

# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

APRIL 2023



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# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

Mickleham Rectory

April 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

MAY MAGAZINE

Sunday

9<sup>th</sup> April

send to:

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



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Hi everyone

Easter is almost here and the message of hope it gives has never been more important or significant. It is something to celebrate no matter what our circumstances. It was very moving last year to see a little of the joyous Easter celebrations in Ukraine online. I am sure they will celebrate again this year despite the horrendous war. The pain of people in Ukraine, the pain of people in Turkey and Syria and of any caught up in tragedy is very real, but we have a loving God who suffers with us and for us. As we focus on Jesus on the cross on Good Friday, let us reflect on the sorrow he feels for the world and the pain he endured on behalf of each person before we celebrate the joyful resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter is central to our faith and the reason we trust there is life after death, the forgiveness of sins, that Jesus will fulfill his promises and why we can have hope in the midst of despair.

Jesus by dying and rising again **defeated death**. He really did die and was placed in the tomb but on the third day, the tomb burst open and was empty. The whole of Jesus, body and soul, had gone but not the grave clothes. All of him had come alive by the power of God and he then appeared to Mary and the disciples. The cross alone did not demonstrate the defeat of death but the cross and resurrection together show us that the victory has been won.

The resurrection is our **assurance of forgiveness**. Jesus died for our sins, once and for all and because Jesus rose again, we can be sure of forgiveness and peace with God. Jesus foretold his resurrection and despite it seeming an impossibility, it happened and so we can **trust** all that Jesus promised us. There are too many promises to mention all of them but perhaps we need reminding that he offered us peace and transformation through his Holy Spirit, that God loves us no matter what, that he will welcome us into his eternal kingdom of justice, love and mercy and he will always be with us to comfort us, strengthen us and guide us. In a world of uncertainty our **hope** in Christ is a true hope both for now and forever.

Let's celebrate Easter together and reflect on how our faith in our risen Lord influences the way we think and live. It should make a difference and can help us to be people who share love and hope in word and deed.

May the joy and hope of Easter fill your heart. All are welcome to join our services and I hope to see you on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and on Easter morning to celebrate new life. Don't forget the Easter egg hunt after the church service!

God Bless

*Sandra*

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

During the church service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April there will be an opportunity for our church and community to thank Sue Tatham for all she has done in forty years of faithfully editing and organizing the production of the Mickleham Parish Magazine.

Everyone is welcome to attend the church service at 10am, at which there will be an 'interview' with Sue about her time in the editorial chair and how things have changed over the years. There will be coffee, tea and cake served after the service from about 11.15am and a chance to mingle and chat. No need to book, just come along to either or both, you will be very welcome.

## 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](mailto: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>



## Coronation Celebrations

*Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest, extends an invitation to everyone in Mickleham and Westhumble.*

It was very sad that our Queen passed away last year but it is exciting to have the Coronation of King Charles III in May. It is the first coronation in the lives of many of us born after 1953 and will be a memorable occasion. St Michael's and the Parish Council felt that it would be great to celebrate as the community of Mickleham and Westhumble, so do please join us for the Civic service at 10 am on 7<sup>th</sup> May, which David Ireland and I are planning, and for the celebratory afternoon tea in Mickleham Village Hall at 3pm. The places for tea are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment [clerkatmpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com). Please also see the colour advert on page 28.

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ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH



## St Michael's Church Community Group

What is the St. Michael's Church Community Group?

The group was formed in 2020 with the objective to run activities/events to help bring the community together, to provide practical help for those that need it, to foster greater fellowship for everyone and have some fun on the way.

Although not its prime objective, due to the generosity of our villages, significant funds have been raised for a range of local organisations including our school and nursery, charities in our local area and our church. The activities have ranged from the weekly co-ordination of the Church Food Bank, the advent gatherings and the regular Lent lunches, through to specific events ranging from an on-line auction, Skittles, Scalextric and the recent play.

Several members of the original group have stepped down, and huge thanks are due to Mary Banfield (and John),

Will Dennis (and Annie) and Frances Presley, who have put in substantial time and effort over this period.

The current group is comprised of Mark Day, Andy Diamond, Denise Darling and Kelvin Pritchard as Chair.

### Going forward

There is still so much to do and the team are looking for new members to keep the effort going. This can be anything from helping out occasionally to being a permanent member of the group. If you want to make a difference for your community, please contact Kelvin Pritchard on [Kelvin@Wan2Lan.com](mailto:Kelvin@Wan2Lan.com)

### Making a difference

This is what a few of our supported charities have said recently.

'We continue to work with record numbers of young people around Mole Valley (more than 600)... and the mental health crisis amongst young people is very real. We are incredibly

grateful to generous supporters...such as yourselves, who enable our youth workers and counsellors to offer vital support and literally save young lives' (Leatherhead Youth Project).

'In fact, (your) £500 could fund 16 people's first chat with one of our Cancer Support Specialists, helping reduce anxieties around their cancer diagnosis' (Maggies).

'...some of the proceeds will be used to replace our rudimentary stage backdrop, used for our Nativity and end of term shows... to last for many future productions: ... and 'to engage a travelling theatre group to provide an immersive theatrical experience for our Nursery children...' (Nursery).

Thank you to all those who donated to the events and activities over the last few years. With your help, we are looking forward to continuing to make a difference!

Mark Day and Kelvin Pritchard



## Bible Study

Monday Evening Group 8 - 9pm

3 Cleveland Court, Westhumble  
Contact Amanda Wadsworth  
[aewadsworth@hotmail.com](mailto:aewadsworth@hotmail.com)

Thursday Morning Group 11am - 12.30pm

Abbotts Cottage, Mickleham

Contact Alison Wood

01372 376443

[alison.wood29@btinternet.com](mailto:alison.wood29@btinternet.com)

ALL WELCOME TO EITHER GROUP

## Fund Raising Report

As a parish, we are fortunate to have been given a considerable sum of money to establish an Endowment Fund for the upkeep and repair of the fabric and contents of the church.

With a grade II\* listed ancient church however, some of the work that becomes necessary for the upkeep of this wonderful building is expensive, for example the repairs to the North aisle and Norbury Chapel roof last year cost more than £90,000. We have also had to have remedial electrical work done to the church and chapel, which will total more than £5,000. With a Quinquennial Inspection (the diocese requires that every parish has a thorough buildings inspection every five years) due this year we are anticipating yet more necessary expenditure.

Currently the donations so kindly given through the Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders, card and cash donations do not meet our running costs. The income from the

Endowment Fund is needed each year to bridge the gap, though last year it was necessary to draw down on the capital as well.

The PCC decided that it would be prudent to set up a group to look at fund raising for projects that need to be done but are not essential, such as the automation of the church clock. At a time where the cost of living is increasing rapidly and where there are so many other areas of our country and abroad that need our financial support, it can be difficult to ask for yet more money. It is our hope that we can arrange some events that will help us with this, as well as providing an opportunity for the community to come together.

This group is very much in its infancy and anyone who would like to be involved should contact me on [mickleham@diffey.me.uk](mailto:mickleham@diffey.me.uk)

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## Thinking globally, acting locally

In November 2021, the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 received a lot of publicity due to the urgent need to reduce the catastrophic effects of climate breakdown. This last December, there was another COP. This was the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, known as COP15, in Montreal. One of the outcomes of this conference was the 30 by 30 target, a plan to conserve 30% of the earth's land and sea by 2030. Another target was to halve food waste, excessive use of chemicals such as fertilisers and the risk to biodiversity from pesticides. This is the global part.

