and promises of future custom.

On the plus side Lucy and Giles are keeping us fit with daily exercise classes, and we hope to be a bit trimmer as a result (if we don't eat too many fish and chips!). After some practice providing a fish & chip take-away service for our immediate neighbours on Friday evenings, our staff (ie the family) have nailed it and so we can now add anyone in the village of Mickleham who wants to be included; just email me for details.

Let's hope we will be allowed to open for 'garden only' trade before the end of the summer.

Keep well, and we can't wait to see you soon. Eamonn

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Cryptic Delicacies

I hope you found the answers to last month's puzzle in time to be reminded that the May Bank Holiday (as spelt out by the tops of the first seven down clues and the bottoms of the last seven down clues) had been changed from the FOURTH to the EIGHTH of May to recognise VICTORY in EUROPE 75 years ago. No doubt different people will have different ideas of the significance about that these days – certainly having an extra-long weekend is not going to make much difference to most folks when viewed from the time of writing this in lockdown!

Here are some of the clues, with definitions underlined.

9 In a way that is distinctively American, leap about with start of pretty constant sound (5,3)

APPLE PIE

LEAP anagrammed [about] with start of Pretty = P, constant = the mathematical constant PI which has the sound of PIE.

12 Throwing around bacon at the start rarely is a thing before dating (6)

CARBON

Anagram [throwing around] BACON and R [at the start Rarely]. Carbon dating is what you do to work out how old your prospective partner is (that or counting their rings).

13 Someone who tells story about king perhaps as a way to get cheaper travel (8)

RAILCARD

[Someone who tells story] = LIAR turned back to front [about] = RAIL, [king] is an example [perhaps] of a playing CARD.

20 The state banker's a strange sort (8)

NEBRASKA

Anagram of 'banker's a' – [strange sort] is the anagram indicator rather than just [sort] on its own. The first reading might have led to seeing the definition as 'state banker' with the anagram being of 'a strange', which just goes to show the importance of looking at all possible ways of breaking up phrases and combining words.

26 Firm sounds like a place for sales growth (8)

STALWART

STAL sounds like STAL[L] [a place for sales], growth = WART.

This was a clue I was really struggling to write and then finally it all came together and ended up being one of my favourites in the puzzle. I love it when very different words like STALWART and WART have synonyms that come together to give a combined surface reading of something completely unrelated.

1 Old dancing performer has rug with a hair out of place (4,4)

MATA HARI

Rug = MAT, with A HAIR anagrammed [out of place]. Mata Hari was born Margaretha Zelle in 1875 in Holland but after answering a 'wife wanted' ad, she married a Dutch colonial officer called Rudolph MacLeod (his great-great-grandfather had been an officer in the Scots Brigade of the Dutch Army in the early 1700s). She accompanied him to Java where the local Malay language gave her later stage name, 'Mata Hari' meaning 'sun' (literally 'eye of the day').

After the breakdown of her marriage, she developed a wild career of exotic dancing and high-ranking affairs in Paris. Her neutral Dutch nationality meant that she could cross borders during the First World War and a visit to see her lover, a Russian pilot blinded when flying for the French, led to an 'invitation' to conduct espionage including a plot to seduce the Kaiser's son, Crown Prince Wilhelm. In return the Germans 'exposed' her as a German spy and she was tried and shot by the French on 15th October 1917. She blew a kiss to her firing squad and despite the *coup de grace*, her head was embalmed and kept in the Museum of Anatomy in Paris from where it was stolen, probably during a move in the 1950s. She has without doubt been remembered by history but her fame has led to distortion and she was certainly not the lethal double agent with which her name is now synonymous.

19 Companion for an Indian batsman endlessly running around to third slip (7)

BASMATI

BATSMA[N] without last letter [endlessly] anagrammed [running around] with third letter of slp, gives



you some rice you might have to accompany a curry.

22D Sounds like 4 killed Chuck Evil with prongs (6)

FORKED

FOR sounds like [4 i.e. four], evil = ill, which when [chuck]ed from K[ill]ED leaves you with KED.

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

Winning Caption for Ben's Photograph



It's hard to keep up with Captain Tom Anon

RUNNERS UP

I'm on lockdown – Rhona Howell

Life is a never-ending spiral...
David Kennington

confusedolympicslug.com – Mike Weller

Editor's Note: For those reading this in the future, war veteran Captain Tom Moore raised funds for NHS Charities Together to thank NHS staff who helped him with treatment for cancer and a broken hip. With the aid of a walking frame, he completed 100 laps of his back garden in days leading up to his 100th birthday. His extraordinary fundraising effort raised nearly £33m. Afterwards he was promoted to Honorary Colonel in acknowledgement of his amazing achievements.

