

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

December 2023



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Mickleham Parish Magazine

Mickleham Rectory

**December
2023**

**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

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send to:

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events. However the editors
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depending on space.



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Hello everyone,

We are all very aware that Christmas is fast approaching. Wherever we look there are reminders. Most of us are looking forward to it, but it can also be a difficult time for some. It is easy to be so busy we forget those who will struggle because they are missing loved ones, or those with painful memories of past Christmases, or those for whom the financial pressures seem overwhelming. This year the church season of Advent begins on Sunday 3rd December, when we will celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World in our Christingle service and then light up our trees after enjoying a wonderful concert in church.

Advent is about more than opening calendars that give us a daily dose of chocolate, coffee, beer or beauty products. It was, and still can be, a period of waiting and preparation. Waiting is not something we are good at as in today's world we want instant everything. Waiting enables preparation, which could involve setting aside a short time each day to think and reflect on what Christmas means to you and how you could make it better for someone who will struggle. Can you bring light into the gloom of someone's life? How about doubling your food donations to the food bank or inviting someone who is lonely for a meal? Why not dedicate a few minutes each day to pray for peace where there is war?

Preparation for Christmas originally focussed on the spiritual and involved Bible reading, prayer, fasting, repentance and good deeds. Today it inevitably includes shopping for food and gifts and both are important. There is something special about giving carefully selected gifts to loved ones, and eating and drinking together at gatherings such as meals, parties, the Advent windows, carol singing and such like is wonderful. Celebrating with other people makes precious memories and can draw people closer together. But preparing our hearts to wonder anew at God becoming a small, vulnerable human baby and getting ready to welcome him as the light of our lives is very special and lifts Christmas above the commercial and above the fun to an everlasting joy.

Twelve days after Christmas we celebrate Epiphany, when the wise men came to offer gifts and worship to Jesus. The word epiphany can mean revelation and I believe a well spent Advent can help us each receive a new insight into the love of God manifested in Jesus, which will prompt worship and generosity. We don't have a star to follow but we do have the guidance of God through the Bible and his church.

I hope many of you will join us in church as we sing carols whether that is in the building for our carol service, or Communion services, by the Chapel ruins or in the field for the Crib service. Let us gather and celebrate the love shown to us in the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. That is worth preparing ourselves for.

Wishing you a joy filled and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year too.

God Bless

Sandra Faccini

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

For preliminary details of Summer Fair see page 17

St Michael's Church Services

10 am Sunday Services available on Zoom

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online each week. Contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk / phone 01372 376443. Please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information. If you missed any of the services or would like to revisit them all are available on the church YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCl4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>

Christmas Services at St Michael's

Christingle 11 am on 3rd December is a lovely child friendly service involving oranges and candles and celebrating Jesus coming as the Light of the World. A great way to start our Christmas celebrations.

Carol Service 6.30 pm on Sunday 17th December. A wonderful opportunity to enjoy our beautiful church lit by candles, sing well known carols, listen to our choir and hear again the Christmas story.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 11.30 pm is an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus as Christmas Day begins.

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10 am is a more informal service suitable for all ages. We will sing carols at both.



Tea@3

No Tea@3 in December

Monday 15th January

Host Julia Siberry, Mickleham

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First Saturday of the month

**Coffee Morning
Westhumble Chapel**

Saturday 2nd December

Saturday 6th January

Come along between 10 am and noon
Coffee and cake £2 Free drinks for children

Bacon butties as well in January

For further information call
Jonathan Blake 07787 126966

Church Community Group Christmas Events



Advent Windows

The Advent Windows events last year morphed into fewer **Advent Gatherings**, which were well attended and good fun. The Advent Programme

Christmas Fair

at Westhumble Chapel



will begin again this year with the formal 'switching-on' of the **Church Christmas tree lights** on Sunday 3rd of December, after the morning Christingle Service and Tracy Kennington's production of 'The Snowman' at 4 pm. The Community Group will be providing mulled wine and mince pies following this, and the tree lighting will be at around 5 pm. If last year is a guide, the Runners may benefit later in the evening!

This year The Community Group is organising the running of the **Christmas Fair at the Chapel** from 2 pm to 4.30 pm on Saturday 9th December. As many will be aware, Jenny Hudlass has been organising this event for many years, and has established the event as a 'regular' in the run-up to Christmas. For that, we all owe her a huge debt of thanks, and we just hope that we can carry on her good work to a similar standard and format.

Dates for the December Gatherings:

Sunday 3 rd December	Tree lighting	Approx 5 pm
Tuesday 5 th	51° North	6 pm
Sunday 10 th	Feena and Peter Fredley Lane	6 pm
Saturday 16 th	Adlers Lane at Kelvin and Sarah's	6pm
Thursday 21 st	The Courtyard Swanworth Lane	6 pm

Put the date in your diary: there will be an opportunity to buy chocolate, Christmas wreaths, Alison Wood's marvellous quilts and items from 51° North.

Of course mulled wine/mince pies and drinks for children will appear again. The Meeting Room in Leatherhead, one of our chosen charities for monetary and Foodbank donations, will have a presence too.



FoodBank

Getting Ready for Christmas

It is difficult to put into words how important your donations to the foodbank are, but here is a letter from Ali from the Dorking Foodbank who can explain it much better than I. Please note especially the Christmas extras that we need by the 10th December to make a Christmas possible for 2000 local families. Thank you.

Kelvin Pritchard, St Michael's Church Community Group.

St Michael's Church Community Group



Thank you so much for your continuing and very generous support of Dorking Area Foodbank.

In recent months, many of our regular donors have had to reduce their contributions and we have found ourselves having to buy in food to continue to feed all those coming to us, as demand for food has outstripped supply for the first time in the last 8 years. But in Mickleham and Westhumble, your contributions have increased as you have responded so generously – both with food and financial support. We could not be more grateful.

As Christmas approaches, we are already well into preparations so that

we can continue to provide for our clients. We believe that everyone in our community should be able to have a Christmas lunch and to that end we are trying to provide the Christmas extras that most of us take for granted, as well as providing the staple store cupboard food for which we are known.

To assist us in our Christmas planning and distribution, we are asking all donors to get all donations of *Christmas food* to us by **10th December** so that we are able to deliver it to our clients in good time.

Deliveries of all our usual store cupboard food are welcome right up until Christmas.

Our warehouse will be closed on Monday 25th December, but open – at our usual times – throughout the rest of the Christmas break.

Ali Studley, Warehouse Manager
Dorking Area Foodbank.

Church Community Group Skittles Competition 2023

For a second year, the Village Hall was brimming with excitement at another cut-throat competition. Over 80 players tried their hand, first at an inter-table competition, followed by a singles 'Killer' knock-out.

The individual competition was won by the youngest player present, Kaydon Gilling aged 11, who was the recipient of the traditional Winners Fridge Magnet. For those of you old enough, this is equivalent to the Blanketty Blank chequebook and pen, in terms of its general lack of value or taste. The highest score with 3 bowls was by Jonathan Blake with 16, closely followed by Andy Diamond.

