

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

September 2025



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Mickleham Parish Magazine

**September
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
OCTOBER MAGAZINE
Sunday 7th
September**

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.



Printed by Holbrooks Printers
Portsmouth

Mickleham Rectory

Hi everyone.

I can hardly believe that I am writing for the September issue and instead of wishing you a good summer, I'm hoping you have had one.

I enjoy being out and about in our beautiful local area in the warm weather but am saddened by the amount of litter around. Too much of it is plastic and that has prompted me to pray about the Global Plastics Treaty, which is being discussed in Geneva under the auspices of the UN as I write this. News about it has been scarce as headlines are dominated by other major concerns, such as Donald Trump, Gaza, Ukraine, and our economy. Agreement on a plastics treaty has proved difficult in the past, partly because of the influence of those who profit from plastic. The aim is to achieve an international legally binding agreement that will reduce plastic pollution at all stages of production and disposal, with particular attention to issues around human health and the health of our oceans and rivers. Plastics are produced at a growing rate, currently four hundred million tons a year. Only around 9% are recycled, 12% are incinerated and as they don't decompose much, they continually accumulate. Plastics are a big threat to all life on earth. I know when I was young plastic was great. It changed the way we lived. As a child I loved plastic toys including dolls, farm animals, a beetle drive game and plastic cups and plates. I was sad when drinks came packaged in plastic bottles, because I had loved going to the shop with empty returnable glass bottles and exchanging them for sweets, but plastic bottles were so convenient. In the 1960s we had very little idea of the mess we were creating for the future. Now we know and we need to act both as individuals and as nations and support any agreements made. Every now and again I need a nudge about reducing my plastic use; how about you?

Having expressed my concerns about environmental issues I also want to encourage celebration of all that is good, all that is beautiful and all that nourishes us from the earth. Our Harvest Service approaches on 5th October and is an opportunity to be thankful to the God who provides for us. As usual we will sing traditional hymns, listen to local children sing and express thanks by supporting the local Foodbank and those who work with those in poverty. Giving non-perishable food or donations of money is a way of both sharing what we have and showing we care about those less fortunate than us. The Foodbank is particularly in need of donations and suggestions can be found later in the magazine. Thank you to those who so generously regularly donate.

Children (with an adult) are invited to our free Harvest Craft Workshop at 10 am and everyone is welcome at our service at 11 am. Please stay for refreshments after the service, which will include drinks, finger food and cakes. See you there, I hope.

God Bless and have a great September!

Sandra

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/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjJB1w>



Bible Study

Monday Evening Group
Restarts 15th September
At Westhumble Chapel 7.45 - 9 pm
Contact Amanda Wadsworth
aewadsworth@hotmail.com

Thursday Morning Group
Restarts 11th September
At Westhumble Chapel 11.30 - 12.30 am
Contact Alison Wood 01372 376443
adminsupport@mickleham.church
ALL WELCOME TO EITHER GROUP



First Saturday of the month

Coffee Morning

Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 6th September

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 15th September

Host: The Siberrys

Old House, Old London Road
Mickleham, RH5 6EQ

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

ALL WELCOME TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

Mums/Carers and Toddlers Group

Westhumble Chapel

11am - 12 noon

All welcome

Second Monday of the month

8th September 13th October
10th November 8th December



Tea and Cake at St Michael's Church

Sunday

28th September

3 - 5 pm



Social gatherings open to everyone

Women's and Men's Saturday Breakfasts

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT BREAKFAST

20TH SEPTEMBER

Book with: Stephanie Randall
srandall55@gmail.com

MEN'S BREAKFAST

4TH SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

NEXT BREAKFAST

27TH SEPTEMBER

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

Foodbank Thank You

The Dorking Foodbank now supports around 3,000 individuals each week and that number is sadly still rising as financial pressures grow.

Although our parish community may be small, your generosity makes a real and meaningful difference. A special thank you to those that regularly contribute food and financial support to help with growing need, we are deeply grateful. You help bring hope and practical care to our neighbours in difficult times.

If you would like to help, but do not know how then please contact Kelvin.
kelvin@wan2lan.com

Autumn Lunches – All Welcome

The wait is nearly over! This autumn, enjoy a chance to meet up with friends at Mickleham Village Hall over delicious homemade soup and a tempting selection of cheeses. We have just two lunch dates this year, so be sure to mark your diary:

Thursday 23rd October

Thursday 20th November

Doors open at 12:45 and lunch will be served from 1 pm.

There is no charge for the food, but donations will be gratefully received, with all proceeds going to local charities (including the Foodbank).

To help us plan quantities, please book your place with Andy Diamond by calling 07789 775 354 or email adiamond714@gmail.com
Spaces are limited, so book early!

Kelvin Pritchard
St Michaels Community Group



New oak plinths for the church



A beautiful matching pair of oak pedestals were designed and made by Gerry Weaver for the church flower arranging team to use for special festivals.

Gerry generously donated his time and skilful craftsmanship. The Wood family kindly donated the oak. Thank you!

Lucy Adshead
Churchwarden

Solution to July/ August Crossword

Across

- 1 Home of the Brave 8 Escarpment
- 12 Ugli 13 Upstairs 15 Behind
- 16 Keep mum 18 Aviates
- 20 Abdomen 22 Blather 26 Vanish
- 28 Landings 30 Adze 31 Box-tickers
- 34 Brothel creeper
- Down
- 2 Orc 3 Opportune 4 Hun
- 5 Roughcast 6 Valance 7 Debunk
- 9 Act 10 Easy 11 Tub 14 She
- 17 Provident 19 Valentine 21 Blander
- 23 Hen 24 Resist 25 Flex 27 Hob
- 29 Ink 32 Owl 33 Eke

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Mickleham Parish Council July/August Report

David Ireland has retired as Chair of Mickleham Parish Council after many years in the role. I would like to thank everybody who contributed to his leaving present, and to thank David for his calm and effective leadership of the Parish Council.

