

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

October 2025



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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

October 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.

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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 for publication depending on space.



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Portsmouth

Mickleham Rectory

Dear all

This year autumn seemed to arrive early after the hot, dry summer. It was good to finally have some rain and to enjoy cooler mornings although I already miss the lighter evenings. As August drew to a close I found myself thinking about what makes life meaningful. This was prompted in part by seeing the poignant images of the suffering and deaths in Gaza and also by the fact that several people I knew had died at a relatively young age (under 80). All life is precious, any loss is sad. But as human beings we have considerable power over life and death. I continue to pray that those with most power would stop inflicting suffering and death and treasure life. Every living thing has a God-given purpose, apparently even wasps who contribute to the ecosystem, although I don't think the wasp that stung me the other day made a positive contribution at all.

I am privileged not only to attend but to lead a lot of funerals and it is always wonderful to hear the life story of someone and to learn what their friends and family valued about them. While achievements are honoured, skills and talents and sense of humour are mentioned, the most important things are the love, the kindness, the generosity, the dedication shown, the care and encouragement given. The roles of partner, sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle and friend are highlighted more than anything else. The lasting legacy for many is the impact that they have had on the lives of others because of who they were and what they meant to those close to them.

I use a prayer at funerals which includes the line 'Grant us Lord the wisdom and grace to use aright the time left to us on earth'. I wondered what that might mean for us and thought about making the most of each day, treasuring with gratitude each moment of joy and making good relationships with God and with people my priority. Also we each have talents to use for our enjoyment and to benefit others and we are each unique and able to offer something significant to our family, friends, neighbours, community. What we all have in common is the ability to give of ourselves, our resources and our love to bring hope, bring joy, bring comfort to others. That is what Jesus Christ modelled, that is how to live in the way God intended and by following his example and with his help we can use aright our time here on earth.

Celebrating all that is good is important and there are many ways to do it. One way is to come and join us in church for our Harvest Service at 11 am on 5th October to celebrate and give thanks for God's provision of food and our natural world. We will be collecting items and money for the local foodbank and there will be a craft workshop for children before and food and drink for everyone afterwards. All are very welcome.

God Bless.

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

Free Harvest Craft Workshop

All children welcome accompanied by an adult

Sunday 5th October 10 - 11 am

At St Michael's Church followed by Harvest Service at 11 am

Coffee available during the workshop, refreshments after the service
Donations of non-perishable food or money for the Foodbank 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 / 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/UCl4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>



Bible Study

Monday Evening Group
At Westhumble Chapel 7.45 - 9 pm
Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

Thursday Morning Group
At Westhumble Chapel 11.30 - 12.30 am
Contact Alison Wood 01372 376443
adminsupport@mickleham.church
ALL WELCOME TO EITHER GROUP

Songs of Praise

Do you enjoy singing lustily (or not!) Then join our Songs of Praise afternoon in St Michael's Church on Sunday 12th October at 4 pm to sing hymns and songs old and new. All welcome.

Refreshments afterwards in the Church.

For more details contact
Beverley Mehta: 01372 374304

Mums/Carers and Toddlers Group



Westhumble Chapel

11am - 12 noon

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Second Monday of the month

13th October

10th November 8th December



First Saturday of the month

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Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 4th October

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adiamond714@gmail.com

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Mickleham's Shoebox Appeal 2025

Spreading the joy: for Children, for Families, for Grandparents

Once again our community; St Michael's Church, St Michael's Nursey, St Michael's Infant School and RGS - Surrey Hills are joining together to fill as many Christmas shoeboxes as possible for those who may not benefit from the kinds of Christmas we expect.

This year we will again be working with a charity based in Ferring, West Sussex called 'Link to Hope'. This project is going to be far more universal as we will be creating shoeboxes not just for children but for whole families and the grandparents, the more elderly members of the community. This more diverse and inclusive project means everyone gets to enjoy a festive treat. Postage for the boxes cost £3 and you can Gift Aid your donation. The website <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2025/> provides lots of guidance and help to decide what should go in a shoebox and for those nifty crafters among you; it even has a whole section

on crafting things you can try. For those who prefer to use Amazon, there is a list for you too.

Important dates:

St Michael's Church will focus on the Shoebox appeal on Sunday 2nd November and the last date to drop them off at the church will be 16th November 2025.

All contributed shoeboxes need to be at Dalewood Front Hall, RGS Surrey Hills: Monday 17th November.

We would love it if as many people as possible in our village and our schools, either individually, as a family, as a pair, in a three, as a group or in any way you can, could get involved. Pack over a glass of vino and a curry or while having your Sunday lunch with the family.

Doing good, does good and does you good, so deck the halls and bring the joy because who does not want to be Santa, at least a little bit.



St Michael's Church Community Group



Autumn Lunches – All Welcome

There will be two autumn lunches:

Thursday 23rd October

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

Call 07789 775 354 or email adiamond714@gmail.com

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

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Garden Corner off Old London Road
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Sue Tatham 01306 882547

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Westhumble Street



Also items may be brought to Coffee Mornings at Westhumble Chapel and St Michael's Church on Sunday mornings
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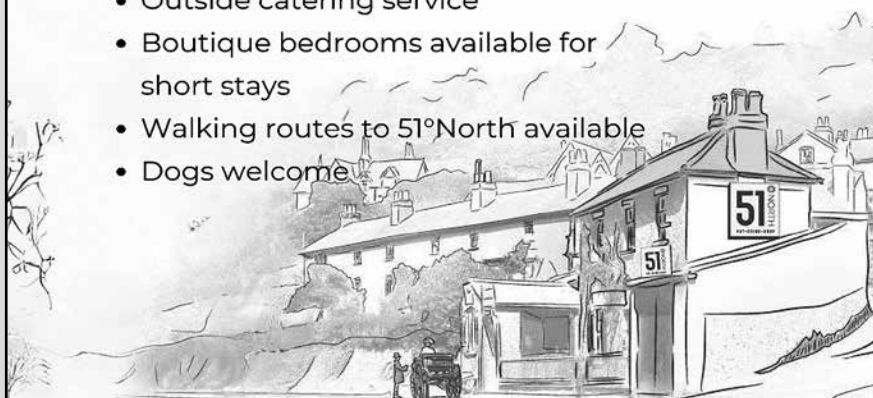
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Mickleham's Connection with the London Coal Tax

