

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

February 2023



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Mickleham Parish Magazine

February
2023

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A community magazine for
Mickleham and Westhumble
published under the auspices
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Hello friends

First of all, an enormous thank you to the editorial, production and distribution team for giving us such a brilliant magazine and making sure we all get a copy. I especially want to thank Sue Tatham whose brainchild it was and who has edited it for very many years. She has done a wonderful job for us all and her dedication and perseverance are an inspiration.

I am writing this on a cold, damp January day and February seems a long way off. The month includes Saint Valentine's Day on 14th February, which is a commercialised celebration of love. However, the original saint was probably a bishop who was martyred for his faith in the third century and may have performed illegal weddings! Celebrating love and commitment is no bad thing of course. Just prior to that there is Racial Justice Sunday (12th), when the church promotes equality of opportunity and worth, thinking particularly about combating racism. It is sadly still an issue in our society and in our churches.

Lent starts in February with Shrove Tuesday on 21st and Ash Wednesday on 22nd. I love pancakes, although I am conservative in my taste and either have lemon juice and sugar or fruit with them. It is good to enjoy them but pancakes are also a reminder of getting ready for Lent which traditionally involved fasting from things like meat, fish, fats, eggs and milky foods. The making of pancakes helped to use up fat, eggs and milk before Lent started. Having pancakes is still a popular custom which is widely practised unlike the shroving from which the day gets its name. To be shriven meant to confess your sins to a priest and be absolved. The Christian could then start the period of self-sacrifice, resisting temptation and preparing for Easter with a cleansed conscience. Not so popular now!

Lent of course starts on Ash Wednesday, when there is a short service of Holy Communion in church at 7.30 pm with an opportunity to be marked with ash. The ash is traditionally made by burning the Palm Crosses from the year before and is a sign of taking Lent seriously.

Lent traditionally involves giving up something, but why? We can usefully donate money saved to charity, it helps strengthen us in resisting temptation, but a purpose we sometimes overlook is to learn to desire worldly things less and desire God more. Lent is an opportunity to focus on our relationship with the loving God, who not only created us but desires a relationship with us. The first step towards a holy Lent is to examine what we prioritise over God and decide to give that up. For some people it might be food or drink, but for others it might be excessive screen time. Secondly, we may take up or do more of spiritual things like prayer and meditation to better focus on Him.

How are you going to observe Lent I wonder?

Best wishes

Sandra

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

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. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship.

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/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>



Alpha is back!

After the successful and enjoyable Alpha Course last year we are planning to hold another one. It is a great opportunity to learn about and discuss the Christian faith. The start date was Monday 16th January, from 7 to 9 pm and it will then continue every Monday for 10 to 12 weeks. It will be held at Chapel Farm in Westhumble. To find out more or sign up please email Andy on diamo1@hotmail.co.uk or phone 077789775354. We are also looking for some simple admin support so if you could offer an hour or so a week for around 12 weeks please do get in touch.



Bible Study

Monday Evening Group
8 - 9 pm

3 Cleveland Court, Westhumble
Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

Thursday Morning Group
11 am - 12.30 pm

Abbotts Cottage, Mickleham
Contact Alison Wood
01372 376443
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ALL WELCOME TO EITHER GROUP

Christmas Eve Crib Service A New Pawspective

The Crib Service – On a chilly Christmas Eve my humans and I wrapped up warm and headed to the top of Adlers Lane for the annual crib service. It was my first year of being allowed to come along, although my family told me it was a special tradition in the village calendar (so I had to be on my best behaviour).

After setting the scene there, we all followed Mary and Joseph and the star to Bethlehem (which I think was also the field where Dad had been bonfire building a few months before). We stood by the fire and listened to the story of the shepherds, then made the last stretch of walk to the stable, where the whole nativity cast came together, in what looked like a lot of cosy straw and twinkly lights.

There were lots of good readings that told us the Christmas story, and everyone had clearly been practising hard for their big moments. I loved being surrounded by so many people singing alongside my family, telling me

the Christmas story for the first time. From my height of a foot and a half, I was also very taken with the shepherd with light-up trainers! Lots of effort had clearly gone into all the costumes, although it was a shame all the tea towels were on people's heads and too far away for me to play with.

After the last carol ('O come let us adore him' is normally what people say about me, but I was told, in the spirit of Christmas, that it was truly about the baby Jesus), there was just time for some refreshments and lots of Merry Christmases to all our friends.

We walked home full of mince pies (well, my family were, I wasn't allowed one despite my best big, brown, pleading eyes), ready for the final



present wrapping, some Christmas TV and a few biscuits and a snooze for me. Not such a dog's life...

My humans have also asked me to say a big thank you to Anne Weaver for organising this, and many other crib services over the years, and to everyone else who took part or helped in any way to make it special once more.

Harry (age 2½) Assisted by
Isabel Budleigh

A thank you from Anne Weaver

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the Crib Service, taking the time and trouble to provide costumes for the children, and help them to read so well, also to the adult readers who helped to show that this is truly an event for everyone, not just the children. Huge thanks also go to Gerry and Jonathan for providing all

the technical support and staging, as well as being part-time cattle herders – the cattle had been keen to stay again this year but were persuaded otherwise! Thanks also to Lucy and Sophie for providing the refreshments, always a difficult task because we never know how many people are going to attend. Barbara provided the

accompaniments to the carols with her unique flair on the keyboard, she really got us singing! Finally, a big thank you to everyone who attended, you are the people who make this worthwhile. It has been a great privilege to be a part of this over the last 20 or so years but now I feel it is time to step down and for someone else to take up the reins.

Carol singing around pubs of Mickleham and Westhumble

With the lead up to Christmas and being out of any Covid restrictions, there was definitely a buzz about being able to meet and sing. As I walked down to the Stepping Stones pub for the carol singing, I did not know how many people to expect. At 7.10 pm there were plenty in the pub and the singers started gathering. As the next few minutes passed, more and more people turned up. The pub was busy, some coming specifically for the evening, some from 15-20 miles away. Some possibly coming for a quiet drink, awoken by the singing. The allocated 30 minutes soon passed and it was time

to move on to the Running Horses. Some people moved with us and some stayed at the Stepping Stones. Thank you to the Stepping Stones for minced pies. We congregated in the door of the Running Horses, which was full, and we had a wonderful time with participation from many within the pub. We accepted requests for carols to sing. Again, thank you to the Running Horses for their hospitality. Our visit seemed to whizz by and it was time to move to the King William. By the time we got there a number of people were eagerly awaiting our arrival. We continued to sing a wide

variety of carols in the garden. Many requests were received from those trying to eat or socialise. We were supplied with a wonderful selection of refreshments.

Thank you to the King William for their hospitality, Thank you to all those who attended. Considering the climate this was fantastic. We collected for the meeting room in leatherhead over £200 which was fantastic especially as several people remarked they did not carry cash anymore.

For those that missed out the excitement this year, you could always come along next year.
Jonathan Blake



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The Chapel Christmas Café 2022

It seemed hard to think back to the first Christmas Café in 2014, when the chapel still had its rows of pews, no toilet or kitchen facilities. Was it another one of those hair brain schemes (I have been known to have a few!) to consider holding a Christmas (Craft Fair) Café in such cramped surroundings? Somehow we managed - sheets of hardboard were placed over the pews, allowing the stallholders to exhibit their wares on these make shift 'counters'.