All recent chairs have been pale, male and semi-retired; but with some diversity. David is a vicar and I am an atheist. Richard Roberts-Miller didn't like spending money; David was willing to spend on what he saw as appropriate causes. I am in the middle, very conscious that we are spending taxpayers' funds and must spend wisely. Unfortunately, costs have gone up enormously in the last two or three years, and as of now there are no funds for discretionary spending.

We spend most of our budget on governance, hedge trimming and grass cutting. We would love to have money left over to contribute to village activities and road maintenance. Right now, however, we can't, unless we increase our share of your council tax. That is an important upcoming discussion.

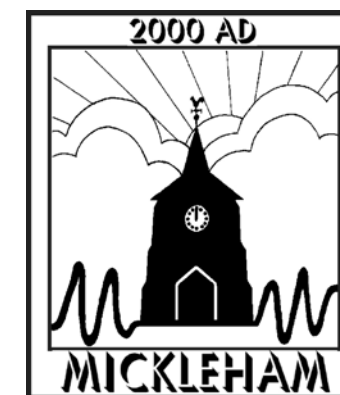
Key ongoing matters include tenancies in Norbury Park. We have succeeded in obtaining a one-year stay of execution for Nick Bullen, who had been served notice to quit. Thanks are due to Kirsten Johnson, Mandy Jillings and County

Councillor Marisa Heath. We still must ensure it extends beyond one year.

Surrey County Council remain determined to evict all residential tenants in Norbury Park and sell their properties. This madness, which we continue to oppose, is not even sensible from the perspective of SCC. One cottage is on the market for £500,000, when the former tenant had offered £575,000 last year!

On motorbike noise, we have nearly enough signatures for our petition for a Public Space Protection Order and acoustic cameras to go before MVDC, and we have support from at least one County Councillor (Hazel Watson). We also need SCC to exercise some control over their tenant, Rykas. Their car park is a place for parking vehicles and not a venue for motorbike events. Many thanks to our Speed Watch team. It is noticeable that, when they are out, the bikers avoid Mickleham.

Many thanks also to RGS Surrey Hills, who support our cricket club and our badminton club. They also trim the hedges in Dell Close, and loan equipment to our choral society. It would be nice if other businesses similarly helped the community. For example, it would be lovely were the Running Horses to prune the hedge that they have planted at the corner of Swanworth Lane and Old London Road



and, thereby, restore the sightlines of drivers emerging from Swanworth Lane.

Clearance of bins in the recreation ground resurfaces every summer. The contractors, Amey, periodically have to be reminded that their contract extends to the refuse bins, as well as the dog poo bins. We are also on the case of the trees in the Rec that are overgrowing the footpath.

Renovation of the swings is a concern. The playground is such a great resource, but it costs a lot to run. We will do what we can to keep open this wonderful facility. There may well be some community fundraising needed here.

Lastly, another David, the late David Ottridge. David ran the (very complex) finance side of the Parish Council with a light touch for many years, and the amount of work that he put in every month was extraordinary. He will be much missed, and our thoughts are with Mari and Kiah at this difficult time for them. RIP David and thank you.

Will Dennis (Chair)

www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk



Mole Valley 12th – 21st September

THIS YEAR'S THEME

ARCHITECTURE

Events at St Michael's Church, Mickleham

Saturday 20th September 10 am - 4 pm

A church has stood on this site for more than one thousand years and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 with evidence of the Saxon origins still visible in its ancient tower today. The mainly Norman building that we see today dates from around 1180 with many interesting features to discover and enjoy.

We warmly invite you to look inside the beautiful church at the heart of our community. Please come to enjoy the interesting architectural features both inside and out, which have changed over the centuries and been experienced by generations. There may even be a chance to ring the bells! Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided all day.

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group is mounting an exhibition featuring a selection of notable structures in Mickleham and Westhumble. This will include photographs and information such as when and by whom they were built, their design, people associated with them and other relevant history. More photographs from the *Where is it quiz?* accompanying the exhibition, can be found on page 29.

Mickleham Choral Society Party in the Park: an appreciation



The thing about Mickleham Choral Society is that you never quite know what you are going to hear. I should say quickly that this is good; the choristers’ spirited singing, so ably led by Juliet Hornby, covers such a variety of music and styles that it is a treat to hear them tackle any programme. So it was, that on a lovely June evening, a large crowd of fans and admirers were introduced to *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*, by Michael Flanders and Joseph Horovitz. This 1970 work formed the first half of MCS’s summer ‘Party In the (Car) Park’.

I was curious. Though I’ve long been a fan of the famous pairing of Michael Flanders and his collaborator Donald Swann (those of us of a certain age will have no trouble recalling *I’m A Gnu*, *The Gasman Cometh*, *Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud* and many others), I had never heard of this piece. It is described as a

cantata for children, and while I knew the word I confess I did a quick bit of research to check what a cantata actually is. It is a narrative musical work in which voices are accompanied by instruments, but I expect you knew that. Flanders and Horovitz took the story of the biblical flood and set it to music.

The choir treated us to a delightful performance of this lively cantata, with the reassuring baritone of Chris Burrows providing vivid narrative solos at key points. There was much audience amusement at the long early passage which relates how it ‘rained and rained and rained...’ In Surrey at that time, it certainly had not been raining for weeks. Flanders and Horovitz tell the watery story with wit and charm. I noticed the odd flash of Flanders’ trademark humour; at one point we are told that our Lord is so disenchanted

with Man that he declares ‘Remind me to wash mankind right out of my hair!’, improbably but enjoyably invoking Oscar Hammerstein II and the famous song from *South Pacific*. All in all, a very enjoyable rendering of a well-known story, sung with joyful energy by the choir.

In addition to Captain Noah, we were treated to a full programme of more familiar MCS numbers, from Abba to the Jungle Book, and to Clare Kennington’s wonderful violin performance of *The Flight of the Bumble Bee*, which earned a very well-deserved encore. The Pete Billington Trio supported everything with polish and style.

