

# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



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March 2021

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# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

March  
2021

## 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  
FOR THE  
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Sunday  
7<sup>th</sup> March**

send to:

Sue Tatham

St Anthony Pilgrim's Way  
Westhumble

Dorking RH5 6AW

01306 882547

editor@micklehammag.co.uk

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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Dear friends

As we come into March we think of Spring, the birth of new lambs, clocks going forward, daffodils and Easter with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and Easter eggs. It is a time of new hope with the end of the winter, flowers springing up, days lengthening and this year, we hope, the end of lockdown number 3.

Over the last 12 months (I cannot believe it has been that long), we have given up our freedom, jobs, holidays and many other things, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has made all of us appreciate what was taken for granted before. At the same time it has made us grateful for all those that have kept things going during such unprecedented times, key workers, the NHS, those that have developed the vaccines, the work done by volunteers to help others, including those on the local WhatsApp group. There are so many people that do amazing things, all of which have kept us in touch, safe, fed, inspired and ultimately thankful for all we have in our lovely communities.

We are now in the season of Lent, a time of getting ready for Easter.

When Jesus was just getting started with his work, he went into the desert for forty days to be all alone with God. He went without food and prayed and was tempted away from what God wanted him to do in all kinds of ways, but he resisted that temptation. You can read that story in the Bible: in Matthew 4:1-11.

The purpose of observing Lent is for Christians to prepare for the coming of Easter by getting closer to God and repenting of sins and it reminds us of Jesus's forty days in the desert. The word 'Lent' is derived from an old English word meaning 'spring'. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (17<sup>th</sup> February) and will end the day before Easter. That is 40 days if you do not count Sundays.

It is a tradition in Lent to give up something, and while lockdown has been forced upon us, we are in control of what we give up and this is for a very different purpose. Often people elect to give up something they really enjoy such as chocolate, cake or alcohol. The money saved by giving up things can additionally be put towards a good cause (give up to give).

This year the Community Group, supported by St Michael's Church, will be organising an on-line charity auction. Please donate to this worthy cause. More details about this can be found later in this magazine. Please also remember the local food banks, with drop off points in Mickleham and Westhumble. The food from these is sent to either the Meeting Room or Dorking and Leatherhead Food Banks. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

As we finish almost one year of living with the Covid-19 pandemic, we reflect on how much our world has changed over the last year. Each of us will have had a different experience with many reaching out to those that were or are in need.

With so much sadness, confusion, anger, hardship and loneliness, it only takes one person to stand out in today's world to give us inspiration, one of the most notable during lockdown being Captain Sir Tom Moore. At 100 years old, what an inspiration he has been to so many people, raising an amazing £32,795,065 and having a number one record (together with Michael Ball and the NHS choir), in the process with the song *You'll Never Walk Alone*. >>>

>>>

*'When you walk through a storm, Hold your head up high, And don't be afraid of the dark,  
At the end of a storm There's a golden sky, And the sweet silver song of a lark,  
Walk on through the wind, Walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown,  
Walk on, walk on, With hope in your heart and You'll never walk alone'.*

Oscar Hammerstein II

In a time of crisis one person can stand out and make a difference. Captain Tom has inspired others during lockdown and who would have thought that this was possible, when he decided to walk 100 lengths of his garden. Something to be remembered in any dark days that lay ahead. Each of us in our own way can shine a light and make a difference.

Wishing you all a good Easter, a welcome to Spring and soon, British Summer Time.

Sarah Blake  
Churchwarden

## St Michael's Church Services Sundays at 10 am

At the present time services will be via Zoom or to listen to by telephone. Please try to join by 9.55 am.

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online, which is sent to all church members each week. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: [admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk) / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship. There will be a Zoom 'coffee morning' afterwards to chat.

We pray that everyone continues to stay safe with regard to Covid-19. Under the current National Lockdown Covid restrictions, the church will not be open for private prayer until the situation changes; our Sunday services in church are currently under review, so please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information.

## Services in Holy Week

We will be holding a Service at 7 pm on Maundy Thursday for 30 mins (1st April), a reflective service between 2 and 3 pm on Good Friday (2nd April) and an Easter Service on Easter Day at 10 am (4th April). All will be held in St Michael's church depending on the latest Covid-19/lockdown status. If we are still in lockdown, they will be held via Zoom.



## Bible Study Groups

Following on from the success of our Advent course our Home/Bible Study Groups will be running a Lent course from the series Cover to Cover called *The Prayers of Jesus*. Both groups welcome new members

### The Monday Evening Chapel Group 8 - 9 pm

Contact Amanda Wadsworth  
[aewadsworth@hotmail.com](mailto:aewadsworth@hotmail.com)

and will continue be meeting by Zoom for the time being. There are six weekly studies which will be discussed, usually with a lot of fun and laughter. Please come and join us even if it is only as a taster session. The groups are very friendly, you really do not need to know much about the Bible, that is why we get together. The courses will have started by the time you see this, but you

### The Thursday Morning Study Group 11 am - 12.30 pm

Contact Alison Wood  
01372 376443

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

will be welcome to join at any time. If you are interested, please contact Amanda or Alison (see above). The cost of the book is £6. Please contact Amanda if you would like to order a copy (who is more than happy to order a book for you if you would prefer to study privately rather than in one of the groups).



## GRAND EASTER ONLINE CHARITY AUCTION

Readers of PewsNews and those on the WhatsApp site will be aware that on Easter Monday 5th April, between 6 and 8pm, there will be our debut attempt at an on-line Charity Auction. Proceeds to our local Nursery and Primary School, both of whom have seen significant Covid effects on finances, and to other local charities.

The procedure will be as follows:

Donations for the sale to be notified to [anniehallfarm@icloud.com](mailto:anniehallfarm@icloud.com) (Annie Dennis) by Friday 26th March, latest, but the earlier, the better. Please provide as many details of the 'sale lots' as possible but especially your own contact, a photo(s) of the item, description and a sensible guide price. Items can be simply donated virtually by giving details online. For anyone not online, please 'phone-a-friend' who can help! Or contact a Group member who can forward details to Annie (see Group member list on the centre pages). We would strongly prefer that you do not try and get rid of something broken or dysfunctional without a full description of the fault or need for repair: we do not want to name and shame! Note: there will be no reserve prices on any of the lots.

The draft catalogue will be emailed to registered participants approx weekly from Monday 1st March and updated as new donations come in. (Or, if it is possible, we will have a website with ready access). The cut-off-date for donations will be by Friday 26th, a

# St Michael's Community Group

week ahead of the auction. And a final catalogue will then be produced.

Registration for the auction can be from today, to the contacts above, but the cut-off date for registration is 7 pm on Easter Sunday.

Detailed 'rules' and the way the auction will work will be given in the next magazine. But rest assured, there will be safeguards in place to make sure you do not inadvertently buy one of my cast-off size XXXL Christmas pullovers. Note also, that this will not be a rather anonymous 'timed auction', but LIVE with a real-live auctioneer, probably with some terrible jokes. Finally, there will be a nominated bank account into which all monies can be paid on-line, or by cheque. Cash accepted too!

EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF BIDDING, THIS IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A BIT OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT TOO, SO PLEASE REGISTER IF ONLY TO BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE SALE LOTS AND DECIDE. PLEASE TELL US YOU JUST INTEND TO WATCH, IN CASE WE APPROACH OUR ZOOM LIMIT ON NUMBERS and have to prioritise bidders. But look at the catalogue first... then decide.

The lots will vary considerably in value and type. For example, a box of men's toiletries, an original 1970s Beatles Yellow Submarine cushion and a week's cottage accommodation in Cornwall might illustrate the range.

Please offer a prayer for the on-line capabilities of your Community Group members!

## ADVENT WINDOWS

By the time this magazine comes out, this will be 'old news', but the Group would just like to thank all participants for their efforts and imagination. The last magazine did them justice. Thanks to Ben Tatham and other photograph suppliers too. Should we make this a regular event? Without Covid and with mulled wine, it seems to be a great opportunity to put faces to names, but please let us know.