Coal entering the City of London had been taxed since medieval times. In 1861, with the increase in coal coming into the city by road, rail and canal rather than up the Thames, boundary posts were set up round London in an irregular loop of between 12 and 18 miles from the City. The boundary line was based on the existing Metropolitan Police District. The tax was not actually collected at the posts but they helped to ensure everyone was aware that the tax needed to be paid.

Opposition to the tax grew on the grounds that the coal was a basic necessity and that the revenues were largely used in the City of London although collected from a much wider area. When the Metropolitan Board of Works was replaced by the London County Council in 1889 the tax was abolished but the posts remained.

The nearest ones to Mickleham are



in Ashstead. Others can be found in Langley Vale, Epsom Downs, Tadworth and Walton on the Hill. They are to be found on roadsides and also on old tracks no longer in use as highways.

And the connection to Mickleham? Thomas Grissell, a civil engineer, public works and railway contractor lived in the big house in Norbury Park. His brothers Henry and Martin Grissell set up the Regents Canal Iron Works in East London. The company, which



by then Martin had withdrawn from, made all 200 of the type 2 (there were five types in all) cast iron coal tax posts as testified by the plaques still fixed to many of them.

Barbara Jones

Plastic in the Environment

The priest's letter in the September issue has provoked a reply from reader and Westhumble resident Michael Stephen on the subject of plastic in the environment.

I share our parish priest's concern for the environment as I was a member of the Environment Select Committee of the House of Commons. In the September issue of our parish magazine she writes about plastics; I know something about this from the Committee, and I am now on the board of a company in the plastics industry.

The collapse of the UN Plastics Treaty talks reflects the deep divide between political rhetoric and practical solutions. The NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and some of the less-

developed countries were arguing for severe restrictions on plastic production; and the plastics industry and the oil-producing countries were opposing them. Both have a legitimate voice, but they were both missing the main point.

Plastic is very useful, and has a much better LCA (Life-cycle Assessment) than many other materials used for packaging, but the problem which has caused so much public concern is that after it has been used it can get into the open environment, lie or float around for decades and eventually fragment into microplastics. The key issue (which was not even considered at the UN conference) is how to change the composition of the plastic itself so that this does not happen.



Fortunately, manufacturers can now make this change at little or no extra cost if they use d2w technology (the name of the technology which makes the plastic biodegradable). The plastic will then perform as normal, but will biodegrade quickly if it gets into the open environment, without leaving microplastics behind and, yes, it really does work!

There are several new advertisers in the last few issues. Do take a look at the ads, old and new, to check if there is a service which you might find useful.

Mole Valley District Council and Police Position Statement



Following Kirsten Johnson's article in last month's magazine, the statement below from MVDC and the police provides some information on acoustic cameras and the powers available to the police:

Acoustic camera deployment in respect of anti-social behaviour (ASB) from motorcycle riders

While there are no acoustic cameras in Mole Valley, they have been deployed in a number of other council areas, mostly to gather evidence to enforce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and driving of cars, not motorcycles. Their efficacy in respect of capturing reliable information from motorcycles is still a matter of debate. An acoustic camera is not looking to provide evidence to support enforcement against the decibel level of a vehicle as there is no 'illegal' threshold for vehicle noise on public roads. Instead, it is capturing footage, triggered at a decibel level deemed to be appropriate, to determine whether a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been breached or other offences identified. Acoustic cameras, in connection with PSPOs, are triggered by noise above a certain decibel level after which images are captured. From these images it has to be decided whether ASB, as described in the PSPO, has been committed. If behaviour prohibited by the PSPO is captured, then the offending vehicle has to be manually identified from the footage.

Identification of the 'offending' vehicle and rider

As bikers often ride in groups, the data shows that in some instances there are multiple bikes captured, resulting in difficulty attributing the reading to a certain bike or indeed whether the total decibel level which triggers the camera is because of the cumulative effect.

Motorcycle numberplates are generally mounted on the back of the vehicle only and are more difficult to capture. If the vehicle in question can be positively

identified, the next step is to understand who the rider is. Riders wear helmets, making by-eye identification impossible. Since the evidence would be gathered under the powers provided by the PSPO, this legislation does not require the registered keeper of a vehicle to identify who was riding the vehicle at a particular time. While most bikes are ridden by their owners, this is not exclusive, and the burden of proof in relation to the identity of the perpetrator rests with the prosecution.

Examples of implemented schemes and trials of acoustic cameras

There have been a number of trials of acoustic cameras, but the only ones which have been continued are those aimed at cars.

The most prominent example is in The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where they were brought in to deal with supercars.

Norwich City Council has also introduced acoustic cameras to address ASB related to cars and Hertfordshire Police have instigated a two-year trial of acoustic cameras in response to illegal car meets and street racing, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Sussex Police have trialled acoustic cameras to tackle antisocial riding of motorcycles, in very similar circumstances to those issues being reported in Mole Valley. That trial did not provide sufficient evidence of their effectiveness to tackle this issue, citing problems with identification of vehicle and rider, and no permanent deployment of cameras was implemented.

