

MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



April 2017

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MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

APRIL
2017

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
MAY 2017
MAGAZINE
Sunday
9th April

send to:

Sue Tatham
St Anthony, Pilgrim's Way
Westhumble
Dorking RH5 6AW
01306 882547
sue@thetathamss.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.



Printed by Evonprint, West Sussex

Mickleham Rectory

Dear friends

This April, as far as the Christian Church is concerned, is dominated by HOLY WEEK and EASTER. This really is the time when all Christians should come together in worship and celebration for, as Paul the Apostle wrote: 'If Christ be not raised our faith is in vain.' No resurrection – no Christian faith!

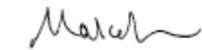
We have a variety of services on offer and it is my hope and prayer that, if you are happy to be called a Christian, you will feel able to join us on one or more of the following occasions:

- Palm Sunday 9th April: Holy Communion service 10 a.m. as we reflect on Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Why a donkey? What message was Jesus trying to get across?
- Tuesday 11th April: A short service of Holy Communion at 7 p.m. – lasting about 30 minutes.
- Wednesday Tuesday 12th April: A short service of Evening Prayer/Compline at 7 p.m. – lasting about 30 minutes.
- Maundy Thursday 13th April: A service of Holy Communion at 7 p.m. with choir and hymns when we focus on the last meal Jesus shared with his friends and what happened afterwards in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Good Friday 14th April: An 'Hour at the Cross' at 2 p.m. when we take time out to reflect on 'Seven Last Words' spoken by Jesus before he died. There will be hymns, readings and reflections.
- Easter Eve Saturday 15th April: A short 'Service of Light' at 7 p.m. lasting about 30 minutes, when we meet to reaffirm our baptism vows and prepare for the joy to come.
- **EASTER DAY 16th April: The day of resurrection!** A short, traditional service at Westhumble Chapel (8 a.m.) for those who wish to share the Easter story in a personal way. Then, at 10 a.m., a Family Communion as all ages gather together to celebrate the joy of Easter Day. For the 'young at heart' there will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the Rectory garden after the service. Wait for instructions!

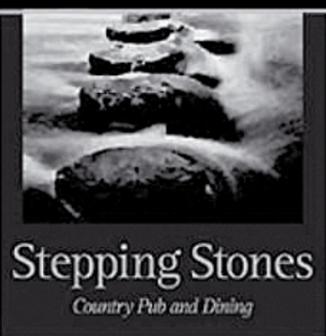
The other significant event in April is our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which will take place in St Michael's Church on Sunday 23rd April after the 10 a.m. service. This will be chaired by our Team Rector, The Rev'd Graham Osborne. If you are on the ELECTORAL ROLL then you are invited to attend, participate and vote for churchwardens (2), Deanery Synod representatives (2) and PCC members (3). If you would like to know more about being on the Electoral Roll then there are details in church.

To God be the glory, great things He hath done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son

With best wishes



Malcolm, our Parish Priest, is more than happy to visit people in the parish (with or without church links) to discuss pastoral and/or spiritual matters. He is also happy to offer home communion to those not able to attend church on a regular basis. Just contact him.



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22nd APRIL

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FOURTH MONDAYS

Monday 24th April

Host: Angela Ireland

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Alison Wood 01372 376443

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New Mickleham & Westhumble Youth Group

See page 26
for further details



Changes to the Church's North Aisle

You may have found that the church has been closed during the week recently. This is because of building work to create more space in the north aisle. Some of the pews have been removed and others have been moved against the wall to create an open area with seating on two sides.

The floor has been tiled and then covered with a loose carpet, thus providing a comfortable space for families with young children during services. The change will also allow easier circulation of people enjoying refreshments after services and while attending concerts.



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 give their name and the donation to Anne Weaver. The names will be read out during the Easter Day service. Anne's contact details are: 01306 883932 weaver_anne@hotmail.com

Lent Lunches

The series of weekly Lent lunches got off to a flying start on 6th March when 16 of us gathered at Mary and John Banfield's house. Mary's Red Pepper Soup was such a hit that we have decided to share it with our readers and next month we hope to include Mary's mushroom soup recipe. The lunches are being held to sponsor Will Dennis's abseil down the Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower on 2nd April in aid of four local charities. As they departed the replete diners made generous donations to the fund. Many thanks to Mary and John for their hospitality.

Sue Tatham



Sweet Red Pepper Soup (Serves 4)

Can be made up to two days ahead; keep covered, in refrigerator. It can be frozen for two months without sour cream; stir in sour cream when reheating. Recipe unsuitable to microwave.

- 3 medium red peppers, halved
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ½ cup tomato puree
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 small chicken stock cubes, crumbled
- 2 cups of water
- 1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves
- ½ cup sour cream

Place peppers cut side down on oven tray, bake in moderate oven for about 20 minutes or until skin blisters, cool slightly, peel and chop. Heat oil in large saucepan, add onion and garlic, cook over medium heat for about 2 minutes or until onion is soft. Stir in peppers, puree, paste, water and stock cubes. Bring to boil, reduce heat, simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes; stir in marjoram. Blend or process mixture in several batches until smooth. Return to pan, stir in sour cream, reheat without boiling. Serve with a dollop of crème fraîche.

From Mary Banfield. Based on a recipe found in an old Australian cookery book

By the time you read this several more Lent Lunches will have been held where no doubt diners enjoyed further delicious soups – all in the aid of charity.

Parish Magazine Annual Report 2016

The magazine has continued to prosper, and, according to reports, is widely read not only by local residents, but by those who collect copies from church, the shop and other village sources or access it on the church or Parish Council websites.

Magazine finances remain sound with our advertising revenue more than covering production costs. This year's MPM group 'Christmas card' raised £100 which was divided between The Friends of St Michael's School and the Community Nursery.

As editor I am most grateful to the many people who help with the magazine production and distribution every month, with special thanks to:

- Charlotte Daruwalla, who edited half the issues, Stephanie Randall our expert proof reader and to all the other members of the editorial panel: Fiona

Roberts-Miller, Liz Weller, Jenny Hudlass and Judy Kinloch.

- Ben Tatham, who is sent out in all weathers to take photographs of places and events.

- Richard Roberts-Miller who, to date, has produced 186 crosswords for us.

- * Fiona Roberts-Miller for looking after our advertisers and accounts so efficiently.

- Mary Venning who prepares the magazines for distribution, Rustom Daruwalla, David Kennington and Fiona Rowland who distribute the bags of magazines and to the many helpers to those who deliver the magazines from door to door. This has been Fiona's first year helping us and is a very welcome member of the team. Also new is Phyl Neal who has kindly taken on Burney Road deliveries, following the death of Ray Wilson in October. Ray is much

missed as he had helped with the magazine for many years and besides his deliveries had kept us very well informed about new residents, recent births and people celebrating significant events.