## FOODBANK

Activity has picked up again after a short slow post-Christmas period. We continue to support both our local FoodBanks, and The Meeting Room and Leatherhead Start, the latter two charities directly. The Westhumble FoodBank collection point (see page 5) could do with a boost from all you Westhumblins, just add an item or two to your Waitrose delivery. The list of items in general need is published on page 5 - please check it.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Scheduled for the Sunday afternoon in the churchyard will depend on lockdown. There will be a bit of a twist, if it goes ahead, with sponsored eggs... again proceeds to charity. Details in the next magazine when we know more about the Covid situation. MarkDay

St Michael's Community Group Committee members are listed on page 15.



## Memorial Easter Lilies

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Easter Lilies in remembrance of a loved one, please given their name and the donation to Sarah Blake. The names will be read out during the Easter Day service. Sarah's contact details are:

07736 235709 [SarahJB1@outlook.com](mailto:SarahJB1@outlook.com)

Thanks to the hard work and expertise of Kelvin Pritchard, all the recent church and zoom services can now be viewed on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjJB1w>

This has the advantage of better resolution for viewing on different devices. Do have a look and see what you think. Videos are also on the church website.

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## Suitable items for the Foodbank collection

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Instant mash        | Jam/honey/marmalade/spread     |
| Porridge            | UHT milk (green and blue only) |
| Coffee              | Long life sponge puddings      |
| Powdered milk       | Sugar (500g bags only)         |
| Rice pudding        | Long life fruit juice          |
| Washing powder      | Washing-up liquid              |
| Shampoo             | Cleaning products              |
| Tinned veg/tomatoes | Hair conditioner               |
| Tinned Pasta sauce  | Shampoo                        |
| Tinned soup         | Deodorant                      |
| Baked beans         | Bar Soap                       |
| Pasta               | Tampons                        |
| Pulses              | Cereal                         |
| Tea bags            | Rice                           |



**Please do not include out-of-date items or those that require refrigeration.**

*Both Dorking and Epsom Foodbanks post an update of particular needs on their websites each week.*

### LOCAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION POINTS

**MICKLEHAM**  
Garden Corner  
off Old London Road  
Mary Banfield 01372 737912

**WESTHUMBLE**  
St Anthony  
Pilgrims Way  
Sue Tatham 01306 882547

## Stuff...

It struck me the other day that we all have a lot of 'stuff,' some of which is useful, some decorative, and much which we could easily take to a charity shop or recycle and probably not miss. So, what, might you ask, is a picture of two battered pieces of cutlery doing at the top of this article? Surely, they should have been thrown out, melted down or repurposed a long time ago? Well, no. Of the many things in this house which could usefully find a new home these two are going nowhere.

I did not have the privilege of knowing any of my grandparents. My maternal grandmother died when my mother was seven years old. As the youngest of fourteen children, not all of whom survived beyond infancy, my mother was brought up by the eldest of the sisters who were still living at home; the eldest daughter having left for Australia before my mother was born. Eventually my grandfather remarried. Jessie,

known to everyone as Nanna, was the daughter of a widowed Presbyterian minister and had not a single smile or laughter muscle in her body, but she could run a household and was, by reputation, an excellent cook. Sadly, like so many other young people in the 1920s and 30s, my mother left home at 14 and went into service as a children's nanny so there was no time for Nanna to pass on any cookery skills.

Later, while training as a nurse in Folkestone, my mother and father met and were married well before the end of WW2. Having been in service and then living in a nurses' home, still my mother had no opportunity to learn to cook. My paternal grandmother Amy, stepped up to the plate, not for any reason other than she was probably concerned that my father would be rather hungry if he had to rely on my mother's cookery skills. Apparently, my mother was even unsure of how to boil an egg! This is

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where the fork and spoon first appear. They belonged to Amy and had been ground out of shape through her mixing, whisking, beating and measuring. They passed to my mother; her cookery skills gradually improved. I remember her mixing batters, cakes, icing and all manner of things with them and when we cleared her cottage after her death, the spoon and fork came to live in my kitchen. Every time I open the cutlery drawer, there they are, reminding me of my mother, and providing me with a tangible link to one of the grandparents whom I never knew.

Perhaps now you understand why these simple, battered items, pieces of 'stuff', are staying here, and will eventually go to our daughter and then our granddaughters to live in different cutlery drawers and take all their memories with them. Anne Weaver



The original Almshouses



The almshouses today

Lockdown is not a great state to be in but many years ago restrictions of the kind we are all becoming used to were a permanent way of life for some Mickleham residents. From October to March they were required to be inside their homes by 9 pm, and 10 pm for the rest of the year. In addition they were expected to be 'always clean in their persons and of civil behaviour, abstaining from all uncharitable language or conduct'.

The rulebook was a forbidding proposition in the mid-1800s for the inhabitants of the Mickleham Almshouses but it is not hard to imagine that they were only too happy to conform. When the alternative was the Poor House it would not have been too great a hardship to shut out the world when the clock struck nine.

## The Almshouses, Byttom Hill, Mickleham...

Today, life in the Almshouses, a striking building standing proud a hundred yards or so up Byttom Hill and affording its residents spectacular views across Norbury Park, is a good deal more relaxed. It is home to eight residents, the latest generation to benefit from the great and the good of Mickleham circa 1864 who rallied to the cause when fire destroyed the original Almshouses building (converted from a Poor House thanks to the generosity of the lord of the manor, Sir George Talbot Bart) and funds were needed for a replacement.

Following an appeal from the parish rector and notable Victorian reformer, the Rev Alfred Burmester, history records that George Cubitt Esq (Denbies), John Evelyn (Wotton House) and Lady Caroline Cavendish (Camilla Lacey) all gave donations.

The Almshouses are administered today by The Mickleham Almshouses Charity under the chairmanship of John Banfield. There are four other Trustees with Graham Brown deserving of special mention. Frozen pipe or blocked drain? Graham is the man who gets it fixed.

The Charity comes under the umbrella of The Almshouse Association which provides guidance and support to more than 1,600 independent almshouse charities and which this year celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is also an appropriate year to remember the

origins of the Mickleham Charity which was founded by a lease dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 1846 – exactly 175 years ago.

The rules might have eased a bit since then but residency is no easy handout. Applicants have to show a connection to Mickleham, or to the Mole Valley area, and finances are scrutinised to make sure there is a genuine need. Residents pay a weekly maintenance contribution which is similar to rent but different in law, and less than a commercial rate.

John Banfield has been chairman for more years than he cares to remember and advocates a defined term of office for Trustees to enable a regular flow of new blood and new ideas. 'As Trustees we have to ensure the Charity Objects [the beneficiary group] are adhered to and also the demands of the Charity Commission, such as health and safety requirements, safeguarding etc.

'At Mickleham we make it clear that we do not provide a warden or nursing facilities. The residents have to demonstrate that they can live independently but at the same time we have a responsibility to make sure they are well and point them in the right direction should they need help. An almshouse charity is not only about housing but about providing a community.'

\*Anybody wishing to be considered for the role of Trustee should email their details to [trevor.haylett9@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.haylett9@gmail.com).

## ... and who lives there

Deanna Darnell is a perfect example of the role that almshouses can play in turning people's lives around.

When her husband 'Nobber' passed away in April 2010 she not only had to deal with the shock and grief but also the worry of where her and daughter Anna were going to live. 'Nobber', a former jumps jockey, had worked as manager of the stud farm in Mickleham since 1990 and their cottage came with the job.

They were difficult days and at first Deanna was struggling to know where to turn. A chance conversation with

the Reverend David Ireland alerted her to a vacancy at the Almshouses and a possible solution to her housing dilemma.

'My husband always used to say 'No need to worry, something will turn up', and in this case it did,' Deanna said. 'The flats are really designed for one person but we cope well enough. The community runs itself really, we try and sort out our own problems and if not we get the Trustees involved.'

It is easy to hear the word 'almshouses' and immediately think of a group of elderly inhabitants living out their

last days in a sheltered environment. Mickleham does not conform to the cliché in respect that it sets no minimum age restriction although the joke locally is that the steepness of Byttom Hill ensures that those of a certain age are forced to look to other almshouses in neighbouring parishes.

Potentially those occupying the eight flats can stay a long time. Another resident, who has lived there for more than 20 years, is as happy there now as the day she moved in. 'It's a stunningly beautiful location and I love living here,' she said.