Thanks to all who put together such an enjoyable evening! I’m looking forward to the next one already. Tim Griggs

Below left: Clare Kennington
Below right: The Pete Billington Trio



Petition for Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and Acoustic Cameras

We have a serious issue in Mole Valley with noisy supercars and motorbikes, both on and off road. This is affecting the quality of life and health of local people, as well as the natural environment. Residents experience the disruptive presence of noisy motorbikes in the Surrey Hills, particularly around popular routes leading to and from gathering points like Rykas Café, Box Hill and Newlands Corner. Despite the introduction of new speed limits and years of campaigning, excessive engine noise and speeding persist, often caused by bikes fitted with illegal exhaust systems.

To be clear, this is not a campaign against motorcyclists. It is a call for respectful use of the roads through our protected landscapes; roads meant to be enjoyed safely by all, including walkers, cyclists, families, and wildlife. Excessive noise has no public benefit. While motorbikes have long used these roads, now we understand the health and environmental impact of noise pollution better. Modern technology allows for quieter bikes, and expectations around conservation and community well-being have rightly evolved.

The Government confirmed the process for the installation of acoustic cameras to detect illegal exhaust noise from supercars and motorbikes and to implement an enforcement process against noisy exhausts. Government trials concluded that acoustic camera technology provides an objective and subjective evidence base that 95 dB LAmax at 7.5 metres is an appropriate noise level for enforcement against excessively noisy vehicles on roads with speed limits of 50mph or less. Also, the noise camera’s deterrent effect resulted in changes to driver behaviour.

Mole Valley District Council has accepted this, and that they can initiate



such enforcement in Mole Valley through the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and acoustic cameras. We have launched a petition to Mole Valley District Council requesting:

A PSPO covering the stretch between Givons Grove and Denbies roundabouts.

A trial of acoustic cameras near the Burford Bridge roundabout.

If the trial is successful, expansion of both measures across Mole Valley.

We need 800 signatures to support the petition. Anyone of any age (including those under 18 although we advise parental permission and guidance) can sign, also adding their postcode. The 800 signatures must be from the Mole Valley or Surrey area to account for anyone who works or studies here. Anything outside Surrey will not be considered valid.

Many people who live within the Mole Valley area have signed the petition already, but they were outside the area at the time of signing and the location settings on their phone or laptops were giving postcodes outside Surrey. Please check you have entered your location and postcode manually or check the postcode entered/auto filled is correct before you press Sign Petition.

Change.org also asks for donations to host these petitions but you do not need to donate or add any comment

unless you want to; go right to the bottom of the page and press ‘sorry I can’t do anything right now’ or ‘skip’.

Lastly you will get an email from change.org to verify that you have signed, please respond to it. If you don’t get an email asking for verification, please repeat the signing process.

If you or fellow residents and people who work or study in the area share these concerns, we would appreciate your support in sharing the petition and encouraging others who value the peace of the Surrey Hills to add their names.

Use the link or the QR code below to access the petition.

<https://www.change.org/p/request-for-pspos-and-acoustic-cameras-in-mole-valley>



If you have any questions please contact: <https://www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/mickleham-parish-council-7875/contact/>

Thank you.

Kirsten Johnson



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society

Village Show

Saturday 13th September 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Mickleham Village Hall

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FESTHUMBLE'25: Closer than Glastonbury

Funky Town in action



What do you get when you mix live music, sunshine, great food and a community full of heart? You get FESTHUMBLE'25!

On Saturday 28th June, the grounds of The Stepping Stones Country Pub burst into life as hundreds gathered for the third instalment of our community music festival. What a day it was. With a foot-tapping lineup of live bands, sizzling food, great stalls and a whole lot of local spirit, the festival didn't just entertain, it made a difference.

The Festhumble Committee are proud to announce that our event raised £3,088.12 for The Brigitte Trust. That figure, down to the last twelve pence, represents every raffle ticket, every tombola ticket, every auction bid, and every generous donation. It speaks volumes about the kind of community in which we live.

From the first strum of our opening act to the closing chorus of our final band, the day was packed with moments to remember. Locals and visitors alike found themselves dancing together, pints in hand, enjoying the infectious energy of some seriously talented musicians.

Beyond the music and laughter though, there was something deeper resonating throughout the day. It was in the heartfelt speeches about The Brigitte Trust's work. It was in the friends and neighbours who came along to support our event and it was in the volunteers. Those tireless legends, who kept things running smoothly with smiles on their faces and music in their hearts. FESTHUMBLE'25 wasn't just a music festival. It was a celebration of compassion, creativity and the invisible ties that bind us together. As the sun set behind Box Hill, casting a golden glow over the beer garden, one thing was clear; this was more than just a good time, this was our community at its best.

A special shout-out goes to our sensational lineup of bands who gave their time and talents entirely for free (full details are on our website) and to Tina, her team at The Stepping Stones and Heineken, for all their support with our event. We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone else who helped make it happen, including the local businesses and individuals who generously donated cash/raffle/tombola/auction prizes and everyone who bid or bought tickets to help us raise funds for the charity. Together, we haven't just created memories, we have made a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

FESTHUMBLE is closer than Glastonbury, no wellies are required, and you don't have to refresh your browser 100 times to get in. It is a biennial summer celebration, happening every other year. So, roll on FESTHUMBLE '27. We hope to see you there!

Ange Treanor

On behalf of The Festhumble Committee

<https://festhumble.wixsite.com/dorking>

<https://www.brigittefund.org>

<https://www.brigittefund.org>



Brigitte Trust at FESTHUMBLE'25

This year the organisers of FESTHUMBLE'25, Westhumble's answer to Glastonbury, kindly offered to donate their profits to the Brigitte Trust.

As well as staging a fun day to enjoy, an amazing £3,088 was raised for this Dorking based charity. This will help us provide emotional and practical support for people with a terminal illness. With over 100 volunteers in Surrey, we will help in any way we can to make life a little more bearable for our clients and their families. This usually takes the

form of a weekly three hour visit during which worries can be shared and practical help given.

If you or anyone you know might benefit from our free support, please feel free to contact Sarah Pattenden on 07469 932192.