So how can we help locally with the 30 by 30 target? Our gardens cover quite a sizeable proportion of land. If we manage them in a sustainable way, they can become part of the 30%. Some things are easy to do. Having our lawns chemical free is one example, though the purveyors of these chemicals would disagree. However, we are intelligent, we know the environmental impact of the manufacture and transport of lawn fertilisers, moss killers and other herbicides. And why would we want to spread poisons on our land? Leaving lawns as they are allows a range of soil organisms to thrive, including earthworms that help to aerate the soil. Roots require oxygen to grow. By the

same principle, using lots of natural mulches in our borders and vegetable gardens helps with soil structure and so with root growth. Healthy roots can help plants thrive in dry conditions and a healthy soil itself is a good carbon store.

Another way in which we can help towards 30 by 30 is to use PEAT FREE composts for our seed-growing needs and our plant containers. If the words PEAT FREE are not clearly shown, then such a compost will contain peat. Peat is not necessary in a growing medium and I have not used any composts containing peat for a very long time. Why should we not use peat? Peat is such a major store of carbon that it should remain wet and undamaged. Once dried and used as compost, its carbon compounds become changed to carbon dioxide. The compost that was available to members of the Horticultural Society at a reduced price is a good example of a peat-free growing medium. Another vital reason why peatlands should be conserved is for their unique wildlife. A recently published study, *Plant Atlas 2020* has shown just how much of our native flora has been lost since 1900. This includes losses from peatlands of the moors and mountains, as well as the sedge peats from the fens and levels.

Ann Sankey

## Norbury Park News

Norbury Park Community Forum brings together representatives of Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey County Council, residents of Norbury Park, community organisations adjoining the park (including Westhumble Residents), and other groups involved with conservation. A meeting of the Forum was held on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Amongst the topics discussed: Surrey County Council is planting 12,000 trees in the park (mostly hedges) as part of its programme to plant 1.2million trees across the county.

There are plans to instal a composting toilet at the sawmill, administered by Phil who runs the Wild About Coffee stand nearby.

There are plans for nature-themed trails across the park to make visitors more aware of both the flora and fauna in the park and its heritage.

Chris Budleigh

## March the Mole



*Sampling near the Stepping Stones*

About 50 people walked along the Mole Gap, from Leatherhead to Dorking station, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Carrying banners and warmly dressed, we stopped and sang at the picnic spot in Norbury Park. An anthem to nature, hoping that we can do more to stop species decline and extinction.

At Leatherhead Weir and the Stepping Stones, we sampled the river water to test for phosphates. At both points the level was very high. Phosphates enter the river from fertiliser run-off and from human and animal waste. They promote the growth of algae, which blocks sunlight from deeper plants, which will then die. Bacteria breaking down these decaying plants use up dissolved oxygen in the water that fish and other aquatic life need to survive.

Blue plaques were placed at both sampling points. They remind us that our MP, Paul Beresford, voted with his party in January 2023 to prevent an amendment that would stop water companies dumping raw sewage into our seas and rivers.

There were two more Sunday afternoon walks in March following the Mole from Dorking to Reigate, and then Charlwood to Sidlow.

Karen Beck



*A composting toilet*



Photo by Graham Crawforth

Photo by Chris Budleigh



Fruit Tree	Varieties	Quantity
Apples	26	83
Pear	11	47
Quince	3	16
Plum	7	84
Cherry	3	9
Fig	1	10
Cobnut	2	20
Walnut	1	9
Mulberry	1	10
Medlar	2	10

Quantities and varieties of trees planted.



The lower three photographs were taken by Roger Davis, using a drone from a garden in Burney Road, by kind permission of Keith and Cathy Lee.

# Chapel Farm Community Orchard Project

As we said goodbye to meteorological winter, it was lovely to see an enthusiastic band of volunteers led by Federico Ghittoni, Lead Ranger with Surrey Hills East National Trust, make excellent progress towards establishing our new community orchard.

The National Trust is committed to helping reverse the loss of traditional orchards, which has happened over many years in the UK, by planting four million blossoming trees by 2030. Orchards have many benefits, not only to vital ecosystems but also to our enjoyment of the natural environment. For centuries, orchards have been a defining feature in many rural communities and part of local culture, history and tradition. As we all know, they are also spectacularly beautiful in blossom and when they are heavy with fruit, as hopefully ours will be!

The Westhumble orchard occupies a 1.2 hectare (about three acres) site on tenanted National Trust land in the field south east of the chapel ruin, close to the North Downs Way. Some 300 heritage trees have now been planted, with the majority being apple, pear and plum, although cherry, cobnut, fig, medlar, mulberry, quince and walnut

are all represented. Heritage varieties tend to withstand drought better than commercial ones, a relevant factor given local climate and soil conditions. Other benefits include creating a living seed bank, enhancing biodiversity and helping achieve carbon capture.

The work so far has consisted of planting the trees, staking them, mulching and watering in (a new supply has been created to the site, including a water trough). The trees require substantial guards, consisting of chestnut posts, railings and wire mesh to prevent damage from the livestock which will graze the area. At the end of the first week about half of these guards had been constructed, with the National Trust estimating that another five to six days of work would be required to finish this task. Further work has been scheduled over the next two weeks. Following this, the National Trust are offering to organise a barbecue to celebrate the completion of the establishment of the orchard.

We are very fortunate that Westhumble has been chosen as a suitable site for this exciting project. It was clear to all of us from the local community who volunteered our help, just how much



Photo by Graham Crawforth

planning and resource goes into a scheme of this ambitious nature. In addition to local helpers, the National Trust have been able to call upon considerable numbers of their own volunteers from the Surrey Hills area and beyond. The various activities were ably coordinated and led by Federico and his team of rangers, from whom we all learned some valuable knowledge and skills. There were also plenty of opportunities to chat to local friends, as well as with the National Trust rangers and volunteers, and a sense of achievement in a joint enterprise was certainly felt by many of those present.

This project is ongoing at the time of writing and further updates will be provided.

Graham Crawforth

## Invisible fencing on Headley Heath

At the Friends of Box Hill AGM on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, Fede (Federico Ghittoni, Head Ranger) gave us a review of the work that had been done on the hill during the past year. If any of us was in danger of nodding off, our interest was surely aroused when he began telling us about the invisible fencing that was being tried out on Headley Heath. Permission had been granted to use traditional fencing around the perimeter but not to divide the Heath into compartments.

With the invisible fencing system, the animals wear collars from which hang transmitter/receivers that communicate with a computer via satellites. They run on solar-powered batteries. The stockman defines, on his computer, the area he wishes his stock to graze. When the cattle approach the boundary that has been set, they receive an audible warning and also a vibration through their collars. If they proceed closer

to the boundary, they get an electric shock. They quickly learn to heed the first warning signal.

The boundaries can easily be reset as often as required and the system can be used to define quite small areas. Fede envisaged it being used in the new community orchard in Westhumble where it is planned to graze sheep.

Exclusion zones could be drawn round each individual tree and the sheep, with their collars, set to work.

At question time someone said, 'Going back to the electric grazing system; what is being done about mountain bikes on Box Hill?' The Templeton Room rocked with laughter.

Barbara Jones

Photo by Lyn Richards



Current cattle with standard electric fence

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## DENBIES

WINE ESTATE

A new chocolate wine from Denbies could be ready for pouring by Easter 2024, writes reporter Kit Gato.

Paul Woolover, chief winemaker at Denbies, made the surprise announcement at the latest WineGB Awards in Bourneville.

Using a genetically modified vine that produces chocolate-flavoured grapes, Woolover plans to add a new ChocoHolic wine range to the other Denbies collections by early next year.

This sweet treat is the brainchild of Will Greenblack, a consultant viticulturist, who came up with the idea while on secondment at Denbies in 2017. By

## A Treat in Store

2020, Australian-born Greenblack had gained a PhD in Molecular Biology from Queensland's James Cook University and developed a prototype of a genetically modified vine.

'Denbies has the ideal *terroir*,' he said in an interview on the topic with *Wine Pressé* magazine. 'We have chalky soil, a warm micro-climate and parcels in the estate with exactly the right altitude, slope aspect and gradient to nestle the chocovine. The fabrication is perfect.'