Trevor Haylett

## Joyriders on Mickleham Downs



Tyre tracks on Mickleham Downs – 31<sup>st</sup> January



Detail of Google Earth view showing The Gallops as the long treeless strip on the right

\* Mickleham Downs is part of the National Trust Box Hill Estate

Photographs: Ben Tatham



End of track from The Gallops meeting Stane Street in the background



Headley Lane access to Stane Street near Juniper Hill

Readers are urged to call the police (999) if they can hear sounds of joyriding going on. Or report any other information/observations to police (101) or preferably online

<https://www.police.uk/>

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## Just Bring Yourself

After last summer, what could a sustainable tourism look like for this area? It really does not take much to enjoy a great day out in the Surrey Hills. Appreciating a beautiful view, taking a deep breath of fresh air and allowing children to enjoy running free over a green hillside are just a few of the natural benefits we are used to living with in this amazing area. The impact on mental health and wellbeing are undeniable. We all know too that these are benefits that need to be shared.

We are fortunate here, are we not? Rain gear, a map of some kind, a nice snack and a water bottle – that is all most adults need when going for a good walk. Of course, yes, there are a few more essentials with children.

The trouble is, as we saw over last summer's lockdown and on into the autumn, when people come any distance, say from densely populated south London, to get fresh air and space for children to run about, they tend to come by car with lots of stuff which they do not always take home again. As litter-picking teams in our community can tell you, what is left behind is a gamut of items surprising and not so surprising. We have picked up inflatable toys dumped by the river, an extensive range of underwear, wet towels, an extraordinary number of single shoes, small metallic drug cannisters, barbeque grills, and that is all in addition to countless dog poo bags, dirty nappies, tissues brown with you have guessed what, and a mountain of picnic rubbish. The other issue is that visitors tend to head for one or two 'honeypot' spots. No social distancing there! Car parks cannot cater for the number of vehicles so parking is on verges, over driveways and tempers flare when police try to move visitors on.

I know you are familiar with all this, and I am sure you are thinking that rather than more talk what we really need is a solution. We need sustainable ways for people to visit and benefit from what they see and experience. We also need them to head home at the end of the day without leaving behind a sad impact on the landscape and on the sensitive wildlife and flora that make this a Site

of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Area of Conservation, and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Between pulling dog poo bags out of bushes and filling our black liners with picnic leftovers, fellow resident, Kirsten Johnson, and I have come up with a solution which we have named very simply, **Just Bring Yourself**. Our goal is to provide visitors with a means of accessing the area without bringing their car or any of the food and packaging normally needed on a day out... they simply bring themselves to enjoy a fun, inspirational and active tour with time to explore. The idea is that through appropriate marketing channels, we will invite potential visitors to purchase a ticket online which will include train travel to local stations. Guides will meet and greet visitors and give them rucksacks containing a locally-made packed lunch comprising local produce, and take them either by foot or in green-powered minibuses to different parts of the area, not just to the 'honeypot' spots of the Stepping Stones or Box Hill viewing point. From the drop off points, visitors can be taken on a guided walking tour or explore themselves. During the time they are with us, they can take a minibus shuttle to a different area. At the end of the day, we will collect visitors and return them to the station for their homeward journey. We will also collect in their rucksacks and recycle the wrappings and contents responsibly.

So, who are we to come up with this and why should it work? Now, if you have not bumped into Kirsten, allow me to say a few words of introduction. Kirsten has long fought with considerable success to have local and county authorities address a number of local issues which have had a big impact on our lives and our environment. Getting broadband at a speed available to only 3% of households nationally, organising a free family fun day out for 10,000 people in Surrey, setting up the litter picking teams, and the current work she is doing to cut down on noise pollution from motorbikes in the local area, are to name a few of those issues. I have a background in executive administration and business, and more importantly, I



One of our young litter pickers

have enormous love for this beautiful environment and deeply wish it to retain its delightful character.

Having spoken to and explored the concept of **Just Bring Yourself** with a spread of local and regional decision makers in Mole Valley District Council, County Council, Surrey Enterprises, National Trust and Southeast Communities Rail Partnership, we are delighted with the supportive response received.

We welcome your feedback on this initiative so please do share your ideas with us. More than that, we would love to hear from you. If you have a keen interest you would like to share with a small group of visitors, if you have experience showing children the outdoor world, and have a half day every other week available to share that skill with visitors, or would simply like to find out more, just contact us on [francescaJB@gmail.com](mailto:francescaJB@gmail.com) or [kirstenJB@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenJB@gmail.com). Age is no issue and any amount of time you have to give is welcome.

We are sure there are ways forward to help our environment to retain its distinct, delightful character and you may have been thinking about ways to deal with the problems that came to the fore last summer and which we have not touched upon. So, do not hesitate, let us know your thoughts and whether you like this approach to sustainable tourism.

For more information, go to <https://madeinmickleham.wixsite.com/justbringyourself>.

# AllSaints Coffee Shop

## Supporting Young People in North Leatherhead

Located in the heart of North Leatherhead, AllSaints has been providing local young people with the opportunity to gain valuable work and life skills for more than six years.

Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP) was set up about 20 years ago to support disadvantaged and NEET (not in employment, education or training) young people. At that time Churches Together in Leatherhead with Mole Valley District Council identified that there was a need for youth provision in the deprived area of Leatherhead North and began discussing ideas. Shortly after the LYP was registered as a charity.

After a number of years of LYP working successfully with young people, new ground was broken when AllSaints Coffee Shop was launched as their first social enterprise. After a year of preparation and planning, the coffee shop opened in October 2014, with Andy Gill leading a team of three young apprentices.

Over the past six years the coffee shop has trained 20 young people, building up their confidence, customer service skills and self-worth, to raise their aspirations and become valuable contributors to their local community.

Covid-19 brought a new set of challenges for AllSaints and saw the coffee shop close between March and September last year. Laura Dicken joined the team in September as the new Coffee Shop manager and successfully reopened AllSaints, leading a team of five local young people.

On reopening, the team had a productive six weeks serving the local community and experienced one of their busiest days of trading ever! As the government guidelines changed, the coffee shop moved to a quieter takeaway offering. The charm of AllSaints lies in the atmosphere it provides for its customers. When there are tables, the space comes to life and there is a huge buzz. Unfortunately, this does not translate over to takeaways and puts a financial strain on the business. When the latest lockdown was announced, the social enterprise took the decision to close until tables can return.



The coffee shop may currently be closed, but the support for the young people is still continuing with regular phone calls or socially distanced walks to see how they are doing during lockdown. Each member of the team also has a LYP keyworker who meets with them to talk about life outside of work and help them discover what their future goals are once they move on from AllSaints.

Talking about how the team has adapted to every change Laura says 'I am so proud of how the young trainees have risen to every challenge during the pandemic and taken it all in their stride. This experience has brought the team closer together and they have learnt so many new skills during this time, including resilience and adaptability. What is wonderful to see is their passion for AllSaints and how excited they are to get back to running a busy coffee shop once the government rulings allow'.

The skills taught at AllSaints go much wider than hospitality and provide a firm platform for future employment. One of the team will soon be going to university to study Sociology and another is taking a Public Services course at college with hopes to become a Royal Marine. AllSaints is supporting one trainee towards his goal to become a personal trainer and also providing opportunities at the coffee shop for another who is an excellent baker and looking to make this her career.



The pandemic has hit the hospitality industry hard and as a social enterprise some of the funding has been unavailable to AllSaints. The coffee shop is a Community Interest Company and so does not qualify for funding available to registered charities and also misses out on many opportunities for commercial businesses. AllSaints relies on support from local businesses and individuals who see the value in what the coffee shop is providing to shape the future of local young people. The fear is that the present funds available may not support AllSaints for more than another six months.