Roger Davis

*Local Brigitte Trust volunteers,
Roger Davis, Joan Judge, Lynda Johnston.*



Garden Shed Visit to The No Name Nursery

This summer, we had the pleasure of visiting Steve Edney's nursery and garden in Sandwich, Kent and what a treat it was.

Back in 2019, Steve and his partner Lou took on an exciting new project. They took over a three-acre plot that was completely overgrown with brambles and knee-high grass. Their mission, to create a sustainable garden and nursery where people could see the plants growing before buying them. Wildlife was a big part of the vision too, they wanted the space to support nature, not just look pretty. Their passion for



experimenting with plants and sharing it with others really shines through. Judging by what we saw, they've achieved just that.

We began our tour at the impressive long border that stretches one hundred metres and is six metres deep, with a tall line of trees at the back for shelter. The garden sits on a windy, flat piece of land not far from the coast, so protection is key. The border is packed with a stunning variety of perennials, planted in bold, generous groups. Steve takes inspiration from the famous Wisley long borders and recommends using long-flowering plants at the front and not being shy with your planting! They leave the border untouched from late summer until March, which gives wildlife a chance to feed and take shelter over winter.

Then we were shown around other parts of their garden. Steve's love of tropical plants is clear, and their charming nut walk was a lovely surprise. They also have four National Plant Collections and

over 1,000 plant species; an incredible achievement in just a few years. The garden is a real testament to their creativity, hard work, and dedication.

If you want to find out more about Steve, Lou, and their incredible long border, go to YouTube and search for The No Name Nursery in Sandwich, Kent.

Susie Gowenlock



Flower Arranging with Fiona Bliss

If ever you have admired those stunning floral displays in hotel lobbies, comparing them to your own creation with a bunch of supermarket flowers, we had the answer. We invited Fiona Bliss, along to our Garden Shed evening in June to show just how easy it can be, with a few clever tricks and a relaxed creative approach.

Fiona, a garden designer and gardener turned self-taught floral arranger, walked us through three beautiful arrangements sharing practical tips anyone can try at home. Her top takeaways include:

Pick a colour scheme; go soft and tonal or bold and contrasting, considering the availability of flowers and greenery in your garden or the supermarket.

Choose any container that will hold water. Fiona used a lined hat-box from a craft shop and an urn from a car boot sale. She supported the stems using biodegradable oasis soaked in water for 24-hours and chicken wire.

Prepare your flowers and greenery, removing leaves from the stems that sit below the waterline and trimming at



an angle. If possible, soak stems ahead of time. Build your bouquet or arrangement starting with greenery then add statement blooms followed by flowers for texture and structure, always using odd numbers to create balance. If making a hand tied bouquet, trim the ends to the same length and secure with twine. Keep the arrangement fresh adding a

sachet of flower food and changing the water daily. Misting flowers also helps, especially in hot weather.

The best part is you don't need to be an expert, just have fun with it. Whether you are making a gift or brightening your kitchen table, it's all about enjoying the process.

Cathy Lee

News of the next two Garden Shed activities can be found on page 19.

Thank You from Norbury Park Farm

Due to having the driest spring on record, we at Norbury Park Farm like many other farmers in the south are finding this year a real struggle. We are coming up against many other obstacles as well as the weather, including a 10p per litre drop on our milk price because our milk buyer has a glut of milk from other parts of the country where they have had decent rainfall. Also, there is a pause on our environmental subsidies because the Rural Payments Agency have found historical features underneath some of the farmland, which means we have incurred a £17,000 reduction. Like all the farms affected by the weather, we are now facing a winter with hardly any feed in store and the prospect of paying inflated prices to bring food in to make up the shortfall.



The dairy herd in their beautiful setting

So, all of this said, I have been scratching my head thinking of other ways to raise funds. Every Monday I have a scheme that is funded by the Surrey Hills Society called the care farm visit. This is for three hours with young people who, for one reason or another, find it difficult to be in school. The scheme is absolutely amazing and I think it does wonders for the mental health of these youngsters. Spending time with animals is so therapeutic and I can really see the benefits of this after a visit. Towards the end of each session, I let the group come with me and move the cows from the field that they are in all the way back to the farm for milking with my quad bike and dog. This seems to be the highlight of the morning, and the participants absolutely love it!

That made me think, why not offer it out to a broader audience? I posted the idea on the Mickleham and Westhumble

WhatsApp group and I have to say I've been quite overwhelmed with the response and messages of support. The cow herding has booked up every day since I posted, so a huge thank you to all of you that have already been or are coming in the future. Plus, a lot of people on the WhatsApp group have kindly passed my details on, which means I am now getting more and more bookings by word-of-mouth, for which I am extremely grateful. The feedback is fantastic and I am really enjoying showing people what we do here.

I'm keeping it to small groups (maximum six), so it's more of a personal visit that families can really enjoy. It is every day except Monday at 12.45 pm. We start off by looking at all the baby calves in the barn and then we head off with my dog and the quad bike and herd the cows back from whichever field they might be in. It can take up to an hour and anybody who would like to come is welcome to bring their own picnic and have it in the garden by the farmyard after the work is done. I'm charging £10 per adult and £7 per child, which everybody seems happy with so far.

As well as the cow herding experience, I have been offering cow sponsorship schemes, which some of the people that have come to the experience have taken me up on. It is £100 for a year and they get regular updates, including pictures and information like when she



The new calves

is confirmed in calf, how much milk she is giving and when she is due to calve. Of course, they are welcome to visit her by appointment whenever they like. Apologies, Rebecca, Tinkerbell and Farrah are already taken.

Hope to see you soon and please tell your friends!

Mark Frost



Rebecca

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

Polesden Lacey 'Behind the Scenes' Tour

12 noon and 12.30 pm Monday 29th September

Join us for a private tour of Polesden Lacey to see areas not normally open to the public. There will be two 30-minute tours with a maximum of 10 people per tour so booking is essential. There is no charge for National Trust members showing a valid membership card although donations are welcome.

Non-members will need to pay the standard admission charge of £17.

Please note the tours take place on the first floor, which can only be accessed by stairs.