Traditional vines should be allowed to develop slowly and not rushed into production too soon. By contrast, the fast-growing chocovine benefits from forced growth and early harvesting.

'This means we can have a collection ready for drinking in less than a year,' Woolover explained. 'We plan to offer three varieties. DarkKnight will be strong and slightly acidic – a bitter dark chocolate. JellyBean will be milk

chocolate with hints of liquorice and raspberries. Ganache will be a fudge-flavoured dessert wine.'

'I used to be a drifter,' Greenblack said in the *Wine Pressé* article. 'But by taking a timeout, I found I could breakaway from my old life and focus on my two favourite things: wine and chocolate. Denbies is my new club now.'

'The chocograpes are incredibly moreish. We hope that visitors won't pick too many to supplement their picnics!' Woolover said. 'We do plan to offer locals the chance to buy the limited edition debut bottles. We know that ChocoHolic wines will provide a major boost to the whole area.'

Residents of Westhumble and Mickleham can register for chocolatey updates and volunteer to help with harvesting by calling Avril Primavera at Denbies Wine Estate.

Avril Primavera

## Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

### The Vanishing River Mole 2022

Many of you will have enjoyed Pete Brown's article about the vanishing River Mole in the September 2022 Parish Magazine. We were delighted that he was able to give a talk on this topic after our AGM in February. More than 50 people came to hear about the mysterious phenomenon of the disappearing river. Reports of the river vanishing underground in one place and then reappearing further downstream have been in existence for centuries. In 1849, Brayley's *A Topographical History of Surrey* included the first eye witness

account, with an illustration of the river going down a swallow hole near the Burford Bridge. Although suggestions that the name 'Mole' comes from the river's habit of burrowing underground are appealing, they are unlikely to be correct.

Christopher Fagg of the Juniper Hall Field Centre saw the river disappear into a swallow hole at Ham Bank in 1949 and there were similar occurrences during the drought of 1976. Pete explained that the geology of our local area is responsible for this behaviour. As the river flows over the permeable chalk of the Mole Gap, and the water table drops, water begins to leak through swallow holes into underground streams before resurfacing near Thornecroft where the water table is higher. During periods of normal rainfall the river also flows over the riverbed, but in drought conditions all of the water goes underground and part of the riverbed is left dry.

Last summer's drought prompted more searches for swallow holes and, as the river ran dry, for the spot where it vanished. This location changed as the drought continued. Several local



Dry riverbed near Young Street bridge

residents, including Ben Tatham, Nick Bullen and David Kinloch, took photos included in the talk and by August the river was underground for about one and a half miles. It was fascinating to watch David Kinloch's video of the water disappearing down a swallow hole near the Mickleham Bends. Pete's talk generated numerous questions and several members of the audience were able to share additional information about the river.

Further information can be found in Pete's book: *The Vanishing River of Box Hill*, available at <https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/dorking-museum-books/>

Judith Long



A well-attended MWLHG AGM and River Mole talk in the village hall



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# Dalewood and the Evans family



Photo by Ben Tatham

silver trowel (now in Dorking Museum) she used to lay the foundation stone was presented to her in gratitude by the trustees. A noted harpist, she was known for her kindness of heart and great courtesy, although she experienced much sadness too. Her son Gerald (bapt.1868) died in Oxford in 1889 from a scratch on his lip while playing football, which developed into blood poisoning soon afterwards. Her second daughter, Marion, married James Tomkin in Mickleham in 1897. They had three children, although she died in the same year her youngest daughter was born (1902), probably following childbirth. Marion was buried in Mickleham and when Sarah died in March 1915, she was buried in the same grave as her daughter. In memory of her sister, Lucie Gwendaline, the eldest of the children, had the organ in the church rebuilt and augmented. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford and there is a dedication to Sarah carved in the wooden surround of the organ. Lucie married Captain Charles Widenham Fosbery from Westmeath in Ireland in 1902, not long after the death of her father and sister. When her mother died, Lucie inherited Dalewood and the couple made it their home until 1937 when Charles died at Leatherhead Cottage Hospital. It was during this time that Lucie relinquished some of the estate to Surrey County Council for the construction of the by-pass south of Old London Road. In 1938 she had the reredos erected in St Michael's Church, possibly in memory of her husband or

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mickleham and its surrounding area contained at least ten 'big houses' or mansions that were home to wealthy families. Many of these families played an important role in our village's life whether by donations of money, land or community involvement. Hardly any of these estates are left and some of their mansions have been transformed into schools, hotels, and retirement homes, while others have been divided up or totally demolished.

Our community owes a debt to many families who once owned large estates, but the one who I think represented the last of them in a major way in Mickleham was the Evans family. Late comers to the village and far from being landed gentry, their fortune had been made in the silk printing industry in

Crayford and Tring. David Evans, son of the founder, bought Dalewood in 1890 and lived there with his wife and children until his death. He must have made himself immediately welcome when he allowed the village cricket team to continue to use the cricket field on what was now his land and to enlarge the pitch. He was a devoted churchman and had a flag erected on the tower of the church, took a close interest in the school and was elected to the parish council in 1895 where he served for three years. His generosity and kind disposition were recognised by all who knew him.

His wife, Sarah Evans nee Brown, who David had married in 1858, remained at Dalewood after his death. She made the most welcome gift of the village hall to the community in his memory. A

of her mother. This is recorded on a plaque which lies on the floor of the chancel inside the altar rails as well as a memorial to Sarah. (These are covered by the altar carpet.)

Dalewood was requisitioned by the British Army for the Canadian Pay Corps in 1939. It is not clear where Lucie went at this point but by 1945, she had established herself at The Glen in London Road, which she renamed Ilex Trees. In March 1949, the contents of the house were put up for auction by Cubitt & West in 600 lots, an event that must have preceded the sale of Dalewood and the end of its residential life - and its first transformation into the school it has now become.

Lucie died in August 1950, aged 81, having lived in the village for 60 years. Among her bequests were a cow and a greenhouse to two of her gardeners, her car and the use of Ilex Trees as a residence for life to her secretary Anne Mackay, as well as financial benefits. Her will describes Anne as, 'my real and devoted friend in sorrow and in mirth, in sickness and in health', so she was clearly more of a companion than a secretary.

Lucie, as I imagine her, was very much a lady of her era. One newspaper obituary describes her as living 'a life of quiet usefulness doing kindly acts' and belonging to the 'gracious days of the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century'.

This may be true, but fails to mention her active and abiding interest in the Mickleham Choral Society. She sang in many concerts in the village hall (and she was one of the first trustees for the charity that ran the hall). The Mickleham Group, and its prize-winning performances at the Leith Hill Music Festival, were frequently mentioned in the local press. On one particular occasion, the female trio selection consisted of Lucie, Miss Lawrence (Burford Lodge) and Miss Grissell (Norbury Park) – family members from three of our big houses, one still privately owned.

Sarah, Marion, Charles and Lucie are all buried in our churchyard.

Judith Kinloch



Photo by Judith Long

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

## The Life of Brookwood Cemetery

A talk by Kim Lowe

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm Mickleham Village Hall

Free for members, £3 non-members

## Private Tour of Brookwood Cemetery

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2 pm

£6 per person

Please join us for one or both events

To reserve a place or for further information contact Judith Long

judith.long2@btinternet.com or 07904 160961

## The Widdenham Fosbury Silver Hen



Photo by Ben Tatham

The Widdenham Fosbury Silver Hen

Recently a committee member of the Leith Hill Music Festival asked us for information about the donor of one of the festival's trophies, the Widdenham Fosbury Silver Hen. He had been told that there was some connection with Mickleham. We were able to tell him about Lucie Widdenham Fosbury nee Evans who lived at Dalewood, now Box Hill School. Readers will recall that the village hall was built in memory of her father David Evans.