The whole idea of opening up the chapel, had been mooted for some time, and this was one of the first occasions, excluding religious services, where local folk had a chance to see beyond the doors. If this idea of opening the chapel for village events was to continue, major works needed to be addressed. With the removal of the pews (never an easy decision to make) and the addition of a loo and kitchen, the chapel was ready to take on a renewed identity.

Now in 2022, the sixth Christmas Café took place in dry but very chilly conditions. Our stallholders included patchwork items, honey produce, Children in Need, Book Sales, 51 Degrees, The Garden Shed and a stall run by volunteers in aid of The Meeting Room, Leatherhead.*

By opening time, a steady flow of people had begun to arrive. The aromatic mulled wine being served on the patio was proving to be a welcome beverage,



The Meeting Room's Stall

even with a group of ramblers! As daylight faded the Chapel took on a real Christmassy feel, with fairy lights both inside and out, and the chapel itself positively buzzing with shoppers.

Once again the Chapel had become a place, where the community were making good use of this extraordinary building within their midst. It was wonderful yet again to get together for a few hours of 'catch up' with friends and neighbours and warming mulled wine.

The £125 raised by this event was donated to The Meeting Room, Leatherhead.
Jenny Hudlass

**The Meeting Room is a registered charity operating in the Mole Valley and Epsom areas. The charity was founded in 2014 by Graham Peddie MBE, who was a leading advocate for assisting the most vulnerable people in our community. Our clients are of all backgrounds and ages and our focus is to provide meaningful support to those with a wide variety of issues including homelessness, poverty, physical or mental health difficulties, breakdown of relationships, social exclusion and loneliness and issues with alcohol or drugs.*

Carol Singing at the Westhumble Chapel Ruins

On the 20th Dec at 6.30 pm a crowd of all ages, plus one dog, gathered at the Chapel ruins to sing carols. Carol pamphlets were illuminated by torches that had just lit the way along Chapel Lane and two small boys with multi-coloured light sabres helped to keep the dark at bay.

The singing was led by Parish Priest Sandra Faccini. Some of us at the back missed the number of the carols to be sung but our keen eared neighbours put us right. One verse of Away in a Manager was sung by the children and one lovely young voice rang out above the others.

After half an hour of singing, we crossed the road to Chapel Farm to meet the horses who enjoyed carrots held out to them on, often nervous, young hands. Then we progressed to the mulled wine station and the circulating mince pies and other tasty nibbles. Thank you to the Absaloms for providing such a warm welcome, and to the carollers who contributed nearly £240 to the Gambian Horse and Donkey Trust. Heather Armstrong, who runs the Trust, was there, with her family, to join in the fun. And fun it was.

Barbara Jones



The Chapel ruin



Advent Gatherings 2022

This all began as daily Advent Window get-togethers outside, when Covid was confining us to our houses, just to get people out of their 'prisons' and meeting externally. It was a great success for those circumstances. Brainchild: Amy Ward.

The concept of pre-Christmas get-togethers still seem to be popular, as evidenced this year at a series of 'clumped Advent Gatherings' where, in many cases, more than one 'household' was involved to host. The starting event... the switching on of the two spectacular trees outside of the Church... was linked to Tracy Kennington's 'Peter and the Wolf' concert, and added cash to her chosen charity.

(I would like to give a bit of history and credit where due here: there were no external Church trees or lights before c1990. At that stage, a lunchtime bunch of pub-goers all put in £20 or so each and the idea was born. Steve 'the light' made sure that our Church did not burn to the ground. Since then the idea has been carried forward, with new workers and the funding of the Running Horses, through its various different ownerships, and for which we are truly grateful. One constant through all of this has been Jason Wilson... who has organized the whole thing for the last decade, erecting and lighting and all on time. Round of applause, please!).

The Advent events this year (25-40+ people present) at 51'North, Mickleham Hall, at Feena Graham's house in Fredley, at Hall Farm and at the Swanworth Lane Courtyard, were unqualified successes. One further gathering was abandoned for reasons of a Michael Fish forecast. The photographs speak for themselves, as to the great and much appreciated efforts made by the hosts, to make them all memorable events and provide pre-Christmas cheer to many. I think Feena's effort, with snow falling, will particularly live in my memory. This format has proved itself popular, and hopefully can be the base plan for future Advent gatherings.

Mark Day



St Michael's Church Community Group

Autumn Lunches

The series of monthly lunches ended with the 1st December event. Like the Lent Lunches they were well attended, about 30 seems to be the norm, which is commendable.

The lunches have relied largely on the initiative and funding of Mary Banfield, and the support of Frances Presley and several others serving / table arranging etc. They are a very worthwhile Community event, in

particular giving those of a 'certain age' (including me) a place for lunch and a chat.

The monthly Autumn lunches were a new initiative, carried forward from the successful Lent Lunch weekly programme. The Autumn series of three lunches raised some £400 in 'retiring collections', which went to St Michael's Nursery and to Joe's Buddy Line charity. In all, the Lent and Autumn lunches this

year raised a total of over £1200. The benefited charities included Combat Stress and Ukraine, as well as those already mentioned.

Thank you to those who subsidised the events, and to the variety of supporters /assistants who enabled them to happen. This initiative is very worthwhile, is a great support to our locals, but is wholly dependent on the generosity of local sponsors. Thank you!

Mark Day

A big thank you from the Lyons family

Celia, Ivan and Louisa would like to thank you very much for the generous donation to Joe's Buddy Line Charity from the recent Church Autumn Soup Lunches and the Thursday Bible Class and to everyone else that has supported us and our charity in various ways.

The charity is now working with eight schools in Surrey and South London, using our Mental Health initiatives including the BUDDY BOARD (a lightbox with MH information, a school QR

code and MH Trained Staff contacts), BUDDY BENCH, various other help including leaflets, template for a MH Policy and workshops, which are receiving very positive feedback. Many other educational settings are making enquiries and requiring assistance for their specific concerns.

We have also just finished a project with London Air Ambulance where they are creating a Book for Families on coping with sudden death and we are the last family they have spoken to

about losing our dear son Joe. The book will have a foreword by Prince William, Patron of the LAA, so he will read about our charity and attend a reception on publication for the participants. So who knows where that could lead?

Once again, many thanks for everyone's support to enable our charity to help as **many** as possible, within initially schools and in the longer term colleges and universities, who need Mental Health information or more urgent help.

The Lyons family

Posting Letters to the Moon

'... simply spellbinding performance... revealing an abundance of love and affection between ordinary people caught in extraordinary times... a theatrical gem.' British Theatre Guide

The Community Group presents a special evening on 4th February, with a live performance of the two-person play, 'Posting Letters to the Moon'. The play tells the wartime story of Celia Johnson DBE (Brief Encounter/ Pride of Miss Jean Brodie) living in the UK and her husband Peter Fleming (brother of Ian) who was posted to India and the Far East during the war, working for Military Intelligence.

Through their correspondence, it recounts their very different lives and their resulting wartime relationship. The letters tell of Celia's experiences, coping with a large isolated house full of evacuated children, learning to drive a tractor, dealing with rationing, occasional holidays in Cornwall where

she took to surfing, and all the while accepting offers – when she could get away – to act for David Lean, Noel Coward, or wartime propaganda films and broadcasts and ultimately, in 1945, starring in the classic film Brief Encounter.