The team prize was won by the 'Turkish Delights', including the Flints and the Hudlasses, so called because they jointly seem to spend more time in

Turkey than on these shores. They too received fridge magnets, with some considerable glee!

Debbie (the sausage) and Sue did a terrific job producing 184 hot dogs! Thank you. Andy doubled up as player and bar manager. Many others helped reset skittles and with the bar. Thanks to all. And to Wendy Wyatt and Mary Banfield for their essential behind-the-scenes contributions.

With 80 players it was significantly more difficult to handle, but it is clearly a popular event. Although not intended to be profit-making (where else can you get an evening's entertainment with food for a fiver) we did raise over £200, which has gone to our Priest's Discretionary Fund benefitting specific needs in our own community.

Mark Day



Top: some members of the winning team;
Above: Andy in action

Valentine's Event

Forties Evening

Film and Dinner

Brief Encounter

See page 19

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See page 5



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

Mary & John Banfield, Bernie and Denis Bailey,
Cathy Cain, Andy Diamond,
Rustom & Charlotte Daruwalla,
Sandra Faccini, Rosemary Glover, Val & Mick Hallett,
Cathy & Keith Lee, Jennifer Louis,
Anne & Tim Mathieson, Frances Presley,
Sarah & Kelvin Pritchard, Stephanie Randall,
Fiona Roberts-Miller, Rose & Stan Spence,
Bernard Salisbury, Sue & Ben Tatham,
Elizabeth Watson, Judy & Brian Wilcox

Again 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 split between St Michael's CofE Infant School and St Michael's Community Nursery



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**Christmas Carols
Round the Pubs**
Friday 22nd December

Join us for carol singing at one or more of the pubs in Mickleham and Westhumble.

Put the date in your diaries.
7.15 pm at Stepping Stones,
8 pm at Running Horses and
8.45 pm King William VI
Jonathan Blake 07787126966

Carols at Westhumble Chapel Ruins
6 pm Tuesday 19th December



Carol singing at Chapel ruins opposite Chapel Farm, Westhumble at 6 pm. If the weather is very bad we will sing in the barn at the farm. Singing is followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the farm with a collection for the Gambian Horse and Donkey Trust. There will be carrots to feed the horses and donkeys and refreshments for children.

Ex-Crew Get Together Thursday 21st December
7 pm Stepping Stones

For more details contact Jonathan Blake 07787126966

**The Snowman
Concert**
3rd December
see page 25

CAN YOU OFFER A MARQUEE A HOME?

Our community is very fortunate to own a marquee, originally donated by the manufacturer for the Village Party. It has subsequently been used for a number of community events, most recently our late Queen's anniversary celebrations.

The marquee has happily lived with a family who are now moving and so can no longer house it.

Have you got space in your garage, shed or barn to care for such an important asset for events in the community?

If so please contact David Ireland . Tel 07850 002185

Mickleham Choral Society Remembrance Concert 2023

Photos by Bogdan Schiteanu



Above: Juliet in rehearsal
Right: with the choir

The tone of the evening was set by Juliet Hornby, the choir's musical director and conductor, who hoped that the evening's musical and poetic content would provide both a time of enjoyment and of meditative reflection. Juliet's aims were fully realised, starting with a beautiful rendition of the Last Post by Eliza Aarvold, followed by a non-vocalised piece entitled *Still* and then on into a varied and beautiful programme. From the start, the choir's singing,



meditative and soaring by turn, entranced the 115-strong audience in the lovely setting of St Michael's Church that has throughout its long history borne witness to so many times of joy and sorrow. Accompanied by Judith Flint on the piano, and with amazing solos by Kevin John and Laura Stephenson, the choir's performance drew out our emotions. A highlight for many was the very moving solo rendition by Laura of Dido's Lament. Interspersed were two readings from a First World War pilot's log book and a reading about El Alamein, both of which turned out, touchingly, to be from and about relatives of the readers,

Debby Jelffs and Ambrosine Desoutter respectively.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the concert, especially to Juliet Hornby, for bringing us a performance of such high quality that also spoke emotionally to our innermost thoughts on this sad, but special day of remembrance.

It has been said before, but worth repeating, in Mickleham and Westhumble we are *so fortunate* to have so many dedicated and talented local people to bring us music of such beauty and quality. Thank you to them all.

Tim Mathieson

Au Revoir to Elizabeth and Barry Moughton

Elizabeth and Barry Moughton, pictured here with their daughter Julia at the Remembrance Concert, have between the three of them built up 130 years of singing with the Mickleham Choral Society, an astonishing legacy of dedication borne out of a love of singing! It was 1959 when Elizabeth and Barry were recruited to the Society, at Box Hill and Westhumble Station, by the choir conductor and they never looked back after that.

Elizabeth wrote to us after her last rehearsal at which she was presented with a bouquet of flowers:

Dear Fellow-Singers, I was literally speechless when you sprang such a

surprise on me last night at the end of my final rehearsal with MCS. What I wanted to say, but was too overcome to be coherent, was what an important factor choral singing

has been to Barry and me throughout the 65 years of our marriage. Thursday evenings have always been sacrosanct, and holidays have always been planned around concert dates. I want to thank you - especially the sociable altos - for your support and encouragement. And thank you for the lovely flowers, too. Best wishes to all of you, and may



you all get as much out of your MCS membership as Barry and I have over the years.

We are all lost in admiration of their contribution to the Society and hope to see them in their new role as audience members for many years to come.

David Kennington

Mickleham Choral Society Carol Party - see page 9

Tapestry of people

In September I went on a Rovos train journey for twelve nights from the Victoria Falls, which is in Zimbabwe, to Johannesburg. We passed through Mozambique, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) and then into South Africa. *En route* we went to five game parks, saw the 'big five' plus many more, we learnt and saw much of the history of that part of the continent. We also saw a lot of armed guards!

We spent the first night in the Victoria Falls Hotel which was pure Edwardian, and when we joined the train the following night it too was Edwardian down to the last piece of inlaid wood in the dining car. Travelling at only 35mph, though it often seemed twice that speed, you quickly learnt to cope with being jiggled from side to side in the corridor whilst going to dinner.

We were 58 passengers in all, and we were at fairly close quarters for two weeks, if you include the day at the start and end. It was a really memorable journey, but what I found fascinating were the different kinds of people who were travelling.

The Know-alls had always been there before, seen everything and told us before our guides opened their mouths. The Pushy always made sure that they were first in the queue, always made sure they got the front seats on the coach and that they were closest to our guide for the day.

The Down-right Rude were very good at interrupting the guide when he/she was in full flow and they could be very vociferous when telling a guide if they did not approve of what was going on. For example, when our long-suffering guide had to find 58 beds because BA had caused us to miss the flight on to the Victoria Falls a lady's voice called out 'so we are being dumped for the night are we'. As one the whole bus turned on her.

Those with the Longest Camera Lenses never seemed to how they took their picture, whether hitting someone on the head, pushing the lens in front of someone's face or making sure that they moved to the side of the jeep so that no-one else could see the animals in question.