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Box Hill School Community in the NHS

Many in our Box Hill Community are doing their bit to help others during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are so proud and thankful to them all.

Here we have school nurses, Claire Harris and Justine Braid and Old Boxhillians, Polly Jordan and Melanie Thorn who tell us their stories of how they are helping on the front line during this time.



Clare Harris Lead Nurse at Box Hill School who has returned temporarily as a frontline worker to help East Surrey Hospital during the Covid-19 Crisis

Claire Harris has been at Box Hill School since August 2008. Prior to that she has worked at The Children's Trust in Tadworth, East Surrey Hospital, Crawley Hospital and Glenfield Hospital.

Claire kindly took some time out of her busy day at East Surrey Hospital to give us some insight into her temporary return to the NHS.

'I am in the middle of my second night shift, after my break, at 5am, I still have another three hours to work. 12-hour shifts are 19.30-08.00 and 07.30-20.00. I was still terrified to be honest. As a professional I felt duty bound to return. It would be morally wrong to do anything else, especially as I am ICU trained. Before every shift, one of the hospital chaplains comes to pray over us before we go in. There can be up to 50 people at shift handover. Those moments of prayer are incredibly comforting, whether you have faith or not and fortify us before we go into battle. I have gone back to Critical Care at East Surrey Hospital where I was previously a sister. I cannot praise highly enough the staff at East Surrey

Hospital, those in Critical Care and those deployed from elsewhere in the hospital during this time of global crisis. The camaraderie and support has been phenomenal. I feel honoured to be able to contribute in some small way.'



School Nurse Justine Braid

Justine Braid is one of the team of nurses in our Medical Centre and has been at the school since January 2017.

Justine is currently training and will be a temporary bank nurse at Headley Court which is being set up as a community hospital for patients needing rehabilitation or convalescence, those receiving end of life care, as well as those who are recovering from Covid-19 and do not require critical or acute hospital care. We are extremely proud of everyone and how they, like many others are helping the NHS in the battle against Covid-19.



Old Boxhillian Polly Jordan

Polly Jordan was a pupil at the school from 2009 to 2012 and had very recently completed her nurse training just ahead of the Coronavirus outbreak.

'As a newly-qualified nurse, and having started my first job in November 2019 in the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) at East Surrey Hospital, I have felt privileged but equally challenged in trying to

adapt my new skills in such a fast-paced environment. Usually, critically ill patients arrive into the AMU from the Emergency Department in order for us to stabilise their condition. As a result of Covid-19 the AMU has had to adapt its unit for the care of our usual in-patients and Covid patients. All the staff have been required to adjust to this new way of nursing which has been a challenge but has also meant that the team in East Surrey has felt so supported by each other.

Due to the pressures of Covid on the NHS and reduced staffing at East Surrey Hospital I was briefly deployed to the Intensive Care Unit despite the usual year's training required for nurses within this department. It was a frightening experience but looking back I feel so privileged to have been a part of the care of those who were at a critical stage of the virus. I am now back in the AMU and hoping to see many more recoveries.'



Old Boxhillian and former Head Girl Melanie Thorn

Melanie Thorn was at BHS from 2005 to 2012 and was Head Girl in her final year.

'My usual role is Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist in an outpatient setting. Since the pandemic I have had to re-skill and I have been redeployed to the wards to carry out respiratory physiotherapy and ward-based rehab for patients who are acutely unwell or deconditioned following illness or surgery.'

Lily McKeown

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Life has changed for everyone during this lockdown and that is the same for nursery. We have worked in partnership with St Michael's School to provide educational provision and care for the children of key workers and vulnerable children. We are opening two days a week and currently have three children attending. On a normal nursery morning, we have 26 children. You get quite used to the noise of play: the laughter; squeals; some tears; all equally important in developing our emotionally competent and sociable children. We are missing the children and families.