For further information or to book a place, contact Judith Long:

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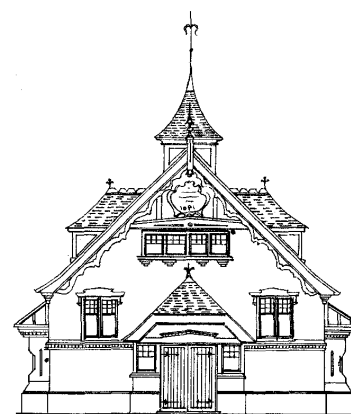
What a glorious summer. A highlight for our granddaughter was the Festival of Nature at Juniper Hall. The untimely rain only added to her fun; thanks to everyone involved. Today we have a blast from the past as Ali, who lived at Juniper over ten years ago and played at our wedding, plays a set with his friend Matt. This will be history by the time you read the mag but one for the diary next year.

We have lots of things to look forward to over the autumn, as our Virginia Creeper turns a stunning red, and as pies, sausage & mash and sticky toffee pudding make a welcome return. Still, we are hoping for at least a few more weeks of sunny days and balmy evenings before then. Everything crossed!

Hope to see you soon,

Anne, Eamonn & Kat

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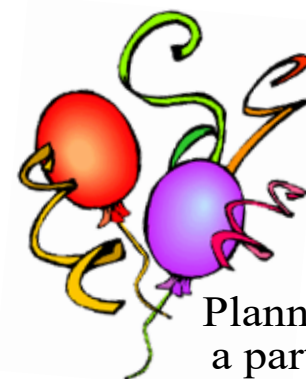
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parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk
* Main working days: Monday, Tuesday and Sunday

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2	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
6	Saturday	10 am - noon	Coffee at Westhumble Chapel p2
7	Twelfth SUNDAY of Trinity	10 am	Family Service
<i>Copy deadline for October magazine</i>			
8	Monday	11 am - noon	Toddler Group at Westhumble Chapel p2
13	Saturday	2.30 - 4.30 pm 10 am - 3 pm	M&WHS Summer Show at the village hall p7 Garden Shed Tool Sharpening at the village hall p19
14	Thirteenth SUNDAY of Trinity	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion
15	Monday	3 pm	Tea@3 p2
16	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
20	Saturday	9 - 10 am 10 am - 4 pm	Women's Breakfast at The Stepping Stones p2 Heritage Open Day at Church p5
21	Fourteenth SUNDAY of Trinity	10 am	Holy Communion
27	Saturday	9 - 10 am	Men's Breakfast at the Stepping Stones p2
28	Fifteenth SUNDAY of Trinity	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion
		3 - 5 pm	(Last) Tea and Cake at St Michaels' Church p2
29	Monday	Noon & 12.30 pm	M&WLHG Polesdaen Lacey visit

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5 th October	Harvest children's workshop followed by Harvest service p1
Saturday 11 th October	Garden Shed Willow Weaving Workshop
Sunday 12 th October	Hymns and Songs of Praise at church
Thursday 23 rd October	First autumn lunch p3
Saturday 8 th November	Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks p27
Thursday 20 th November	Second and last autumn lunch p3



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Kelvin Pritchard	07770 280410 Kelvin@wan2lan.com

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(who can put requests onto WhatsApp)
Mary Banfield 01372 373912 mgbbmw@aol.com
Frances Presley 01306 882473 jasempres@gmail.com

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

REGISTERS

BAPTISM Sunday 3 rd August	Louis Nicholas and Robyn Blossom Rosalind, son and daughter to Marc and Sarah Thomas
WEDDING Friday 25 th July	Tim Mackworth-Praed and Lindsey Irish
FUNERAL FOLLOWED BY BURIAL IN THE CHURCHYARD Thursday 24 th July	Jim Chisman
Thursday 21 st August	Jean Rapley

Community Directory

Continued from page 13

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Eva Lanceley **07903 630567
Ella Parfitt 07746 882175
Bea Moore *07444 557958
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Mia McPhillips *07792 187160
Holly Flynn *07917 434566

*Parent/partner's mobile number

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David Charles Graham Ottridge 1946 - 2025

David was born in Guildford, the only child of L.B. and Daisy May Ottridge. He was educated in Godalming and went on to study mathematics at University College, London for four years. A bright student, but not overly scholarly, David balanced many 'extra-curricular' activities (including running the student bar and all-night bridge parties!) with study. Although he was headhunted to work in computing, his heart was always in teaching. So, after a year in industry he turned to what he truly loved, educating and inspiring young minds in mathematics.

David taught for two years at Denstone College before settling into a lifelong career at Epsom College, where he stayed for 34 years until his retirement in 2006. He shaped generations of students, not just with formulas and logic, but with kindness, patience, and a love for the elegant beauty of mathematics. In the words of Bertrand Russell 'The mathematician, like the musician, is a free creator of his world of ordered beauty'. This captures the way that David lived and taught, calm, intelligent, dependable and quietly creative. A devoted teacher, he foresaw the importance of computers and set up the first computer studies department at Epsom College in the early seventies, building an intranet by hand and teaching systems analysis

and computer languages. He even took on the role of training members of the Common Room the rudiments of early computing, no easy task! Outside of the classroom, David was involved in many activities including setting up the first Naval Section of the CCF, running 2nd side cricket and organising all the public examinations for the College.

David also loved laughter and silliness. He had a deep, surreal sense of humour rooted in the Goon show and Monty Python. He introduced much humour into his life and his lessons, creating a relaxed learning environment, helpful to those students who found maths challenging! He was not only an intellect but very much a whole person with a life full of interests and fun. He loved playing bridge, Mah jong, chess and cricket. He enjoyed hill-walking, sport (Spurs supporter!), astronomy, cryptic crosswords, theatre, music and travel. He even learned to swim later in life and loved to snorkel in the clear waters of the Mediterranean.

David fully embraced family life, he was a proud husband to Mari, devoted father to Luke and loving grandfather to Kiah. He provided solid ground for them, dependable, protective, loving and deeply principled.