Last but not least the Totally Selfish, and I am thinking of the couple who demanded that the bus go a few miles out of the way to buy some honey, made by certain bees, that could be bought only in this spot in the world, from this man sitting by the side of the road under a tree. I am sure that the local shops had jars of the stuff.

But enough of being disparaging and nit-picking. It was a really fascinating holiday, mostly made so by the interesting and enjoyable people I did meet and have meals with who, by far, made up the majority of the group. I met a High Court Judge and his wife, a Deacon in Rochester Cathedral, a solicitor, an activist, fellow travellers from all over the country, and a couple of ladies who lived in Portugal who had the same kind of sense of humour as I have – there were many laughs.

The day after I arrived at Victoria Falls I found that I had been sold the wrong disc for my camera and then my mobile would not charge, so no photos! I was sitting with Isobel for breakfast and after hearing my tale of woe she immediately offered me her camera and she would use her mobile. I call that going beyond the realms of kindness. Thanks to her I have a lovely record of a fascinating two weeks.

Frances Presley



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My Cancer Journey

Robert Dyson of Burney Road has written on various subjects for the magazine. He said he thought we were unlikely to publish this, possibly because it is very personal. Personal it may be, but it has an important message for all readers – consult your doctor early if you have symptoms and get early treatment (not easy with the current NHS problems, but Robert's experience in that respect has been good).

I would never have known I had a dodgy mole on the back of my right shoulder if I hadn't engaged in a frantic and bloody pillow fight with my 10 year old son David. It was February 1999. My GP immediately sent me to Epsom Hospital where the mole was excised. The biopsy revealed melanoma (the most serious skin cancer); alarmingly the doctor said that I had a 3% chance of dying that year. My mother bought me lots of factor 60 sun cream.

I retired in 2011 and three more uneventful years passed until, in 2014, I noticed a painful lump in my right armpit. Within weeks a surgeon at The Royal Surrey Hospital in Guildford had removed 39 lymph nodes from my right axilla. Only one tested positive but the melanoma had spread. I was still able to play golf, but serving at tennis had to be 'underarm' – excuse the pun. I remember going with my wife to a MacMillan Cancer Day. The first speaker had written 'Bollocks' in capitals on his white board. He explained that was the reaction from his consultant 20 years earlier when he said he had wanted to find a cure

for melanoma. His consultant said melanoma would always be incurable. But science was on the move.

Once again the years passed. Looking back now, I should have realised there were numerous warning signs. I was in discomfort running around Burney Road, I started painting our living room and had to give up halfway through. Most frustrating of all, I was finding it increasingly difficult to play golf. My GP told me I had hypothyroidism, so I put my problems down to that.

It all came to a head (another pun, sorry) when we were visiting our first grandson in Bristol in July 2021, bang in the middle of covid. A scan in A&E revealed a brain tumour, a metastatic spread of the melanoma. I was given a very high dose of the steroid dexamethasone for three days to reduce the swelling. The steroid gave me all sorts of hallucinations. I was hearing voices and seeing things that were not happening. Every time I looked at the window I was presented with the view from my bedroom window in Burney Road. I was convinced that all the nurses were from Africa and Eastern Europe and were being exploited for sexual purposes (modern slavery) in order to repay the smugglers who had provided them with fake passports and arranged their arrival in England. I heard violence and threats and 'saw' it all. Unlike dreams, most of which fade fast, those illusions are still as vivid today as they were then. I was so convinced that something was amiss at the hospital that I scoured the internet for some months afterwards.



Grandson Leon, born in 2022

The surgeon told me that removal of the tumour was straightforward with no pain. I was in no pain immediately after the operation and have not felt a moment's pain since. My son David caught a bus to Heathrow and another one to Bristol and drove us back to Westhumble at full speed in the pouring rain. The journey home was far more terrifying than the craniotomy for a Grade 4 metastatic melanoma.

Today, following a year-long course of immunotherapy with a checkpoint inhibitor and a truly claustrophobic session on the cyberknife, my MRI and CT scans are all clear. The treatment has not been without significant side effects as my pituitary gland no longer works properly and I have to take daily steroids for adrenal insufficiency. I haven't driven a car for 26 months. But I have seen my son getting married and also have a second grandson.

Robert has now had his driving licence returned, so if you see him behind the wheel he is not breaking the law.

We wish him and his family all the very best for his future health.



MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

CAROL PARTY

Inspiring seasonal music followed by festive food and mulled wine

Friday 15th December 2023

Mickleham Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

Tickets £15 adults, £7.50 children under 13

Book tickets via Events page on www.micklehamchoral.org.uk



Mickleham's Creative People

Second in a series of occasional articles about the creative people connected to Mickleham included in Sue Tatham's Heritage Open Day talk in September

James Clavell 1921–1994

One of the more recent creative people to live in Mickleham was novelist, screenwriter and director James Clavell. He was born in Australia where his father, a Royal Navy Commander, was posted. The family returned to England when James was nine. When WWII was declared, James left school early and joined the army. After the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941 his troop was sent to Singapore. Their ship was sunk *en route* and James and other survivors were rescued by a passing boat and taken to the nearest port in Java. Wounded in the face and weaponless, he was captured and sent to a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Java. Later he was transferred to the notorious Changi Prison in Singapore. Aged just 20, he was to spend the next four years in prison.

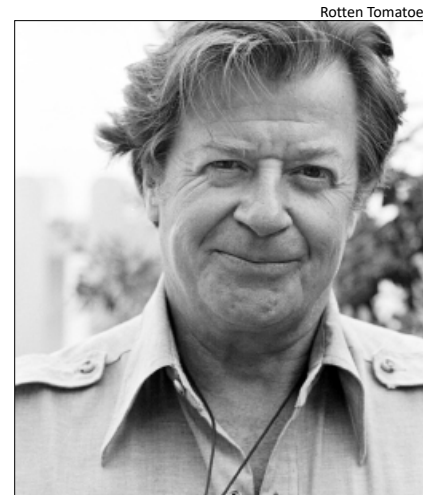
Later James recounted: *Changi became my university instead of my prison, Among the inmates there were experts in all walks of life – the high and the low roads. I studied and absorbed everything I could from physics to counterfeiting, but most of all I learned the art of surviving, the most important course of all.* In the end he believed that he would not have survived had the dropping of the atomic bombs not shortened the war.

Needless to say, his experiences had a profound effect on him afterwards with

bad dreams and stomach problems. For a long time, he carried a tin of sardines in his pocket. Like many of his fellow veterans he did not talk about this period in his life.

James' military career ended after a motorcycling accident. He then enrolled in the University of Birmingham where he met his wife, the actress April Stride. He developed an interest in films and filmmaking after visiting his wife on film sets. He worked in distribution in this country for a time. Then in the early 1950s he moved to Hollywood and started writing screen plays, moving on to film production and direction. He became very much in demand as a filmmaker. Many of his films were critical successes and very popular at the box office, see the list below.

