

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

November 2025



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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

**November
2025**

**Mickleham
Parish
Magazine**

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

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

**COPY DEADLINE
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Sunday
9th November**

send to:
editor@micklehammag.co.uk

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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
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space. Copy published is not
necessarily the views of the
editors or panel.


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Mickleham Rectory

Hi everyone,

I was privileged to go to Peru recently and enjoyed the wonderful scenery, the wildlife (particularly the birds) and the welcome of the people. We were able to visit several Inca sites, including the citadel of Machu Picchu, which gave fascinating insights into Inca life and culture. The Inca Empire was fairly short-lived in the 15th and early 16th centuries and much evidence of it was destroyed by Spanish invaders but the marvel of Machu Picchu in particular remains.

The Incas worshipped gods associated with nature such as the sun, mountains and water. The buildings were constructed to honour these in one way or another. Sometimes they were aligned with the sun's position at the summer or winter solstice. They were often built incorporating the outcrops of the mountain. This was a reminder to me to honour God, keep my focus on Jesus and allow him to guide how I live.

I was also fascinated by the careful construction of the buildings, particularly the temples and houses of important officials. The large stone blocks were hand carved to fit perfectly with those around, which was an amazing feat of ancient engineering by a people who never discovered the wheel or gunpowder. The stonemasons must have been both skilled and patient. The gaps were so tiny that someone remarked 'You couldn't get a knife blade between the stones'. I gathered from our guide that the design was also such that the various stones would move together in an earthquake and so not fall apart.

Thinking about those skilfully constructed walls led me to think about community. Each of us is like a carefully crafted stone and together we form a strong community, which resists being shaken by external forces. It has been shocking to learn of a fatal attack on a synagogue recently for we all belong together, even when we don't feel a good fit. There has to be room for all. We will have differing opinions about politics, religion, music, sport and more. We come from diverse backgrounds and are at various stages of life. Difference need not divide but can enhance and strengthen community as we learn from each other. We are not held together by a thin veneer of outward unity, but by our actions, which express our common values like respect, tolerance, equality, compassion, integrity and justice. These come from our Christian heritage and reveal God's desire for us to live together well. I hope you feel you belong to the community of Mickleham and Westhumble, a bit like being part of the walls of Machu Picchu.

There several significant dates coming up in November. Christmas Shoeboxes for Ukraine and Eastern Europe can be brought to church from 2nd to 9th and RGS-Surrey Hills are kindly organising their collection and ask that boxes are brought to their reception by 17th (see page 17 for the link). Remembrance Sunday is on 9th, giving an opportunity to remember those who sacrificed so much in wars and to pray for peace. Lights to Remember is on 16th, where we recall our loved ones who are no longer with us. Our last autumn lunch is on 20th and 30th is Advent Sunday (details in the calendar). Do join us!

God Bless



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/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EJBIw>



Mums/Carers and Toddlers Group Westhumble Chapel



Second Monday of the month
11am - 12 noon
All welcome

10th November

Last session of 2025 8th December

St Michael's Church, Mickleham 'Light in the Darkness' Advent Courses

All are very welcome to join our 4-week courses during Advent. We offer a time of discussion (with no pressure to join in) and reflection during this busy and exciting season. Most importantly, you do not need to have been to a course or Bible Study group before and there is no obligation to attend every session.

Commencing on Monday evenings from 24th November to 15th December inclusive.
John and Mary Banfield are kindly hosting the event at Garden Corner, Mickleham.

7.30 – 8.45 pm. Light refreshments served.

For more information about the course details please contact John on 01372 373912 or Amanda Wadsworth at aewadsworth@hotmail.com

Also, Thursday mornings at Westhumble Chapel from 11am for coffee, starting promptly at 11.30 am to 12.30 pm.
20th November to 11th December inclusive.

For details please contact Alison Wood on 01372 376443 or admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk



First Saturday of the month

Coffee Morning
Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 1st November

Come along between 10 am and noon

Coffee and cake £2 Free drinks for children
Everyone welcome

For further information call Jonathan Blake 07787 126966



Tea @3

Monday 17th November

Host: Angela and David Ireland

St Michael's Lodge
Old London Road, Mickleham

If you can help with future events, please contact
Julia at siberrman@btinternet.com

ALL WELCOME TRANSPORT AVAILABLE



Social gatherings open to everyone

Women's and Men's Saturday Breakfasts

9-10 am
at The
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Stones pub

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT BREAKFAST

15TH NOVEMBER

Book with: Stephanie Randall
srandall55@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT BREAKFAST

22ND NOVEMBER

Book with: Andy Diamond
adiamond714@gmail.com

St Michael's Church Community Group

St Michael's Church Community Group

Food Bank Collection

We welcome items for adults, children and infants including:

- non-perishable food
- laundry and cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene products

LOCAL COLLECTION POINTS

MICKLEHAM

Garden Corner off Old London Road
Mary Banfield 01372 373912

WESTHUMBLE

St Anthony Pilgrims Way
Sue Tatham 01306 882547



The Stepping Stones
Westhumble Street

Also items may be brought to Coffee Mornings at Westhumble Chapel and St Michael's Church on Sunday mornings

To make monetary donations go to: <https://dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

CHECK THE COMMUNITY WHATSAPP EACH WEEK FOR ITEMS CURRENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY

A Memorable Foodbank Donation

We are approaching the busiest time of year for our group, with Autumn Lunches, the Christmas Fair, refreshments at the Christmas Children's Concert, Tree Lighting and much more. However, our biggest efforts all year long are focused on raising funds and donations for the Dorking Area foodbank and the Meeting Room in Leatherhead. Necessary because of the harsh reality facing one in six (16%) households, or 14.1 million people, who go without enough food because they cannot afford it.