Lucie was a singer and her name frequently appears in accounts of local musical entertainments reported in parish magazines of the day. She was also an active member of the Choral Society and in the *Dorking Advertiser's* report of the 'Leith Hill Musical Festival' in 1909 she sang in the female trio section with

Miss Lawrence and Miss Grissell.

Elizabeth Moughton recounts that 'Mickleham Choral Society has won the silver hen at the LHMf in numerous years since Barry and I have been singing and it is quite everyone's favourite trophy. It is a delightful little piece of silverware and infinitely preferable to the Mary Carey Druce Memorial Medal REPLICA, which is on offer somewhere in the LHMf trophies.'

Each year the name of the winning choir is engraved on the base of the trophy and indeed MICKLEHAM appears many times. Will the silver hen return home to Mickleham again this year? Come to the festival concert on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April and find out. (See concert details on page 10.)

Sue Tatham

## Leith Hill Musical Festival Concerts

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April\*

*Zadok the Priest* Handel

*The Lark Ascending* Vaughan Williams

*Laudate* Cecilia McDowall

*Nelson Mass* Haydn

\* Mickleham Choral Society's day

Concerts at Dorking Halls – 7.30 pm

Tickets: Dorking Halls Box Office 01306 881717 or [www.dorkinghalls.co.uk](http://www.dorkinghalls.co.uk)

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April

*Toward the unknown Region* Vaughan Williams

*Sea Pictures* Elgar

*The Musicmakers* Elgar

*God be with you till we meet again* Vaughan Williams

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## KING WILLIAM IV

Hello friends and neighbours,

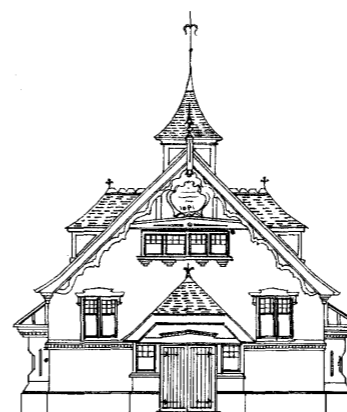
Happy Easter! I'm very happy to report that my daughter, Laura, partner Andy and my granddaughter, Clara, have moved to Dorking. This is great news for grandpa and granny Anne (as Clara calls us) and we have already made plenty of trips to Bocketts Farm, Chessington Zoo and the like. My niece, Jemma, recently started working at Chessington and she managed to arrange a private giraffe feeding for us - fabulous! Andy used to run the Black Prince pub in Kennington. He is now in charge of our bar on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday - so please pop in and say hi to him.

Sarah Parfait is going to organise another charity quiz to raise funds. If she can match the success of the last one, then it promises to be quite the evening. Keep an eye out for the date on our website. Also on the website, you will start to see some of music acts listed for our summer garden music.

See you soon, Eamonn and Anne



Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 [www.thekingwilliamiv.com](http://www.thekingwilliamiv.com)



## Mickleham Village Hall available for hire

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[bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk)

[www.micklehamvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.micklehamvillagehall.org.uk)



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[admin@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamvh.co.uk)

## Community Directory

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

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889  
[lyn@mra.uk.net](mailto:lyn@mra.uk.net)

BOX HILL SCHOOL 01372 374814  
Headmaster – Cory Lowde  
[HMPA@boxhillschool.com](mailto:HMPA@boxhillschool.com)

DORKING CRICKET CLUB  
Chairman – Andrew Homewood [homewooda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:homewooda@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS  
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth [patriciabooth100@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabooth100@gmail.com)

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB  
Maddy Halliwell [madeline\\_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk)

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THE GARDEN SHED 07759 646353  
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JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501  
[enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org)

Head of Centre – Maddy Jones [m.jones@field-studies-council.org](mailto:m.jones@field-studies-council.org)  
Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes 01483 281935  
[suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk](mailto:suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk)

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION 07767 891772  
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt [sarah@sarahparfitt.com](mailto:sarah@sarahparfitt.com)

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY [www.micklehamchoral.org.uk](http://www.micklehamchoral.org.uk)  
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL  
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106  
Secretary – Mike Benson [secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk)

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

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL [www.micklehampc.org.uk](http://www.micklehampc.org.uk)  
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES 01372 379381  
Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland [rev.ireland43@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.ireland43@btinternet.com)  
[clerkatmpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com)

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Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell 07790 941601  
[bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk)

## 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

### CHURCHWARDENS

Timothy Mathieson 07555 597163

TimothyMathieson@aol.com

Catherine Diffey 07790 473167

Mickleham@diffey.me.uk

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pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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### BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

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### FUNERALS CO-ORDINATOR

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funerals@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### WEBSITE MANAGER

Kelvin Pritchard 07770 280410

website@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### PCC ECO GROUP

David Kennington 01372 36230

davidkennington144@gmail.com

**www.micklehamchurch.org.uk**

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

*Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

## REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

28<sup>th</sup> February Caroline Pearce

12<sup>th</sup> March Jean Douglas

# CALENDAR FOR APRIL

## Holy Week Services

<b>1</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10-12am</b>	<b>Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>SUNDAY Palm Sunday</b>	10am	Family Service
4	Tuesday	7pm	Compline followed by meditation
6	Thursday	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
7	Friday	2 pm	Good Friday Service of Reflection
<b>9</b>	<b>SUNDAY Easter Sunday</b>	10am	Service of Holy Communion suitable for all followed by an Easter egg hunt
<i>Copy deadline for March parish magazine</i>			
12	Wednesday	7.30pm	MWLHG talk at village hall
14	Friday	7.30pm	Leith Hill Music Festival Dorking Halls
15	Saturday	9-10am	Women's breakfast at the Stepping Stones Leith Hill Music Festival Dorking Halls
<b>16</b>	<b>Second SUNDAY of Easter</b>	8am 10am	CW Holy Communion Holy Communion
17	Monday	3pm	Tea @ 3
20	Thursday	3.30-5pm	Messy Church at the village hall
22	Saturday	9-10am 10.30- 12noon	Men's breakfast at the Stepping Stones MWHS Spring Show & AGM, village hall
<b>23</b>	<b>Third SUNDAY of Easter</b>	8am 10am 9.15am-12.20pm 6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion at Chapel Holy Communion Garden Shed workshop at village hall Sundays at 6 at St Michael's church
<b>30</b>	<b>Fourth SUNDAY of Easter</b>	10am 11.15am	Morning prayer followed by interview with Sue Tatham Tea, coffee and cake with Sue at the church

## Dates for your diary

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Local coronation celebrations
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Garden Shed garden tours
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	MWLHG tour of Brookwood cemetery
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Plant sale in aid of Eco Group
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Sundays at 6 guitar recital
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	MCS Hot Summer Swing

## 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

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

Mark Day 07852 117249  
mickleham@hotmail.com

Denise Darling denisedarling4@btinternet.com

Andy Diamond 07789 775354  
diamo1@hotmail.co.uk

Kelvin Pritchard 07770 280410  
Kelvin@wan2lan.com

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP

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Requests to:

Will Dennis 07903 842674 [wdwdennis@icloud.com](mailto:wdwdennis@icloud.com)  
(who can put requests onto WhatsApp)

Mary Banfield 01372 373912 [mgbbmw@aol.com](mailto:mgbbmw@aol.com)

Frances Presley 01306 882473 [jasempres@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

MICKLEHAM CRICKET CLUB  
Membership contact Will Dennis 07903 842674  
will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309  
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs davidkennington144@gmail.com

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547  
ben@thetatham.co.uk  
www.micklehamwesthumblehistory.co.uk

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL 01306 885001  
Councillor Elsie Rosam 01306 885695  
elsierosam29@gmail.com