The **Department for Transport** carried out four trials of acoustic cameras across different areas of the UK during 2022-23 and published the results in 2023. In June 2025 the government stated that DfT had no plans to produce further on-noise cameras but is keeping up to date with any advancements in technology. It is the position of MVDC

and Surrey Police that the deployment of acoustic cameras in Mole Valley is not currently considered as an effective solution in response to the issues reported. This is due to the lack of convincing evidence of their effectiveness in providing data for enforcement for anti-social behaviour relating to motorcycles.

The cost/benefit analysis for the use of acoustic cameras to deal with motorcycles is unproven. It is considered that other enforcement options should be prioritised such as on the ground policing, which the Borough Commander is looking to increase. The leaseholder of Ryka's and its loyal community also wish to work with us to discourage the anti-social elements and have already implemented some measures to do so.

Existing legal powers at the Police's disposal

The Police have a number of routes to enforcement for the types of behaviour being reported including Sections 1-3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 covering dangerous and careless driving.

Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 for enforcing modified bikes.

Motor Cycle Noise Act 1987 for suppliers of adapted exhaust systems.

Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. This legislation allows police officers to seize vehicles used in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to the public, or if the driving is deemed careless or inconsiderate under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

MVDC, with the support of Surrey Police, is continuing its plans to go out to consultation on the implementation of a PSPO covering this area later this month (see below left). PSPOs can offer other additional enforcement opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

Caroline Joseph

MVDC Cabinet Member
for Safety and Security

James Green

Mole Valley Borough Commander,
Surrey Police

Stop Press: Public Space Protection Order

This link will take you to the MVDC consultaion document on a PSPO:

<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/a24/>

Closing date for responding is 31st October

Churchyards Eco-Project Progress Report

We thought that, a few years into the 'Churchyards Eco-Project', it was time for a quick summary of how things have been going. It is worth just recording a bit of the history. The new churchyard area (c two acres) was kindly gifted to St Michael's by Geoffrey and Carol Hobbs of Eastfield Cottage, which lies at the top of its access road which runs along the immediate southern boundary of the old graveyard, from the Lych Gate.

One outcome of the planning process was that approximately half of the area was assessed to have 'Significant Archaeological Potential', such that any excavations below topsoil level (c50cm) would require archaeological observation and recording. This would potentially apply to individual burials in this, the southern part, of the site, and was clearly impractical. But the remaining area was deemed sufficient for some 80 years of burials. Hence, there was a residual, non-burial, area of land which presented a great opportunity for ecological enhancement.

The acquisition of the land coincided with the launch by the Church of England of a major initiative to 'look after God's Earth', and this additional land presented us with an area of land which could be managed with ecological gain as the secondary objective, the primary use being that of a graveyard.

The management scheme is based around grassland restoration, but we have included additional features. With donations from the Woodland Trust over 1100 hedge 'whips' (250m) have been planted, on all three 'open sides' of the new graveyard area. The most recent (southern boundary) planting has yet to become established, and is in more shade. However, with grant assistance from BugLife, the eastern boundary has been 'laid', and is fruiting well. As is the northern boundary (with the Glebe Field), which is hoped will be 'laid' this winter. The health of the blackthorn, rowan and hawthorn is shown in the photographs (does anyone

like sloe gin?). The small orchard area has also fruited well this year.

The grassland is managed in three sections, each mowed, in turn, every three years, with mowing timed to allow seeding of wildflowers. The grass cuttings are removed in order to gradually reduce soil fertility and the dominance of grasses in the sward. The old churchyard to the rear of the church is also now intended to be cut twice a year, after spring wildflowering in May and after later seeding species, in September. Wildflower ingress is a gradual process and will take some years for fuller evaluation. However, the number of butterflies this year and in 2023 is testament to its early success.

We are the only church in the diocese with a new pond! Any water feature is a substantial ecological gain. It was established in 2024 as a seasonal pond, and this summer certainly tested that to the limit: it dried out completely! However, in normal summers, a shallow water depth should usually be retained. Nevertheless, during the earlier spring months, various planted and seeded native water plants are expected to reappear. The pond even played host to a pair of mallard ducks for a while. It is starting to refill again after recent rains and dragon- and damselflies, have already taken advantage. Frogs and newts soon, we hope.

Various bird boxes have been installed, but these are in their early years, and so far without success, but a tawny owl has been inspecting the owl box, and the kestrel box has been visited by a kestrel at least once. These things do take time. That said, over 40 species, most notably firecrest and spotted flycatcher, have been recorded in the graveyard as a whole. The recent clock restoration scaffolding provided the perfect spot for a peregrine to 'stoop' and devour an unsuspecting pigeon... all in the flash of an eye.

Church Eco-Group



October Exhibition 2025

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Mickleham Parish Council

September 2025 Report



The Mickleham Parish Council met on 10th September. Chaired by Graham Clark, as Will Dennis was on vacation, the following were the main matters discussed.

Rykas Café/Noise Petition: Our petition is expected to be considered by Mole Valley District Council in plenary session on 14th October. There have been some really bad evenings through the summer and many complaints on the WhatsApp group. A counter-petition exists, which states, erroneously, that we want to close Rykas. That is not the case. We, however, want acoustic cameras, and we do want enforcement of the law. We would like Rykas to comply with the terms of its lease and to go back to its original opening hours. We do now have a copy of the lease and are reviewing it to see where Rykas may be in breach. We have had some helpful press comments, and some unhelpful abuse directed at our excellent Speedwatch team.

Norbury Park Tenancies: Helen Wood has filed a formal complaint with Surrey County Council, and we have had further correspondence with various county councillors. Responses are not helpful, as they persist in delegating all correspondence to Halsey Garton, who continue to evict tenants who have been there for years.

Playground: Repairs are currently being carried out to replace the damaged timbers and make good other parts of the equipment. There has been

considerable correspondence about this work and the existing 10-year guarantee, which does not expire for a further 18 months. Thanks were expressed to all concerned for their hard work in getting a resolution, particularly Sarah and Adam Parfitt.