Now our community cannot solve the problem on our own, but we can make a difference for our neighbours, and so we are grateful for every item or amount of money that is donated. We have some very generous people in our villages, but we have never had a food donation delivered in a wheelbarrow as it was so heavy. Will and Annie Dennis offered this if the Red Roses won the Rugby World Cup. A lovely thing to do, thank you to you both, and the food was

on the shelves of the foodbank the very next day. Now you don't need to be as generous as Will and Annie, but one item a week from everyone would go a very long way to addressing the local need. So please, help make someone's day a little brighter. Thank you.

Kelvin Pritchard

Photograph from Will Dennis



On Saturday 27th September, the Red Roses won against Canada 33 - 13 at Twickenham to claim the Women's Rugby World Cup. Annie and Will at the game.

Christmas Fair
Saturday
13th December
2 - 4 pm

A chance to buy last-minute Christmas presents and enjoy a cup of mulled wine at Westhumble Chapel.

Delicious handmade chocolates
Sumptuous patchwork quilts
Westhumble honey
Christmas wreaths
and much more.

We look forward to
seeing you there!



Autumn Lunch – All Welcome

The final autumn lunch of 2025. Enjoy home-cooked soup with bread and cheese.

Thursday 20th November

Doors open at 12.45 and lunch will be served from 1 pm

To help us plan the amount of food, please book your place with Andy Diamond

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Green Energy in the Church Eco-Group Progress Report

As you may know, the church has been quietly progressing an improvement in its carbon footprint. You may recall that we have had a full, independent review of the church and chapel, and we are in the process of acting on those recommendations.

The chapel heating has been replaced with an overhead, instant space-heating, electric system, which will mean that heating can be instantly effective when switched on. This saves energy and provides 'targeted heat'.

Good progress is being made with the replacement of the church lighting with LEDs. The north aisle lamps were replaced a while ago and this seems to have gone well. However, some of the changes are not as simple and there may be a need for new transformers as well as the lamps themselves... all in progress. We hope to report more fully over the next few months.

The church heating continues to rely on our gas boiler, which still has some years

of life in it. Church of England (CoE) advice is that the sensible approach is to retain the existing system but have in place a plan for an alternative system for when change is appropriate. St Michael's Eco-Group is working on this, although technology is changing very quickly and any plan will need to be continually reviewed based on emerging guidance.

The cost and payback period, for a limited solar panel system, is under evaluation. There are numerous hoops to go through here, not least the listed building aspect. Limitations imposed by such considerations and matters such as battery storage may be deciding factors on viability.

The church has, however, fully changed its gas and energy suppliers to green tariffs. Both are now supplied through Crown Energy. The gas is 100% biogas, which is gas provided via methane etc, from the degradation of organic waste including anaerobic systems on farms.

The electricity is 100% from renewable sources (wind/solar) and from UK facilities. It transpires that the cost is no greater than our past non-green supplier. This is an excellent improvement, which knocks our carbon footprint back to near zero, and puts us in a good place to go for our objective of a Gold Award under the Church Eco-Award Scheme. We have achieved Silver, and energy was one of the key elements on which we were not awarded Gold.

Suppliers are discussed in more detail in the Eco-Group article on page 3 of the June issue (available online if you have discarded your copy). Other green options are continually becoming available, so do look at current reviews when deciding. When choosing a green supplier, ask whether your electricity is generated from UK renewable sources, and whether your gas is 100% biogas. Also check if any 'offsetting' is involved. If there is, ask for verification that such schemes are legitimate.

Mark Day



MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

For those in Peril on the Sea

A concert for Remembrance Sunday

A reflective and inspiring programme of works relating to the sea
plus music from the Mozart Requiem

Conductor - Juliet Hornby Accompanist - Judith Flint

Sunday 9th November 7 pm

St Michael's Church, Mickleham

Tickets - Adults £15, Children 12 and under £7.50

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



Refurbishment of Church Clock and Weathervane



The church clock mechanism was fully automated in 2024 and at that time we started to look at the condition of the clock face and weathervane. The last time these were refurbished was more than 20 years ago and their condition had deteriorated considerably. They looked okay at a distance but not close up.



We had a window between weddings taking place on 25th July and 27th September to get any work done. In the event this was barely enough time. Scaffolding was erected at the beginning of August. The plan was for both the clock dial and weathervane to be removed and taken away for restoration by clockmaker, Smith of Derby. This was to include painting the clock face, gilding the numerals and clock hands and cleaning and gilding the weathervane. The opportunity would also be taken to fully service the clock mechanism. The work was designed to bring the clock, clock face and weathervane to a standard which will last for the next 20 to 30 years.

The last time there was work on the church tower was in 2003. The steeple had suffered storm damage and had to be

completely retiled. The weathervane and clock face were regilded at the same time. The contrast between the way of working then (shown in the photograph of a newspaper article of the time) and now is quite striking.