The play stars the husband and wife team of professional actors: Celia and Peter's daughter Lucy Fleming (appearances include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Smiley's People*, *Mr Bean*, *Wycliffe*, *Heartbeat*, etc.) and her husband Simon Williams (*Dr Who*, *Minder*, *The Bill*, etc, etc. ... and currently *The Archers*).

Tickets are selling well, so hurry and book now! £18.50, but £9.50 for under 18s, students and those on benefits. Tickets via annie@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk. Doors open at 6.30 pm, with the performance starting at 7.30 pm. There will be a cash bar. Any profits will go to St Michael's Church and other local charities.

Mark Day



Lucy Fleming and Simon Williams

The Meeting Room

Special thanks must be given to Andy Diamond who not only decorated the village hall for The Meeting Room Christmas party, but gave lifts to the party-goers on the day itself.

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Scalextric Evening

How do you spell that word – Scalextric, or Scaletrix, or Scalextrix? And what is it anyway?

You must remember the oval track, set up in the most inconvenient place in the house, with the constant whirr of remote-controlled cars being raced round and round, and then being told to clear it away because supper was ready?

Now imagine a large figure-of-eight track with eight cars. At the touch of a button, you could try and control a car along the flat, under a tunnel, up a hill and around numerous bends without losing it and trying to come in first! If you wanted to be taken back to your childhood, you should have been in the village hall on 19th November last.

After a fair amount of debate within the Church Community Group as to whether a) the evening would be a viable proposition, b) the price was

too high to entice punters, and most important, c) would anyone come anyway, we decided to go for it.

We need not have worried. For two hours from 5.30 pm at least fifteen youngsters ranging in ages from about three to twelve years were jockeying to hold one of the eight control buttons. When they were not racing small faces were glued to the track, some only just tall enough to see the cars, and Alastair the helpful race manager had to keep telling them to stand back and take their fingers off as the lines were electric!

An electronic score board kept a record of the times of the circuits and at about 7.30 there was a grand final and a winner was declared. At last, the adult 'children' could have their hands on the control buttons. For the rest of the evening there was not a spare

control button, but hot dogs and the bar kept everyone occupied until one became free.

A big thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the evening happen. Mark Day for the idea, Will Dennis for the implementation and the finances, Kelvin Pritchard for the IT, Annie Dennis for the ticketing, Andy Diamond for the bar, Debbie and Sue for the hot dogs, Frances Presley on the door, all of the above and others for the setting up and clearing up.

We hadn't planned to make a profit but did not want to make a loss. In the end we made a very small profit of £36 which has been divided equally between the church, the village school, and the nursery. Do not miss our next production, 'Posting Letters to the Moon', on 4th February.

Frances Presley



Photographs: Michael Tester

This was one of our most ambitious projects to date. Taking into account the hire cost included personnel to 'compere', it was clearly costly. Despite that, I am delighted to say that the event was a great success and made a small profit.

The evening ran from five until nine pm to enable youngsters to enjoy it. It turned out to be a bit of a father/offspring event with plenty of kids, both genuine and still kids in mind. A total of over 80 people passed through the doors, of which there were about 25 minors.

The track was not like the one I had as

a child. It was 8-lane, smaller cars, and measured c15ft x 9. Cars which flipped off track were physically removed from the race. The lighting was good and there was a continually updated scoreboard listing top-ten times. All very professional. The photos say it all really, but it pains me to say that the fastest time was recorded by a certain Will Dennis!

Debbie ('the Sausage', with Sue) did her usual sterling job. And the bar was, as usual, perfectly operated by Andy Diamond. Thanks to everyone for making this a good evening.

Mark Day

BRAIN TEASER

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

Agent
Agent

Answer on page 26

Mickleham Choral Society Carol Party

... from the audience

Friday 16th December was a bitterly cold night at the end of a bitterly cold week, -4 degrees was forecast and frost was forming on cars as we parked outside Mickleham Village Hall. Inside however, the hall was inviting and warm. As Juliet Hornby (Musical Director) noted, '... for the first time in years the Carol Party could be held with windows and doors closed, no need to restrict audience numbers and the heating on'. I look forward to the MCS Carol Party in December, it is always such a wonderful start to Christmas. This year was no exception and it was lovely to see the hall so full.

After the bright welcome, all lights were dimmed as the concert began, the Choir singing 'Illa Lucem Extendebat' (Her Light Extends), and all choristers gradually turning on their own fairy lights. As stage lights returned it seemed a riot of light and colours. Contributions for the evening were varied with the Choir moving from the conventional carols through to more modern pieces such as 'White Christmas'. Three readings were also very good with 'The Yorkshire Messiah' by Andy Diamond being particularly effective. As always the audience responded enthusiastically to the traditional 'community carols'. Choreography was fun in 'We'll Welcome Christmas

In' (with added visual aid prompts) sung as a tongue twisting alternative to 'Twelve Days of Christmas'. An added bonus to this event was a 'rhythm section' - drums and the most extraordinary electric double bass - used to accompany the latter and lighter items; Judith Flint accompanying on piano with her usual flair. It is always a marvel at these concerts that the stage and all chairs disappear so quickly afterwards to be replaced by tables groaning with festive fair, whilst mulled wine appears from the kitchen. One audience member was heard to say 'I didn't expect so much food!' A thoroughly good evening.

A Fan



... from a member

Fresh from our international tour (well, okay, it was only four days in Italy but we **did** fly over France) the Mickleham Choral Society graced the homeland with a sold out, standing room only concert in the village hall in December.

The choir and audience alike braved the sub-zero temperatures and, leaving crampons at the door, gathered in the warm and welcoming hall. The audience greeted each other like the old friends they are while the choir warmed up in the back room - not their voices but their fingers, each trying to unravel the rat's nest of a necklace of fairy lights. Starting the concert in blackout, we sang the haunting *Illa Lucem Extendebat*, the tamed nests being switched on gradually to twinkle in their own firmament.

Then up came the stage lights and on with the show which included community singing of carols (some managing to avoid singing 'when a pork pie came in sight') and winter-related choral pieces, conducted by the brilliant Juliet Hornby, ever more to be known as La Maistra da Mickleham. Choir member, and former Mickleham Priest, Barbara Steadman-Allen wrote the beautiful *Christ, Humble Infant* which ended the more serious half of the concert before Lol Herbert and Annie Dennis joined our superb pianist, Judith Flint, on drums and electric double bass to up the tempo with jolly Christmas songs and get everybody jiggling about, thus introducing an element of jeopardy at the prospect of the basses plummeting from their perch on the upper staging. Then came the moment everyone had been waiting for - the RAFFLE! We

sat with bated breath as tickets were drawn for the hampers bulging with Christmas goodies. Sarah Penry, one of the noble raffle organisers, even more nobly waived her right to a prize when her number came up, much to the consternation of her husband who, dressed as one of the three kings, had traversed afar in the hope of bearing gifts home again.

That excitement over, we launched into *White Christmas* and finished with a rousing *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. In this case, the angels heralded a hasty transformation of the hall, worthy of a Formula One pitstop or perhaps the old Royal Tournament gun carriage race, as the staging was hastily dismantled, the chairs removed and two long tables, groaning with festive food (oh those yummy meringues) were brought to the centre of the hall. Mulled wine flowed and ... a jolly good time was had by all.