In 1960, when the Screen Writers' Guild went on strike and James had no work for three months, he wrote his first novel *King Rat* based on his experiences in Changi. The book was published in 1962 and sold well. In the latter stages of his career, he focussed on novel writing, choosing the Far East as the setting for most of them. This might appear surprising considering his wartime experiences, but he had developed a life-long love of the Far East from his father. Richard Clavell was stationed in China before WW1 and had regaled James with Chinese legends and stories throughout his childhood.



Rotten Tomatoes

His novels were meticulously researched and written. He wrote at his own pace, refusing to be controlled by publishers' advances and deadlines. When he had completed a novel to his satisfaction, he would send the first 200 pages to the publisher. He reckoned that would be enough for them to judge it. One of his novels was auctioned for a record US\$5m.

In 1970 James bought Fredley Manor. Over the years this late 16th century cottage had been extended and renovated and, by 1970, was quite a sizeable country house, which had been renamed Fredley Manor. For the following 20 years it was used by the Clavell family for short breaks as they had houses in London, the USA, France and Austria. It was sold in 1990 and James died of a stroke in Switzerland in 1994.

Sue Tatham

Films

- The Fly 1958 writer
- Watusi 1959 writer
- Five Gates to Hell 1959 writer, director and producer
- Walk Like a Dragon 1960 writer, director and producer
- The Great Escape 1963 co-writer
- 633 Squadron 1964 co-writer
- The Satan Bug 1965 co-writer
- King Rat 1965 based on his novel
- To Sir, with Love 1967 writer, director and co-producer
- The Sweet and the Bitter 1967 writer and director
- Where's Jack? 1968 director and co-producer
- The Last Valley 1970 writer, director and producer

- Shōgun TV mini-series 1980 executive producer, based on his novel
- Tai-Pan 1986 based on his novel
- Noble House TV mini-series 1988 executive producer, based on his novel

Novels

- King Rat 1962 set in a Japanese POW camp in Singapore in 1945
- Tai-Pan 1966 set in Hong Kong in 1841
- Shōgun 1975 set in Japan from 1600 onwards
- Noble House 1981 set in Hong Kong in 1963
- Whirlwind 1986 set in Iran in 1979.
- Gai-Jin 1993 set in Japan in 1862
- Escape: The Love Story from Whirlwind 1994 a novella adapted from Whirlwind

Courtesy of Wikipedia

With thanks to Martin Burgess who looked after the grounds of Fredley Manor for the Clavells for 15 years.

The Garden Shed Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden Visit

Located in Ockley, The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden is the oldest of its kind in the UK and has been exhibiting contemporary sculpture for almost 40 years. The site once owned by the secretary for The Royal Horticultural Society in 1915, had become neglected and overgrown. Hannah and her husband Anthony Paul, a world-renowned landscape designer, purchased the cottage in the 1970s, and only then found that beneath the brambles was a 10-acre garden with the potential to be something special. Together they reclaimed the garden developing new water features, planting trees and large architectural plants in swathes that are repeated throughout the garden. This is not your typical cottage garden nestled in the Surrey Hills, it is filled only with

sculptures and plants in various shades of green, and closely resembles a woodland setting.

It was Hannah's idea to develop the garden into an exhibition centre after visiting a friend who was an art curator in Holland. On her return, she approached artists and sculptors in the UK to garner interest in exhibiting their work in a garden setting. As today, the position of all pieces was carefully considered to blend with the natural surroundings of the garden. The exhibition was and continues to be successful.

On our visit, there were 130 pieces by 50 different artists, made of a variety of materials including wood bronze, resin and glass. The way they fit into the garden is what ties them all together.

Sadly, Hannah passed away in 2021 but her husband assisted by curator Vikki Leedham, continue to maintain the garden and introduce new work. The garden is now closed for winter and will re-open in April, so we were very lucky to visit in the last weeks of the season.

Cathy Lee

A small selection of the sculptures on display showing how they blend with the surroundings.



Heritage Talks to View Online

The article on page 10 is taken from a talk Sue Tatham gave on 17th September in St Michael's Church. If you wish to see the talk it is available online at **Mickleham's Other Creative People: <https://youtu.be/KDYVtpN169E>**

Brian Unwin talked about Fanny Burney. This is also online at

Fanny Burney and Juniper Hall: <https://youtu.be/aTilyupTkl8>

Thanks to Kelvin Pritchard for setting up the links.

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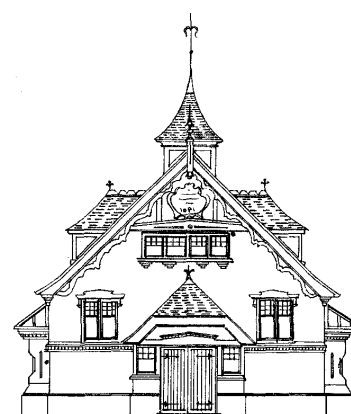
KING WILLIAM IV

Dear friends and neighbours,

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and all the very best for 2024. Anne is in her element in
full-on lights and decoration mode, so don't stand still or you may find yourself covered in tinsel.

We hope to see you during the festive season, for a glass of mulled wine in the Christmas-garden, or we are running a pre-
book Festive Menu for the whole of December if you wish to take the opportunity to bring some family or friends together.
On Friday 22nd December we have our annual visit from the Christmas carollers here at about 8.45 pm - always a highlight.
Eamonn & Anne x

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com



Mickleham Village Hall available for hire

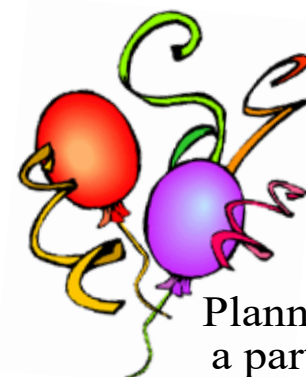
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bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk

www.micklehamvillagehall.org.uk



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admin@micklehamvh.co.uk

Community Directory

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Lead Ranger – Meredith Westall (Merry) meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk
07811 088097

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

BOX HILL SCHOOL 01372 374814
Headmaster – Cory Lowde
HMPA@boxhillschool.com

DORKING CRICKET CLUB
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DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS
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JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501
enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

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Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 01483 281935
suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION 07767 891772
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt sarah@sarahparfitt.com

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY www.micklehamchoral.org.uk
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106
Secretary – Mike Benson secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk

MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB
Secretary – John Atewell 01372 374745

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SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES 01372 379381
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ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice
of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

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The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini * 01372 417664
07763 488961

parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk

* Main working days: Monday, Tuesday and Sunday

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davidkennington144@gmail.com

www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

*For information about services for other
denominations see website pages.*

Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

REGISTERS

FUNERAL SERVICE

Monday 13th November Janice Steele

BAPTISMS

Sunday 29th October Otilie Grace, daughter of
Mark and Georgina Kennington McKellar.

Sunday 5th November Emilia Rose (3yrs) and
Poppy Rae (2yrs), daughters of Thomas and
Francesca Trundle-Martin.