The original intention was to remove the clock face along with the weathervane and take them both away. However, sometime in the past the clock face had been cemented in and as a result that piece of the work had to be done in situ. The clock hands were removed, the clock face sanded back



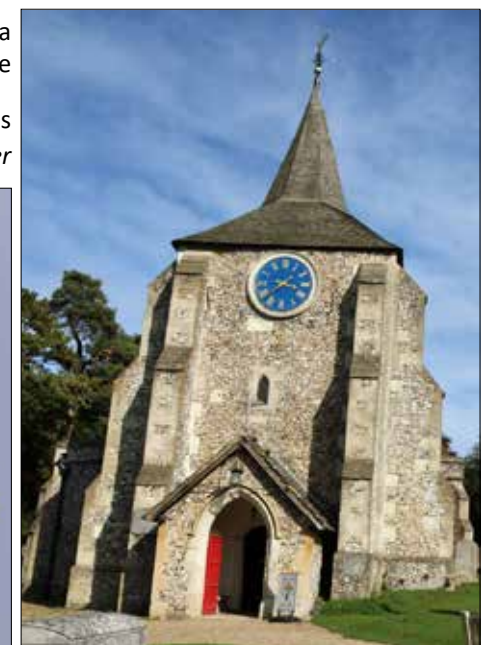
to bare metal and then repainted. At the beginning of September, the refurbished weathervane was returned and reinstalled. In the middle of the month the clock numerals were painted and gilded with gold leaf, the hands re-attached and the clock mechanism reset. The scaffolding was brought down during the third week in September

and the site cleared as visitors were starting to arrive for Heritage Day on 20th September and just a week ahead of the wedding on 27th September.

The result of all that work is quite a change from where we started at the beginning of August.

Churchwardens

Photographs by Michael Tester





Children's Christmas Concert

Peter and the Wolf

Sunday 30th November

at 4 pm

St Michael and All Angels Church, Mickleham

Narrated by Andy Diamond

with six-piece live ensemble

Followed by lighting of the Christmas trees, mulled wine and mince pies

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Heritage Open Day at St Michael's

We counted more than 100 visitors to our beautiful, historic church on 20th September. The opportunity to ring

the bells was very popular. Many thanks to Wendy Wyatt and Celia Lyons who were kept extremely busy throughout

the day. Thanks also to Lucy Adshead and all her helpers who contributed to this hugely successful event.

Mickleham and Westhumble Local History Group Exhibition

Photographs: Roger Davis

Where is it?

As this year's HOD theme was 'Architecture', the local history group mounted an exhibition featuring notable local structures. There was a quiz to go with the exhibition with 20 snapshots of various architectural features associated with the chosen sites. The display in the church featured information and photographs from our archives and additional research.

In addition to printing the answers (see page 28) we plan to include a series of articles about our chosen sites in the parish magazine. Starting with this one:



Leladene Arch Chapel Lane, Westhumble

Victor Freeman, a wealthy American businessman bought the title 'Lord of the Manor' when he acquired the Camilla Lacey Estate in 1922. Soon after their arrival in Westhumble, his wife Lela died. In her memory he renamed the estate 'Leladene' and erected the arch across the road leading to the house. The road is now known as Camilla Drive.

The arch has the initials VF (Victor Freeman) carved on either side. It is constructed from Bath stone, flint and brick. Obviously, Bath stone is not local so it would have been an expensive material to transport. The individual stones are the full width of the sides of the arch which gives it tremendous weight and strength.

Each of the four dog heads would take approximately one week to carve, which gives an idea of how long the original construction of the arch would have taken, and just what an expensive undertaking it would have been. There are owls carved as part of the tops of the uprights on the hinge ends of the wooden gates, they are not separate pieces. The gates no longer close because the level of the road has risen as a result of intermittent resurfacing.

Sue Tatham



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society



1 The plant stall run by Lucy and Sophie Adshead



2 The busy village hall

In this long dry summer, as the days stretched ever hotter and the sky even more blue, we often wondered where the next rain was coming from. As the date of the Horticultural Show grew closer, we might have guessed the answer. Sure enough, the rains appeared in September, which at least had the benefit of perking up our gardens and produce. This triggered a

terrific response to our pleas for entries and almost two hundred items were entered for the show. The apocalyptic weather forecast for the day held off, the crowds came in and admired the exhibits, ate the cakes and drank the tea. Thanks to all the stall holders for their support of the show. Chris Budleigh, one of our district councillors, was the VIP for the day and

presented the prizes. Just as he had finished, the heavens opened and sent us all scurrying home. All agreed it had been another lovely community event and we were very pleased that several people entered the show who had not done so before. Put Saturday 11th July 2026 in your diaries for the next Show! David Kennington



3 The nursery entries



4 Miniature floral arrangement winner



5 The school entries



6 Floral entries



7 Produce entries



8 Photography entries

Autumn Show, Saturday 13th September



9 Diana Dyson being presented the Paynter Cup by District Councillor Chris Budleigh



10 Angela Ireland with the Aitken Cup



11 Judith Long with the Ellman Cup



12 Will Adshead receiving the Robson Cup, Jonathan Blake in the background providing IT

Cup and medal winners

- Paynter Cup, an attractive and productive vegetable plot
- Aitken Cup, a late summer border
- Ellman Cup, most outstanding exhibit – grasses
- Robson Cup, most outstanding amateur entry – vegetables
- Schreiber Cup, most outstanding entry – fruit
- Gordon Clark Cup, most outstanding entry – floral arrangements
- Dennis Trophy for the most outstanding entry – cookery
- Vi Bullen Trophy for the most outstanding entry – arts and crafts
- Alan Huggett Memorial Cup, best dahlias
- Taylor Cup, most points – cookery
- Colwell Cup, most points – arts and crafts
- Bronze Banksian Medal, most points – horticulture
- Salomons Cup, most points in show
- Irvine Rosette, most outstanding children's entry 3 - 4 years
- Heygate Cup, most outstanding children's entry 5 - 8 years
- Wilkinson Cup, most outstanding children's entry over 9 years
- Hudlass Cup, best entry St Michael's School