Dina Stovell

The MPM begins a new era

Photographer Ben Tatham

As planned, I have now retired as Editor of the magazine, but am delighted that a fresh new team has taken over. Jan Budleigh joins Charlotte Daruwalla as co-editor and Sarah Penry is now managing the advertising. Angela Ireland and Karen Beck have joined the editorial panel. They will be supported by our many existing helpers, so the future of the publication is secure.

I must add a special thank you to Liz Weller and Judy Kinloch, two very long-standing panel members who have also put down their pens. I am sure they join me in wishing the magazine and its staff every success.

Sue Tatham

Charlotte Daruwalla adds

Sue writes above that she has now retired, but you may not be surprised to learn that she has yet to 'put down her pen'. She is currently supporting Jan as she edits her first edition of the magazine for which Jan is very grateful. We will include an appreciation next month of Sue's incredible 38+ years as editor and we hope shortly to



A presentation to Sue by WRA and MPC

have a celebration of this fantastic achievement.

Jan is a quick learner, full of enthusiasm and new ideas. I am really looking forward to working with her as we take on the task of maintaining (we hope)

Sue's high standards.

If you have particular memories relating to Sue as editor of the magazine or reasons to be grateful for its availability please email editor@micklehammag.co.uk



Mickleham Parish Council January 2023 Report

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 11th January and

Councillors were joined for the first part of the meeting by Nicola Hawley, Operations Manager and Alison Vernon, Director of Admissions and Marketing from Box Hill School. They brought councillors up to date with the school's progress and the good news that the number of pupils, both boarding and day was holding up well. However, in common with many organisations they are struggling to recruit some domestic staff. Slowly, meetings and other activities are returning to normal after a long period of virtual activities. It is hoped that activities such as school plays and Art Exhibitions will resume in the summer term. This will provide opportunities for members of the community to visit the school. There was renewed debate about traffic

issues at the end of the school day, but it was agreed that the double yellow lines in the section of the Old London Road from the A24 to Dell Close had helped to ease the congestion, as had the continuing use of Box Hill staff to monitor the traffic on site at this time of day.

Other issues discussed later in the meeting included confirmation of the agreed budgets and Precept for 2023-2024, which show a very modest increase; also progress in the renovation of the Mickleham Village signs on the A24, one of which will soon be completed. The Local Plan, which has been the subject of endless consultations, has now been put on hold by MVDC and concern and disappointment were expressed. A letter is to be sent to this effect, as this action means that no affordable housing projects can be considered in communities such as Mickleham. Plans

for the forthcoming local elections were outlined by our Clerk, Feena Graham. Elections are due to be held on Thursday May 4th.

Finally, there was a discussion, prompted by a request from St Michael's Church Standing Committee for Parish Council support for an event to celebrate the King's Coronation on the weekend of 6th May. The proposal was to have a special Civic Service at St Michael's Church on Sunday 7th May at 10 am and a special Coronation Tea at Mickleham Village Hall at 3 pm that afternoon for residents of Mickleham and Westhumble. Councillors expressed their full support for these plans which will be progressed in the coming weeks. Meanwhile do please put this event in your diaries TODAY.

Coronation Celebration: Sunday 7th May.
10 am - Civic Service.
3 pm - Celebration Tea, Village Hall.

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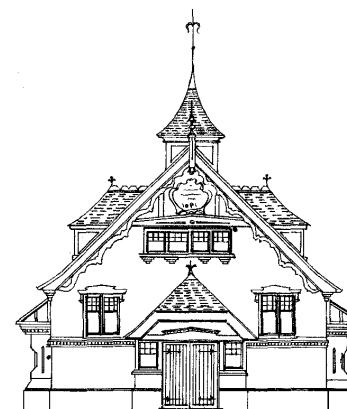
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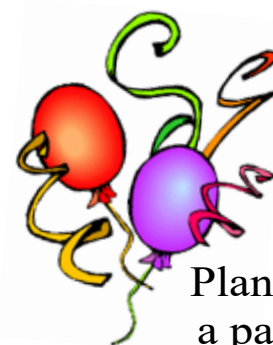
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admin@micklehamvh.co.uk

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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

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01372 374814

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homewooda@hotmail.co.uk

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patriciabooth100@gmail.com

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enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org

Head of Centre – Maddy Jones

m.jones@field-studies-council.org

Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes

01483 281935

suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

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07767 891772

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

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES

www.micklehampc.org.uk

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ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice
of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

INCUMBENT — The Rev'd Will Perry 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

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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www.micklehamchurch.org.uk

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

Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'

REGISTERS

2022

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

12th December Tony Walker

2023

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERMENT

16th January Dorothy Steinart

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERMENT OF ASHES

17th January Andreas Florides

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

4	Saturday	10 am 6.30 pm	Coffee Morning at Westhumble Chapel <i>Posting Letters to the Moon.</i> Village hall
5	SUNDAY 3 rd before Lent		
7	Tuesday	10 am 7 pm	Family Service Prayer Group Compline in church
12	SUNDAY 2 nd before Lent		
		10 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion in church Matins at Westhumble Chapel
			<i>Copy deadline for March parish magazine</i>
17	Friday	7.30 pm	LHG AGM & talk <i>the vanishing river mole</i> village hall
18	SATURDAY	9 am	Women's breakfast at Stepping Stones
19	SUNDAY next before Lent		
		8 am 10 am	CW Holy Communion in church Holy Communion in church
20	Monday	3 pm 7.30 pm	Tea @3 at Chapel Farm Garden Shed talk at Stepping Stones
21	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline at church
22	ASH WEDNESDAY	7.30 pm	Holy communion with ashing
23	Thursday	3.30 pm	Messy church village hall
25	Saturday	9 am	Men's breakfast at Stepping Stones
26	SUNDAY first in Lent		
		8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Chapel Holy Communion



Dates for your diary

Wednesday 15th March WRA AGM
Saturday 18th March Barnardo's Quiz night
Saturday 6th May Coronation Day
Sunday 7th May Local Coronation Celebrations



MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Blake	Elaine Machin
Mark Day	Tim Mathieson
Andy Diamond	Beverley Mehta
Catherine Diffey	Elizabeth Moughton
Caroline Jones	Kelvin Pritchard
Vickie Leney	Richard Siberry

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Will Dennis 07903 842674 **wdwdennis@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

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Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

MICKLEHAM CRICKET CLUB
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will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
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elsierosam29@gmail.com

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Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547
Leatherhead – Sarah Sheridan 01306 883699

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info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk
Friends of St Michael's School – friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY
WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
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SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST 01483 795440
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Dorking – Lyons Court 01306 732302
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 01306 732301

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

POLICE Non-emergencies 101

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Martha Pearce 07514 080005

Rory Lee ** 07973 360950

Ellie Kim 07773 395575

Chelsea Edwards 07834 695816

Edward Moran 07740 088124

Daisy Armitage **07580 473812

Olivia Newby 07703 110363

* Holidays only
** Parent's mobile number

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Kenneth Richard Wyatt 1940-2022

Many family members and friends gathered in St Michael's Church on 14th December to say their farewells to Ken Wyatt who died on 2nd December. During the service David Ireland delivered the following tribute:

'Ken was born in Carshalton, the youngest of five boys. The family struggled financially but what they lacked in money, Ken's mother more than compensated for in love. She simply adored her boys.