Mickleham was the ideal place for David's retirement, providing a wealth of excellent walking together with easy



access to London. Until hampered by ill-health, he enjoyed singing with Mickleham Choral Society and at the Leith Hill festival. He also joined Mickleham Parish Council, taking on the role of Responsible Finance Officer. He continued as Principal Examiner for Further Maths A level until last year.

David was an unassuming and humble man. He walked through this life with intelligence, kindness, humour and decency. In the same way he faced his final illness, with remarkable stoicism, courage and humour. Loving and beloved, he left us all a straight path to follow.

Mari, Luke and Kiah

The magazine team would like to add that David delivered the magazine to his neighbours for many years, for which we are very grateful. He continued until his deteriorating health forced him to stop.



Deaths

It is very sad to report the news of several deaths in the interval since the previous magazine.

The funeral and churchyard burial of Jim Chisman, son of Mo Chisman, took place on 24th July at St Michael's Church.

John Lott, who lived for many years in Mickleham, died on 29th July. Lucy, his daughter, has said that all are welcome at his funeral on Thursday 28th August, 3 pm at St Michael's.

David Pollard, who used to live in Burney Road and was involved in many village events, died on 9th August.

The funeral and burial of Jean Rapley

Community News



will take place at 2.30 pm Thursday 21st August at St Michael's.

Teresa Skinner of Westhumble died in late July. Her funeral will be at 2 pm on Friday 29th August followed by burial in the churchyard. We will include her eulogy in the October issue.

We sent heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of all.

Congratulations

Rosemary and Jim Robinson celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. For many years Rosemary's father owned Rose's Stores opposite the church and she was brought up

in Flint Cottage, Dell Close. They were married on 10th July 1965 at St Michael's Church. Rosemary says 'I was baptised, married and will be buried there!'

Frances Presley of Fredley celebrated the birth of her first great-grandchild 'On 16th July 2025, a daughter to Jake and Scarlett Presley, Gigi Daisy Mayne Presley. First grandchild for Nick and Jo, and Gigi has two great-grandmas, both called Frances.'

The three generations of Hallett family in Westhumble celebrated a new arrival. James and Louise Hallett welcomed Imogen (Ginny), a sister for Libby, on 12th July. Imogen was in no hurry, arriving nine days late.

Damage to a Scarce Lime Tree or Box Hill's 'Sycamore Gap Tree' Incident

In 2012, while botanising on the wooded slopes south of Juniper Bottom, I came across a recumbent but living lime tree. It probably was blown down in the 1987 or 1991 storms. Although lying slightly downhill, with the root plate higher, it was alive and growing well. Limes have flexible roots and those still in the ground were able to maintain the tree. It had also started to produce new upright branches, both by the root plate and along its length.

The significance of this tree is two-fold; its species and the way it was generating. It is a Large-leaved Lime, *Tilia platyphyllos*, a rare to scarce species in Surrey and would have been a tall one when upright. From root plate to the tip of the trunk was 29m. Living and upright, it would have been well over 30m. There are some other trees of this species nearby, including one that is considered to be c.1000 years old. The nearest sizeable population is at the foot of the South Downs in West Sussex. The main areas of its distribution are on the limestones in the west and north.

The way this particular tree was regenerating was significant because, over the years, it had put down roots at various places along its trunk where new vertical shoots were arising. This is effectively layering, a technique used for propagation by gardeners. Although there are younger trees nearby, probably offspring from seed of this old tree, it was the developing clonal population that was important. Overtime, the new shoots from the trunk would be independent trees but be genetically identical to the parent tree. It was a chance to observe, almost from the start, one of the ways nature regenerates woodlands when left alone to do so. On so many occasions, fallen trees are tidied up, got rid of, burnt even, instead of being allowed to either regrow or gently rot.

However, it is now not possible to observe the development of this clonal population. On 12th June this year, it was discovered that the main trunk had been sawn through in two places, leaving a gap of c.2m through which mountain bikers could continue their



illegal riding through the woods. Since then, many of the branches further along the trunk from this vandalism are dying. The new roots clearly have not yet been enough to sustain the new shoots, especially in the subsequent heat waves and drought. The background to this particular act, clearly involving a chain saw is as follows. It was probably in the 2010s that an illegal bike trail was created on Lodge Hill, passing near to the tower and then down into Juniper Bottom. In about 2023, many of the ash trees close to the public footpath into Juniper Bottom were felled for safety reasons. The fallen trees blocked the biker's illegal route and they re-routed. In March this year, ramps were built by bikers using fallen logs to create a jump over the trunk of the old lime tree, damaging its bark. The ramps were removed by National Trust Ranger, Phil Crate. The subsequent use of a chain saw seems like effectively the mountain bikers' two-fingered response!

A note on the lime trees found in the Surrey countryside; there are two native species and one hybrid. The most frequent of these is the Common or Hybrid Lime, *Tilia x europaea*. This is generally planted and prominent ones in the parish include those by the river near Burford Bridge, the limes near Lodge Farm as mentioned recently by

Barbara Jones and Adria Kinloch, the line of trees along the North Downs Way south of Westhumble and the three trees planted in Juniper Hall Park. Next in frequency is the Small-leaved Lime, *Tilia cordata*, usually found in the Weald. It was this species that was used to produce bast, a source of fibre. The Large-leaved Lime, *Tilia platyphyllos* is quite scarce and as such, is included in the recently published Surrey Rare Plant Register.

The origin of the Large-leaved Lime attacked by mountain bikers is not known. It lies on the bank that forms part of the pale around Juniper Hall Park. This was laid out in the second half of the 18th century. There were beech trees planted in a ring within the pale and in isolated clumps within the park itself. There were at least three isolated hybrid limes, three groups of horse chestnuts and a few walnuts. Some of these trees are shown on the 1868 map, part of a sales catalogue held at the Surrey History Centre. Remnants of these trees still survive, though many were lost in the 1987 and 1991 storms. The approximate position of the vandalised lime tree is shown by the red dot. This is a single old tree. Could it by chance have arisen from seed blown from the 1000-year-old tree downwind of it?