- Linda Boyle who organises the mailing list subscriptions. Presently these are 33 names on our list.

- Our advertisers and all those who contribute articles, reports and items of news each month.

- And finally Malcolm Raby for his support and wise counsel and for always submitting his copy in good time.

Much of our time at the end of the year has been taken up with preparations for the changeover to full-colour printing with the first issue in 2017. This will allow us to do justice to the lovely coloured photographs we receive. We hope readers will approve of our 'new look'. Sue Tatham, Editor

Strong Plastic Carrier Bags Needed

As our 'new look' magazines are printed on heavier paper, we would welcome donations of strong carrier bags to use for our deliveries. You may leave these at the back of the church, or on the porch of St Anthony, Pilgrims Way.

Recent changes at Westhumble Chapel

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Extensive tree work has been carried out in the area behind the Chapel in preparation for the proposed improvements to the building and its grounds. This photograph shows the cleared area to the north of the Chapel, with Lovedon Cottage in the background

Leith Hill Musical Festival

Thursday 6th April

Blest pair of sirens – Parry
Dona nobis pacem – Vaughan Williams

Friday 7th April

Elijah – Mendelssohn

Saturday 8th April

Benedicite – Carter
Little organ mass – Haydn
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Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf – Christ Church, Aden

Extract from a short talk given at the morning service in St Michael's Church on Sunday 19th February

The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf is small in terms of number of churches but probably the largest in area of any in the worldwide Anglican Communion and certainly the most diverse. It includes churches in Cyprus, Iraq, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Yemen. In a troubled region Yemen is a particularly troubled country and the most remote church in the Diocese is Christ Church in Aden at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula across the Red Sea from Djibouti.

In the early 1990s the then Bishop of the Diocese, John Brown, asked permission of the Governor of Aden for the Anglican Church to reclaim the old British military chapel and open a church for expatriates in Aden and the surrounding area. The Governor agreed and issued a fatwa which gave the church the right to function as a Christian community and to operate a general medical clinic for the surrounding local district of Tawahi. The permission granted by that fatwa still stands today.

Over the years the standard of government sponsored general medical clinics has improved significantly and the Ras Morbat Clinic now specialises in eye care where local facilities are less effective. Poor diet and high UV levels cause significant cataract problems even in young people. Ras Morbat has two surgeons who do little else

but remove cataracts and a group of nurses who give eye tests, prescribe glasses and generally provide advice. I have visited Aden several times and I am always overwhelmed by the idea of an eye clinic staffed by Yemeni Moslem doctors and nurses caring for the Yemeni Moslem poor of Aden very openly under the auspices of an Anglican church. Patients are heard to say they are *going to the church* for their eye care. This is a place of Christian witness, with permission from the authorities to function as a church and operate a clinic, a place of outreach via the clinic to the local needy and above all a place which is open to anyone of goodwill.

Yemen has never been safe. Power has rested with tribal militia and a weak corrupt government in the capital Sanaa. Poor and unstable it was until recently an almost forgotten place. Then as Al Qaida was displaced from Iraq and found a home in Yemen the balance of power began to change. Saudi Arabia became involved along its southern border and the United States followed. That in turn drew in Iran and for the last three years there has been civil war, a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and increasing danger and chaos. There is now the very real risk of widespread famine.

Aden has to some extent been a sheltered from the worst of the violence in the country but in 2015 the security

situation became sufficiently serious for the priest at Christ Church to be moved out of the country. Despite the problems the clinic kept functioning but because of the violence even that had to close for five months during 2015 and the buildings suffered considerable damage. The clinic has stayed open throughout last year and into 2017 despite continuing fighting in and around Aden.

Recently the security situation has improved a little. In Aden Al Qaida and Daesh have been replaced by local militia, supported to some extent by the United Arab Emirates, and some semblance of order has been restored but it is still dangerous for foreigners to visit let alone can the Diocese appoint a new priest. And yet Ras Morbat Clinic keeps working. The man who manages the compound is Mansour Yousef a great big gentle giant. The medical team is led by a woman Dr Nana. Both are Moslem but they are proud of their work at Christ Church and they and the staff quite genuinely feel reassured by the prayers and support of many Christian people around the world. In all the mess of civil war and lack of order Christ is very obviously at work in this remote, poor and dangerous place.

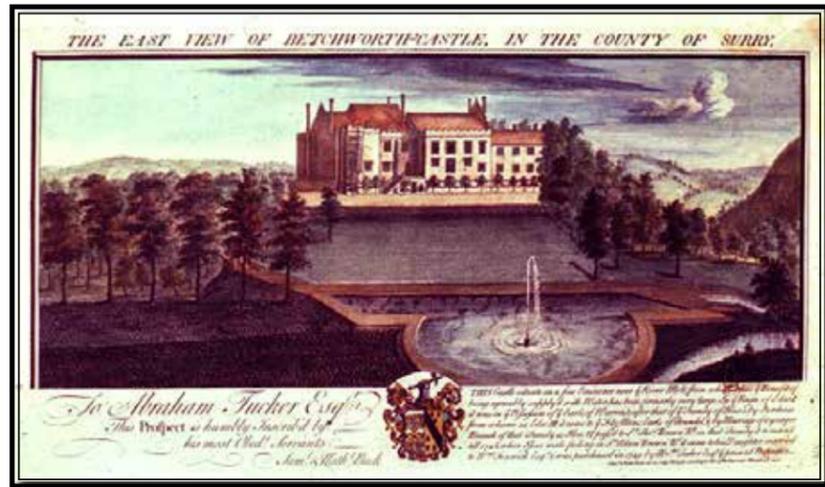
John Banfield
 Canon St Christopher's
 Cathedral, Bahrain
 Finance Director Diocese of
 Cyprus and the Gulf

Photographs: John Banfield



From left: Patients waiting; Mansour and guards; Operating theatre at Christ Hospital, Aden

Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group Betchworth Castle



On 24th February following the AGM of the M&WLHG, members were treated to an excellent talk about Betchworth Castle by Martin Higgins, Surrey County Council's Historic Buildings Officer and current owner of the castle. Martin began by telling us that the castle was originally part of the Manor of West Betchworth, whereas Betchworth as we think of it today was in the Manor of East Betchworth.