Swanworth Lane: The Running Horses have agreed to give the conifer hedge a light prune in the autumn followed by more thorough pruning in April to improve the sight lines when exiting from Swanworth Lane.

Noise Survey: A noise survey has been conducted to provide evidence in support of the petition re excessive exhaust noise. Thanks were expressed to Andrew MacNaughton for organising the survey and to all who contributed to the crowdfunding to finance this piece of work.

Old London Road Signage: Surrey County Council have confirmed that they are going to be providing one new no-entry sign on the southbound carriageway of the A24 and replacing the two missing 'no-entry' markings on the northbound carriageway. Thanks are due to Hazel Watson.

Swanworth Farm: Nick Bullen has a stay of execution for one year, but negotiations continue as to the exact terms of that new lease.

Parish Councils: Mole Valley District Council is conducting a consultation on this. The options appear to be broadly (1) to stay as we are, (2) to merge with Westhumble into a larger parish council,

(3) to merge with Westhumble and Dorking into a large town council.

After deliberation, the Parish Council resolved to pursue Option 1, to stay as we are.

Unitary Authorities: The plan seems to have come down to whether or not we have two or three unitary authorities covering the whole of Surrey. Either way, we will be part of a new East Surrey unitary authority.

Other Business: A settlement has been agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for an increase of 3.20% for staff, backdated to 1st April. We are obtaining quotes to install a bench in David Ottridge's memory in the Recreation Ground.

Please would as many people as possible put the date of 14th October in your diary and come and support our petition at Mole Valley District Council. Further details will be posted on the village WhatsApp group when we have them.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm.

Adlers Lane excavation

Excavations for a wall being built next to Adlers Lane in Westhumble uncovered some fragments of china. As the place was near the site of Hadlers Hall as shown on the 1781 map of Westhumble on page 48 of 'The Manor of Wistomble' by Ronald Shepperd (a scan of this book is on the Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group website), we thought that the fragments might be quite

old. We sent the photograph to the Dorking Museum. In the opinion of two archaeologists there they are 19th century. That is still quite old compared with most of Westhumble.

I would be interested to know if anyone else has dug up other interesting relics from the past. Please let me know.

Ben Tatham
ben@thetatham.co.uk



Songs of Praise 4 pm Sunday 12th October in Church

Tom Chisman - the Horseman of Mickleham

In September's issue we reported the sad death of Jim Chisman, son of well-known Mickleham character, Mo Chisman who died earlier this year. Coincidentally at about the same time we were asked for copies of the pen portraits of Mickleham personalities of yesteryear written by Betty Ellman in the 1990s. Betty lived at 3 Mickleham Hall for many years. One of the portraits was about Jim's grandfather, Tom Chisman, another great Mickleham character. It paints a lengthy but very interesting picture of life in the early twentieth-century which we think present-day readers might find worth reading.

Tom Chisman was not born in Mickleham, but he recalls riding across the Downs from Epsom to Mickleham as long ago as 1919. As he left the village only a few years ago to move to his present home in Petworth, he can justifiably rank as a Mickleham personality. He was born near Stockton in the North Riding, where his parents owned a public house. One of his earliest and most vivid memories is of being taken in his pram to watch the racehorses being offloaded at the railway station. He was so smitten by the vivid colours the jockeys sported that he made up his mind (at the age of four or five) to become a jockey, a resolve from which he never faltered.

When he was a little older, he used to help his parents in the pub and when by good fortune the local hunt met at this venue he would sneak out to follow the hounds. One day in 1911 he accompanied his father to the local farriers and eventually persuaded them to let him mount the pony - his very first ride. At about the same time, instead of the paper round that most small boys do, he used to take the family brake to Stockton market to deliver, so far as he remembers, chickens and vegetables. On one of the trips, he noticed a large clock fixed above an archway, a fond memory which he perpetuated by a similar clock above the stables he later owned in Swanworth Lane, as many of Mickleham will recall.

On leaving school he discovered an advertisement in a sporting paper and persuaded his parents to let him be apprenticed to a racehorse trainer. Accordingly, they signed his indentures for five to seven years with a Mr Robertson in Swindon where his wages were fifteen shillings a quarter plus board and lodging which amounted to ten shillings weekly. It was essential for a potential jockey to be very fit, so Tom had already converted the basement of his parents' home into a gym, enabling him to become an adept boxer and a good marksman. He lacked the necessary attire for an apprentice boy but managed to acquire what he felt was a very smart white sweater and, somehow, breeches and leggings which had previously belonged to a tall woman!

Mr Robertson died in 1915, by which time Tom had demonstrated his skill, indeed a natural affinity with horses and from then on, he proceeded to racing stables in Rottingdean, Newmarket, Eire and Leicestershire. On one occasion, full of his usual confidence, he answered another advertisement and left flat racing for steeplechasing. His father was at this time a prisoner-of-war and his mother had died, but Tom was visiting relatives in Yorkshire when he fell in with a farmer who owned a thoroughbred steeplechaser. The following day the horse threw his jockey, injuring him, so the next day Tom, undaunted, competed in a three-mile steeplechase at Sedgfield. In 1932, he came second in the Grand National on a horse appropriately named Rest Assured, losing by a mere head on account of one of his leathers breaking.

Tom had celebrated his twenty-first birthday hurdling at Jevington in Sussex and it was while there that he met his future wife Violet, always known as Todge. The trainer for whom he was then working built a racecourse for him, but he did not stay long - he was, and is, a man of independent and emphatic views - and he migrated to Epsom to train a string of horses for



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CHEESMAN'S MICKLEHAM



Tom Cheesman's yard in 1973.

Photos of three generations of the Hardwicke family of Westhumble. Alan Hardwicke's horse Bryony was stabled at the yard and some of the younger members were taught to ride by Tom.