1868 map of Juniper Hall Estate

Use of mountain bikes has gradually been increasing since this type of bicycle was invented. They provide a very good way of exploring the countryside. Sadly, their illegal use has increased too. As everyone must know, the Surrey countryside is under enormous pressure from an increasing number of people using it and thus

making worse the severe loss of biodiversity in general. Woodland life is no exception. More dogs running unchecked disturb birds, walkers trample path-side vegetation and so widen paths. Mountain bikers do more damage by creating a network of extra routes, disturbing soil and everything in it, including protected Roman snails and hibernating dormice. Instead of larger blocks of undisturbed woodland between public and permitted paths, mountain bikers have broken up these blocks into smaller units. Some mountain bikers are active at night, making their detection more difficult.

Now walkers, usually with dogs, also use these illegal routes, causing yet more damage. As is so often the case, it must be relatively few mountain bikers who cause this damage. Most are polite and stay on the many bridle paths with which Surrey is blessed.

The damage to this old tree has been described as Box Hill's 'Sycamore Gap Tree' incident. This is a reference to

the landmark tree near Hadrian's Wall that was cut down by two men in 2023. Mindless vandalism is the same be it towards the sycamore or our lime tree. The difference is that Sycamore is not a native tree whereas the Large-leaved Lime is native and scarce in Surrey. The public outcry and the effort by the police meant that the two criminals involved with the sycamore were traced and prosecuted. Sadly, although the police have been informed, so far nothing has happened with the 'Lime Tree Vandals'. The National Trust have put up notices like the one shown, stating clearly that it is illegal to ride bikes except on bridle paths.

Ann Sankey



Tool Sharpening Day
with Richard and his team from the
California Gardener's Club

Saturday 13th September

Mickleham Village Hall, RH5 6EE

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M&WHS Summer Show is on between 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

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notice of our
October activity as
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**Willow Weaving
Workshop**

with Nicki Rowling

Saturday 11th October

9.15 am - 12.30 pm

Mickleham Village Hall

Make a Plant Pot Cost £46
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Friends of Juniper Hall

Despite the heavy rain over a hundred
people turned up for the 'Festival of
Nature' at Juniper Hall on 19th July.

Visitors came suitably attired and the
dedicated and cheerful Juniper Hall
staff led families through a wide range
of activities throughout the day. These
included pond dipping, searching for
invertebrates in soil samples using
microscopes (see picture of the Mini
Beast Hunt Station), checking out
what had been captured in moth traps
overnight, searching for reptiles and
checking out the hall's mammal traps.
However, looking for butterflies and

other insects was a bit challenging in
the wet weather. There was also an
opportunity to try out natural art in the
rather damp well-being area.

Refreshments including barbecue food
were served in the main house. A
number of organisations had stalls,
which were moved inside the hall
because of the rain. Overall, there was
plenty to entertain those taking refuge
from the weather with displays by
Surrey Wildlife Trust, Surrey Bird Club,
Wildlife Aid and the local beekeepers'
and bat groups. There was also a running
presentation about the history of Juniper

Hall in the grand Templeton Room.

It is a testament to the organising skills
of Sarah Wyper, Juniper Hall Manager,
and her team that the event was still
a success despite the awful weather
conditions. It is destined to become an
annual event. The Friends of Juniper
Hall helped check visitors in and are
pleased to be able to support these
Field Study Centre activities.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th
October at 11 for 11.30 am when Celia
Bradford, one of the garden volunteers,
will give a talk entitled 'History of
Juniper Hall Grounds'. Celia will speak
about how these historical grounds
have changed over the years illustrated
by old photographs, and how they are
managed now.

Morning meetings are followed by lunch,
which is included in the charge of £10
for members and £15 for non-members.

The bulk of these charges go into the
fund which the Friends use to
support Juniper Hall by purchasing
items to enhance the experience of
the children attending courses. New
members are very welcome. You can
find out all about the Friends of Juniper
Hall's activities and how to become
a member by visiting our website
friendsofjuniperhall.org or contacting
us via email on:

friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com

Peter Almond



Dorking Museum

A Place of Safety: The Museum's
summer exhibition tells the stories
of refugees in and around Dorking. It
features the work of the Dorking Refugee
Committee and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

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

**Family Brick Frog workshop and town
trail** At the Museum, 13th September,
11 am-2 pm.

Maps Fantastic! (HOD): Featuring the
'Side-by-Side' Map Viewer. At Dorking
Library, 20th September, 10 am-2 pm.

A little magic can take you a long way!
Take part in Roald Dahl inspired crafts:
At Dorking Library, 27th September, 10
am to noon.

www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk

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2025 by Jenny and Jonathan
of Westhumble, to provide
locals and visitors to the area
with a delicious indulgence
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You can find Bluebell, the
JJ's Gelato bike, at Box Hill
and Westhumble station on
Saturdays and Sundays from
12-6 pm.

Find us online here:

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Further information at,

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Photograph: Lynn Papworth

Jenny Papworth

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Make a Difference Week at RGS Surrey Hills

During our recent Make a Difference Week, students from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 stepped away from their normal timetables to support a wide range of local community organisations and schools. Students volunteered at various locations including local to us: Dorking and Mole Valley Athletics Club, High Ashurst, St Michael and All Angels Church, Powell Corderoy School, Juniper Hall, St Michael's Community Nursery and St Martin's Primary School.



From gardening and conservation work to classroom tidy-ups and athletics coaching, our students approached every task with enthusiasm, teamwork and a real willingness to help.

We were proud to receive such positive feedback from the organisations involved. Reverend Sandra Faccini at St Michael and All Angels Church said, 'We were very pleased to have the assistance of RGS Surrey Hills students this morning. They were very polite and helpful. They worked hard at raking the grass up after our recent cut. We only cut twice a year to help wildlife but raking up the cut long grass is important as it both tidies the graves and helps promote biodiversity. Do please thank the students and the staff member, Ms Rose'.



Alongside their volunteering, many students also took the lead in creating

their own fundraising activities. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of the school community, we have raised money for a number of charities close to our students' hearts. We look forward to sharing the final total soon.