THE ARTS SOCIETIES (FORMERLY NADFAS)  
Betchworth – Mary Venning 01306 883301  
Dorking – Sue Tatham 01306 882547  
Leatherhead – Sarah Sheridan 01306 883699

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (A) INFANT SCHOOL 01372 373717  
info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk  
Friends of St Michael's School – friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY  
WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL  
Supervisor – Hilary Budd 01372 361021  
stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL 03456 009 009  
Councillor – Hazel Watson 01306 880120  
hva.watson@btinternet.com

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

TREE WARDEN  
David Kennington 07546 952521  
davidkennington144@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH  
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WhatsApp Group  
Will Dennis will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk

## 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  
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Edward Moran 07740 088124  
Daisy Armitage \*\*07580 473812  
Olivia Newby 07703 110363  
Eva Lanceley \*\*07903 630567

\* Holidays only  
\*\* Parent's mobile number

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# Margaret Maynard 1938 – 2023

The funeral service of Margaret Maynard, a long-time resident of Burney Road, was held at St Barnabas Church, Ranmore on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Margaret was born in Cheam just before the war. She had vague memories of seeing bomb-damaged buildings and having to wear a coat indoors after the a bomb blast blew out the windows in their house. Her bank manager father was in the Home Guard. In 1944, the year of the 'Doodlebugs', her harassed mother swept six-year-old Margaret and her baby brother Michael onto a train to a farm in the tiny hamlet of Frithelstock in North Devon where the child from the grey wartime suburbs was entranced by the countryside, the animals, and wild flowers. Frithelstock became her 'magic place'.

After leaving Sutton High School, Margaret went on to read English at Reading University, the first person in her family to go to university. She had a great time at Reading, becoming vice-president of her college and learning to sail on the Thames, inspired, like so many others, by 'Swallows and Amazons'. The Sailing Club kindled her lifelong life of boating and she and Roger owned a narrowboat for more than 40 years.

She did academic work as well and left university with a 2.1 but no idea what she wanted to do. Advised to obtain a practical skill she went to the prestigious Mrs Hoster's Secretarial College in London. Many of her co-students were debutantes 'Doing The Season' and they often came in bleary-eyed after a previous night's ball. She hated its very structured discipline, but it was a means to an end : her first job in the office of the University of London's Bedford College Council.

The working conditions were wonderful, being located opposite the beautiful Queen Mary's Rose Garden in Regent's Park and a (then unheard of) six weeks' holiday a year, but she was thoroughly bored, with not enough to do. The only excitement was typing the manuscript of 'I was Churchill's Doctor' by Lord Moran. Publication was not to be until after the great man's death, so they were all sworn to secrecy (which they never broke, imagine that happening today !)

She next moved to Hulton Educational Publications in Saffron Hill, London. Crammed with manuscripts and long strips of galley proof it was her 'Road to Damascus', though family history later proved she had 'printer's ink' in her blood (her grandmother's family had owned a local newspaper).

A division of the mighty Hulton Press (publishers of 'Picture Post'), Hulton Educational specialised in school textbooks. There Margaret learned many aspects of book publishing: editing manuscripts, proofreading, layout, dealing with printers, bookbinders and papermakers, and in her so-called spare time she did the advertising! She was never, ever bored at work again – always far too much to do – but she loved it.

After nine happy and fulfilled years, in 1970 she was head-hunted by the publishing house Franklin Watts, the new British division of an American company Grolier (then the third largest publisher in the world). Franklin Watts published the sort of library books that at that time children borrowed to help with their school assignments, now they Google the subject. Again she loved the job's variety, creating, commissioning and producing books and, without trying, she ended up on the lofty heights of Editorial and Deputy Managing Director.

After a decade at Watts, Margaret decided to go freelance and so worked happily from home for another 15 years. She edited a variety of non-fiction books for various publishers such as Macmillan, Pan and Dorling Kindersley. Under her maiden and working name of 'Margaret Crush', she was also commissioned to write around 30 non-fiction children's books, most now long out of print. In 1995 she decided to retire, to enjoy life with Roger who had taken early retirement from the BBC.

But her life had not been all career. Immediately after leaving university, in 1960 she had joined St Dunstan's Players in Cheam. Notable acting parts included the self-assured Gwendolen in Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of being Ernest' and the feisty ghost Elvira in Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit'. She also directed, especially classics including Shakespeare's 'Tempest' (a magical,

open-air production in the gardens of Cheam Rectory).

It was at the Players that she met Roger, a BBC sound engineer who did sound and lighting for the Players. They married in 1966 and lived first at Tattenham Corner before moving to Westhumble in 1972, where they remained happily for the rest of their lives. Over 50 years of marriage they were each other's best friends and companions, with shared and complementary interests.

Roger backed her up in her career and leisure activities. They had no children. Margaret's 90-year-old aunt and godmother who had severe dementia lived with them for some time. Another challenge was helping Margaret's brother Michael, who had had many personal problems, until his death in 2005.

And always there was boating! First they sailed Roger's 12-foot dinghy on the Thames. Then from 1976 cruised the canals in their narrowboats, both of which were built to their design. Roger worked away from home a lot, designing and installing BBC local radio stations around the country, so they used to move the boat near his jobs so he could live on board. Over 40 years they cruised most of the 2000-mile canal system, often with family and friends.

There were also a few long-haul holidays to Canada and the USA, Australia and New Zealand. Most of the internal travel in these countries was by long-distance train to see the scenery, Roger being a lifelong train buff. Margaret had many other interests: dolls' houses, animals (especially her cats and tortoises) and family history.

Notably she researched the lives and families of the men on the war memorial in the nave at St Barnabas Church and set up the website [www.ranmorewarmemorial.info](http://www.ranmorewarmemorial.info) and subsequently she expanded this website to cover the historic Denbies Estate, the Cubitt family, and life on Ranmore Common.

Now she can rest in peace with her Roger in the beautiful new churchyard at St Barnabas.



## Jean Douglas 1931-2023



Jean lived at Pathways, Burney Road, Westhumble for more than 40 years. As an only child she grew up in Islington with parents, George and Ellen Douglas. Her father was blinded following an injury during WW1, and this fuelled a later interest in supporting the Guide Dog Association and Talking Newspapers in Jean. Her father enjoyed attending race meetings, and young Jean accompanied him as his runner!

Jean took a degree in French at King's College, London, followed by a teaching certificate. A year in France followed, where she became fluent in French, often mistaken for a local. She used these skills and taught French at Mayfield Comprehensive, which was one of the first comprehensives in England, and was fully equipped with language laboratories. Later in her career she took a part-time teaching post at Therfield Comprehensive, Leatherhead.

In retirement she continued to hold conversation sessions for members of the community. Jean had a great love of gardening and took pleasure in introducing interesting plants and vegetables into the garden, even adding a pond hand dug by herself. She was very knowledgeable on plant names and species. She loved Cornwall and purchased properties there, the last being at Marazion, near Penzance, with wonderful views of St Michael's Mount.

It was a turning point in Jean's active life, when she contracted shingles. From thereon she never drove again, and much against her will, was forced to take help from neighbours with her weekly shopping. She suffered badly with the after effects of shingles and somehow never regained that energy she once had. It was reassuring to see her well cared for at Reigate Grange care home, for the past four years. Once again, their garden played a large part in connecting her to a life well spent.

Jenny Hudlass



**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**  
**9.15am - 12.30pm**  
**Mickleham Village Hall**

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Cost £22.50 for NT and RHS members

Non-Members additional £15 Booking essential

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## Community News

Congratulations to these new arrivals to the villages.

- Oxana Zhvalyuk and Geoff Black in School Lane on the arrival of their baby boy, Theodor Geoffrey Anthony Black.
- Martha Olive, born on 6<sup>th</sup> February, to Oliver and Jessy Maclean. A sister for Freddy and granddaughter for Stewart and Lyn Maclean of Adlers Lane.