- Diana Dyson
- Angela Ireland
- Judith Long
- Will Adshead
- Robert Dyson
- Alison Walton
- Sue Willis
- Kay Cain
- Richard Siberry
- Sophie Adshead
- Sarah Pritchard
- David Kennington
- David Kennington
- Tamsin Cain
- Robyn Cain
- Rory Halliwell
- Whole school

Apologies to the winners of individual categories who are too many to print here. They are listed on the M&WHS website.



13 Paul Walton and Karen Beck, just part of the team organising the event

Photo credits
Paul Beck 1
Isabel Budleigh 2, 7, 9 - 17
Judith Long 3 - 6, 8



14 Robert Dyson with the Schreiber Cup



15 Alison Walton's moment being captured by husband Paul



16 Kay Cain receiving the Vi Bullen Trophy



17 A very happy Richard Siberry

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KING WILLIAM IV

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

We hope you are enjoying this stunning autumn. The Virginia Creeper has never been so red! Anne is enjoying festive planting of our baskets, pots and wreaths while indulging in the return of sausage & mash, sticky toffee pudding, and other favourites. Don't forget, on mention of this magazine, it's the return of the highly popular,

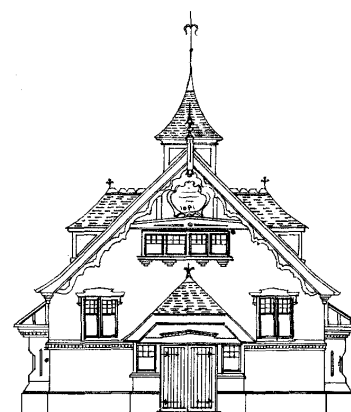
HALF PRICE FOOD every Wednesday to Friday in NOVEMBER (bookings recommended for Fridays).

Kat is in full swing taking bookings for Christmas Day, and for festive parties and family gatherings in December. Eamonn and Anne will be away in November fulfilling a long-held ambition to visit Costa Rica, while we can still move faster than the sloths.

We have a new volunteer quiz master so do keep an eye on the website for dates.

Kat, Anne and Eamonn

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com



Mickleham Village Hall available for hire

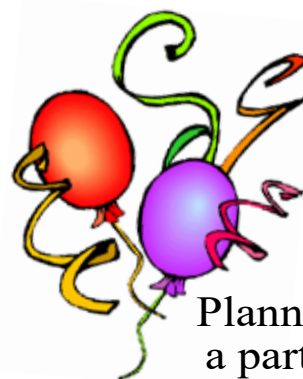
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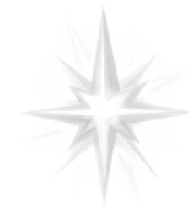
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CALENDAR NOVEMBER



1	Saturday	10 am - noon	Coffee at Westhumble Chapel p2
2	Fourth SUNDAY before Advent	10 am	Family Service
4	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
		7.30 pm	Garden Shed talk at The Stepping Stones p18
8	Saturday	5.15 pm onwards	Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks p 18
9	Third SUNDAY before advent	10 am	Remembrance Service
		11 am	Act of Remembrance at War Memorial
		7 pm	MCS Remembrance Concert in village hall p 5
<i>Copy deadline for December magazine and in-issue Christmas Card</i>			
10	Monday	11 am - noon	Toddler Group at Westhumble Chapel p2
15	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Women's Breakfast at Stepping Stones p2
16	Second SUNDAY before advent	10 am	Holy Communion
		4 pm	Lights to Remember Service in church p1
17	Monday		Deadline for shoeboxes to RGS reception
		3 pm	Tea @ 3 p2
18	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
19	Wednesday		Deadline for payment for trees from school p27
20	Thursday	12.45 pm	Last autumn lunch at village hall p 3
22	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Men's Breakfast at The Stepping Stones p2
23	SUNDAY next before Advent/	8 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel
	Christ the King	10 am	Holy Communion
24	Monday	7.30 - 8.45 pm	Start of Monday Advent course p2
26	Thursday	11 am - 12.30 pm	Start of Thursday Advent course p2
30	First SUNDAY of Advent	10 am	Morning Prayer
		4 pm	Peter and the Wolf Children's Concert in church p7
		5 pm	Lighting of the church Christmas trees p7



Dates for your diary

Saturday 6th December
Sunday 7th December
Tuesday 9th December
Saturday 13th December
Tuesday 16th December
Thursday 18th December
Friday 19th December
Tuesday 23rd December
Wednesday 24th December

Nursery Christmas Fair p25
Garden Shed Christmas Craft Workshop p18
A Reflective Christmas Service
Christmas Fair at Westhumble Chapel p3
Carol singing at the chapel ruins (see next issue)
MCS Christmas Carol Party p19
Carol singing in the pubs (see next issue)
Ex-crew get-together (see next issue)
Nativity Crib Service in Westhumble Field p23



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

REGISTER

WEDDING

Saturday 27th September Joshua Steer and
Georgina Hayes

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

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New to the magazine:

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We are very grateful to all our advertisers, who make the production and distribution of this magazine possible.