Barbara Jones, Alan's daughter is standing on the right in the lowest photo.

Captain Reggie Sassoon. Following a difference of opinion Tom handed in his notice rather than be sacked and from there he made his, for us, significant ride to Mickleham. The village like so much of Surrey at the time, was very horse-orientated (with three forges within its confines) but it was also where Todge was living. She was then a music teacher at Downsland School,

continued on page 11

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



continued from page 10

and an avid supporter of eurhythmics and Isadora Duncan. When the organist at the church fell ill Todge stepped in to fill the gap. So successful was her performance that she became the regular organist until illness forced her in turn to give up. Sadly, both sons of the marriage predeceased their father; Peter, the elder, had followed in Tom's equine footsteps becoming National Hunt Champion while the younger, John, preferred cars to horses. He began as a mechanic and later became an important member of Rod Walker's racing team, with Stirling Moss as co-driver. His widow, Mo is (as most of our readers know) a popular and valuable member of the local community. Soon after settling in Mickleham Tom struck up a friendship with Mr Knight, groom to the Gordon Clarks of Mickleham Hall but then resident at Long Cottage while their big house was occupied by Manor House Girls School. The stables belonging to Mickleham Hall were empty and available for letting but Tom could by no means afford the annual rent of between three and four hundred

pounds. The estate of seventy-five acres included two cottages, a farmhouse and sundry outbuildings, which were without main water supply or electricity. The total rent was £1,200. By good luck 'mine host' at The Running Horses, Mr Newman, wanted Tom to care for and exercise his horse, while other friends entrusted their ponies to him for a few months while they were away. Still other friends in Headley (where there used to be an annual point-to-point meeting) invited him to do the same for their pony Joey. Thus, supplied with horses, and through the mediation of good friends such as Mrs Abbott of Elm Cottages, Tom approached Miss Green, headmistress of Manor House School, told her she was charging over the odds in rent and eventually took over four of the fifteen Gordon Clark stables. At one point Tom was teaching more than forty children to ride.

Anyone in the village involved in any way with horses would automatically turn to Tom Chisman for advice and help, for example Mr Fuller, grandfather of the unique waiter at The Running

Horses. Mr Fuller's 'garden' horse was broken in by Tom, though it proved too spirited for such work as pulling the lawn mower and was then trained as a show jumper, winning many prizes. Subsequently Captain Fosbery of Dalewood gave the horse to the Surrey Union Hunt, and it was ultimately put up for sale and bought by Tom for £9. All prices in the twenties seem low by comparison with those prevailing today: Tom recalls having a pot of tea, bread and butter and strawberry jam at The Running Horses for 10d.

Tom gave up racing as long ago as 1949, but even now he rides almost daily on his own horse. He also hunts, although since he disposed of his horsebox a short while ago, he can manage this only when the meets are within hacking distance of his home. He still drives, visiting old friends in Mickleham and Leatherhead several times a year. His mind and figure belie his years and those who have not known this colourful character have missed a great deal of local lore.

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KING WILLIAM IV

Dear friends and neighbours

T'was a lovely summer at the King Bill. Kat has been given more responsibility over the pub and staff, important to Anne and I, as we start entering our 'Golden Years' and need to slow down. She is keen to do a pub quiz soon. As Greg, our usual quizmaster, has gone up north, maybe

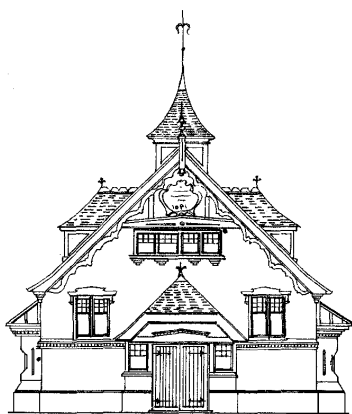
Anne will take the role, unless there are any willing volunteers? Look on the website for dates - great fun.

Kat has decided to open on Christmas Day this year. Always extremely popular, with the log burner in our cosy main bar and lovely decorations, great news it is being reinstated.

Winter is a quieter time for us, and we love to be busy, so again throughout November (excluding weekends) we will be offering Mickleham Parish Mag readers 50% off our menu prices for any food ordered. What a great excuse to come in and see us, and keep cosy and warm.

Eamonn and Anne

Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

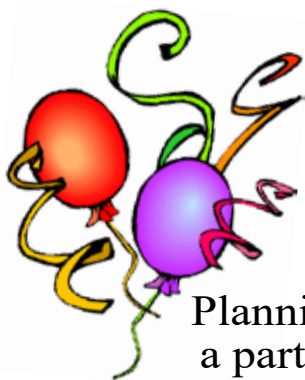


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lyn@mra.uk.net

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DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth patriciabooth100@gmail.com

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MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY www.micklehamchoral.org.uk
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106
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MICKLEHAM CRICKET CLUB
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MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB
Secretary – John Atewell 01372 374745

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk
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ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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INCUMBENT — The Rev'd Will Perry 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

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07763 488961

parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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CALENDAR OCTOBER

4 Saturday 10 am - noon

5 **Sixteenth SUNDAY of Trinity** 10 am
11 am

6 Monday 11 am - noon
7 Tuesday 7 pm

12 **Seventeenth SUNDAY of Trinity** 8 am
10 am

Copy deadline for November

13 Monday 3 pm

18 Saturday 9 - 10 am

19 **Eighteenth SUNDAY of Trinity** 10 am

21 Tuesday 7 pm

23 Thursday 12.45 pm

25 Saturday 9 - 10 am

26 **SUNDAY last after Trinity** 8 am
10 am

Dates for November

Saturday 8th November

Sunday 9th November

Sunday 16th November

Thursday 20th November

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December



NDAR OBER



Coffee at Westhumble Chapel p2

Harvest children's workshop followed by
Harvest Service *Note later start p1*

Toddler Group at Westhumble Chapel p2
Compline in church

BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel
Holy Communion

November magazine

Tea@3 p2
Women's Breakfast at The Stepping Stones p2

Holy Communion
Compline in church
First autumn lunch p3

Men's Breakfast at the Stepping Stones p2

BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel
Holy Communion

your diary

Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks p27
Remembrance Sunday service
10 am in church, 11 am at the War Memorial
7 pm in church MCS Concert for
Remembrance Sunday p11
Lights to Remember service at 4 pm for those
who wish to remember loved ones.
Second and last autumn lunch p3