However, children keep growing and developing, even during lockdown. Some of our families have older siblings so have been home schooling, others have been hopefully refining their patience(!) and enjoying the extra time watching their toddlers grow into pre-school children. To help us stay connected we have been using both Facebook and our online journal system to post videos of nursery teachers reading stories, singing and exploring sounds and numbers in the 'what's in the box' activities. Parents are also receiving newsletters with creative, physical and woodland activity suggestions, literacy tips and links to websites that children may enjoy. Parents have been communicating back, both to us and to each other. It has been a joy to open the computer and see both pictures and quotes from the children, we have quite a few past families whose children are joining in and reminiscing too! A highlight was watching the live hatching of chicks in the nursery incubator. Luckily Hilary's hens have a mothering instinct and



Eggs hatching in our incubator

Coconut (one last year's hatchlings) is now proudly looking after four chicks. Hilary is hoping that another batch of incubating eggs will hatch and may be able to join the children when some return for the end of the summer term.

Nursery will look somewhat different when we do return, a limited number of children attending a limited number of days. We will need to chose cleanable resources for play, remove some soft furnishings and banish junk modelling for now Fingers crossed for a continuation of the good weather as we all want to be outside as much as possible.

Natacha



Gemma reading 'Owl Babies'



Coconut and the hatchlings



Can anyone identify this tree blooming in the front garden of Peveril, Pilgrim's Way?

Answers to the Editor, please.



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Homeschooling

This month's article is slightly different as the school closed it's doors following the government guidelines on 20th March. The staff have done a brilliant job keeping parents informed as much as they could with the limited information they were receiving in the lead up to the closure of the school. There has been a lot of adjustment for the teachers, parents but most of all the children at St Michael's School.

We are now navigating homeschooling the children which for a lot of parents is challenging. The staff have been very supportive, providing assistance and guidance along the way. Our reception class – Otters use tapestry to communicate with the teachers and relay work back to them. Year 1 – Owls and Year 2 – Woodpeckers use an app called 'Purple mash and Espresso'.

The teachers set tasks and activities on these platforms and via email to keep the children busy and learning. We also have 'Marvellous Me' which enables the teachers to send fun video messages to the children.

I personally find that homeschooling each day provides the children with structure and routine which I think they really need at the moment. They have coped so well even though the world is an unsettling and scary place. School work provides that important distraction.

We have been going out for walks and bike rides as part of our daily exercise and have spent a lot of time in the garden. The lovely weather we have had has been a blessing. Mrs Stewart set us the challenge of planting some seeds and we are looking forward to seeing them grow.

It has also been nice to spend lots of quality time together as a family. Often life is hectic and you feel as though there is always something to do. The lock down has given us a chance to enjoy each other's company.

The friends of St Michael's School have a few events coming up which we are hoping will still go ahead. In the summer term we hold our ice cream café in the playground after school on Fridays. This



stmichaels275775692.wordpress.com

is a big hit with the children and it gives parents a chance to catch up.

We also plan to have a sponsored scoot when the children bring their bikes or scooters to school and ride as many laps of the playground as possible. The children really enjoy this event.

We hope the children get to go back to school this summer term and we can return to some sort of normality. I know the children really miss all their school friends and teachers.

Hopefully we can make the last few weeks of the summer term really special.

Nicole Harcombe
Co-Chair Friends of St Michael's

Editor's note: At the time of writing, school staff and governors are planning how best to re-open the school following the government's guidelines for easing the lockdown,



BRAIN TEASER answers: 1. A bit under the weather 2. Red in the face

Solution to the May crossword

Across: 8 Sarnie 9 Apple pie 10 Table mat 11 Europe 12 Carbon 13 Railcard 15 Victory 17 Bedroom 20 Nebraska 22 Fourth 23 Age-old 25 Marooned 26 Stalwart 27 Edible

Down: 1 Mata Hari 2 Ankle-biter 3 Yes-man 4 Battery 5 Appetite 6 Near 7 Kipper 14 Cornucopia 16 Residual 18 On the sly 19 Basmati 21 Eighth 22 Forked 24 Oslo

The top and the bottom spell: **MAY BANK HOLIDAY**

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Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 6 Hallo!? Buckles around outside of lord's bag? (7)
 7 '22 18' is referring to 16 this month when I leave unfamiliar urinal (5)
 9 Able to move quickly though firmly set in place (4)
 10 *Londoner* is represented in apt italics? (10)
 11 Most dear golf supporter after introduction to sex is the next thing to nuisance (8)
 13 Turn on past pick-up place (6)
 15 An opportunity to throw wet sponges at the vicar sounds like destiny (4)
 17 Perhaps Frère Jacques keeps dry in work around the house (5)
 18 See 17 Down
 19 Outerwear's strange lustre (6)
 20 Round Table man is in local network (8)
 23 Baby has game with wet blanket (10)
 26 Winning = being prompt around end of circuit (4)
 27 Half of them tend to start off correct (5)
 28 Jaguar maybe regularly entangled in blood bath (7)