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

**FOUNDIMEPESSORUPEETAIN**

Answer on page 27

## The Fantastic World of Seeds



With spring underway, now is an ideal time to get back in the garden and prepare flower and vegetable beds for summer blooms and crops. To help achieve success, we invited plantsman Andy Morriss, from Wallington Nursery, to share his expertise and experience with Garden Shed members. Although Andy and his team sow and grow on a commercial scale using specialist equipment, he was able to share how this can be scaled down and the same principals applied to achieve success in the garden greenhouse.

Some of the principal tips shared by Andy fell into four categories:

### Successful germination

When buying seeds, do not skimp as 'you get what you pay for'. Look for seeds in foil packets and always check the use by date as new packets stand more chance of germinating. It also helps to store seeds in the fridge in an airtight container until ready to sow. If collecting seeds, choose plants that have not been overbred as their seeds

are often sterile. Ideally, ensure the seeds are dry before harvesting. Seeds from berries need to be thoroughly cleaned before storing to avoid disease. Take care if collecting seeds from the vegetable garden if grown with other varieties, as they may have cross-pollinated and your efforts to grow a prize pumpkin will be wasted.

### Avoiding disease

Before sowing, ensure all equipment has been thoroughly cleaned to avoid the risk of disease. This includes cleaning the greenhouse and ensuring heat mats and greenhouse ventilation systems work effectively to help prevent damping off. This is a fungal disease that can cause seedlings to die. Compost should be fresh and not left over from last year. Seedlings will also benefit from the addition of an anti-fungal product to the compost.

### Sowing conditions

Always sow seeds onto damp compost and cover according to seed packet instructions, as this will encourage

them to anchor into the compost. As a rule, small seeds like a light cover of compost while larger seeds prefer vermiculite. If, despite your best efforts seedlings are leggy, reduce the temperature and plant deeper when transplanting. When watering, seedlings and plants prefer fresh, clean rainwater.

### Pricking out and transplanting

As soon as seedlings have a pair of true leaves, they should be transplanted to prevent overcrowding. If pricking out seeds grown in trays, disentangling tiny roots and carefully transplanting the seedling can take some time and a lot of patience. Andy recommended using cell type trays instead matching cell size to seed.

Andy and his team are based locally in Wallington Nursery, and always welcome a visit from 'neighbours' planning to add colour to flower beds or try new varieties of vegetables.

Cathy Lee

Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society

## Spring Show Plant Sale



AGM

22<sup>nd</sup> April

10.30am - 12 noon

Mickleham Village Hall



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20<sup>TH</sup> MAY

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## Spring Gardening

Photo by Sheila Brown



It's been a tough time for gardens and gardeners over the last year. Record breaking temperatures in the summer and then a cold, icy winter. The combination is not a good one for many garden plants. Certainly there will be spaces in our gardens as a consequence. All we can do is think positively – every space from the loss of a loved plant is now available for a new treasure to be planted. Once the weather warms up a little, that is!

February is perhaps not one of the best times of the year for gardeners, but there was still a lot of beauty out there. RHS Wisley had a 'winter walk' that led one round from the bright yellow blossom of witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), through pink and cream Hellebores and the brilliant white bark of silver birch *Jacquemontii*. And snowdrops were especially lovely this year. For a tropical treat, the orchid show at Kew was gorgeous.

Back to our own gardens, where perhaps the plants we should be looking to grow are those that can cope with most of the weather that they are likely to encounter, even in quite extreme years such as the one we have just experienced. One of my favourite plants is *Hemerocallis* or daylily, and these plants can withstand both hot summers and cold winters.

The flowers look very like lilies, but each individual blossom lasts for only a day. Hence the name. Their Latin (or actually Greek) name means *hemera* day + *kallas* beautiful. Fortunately, they have many blossoms, so provide a lovely display. The leaves are arching and strap-shaped.

Daylilies originate in Asia and are found over most of that continent. However, the modern home of the daylily is really the United States, where many of the

thousands of varieties are registered. Apparently, there are upwards of 100,000 varieties so there is plenty to choose from. The colour range is vast going from whites, through yellows and oranges to pinks, reds and burgundy. Petals can be single colour or marked in different colours, with crinkled edges or smooth ones. One of the loveliest is *Hemerocallis fulva* Flora plena. This has beautiful double orange flowers marked with a darker orange central stripe.

Daylilies are hardy perennials, that is they can survive cold winters but they die down in the winter and come up again in the spring. There are some varieties that are evergreen, but most are not and one of the lovely things about March is the slightly greyish green shoots of daylilies coming up through the soil. Some cultivars flower quite early and others much later in the season. They are not very particular about soil conditions growing in alkaline, neutral and acid conditions. Their preference is for a sunny spot, but they will manage perfectly well in semi-shade. As the RHS says 'they bring impressive rewards... and they are tough and easy to grow...'

April is a good time to be planting out daylilies from container grown plants.

Photo by mjunkin



Give them a good mulch of compost when planting. You can also get daylilies as bare-root plants, but these are best potted up in November to March and grown on in a cold frame ready for planting out in the spring or early summer. After about five years clumps of daylilies are best split up to maintain their vigour - so you have plants that can be given to friends as well!

Daylilies are, happily, not attacked by the red lily beetles that decimate other lilies, but they can be troubled by the *Hemerocallis* Gall Midge. This is a pest that has only been in British gardens since 1989 but is now quite widespread. It causes the flower buds to be shorter and fatter than normal and the buds do not open but either dry or rot on the plant. There is no pesticide treatment for the Gall Midge, but removal of the affected buds helps to reduce the number of plants affected. If your neighbours grow daylilies ask them to remove diseased buds as well to reduce the overall impact. Also, growing later flowering varieties reduces infection as the midge is most active in the spring and early summer.

Enjoy enhancing your borders with these lovely flowers!

Janet Barker and Sue Willis

## Westhumble Residents Association

The Westhumble Residents Association meeting took place on 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Stepping Stones, attended by around 40 people with Hazel Watson, our County Councillor, as a guest. Apart from the formalities of electing officers the discussions ranged around the railway bridge, the Local Plan, the playing fields, and the following items.

A request to amend the existing yellow lines to add additional lines opposite Cleveland Court and above the railway bridge were to be submitted to Surrey County Council. Hannah Mason reported on progress with the Local Plan and liaison with the National Trust regarding the tree work in Ashcombe Woods.

Progress on the community orchard was reported on by Elly McIlwraith-Jay and community sharing of produce was discussed.

Neil Mason was presented with two lanterns in thanks for his many years of service as Entertainments Secretary.

David Allibeury  
Chair of the WRA

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## GARDENS HOMES

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## CRYPTIC DELICACIES

Last month's golden squares could be  
formed into PUDDING, examples of  
which were DUFF, TRIFLE, CRUMBLE,  
COBBLER, SPONGE and TART – a fine  
collection of words with multiple  
meanings but which unerringly point  
to sweet treats when found collected  
together.

Here are some of the clues with thoughts  
about solving (as ever, definitions are  
underlined).

Firstly a reminder that my puzzles will  
always include at least two hidden  
words (actually in this case there were  
three in 12A, 2D, & 27D). Really these  
should be gimmers but it is a good  
challenge for the setter to somehow  
camouflage them. In the end, with  
every clue you have try to find the  
keywords that tell you what type of  
clue you're looking at, and if you're  
not initially spotting the hidden word  
clues you need to really look closely for  
possible pointers, eg

2 Bleach your clothes poorly (4)

ACHY

When you first read the clue as a  
sentence it appears that 'clothes' is a  
noun, but when you break it down as a  
clue, 'clothes' is a verb telling you that  
a synonym for 'poorly' is clothed by  
the letters of 'Bleach Your' and as is  
often the case the synonym that you are  
looking for is not related to the way it  
is being used in the clue, i.e. 'poorly' in  
the clue = 'in a way that is not optimal',  
'poorly' in the answer = 'with a feeling  
of unwellness'.