Make a Difference Week has shown how small acts of kindness, teamwork and initiative can make a real impact in our local community. We are proud of what our students achieved and look forward to making this a regular part of school life.

Daniella Quaglia



A Bridge for the Station?



I wrote to the railway in January to request that when they come to rebuild the road bridge, they also install a short connection between the footpath and the footbridge.

This would be particularly useful to people coming to the station from the village west of the railway line or coming to the station from the direction of Horsham, especially if elderly or disabled or with pushchairs or heavy

luggage. Travellers would no longer need to go down to the ticket machine then back up the steps especially as tickets can now be bought online.

The railway has not said yes or no but, if anyone wishes to write to them, the unique reference number is:

250216-000146. Michael Stephen
The proposed connection would run from the white fenced extension of the footpath across to join the green footbridge.

Downs and Weald Rambling Group (DWRG)

DWRG is aimed at people in their 40s and upwards. For just £5 a year, DWRG offers year-round Sunday walks of 8 - 12 miles. From May to September, we have shorter Friday evening walks of 2 - 4 miles focused more on being a social occasion ending at a country pub for a drink or meal together. We also organise Bank Holiday weekend trips away in the UK. For more information and any questions, please go to our website:

www.dwrg.org.uk and complete the Membership Enquiry Form, or you can phone 01306 314002. We look forward to hearing from you.



Elizabeth Ellis
Membership Secretary



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Celebrations and Anticipation



We have been especially fortunate to receive the generous help of a parent, who gave the Gingerbread House a timely makeover. Once looking tired, it now appears as good as new. Our heartfelt thanks go to James for this labour of love.



Excitement is building as we prepare to welcome 25 new families to our nursery community. Our first event of the upcoming term will be providing refreshments at the Horticultural Show on 13th September. The community support for such events lies at the heart of our nursery's ongoing success.

Hilary Budd

The end of the nursery year provides a wonderful opportunity to look back on a season filled with achievements, laughter and cherished memories shaped by our children, dedicated staff, and supportive families. Growth and discovery have been central themes, enriching our nursery community through a series of joyful experiences.

Our end-of-term celebrations have been highlights, including Sports Day with the ever-popular Parents' Grand National Hobby Horse Race. The end-of-term show, this year featuring 'The Gingerbread Man', brought everyone together, while our leavers enjoyed a special party complete with a magical performance by Gordon the Magician,

vibrant face painting, and plenty of fancy dress.

Parental enthusiasm has shone throughout these events. This year, our leavers thoughtfully gifted the nursery two new chickens (fitting for our reputation as the 'Chicken Nursery') and contributed to the acquisition of 'The Teddy Talk Test'. This gentle and playful assessment allows us to observe and support children's communication and language skills. Staff will receive training in this programme, which will complement our established Early Talk Boost programme. Both initiatives help young children who need extra support in developing their communication and language, preparing them for success now and in the future.



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The Old Year into the New

At the end of the academic year, the children had a fantastic day at Brooklands Museum. They thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the visit. In the morning, the Brooklands staff made the experience very interactive, with the children building their own moving vehicles and airplanes. The children loved exploring Concorde, and we were proud of how well-behaved they were throughout the day. They were particularly fascinated by the rich history of Brooklands, the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation. They showed great curiosity when learning how the moving parts of a vehicle work together to make it run. From engines and propellers to wheels and gears, they eagerly asked questions and shared their own ideas. The wide variety of planes on display, from sleek racing aircraft to large passenger planes, sparked their imaginations and

gave them a glimpse into the incredible progress of aviation over the years.



Year 2 leavers

Our Year 2 Leavers' Service was a fitting way to mark the end of this chapter for our children. Over their time with us, they have learned, developed, and taken steady steps forward, much like plants in a small, sheltered pot. Now, they are ready to move on to a bigger one, where they will have more space to grow and new challenges to meet.

The service itself was simple but



meaningful, with the children sharing memories of their time here and speaking about their hopes for the future. They sang with enthusiasm and spoke with confidence, evidence of how far they have progressed.

As they take the next step, we trust they will carry with them the values we have encouraged, kindness, perseverance, and respect for others. Also, that this foundation will help them make the most of the opportunities ahead. We send them on with our best wishes, confident that they are ready for what comes next.

Flexi-schooling offer

We are delighted to continue offering flexi-schooling places for families who are either considering, or already choosing, to educate their children at home. This approach allows children to enjoy the benefits of both school life and home learning. It gives them the chance to be part of our school community while maintaining the flexibility that works for their family. If you know of any young families in the area who might be interested, please do share this news with them. We are always happy to welcome visitors. Give us a call, and we can arrange a friendly tour with the Headteacher to show you what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Nicola Cleather
Federation Headteacher



Save the Dates!



Saturday 8th November Westhumble bonfire and fireworks

Bonfire building sessions on:

Saturday 4th October from 10 am

Sunday 5th October from 2 pm

Saturday 11th October from 10 am

Sunday 12th October from 2 pm

New helpers always needed.

Learn bonfire building skills!

Material for the bonfire accepted after 5th October.

Full details to follow in the October issue

Mickleham and Westhumble Local History Group

Where is it?

Heritage Open Day - 20th September

The local history group is preparing for this year's Heritage Open Days. The theme is 'Architecture'. We will be mounting an exhibition of a selection

of notable local structures. There is a quiz to go with the exhibition with 20 snapshots of various architectural features associated with the chosen

sites. Here are some of them. Come to the exhibition in St Michael's Church to finish the quiz and see the answers.

Sue Tatham



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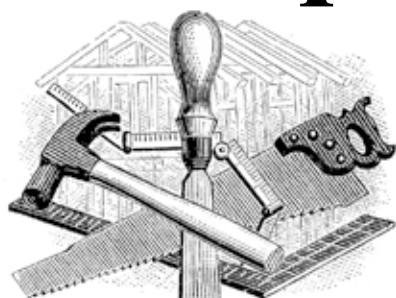
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