When Ken left school, he went to work for a firm of accountants, initially as an office boy but according to Ken his tea making skills were so poor that the partners decided that he might make a better hand at accounting, which indeed he did. He studied, gained his qualifications as an accountant and remained with the firm for nine years. It was during this time that he met Wendy at a church youth club – the dating agency of years ago – and they married in Carshalton church just 60 years ago. Ken once told me that it was the wisest decision he had ever made.

Ken and Wendy moved to Bournemouth, the first of several moves in their married life, where Ken was accountant to a building firm with whom he subsequently moved to Wargrave on Thames. Philip was born in Bournemouth and Jamie in Wargrave. With the responsibility of a family, Ken decided to provide more security by setting up his own building firm with a surveyor friend of his. The firm was remarkably successful until the property crash of the late '70s which resulted in the family losing their home and livelihood and occasioned a move back to their roots in Surrey.

With staggering resilience and Wendy's amazing determination, they started all over again and whilst Wendy ran her own interior design business, Ken was employed by Safeway supermarket where he combined his accounting skills and building experience as the firm's Estates Director.

He enjoyed his years of very happy retirement, playing golf three times a week and of course keeping the world on course with his friends at the Running Horses.

And most importantly it must be said that he lived for his boys, Philip and Jamie, of whom he was always immensely proud, as of course he was of his grandsons Spike and Woody, of whose academic and musical skills we were all kept well informed.

He was supported throughout 60 years by Wendy, his faithful and dependable wife, whose care of him over these past few months has been extraordinary. Ken was always generous, loyal and unflappable. He was much loved and will be greatly missed.'

Also, extracts from John Banfield's tribute:

'Ken really enjoyed his retirement and if he said that once over the last six months, he must have said it a thousand times. But it was no accident. In typical Ken style he took a few important, strategic decisions and got on with this new stage in his life. One was to join Tyrrells Wood Golf Club. Wendy bought Ken six golf lessons and never saw him again. Ken loved his golf and took it seriously. Endless hours on the practice range, many lessons, the occasional new set of clubs and then two or three rounds every week.

Ken played good golf. He was not the longest driver of a ball but always seemed to find the middle of the fairway, he rarely fluffed a shot and I hardly ever saw him in the rough. Mr Consistency which was great for him but a bit of a problem if you were playing against him.

In everything he did in life including playing golf Ken was always smartly turned out, neat and tidy, a gentleman, and generous and courteous with others. But on the golf course every now then you could detect a quite serious, competitive streak in him. Ken liked to win.

Golf led Ken into competitions and to society events and the golf tours particularly those with the Running Horses Golf Society. There were the trips through the Channel Tunnel turn right towards Le Touquet and find a couple of courses to play and a good restaurant for dinner. Later there were longer trips to Mallorca. Ken enjoyed them every bit as much as the rest of us



and treasured the friendships he made along the way.

We are already missing you, Ken. Tyrrells Wood and the Running Horses are not quite the same. May God bless you Ken and may you rest in peace.'

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Wendy and her family.

Community News Geoffrey Irvine

We were very sorry to hear that Geoff Irvine had died on 28th December. He and Karen lived at Cowslips for many years before moving to Holmbury St Mary in 2001. Since then, they have continued to keep in touch with Mickleham via their magazine mailing list subscription. We send our sincere condolences to Karen, Andrew, Keith and Hilary and their families

Welcome to Jo Carroll and Doug Walters who have moved to Old London Road from Surbiton.

Congratulations to:

• Karen and Paul Beck of Burney Road on the birth of grandson Arlo Stanley on 14th November. Proud parents are their son Joe and Georgia who live in Crystal Palace.

• Deborah and Richard Chappell of Pilgrims Way on the safe arrival of grandson Alfie (Alfred Edward) on 27th December. A second son for Victoria and Ryan, and a younger brother for Henry.

• Steve and Sian Loveless of Pilgrims Way on the birth of their granddaughter Sophia Florence Louise on 25th November. Born to son Robert and Charlotte Loveless of Bookham. A sister for Freddie.

The Box Hill Hike rated best in England

Box Hill Hike has been rated best hiking route in England. It follows an eight-mile circular route encompassing Box Hill, Mickleham and Mickleham Downs. It was devised by David Kennington in 1990 not long after he came to Box Hill as a National Trust warden.

Research by the wellness brand, Goodrays, which analysed data from Trip-advisor and AllTrails ratings along with weather records, found that the Box Hill Hike came out on top for England, second only to the walk around Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh for the whole of the UK.



Photograph Ben Tatham

Box Hill Spur in the snow on 12th December

For some residents this news will not be met with unsurpassed joy after cyclists discovered the area during

the 2012 Olympics, but it seems this is the price we have to pay for living in an area of outstanding beauty.

Sue Tatham

Mickleham and Westhumble Badminton Club Christmas Social

The fourth Christmas Social of the Badminton Club was held on Friday 2nd December at 51 Degrees North. This was the first time they had catered for such a large number and everyone agreed that the meal was delicious, their 'signature' mixed platter of starters causing particular excitement. The excited chatter indicated how much people were enjoying each other's company and hosts Kwan and Mark and their staff could not have looked after us better.

During lockdown we were not able to play on the courts at Box Hill School obviously, so Keith and Cathy Lee kindly marked out two courts on the lawn and allowed us to play in their garden. In recognition of this amazing generosity, they were presented with a

silver tray at last year's Christmas social. This year Cathy and Keith were given the task of choosing their successors and Cathy presented the tray to the 'obvious winners' – Feena and Peter Graham, who had not only hosted the Summer Barbecue but had also been exceptionally faithful in terms of setting up the courts for our Wednesday sessions and standing in for others when a problem arose.

The standard of play at the club varies considerably, ranging from experienced and skilful players to those of us who had not played before the club's inception 4 years ago. The experienced players are all very kind and, with the right mix, we can all have a good game. However, one of the unexpected strengths of the club has turned out to

be the social side. We have all enjoyed making new friendships through the club, many of us meeting after play every week at our 'club house' the Running Horses and we have enjoyed several summer barbecues in gardens in both Mickleham and Westhumble in addition to the Christmas Socials.

We continue to be grateful to Box Hill School for letting us have the use of their four superb courts, which give us ample space for the existing members and would enable us to accommodate yet more. If you are interested in trying it out, do contact Sarah Blake on tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

Angela Ireland



The Remembrance Concert Sunday 13th November 2022

The thousand year old church of St Michael and All Angels was full. Mickleham Choral Society were crowded between the pulpit and the piano, with sopranos, altos, tenors and basses all dressed smartly in black with a red poppy. It was conducted by Juliet Hornby with Judith Flint on the piano. Barbara Steadman Allen set the sombre mood in an instant as she played 'The Last Post' on her bugle to a silent audience.

Then, as the choir hummed 'Abide With Me', Andy Diamond read from 'For the Fallen' (Laurence Binyon).