The castle was not built for defence but was in fact a fortified manor house, built to impress and demonstrate the status of the owner. By the mid-1960s the castle ruins were owned by the local council and were becoming an expensive liability as the structure was in imminent danger of collapse. Several decades later, in 2008, Martin began negotiations with Mole Valley District Council to purchase the castle and thus achieve his ambition to own and restore the castle site, where he had played as a child. The process took three years to complete with a purchase price of £1.

It is not known exactly when, and by whom, the castle was built, but in 1379 Richard II granted John Fitzalan (d'Arundel), Marshal of England, a licence to crenellate his residence on the site and to empark 360 acres of the surrounding land (part of this is now Betchworth Park Golf Course). In theory, a licence to crenellate gave permission to fortify a building but in practice was often a way to show

royal recognition. In 1448 a second licence to crenellate was given to Sir Thomas Browne who had acquired the castle through his marriage to Eleanor Fitzalan of the Arundel family. He was later executed for treason. Eleanor was unlucky in her choice of husbands because her second one, Sir Thomas Vaughan, who had survived capture by pirates while taking the treasure of Henry VI to Ireland, was later executed by the future King Richard III.

Martin then explained how, over the following centuries, numerous additions and alterations were made to the castle. There are several contemporary drawings and paintings of the castle, enabling us to piece together the changes to the building. John Aubrey made a sketch of the castle in 1673 which shows an impressive four-storey gatehouse. The castle also had an enormous hall, four bays long, and a large bay window. Interestingly, part of the castle was constructed from hard chalk which Martin believes probably came from Westhumble. At the end of the 17th century, the castle was bought by William Fenwick who demolished a significant section of it, thereby turning it into a much smaller country residence. The engraving (above) of the east view of the castle, produced in the 1730, shows its impressive location on the top of a steep slope, with a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. A line of small yew trees is visible, some of which are still standing

today, although considerably larger than in the picture! A terrace can also be seen, an astonishing 300 feet long and 8 feet high, constructed of white chalk with greensand below. There was also a magnificent avenue of lime trees and many beautiful old chestnut trees in the park.

By the end of the 18th century, the castle was owned by the banker, Henry Peters. He commissioned Sir John Soane to remodel the house and park and, fortunately for historians, the drawings for these alterations have survived. Soane added a conservatory onto the house and built a separate stable block which was later converted into houses, now located in Castle Gardens. The next significant chapter in the history of the estate involved the Hope family, known locally for their connection with the Deepdene. Thomas Hope was one of the richest men in England when he acquired the Deepdene at the beginning of the 19th century and the estate was enlarged soon afterwards by the addition of Chart Park, a gift from Thomas' brother. Thomas' son Henry inherited the Deepdene on the death of his father and in 1834 bought Betchworth Castle and its estate. The castle itself was surplus to his requirements and he had the roof removed to create a 'romantic ruin'.

When Martin acquired this 'romantic ruin', not only was it unsafe but the whole site was completely overgrown. Through an enormous amount of >>>

Betchworth Castle continued...



Eastern face of castle and the stable block in Castle Gardens today



Photographs: Ben Tatham

>>> hard work by Martin and other volunteers, funded mostly by grant money from local councils and organisations such as English Heritage and Surrey Historic Buildings Trust, the area around the castle is now accessible to the public. The castle can be reached through a gate off the south side of the A25, opposite Wyevale Garden Centre, near the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Course. Martin is hoping that by the time you read this article there will be a signpost pointing the way.
Judith Long

Would you like to join the Parish Magazine Team?

Our editorial panel needs some new members who will write an occasional report and/or article about a local matter. We meet at 4 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact Sue Tatham on 01306 882547 / sue@thetatham.co.uk

Advance notice: VIP to visit Mickleham

For reasons that will become obvious I am afraid I am not at liberty to share the name of the VIP concerned at the present time, but this is a serious visitor and there are substantial security concerns.

In preparation his/her security people will arrive in advance of the main entourage in early autumn. Whilst camouflaged, they will have unobstructed and search access to properties considered 'sources of risk' to our VIP visitor. Please give them every courtesy if they call for a thorough search and interrogation. For reasons set out below, there will be a need for some local constructions for firearms cover. At the moment, the 465 bus stop and the roof of the village hall are identified for armed watchtowers. There will be manned checkpoints at the A24 and Headley Lane junctions, but only on the day of the visit.

Our VIP will be arriving on an early morning flight into Gatwick. While he will be staying locally for talks with some of our local Russian friends, he has accepted our invitation to the men's breakfast on that morning, and will give a short address on 'our

special relationship', perhaps shorter than one would postulate! He will be accompanied by a Mr N. F***** (name deleted for security reasons). Invitations to the breakfast will be limited, the VIP's security entourage of 62 will take up some space, and anyone with a suspicious name will be screened out, eg Aarvold, Ireland, Raby (rabbi), Lowry. Security troops will also be present around The Runners and on surrounding roofs, though you may not see them. A faculty has been sought for a small hole to be temporarily created in the church clock tower, but just large enough for machine gun cover.

Simultaneously, the first lady will be posing for her portrait—semi-nude, apparently – by our own Sherree V-Daines, and talking about her degree subject from the University of Coleslaw – 'Lip gloss, a users guide'.

Please do not share this too widely, but clearly this is an immense honour for our community. I have a secret restricted electronic line to the security people – Codeword: Mainwaring. Do contact me if there are any questions.

T P Lard-Mound Esq



The Dorking Group of Artists Spring Exhibition 2017

Saturday 29th April to
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Closes at 4 pm on Monday 1st May

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Pie tasting : Friday 14th April
Food Fair: 12-4 pm Sunday 30th April
Meet your local producers

Westhumble Residents Association 2017 AGM report and a reflection

Photograph: Ben Tatham



To mark his retirement Mike Giles (left) is presented with a shiny new spade by Duncan Irvine

After adopting minutes and accounts, the meeting re-elected last year's committee en bloc. I had heralded my intention to stand down as chairman on several occasions, including the 2016 AGM, and in the absence of a new volunteer, despite other demanding roles, vice-chairman, Duncan Irvine agreed to stand in for a maximum of twelve months, while a longer term replacement is recruited. Please think seriously about joining the committee. Our Neighbourhood Police Inspector, Richard Hamlin, addressed the meeting to compare current and past crime statistics. We are in a relatively safe area, but we should all remain vigilant and take sensible security precautions. One area causing particular concern is child exploitation in its many manifestations.

A fuller report on the last year is available from mike.giles@mac.com and minutes of this AGM will be available before long.

These four years have been exciting and rewarding, but other pressures demand that I now step down to allow fresh blood to carry the flag. I became chairman after only 15 months as a Westhumble resident – so come on newcomers you can do it!