Nativity in Westhumble Field - save the date

MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Andy Diamond	07789 775354 adiamond714@gmail.com
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*More helpers needed – please contact
Frances if you can spare some time.*



Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Chairman – David Kennington 01372 362309
www.surreycommunity.info/mwhs or davidkennington144@gmail.com

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Cllr Leah Mursaleen-Plank 07803 353352

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Leatherhead – Beverley Mehta 01372 374304

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WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

WHATSAPP GROUP

Neil MacKay nlpm@lineone.net

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 01306 732301

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(often quicker to make online report) <https://report.police.uk/>

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*Parent/partner's mobile number

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We have been advised to print
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this magazine possible.*



Teresa Skinner

Teresa spent much of her life in Westhumble and was living in her parents' house latterly after their death.

At her funeral her friends and relations remembered her as always optimistic. She could never be hurried but when she was with you there was jollity and fun. Her colourful choice of wardrobe reflected the whimsy of her spirit. Who could forget her collection of lovely colourful glass ornaments, many found by scouring boot sales or craft fairs, a private pleasure giving her much happiness.

Teresa's greatest joy was food, surely she missed her vocation as a gourmand. She was never afraid to try a new dish or seek out an old favourite and always savoured every mouthful! She made many friends as a member of the local walking club and enjoyed taking part in organised trips to art galleries and historic buildings. Teresa loved photography and long country walks with good conversation, hobbies she pursued all her life. People were of overriding importance: lasting friends made at work in the BBC days (she



was most upset when she was made redundant) or those she valued during pastimes and recreation. She would find something engaging in everyone who would tell her about themselves. There was very little 'I' in Teresa, always 'tell me about you'.

Teresa was a very kind and loving woman. She lived for every day, the more so in her last four years. The world will be a little emptier with the loss of someone who just wanted to share her happiness with us.

We send deepest condolences to her friends and relations.

With sympathy

It is with sadness we have received reports of another death in the late summer; Jim McLean, formerly of

Mickleham who passed away in early September. We send deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Karen Irvine

Very sadly, Karen Irvine died in August after a short illness. Karen and family lived at Cowslips in Norbury Park for many years before moving about 20 years ago, first to Westcott and then to Holmbury St Mary. Her funeral service was held in the church there on 4th September. Karen was a great supporter of children and donated the Irvine Cup, now the Irvine Rosette for one of the children's events at the Village Show.

We sent heartfelt condolences to her family and friends.

Community News

A warm welcome to Jenny, James, William & Otilie Snelling who have moved to Westhumble from Tooting to be closer to family; and to Jake and Asma Tonkin and baby Kenzie, eight months, who have moved from Dorking.

Congratulations on the birth of a fifth granddaughter to Cathy Cain, Lydia, born on 29th August, sister to Amelia. Her parents are Rosie and Rob.

Congratulations also on the birth of a second grandson for Anne and Gerry Weaver.

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day



Residents of Mickleham and Westhumble gathered at the War Memorial to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, the end of the war in Japan in 1945.

Garden Shed visit from Seale Rose Nursery Grafting Roses with David May

We were thrilled to welcome our latest guests to The Garden Shed, Catherine and David May, who run Seale Nursery, just off the Hog's Back. Established in 1948, the nursery is known for its beautifully scented climbing and rambling roses, along with fragrant bush and shrub varieties. Within the rose-growing world Catherine and David often appear at prestigious garden shows and are highly respected for their quality plants and deep-rooted knowledge.

Back in the 1960s, David began experimenting with moving from field to container grown roses. Since then, he has perfected a method that results in strong, fast establishing root systems. The effect is instant impact, particularly when planted against walls, over arches or in mature borders. But the real highlight of their visit was David's live demonstration of his award winning grafting technique which combines desirable qualities of a strong rootstock with a specific rose variety. He developed this T-budding method 15 years ago, and is so effective it has a 90% success rate.



Above: a graft; top right: a rose arch; below right: a colourful stem and thorns.

Catherine and David brought along a stunning selection of their roses for us to admire and, of course, buy. Unsurprisingly, many of them have now found homes in our local gardens where they are sure to thrive and fill the air with fragrance.

Westhumble's Connection to Airship R101

On the evening of 4th October 1930 the British airship R101 took off from Cardington in Bedfordshire on her maiden overseas voyage. She was bound for Karachi in what was then British India but crashed at 2 am on 5th October near Beauvais, France, killing 48 of the 54 people on board. The crash effectively ended British airship development and plans to link the far-flung dominions with an Imperial Air Service.

During the First World War, the Royal Navy had several airship stations around Britain. The airships were mostly used for submarine patrols and research. Many of the frameworks for the large hangars at the stations were supplied by A & J Main, gate, bridge and iron-roofing

fabricators, established in 1860s in Port Dundas, Glasgow. Cardington was one of these stations. They supplied the ironwork for the huge hangars that survive to this day, now used at film studios.

Take a stroll a short way along Crabtree Lane from the Chapel. Just before the gate giving access to the Oxbow Field is an iron fence straining post. Look carefully at the round top fitting and one can just make out the name A & J Main & Co Ltd!