The performance of the complex eight-part harmony 'Lux Aeterna' (Elgar's 'Nimrod') went really well and was followed by the timely 'Zadok the Priest' (Handel), with its repetition of 'God Save The King'. Little did we know when we first began rehearsing this piece that we would indeed have a king by the time we performed it. Then, the beautiful 'Ave Maria' by Caccini came before the more dramatic 'Ave Maria' by Rossini.

A break in the singing came with the reading of Wilfred Owen's moving

war poem 'Futility', made all the more poignant by knowing that Wilfred Owen himself was killed, aged 25, exactly one week before the end of World War One. The choir resumed with the gorgeous contemporary piece 'O Radiant Dawn' by James MacMillan, a composer Queen Elizabeth II had herself chosen to compose a piece for her own state funeral.

Next, 'The Moon Represents My Heart' was sung by the MCS choir in Chinese, followed by 'Something Told The Wild Geese'.

Andy Diamond at the lectern again, this time with a dramatic passage he had chosen from 'War Horse' ... an evocative description of going into battle from a horse's point of view.

'The Road Home', a moving song was followed by 'Irish Blessing', sung by heart and full of heartwarming wishes, and then the modern piece 'Flight Song', also sung by heart.

The last reading, 'Anthem' by the wonderful Leonard Cohen was ably read by Karen Ripper.

Then followed what, for many, was the highlight of this year's remembrance concert:

'A Prayer for Ukraine'. The choir hummed in the background as Yevheniia sang beautifully and movingly in the Ukrainian language about her homeland, where we hear on the news, and from people we know, about the war and how difficult life is for those Ukrainians who remain in their country.

Yevheniia and her children left their city in Ukraine to take refuge in Dorking earlier this year. Choir members Jules and Stephen Williams are sharing their home with her and her young family.

Mickleham Choral Society's final offering was 'Va Pensiero' (Verdi), sung in Italian, by heart; and so came the end of the concert and time for chat and drinks in the church (and I dare say, more of same in The Running Horses afterwards).

I recall the 2018 Remembrance Day Concert in Mickleham being particularly memorable for marking the centenary of the end of The Great War. This one however, will remain in our hearts for the extraordinary performance from Yevheniia, reminding us that war and its consequences are still present in the Europe of today. Jaqueline Kenney



Local Poppy appeal donations

The collection at the Remembrance Service and the sale of poppies in the church raised £579 for the Royal British Legion. Neil Aitken thanks everyone for the £392 raised in the Westhumble poppy appeal.

Peter and the Wolf Concert for Children

On 27th November a large and excitable group of children and adults gathered at St Michael's church for an audible treat; Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev.

As the hubbub subsided we were introduced to the 'characters' in the guise of the bassoon, violin, oboe, clarinet and flute. If you have not listened to the music before, these instruments represent the strict Grandfather, duck, cat, bird, Peter and the wolf.

The children were mesmerised by the story, read by Will Dennis, and beautiful sounds from the very talented musicians. Many adults were also transported back to their childhoods for a hit of nostalgia in this most important piece.



Thank you so much to Tracy Kennington for arranging the event and to the musicians for their time, skill and artistry! What a way to kick off Advent and the lights outside the church (which were turned on afterwards) illuminated many a merry face after a lovely glass of

mulled wine (or juice) and a jolly tasty mince pie!

Tracy was collecting funds for the Tukongote Community in Zambia, and I for one hope that we have been able to help in some small way. Thank you again for your generosity! Elly Jay



Dorking Barnardo's Helper Group

Quiz night

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Saturday 18th March

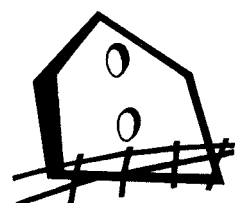
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History Group

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Mole: 2022

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Any Questions

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Dates for your diary

Monday 20th March

The Productive Greenhouse with Barney Millard

Sunday 23rd April

Willow Weaving Workshop: Make a Plant Support with Nicki Rowling

Seasonal sighting

After reading Jan Budleigh's article for the December magazine about late flowering fuchsias, I noted on 13th November that there were snowdrops in flower in my garden. They are a variety which flowers early in any case, usually at about Christmas time, but this is unprecedented. However, they bit the dust when the hard frosts arrived in December. Some others are showing now, on New Year's Day.

Charlotte Daruwalla



MWHS Jubilee Oak Planting

In the bleak mid-winter ... we planted a tree!

The ground stood hard as iron on 18th December 2022, when members of the Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society gathered in the Westhumble bonfire field to plant a native oak, *Quercus robur*, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen.

The tree was chosen and ordered in the summer, but trees prefer to be planted when dormant and so we had to wait patiently until winter finally arrived in mid-December before our tree could be lifted and delivered. Winter then arrived with a vengeance! The temperatures plummeted and the ground froze which meant that we had to seize our opportunity with a thaw in sight and get digging on a snowy, freezing cold Sunday just before Christmas. Armed with pickaxe, mattock and shovel, David Kennington, Will Adshead and Stuart Leake broke through the frozen crust of the field to dig a hole fit for a royal

oak and, assisted by a stalwart party of hardy tree planters plus a group of Nick Bullen's curious young cattle, our Jubilee oak was placed, planted and protected with a sturdy cattle proof tree guard. Since then conditions have been perfect and there has been plenty of rain and milder weather, which will help the tree to become established ready for a burst of growth in the spring.

This Platinum Jubilee oak joins the oak planted by the Horticultural Society ten years ago in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, which is now looking well established. Later in 2023, the Horticultural Society will plant another oak tree to mark the coronation of King Charles III. As this also will be a bare root tree, the planting will have to wait until the autumn/winter dormant season but we hope that even more people, particularly children and grandchildren, will come along to join us for this historic occasion. Details will be circulated once we have a tree.

Lucy Adshead



Above Lucy and Sophie Adshead with tree
Lower L Stuart Leake, Will Adshead,
David Kennington
Lower R MWHS admire the tree



Seasonal Sightings

New Year Plant Hunt

This New Year saw the twelfth New Year Plant Hunt organised by the Botanical Society of the British Isles. They ask participants to spend up to three hours on any of the days from 31st December to 4th January looking to see what wild or well naturalised plants they can find in flower.

This year 20 members of the Surrey Botanical Society gathered at Denbies Winery in heavy rain. With undismayed enthusiasm we searched around the buildings, in the vines and along Denbies Drive and found some twenty species. The pre-Christmas cold spell had cut back many 'straggler' species from the autumn and held back

'precocious' spring flowering ones.

Highlights included a straggler Hedge Bedstraw, a precocious Bush Vetch and Wall Speedwell with its tiny, bright blue flowers. Of course we found dandelions and daisies and common weeds such as groundsel, chickweed and hairy bittercress.

Barbara Jones



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CRYPTIC DELICACIES

Last month's golden squares could be made into CHICKEN, a word that can be preceded by PLAYING, HEADLESS, SPRING, DORKING, FRIZZLE, & POLISH (and also, I am told, 'funky'. Yet again I find myself behind the times in what is happening with the beat generation).

Here are some of the clues, with definitions underlined:

10 Possible result of making love to Bond's boss with enthusiasm in a sound booth (6)

EMBRYO

'Bond's boss' = M, 'enthusiasm' = BRIO – when said together they would sound like EMBRYO in the control room of a recording studio.