During my chairmanship, issues have ranged from Dorking Wanderers' occupancy of the Westhumble playing field, to the weight restriction on the railway bridge, and from the installation of a defibrillator at the station to the establishment of our e-mail circulation among nearly 60% of the households in the village.

The PruRideLondon event required

significant liaison with the organisers in its early days, but it has now become a predictable and manageable slight inconvenience for some, while others are enthusiastic about Westhumble's fame as part of the professional route. With one exception, other cycling events have followed our request that their route goes up through the village, as this is much safer than coming downhill from Ranmore.

During 2016, we celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday by presenting souvenir mugs to under-14s, and we encouraged residents to tell us, and eventually SCC and the operators, about the importance of the 465 bus route.

The bonfire burnt well and income exceeded costs for the fireworks and insurance for the first time in a couple of years, but the next generation of pyromaniacs needs to be stepping up

to the plate. Neil Mason and his family have been central to the success of this event for well over 30 years and would like to begin handing over responsibility, for the event, including refreshments. Projects to be progressed by the incoming committee include refurbishment of the Chapel of Ease and establishment of a 'tea-garden' in the grounds; CCTV cameras, to monitor traffic movement after thefts or burglaries and to deter HGVs from infringing the bridge weight limit; and establishment of a priority system for vehicles at the bottom of Westhumble Street.

I wish Duncan all success as interim Chairman, but repeat the whole committee's plea for other residents to become involved in the committee, the bonfire and fireworks and the chapel project.
Mike Giles

 Having taken over from Mike Giles as interim chairman of the WRA, my first duty must be to seek a replacement. In the absence of another volunteer, rather than leave the post vacant and so that Mike can retire, I have been happy to stand in for a period of twelve months. But it certainly isn't ideal given

Still looking for a Chairman!

that this means the village effectively loses a second person who would have been working on local matters, with me now occupying two such positions. The Residents Association really is important for our community. It is also considerably cheaper than a Parish Council and as such is worth keeping if we can, but we need a proper chairman.

You don't need to have been living here for decades and you don't need to have been on the committee for years either. If you are interested, please do get in touch, and come along to a meeting and see how you like it. If we find a replacement chairman sooner than next March – that's even better.
Duncan Irvine



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society

It's the start of the gardening year!

Every spring the committee of the Horticultural Society sits down to consider the Schedule for the main show of the coming year, whether held in July or September. Some items remain much the same – we cannot ask for apples and pumpkins and expect entries in April, or for that matter daffodils in September, but we do try to ring the changes wherever possible. There are always new photography subjects and different cookery challenges. For example, this year we are asking for a 'bread pudding with a difference made by a man'. Sometimes the ideas flow quite smoothly, at others we are hard put to it to decide. Subjects for the three flower-arranging titles can require soul-searching – does this one call for the use of accessories or not? And what is a suitable task for a 6-year-old – would it be better for a 9-year-old? Thinking these thoughts, I had a brief delve into what children were being asked to produce just over 100 years ago. Some were simple, such as a

bunch of wild flowers (a prize for boys and a prize for girls), or an illustrated nursery rhyme, but some were more difficult. Knitted socks, a pipe rack, knitted comforters, knitted cuffs; I'm not even sure what the latter items are! Girls were expected to produce macramé, embroidery, lace and tatting, while for the boys there was one prize for the best school garden and one for a collection of vegetables 'from ditto'. I imagine the girls were busily engaged in needlework while the boys were digging and harvesting.

To take comparisons a little further, in 1913, there were 16 different vegetable classes including three different varieties of potato as well as a number of collections of vegetables. The neatest and best cropped cottage garden was awarded a prize, as was the best cultivated allotment garden over ten rods. Special prizes were awarded for vegetables grown from Mr Hutchinson's seed. (I think this must be the Hutchisons that has only recently shut down in Leatherhead, by which time they specialised in coal and domestic hearth products) Flowers were less favoured, being limited

to a collection of garden flowers (6 varieties), sweet peas and annuals, but currants of all colours and apples feature strongly. These classes were open to the cottagers and farm, estate and stable employees but not to the gardeners of the big houses in the neighbourhood.

The Royal Horticultural Society did award a Silver medal for the garden flowers and a Bronze medal as we do today but then it was for the winner of the largest total amount of money for garden produce. What we do not intend to replicate is the prize for 'the greatest number of Queen Wasps destroyed in the spring and summer of 1914. First prize went to W. Edgington (291), 2nd (228), 3rd (214), 4th (211) and 5th (187), a grand total of 1131 Queens!

We would love to see as many people at the Plant Sale and AGM at Ashleigh Grange on the 22nd April but space might prove limited and coffee and cake would be sold out in minutes! However, we do look forward to seeing a lot of you, especially those looking for new ideas for bargain plants to grace your garden and to have a chat with friendly people in lovely surroundings.

Judy Kinloch

Westhumble Talks Munros and those who climb them

Photograph: David Kingham



Carn Etchachan (Cairngorms)

The subject of our Westhumble Talk on 22nd February was 'Climbing Munros' given by David Kingham, a highly-respected local solicitor. It was held in the wonderful setting of Chapel Barn, home of the Armitage family to whom we are indebted for their gracious hospitality.

David treated us to a fascinating, detailed – no Munro was left unclimbed – and well-researched account of the energetic pastime of climbing Munros. His talk was illustrated by some evocative photos of stunningly beautiful regions of Scotland primarily, with some taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well. Indeed, one photo included a couple who were clearly so moved by the spiritual nature of the experience that they were climbing a Munro without the encumbrance of clothing. There was a firm denial from the younger generation of the Cubitt family in the audience that they were the couple in question. David assured us that while nude ascents were rare many take their dogs with them. He had encountered the unlikely sight of a small, but clearly plucky, Yorkshire terrier with the customary bow on its head.

So what constitutes a Munro? The name comes from Sir Hugh Thomas Monro who in 1891, using only a normal Victorian barometer as his measure of height, climbed, mainly alone and at night, all the mountains in Scotland he declared to be more than 3,000 feet – now officially recognised as more than 914.4 meters.

This mildly eccentric, most energetic and challenging pastime has grown in popularity and there are now officially 282 Munros in Scotland and a few in England, Wales and Ireland. David has done all those in England and Wales (Scafell Pike twice and Snowdon six times) and two summits in Ireland. There are also lesser mountains of above 2,500 feet known as 'Corbetts'. 'Compleaters' are people who have climbed all of them once (6,105 known); twice (194); 3 times (40) and one incredible man an unbelievable 15 times.