Barbara Jones

Wikipedia tells that R101 was indeed huge, requiring a huge hangar. It was 731 ft (223 m) in length, lengthened by 46 ft (14 metres) after trial flights.



Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December
Nativity in Westhumble Field - save the date

Mickleham Cricket Club

What a Way to End the Season

This report reached the editor from a train in Alberta. Devotion to duty on the part of a member of MCC. What is more, it arrived before the deadline. Thank you.

What a way to end our magnificent 2025 campaign.

A wonderful day, a great opposition and some fantastic support. Kevin lost the toss and we were put into the field. It was a fighting bowling and fielding display from a resilient MCC team. Each time it looked like Coldharbour would run away with their score we would bounce back.

Michel and Kevin bowled well up front with Kevin being particularly miserly 11 runs off 6 overs. Sunjo and Ollie kept up the pressure with 2 and 1 wicket apiece. Bertie 2 wickets, Steve Jebson and Seb supporting with 1 wicket each maintained our discipline. One star of the day was our new recruit Charlie who took his first wicket for MCC. A great all round performance with scintillating



catches interspersed with audacious field placements left us chasing 166 to win.

After a glorious tea we began our attack. Ollie opened with Sunjo and went on to deliver a sparkling 82 runs. He had ample support from Bertie 13 and Peter 12. We were getting so close. It was up to the two Will's to bring it home for us and

they almost did. Will Dennis hit a brutal 6 and it looked very promising.

A brave effort left us 5 runs short. An exciting way to end a good season for MCC. Some great wins against Banstead and the Strollers.

Next season looks very promising for us.

Cheers

Friends of Juniper Hall



The next meeting of the Friends of Juniper Hall will be on Thursday 9th October, 11 for 11.30 am. The speaker will be Sarah Bradford talking on 'History of Juniper Hall Grounds'. Sarah will explain how these historical grounds have changed over the years, illustrated by old photographs, and how they are managed now. The meeting is followed by a lunch of soup and sandwiches. Cost is £10 for members and £15 for non-members.



Free Harvest Craft Workshop

All children welcome
accompanied by an adult
Sunday 5th October
10 - 11 am
At St Michael's Church
followed by
Harvest Service at 11 am



Our October activity is fully booked but you can join the waiting list in case anyone drops out

Willow Weaving Workshop

with Nicki Rowling

Saturday 11th October
Mickleham Village Hall

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Mickleham and Westhumble Local History Group

Fanny Burney's Wedding ring



Kathy Atherton of the Dorking Museum passed on a message from Ontario, Canada to Judith Long about a family who had bought Fanny Burney's wedding ring at auction and would like to visit Mickleham church where Fanny was married. On 11th August the Smith family arrived at the church and were met by Judith and me. Also present were the Chairman and Secretary of the UK Burney Society. (We were quickly informed that Fanny Burney should be



From left: Miriam Al Jamil (Chair of the UK Burney Society), Trudie Mesent (Burney Society Secretary, Christina and Leonnard Smith and their two children.

called Frances Burney, as she was only called Fanny within the family.)

We showed them round the church and the gate to where Fanny's sister, Susan lived (the house no longer exists). Unfortunately the Smiths were unable to visit Juniper Hall where the French

émigrés including Fanny's husband, General Alexandre d'Arblay, were housed.

I discovered that the Burney Society publishes a journal and research is continuing. There is also a North American Burney Society.

Ben Tatham



Dorking Museum in October

To the Last Man – the Dorking Home Guard: The Museum's autumn exhibition opens on 16th October

and tells the story of the men of Dorking and the villages who stepped forward to enlist in the 'People's Army' – later, the Home Guard – in 1940 to defend the nation. They faced what looked like a hopeless situation, at the time, poorly armed and equipped and often having worked a full day, they had to stay alert, facing a very real threat and expecting to hold invaders at bay. They went from a poorly armed and equipped group of part-time volunteers to a trained fighting force protecting the local community and freeing up regular troops for front-line duty. The exhibition display includes uniforms, weaponry, medals, incident reports, photographs and other items of the period.

There is still time to see the summer exhibition before it closes on 11th October: *A Place of Safety*: which tells the stories of refugees in and around Dorking. It features the work of the Dorking Refugee Committee and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

It is that time of year again, so a welcome opportunity to join us for a historic Halloween Ghost walk. The spirits of Dorking residents past who are said to haunt the town. Join the walk to learn more.

Museum Family Activities: All free, children must be accompanied.

Classic Table-top Games! Learn how to play some table-top games your grandparents used to play with your family. Held at Dorking Library, Saturday 25th October, 10 am-noon.

www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

01306 876591.

Photos top: Board games; middle and bottom: the Halloween Ghost walk.



Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks
Saturday 8th November in Westhumble Field
For details of bonfire building dates see page 27



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Friends of Box Hill – 60 years on

The Friends of Box Hill received a letter from the Director General of the National Trust, Hilary McGrady congratulating them in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Box Hill.

She wrote 'I am so grateful for all the Friends of Box Hill Association's work to support our plans and our cause over the past sixty years. It is not an easy achievement reaching this milestone and I know it takes real commitment and passion, particularly from the committee members, past and present.

Your support and passion have really made a difference and means that we can be more ambitious, reach more people, and protect and champion more nature history and beauty...

...since the Friends of Box Hill Association were founded the group have donated £239,070 over the sixty years of being in operation, in support of the NT.

Perhaps most important however are the ways in which you have helped people connect with one another, building fantastic memories and making friends through your programme of events, walks and talks.

Lots has changed in the last 60 years. The Trust has grown from 500,000 members in 1975 to an expected six million next year, while acquiring new houses, gardens and countryside. Not only has your support helped enable this growth and ambition, but your passion has remained undimmed, and that is really something to celebrate. Congratulations once again on reaching such a momentous milestone and thanks for all that you do for the Trust. Here's to the next 60 years.'