CALENDAR DECEMBER

2	Saturday	10 am to noon	Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel
3	SUNDAY CHRISTINGLE	9.30 am 11 am 4 pm circa 5 pm	Christingle Workshop Christingle Service Performance of 'The Snowman' in church Lighting of church tree
9	Saturday		Christmas Fair at Westhumble Chapel
10	SUNDAY Second Sunday of Advent	10 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion Matins at Westhumble Chapel
14	Thursday	3.15 - 4.45 pm	Messy Church in village hall
15	Friday	7.30 pm	Mickleham Choral Society Carol Concert
17	SUNDAY Third Sunday of Advent	8 am 10 am 6.30 pm	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion Carols by Candlelight at the church
19	Monday	6 pm	Carol Singing in Westhumble Chapel ruins
22	Thursday	7.30 pm	Ex-Crew Get Together Stepping Stones
23	Friday	starts 7.30 pm	Carol Singing round the pubs starting at Stepping Stones
24	SUNDAY CHRISTMAS EVE Fourth Sunday of Advent	10 am 4 pm 11.30 pm	Holy Communion Crib Service in Westhumble Field Midnight Holy Communion
25	CHRISTMAS DAY	10 am	Holy Communion
31	SUNDAY	10 am	Morning Prayer

JANUARY

6	Saturday	10 am to noon	Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel
7	SUNDAY	10 am	Family service
		<i>Copy deadline for</i>	<i>February parish magazine</i>
10	Wednesday	6.30 For 7 pm	Men's Dinner at the Stepping Stones
14	SUNDAY	10 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Prayer at Chapel
18	Thursday	3.15 - 4.45 pm	Messy Church in village hall
20	Saturday	9 am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones
21	SUNDAY	8 am 10 am	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion
28	SUNDAY	8 am 10am	BCP Holy Communion at Chapel Holy Communion

Dates for your diary

Saturday 17th February

Saturday 6th July

Saturday 13th July

Valentine's Event *Brief Encounter*

Summer Fair

M&WHS Village Show



Best wishes for Christmas and the
New Year to all our contributors,
advertisers and readers



MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Blake	Elaine Machin
Mark Day	Tim Mathieson
Andy Diamond	Beverley Mehta
Catherine Diffey	Kelvin Pritchard
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ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP HELPING HANDS INCLUDING FOOD FOR FRIENDS

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- Changing library books
- Small tasks: eg changing fuses, altering clocks etc
- Dog walking
- Visiting / befriending
- Home-cooked meals for local families going through difficult times

Requests to:

Will Dennis 07903 842674 wddennis@icloud.com
(who can put requests onto WhatsApp)
Mary Banfield 01372 373912 mgbbmw@aol.com
Frances Presley 01306 882473 jasempres@gmail.com

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

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB
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MICKLEHAM CRICKET CLUB
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will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

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MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
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Cllr Leah Mursaleen-Plank 07803 353352
councillor.mursaleen-plank@molevalley.gov.uk

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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

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SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST 01483 795440
info@surreywt.org.uk

TREE WARDEN
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davidkennington144@gmail.com

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WHATSAPP GROUP
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ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE
Dorking – Lyons Court 01306 732302
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 01306 732301

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

POLICE Non-emergencies 101
(often quicker to make online report) <https://report.police.uk/>

Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East
General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk

NHS Urgent and emergency care 111

Babysitting by local youngsters

Those listed below are at least
14 years old.

Gracie Owen **07790 900649
Annabelle Prosser* 07443 634179
Maisy Presley*** 07720 657327
Martha Pearce* 07514 080005
Rory Lee 07503 702517
Daisy Armitage 07891 188142
Olivia Newby 07703 110363
Eva Lanceley **07903 630567

* Holidays only
** Parent's mobile number
***Weekday evenings only

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this magazine possible.



Janice Steele 1942- 2023

Janice was born in Clapham, younger sister to Nina and was very proud of her South London beginnings until they moved across the river to live in The North – Tottenham. As children, my sister Donna and I listened intently to her stories of playing on bomb sites, catching tiddlers in the river Lee, listening to Uncle Bert on his pianola and spending numerous Saturday afternoons with her sister going to a variety of dancing classes at Finsbury Park Empire and making up little sketches for when their parents returned from the football match at White Hart Lane with cockles and winkles for their tea.

My parents met at Fine Lady Furniture, Banbury where Mum worked in the office and Dad as a cabinet maker and so began their life together. Mum's love of the countryside was launched by frequent visits to Dad's family's Oxfordshire home in Sanford St Martin. Mum began married life in 1959 with the infamous make-do and mend mentality. If it could be woven, sewn, knitted, recycled, baked, spun, painted, printed, propagated, crocheted, caned, repaired... then Mum could turn her hand to it. She was a great problem solver and loved a project – when they needed a small wall building, Mum learnt bricklaying. This was taken to higher realms when computers came in. She embraced technology to the point that the grandchildren called her High-tech Nan. She loved power point presentations and excel spreadsheets! Like many women of her generation, she took up office work but she could have been anything she set her mind to with her tenacity, determination and resilience.

Mum was fabulous at making us beautiful clothes, toys, dolls and all their various outfits and loved Blue Peter because they could also do

anything with a used washing up liquid bottle! She read constantly with us and instilled our own love of books and had a great imagination which would transfer to us.

Mum had great taste and real vision. She was a wonderful home maker. Every time we moved, she would add a bit of William Morris. Mum and Dad loved the radio, and after Sunday lunch if a tune from the 1950s came on, they would jive around the living room with tea cloths in hand.

After Donna and I left home, their dancing career resumed and their love of craft returned, with wood-turning and making fabulous teddy bears.

When Simon and I moved to Mickleham in 1987 newly married, Mum and Dad embraced this village life and frequent visits from Cambridge would include walking on the many local walks, collecting firewood and making a start on renovating our first home and garden with their usual vigour, energy and knowledge. In 1991, when their first grandchild Alice came along Mum and Dad took early retirement and soon moved to Surrey.

So began a wonderful appreciation for Mickleham as she helped look after Alice when I returned to work part time. She embraced this new grandparent role immersing herself in Mini Minstrels, toddler group, nursery life and then St Michael's First School. She loved it and supported village events – plant sales, school fund raisers, Horticultural Society and the early village fêtes as well as three jubilees.

Further grandchildren Jack and Rosa came along only seven days apart and then a few years later Bertie. This year Mum welcomed her first great grandson, Stanley. There were so many magic moments with the grandchildren and the utter joy and fun it brought her.

Mum was extraordinary in being ordinary but to us she was simply the best. Like so many mums, she sacrificed a lot of her own dreams and aspirations to be an exceptional mother, grandmother and great grandmother. As a family we would like to thank the many people of this parish who shared numerous wonderful times with Mum and have given us much needed support as well acts of kindness over these past few weeks.

Fiona Taylor

Community News

Welcome to the Smith family, Paul, Vanessa and daughter Sienna. Recently moved from Wimbledon to Westhumble Street; and

Sheila Carnegie, who has 2 daughters and dog Simba, has also moved to Westhumble from Bookham.