David took us through 'the climbs' (a phrase sneered at by the crampons and rope brigade) of most of the Scottish Munros and some in the UK. This

included the dramatic and beautiful Ben Hope in Sutherland, Glen Shiel with its spectacular scenery and Sgurr Nan Gilleann with its pinnacle.

David himself started this activity in 1966 whilst at Shrewsbury School but being in the Navy as a Submariner [David clearly likes the heights and depths of our planet] and later, a career in the law and a family of course have limited his time for doing so but he has climbed 238, 6 twice and 2 three times, occasionally accompanied by one of his daughters. Not far off the total.

He gave an enthusiastic description of the walk to and up and down a Munro, many of which are at least 4/5 miles from a road and for some the total distance is in excess of 20 miles over difficult and sometimes very difficult terrain. This includes boggy land where one can sink to above the knees, steep climbs, narrow ridges with sheer drops each side and navigating round large obstacles including one bolder, known as 'The Gendarme', blocking the path. Indeed, the popularity of this pastime is such that two-star hotels have opened near most of the starting points. Whilst no specialist climbing kit is required, clothing for all types of weather, which can change suddenly and dramatically on mountains, a compass, some form of GPS with an overlay of Ordnance

Survey Maps and OS Landranger Maps and a mobile phone (limited reception) are essential. If walking alone it is essential before setting out to inform the appropriate agency of your planned movements. David reported that 75% of accidents happen on the descent, most likely because of the relief of descending after an arduous climb can often lead to undue haste.

David has also on many occasions done these activities to raise considerable sponsored sums for charities. For instance, climbing a Munro in Wales then one in England then one in Scotland all in under 24 hours without sleep. He tells us that training for this sort of climb is done on the southern slope of Box Hill, which climbed from the bottom, up past the viewpoint to the summit 19 times without stopping equates to one climb of Ben Nevis.

Besides the wonderful views, such climbs often offer the opportunity to see iconic species of moorland birds and animals such as dotterel, golden plover, golden eagle, pine martin and mountain hare.

There are few such healthy and rewarding activities in the most remote and beautiful parts of the UK as climbing Munros. For those of us who have not done so David's talk made us envious of those who have. The Jolly Judge

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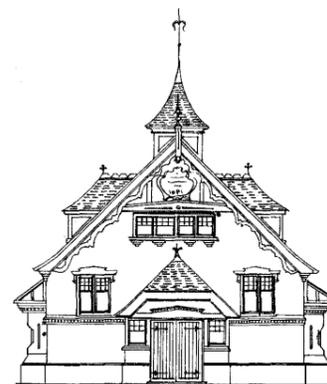
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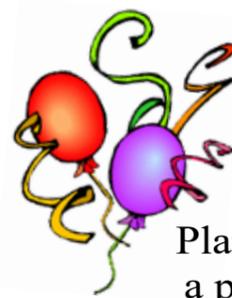
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- Susie Gowenlock 07768 923 088
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- Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland 01372 379381
rev.ireland43@btinternet.com
- Parish Clerk - Trevor Haylett trevor.haylett9@gmail.com
- MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE
Editor – Mrs Sue Tatham 01306 882547
sue@thetathams.co.uk
- MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL
Chairman – Ben Tatham 01306 882547
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Continued on page 16.

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weaver_anne@hotmail.com

Simon Ward 01372 383350
simonward@btinternet.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Sarah Ward 01372 383350
sarwar_63@hotmail.com

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Elizabeth Moughton 01306 883040
eliz.moughton@btinternet.com

TREASURER

Richard Siberry 01372 375303
Siberrman@aol.com

ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

Christopher Connett 01306 743061
c.connett@btinternet.com

BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Vickie Leney 01306 884054
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FOOD BANK

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Calendar of Events

April

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Saturday | 7 p.m. | Colditz Charity Night at Box Hill School |
| 2 | 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday) | 8 a.m. 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) Worship Together followed by Fairtrade Stall Will Dennis's abseil down the Spinaker Tower |
| 3 | Monday | 7.30 p.m. | The Garden Shed. Westhumble Chapel |
| 4 | Tuesday | 8 p.m. | Bible Course continues |
| 5 | Wednesday | 12.30 p.m. | Lent Lunch |
| 8 | Saturday | 7.30 p.m. | Churchyard Survey by Professor David Hawksworth Leith Hill Musical Festival Concert including Mickleham Choral Society – Dorking Halls |
| 9 | Palm Sunday | 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) Holy Communion Morning Prayer – CHAPEL |
| HOLY WEEK | | | |
| 11 | Tuesday | 7 p.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) |
| 12 | Wednesday | 7 p.m. | Evening Prayer/Compline |
| 13 | Maundy Thursday | 7 p.m. | Communion Service |
| 14 | Good Friday | 2 p.m. | 'Hour at the Cross' |
| 15 | <i>Saturday Easter Eve</i> | 9 a.m. 2-4 p.m. 7 p.m. | Men's Breakfast at <i>The Running Horses</i> Easter Bunny Trail at Juniper Hall 'Service of Light' |
| 16 | Easter Day – the day of resurrection! | 8 a.m. 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) – CHAPEL Family Communion for Easter Day followed by Easter Egg hunt in the Rectory Garden |
| 21 | Friday | 7.15 p.m. | Youth Group meets. Mickleham Village Hall |
| 22 | Saturday | 9 a.m. 10.30 a.m. | Women's Breakfast at <i>The Running Horses</i> Horticultural Society's Plant Sale & AGM at Ashleigh Grange |
| 23 | 2nd Sunday of Easter | 8 a.m. 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) Holy Communion followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting |
| 24 | Monday | 3 p.m. | Tea@3 at Angela Ireland's |
| 25 | Tuesday | 8 p.m. | Bible Course continues |
| 27 | Thursday | 11 a.m. | Bible Study group meets |
| 30 | 3rd Sunday of Easter | 8 a.m. 10 a.m. | Holy Communion (Order 2) Morning Praise |

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th May – Paralympic cyclist Karen Darke's talk at Box Hill School
Saturday 20th May – Village Hall AGM
Saturday 20th May – St Michael's School Spring Fair
16th and 18th June – Ashleigh Grange gardens open
Saturday 17th June – Mickleham Choral's Summer Concert
Saturday 15th July - M&WHS Flower Show

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Continued from page 13

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- MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
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- MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
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info@stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk
Friends of St Michael's School – Mrs Meredith Shiers
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- ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION
- CITIZENS ADVICE
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- POWER CUT HELPLINE 0800 783 8866
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Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural North
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Ailsa McNaughton* 01306 887408
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We have been advised to print the following reminder:
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Margaret Jennifer Burn 1941–2017

On 15th February friends and family gathered in St Michael's to say farewell to Jenny Burn. Tributes were given by two of her sons David Forde who now lives in Australia and Andrew Burn.