Many residents of Mickleham and Westhumble have been members of FoBH over the years. They have an interest in helping to maintain the

special nature of the Hill.

The Friends circulate newsletters recording the work the Trust is doing on the Hill. Fauna and flora benefit from the work – with rare species making a comeback and other species which may have been in decline thriving as a result of the careful management techniques being employed by Trust staff. The pictures show some examples.

Thank you to Lyn Richards, chair of FoBH, who agreed that we could include the news about the 60th anniversary in this magazine, and the beautiful photos below. If you are interested in joining FoBH, the contact details are

Lyn Richards, Chair, Friends of Box Hill,
lyn@mra.uk.net tel: 01737 842889

www.friendsofboxhill.org.uk
Instagram: @friendsofboxhill



Clockwise from top left: berries of the wayfaring tree; greater butterfly orchid (new for Box Hill); dark green fritillary butterfly; marbled white butterfly; fragrant orchid; adonis blue butterflies.

Photos from Friends of Box Hill Summer Newsletter



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Filling in forms and grooming ponies

At the time of going to press, the Nursery term has not yet started. We did, however, host a new starters' playdate where returning children and new children gathered with their parents, refamiliarised themselves with the nursery and began the process of making new connections and creating a new little community.

When children start nursery, one of the many forms we ask parents to complete is an 'all about me'. This provides nursery practitioners with vital insights into each child's background, interests and needs. Understanding family routines, cultural traditions, and individual preferences helps us to offer and plan activities that will



excite our new children and help them to settle more quickly. We also invite our returning children's parents to re-do their forms, as things change very quickly in a little person's life! When children leave the nursery, it's lovely to re-read their initial forms and to see how much they have developed during their time with us.

So far, we know that vehicles, cars, monster trucks and trains are strong likes, and we also have several children who love animals, especially horses and unicorns. Which is lucky as the saddles we acquired via the village WhatsApp will be thoroughly appreciated again this year!

At the end of last term, we were fortunate to have a visit from stableconnections.co.uk. Buzz and Ernie the ponies came to the nursery, and the children were able to groom and lead them. We hope to invite them back too, as such experiences are so valuable in teaching the children how to be respectful around larger animals, learn how to care for them and develop their own self-confidence.

Hilary Budd

A confident young person trying her hand at leading one of the visiting ponies.



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A Warm Welcome Back to School



As we began a new academic year, it was a joy to see our school come alive once again with the sound of children's laughter and learning. The start of term has been a smooth and positive one, with children settling back into routines with enthusiasm and confidence. It has been especially heartening to see the excitement on their faces as they reunited with friends and teachers after the summer break.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming our newest children and families into our school community. Whether they are starting school for the very first time or joining us from elsewhere, they have already begun to make their mark and are settling in beautifully. Our older pupils have shown great kindness and maturity in helping them feel at home.

This term, we are particularly excited to be launching a brand new science

curriculum scheme across the school – CUSP. This carefully chosen programme is designed to spark curiosity and deepen understanding, and it aligns perfectly with our whole-school focus on developing long-term memory and the principles of cognitive science. We want children not only to enjoy their learning in the moment but to retain and build on it over time.

To support this, we are making sure that key knowledge and vocabulary are clearly and consistently displayed in every classroom. These displays are more than just decoration, they are tools to help children revisit and reinforce their learning. They are already proving to be a valuable part of our teaching approach.

We are also proud to continue offering our flexi-schooling provision, which allows families to combine school-based and home-based education in a

way that suits their individual needs. It is a unique and valued part of what we offer, and we are always happy to talk to families who might be interested in finding out more.

As a small school, we know that word of mouth is one of the most powerful ways people hear about us. While we do our best to share our story through newsletters, social media, and events, nothing beats a personal recommendation. If you know someone who might be looking for a nurturing, ambitious, and forward-thinking school, please do encourage them to get in touch: we would love to welcome them!

Nicola Cleather

Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks Saturday 8th November in Westhumble Field

Lots of new helpers needed. Learn bonfire-building skills from the more experienced members of the team. Ensure that this very popular community event can continue.

Everyone is welcome for any amount of time. Refreshments will be available.

Bring wellies and thick gloves.



Bonfire Building

Saturday 4th October from 10 am

Sunday 5th October from 2 pm

Saturday 11th October from 10 am

Sunday 12th October from 2 pm

Finishing touches as required in the weekends that follow.

Please bring material for the bonfire to the site, BUT NOT BEFORE 5th October. No yew wood or timber with screws or nails, as these are dangerous to animals. No rubbish please. Ideally, sections of wood or branches, as opposed to piles of greenery and leaf clippings.

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.

Barbecue food will be available. We are also planning to offer a slightly larger range of food and drink options this year.

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



Word Search - Capital Cities

The theme of this word search is capital cities. There are 25 words hidden in the grid. Spaces between words are omitted. For more of a challenge, how many countries you can identify without looking them up. Answers in next month's magazine.

The hidden capitals: Abuja Algiers Asmara Bissau Brasilia Cairo Canberra Caracas Katmandu Lisbon London Kyiv Luanda Lusaka Madrid Nairobi Oslo Paris Quito Sarajevo Skopje Tashkent Stockholm Vilnius Yerevan



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Photos of Dorking High Street. When do you think they were taken? Mark Day, who sent them to us, does not know. Ideas welcome.

EST. ——— *The* ——— XVI

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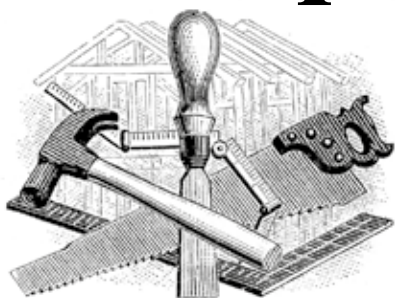
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