Judy Kinloch

Villagers will have been shocked and saddened to hear that Judy Kinloch had passed away as this issue of the magazine was almost ready to go to print. She was a much-loved long-time resident and very well known, particularly for her lovely sense of humour. Judy was a prolific contributor to the magazine, covering horticultural matters (which she had at her green fingertips) and local history, for which she did a lot of research. She accepted the role of President of the Horticultural Society on the death of Alan Edwards and it is sad that she had little time to enjoy it. Judy will be sorely missed and we send deepest sympathy and warmest wishes to her family.

We hope to have a full obituary in the next issue.

Summer Fair Saturday 6th July 2024 Save the Date

A small group has begun to plan a Summer Fair. It will be a exciting new event with some similarities to previous Village Fêtes and will be held in the afternoon in the Rectory garden. It will be a fundraising event for various good causes and a great opportunity for all ages to enjoy chatting to friends over refreshments, be entertained, view stalls, buy goodies and win prizes. In the next magazine there will be more details but if you are able to help or contribute, please get in touch with me. Thank you. Sandra Faccini.

Grumpy Old Mickleman Christmas Wrapping

How do they make Christmas wrapping paper so thin? Just as you have got all the edges of the paper to one meeting point, with a strip of Sellotape ready in in your mouth, the 'rip limit' of the paper is reached. You would swear out loud, but the Sellotape is still in your mouth. Quite why you are trying to wrap what is, to everyone, obviously a football is a moot point.

The British sub-species can be identified by their Christmas wrapping habits:

1. Those who regard Christmas as 'another' duty, reminded by their laptop on 1st November. Present buying/wrapping is devolved to their PA, or wrapped in shop, and presented perfectly. They have no idea how Sellotape works. They would never dream of giving 'fun presents': an inflatable Santa or a pair of musical socks! When it comes to Christmas Day, they haven't a clue which of their gifts is what.

2. Other, well-organised people who do buy/wrap themselves, but wrap in sensible phases. They have been making a Christmas list all year. They generally purchase expensive heavy duty paper, and have colour-coded the presents according to the recipient. This group includes those from whom you receive your first Christmas card,

on 1st December, 10 days in advance of the next one.

3. The largest group, to whom yours truly belongs. No lack of thought here, but a complete lack of organisation/planning. Thus, late on Christmas Eve, this person (you) is absent from proceedings, behind a closed bedroom door. To ease the sense of panic, you have smuggled in a bottle of wine. No matter what techniques you devise, the end of the Sellotape becomes stuck back, invisibly, onto the roll after each use. You bite the Sellotape into roughly appropriate lengths and store it temporarily in your mouth as you work out the wrapping. At this point, you can be sure someone asks, '...are you all right in there?' You reply through the Sellotape. They think you are drunk. Even when the Sellotape is released, it seems to have its own sense of purpose, and attaches itself to any nearby object. The scissors have also now disappeared completely. You are sitting on them. You are near to the end of a paper roll, with one CD still to wrap. The remaining paper is 1cm too short, whichever way you try it. You are by now perspiring profusely. The central heating is on full power. There are valiant attempts to sort things into piles so that Granny does not receive the pair of rather



tasteless joke underpants meant for your brother. It becomes clear that you have six presents for your son, but twelve for your daughter, a sure sign of rapid breakdown of the Christmas spirit. By now, in one corner of the room is a huge pile of discarded, torn wrapping paper, a far larger pile than the clump of presents. And pieces of Sellotape are attached to different parts of hands, hair and clothing, and to all sorts of surfaces in the room, later discovered on the soles of your feet when you finally get to bed. By the last wrap, the wine bottle is mysteriously empty and you couldn't care less what the wrapping looks like. And after two hours on your knees, you wish you had asked for a winch for Christmas.

Hours of wrapping effort result in a 5-minute opening frenzy. And why on earth do we wrap presents for the dog?

Mark Day

Editor: Merry Christmas.

Grump: Bah, humbug.

Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society New Membership or Renewal

Annual subscriptions of £5 per household are due on 1st January 2024. Membership fees enable us to hold our popular shows in Mickleham Village Hall each year and all members are entered into a prize draw at the AGM for garden vouchers of £50. Members are also able to purchase compost and manure at a significant discount.

Although we still accept cash, we encourage payment by standing order, payable on 1st January each year, or online bank transfer to the following account:

Account name: Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society

Sort code: 20-23-97

Account number: 60257931

Please use your name/house as the reference and email the Membership Secretary, Judith Long, when you have paid: judith.long2@btinternet.com

2024 dates for your diary:

Saturday 20th April – AGM & plant sale

Saturday 13th July – Summer Show

Frost Fair Box Hill Centre Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December 10 am -3 pm

This year the National Trust and Surrey Hills Enterprises will jointly host a two-day Christmas Market at the Box Hill Centre. The market will feature many of the best local arts, crafts, food and drink products in the Surrey Hills. The NT will have a stall and Friends of Box Hill will have a gazebo there with activities for people to participate in.

Valentine's Event Brief Encounter 17th February

Please hold 17th February 2024 in your diaries for a Valentine's week charity showing in Mickleham Village Hall of the classic 1945 movie *Brief Encounter*, starring Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. Those of you who came to *Posting Letters to the Moon* earlier this year will recall the wartime background against which this movie was made.

As well as showing the film, the evening will be run on a 1940s theme. We will provide a suitably themed dinner, and there may be some special guests!

Further details will be made available via the village WhatsApp group and Pews News. Tickets £14 (includes 3-course dinner) from anniehallfarm@icloud.com Cash bar. Profits to local charities and Ukrainian humanitarian relief.



Mickleham Parish Council Report November 2023

although the considerable rise in the annual insurance premium will put more pressure on annual income. The playground welcomes donations from the community in order to support this excellent community facility. Do please consider adding your support.

The parish councillors were joined by two of our district councillors Leah Mursaleen-Plank and Chris Budleigh and our Surrey county councillor Hazel Watson for the main meeting.

Two subjects in particular were discussed at some length, one being the problems faced by some tenants in Norbury Park whose tenancies have either been terminated or have had their terms altered. Real concern was expressed by parish councillors, who felt that support should be given by both our county councillor and district councillors. There was some discussion about how this might or might not be possible and hopefully a way forward can be found. The second issue raised under Public Questions was the naming of the new development on Mickleham Downs as Mickleham Village. It was felt that this was both unnecessary and confusing,

particularly as there had been no consultation with the residents of Mickleham Village. The matter is being pursued by the chairman on behalf of the council and reassurance has subsequently been given that the matter is being addressed.

The council has recently purchased dog waste bag dispensers and appropriate signage is to be installed in the recreation ground. A new picnic bench, to commemorate the King's Coronation, has also been commissioned from a local firm. The damage to the bus stop outside the Rectory, caused by a delivery vehicle, is to be repaired once an insurance claim has been settled.

The recent questionnaire on vehicle noise on the Old London Road, circulated to all those affected by the issue, has gleaned very helpful information to support the parish council's efforts to get a noise camera installed in the area. Councillors were informed that there is to be a Summer Fair, held in the Rectory Garden, on Saturday 6th July 2024, and agreed to give the event their full support.