If you would like to contribute towards the valuable work of AllSaints, there are two ways to donate:

- Send a direct payment to AllSaints Enterprise CIC, sort-code 20-23-98, account number 40777072
- Send a cheque payable to 'AllSaints Enterprise CIC' to AllSaints Coffee Shop, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT

To find out more about the social enterprise please visit [www.allsaints.so](http://www.allsaints.so) or follow the coffee shop on Instagram @allsaints\_so

Alison Wood Frances Presley



## Surrey Community Projects Fund

As you may be aware Surrey County Council has made available £100 million to fund projects in local communities across the county. The money a community can apply for is a minimum of £10k and must meet very specific criteria. More information can be found on their website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund)

Projects that meet the criteria and prove that they will deliver a positive benefit for local people will be taken through an application process and the first funding will be administered in Spring 2021.

Over the past couple of months several ideas have been passed on to Mickleham Parish Council, collated and reviewed in light of the criteria. We have since narrowed it down to three proposals which will be plotted on the SCC interactive map, with people able to comment, make further suggestions or simply give project ideas a thumbs up.

Mickleham parish council would like to encourage you to visit the interactive map <https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is> and review each of our proposals. Without support from the local community, via this channel, we cannot progress to the next stage.

These are the 3 proposals

### 1. Modest extension of playground in Mickleham

The playground in the recreation ground in Mickleham is widely regarded as a fantastic local amenity which, particularly during the lockdown, has proved of enormous value to the physical well-being of young children and the mental well-being of their parents. However we have nothing suitable for those over 13. Mickleham

has an ageing demographic, and we need to attract young families into our village if village life is to continue to grow and thrive.

The proposal is for outdoor gym equipment, football posts, a basketball hoop and an outdoor table tennis table, next to the existing playground and built so as to impinge as little as possible on the open space of the recreation ground, and also so as to minimise noise levels for local residents. This would be well used by older children and focus their activities away from antisocial behaviour. The equipment would also be capable of use by adults, including children's parents, benefitting the physical and mental well-being of the community as a whole. This proposal would involve no, or only very limited extra hard surfaces. The base would either remain as grass, or be similar to that of the current playground (grass growing through rubber mesh).

This proposal is being developed in consultation with Mickleham Parish Council and Mickleham Children's Playground.

### 2. Safer pedestrian access on Mickleham Downs

Many of us enjoy a walk on Mickleham Downs and along the Gallops, however we have had an alarming number of people in our community comment on how they no longer feel safe walking along Stane Street and some of the other surrounding footpaths. There has been increased vandalism by drivers bringing cars up and performing stunts on the Downs, causing huge environmental damage. Two cars have crashed on footpaths. Speed of mountain bikers and trail bikes is also a problem.

This proposal will not include the use of signs, because we do not regard that

as likely to change behaviour. Instead, money from the bid (if successful) would be used to install gates at either end of Stane Street and other entrance points, to prevent access by cars. Chicane barriers installed at certain pinch points along the footpaths would still allow access to cyclists but would force them to slow down, making the footpaths safer for pedestrians and encouraging the mountain bikers and trail bikers back on to the singletrack trails.

This proposal is being developed in consultation with Mickleham Parish Council and local landowners.

### 3. New children's playpark and community space in Westhumble.

In the light of the success of the children's play park in Mickleham it has been suggested that a similar area should be created in Westhumble. This proposal would provide a space for the local community, of all ages, to come together and enjoy the outdoors. Although a location has yet to be determined, the proposal could include space for a small orchard, meadow, seating area and a small children's play area. When designing this area, careful consideration would be made to ensure there is minimal disturbance to the natural environment and surroundings. It is hoped that that this project would promote wellbeing for all ages.

This proposal has been put forward by Elly McIlwraith-Jay, and if successful there will be consultations with Mickleham Parish Council and Westhumble Residents Association.

Please note that more than one bid can be submitted. We are not looking to choose one project over another, but instead looking for support on any number of these proposals. For more information please contact Kayleigh Hunter: [khampcc@gmail.com](mailto:khampcc@gmail.com)



It is still uncertain at the time of writing what life will be like in March, but the team at Dorking Museum is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to welcome visitors once again. Great care has been taken to ensure that, when the time is right, activities can resume safely while continuing to offer an appropriate visitor experience. Please check with the Museum website, social media or local media.

Meanwhile, the Museum has turned to alternative media to fill the gap with plenty of material and activities online. Please check the website for re-opening, [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Enquiries to [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk).

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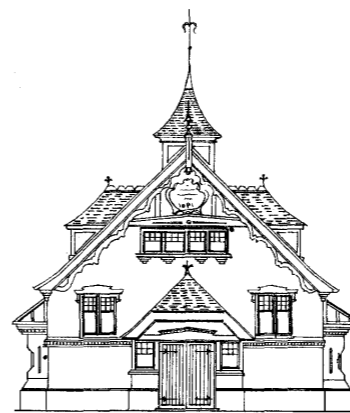
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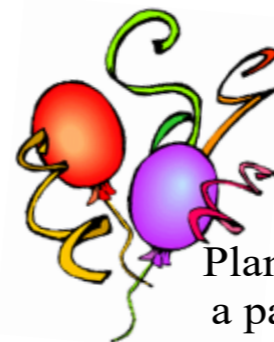


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## Community Directory

BOX HILL AND HEADLEY HEATH (National Trust)  
Lead Ranger – Mark Dawson

01306 885502

[mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:mark.dawson@nationaltrust.org.uk)

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards

01737 842889

[lyn@mra.uk.net](mailto:lyn@mra.uk.net)

BOX HILL SCHOOL

Headmaster – Cory Lowde

01372 374814

[HMPA@boxhillschool.com](mailto:HMPA@boxhillschool.com)

DORKING CRICKET CLUB

Chairman – Andrew Homewood

[homewooda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:homewooda@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS

Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth

01737 24491

[patriciabooth100@gmail.com](mailto:patriciabooth100@gmail.com)

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

Jim Cattermole

01306 883629

[jim.cattermole@uwclub.net](mailto:jim.cattermole@uwclub.net)

DORKING RUGBY CLUB

Jim Evans

07789 176417

[jim@flintcottage.net](mailto:jim@flintcottage.net)

THE GARDEN SHED

Pauline Davis

07759 646353

[paulinemdavis@gmail.com](mailto:paulinemdavis@gmail.com)

Susie Gowenlock

07768 923088

[susiegowenlock@gmail.com](mailto:susiegowenlock@gmail.com)

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE

01306 734501

[enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org](mailto:enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org)

Head of Centre –

Friends of Juniper Hall – Suzy Hughes

01483 281935

[suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk](mailto:suzy@suzyhughes.co.uk)

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION

Secretary – Sarah Parfitt

07767 891772

[sarah@sarahparfitt.com](mailto:sarah@sarahparfitt.com)

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Conductor – Juliet Hornby

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Secretary – Anne Weaver

01306 883932

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

[secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk)

MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Secretary – John Atewell

01372 374745

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES [www.micklehampc.org.uk](http://www.micklehampc.org.uk)

Chairman – Revd David Ireland

01372 379381

[rev.ireland43@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.ireland43@btinternet.com)

Parish Clerk – Feena Graham

[clerkatmpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com)

MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

Editor – Sue Tatham

01306 882547

[editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

Co-Editor – Charlotte Daruwalla

01306 884025

[editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

Administrator – Fiona Roberts-Miller

01306 740851

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

MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL

Chairman – Ben Tatham

01306 882547

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

Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell

07790 941601

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

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice  
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### INCUMBENT

The Reverend Graham Osborne 01372 372313

### PARISH PRIEST – Vacant

### CHURCHWARDENS

Ian Wright 01372 375695

churchwardens@micklehamchurch.org.uk

Sarah Blake 07736 235709

SarahJBI@outlook.com

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alison Wood 01372 376443

admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### PCC SECRETARY

Elizabeth Moughton 01306 883040

pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### TREASURER

Richard Siberry 01372 375303

pcctreasurer@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### ORGANIST

David Fishwick 0208 773 2420

organist@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### WEDDINGS CO-ORDINATOR

Elaine Machin 01372 724972

weddings@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

Vickie Leney 01306 884054

baptisms@micklehamchurch.org.uk

### FUNERALS ORGANISER

Brian Wilcox 01372 374730

dbrianwilcox@btinternet.com

### WEBSITE MANAGER

Sarah Ward 01372 383350

website@micklehamchurch.org.uk

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

*For information about services for other  
denominations see website pages.  
Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

## PARISH PRAYER MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> March

We are continuing to hold our monthly  
prayer meetings on the first Tuesday of the month  
at 7.30 pm via Zoom. See Pews News Online  
for joining details. Everyone welcome.