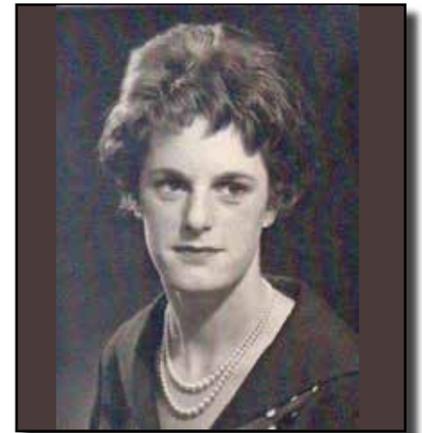
Jenny was born in Dublin and by all accounts her childhood was not a happy one. She married, aged 20, and bore two children, David and Caroline.

In 1970 Jenny arrived at Box Hill School to take up a position as Matron in the Senior Boys' House which was at that time located in the 'Old Cottage' on the corner of Dell Close. Although the qualifications she had achieved in her home city of Dublin were secretarial, her organisational skills suited her well to looking after the domestic and medical needs of the boys. Adept with

'the Blarney' the wiles of 15-18-year-old lads didn't phase her.

In 1978 she became responsible for the Junior Boys, having married Box Hill School teacher Colin Burn two years earlier. The arrival of Andrew in 1981 to join Alistair born in 1980 meant that Jenny could no longer continue as Matron. When 'the boys' were older she had a job outside the school as a supervisor with Lawrence & Tester.

In 1992, Jenny moved to Flint Hill in the south of Dorking. She was a very loving mother and grandmother, keeping contact by telephone with those in Ireland in the early days and later in Australia. She was very close to her brother and continued to be in contact with him after he moved to Australia.



He died just three days before Jenny. Throughout her life Jenny faced many challenges, including periods of severe depression, but her plucky spirit usually saw her through. The banter which she enjoyed with all and sundry has left so many happy memories. We send our sympathy to all her family and friends.



Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society Plant Sale and AGM Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd April

Ashleigh Grange, off Chapel Lane, Westhumble
Plant sale from 10.30 am – AGM 11.15 am



Photograph: John Banfield



Welsh lyric mezzo-soprano Katherine Jenkins with Steven Banfield MBE, the Commanding Officer of HMS Iron Duke, after she performed for 1,000 Royal Navy staff in Portsmouth at the Royal Navy headquarters on Whale Island before heading to the naval base to meet the frigate's crew on 26th January. Steven is the son of Mary and John Banfield of Old London Road, Mickleham.

Community News

Welcome to Peter and Feena Graham and their two sons who have moved from Leatherhead to Fredley Park.

GWEN EDWARDS

We send our love and deepest sympathy to Alan Edwards of Burney Road following the death of his wife, Gwen on 20th February. We hope to include her obituary in next month's magazine.



We are always grateful to receive news items from our readers.

Juniper Hall celebrates 70th Anniversary

After a presentation I made recently to the Friends of Box Hill at their AGM I was asked if I could put this down on paper too! This year is the 70th Anniversary of the Field Studies Council having run field trips from Juniper Hall. As such we will be having some planned events including a garden party in the summer and we are hugely thankful to Martin Cox and Sherree Valentine Danes for their amazing support of the art evening on Saturday 1st April, which I hope you will be able to support.

The FSC has a full repairing lease of Juniper Hall and so we aim to renovate and upgrade the centre continually. This will include future en-suiteing of bedrooms. We have spent a

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Juniper Hall in autumn

considerable amount of time doing up many of the rooms across the centre so far. We also aim to invest in order to raise money to help groups through our Kids Fund and Bursary Fund, such as the Leatherhead Youth Project, who may not be able to get to a centre such as ours without this support.

Apart from the many curricular courses we run for primary and secondary schools we are now seeing a growing number of university students coming to the centre. And we now run family holidays every Easter holiday and in the summer. In 2016 we had more than 18,000 visitor nights for the first time and we are hoping to match this in 2017. Juniper Hall's unique position means that we can make use of a huge number of environments and engage with students from across the UK and Europe (as well as Doha and Taiwan in the last two years).

Aside from our courses we also run biodiversity survey work. We do this in partnership with our visitors such as those from Cambridge University. Since 2009 they have recorded 728 species around Box Hill.

We have also committed to reducing our impact on the environment at Juniper Hall. In 2016 we installed 12 solar panels and are converting our lighting

to LED throughout the centre. We are now looking to recycle our food waste so it can be used for anaerobic energy production and look at other ways of reducing our energy usage. Between 2013 and 2015 the FSC had reduced its carbon emissions by 16.9% per learner throughout the organisation. We have continued to build towards this.

We continue to develop the centre and aim to do as much as we can within our local community. I do hope that we will see some of you at the 'Colditz' painting event – last minute tickets from Juniper Hall (01306 734501).

On Easter Saturday 15th April between 2 and 4 p.m. we are hosting an Easter Bunny Trail. It costs £3 to take part and a chocolate bunny is given to all those who have a go!

If it is raining then we also have lots of Easter arts and crafts for all the family, refreshments available (including homemade cakes) and a raffle. There is plenty to do come rain or shine. You can also say hello to our goats and chickens. Pop along for as long as you want and enjoy the afternoon at Juniper Hall.

We will send out more information about further birthday celebrations in the coming months.

Simon Ward, Head of Centre

Theatre Trips & Visits

Although the Friends Provident/Life Sports & Social Club has now closed, Neil Edson who has organised its theatre trips and day excursions for the past 20 years is continuing to provide this service. The coach will continue to pick up from Aviva where there is free parking onsite for those participating in the trips.

Coming events include:

- **Friday 19th May** – Tour of Wimbledon Tennis Grounds and Museum
- **Monday 21st August** – *Fiddler on the Roof*, starring Omid Djalili at Chichester.

- **Thursday 7th September** – London theatre trip to *Annie* starring Miranda Hart in her West End debut as Miss Hannigan.
- **Thursday 3rd August** – full day excursion to *Countryfile Live* at Blenheim Palace, with a half-price ticket for the Palace itself.
- **Tuesday 2nd January** – Pantomime trip to *Dick Whittington* at the London Palladium.

Why not join us and experience the benefits of hassle-free entertainment.

Please note that as some of these events are proving very popular, early booking is recommended. For information on all available trips contact Neil Edson neiledeson@aol.com or 07771 793294.



Juniper Hall's
Easter Bunny Trail
Easter Saturday

2-4 p.m.
see above



GOT HEROES HEROES
GOT HEROES HEROES
GOT HEROES HEROES
GOT HEROES HEROES

Answer on page 26.