Andy Loose 1966 - 2025

My mum and dad moved to Westhumble 22 years ago and dad rapidly fell in love with all the area had to offer. Then three years later I came along, and we have lived here ever since. I too love the area and have many memories of adventures with my dad, such as kayaking the river Mole and endless bike rides in the trees.

Anyone who knew my dad, Andy, knew he was crazy for all things endurance sports. If you ever bumped into him, he was most likely on his bike or out running, training for his next ultra race. His life revolved around being outdoors in the Surrey hills and at our second home in the French Alps, whether on skis, bike or by foot. Thanks to him so does my life now and I will forever cherish the love he gave me for these sports, in particular cycling.

In his professional life, he was a global expert in liquified natural gas and directed many projects all over the

world throughout his career. He was fortunate to travel to many countries to speak at conferences and meet with clients. These trips also often involved bringing me home a new teddy bear!

Two years ago, he was diagnosed with a rare stage 4 cancer. This may have stopped him being able to run but never stopped him getting out and enjoying the outdoors on his new e-bike. He had recently finished a successful course of new treatment. However, he died unexpectedly while away on a hiking trip in Snowdonia, close to where he grew up. My mum and I take comfort in that he spent his last day in the mountains doing what he loved.

The photo shown of him was taken on our last family holiday to Kerala, India in October 2024.



In his memory we are raising money for Re-Cycle, a charity in Africa which send bikes and parts and sets up bike to school programmes for children in rural villages. The page is on 'JustGiving' with the title Ellie's fundraiser for Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa) in memory of Andy. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/andyloose#sharePage>

Ellie Loose

Community News

Erratum

Page 17 of the October issue of the magazine announced the birth of a new grandson to Anne and Gerry Weaver. This was incorrect and should have read a new grandchild to Lucy and Neil Mason. Our sincere apologies to both families involved, for any embarrassment this has caused them and for any resulting confusion among their relatives and friends.

Belatedly, warmest congratulations on the birth of their grandchild to Lucy and Neil Mason.

We are very sorry to report the death of Jim Fuller on 5th October and send our deepest sympathy to his wife Carole and family at this sad time.

Congratulations to Dr Chris Budleigh of Westhumble on being awarded his PhD in Medieval Economics from Birkbeck College, University of London. His thesis title was *State Politics and Private Enterprise: The Byzantine*

Economy under Alexios I Komennos (1081 - 1118). It has taken seven years as he studied part-time 'for fun' alongside working. We will try to include a summary of his research in a future issue.

Shoebbox Appeal 2025 link for guidance on gifts and payment for postage is: <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebbox-appeal-2025/>

The Garden Shed at the M&WHS Show

The Garden Shed was delighted to take part in this year's village horticultural show.

Once again, we welcomed Richard and Silvia, whose expert tool and knife sharpening service proved, again, very popular. Richard was kept busy throughout the day, not only sharpening a steady stream of garden implements and kitchen knives but also offering helpful advice on their care and use.

Thanks to the support of everyone who visited, we were able to donate £50 to St Catherine's Hospice in recognition of their invaluable work. This represents £1 per item sharpened, impressive despite the poor weather.

Cathy Lee



Richard in action



Peter Smith
with his talk

Protect Our Pollinators

Tuesday 4th November
7.30 pm

The Stepping Stones Pub, Westhumble

Tickets £6 on the door - no need to book

Details at www.gardenshed.club or questions, Pauline Davis 07759 646353 or paulinedavis33@icloud.com

Christmas Craft Workshop

Make a Wreath or Table Decoration

Cost £45 Refreshments included

Booking essential

Sunday 7th December

9.15 am - 12.30 pm

Mickleham Village Hall



Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks

Saturday 8th November in Westhumble Field

Volunteers appreciated from 10 am on the day for final preparations to the bonfire.

Lots more newspaper needed too!

Torchlight procession at 5.15 pm from junction of Burney Road, Chapel Lane and Adlers Lane

Bonfire lighting at 6 pm

Fireworks from 6.30 pm



All from Mickleham & Westhumble welcome along with relatives and friends. The charge per person can be kept down if more people attend. We are asking for £10 per head for adults and £5 for children at the entrance to the field.

Barbecued sausages available. We are also planning to offer a larger range of food and drink options this year, including tea, coffee, ice cream and locally brewed beer.

Please remember that a bonfire is a dangerous place even before it is lit, so keep small children and pets under supervision.



Mickleham Choral Society
**CHRISTMAS
CAROL PARTY**
Carols and festive music followed by seasonal buffet and mulled wine
Thursday 18th December
Mickleham Village Hall 7.30 pm

Tickets £15 adults, £7.50 children 12 and under
Book tickets via Events page on
www.micklehamchoral.org.uk

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Behind the Scenes at Polesden Lacey

At the end of September, twenty-four members of our group arrived at Polesden, not entirely sure what we were going to see. We split into two smaller groups due to space constraints inside the house and were given a brief introduction by our guides. As many readers will know, Polesden was the weekend home of the society hostess, Margaret 'Maggie' Greville. She was the illegitimate daughter of William McEwan who founded McEwan's brewery and was a self-made millionaire.