12 What can be added to onion to season well (6)

SPRING

Triple definition = type of onion, or one of the four seasons, or a source of water

16 Sounds like a way to get in to Elvis is in the place that 10cc recorded 'Deceptive Bends' (7)

DORKING

'a way to get in' = 'door', sounds like DOR, and Elvis is KING of Rock 'n' Roll. This is where you realise that actually I am up with what's going down, given that I know about an album that was released 45 years ago. 'Deceptive Bends' was 10cc's fifth album and was recorded at Strawberry Studios South in Dorking. This had been set up by the band in what used to be the Pavilion Cinema on South Street. Bassist Graham Gouldman came down from London every day during recording, passing the 'Deceptive Bends' sign on the Micky Bends (on the A24 southbound between Givon's Grove and Mickleham). The sign is sadly long departed (and the bends are now a very different driving experience from when I was first behind the wheel), but I bet the transport official who came up with the wording of the sign never thought that their work would have a longer life span as an album title – or indeed that 'Deceptive Bends' could be linked to the album's biggest hit 'The Things We Do For Love'.

The studio went on to host Cliff Richard's re-recording of 'Living Doll'

for the Kenny Everett Show (the video gives a view inside the studio) as well as Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder's duet 'Ebony and Ivory', and 10cc's next album 'Bloody Tourists' which included the song 'From Rochdale to Ocho Rios' with these lyrics:

*'From Rochdale to Ocho Rios, from Ocho Rios to Dorking
From Dorking it's back to Rochdale, oh where are we now?'*

Well, one place they are not is Dorking, as the studio closed after only 4 years and has since been knocked down and replaced by houses. The site was just on the exit of the South Street car park and on Google street view I cannot see a blue plaque.

For those of you who do not know any of that, I thought there would be enough clues from the crossing letters and the pointer to this clue in the Golden Squares' instructions that you would be looking for the famous five-toed DORKING CHICKEN and get it anyway.

23 Sounds like deer are after rubbish to flatten (8)

BULLDOZE

Female 'deer' = 'does' sounds like 'DOZE, 'rubbish' = BULL

25 LesS cheesE iN macaroni béchamelL sauce ultimately makes you inclined to forget who the Prime Minister is (6)

SENILE

'ultimately' is a pointer to taking the last letters of the preceding words (also look out for 'primarily' which is used in clues in a similar way). After the last year in politics, testing for senility by asking 'who is the Prime Minister?' may lead to the complete breakdown of an already struggling care sector.

2 When the news is out for Dot to focus on (6,2)

ATTEND TO

'When the news is' = AT TEN, 'out for' = pointer to anagram of 'Dot' = D TO

21 MariuPOL IS Hell when hiding from those to the East of Europe (6)

POLISH

Hidden word. And that allows me to leave you with a picture of a marvellous



Polish chicken (Google them and you'll see the most fantastic range of ridiculous feather headdresses).



Hot Chick by Misha 3637 / CC-BY-2.5

I hope this helps and it would be great to get any feedback via andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk Andrew



Too good not to include, Sarah Blake as a Christingle for the service following the children's workshop at the school.

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As we returned from our Christmas break, the weather has been somewhat wet and windy. Pretty miserable really! Luckily most little children do not have the same challenges with weather as adults. They love a puddle, the bigger the better and

like to experience the knock you over force of the wind!

This month we will be thinking about our senses and how we rely on them to experience the world around us. We have several games planned to help the children experience what it might feel like to have a disability or a sensory impairment and hope to have a visit from a Guide dog speaker.

We are also going to use our eyes and ears to participate in the RSPB Big Schools Bird watch and using touch, we will be making squishy fat balls to feed our local birds. The children have regular visits from a couple of very unreserved robins in our forest school area, one even stole a mini sausage straight from the frying pan, luckily it was already cooled!

At the end of the month we will be tasting some Chinese food as we look at Chinese New Year celebrations. 2023 is the year of the rabbit. We do not see many rabbits during nursery hours, unless we are on our walk to Forest school, but they do leave 'evidence' of their visits to the nursery, and of course we have captured one or two on our wildlife camera.

We are currently accepting applications for a September 2023 and January 2024 start and have recently increased our opening hours. If you would like to apply have a look at our website <https://stmichaelscommunitynursery.co.uk> or to book a tour, please either telephone or email the nursery. 01372361021 stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

Hilary Budd



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Solution to the December crossword

Across: 7 Martyr 8 Umbrella 9 Underarm 10 Embryo 11 Headless 12 Spring 13 Bog-standard 18 Copper 20 Exposure 22 Ski run 23 Bulldoze 24 Unclothe 25 Senile.

Down: 1 Haunted 2 Attend to 3 Crease 4 Obsessed 5 Member 6 Playing 8 Unmistakeable 14 Serenity 15 Resident 16 Dorking 17 Frizzle 19 Purple 21 Polish. Golden squares word: CHICKEN

BRAIN TEASER answer: double agent

A thank you from Dorking Area Food Bank

I am writing to thank you for all your donations this year to the Dorking Area Foodbank. We know that everyone in our community will be feeling the increase in the cost of living and are truly grateful that you are able to keep making donations.

We use all your donations to provide much needed weekly food parcels to

families and individuals in the area that are struggling to afford the essentials.

2022 has been another busy year for the Foodbank. The cost of living crisis we are all experiencing has resulted in an increase in demand for our services. We are continuing to offer a warm welcome, an emergency food parcel as well as fuel advice at our twice weekly

sessions. This would not be possible without the generous support of local community and church groups such as yours.

Please pass on our thanks to your colleagues and congregation for their kindness and generosity.

Sue Mackenzie Volunteer

On behalf of Dorking Area Foodbank

Suitable items for the foodbank collection

Tinned veg / tomatoes / soup / sauces / baked beans	Washing-up and cleaning products
Powdered milk / UHT milk (green and blue only)	Tissues / paper towels / tampons
Rice pudding / long life sponge puddings	Men's / women's toiletries
Coffee / tea bags / long life fruit juice	Laundry products
Pasta / rice / pulses / instant mash	Nappies
Jam / honey / marmalade / spreads	Pet food
Sugar (500g bags only)	

**Please do not include
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Please leave at food bank collection points – see above**



stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/

Retirement of Marisa Piggott

Life at St Michael's school is ever changing, sometimes subtly, but there is a rhythm that we adults may remember from our personal experiences of life at school. During the last twenty-one years how the school is administered has moved and kept up with the rapid pace of change thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of Mrs Marisa Piggott.

Marisa was appointed in 2001 by Jenny Hudlass, Head teacher at the time, and the most recently introduced office innovations were a fax machine and a photocopier. These enabled faster exchange of information and school newsletters to be produced, duplicated and distributed through the children's school bags at the end of the week. Jenny said 'I never had to worry about handing over tasks to Marisa – she took such care over details, worked from my handwritten notes and had excellent editorial skills.' In those days the children were met in the morning in what is now the staff car park (no electronic gates), and Marisa was there to give parents and children a warm welcome just as she continued to do until her last morning at school.

Over the years, Marisa has supported five changes in school leadership. As wider use of technology developed so did the supporting resources for classroom learning and the ever-faster software and communications systems for schools to administer. From paper based admissions handed into the office to online application forms; introduction of classroom screens and projectors, changing to computer based fully interactive whiteboards; pupil learning pads; administration of school computer systems and development of the website; setting up and managing the parent communication portal. Marisa's role in school administration also included changing demands in safeguarding and security; health and safety; first aid and medical care; increasing demand for data returns to the local authority and Department of Education.