David Kennington Retires



from Property Manager to become General Manager for the NT Surrey Hills Countryside with a team that looks after more than 16,000 acres of countryside.

Paul Redsell, Countryside Manager for Surrey Hills West, gave a humorous account of both David's work and social activities during this time and the NT Regional Director, Nicola Briggs thanked David for his huge contribution to the Surrey Hills. David was particularly proud of his part in the implementation of the Hindhead tunnel that enabled the NT sites of the Hindhead Commons and the Devil's Punch Bowl to be connected. Gifts presented to David to mark his retirement included a magnificent bench and table made by the Landbarn farm's NT volunteer carpenters and a lovely wooden bowl made from the tree which once grew inside the Broadwood Tower.

Lyn Richards



Photograph: Ben Tatham

Rosemary Grunsell, wife of Let Estate Manager Roger Grunsell, made this magnificent cake to commemorate David's retirement. It includes animals and scenes familiar to all who know the Surrey Hills, with Leith Hill Place on the top tier and crowned by Leith Hill Tower. The cake was surrounded by an array of cup cakes all topped with David's picture.

Photographs: NT



One of David Kennington's final duties as General Manager for the NT Surrey Hills was to open Box Hill's reinstated Riverside Walk

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Thursday 4th May – Sitkovetsky Trio and Friends Denbies Wine Estate 8 p.m.

Saturday 6th May – Piano Extravaganza St Catherine's School, Bramley 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 7th May – Gala Concert with The English Concert, Sarah Connolly and Rosemary Joshua

St Teresa's School, Effingham at 5 p.m.

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KING WILLIAM IV



Will Dennis wrote an amusing article in last month's mag about the 2016 King Willie vs Runners cricket match. This annual village sporting fixture was established at my suggestion in 2012, with Greg Ayton as the main organiser, assisted by Chris Presley. Last summer's match was a cliff-hanger, and the last ball extra run is now just a distant hangover. However, I must defend our team selection from the ringers accusation. Yes, we did have a few young guns under drinking age – but I can confirm that they were all *bone fide* employees. We take local youngsters at 15 and hopefully keep them through the summers till they leave uni. Anne deals with the students, but I must admit one of the first interview questions is

'have you played much cricket?' Now that the weather is getting better we hope to see many of you enjoying our gardens and hopefully the coming summer cricket match between two of the best pubs in Surrey will get a good local audience.

See you soon. Eamonn and Anne

Byttom Hill, Mickleham 01372 372590 www.thekingwilliamiv.com

Mickleham Parish Council

465 Bus Service through Mickleham to continue

The 465 bus route through Mickleham has been saved following a protest campaign led by Mickleham Parish Council and supported by Westhumble Residents Association and residents who were concerned at the possible loss of a service that has been described as a lifeline for the village.

After Surrey County Council announced that agreement had been reached with Transport for London to continue the service 'for the next five years and with no changes', Reverend David Ireland, chairman of Mickleham Parish Council spoke for many in expressing his delight. 'Were the service to be reduced or removed it would be a catastrophe for Mickleham so this is very good news', he said.

'A future without a bus service through Mickleham would have been a struggle for many. The cross section of people I have seen in support shows its need, from 13-year-old schoolchildren to 82-year-olds. Its people and the council seeing sense and I am enormously encouraged. If people feel strongly

enough they can influence those who take the decisions on their behalf."

After the Parish Council took up the fight, residents sent in their own letters of protest and a petition was organised. A photoshoot with the Dorking Advertiser was arranged to demonstrate the strength of feeling and attracted more than a 100 people including schoolchildren from Box Hill School.

TfL will continue to fund the stretch of the service between Kingston and Leatherhead while the County Council will fund the stretch between Leatherhead and Dorking for at least another five years.

MORE MPC NEWS

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Mickleham Village Hall on Wednesday 10th May at 7.30 p.m. and residents attending will learn what options are available to tackle housing need in the village.

Louise Williams from Surrey Community Action has agreed to address the

meeting and talk about the advantages of a Housing Needs Survey. It follows a suggestion by Mickleham resident Fiona Taylor, at a recent Parish Council meeting, that the Council put together a clearly defined strategy regarding local housing.

The survey would provide residents with an opportunity to give their opinion on the issue of local affordable housing and, secondly, to assess the current affordable housing need.

Two other options open to the Parish Council are a Village Design Statement or Neighbourhood Plan. A VDS describes the village, its attributes and character, and focuses on how planned development should be carried out to be in harmony with its setting and to contribute to the enhancement of the local environment.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a much more comprehensive and lengthy document and is likely to be considered too involved for a community of Mickleham's size. Trevor Haylett

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Mondays 12.40pm & 1.45pm

All ages and abilities welcome, pay as you go, booking essential

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Mickleham Village Hall AGM – Saturday 20th May 10 a.m. in the hall



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INSPIRATIONAL
Box Hill School

There are no limits

A talk by **KAREN DARKE**, MBE
British paralympic cyclist, adventurer and author

"Her story is not just one of the triumph of the human spirit, but of the 'spiritual'. It's 'spirit' that makes us what we are, 'spirit' that calls out to us in the wilderness places".
Sir Ranulph Fiennes

**Thursday
4th May 2017**
Drinks Reception 7.00pm | Talk 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Box Hill School, Mickleham

Karen Darke was paralysed from the chest down at the age of 21 following an accident, whilst sea cliff climbing.
Karen's inspirational story is framed by her belief that 'Disability is a state of mind not a state of body'. She believes that our own minds are our biggest obstacles to living and achieving our wildest aspirations, and if we set our heart and mind to it then 'there are no limits'.
To have the most impact in life we should challenge our constraints, adopt a positive mental attitude and support each other to become the best we possibly can. Karen has crossed Greenland's ice cap on skis, scaled El Capitan, hand-cycled the length of Japan and sea kayaked a 1200 mile length of the Canada-Alaska coastline.
She is currently a full-time athlete with the British Para-Cycling Team and won Gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympics to add to her Silver from London 2012.
We extend a very warm invitation to join us at Box Hill School to share Karen's remarkable journey.

TICKETS £6 (including refreshment)
BOOK ONLINE www.boxhillschool.com/events OR CALL 01372 373382

National Trust

PLANTS IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

An exhibition of botanical photograms
by scientist and artist, Jan Ramscar*

The Fox Talbot Museum
at Lacock Abbey
18th March – 18th June
10.30 am – 5.30 pm

Jan Ramscar's photograms are created without the use of a camera. By shining light through plants and seeds onto photographic paper, Jan creates vivid and intricate images that are wholly unique and magnify some of the smallest elements of the natural world to a size where they can truly be appreciated.