The next three clues have examples  
of words that look like they are just  
joining parts of the clue together but  
are actually important components of  
the answer (as shown in green):

6 Maybe you smell of poo during odd  
bits of loud set in a frenzy (6)

INSULT

'during' = IN, 'odd bits of' is an  
instruction to take the odd letters of  
what follows i.e. LoUd SeT = LUST which  
are then anagrammed ('in a frenzy')  
to give INSULT, of which 'you smell of  
poo' is an example (with 'Maybe' being  
a pointer to an example of a particular  
category of thing).

16 Outlaws prison and Santa! (8)

BRIGANDS

'prison' = BRIG, 'and' = AND, 'Santa' can  
be abbreviated to S (as in S Maria for  
Christopher Columbus's flagship). My  
crossword software has a huge number  
of individual letter abbreviations and  
I try my hardest to avoid the obscure  
ones that I would never normally  
use. When breaking down clues, you  
should be looking at each individual  
word independent of its meaning in the  
surface reading of the clue and, as well  
as thinking of synonyms, ask yourself  
what each could be abbreviated to.

20 ...alongside hiding key in one of  
three dimensions (5)

WIDTH

'alongside' = WITH, key = D (key could  
also be A, B, C, E, F, G, as in musical  
keys). Note that the '...' at the beginning  
of the clue makes it look like it connects  
to the previous clue – sometimes that  
might be the case, but not here! Repeat  
after me: 'Ambiguity is what makes  
it fun'. Actually if there is any use to  
crosswords other than giving mental  
exercise and relaxation, it is in training  
to be observant, to really look for what  
is below the surface and notice life's  
intricacies and ambiguities.

25 Bend over with Johnson sprinting off  
and you'll end up with an example of  
this or a step into disaster... (7)

SEAPORT

It's a different cheating Johnson to the  
one that currently can't keep himself  
out of the news - the one sprinting off  
is Ben who had to give his gold medal  
back after the Seoul Olympics, so '(Ben)  
d over' becomes 'Dover' which is the  
example required for SEAPORT. A bit  
naughty to use a cryptic definition but  
then I really telegraphed the anagram  
at the end and the crossing letters from  
other clues only allow for one possible  
answer. I thought you would appreciate  
the challenge of retro-fitting that  
answer to the first part of the clue but  
there is a scintilla of a possibility that I  
may have been wrong.

28 Naming Tate Yorkshire this would  
be sharp (4)

TART

This one owes something to Barry  
Cryer on 'I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue'  
who, when thinking of words for the  
Uxbridge English Dictionary, often



used the Yorkshire T for 'the' in his  
spurious definitions, so 'Trifle' became  
a Yorkshire firearm, and here 'Tart'  
becomes a display of Art in Yorkshire.

1 Not even Doug has very loud pants (4)  
DUFF

'Not even' means to leave only the  
odd letters of DoUg = DU, very loud =  
FF (fortissimo). Looking up the use of  
'pants' to mean 'rubbish' or 'inferior'  
points to Simon Mayo using it on  
Radio 1 in the early '90s, but even  
with an origin that recent it appears  
that there is a lack of agreement about  
the true reason it came to be used in  
this manner. And the moral is: write  
things down. Who knows, someday  
your writings about what is new and  
different might be valuable to people  
when the new and different has become  
normality.

I hope this helps and it would be great  
to get any feedback via

[andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk](mailto:andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk)

Andrew



## Sundays at Six

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Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
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St. Michael's Church

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We have had some 'weather' days this month. We had what I hope was the last snow flurry of the winter, just enough to create a mini snowman and some frothy 'iced coffee' from the mud kitchen. (Thank-you for the donation of the rotary hand mixer!) A windy day may mean it's not safe for us to go to the woods on our Forest school afternoons. When it's windy, we check the Met office wind gust speed and then use the Beaufort scale to check if it is safe to play out or not. Eight means it is okay to play on open ground rather than under trees and eight is also perfect for flying our home-made wind streamers.

In last month's magazine I wrote about our forthcoming activities, using the story of Mrs Honey's Hat as a learning provocation. We have had several wonderfully creative weeks as children grasped the concepts of using their creations to tell a story. Hats were hung on a 'washing line' in the nursery



allowing children to retrieve their hat and add extra bits as day by day their 'story' developed and grew. A long cardboard box (otherwise known as a boat) enabled a story that combined a child's interest in pirates with rhymes and songs they knew. The story went something like this; a little boat was sailing in a lake where there were five little ducks that went swimming and when they were over the hills, the boat magically transformed into a pirate ship. As the story grew, the hat was embellished with sparkles because pirates like jewels and there were even glow in the dark moons, so nobody had to worry about creepy crook and the badger! We have lots of very lovely story books at nursery, but the stories made up by the children gave us immense pleasure.

Creative and imaginative storytelling boosts a child's social skills as they develop their narrative expression. It allows children to go beyond the boundary of what they know, to explore ideas, concepts, and is key to what we hope will be future innovation. From tiny acorns do mighty oaks grow!

A generous donation from St. Michael's Community Group has enabled the nursery to book a visiting dance/theatre show 'Club Origami'. A show with no words, but where the actors create recognizable creatures using paper and pretend to be them; I am told penguins and monsters amongst other things. Ultimately, through an immersive experience, the show will also build on the idea of creative storytelling, I'm certainly looking forward to it!

Hilary Budd





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## Mickleham Parish Council Report – March 2023

At the last meeting before the local elections in May, councillors considered a number of on-going issues.

These include the fact that the Parish Clerk, Feena Graham, has been asked to be a Trustee of the Mickleham Almshouses, as well as Brendan Crossan, who brings a wealth of knowledge, having worked with Housing Associations in the past. The complex issue of data protection was raised again and Councillor Will Dennis reported that the Council did not need to appoint a Data Protection Officer but needed to look more closely at its policy on the matter.

A report was received from Councillor John Lowes on the recent Norbury Park Forum meeting when, amongst other things, it was reported that a number of new trails would be created, using existing footpaths and a sensory area was to be installed.

The Local Plan was mentioned. A letter had been sent, since the last Council meeting, opposing Mole Valley's request to the Planning Inspectorate to remove all Green Belt sites from the Local Plan. The effect of this would be to create social divisions, based on the ability of future generations to own affordable property in the area.

A meeting about the proposed Surrey Hills Boundary Extension was attended by Councillor Kayleigh Hunter, who informed the Council that this would not affect the area within the parish. The Mickleham village signs are being renovated, thanks to the excellent work of Tim Garbett. It is hoped that they will be in place to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

The procedure for the local elections, due to be held in May, was outlined by our Parish Clerk, Feena Graham, and councillors who intend to stand for election were reminded that they

will need to complete the necessary paperwork later this month.

Plans for the celebration of the King's Coronation in Mickleham and Westhumble were outlined, with a Civil Service at 10am on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Celebratory Tea in the Village Hall at 3pm. The response from the community to date has been very encouraging.

Finally, councillors expressed their most sincere thanks to Councillor Kayleigh Hunter for all that she has contributed in recent times, as she announced that she would not be standing for re-election as she and Jacob will be moving out of the area.

The first meeting of the new Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and will include the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Further details to follow.

David Ireland

Chairman Mickleham Parish Council

## 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  
out-of-date items or those  
that require refrigeration**



### LOCAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

#### MICKLEHAM

Garden Corner off Old London Road  
Mary Banfield 01372 373912

#### WESTHUMBLE

St Anthony Pilgrims Way  
Sue Tatham 01306 882547

## Spring at St Michael's Infant School



### Caterpillars

The children of St Michael's have been incredibly excited to have caterpillars in the classroom. Each class has their own mini pot of caterpillars to watch and engage with. This has caused great interest and the children are enjoying watching them grow and asking lots of questions. Soon we will be able to put them in the nets and then watch them continue to grow. Our plan is to try and release them all at the same time as a whole school. We can't wait!