Marisa's role, knowledge and skills grew

as she gradually took up the vital role of being the school expert in problem solving computer and communications challenges. She provided our school leaders, teaching staff and governors with vital support as she learnt how to do much of it a few paces ahead of us.

Anne Hossack became Head teacher in 2003 'When I joined the school, the office was little more than a cupboard but over time we made adaptations firstly to provide a window and then latterly to provide the more luxurious office space that is now enjoyed. While that work was happening the office team spent the cold winter months working in a container in the car park that was more like a tin can! Marisa showed such resilience and good humour even in the most testing of times.'

Marisa's contribution to the life of the school has been so much more than that of an office assistant. She dealt with children and their families with such sensitivity. Nothing was too much trouble. As far as I was concerned, she acted more like a PA and I relied enormously on her good counsel, organisation and such amazing proof-reading skills.'

As a parent and ex-governor and near neighbour to the school, Alison Wood has memories of Marisa as 'someone who was always there, quietly efficient,



the consummate professional, discreet but always obliging when I needed help or information or something doing, but firm when I was asking for something which couldn't really be done; someone who was often patching up a child while taking a message and buzzing release on the school gate, all at the same time. Someone who was the solid, still centre of the operation/organisation, the consistency, the person who remembered how things had been done the previous time, and who therefore helped maintain continuity and the essence of the school.'

Before the end of term, Paula Bliss and Nicky Cleather (Executive Head teacher and Head of School respectively) arranged a special Monday morning school assembly with all the children, staff, The Friends and governors for Marisa to receive our thanks and a special school leaver's hoodie. I think the words on the hoodie beautifully sum up what we all love and appreciate about Marisa and her time at St Michael's. We wish her a happy, healthy and adventurous retirement.

Pat Hand, Co-chair of governors



Cryptic Crossword



The golden squares when mixed make the catchphrase of a dog suggested by 1/11, 22, 26, 7, 8, and 15 (8)

Across

- 1/11** Tormented men fear being involved in giving pet name (4,2,10)
- 5** A dry chop can be digested through a form of reproduction (4,4)
- 9** Endlessly curse plot to become revolutionary worker making gargoyles (8)
- 10** Easy to hold on to member of film crew with tip of pincers in his ear (6)
- 11** See 1
- 12** This is the robe you are holding bow for in relation to bondage (4)
- 13** New sleds go out of control into the gutter (8)
- 16** Strong woman gives you the hugest flower (6)
- 17** In Sweden, cop shop eats ice when it's hot (6)
- 19** Take the mick out of sloth, say, when it's heard to have comfortable footwear (8)
- 21** According to auditors, takes home pots for the permanently retired (4)



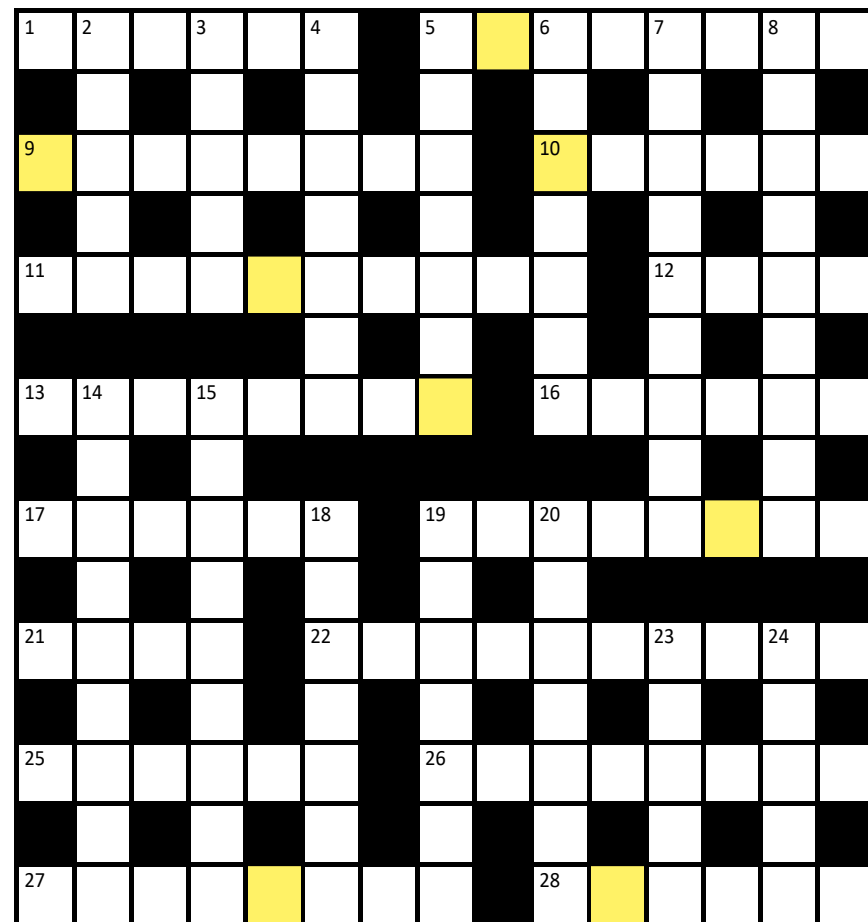
St Michael's Church in the December snow

Photograph: Ben Tatham

- 22** Very cool vegetable is displayed when missing copper comes to light somewhere in the North West (10)
- 25** Followed in sodden suede boots (6)
- 26** Wandering about a click to Manhattan, perhaps (8)
- 27** Oddly, choir and your dishwasher's opening made new material (8)
- 28** Have a wobble from stopping to contemplate eternal life (6)
- Down
- 2** Cone transformed around an axis to make a body that's going straight? (2-3)
- 3** Eliminate after I ate missing stew to become the creator of POOH! (5)
- 4** Type of diet follows after rolling around in fudge wrappings (3-4)
- 5** Sounds like lady of loose morals catches source of many stinging sensations (7)
- 6** Great at swimming in competition amongst floaters (7)
- 7** Liberally oil a patch in frostbitten area for Prince Harry (pejoratively) (9)
- 8** Having zip through leading on one is topping! (9)
- 14** Impersonate? I'm going to whirl in circles and make synthetic speech (9)
- 15** Surprisingly Dad's hunch pointed to a four-legged favourite of the Kaiser (9)
- 18** Battle royal when being made to get half cut on cheap booze (7)
- 19** Lampooning can make the heroine of *La bohème* bawl (7)
- 20** Gentlemen adopted by cuter characters go for a short hair style (4,3)
- 23** This machine turns toilet over senior diplomat (5)
- 24** It's green to recycle mineral water (5)

Andrew Tatham

Solution to the December crossword is on page 26



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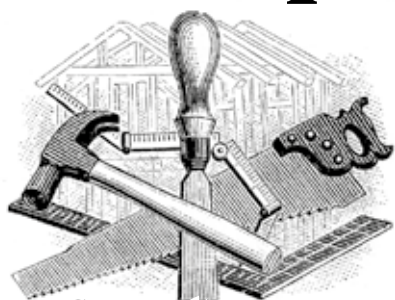
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