## Snowmen

The snowfall on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January provided perfect conditions for an invasion of snowmen/women. Luckily they had been briefed about Covid-19 restrictions and practised social distancing as can be seen on Box Hill's Donkey Green. Alas an overnight thaw meant that they disappeared quickly. Many thanks to everyone who provided photographs.



## MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Blake Mark Day Andrew Diamond  
Caroline Jones Vicky Leney Elaine Machin  
Elizabeth Moughton Frances Presley  
Richard Siberry Amanda Wadsworth  
Amy Ward Ian Wright

## ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

Mark Day 07852 117249  
mickleham@hotmail.com  
Amy Ward 07709 199292  
amycatrionaward@gmail.com  
Mary Banfield 01372 373912  
mgbbmw@aol.com  
Andy Diamond 07789 775354  
diamo1@hotmail.co.uk  
Will Dennis 07903 842674  
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# Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BOOK CLUB  
Bernice Bailey 01306 741310  
bpbailey\_uk@yahoo.co.uk

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB  
Membership Secretary Sarah Blake tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com

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

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

MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547  
ben@thetatham.co.uk  
www.hugofox.com/community/mickleham-westhumble-local-history-group-13483/

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

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

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (A) INFANT SCHOOL 01372 373717  
info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk  
Friends of St Michael's School friendsofstmichaels2017@gmail.com  
Co-chairs Nicole Harcombe, Tracey Harwood, Amy Rieley

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

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

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

WESTHUMBLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION  
David Allbeury 07860 227451  
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH  
Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury 07860 227451  
westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

CITIZENS ADVICE  
Dorking – Lyons Court 0844 4111 444  
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street 0844 4111 444  
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111  
POLICE Non-emergencies 101  
(often quicker to make online report) <https://report.police.uk/>

Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East  
General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk

NHS Urgent and emergency care 111

# Babysitting by local teenagers

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14 years old.

Alasdair Wise 01306 884694  
Annabelle Prosser\* 07443 634179

Maisy Presley\* 07720 657327

Freya Pearce 07787 427143

Martha Pearce 07514 080005

Skye Moran 01306 640043

Patrick Moran 01306 640043

Amber Miller 01306 883659

Rory Lee \*\*07973 360 950

Ellie Kim 07773 395 575

Tatiana Fleming-Smith

\*\* 07495 014 427

Chelsea Edwards 07834 695816

Philomena Ala 07789 727682

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# News in Brief

## Blue Amazon Box

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Valley Council's planning department.

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unwanted knives and blades at  
police front counters across Surrey  
(national lockdown permitting). No  
details taken. No questions asked.

These amnesty bins are in place all  
year round, and there will be no  
consequences if weapons are disposed  
of safely here.

## Preventing Telephone Fraud

There have been instances of people  
receiving phone calls from the  
police saying they have arrested  
someone who had your details on  
them. A very useful tip is to ask  
them their name immediately, 'collar  
number' and extension. Ring off. Call  
101 and ask to be put through to the  
officer quoting the name, number and  
extension given. If genuine, the 101  
desk will happily put you through. But  
in many cases they will not recognise  
the name or collar number and so you  
have prevented a potential fraud.

Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Assoc

## Reporting a Suspicious Email

If you have received an email which  
you are not quite sure about, forward  
it to the Suspicious Email Reporting  
Service (SERS):

[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

The message might be from a  
company you do not normally receive  
communications from, or someone  
you do not know. You may just have a  
hunch. If you are suspicious, you should  
report it. Your report of a phishing  
email will help us to act quickly,  
protecting many more people from  
being affected.

National Cyber Security Centre

# Community News



## Farewell to:

• Amy, Simon, Martha and Verity  
Ward who have moved from Juniper  
Hall to Great Bookham.

• Jacky and Phil Davies who have moved  
from Givons Grove to Fetcham. They  
lived in Adlers Lane in Westhumble  
from 1987 to 1995 when they moved  
to Mickleham Drive where they lived  
in the only house in Givons Grove that  
is in the parish of Mickleham.

Congratulations to Pippa and Jon  
Rudling on the birth of their daughter  
Jasmine on 31st January, a sister for  
Poppy. Pippa is the daughter of Clive  
and Angela Gilchrist of Westhumble.

## Rosemary Finlay

We are sad to report the death  
of Rosemary Finlay in the Royal  
Marsden Hospital. She died on 23rd  
January at the age of 81 and had lived  
in the village since 1977. Her husband  
Michael, died last June. We hope to include  
Rosemary's obituary in a future magazine.

## Sayda Cole

It is with great sadness that we record  
the death of Sayda Cole of Camilla  
Drive on 2nd February after enduring  
twelve years of deteriorating health,  
borne with great fortitude. We send our  
deepest sympathy to Brian, Heather  
and Andrew. We plan to include a  
tribute to Sayda at a later date.

## Mike Nesbitt

Readers will be sorry to hear that  
Mike, a long term resident of  
Westhumble, passed away on 3rd  
February at home. He was in his 98th  
year. We send our warmest sympathy  
to his family and hope to include an  
obituary in due course.

## A Thank You from the Editor

Many thanks for the many offers  
of help with the magazine  
we received for this month. It is  
very gratifying to learn how much  
our publication is valued by the  
community.

# Dorking Group of Artists



Spring 2021  
Online Exhibition  
See it now on  
[www.dga.gallery](http://www.dga.gallery)



Mickleham Cricket Club has been a part of our village's life since the early 1930s and long may that continue! We welcome everyone and anyone who wants to play and take our cricket seriously, but ability comes second to the importance of enjoying life and having a bit of fun.

We put out one Sunday afternoon side that plays teams who have a similar outlook to ourselves, and we have about 12-15 matches a season. We have a core of local players - our youngest member has not hit 10 yet and our oldest is, well let's say, they do have a free bus pass! Most members play about 4-5 times a season, (there is no joining fee, just a £10 match fee each game) so you do not have to commit to turning up every week.

The opportunity to enjoy a beautifully crafted egg mayonnaise sandwich or slice of carrot cake at tea, and a pint of London Pride after the game, is equal to our enthusiasm for a fine cover drive or craftily delivered googly (apparently one of our players did actually deliver one in a game in 2011).

Sounds like your thing? We are always

looking for new players, or teams to play against, so why not get in touch for a game, we would love to see you.

And even if you do not want to play, what could be better than a lazy Sunday stroll down to relax on the boundary watching elite sport and enjoying our lovely

teatime refreshments - they are free for all spectators!

Where we play: we are based at the Box Hill School ground, although with the challenges the last 12 months have thrown at us, we will not have confirmation of any dates there until later in the year. We have also lined up a number of away games with other local teams, and we have options on nearby local grounds should we need them. When the action is over, you can usually find us in the King William IV or Running Horses, post-match analysing. If you fancy playing: get in touch with our Club Captain, Greg Ayton. If you are a team looking for a match: contact one of our Fixtures Secretaries, Chris Presley or Will Perks.

If you are interested in sponsoring any part of the club, call our Team Manager, Jim Evans, or Treasurer Will Dennis.

You can find all their contact details, as well as the latest club news, match results and match reports on our shiny new website

[www.micklehamcricketclub.co.uk](http://www.micklehamcricketclub.co.uk)

Hope to see you soon!

Nick Presley

## The London and Sporting Chronicle 27 August 1826

**CRICKETTING:** A return match was played on Wednesday, the 23 instant, in Sir Lucas Pipp's [sic] Park, near Dorking, Surrey, between eleven gentlemen of Westhumble and eleven of Mickleham, which was won by the former, with ten wickets to go down.'

I should imagine there is no greater margin of victory possible. I know the burghers of Mickleham consider themselves one notch higher than those of Westhumble. They constantly need to be reminded of their past.

Robert Dyson

*Editor's note: Sir Lucas Pepys (1742–1830) lived at Juniper Hill. He was physician to George III.*



**PREIST**

Answer on page 26

## Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society Spring is around the corner

I am writing this as the snow falls on yet another drear February day; how long this winter has seemed with precious little sunshine and all the restrictions in place. However snowdrops are showing and the tightly furled tulip leaves will be well advanced towards blooms by the time you read this.