'Ronnie' and 'Maggie'

In 1891 Maggie married Ronald 'Ronnie' Greville, a Captain in the Lifeguards and later MP for East Bradford. He was also the heir to a baronetcy and a member of the future King Edward VII's Marlborough House set. Maggie brought money to the marriage, and in return Ronnie's connections gave her an entrance into society. Fifteen years later, McEwan bought Polesden for the couple and they embarked on an ambitious project to renovate the house using the architects who had remodelled the Ritz Hotel in London. Maggie wanted 'a room I can entertain Maharajas in' and the opulent gold saloon certainly fulfilled her wish. Sadly, the Grevilles had

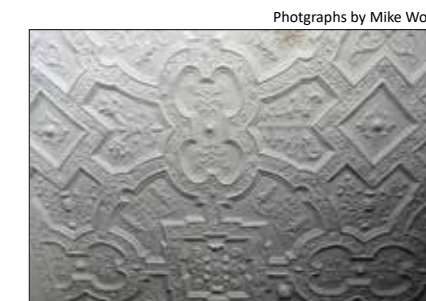
only a brief time to enjoy life together in their new home as Ronnie died from pneumonia in April 1908, aged forty-three, following cancer surgery.

Upstairs in the house we had a tour of Maggie's private apartment, a section of the house not normally open to the public. The rooms have spectacular views across the surrounding countryside, and the bedroom has an ensuite bathroom with a marble bath, washbasins and tiles. In its heyday the house had sixteen bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Next door to the bedroom is the boudoir, which originally had dark wood panelling on the walls, a brown carpet and yellow curtains, not a colour combination you are likely to see today.



Maggie Greville's bathroom

In 1960 the apartment was damaged by fire, after which the room was painted white. A specialist conservator has been leading a team of volunteers to strip back the paint from the panelling, which is being stained to restore the original dark colour. The plaster ceiling was created from moulds used for the Jacobean ceiling seen by Maggie at what is now Ye Olde Reine Deer Inn in Banbury.



The boudoir plaster ceiling

In the corridor next to the boudoir we were surprised to see an Otis lift, installed in 1917 to take Maggie to and from her study on the ground floor below. Further along the corridor is a room designed for Ronnie, possibly a dressing room, with a marble washbasin. Also nearby is the King's Suite, designed for Edward VII who was a frequent visitor to Polesden.

Maggie died at the Dorchester Hotel in 1942 and left Polesden to the National Trust. This was a surprise to the Royal Family who had expected the property to be left to them. However, Maggie left more than sixty pieces of her jewellery to the Queen (later Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother), several of which are still worn at royal events.

Judith Long

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Village Life in the Fifties: a Chance Encounter

Meridel Holland is an independent researcher, having published most recently on Emily Brontë, John Ruskin and Robert Curzon with a prior interest in Byzantine historiography and literature. Her unusual first name comes from a book read by her mother. After attending St Michael's School, she went to Epsom Grammar then read English at Cambridge and completed a PhD in English at Harvard. As she says, St Michael's clearly gave her an excellent start in life. She lives in Suffolk but on a visit to her childhood haunts, she bumped into Barbara Jones, got chatting and was persuaded to write the following description of village life in the 50s.

A chance encounter with Barbara Jones, who was collecting botanical specimens from a roadside verge, led to this invitation to jot down a few memories of my Mickleham childhood. My family lived in Mickleham in the early 1950s. My school was Mickleham C of E Primary School, my church was St Michael's, and the hills, fields and beech woods all around were my playground.

School was a delight. The headmaster then was Mr Webb, and the teachers were Miss Strudwick, Miss James and Mr Hand. There were only four classes, for children aged between 5 and 11, and going up a class depended on academic prowess, not age. Pupils were drawn from the Roof of the World site on Box Hill and the surrounding countryside, from where we were ferried back and forth by a school bus. Our family lived in a cottage belonging to Warren Farm and that journey was a most blissful part of the day, though I adored school as well. The teachers were kind and would join in hopscotch and snowball fights. Lessons were free ranging, about local history and nature as well as the 3 Rs; there were nature walks, and a vegetable patch where the boys dug while the girls learnt sewing. We all had our midday dinner in Mickleham Village Hall, walking past the Rec, where the annual Bonfire Night was held, past the oak trees (still there) and past the pig farm (now gone). Sylvia in my class didn't like school dinners, so took a paper bag to school; she would fill it with the bits she wouldn't eat, stuff it up her knickers, and lob it over to the pigs on the walk back.

Our school life was intimately tied up with the church. We read from the Bible before lessons every day and were taken to services that fell on weekdays, like Ash Wednesday. We learnt many psalms by heart, my favourite being 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills' because our lives were surrounded by the vast and numinous Surrey Hills. The rector then was Mr Cornell, and this was one of the sermons he delivered to the school. He told us that in Greek, the word for 'soul' was the same as the word for 'butterfly'. He said the butterfly was a metaphor for the soul, 'Do you know what a metaphor is, children?' and that one day our souls would emerge from their chrysalises as glorious as butterflies. We understood about the life cycle of the butterfly, as Mr Webb was a keen naturalist, and taught us a great deal about butterflies, natterjack toads and monkey orchids, but apart from that, we didn't understand much. I did, however, remember the sermon, and discovered later in life what a metaphor was, and that Mr Cornell was quite correct in his Greek.