David Ireland (Chair)



See our website for details
www.gardenshed.club

Any questions Pauline Davis 07759 646353
paulinedavis33@icloud.com



CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP MAKE A WREATH or TABLE DECORATION

at Mickleham Village Hall

on Saturday 9th December at 9.15 am - 12.30 pm

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Chapel Farm Community Orchard Update November 2023

Following the planting of the orchard in the spring of this year, we have been provided with an update on progress by Federico Ghittoni the lead National Trust ranger from Box Hill.

Federico reports that of the 180 trees originally planted all but a dozen or so have established themselves, which he feels is a very good outcome. There are plans to replace the trees that have failed and to do some additional planting, mainly of quinces and walnuts, in late winter/early spring 2024. Eventually the intention is to have an orchard of about 300 trees.

The community orchard project has accessed advice and guidance from Alex Valsecchi, previously Orchard Manager at RHS Wisley. This has included the technique of formative pruning which prioritises the growth needs of the trees rather than their fruit production over the first five years. This means that the trees will be allowed to blossom, but this growth will then be pinched out to prevent fruit formation. So, sadly, nothing to excite our taste buds yet but this policy should literally bear fruit in the future!

Over the past six months the orchard has been watered and mulched - on occasion involving the use of a water bowser. In addition to the team of local

rangers, the National Trust has teams of about 20 volunteers at Box Hill and a similar number at Headley Heath to assist with specific tasks in the orchard as required.

The orchard area has been used for light livestock grazing by winter lambs rather than being grazed more intensively or mown for hay as previously. This has allowed the grass and wild flowers to develop more naturally, improving the overall habitat and encouraging pollinators and other species. The chestnut paling tree guards have proved successful in preventing damage from livestock and the local deer population.

Federico explains that there is a management plan for the community orchard over the next five years. Apart from the winter tree planting, which will be publicised to give local residents an opportunity to get involved, the Trust intends to hold an opening event to mark the completion of all tree planting activity. Again, details of this will be provided at the appropriate time. At present there is no ready access to the orchard and the Trust's plan includes the creation of a gate in the fencing along the permissive footpath running from Chapel Lane to the North Downs Way. The Trust is aware that this footpath is substantially overgrown in



Top: a bowser
Above: one of the flourishing saplings

places and this will be attended to.

Looking to the future, Federico envisages that there will be fruit pressing days and other events through which the local community can enjoy the benefits of having this orchard on our doorstep. We hope that readers will appreciate having updates from time to time within the magazine and if there are any comments or questions arising we will endeavour to bring these to the attention of Federico and his team.

Graham Crawforth

A sign of the times ...

Dorking Branch of RNLI to Close

Sadly, the Dorking Branch will be closing at the end of this financial year. It is for similar reasons other RNLI Branches and charities are closing - no banks, lack of foot fall in the high street, pubs etc only wanting card payments, funeral services only wanting digital payments and aging volunteers. RNLI Christmas cards will no longer be sold in Dorking, but may be ordered online from the RNLI Shop <https://shop.rnli.org>

The Branch started some 40 years ago by Janet Curran, whom many of you will remember. In its heyday it collected some £17,000 per annum. House to

house used to raise £7,000 - £11,000. Virtually all donations were made by cash. Even last year, 99% of all donations were cash or cheque. Prior to Covid we raised approximately £2,500 from boxes, £1,500 from Sherlocks funeral services, £800 from High Street collections and £800 from Christmas cards. As people carry less cash, tend to pay by credit card and banks close, this year we have only raised about £250 to date.

The Branch would not have been as successful without your support and assistance over the 40 years. Thank you for your time, cakes, scones, bucket



holding, old jewellery and coins, empty ink cartridges, books, raffle prizes, assistance in setting up collections, lending your houses and donations. Through rain, hail and sun you have given your time. Thank you so much.

Helen Fairfax (Dorking Branch
Chairman & Educational Volunteer)

To find out how to continue to make donations to the RNLI go to rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate



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Westhumble Bonfire Night



Chris Budleigh

Old and new teams working together
to build the bonfire.



Francesca Budleigh

The guy, with Chris Budleigh
about to light the fire.



Kelvin Pritchard

A good turnout enjoying the bonfire.

Congratulations and thank you to the organisers of the Westhumble Bonfire Night on 4th November. Despite the atrocious weather leading up to the Saturday and on the day itself, the bonfire and fireworks were spectacular. A great achievement, especially as a new group have taken over responsibility for the event and this was their first attempt.

We have to say a huge thank you to Neil Mason, and family, who have run the bonfire evening for almost 40

years. Two years ago, he announced his intended retirement this year to allow time for someone to step up and take over. In fact, four people have; Jonathan Cain, Vladimir Kim, Robert Machin and Doug McIlwraith. They did a terrific job. More than 300 people attended. It was especially encouraging to see lots of young families this year, essential for the healthy future of the event. Some of the older, regular attendees may have been kept away by the slippery conditions in the field, so hopefully

next year, numbers may be even stronger. There were fresh bread rolls from Coughlan's Bakery in Dorking and sausages from The Dorking Butchery. Even the fireworks were sourced locally. Chris Budleigh was delighted to be asked to light the fire again, a highlight of his year. The magnificent guy pictured above him on the bonfire was created by the McIlwraith and Willens families. We look forward to next year and fingers crossed for better weather.

Jan Budleigh
Kelvin Pritchard



Kelvin Pritchard



Francesca Budleigh



Jan Budleigh
Kelvin Pritchard

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Skills for life are very important and there are many that we can learn from an early age. This half term we have been learning about both fire safety, and how to be safe around dogs. We are fortunate to have our on site a forest school where we can teach and practice fire safety, and this term we also had a visit from Katie Brill (positive dog training) and her dog Logan. We also enjoyed recreating fireworks and learned that some dogs do not like fireworks.

As this will not be landing on your door mats until December, I feel it is okay to talk about Christmas! The nursery is one of the most magical places to be in December. The excitement is building as children start to share their understandings and staff share their own Christmas traditions and stories. This year we have stolen an idea from the internet and will be making each child a 'height bauble'. Using a fillable bauble we will measure each child and fill the bauble with a piece of ribbon cut to their measured height. A



lovely keepsake for parents, but also a teachable moment for us too.

Seeing or taking part in a Nativity performance supports children and families to value cultural, religious and community events and experiences. How fortunate you are in Mickleham and Westhumble to have a crib service when you can all play a role. (4 pm Christmas Eve, please see advert) on page 27.

The nursery Nativity this year is 'Away In A Manger'. The story follows traditional nativity themes, but is told from the perspective of Maurice, the rather disgruntled hoof stamping mule, who does not (initially) want to share his manger. The children are

really enjoying learning songs about Maurice, his animal friends in the stable and the sudden appearance of a very special baby.

Hilary Budd



A Christmas Concert for Children
THE SNOWMAN
by Raymond Briggs
Sunday 3rd December at 4 pm
St Michael and All Angels Church, Mickleham
Performed by Tracy Kennington, Clare Kennington & friends
Narrated by Andy Diamond
Retiring Collection in aid of NSPCC and Barnardo's
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Pebbles of Peace

them. Without a doubt, word of mouth is our biggest marketing tool. Small schools have such a lot to offer so please spread the word about our fantastic school as much as you can.