Down

- 1 The ballet's choreographed in an expression of farewell (3,3,4)
 2 Hague is funny looking when snorting charlie, which is a little awkward (6)
 3 Hold together tightly though cut off (4)
 4 Punctured tyre can be fixed with a bit of puff (8)
 5 Being persnickety in the end (4)
 6 See 12
 8 Stir to mix up duck recipe (7)
 12/16/22/6 Cheapest hotel, if alert to changes in how romantic disaster was announced (5,7,2,3,5)
 14 Compel half to join English kingdom by 50 AD (10)
 16 See 12
 17/22/18 Suffering morose kind of death somewhere a long way away (4,4,2,3,4)
 21 Humour comes from amateur hens performing without shame (6)
 22 See 12 or 17 Down
 24 Sustenance in the theatre comes from lack of negative notices (4)
 25 Sounds like I've hurt myself from touching knife edge (4)

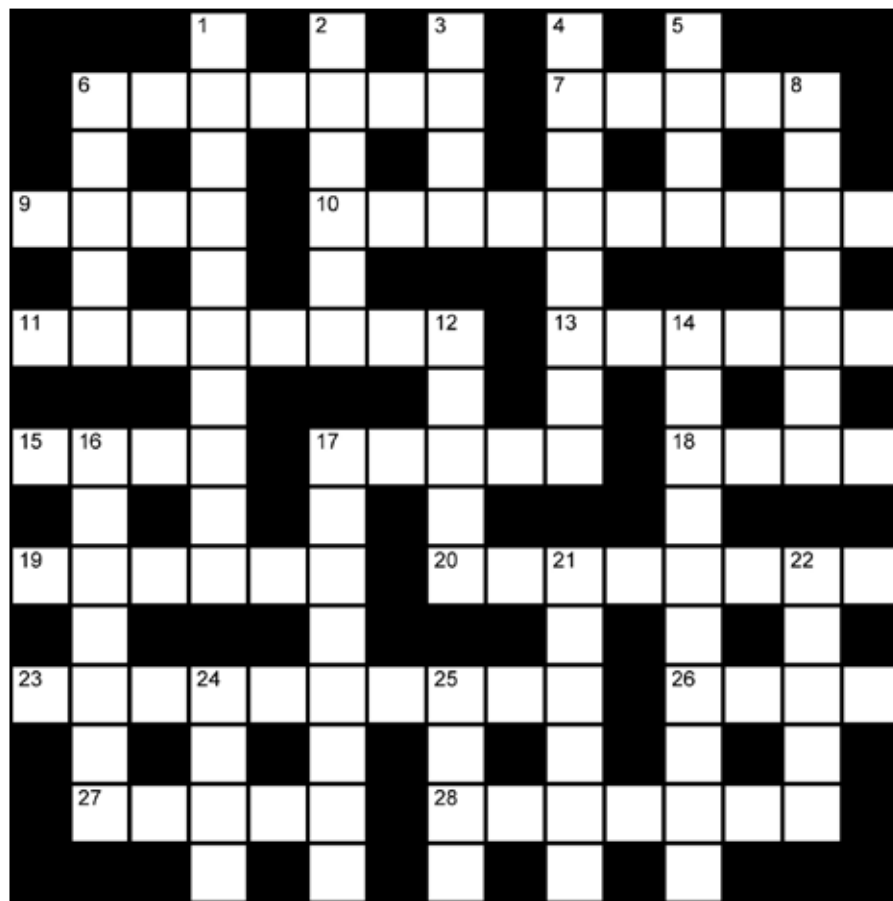
Andrew Tatham

Answers to the MAY crossword are on page 26

Photograph: Ben Tatham



View from the footpath between Fredley and Mickleham Hall with Norbury Park House in the background



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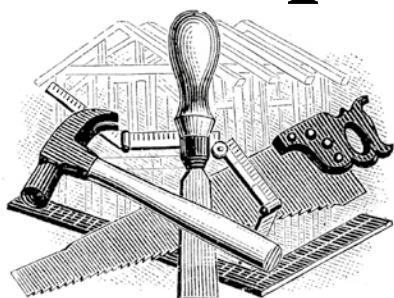
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