Apart from psalms, services and sermons, the church provided the school with a splendid Christmas party in the village hall, with a large Christmas tree from which every child received a surprise and welcome gift. The world then was still consciously suffering post-war privations. There was rationing, and little money to spend. The boys chanted 'We won the War/In Nineteen Forty-Four' in the playground, while the girls did their skipping games under the apple trees. One day we all went out to watch a broken war plane being transported down the A24. We had very few materials for our sewing lessons until, to everyone's amazement, the school received a bale of cloth, pale green, smelling delicious, printed with pink roses. Miss James cried. I sewed an apron for my mother.

The village hall was also the scene of the annual Church Fete (at which my few inches of knitting won 3rd Prize), and other memorable events. Once, standing in the hall, Mr Webb saw the huge oak tree outside sinking before his very eyes. He watched the whole tree sink into the ground. I have a memory (?) of seeing the top branches of the oak way below our feet, in its hollow. Mr. Webb used the occasion to tell us the ancient story

about swallow holes, and chalk streams and the River Mole. When I visited old haunts yesterday, I was told a few more sink holes had appeared in the grounds of RGS Surrey Hills.

I visited St. Michael's again, saw the photograph of the Reverend Cornell, exactly as I remembered him, and memorials to Brigadier Schreiber and Judge Lloyd Jacobs, who featured in our lives so long ago. The ragged banners that hung over the chancel were no longer there, and I could not find the brass I rubbed when I returned as a teenager, Lady Jane Iwarby, as I remember. I also visited my school, in many ways much as I remembered it, though greatly expanded, with large bright rooms, brilliant wall displays and a library (unthought of when I was little). The children are now aged only 4 to 7, and the teachers (as kind as those when I was young) said sadly they wished there were more. Children are no longer collected from Box Hill by bus. Still, the ones who were there looked as happy as we had been, rushing around the brightly painted but unchanged playground.

Meridel Holland
(Mickleham 1952 -1956)

Harvest Workshop



The church was filled with laughter, colour, and creativity as children gathered for the annual Harvest Festival Crafting Workshop. Young hands got busy making autumn-themed bookmarks, hanging ornaments and leaf decorations. The event was well attended by children from St Michael's school and nursery plus children from the local community. Thanks to the help of local volunteers and parents, the workshop was a heartwarming success and a joyful start to the Harvest Festival celebrations.

Francesca D'Marco

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individual deliverer then hands out all their bagful usually to neighbours along their road. A couple of rounds are more scattered. On that note, I am delighted to welcome Lynn Papworth to the team who is going to take on Swanworth Lane west round, one of the more spread-out routes.

Most of you are probably unaware of this carefully choreographed system to get the magazine to you free of charge. It works incredibly well most of the time thanks to the deliverers' commitment and reliability. We usually suggest that each person finds a substitute, so that if they cannot do their round one month, we have someone ready to step in. If there is no substitute, Charlotte or I act as back up and do the deliveries. We would prefer not to have to do this too often on top of editing.

The rounds lacking back-up are listed below. Rounds cover 5 to 35 magazines depending on houses in a road, so usually take under an hour to post. The main deliverer commits to ten issues a year (no January and August issue), so

your commitment would be less than that. You would be sent a timetable so that you know in advance when the delivery weekends fall but it is usually the last weekend of the month.

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Burford Bridge to Fredley 9
Byttom Hill 22
West half Chapel Lane 21
Burney Road outer 34
Adlers Lane/Pilgrims Close 32
First half of Pilgrims Way 19
Westhumble Street 35
London Road/W St Close 15
Swanworth Lane west 13
Burney Road inner circle (23 magazines) requires a main deliverer and substitute as our current volunteer would like to retire after a considerable time helping.

Please contact us if you would like to be back up for any of the listed rounds and part of this fantastic team on editor@micklehammag.co.uk
Jan Budleigh Co-editor

Crib Service 4 pm Wednesday 24th December

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



We are looking for readers, Mary, Joseph, wise kings, shepherds, the star, angels and a baby Jesus to help us bring this Nativity to life.

Please let Elly know if you, or any young people would like to take part (and whom you would like to be):

ellyjay@gmail.com

Please wear wellies or sturdy shoes, this is a working field.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments are available afterwards.



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ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY CHRISTMAS FAIR

★ Stalls ★ Santa's Grotto ★ Children's activities ★
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6 December 2025 | 10am - 12pm
Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close,
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Autumn Activities at Nursery

This autumn, our activity planning has been guided by the children's interests, and as luck would have it, we have more than a few who like tractors. This worked rather well for celebrating harvest time. The children have been busy exploring the colours, textures, and fruits of the season. They have enjoyed collecting conkers, acorns and colourful leaves for art projects, singing harvest songs, making bread dough and playing pretend farms.



In Forest School, the children have helped wash, chop, and taste seasonal produce, such as cinnamon stewed pears and fire-grilled apple slices, linking their experiences to stories and songs about sharing the harvest. We have also talked about being thankful to the farmers and have especially enjoyed the story of 'The Little Red Hen', which reminds us that working together and helping others is kind.

Hilary Budd

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Help Us Share the Magic of Mickleham's Infant School



Many of you already know and love our small village infant school, tucked away in the heart of Mickleham. Whether you have had children or grandchildren attend, joined us for community events, or simply passed by and admired the laughter coming from the playground, you will know what a special place it is.

We are incredibly proud of the nurturing environment we have created, where young children thrive in small classes, surrounded by nature and supported by a dedicated team. Our forest school provision, extensive outdoor space, and strong pastoral care make our school a truly unique setting for early years education.