The Horticultural Society's programme for 2021 update: There is not yet enough confidence for us to hold the Spring Meeting and AGM held over from last year, but we are planning for an Autumn Show to be held on Saturday 11th September. The schedule will appear later this spring to give you plenty of time to plan your entries, but the message for now is please grow plenty of flowers and vegetables. We have had a lot of time to get our gardens in order and I hope this will be reflected in bumper crops this autumn!

### Wildlife in the Garden

I was impressed by Winterwatch on the television recently; there was some really in-depth reporting on wildlife issues in the countryside. One thing I took away was the importance of ivy. Now I know this is a 'marmite' issue with gardeners and foresters, but it is a fact that ivy is not a parasite and does not weaken or kill trees.

The benefits of ivy to wildlife are many: something I learnt was that the berries are amongst the highest calorific value as late winter food for blackbirds and all the thrushes. The inconspicuous autumn flowers are abuzz with bees and hoverflies for nectar and pollen when much else has died back. The thick twining stems shelter insects from cold including overwintering butterflies such as the red admiral. They also provide cosy nooks for



A chestnut tree, seemingly healthy as it had a good crop in 2020, clad in ivy.

birds in the most bitter weather and then nesting areas in spring. Spare a thought for wildlife when you next consider trimming this most useful of wild plants.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Village Hall for the Autumn Show.

David Kennington

## Westhumble Residents Association AGM 9th March at 8 pm on Zoom

Joining details will be made available on Neighbourhood Watch and by other means



## Online Lectures on the Arts

*The Arts Society, formerly the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), is a leading arts education charity with a global network of over 380 local societies, which bring people together through a shared curiosity for the arts.*

*Two local societies are inviting non-members to join their monthly lectures on Zoom – all given by Arts Society accredited lecturers. Numbers are limited, so register as soon as possible.*

### THE ARTS SOCIETY DORKING

Tuesday 9th March 10.30 am A BRIEF STORY OF WINE by David Wright

Tuesday 13th April 10.30 am CLEOPATRA: THE MOST WOMANLY WOMAN, THE MOST QUEENLY QUEEN by Lucy Hughes Hallett

Register with: Diana Pledge [d.pledge@sky.com](mailto:d.pledge@sky.com) £5 per lecture payable by bank transfer.

### THE ARTS SOCIETY BETCHWORTH

Monday 15th March 2.30 pm. WHAT'S IN A CRACK? A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PAINTINGS OF STANHOPE FORBES RA AND THE NEWLYN SCHOOL PAINTERS by Sarah Cove

Register with: Pat Frankland [pat\\_frankland@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_frankland@hotmail.com) or ring 01737 842028 £5 per lecture.

### THE ARTS SOCIETY LEATHERHEAD

Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30 pm GOLD OF THE GODS; TREASURES OF SOUTH AMERICA AND THE SEARCH FOR ELDORADO by Chloe Sayer

Thursday 25th March at 11 am A VIRTUAL WALKING TOUR OF VENICE conducted by Luisella Romeo

Contact Huw Jenkins [theartsocietyleatherhead@gmail.com](mailto:theartsocietyleatherhead@gmail.com)



Join Festival Conductor Jonathan Willcocks to explore:

## St Matthew Passion J S Bach

Friday March 5th 7.15 for 7.30 pm via Zoom

The Festival Choir's usual Lenten performance of a Bach Passion or Handel's Messiah is not possible this year due to the ongoing pandemic. Instead, our Festival Conductor Jonathan Willcocks will lead an inspiring 'virtual' session, exploring J S Bach's monumental *St. Matthew Passion*. Jonathan will talk about the background to the composition and the musical environment in which Bach worked at that time in Leipzig, playing short, recorded excerpts and with opportunities to join in with a bit of singing of some of the finest choruses.

This event is free, but you are invited to make a donation of £5 to LHMF either using Virgin Giving on the LHMF website: [www.lhmf.org.uk](http://www.lhmf.org.uk) or by bank transfer: Acc No: 39488748 / Sort code 60-07-02 / Reference: Bach SMP

Simply register to receive the Zoom link to join from 7.15pm on Friday 5th March The session begins at 7.30 pm.

Register in advance for this Zoom event by clicking on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAKdemtrDivGdakILA6hZuO2mEApb8yGibb>



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**KING WILLIAM IV**

Hello All

I am writing this on 12th February, so we are not sure what Boris is going to announce on 22nd regarding easing of lockdown if any. So its very hard to plan what we are doing with the pub opening. Hopefully by the time the parish magazine is out in March things may be a bit clearer. As you are aware we are currently operating a Friday night take-away, and anyone who wants to be included in our weekly-changing menu, just email me [thekingwilliamiv@gmail.com](mailto:thekingwilliamiv@gmail.com) and I will include you. We are also running our hikers take-away menu Saturdays and Sundays 10 am - 4 pm each week.

We exhausted demand for our free-to-the-neighbourhood branded glasses so the last 372 glasses I put on ebay for collection only. One buyer went away with a bargain as the winning bid was £3.20 for the lot, but they took them all away and I was left with a lot less clutter so 'win win'.

We hope to see you all at some point soon Eamonn, Anne 'n Kat xx

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

## Cryptic Delicacies

Last month's puzzle included a lot of clues beginning with the word 'sign' and the theme that linked them together was provided by 21A: THE HIGHWAY CODE, which was 90 years old in February. The signs in question were SOFT VERGES, HEDGEHOG, SPEED LIMIT, GIVE WAY, U-TURN, & BUS LANE, and I hoped that you would get answers to some of them and in working out the connection between what you had got, you would then have a hand with trying to solve the others. See, I do try to be kind.

Here are some of the other clues, with definitions underlined:

**9 Seize what a millionaire has, minus a single dollar (7)**

**IMPOUND**

A millionaire has one million pounds or 1 M POUNDS, and then you remove a \$.

**11 A declaration that you are committed to combat (10)**

**ENGAGEMENT**

A double definition, with the 'combat' relating to such as 'rules of engagement' in war. Of course I have never seen any marriage to which the surface reading of this clue could apply.

**14 Sign to care for something that wants the whole waffle but doesn't like the squash? (8)**

**HEDGEHOG**

A bit of a woolly clue for a spiny creature. 'Waffle' can mean 'hedge' as in to avoid making a clear, direct response or statement. Someone

wants the whole hedge could be said to be a HEDGE HOG – and the road sign depicting a HEDGEHOG is really a very new thing, only first appearing in 2019 in an effort to help avoid so many of them being squashed. There were an estimated 30 million hedgehogs in mainland UK in the 1950s but only about 1 million now. I certainly have not seen one alive or dead in a very long time.

**23 Sign above a dotted line to donate a shed (4,3)**

**GIVE WAY**

'donate' = GIVE AWAY, and if the letter 'a' is shed from that you get a sign that appears above a dotted line on the road. (I love the fact that there are words like 'shed' that can mean such different things – and in this clue the surface reading is as a noun whereas it is used as a verb for the cryptic instruction).

**24 Carousel could be a way to claim initially unwanted bags in the end (7)**

**MUSICAL**

'initially Unwanted' = U, 'bagS in the end' = S. 'a way to' says to find a different way to arrange what follows which is CLAIM + U + S – and Carousel was a MUSICAL by Rodgers and Hammerstein from 1945.

**10 Original name for a place of madness that was pointed to by a star sign (9)**

**BETHEHEM**

The mental hospital which became



familiarly referred to as Bedlam was variously known as Bethlem Royal Hospital, St Mary Bethlehem, and Bethlehem Hospital. It was originally founded in 1247 in the City of London and one of its later sites (which opened in 1815) was at what is now the Imperial War Museum (the hospital moved to Croydon in 1930). During the research for my new book I discovered several people who had been patients there and was amazed to find their full hospital records were available on FindMyPast. Not light reading, but a real eye-opener of the sort that really makes one think about the human condition. So much of the difficult stuff of life is hidden away and how are we to learn anything if we do not see the truth.