### Colour monsters

In our early years classroom, we have implemented a new framework to help the children identify, understand and manage their emotions. This is called 'colour monsters'. Each colour monster represents a different emotion, such as black for fear, red for anger or annoyance, yellow for positivity and excitement, green for calmness and blue for sadness and gloominess.

We have put a picture of each colour monster on small wooden logs and hung them on a tree so that, visually, the children can engage in discussing their feelings. They can talk about this with each other and the adults and if the feelings are negative, they can think about strategies they might use around the classroom, to help themselves. The children have fully engaged with this and will articulate their feelings based on these characters. We have now rolled this out across the whole school.



[stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/](http://stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk/)

### World Book Day

The children recently took part in a World Book Day workshop at school. The workshop was based around the story 'How to catch a star' by Oliver Jeffers. The children thoroughly enjoyed having this story brought to life through drama and dance.



### Mother's Day Workshop

Thank you to the Friends for supporting the Mother's Day workshop this month at school. It is lovely when the community comes together to support a fun event, and thank you to the families who joined us at the church service afterwards.

Nicola Cleather  
Head of School

## Solution to the December crossword

Across: 9 Uncomprehending 10 Flyleaf 12 Crumble 13 One-liners 14 Terms 15 Cobbler 18 Nephews 21 Adios 23 Oven-ready 25 Seaport 26 Mr Right 29 Old-age pensioner

Down: 1 Duff 2 Achy 3 Imperial 4 Trifle 5 Checks in 6 Insult 7 Airborne 8 Ogresses 11 Lingo 15 Chat show 16 Brigands 17 Rooftops 19 Portrait 20 Width 22 Sponge 24 Ermine 27 Gunk 28 Tart

## BRAIN TEASER answer: three coins in a fountain

**Robust plastic carrier bags wanted for delivering parish magazines and food bank items.  
Please leave at food bank collection points – see page 26**

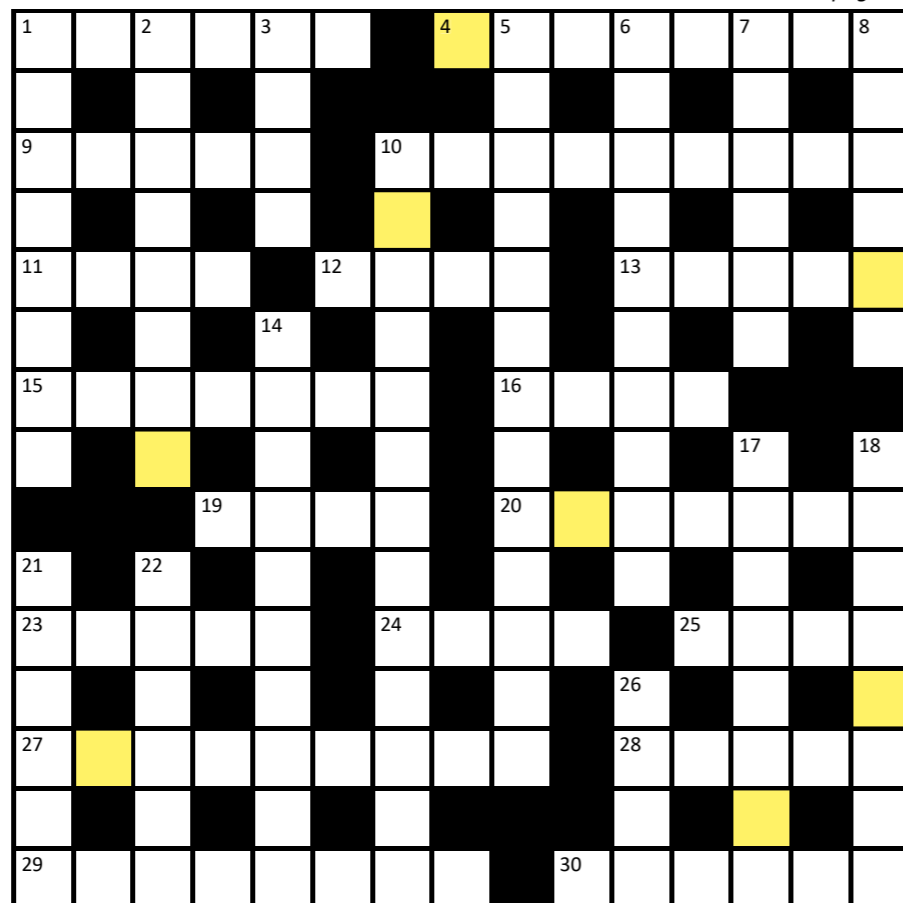
# Cryptic Crossword



The golden squares can be made into any of 1A, 11, 15, 25, 5, and 21 but only when they join second (8)

Across

- 1 I'd rest if forced into making promenade in an aggressive manner (6)
- 4 Someone who likes to soar like an eagle seen in extraordinarily risky video avoiding Jupiter's innermost moon (8)
- 9 What I've heard in the farmyard is in part due to indigo ink sometimes being spilled (5)
- 10 Giddy up, jerks, I'm someone who likes to soar like an eagle (3,6)
- 11 Crack found in tea cup's rim (4)
- 12 Oddly kept goat awake for tactless butcher's (4)
- 13 Brawl outside home for uncouth youths (5)
- 15 Rudely leans over very loudly to make a grab (7)
- 16 Being teetotal initially in the Isle of Man could be something to do with breeding (4)
- 19 Dye a handkerchief red to camouflage hot diggity dog (4)
- 20 Possible way of making a crane reverse for wise men found in their start point half cut (7)
- 23 'No toilets' is what black cats signify (5)



Down

- 1 Doctoring sitcom is suffering with lack of complaints (8)
- 2 Ran trace on construction agency at airport (4-1-3)
- 3 Do show tunes to generate government's secret money (4)
- 5/28 It's a tall order to choose from a menu: ERG, KKK, or lice. Corbyn is unhappy. (13,5)
- 6 Making ugly sound, I belch when shunned by society as a result of over-eating (6,4)
- 7 Fumes due to our midwives taking a penny at the start (6)
- 8 Sartre when ill-disposed could be most bloody (6)
- 10 'Gasp! This sewer is malfunctioning' is how we know what's going on in front of house (5,8)
- 14 The way to get fragrant skin? Consume pudding first! (10)
- 17 Breaking a mould or wind could cause this (8)
- 18 Yield we'd reallocate to extreme fanatic (4-4)
- 21 John Keats maybe keeps specific brand of underwear as a repository for multi-coloured balls (6)
- 22 Mrs Hitler named in gagging order where prostitution is legal (6)
- 26 Jung play is regularly ignored - it's abominable! (4)

Andrew Tatham

**Sunday May 7th 2023**  
**The Coronation of King Charles III**

*Come and join in the community celebrations*

**10.00am**  
 Civic Service at  
 St. Michael's Church

**3.00pm**  
 Celebratory Tea in  
 Mickleham Village Hall  
 including children's entertainment.  
*Entry free but please  
 book your place with Feena Graham at:  
 clerkatmpc@gmail.com*

The celebrations are being organised by St Michael's Church  
 in conjunction with Mickleham Parish Council

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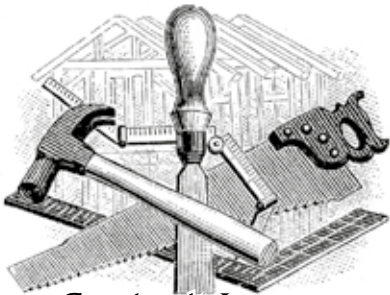
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