PEBBLES OF PEACE

The children took part in a very special Remembrance service at school, where they reflected on the significance and importance of this time.

In preparation for this, the children created 'Pebbles of Peace'. They decorated pebbles with poppies, crosses, soldiers and doves. The children respectfully placed them on the hall floor before worship began and the children reflected on what this time must have felt like. We held a two minute silence and again the children were incredibly thoughtful and respectful.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Christmas is nearing and the children have been taking part in lots of festive fun. The Christmas production songs are a huge hit this year and all the children and staff can't stop singing them!

Nicola Cleather



St Michael's School

stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/



A big thank you to all our parents and students who contributed to the shoebox campaign this year. Along with St Michael's Church, Box Hill School and St Michael's Infant School we have donated almost 80 boxes from Mickleham village. Lots of students got involved buying, packing and wrapping and some groups even included hand made cards. We hope the children who receive them this Christmas enjoy them as much as we did creating them.

Hayley Osborne

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Sunday 3rd December
9.30 am

followed by Church Family Service 11 am
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Crib Service 4 pm Sunday 24th December

Please join us for this year's Crib Service, all ages welcome. This is a special event where our children help us to tell the Nativity story as we progress down Adlers Lane in Westhumble towards the fields. We will meet shepherds keeping warm around a fire, angels and kings along the way as we celebrate and sing together.



Gathering before our Star leads the way, at 4 pm



Away in a manger



Processing down Adlers Lane



Meeting the Shepherds by the fire



We are looking for readers, Mary, Joseph, wise Kings, Shepherds, the Star, Angels and a baby Jesus to help us bring this Nativity to life. Please wear wellies or sturdy shoes, this is a working field. Everyone is welcome and refreshments are available afterwards. Let Elly know if you, or any young people would like to take part (and who you would like to be): ellyjay@gmail.com

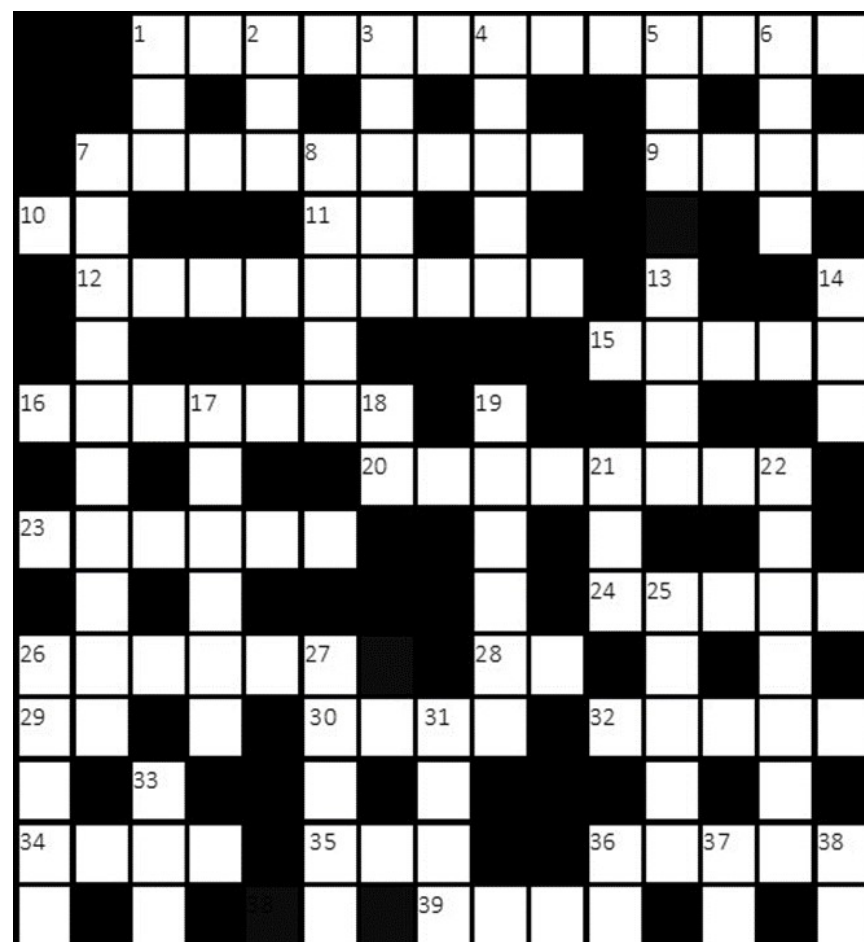
Crossword

Following Andrew Tatham's retirement as our crossword compiler, Holly McLaren of Westhumble has offered to produce a general knowledge crossword from time to time. She produced this one at very short notice. Many thanks for that, Holly. For readers, a new challenge. The solution will appear in the February 2024 issue.

Any other offers to produce an occasional crossword still welcome.

Across

- 1 Ready for the turkey and trimmings (8)
- 7,14D,13D,12A,22D Angela Rippon, Andre Previn, Glenda Jackson, Shirley Bassey (9,3,4,9,7)
- 9 Vanishing valley constituency (4)
- 10 Five hundred and one, Detective Inspector (2)
- 11 Comparison (2)
- 12 See 7 Across
- 15 "Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and '...' or leading lady in the Chase (5)
- 16 1983 Christmas bombing (7)
- 20 See 17 Down
- 23 Mr. - 1993 festive number 1(6)
- 24 One of Ophanim, Ridwam, Juliet (5)
- 26 Headwear for 24 Across (6)
- 28, 31D Christ's Grandmother (2,4)
- 29 Possession: a romance author's initials (2)
- 30 Father of Seth at 130, died 8 hundred years later (4)
- 32 Oh speak '.....' bright Angel For thou art as glorious to this night, being o'er my head. As is a winged messenger of heaven. (5)
- 34 Albert's festive import (4)
- 35 Number of Lords a-leaping (3)



- 36 "Fashion changes, but '....' endures." Coco Chanel (5)
- 39 Local chapel (4)
- Down
- 1 Pooh's companion who enjoys a swim at the "North Pole" (3)
- 2 "In cloud, and majesty and' ...' "(3)
- 3 French? Buttered? (5)
- 4 Abu Simbel and Philae Region (5)
- 5,37 '...(2) Ho Ho and a bottle of '...' (3)
- 6 German winter festival (4)
- 7 University autumn term, local saint (10)
- 8 Checked out prior (5)
- 13 See 7 Across
- 14 See 7 Across
- 17, 20A Present dressings (7, 8)
- 18 Prevailing wind direction in Britain; 225 degrees (2)
- 19 No Christmas in this thinking (7)
- 20 See 7 Across
- 21 Minted or marrow fat? (3)
- 22 See 7 Across
- 25 'Twas the '.....' before Christmas (5)
- 26 Upbeat dwarf (5)
- 27 North Pole factory foreman (5)
- 31 See 28 Across
- 33 No room here (3)
- 36 9 Across valley is situated in this region (2)
- 37 See 5 Down
- 38 Surprise or confusion (2)

Holly McLaren



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