**15 Lady of the night is less professional when Mr O'Connor starts to be strapped (9)**

**DESTITUTE**

'Lady of the night' = proSTITUTE, less (i.e. minus) PRO (for professional), leaves STITUTE, Mr O'Connor = DES which goes at the start, and leads to a very different definition than your naughty mind might have thought.

Always good to get ideas of things to discuss in my article, so any responses or queries will be happily received at [andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk](mailto:andrewt@andrewtatham.co.uk)

Andrew

## Letter to the Editor

and because our daughter used to live there.

However the picture you label as the 'Dubai Mosque' is in fact the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in the neighbouring Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest mosque in the UAE and one of the most stunningly beautiful mosques in the world. Very few mosques in Dubai are open to non-Muslims. That is a bizarre statistic for somewhere that in most respects is a leader in the region in its openness towards foreigners - as Immie says, a city of many different cultures. But until very recently only one mosque in Dubai, the Jumeirah Mosque, was open to non-Muslims.



Immie at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi

Dear Editor

I was intrigued by Immie Adshead's article in the February magazine about Dubai, somewhere I have visited many times over the years, both on business

Counter-intuitively, Annie and I have found on our travels that in many other, much less open Muslim countries, non-Muslim visitors to mosques are welcomed with open arms. We have visited mosques in Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Egypt. Maybe it is that the more repressive the regime, the more welcoming the locals are when they see a foreigner who is interested in visiting their place of worship.

Yours truly  
Will Dennis

*Editor's note:*

Thanks to Will for pointing out this error. We apologise to Immie for mislabelling her photograph.

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## Thinking globally, acting locally Loss of Biodiversity in Surrey

We are all used to thinking of loss of biodiversity as occurring in faraway places such as the Amazon rain forest. This loss is also occurring much closer to home, in the UK, in Surrey and within this parish. In the last five years two national State of Nature reports have been published, in 2013 and an update in 2016. Both these presented stark factual evidence for the continuing decline in biodiversity across the UK. The 2016 report in particular showed how our wildlife varies widely in response to modern pressures on the natural environment. Some species appear stable or indeed are thriving, but a great many certainly are not.

Key findings from State of Nature 2016:

- 56% of UK wildlife species have shown a declining population trend between 1970 and 2013

- 15% of all UK wildlife is either threatened with extinction i.e. Red Listed 13%, or is extinct already 2%

- The UK Priority Species Indicator shows a post-1970 declining population trend index of 67% of species with priority conservation status. The report has introduced a new index of global 'Biodiversity Intactness' to attempt to measure the planet's descent from its notional pristine natural state. In this the UK compares very badly in the national league table included in the study.

In 2017, a report The State of Surrey's Nature was written by Mike Waite of Surrey Wildlife Trust and published by the Surrey Nature Partnership. What follows is a summary of this report.

### Surrey's Biodiversity

It is no secret that Surrey is an impressively diverse county biologically. Indeed it is possibly the most blessed of all land-locked counties in terms of sheer numbers of recorded species. Although small, the administrative county boundary delimits a portion of Great Britain that because of its geology is able support a relatively complex set of natural habitats. Surrey is also in the south-eastern corner of UK where both climate and European continental proximity help to boost

biological diversity. Thus there is a significant proportion of the country's remaining lowland heathland and mires, with smaller but equally well-preserved examples of Chalk downland, together with several richly varied river catchments and many ancient woodlands. These semi-natural habitats form a higher proportion of significant land-use in Surrey than many other English lowland counties.

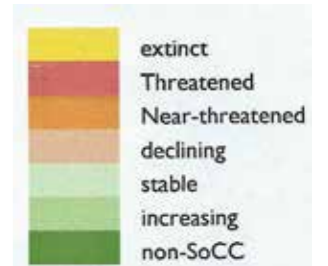
With all this diversity of course comes responsibility. Surrey has important populations of around 30% of the rapidly declining species afforded Priority Conservation Status under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act. These occur in 21 similarly protected priority habitats. Indeed a significant number of species are now wholly reliant on efforts to conserve them in this county for their long-term future in the UK. But whilst celebrating this distinctiveness it is important to be aware of report's sad indication that nearly 12% of our native wildlife has been lost; clearly this is neither the time nor place for resting on laurels.

This State of Surrey's Nature report has been researched in a similar context to the two national documents. It indicates the strength, variety and uniqueness of the county's biodiversity. The 4,247 species of Priority Conservation Status include plants and lichens, most of the major invertebrate and all vertebrate groups. The charts below show the situation within these groups in terms of losses and threat categories.

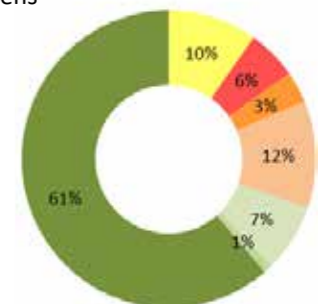
The charts on the right relate to Surrey as a whole but as there are representatives of most of the major habitats in our parish, it is likely that there have been similar changes here too. Certainly there have been both losses and reductions in the range of plant species here in the last 50 years. While much is beyond our control, there is still a lot we can do to help slow down the losses. Included in these are our general lifestyle and what we do in our gardens. For a start, can we make our gardens fully organic and pesticide free?

Ann Sankey

Key to the charts below for the threat categories of the 4242 species noted above:



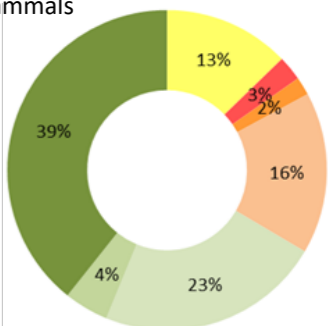
Plants: 1922 species of mosses, ferns, trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and lichens



Invertebrates: 2110 which include slugs and snails, woodlice, centipedes, millipedes, insects and spiders



Vertebrates: 210 species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals



The full report can be downloaded from [surreynaturepartnership.org.uk/ur-work](http://surreynaturepartnership.org.uk/ur-work)

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Following our trips to the moon and meetings with aliens, the children's interest has extended to monsters!

We have a book in the nursery called *The Fire Monster*. It tells the story of, and is illustrated by, the children's concept of fire being a monster. Being a printed book, children are able to recognise the value of their own paintings and their explanations of what is happening in the painting. When we had snow, we had snow monsters, small ones that melted because they were friends with the fire monster, big ones with a 100 eyes and 22 arms and one with no eyes but a stick so he knows where he is going! The monster theme continued with an introduction to *The Colour Monster*, by Anna Llenas. In the book the monster sorts his feelings by

## Watch out, there's a Monster about!

colour. We have used this story to help children express their feelings through the use of colour, and hope that we can support them when they are angry (red) or blue (sad) to recall things that made them feel green (calm) or yellow (happy). We even tried painting an umbrella and then let the rain wash away our confused (mixed colours) feelings. What a valuable book to have in our library.

Following animal rather than monster tracks allowed us to discover some of the wildlife around the nursery. We also thought about how the snow might stop the birds from getting to their food, so made pinecone bird feeders and then joined in with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Our counting skills may not have tallied up with our mark making, so we did not publish our results, but we did see blue tits, robins, blackbirds, pigeons, sparrows and a green woodpecker.

Seeing the wildlife around us, the emerging daffodils and catkins on the trees, makes us look forward to spring and the many symbols of new life. Maybe we shall soon have our chickens back from their own bird flu lockdown too!

Hilary Budd



## Mickleham Parish Council

The Parish Council met via Zoom on Wednesday 13th January and discussed a range of issues.

Included among items was the on-going issue of speed and noise pollution on the Old London Road. Despite a meeting called to address this issue and the wider problem of speed on the A24, held in November, little progress appeared to have been made, despite some initially encouraging remarks made by those representing the different statutory authorities with responsibility for this problem. At the time of writing councillors are still awaiting a progress report and further forum meeting. Watch this space ... if you have nothing better to do.

We are concerned by reports of further damage done by off-road vehicles using Stane Street and the surrounding land

for 'fun' and causing much damage to the landscape, fauna and flora and considerable frustration to the National Trust and those who use this area for walking. There are conversations going on to see what can be done to prevent such acts of pure vandalism and hopefully there may soon be some progress to report.