Now, we need your help.

We have recently partnered with a professional marketing company to promote the school more widely and attract new families from further afield. However, nothing is more powerful than word of mouth, especially from



those who know us best.

If you believe in what we do, please help us spread the word. Mention us to friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Share our story on social media. Encourage families to visit. We offer open mornings and individual tours, and we would love to welcome anyone considering a nurturing, nature-rich start to their child's education.

Mickleham is a truly idyllic setting for an infant school, and we want more families to discover the benefits of beginning their educational journey



here. With wraparound care, strong links to local nurseries, and a warm, inclusive ethos, we offer a seamless and supportive start to school life.

Your support can make a real difference. By helping us reach new families, you are not only strengthening our school, but you're also helping to preserve the vibrant, caring community that makes Mickleham so special.

Thank you for being part of our story. Let's share it far and wide.

Nicola Cleather
Federation Headteacher



Christmas Tree Sale

If you enjoy a 'real' tree at Christmas, please consider ordering yours through The Friends of St Michael's Infant School. Proceeds will go towards supporting and enhancing the learning of our 4-7-year-olds

We will be offering high-quality non-drop Nordman firs	3 - 4 feet	£34
for collection from the school in slots on the weekend of	4 - 5 feet	£40
29th/30th November	5 - 6 feet	£46
	6 - 7 feet	£56
Order forms and payments must be received	7 - 8 feet	£71
by Wednesday 19th November	8 - 10 feet	£105

To order your tree please complete the order form at: <https://forms.gle/KXQe5dR2WyUCmNw77>

Payments can be made by bank transfer, Paypal or credit card Sumup online payment

Full details are on the order form

If you have any questions or would like us to send you the link and payment details, please email

friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com

We would be most grateful for your support for our little school this Christmas.



Numeral Book Quiz

A dozen book titles and their authors are required. Some may be better known as films. For example, 10,000 Ls under the Sea = 10,000 Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne.

- 1 F Over the C N _____
- A T of 2 Cs _____
- 3 M in a B _____
- The S of 4 _____
- 5 C and I _____
- N W A 6 _____
- 7 Ps of W _____
- 8 Cs _____
- The 9 Ts _____
- The 10 T _____
- Os 11 _____
- 12 A M _____

(Answers below)

Barbara Jones

Where is it?

Solutions to the HOD display of photos in St Michael's on 14th September and printed in the September issue.

- 1 Mickleham Cottage - Old London Road
- 2 Pilgrims Way Court - Westhumble
- 3 St Michael's Chapel of Ease - Westhumble
- 4 Cleveland Court - Westhumble Street
- 5 Burford Corner - Westhumble Street
- 6 Box Hill and Westhumble Station
- 7 Leladene Arch - Chapel Lane
- 8 Skew Railway Bridge - Norbury Park
- 9 Old House - Old London Road
- 10 The Dairy - Norbury Park Farm
- 11 Mickleham Railway Tunnel
- 12 The Almshouses - Mickleham
- 13 Captain Phillips' Gate - Old London Rd
- 14 Dell Close Cottages - Mickleham
- 15 Old Cottage - Old London Road
- 16 Long Cottage - Old London Road
- 17 Dalewood - Old London Road
- 18 Chancel Arch - St Michael's Church
- 19 Norbury Chapel - St Michael's Church
- 20 Leper's Squint - St Michael's Church



Harvest flowers, one of the beautiful arrangements by the talented church flower arranging group for the Harvest Service.

Strong carrier bags needed for the magazine delivery team. If you have any to spare, please leave them on the porch of St Anthony in Pilgrims Way. Thank you!

Answers to the Book Quiz above.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey. A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens. Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome. The Sign of Four by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Five Children and It by E Nesbit. Now We Are Six by A A Milne. Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T E Lawrence. Eight Cousins by Louisa M Alcott. The Nine Tailors by Dorothy L Sayers. The Ten Thousand by Paul Kearney. Ocean's Eleven by Dewey Gram. Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Rose

Stop Press

Chris Coghlan in the Community

MP for Dorking and Horley

An opportunity for people to have an open discussion with Chris about issues that matter to them most with no specific agenda.

Monday 27th October

6.30 - 9 pm

Mickleham Village Hall

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All welcome

Solution to last month's Capital City Word Search

Abuja – Nigeria, Algiers – Algeria, Asmara – Eritrea, Bissau – Guinea-Bissau, Brasilia – Brazil, Cairo – Egypt, Canberra – Australia, Caracas – Venezuela, Katmandu – Nepal, Kyiv – Ukraine, Lisbon – Portugal, London – UK, Luanda – Angola, Lusaka – Zambia, Madrid – Spain, Nairobi – Kenya, Oslo – Norway, Paris – France, Quito – Ecuador, Sarajevo – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Skopje – North Macedonia, Tashkent – Uzbekistan, Stockholm – Sweden, Vilnius – Lithuania, Yerevan – Armenia

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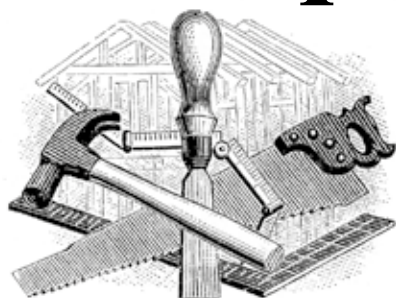
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