The future development of Norbury Park is under discussion now that Surrey County Council has taken back responsibility for much of the area. The Parish Council has set up a Working Group, under the guidance of John Lowes to engage with those involved in these plans and it is hoped that there will be a public consultation when development plans have been progressed. If anyone would like to be involved in this Working Group,

do please contact either David Ireland or John Lowes, who will be pleased to hear from you.

There is further information about the 'Your Fund Surrey' and possible projects are being put forward in a separate article. We are most grateful to our new councillor, Kayleigh Hunter for her considerable work on this subject.

Finally, to end on an up-beat note, the Parish Precept, which is an element of Council Tax is to remain the same for the coming year, despite increased activity by your Council, including the erection of the new bus shelter, further maintenance of footpaths in the centre of the village and the proposed ordering of a new Council notice board on Bytton Hill. So we remain value for money in these very challenging times.

David Ireland



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## Solution to the February crossword

Across: 1 Unborn 4 Bluffs 8 Pursuit 9 Impound 11 Engagement 12/26 Soft verges 13 Sieve 14 Hedgehog 16 White lie 18/5 Speed limit 21/20 The Highway Code 23 Give way 24 Musical 25 Goatee.

Down: 1 U-turn 2 Bus lane 3 Raise hell 6 Footsie 7 Sang-froid 10 Bethlehem 13 Schooling 15 Destitute 17 Theresa 19 Echoing 21 Tease 22 Amass.

**BRAIN TEASER answer: Clerical error**



## Support the Friends of St Michael's while shopping online.

increasing did you know that we, The Friends of St Michael's School, are registered with **easyfundraising** and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself?

Since our fundraising events are on hold, this is a great opportunity to keep raising much needed funds for the school. When you shop online, with more than 4,100

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<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofstmichaelschool>

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## Persuasive Writing

After reading last month's article from Nicola Cleaver, Frances Presley tried her hand at Persuasive Writing, based on the word map sent to St Michael's' pupils. Please Miss, does she get a gold star?

I am writing to say that I think that this is a very good idea for children, undoubtedly, to learn persuasive writing. Firstly it is good to learn to write a letter at all, on the whole it is nearly all by email now. Secondly the

art of letter writing is fast disappearing, and thirdly they can then teach adults to start writing letters again. Of course, in support of this I would point out how easy it is to delete an email by mistake, certainly, I am very good at doing that, and moreover once it is deleted, without a doubt it is gone for ever.

Furthermore, for instance, there is a good argument to encourage children to write 'thank you' letters, something that can surely be sadly lacking nowadays,

the pros of which might, in fact, bring more presents in the future. On the other hand, I am sure that the cons would result in a lack of future presents.

In other words, more power to more elbows, and also in addition, hand writing will almost certainly be improved.

So, in short, and finally, thank you to St Michael's School and, for these reasons I applaud your decision to specifically put this task in place.

## In Praise of Teachers and Learning Support Assistants

I have always been impressed by the creativity and ingenuity of our teachers and learning support assistants (LSAs). Over many years I have seen them turn classrooms into aeroplanes and arctic landscapes, doctors' surgeries and post offices. Our teachers devise new and imaginative ways to help our children understand English and maths, phonics and grammar as well as giving them the opportunity to learn about and investigate the world through history and geography, art and science. Over the past year of Covid restrictions they have outdone themselves. They have lived all of our school values: hope, compassion, thankfulness, patience, forgiveness and friendship and they have faced every challenge with imagination, resilience and a sense of fun.

Since schools closed for the first lockdown in March 2020 our teachers and LSAs have had to adapt to many new situations. In the first part of the lockdown when schools were only open to the children of 'key workers' and vulnerable children they had to provide 'childcare' for the very few children who were in school while providing learning ideas for the parents of the children at home. They had to adapt to the new protective measures that were put in place to keep everyone safe from the virus. This included spending as much time as possible outside, having all doors and windows open when they were inside and cleaning all surfaces and all resources several times a day. These measures had to continue when we were able to open to the children in the Reception class and Year 1. The staff had to think of ways for the children and their parents to come on to the school site in a way that meant they could be socially distanced from each other. They also needed to find ways to communicate with the parents and children who had not been in school. With the usual imagination they started to record videos to send home to families, explaining how to come in to school and how to leave the site. The

school started a YouTube channel so that the videos could easily be watched by our families. Videos were sent to the children who would be joining the Reception class in September so that they could meet their teachers and LSAs. Transition videos were sent to the children who would be moving to Year 1 and Year 2 in September to help them see their new classrooms. Our teachers and LSAs showed wonderful adaptability in using these new methods to connect with our children and their families.

We all breathed a sigh of relief in September when we could open the school to all our children. The staff worked hard to provide the Recovery Curriculum to help our children settle back in to school life and learning. The protective measures still had to be in place and we could not invite our parents in which was a great loss. Our teachers came up with new ways to involve our families in our school, by sending home video messages and putting together a video of our Harvest assembly that could be shared with our parents. Parent consultations were held over the telephone and parents were able to come and look at their children's work in a socially distanced way in the playground. The staff wrote a special nativity play and with the help of one of our families, who followed all of our protective measures, were able to make a wonderful video so that our families could enjoy the Christmas production.

Our children came back to school for one day after the Christmas holiday and then we had to close the school again to all but the children of 'critical workers' and vulnerable children. The definition of 'critical workers' has changed since last year and so we have more children here than we did then. The teachers and LSAs are now required to provide the full educational offer to the children at school and the children at home.



**St Michael's School**

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



Again the staff have met this challenge wonderfully. They are both teaching their full hours for the children in school and providing remote learning for the children at home. The remote learning mirrors the learning in school and is provided using the Tapestry platform so that parents can upload their children's work for the teachers to see. Video phonics and spelling lessons are sent to the children as well as a video story by a surprise reader. There are live Zoom sessions with teachers and LSAs so that the children receive the same input as the children in school. As we continue to be closed the staff are developing more and more ways of providing an education for all our children.

I am truly privileged to work with such dedicated people as teachers and LSAs.

Marisa Piggott, School Secretary

# Cryptic Crossword



Across

- 8 Defile that which is essential for 32 (4)  
 9 Character is being defined by weight (5)  
 10 Sounds like that man is a thing for worshipping (4)  
 11 Morning, Father! In France I can be measured with this (6)  
 12 All dandy when squared away to the letter (8)  
 13 Character is getting equaliser when fouled after I'm sent off (8)  
 15/32 'Carnal Holding' is a fairy story, by George! (6,4)  
 17 Breastwork by baby 19 is 15 (7)  
 19 Prevent the outcome for Anne Boleyn (4,3)  
 22 Character could start to fancy bit of stuff (6)  
 24 Character is a cocktail that can be thrown? (8)  
 26 Character has evidence of Spanish exuberance for a long time after siesta (8)  
 28 Vocally votes against the expressions of 9 and 22 (6)  
 30 Cane when thrashed has a way of causing scarring (4)  
 31 Victor is guillotined in secret (5)  
 32 See 15

Down

- 1 Retro ice lolly is a lockdown favourite (4)  
 2 Character is smutty stunner, I hear (8)  
 3 Is able to get face lift and make controlled use of gravity (6)  
 4 Go looking for small change in old wife tales (7)  
 5 Do this with a prune can? Utter nonsense! (8)  
 6 Frisson I have from something on the Scoville scale (6)  
 7 Surrounded by millions in donations (4)  
 14 Lose heart to small plump bird (5)  
 16 It's terrible being in hospital with a jaw full of broken teeth (5)  
 18 Interrupts pleasure boat naughtiness (6,2)  
 20 Asks a lot of questions and takes things down? (8)  
 21 Half-witted like single 9 (7)  
 23 Like 9 missing the point in Deep Purple (6)  
 25 Trainers are paid for by these – could be worse with One Direction (6)  
 27 Bend backwards in a playful way (4)  
 29 Having a laugh with the English way of speaking is a sign of the Irish (4)

Andrew Tatham



Photograph: Ben Tatham

*The solution to last month's crossword is on page 26.*

We are happy to receive contributions of articles and high-resolution photographs for the magazine.

Pilgrims Way on 24th January

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