* Jan Ramscar lives in Holmbury St Mary and worked as a biology teacher at Box Hill School from 2000 until her retirement in 2008.

AGE Mole Valley Concern

If you are over 55 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can use Age Concern's free computer courses based in either Dorking or Leatherhead.

The course runs once a week for 6-8 weeks with the option of additional weeks to reinforce and build on what you have learned. Topics covered will include: browsing on the internet, basic keyboard and mouse skills, using an iPad/tablet, setting up and using your own email or Skype accounts and how to shop on the internet as well.

Those who already own a laptop or an iPad/tablet are encouraged to bring that to learn on, but computers will be provided as well – it's up to you.

Before coming to the course, you must register your interest by telephoning 07442 017169 / 01306 899104 or via info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1111678

St Michael's School

Spring Fête

Saturday
20th May
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come and join
the fun at
School Lane,
Mickleham

More details
to follow
next month

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One small step for man, one giant leap for St Michael's...

After a welcome break over half term, the arrival of spring term heralded a new theme for us at St Michael's: all things space!

The topic was inspired by the *Everyone Loves Underpants* book, part of a popular series about aliens which featured in this month's World Book Day.

Marked in more than 100 countries across the globe, World Book Day is a celebration of books and reading. The main aim of the day is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own. All children at St Michael's

received a book token enabling them to choose their own book to enjoy at home. Establishing a love of books and reading is something we strongly encourage at the nursery, with story time every day and our own library for the children to use.

Back in the realms of space, we converted our gingerbread house in to Mission Control, enabling the children to take control of the many rockets and spaceships orbiting Mickleham, and to talk to their fellow astronauts who were landing and walking on the moon - AKA our garden!

They say one's man rubbish (or, in this case, recycling) is another man's treasure and that was certainly true as we relieved our parents of lots of cardboard boxes, tubes, yoghurt pots, bubble wrap and foil. The children put these to good use, transforming them into all manner of rockets in our junk modelling sessions; they also loved

manipulative play time which saw them experiment with monsters and aliens in soap flakes! Of course, reading time also had a space and alien theme with *Man on the Moon* by Simon Bartram, being a firm favourite.

Away from the planets, we have been adding to our forest school area over the last few weeks. Our recent mum's pamper night and last year's Mootilda events provided funds for the purchase of a large fire-retardant shelter which, given the recent wet (and occasionally snowy) weather, has made a huge difference to the children and staff during their sessions outside. We also have a new wood store and are looking at kettles, tripods and fire pits to complete the area. Our second group of children are now enjoying their time in the forest school, learning and playing in the woodland and discovering more about the natural world around them.

Debbie Turner

Photographs: The Nursery



Mission Control



A budding rocket scientist

A new baby in the family?
 Our Scandinavian-style wooden convertible high chair and Mothercare wooden cot with mattress and sheets are no longer needed. No charge but a contribution to the Westhumble Chapel Fund would be appreciated. Contact 01306 886658. New owner collects from Westhumble.



REMEMBER!
 Will Dennis is abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in aid of local charities on 2nd April. Donations to: www.virginmoneygiving.com/WillDennis Help make this a whole parish outreach.



Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close

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Mickleham & Westhumble Youth Group



**School years 7-9 for 11-to 14-year olds
on alternate Friday evenings
during term time
21st April, 5th & 19th May
7.15 - 8.30 pm
Mickleham Village Hall**

**For more information contact
Jonathan or Sarah Blake 0778 7126 966**

An opportunity to meet up with friends and join us for games & fun!

Tuesday Toddles

A new friendly group in Mickleham for kids aged 0-5 years to play along side their Childminder or Registered Nanny
Mickleham Village Hall

Every Tuesday. Term time only 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.

For more information please contact:
Natalie 07790 318 653 or ask to join our closed Facebook group for Tuesday Toddles for regular updates.

Next term of Bugs: 18th April - 11th July

Mondays: 11am and 1.30 pm
Tuesdays: 10am, 11am and 1.30pm
Session length: 45 minutes
For more info or to register contact:
learningboxhill@nationaltrust.org.uk



Lost: Colin's Band of Gold
Wanted, a metal detectorist to search my garden or a relatively small area of the Westhumble Field for my wedding ring. Reward offered.
Please contact Colin Solman on: 07999 124812



BRAIN TEASER answer: FORGOTTEN HEROES

Making the most of the outdoors

Several studies recently have pointed to a decline in the amount of time children spend outside. On average, youngsters today spend half the time their parents did playing out of doors. Most of the parents questioned said their children have fewer opportunities for outside play than they did when they were young.

The research found, on average, children were playing outside for just over four hours a week, compared to 8.2 hours a week when the adults questioned were young. The poll also found children spent twice as long playing on screens as playing outside. Our sedentary lifestyle is of great concern for our well-being, weight control and making healthy lifestyle decisions.

At St Michael's we are very lucky to have beautiful surroundings for pupils to enjoy and benefit from. Nestled between the River Mole and Box Hill, at playtimes and lunchtimes, the children enjoy the idyllic surroundings; beautiful scenery and open space, including the recently renewed 'rec' for after school sessions. Much of our surroundings provide a rich learning environment. For example, the paths and hedgerows around the village are excellent for investigating the signs of the different seasons. This makes for a unique experience which is difficult to recreate in a built-up area or town.

Our outdoor facilities include a greenhouse and vegetable boxes, a reading circle, dedicated outdoor

learning spaces for Year R and Year 1 and a wonderful forest area at the back of the school which Geoff Knight has kindly allowed the school to use.

We are always trying to maximise the time that children spend learning outside the classroom through all the age groups. In their first year at St Michael's they have their own dedicated outdoor area. Opportunities for independent learning and learning through play are organised both inside and in the school grounds; children can make their own choice whether they want to learn indoors or outdoors (called 'free flow' by the teaching professionals). We always encourage the children to go out whatever the weather – rain, snow or shine!

Active play is essential to children's health and development. Academic research shows that active play is the natural and primary way that children learn. Outdoors they can have the freedom to explore in different ways and feel less controlled by the confines of the classroom. It is essential to their healthy growth and progress, particularly during periods of rapid brain development.

Hilary and the St Michael's Nursery team have been particularly helpful in delivering a series of Forest School sessions for our Reception class and those new to the school. We will be extending our 'Forest Adventures' sessions for Years 1 and 2 when they will have opportunities to take part in



St Michael's School

www.stmichaels-dorking.surrey.sch.uk

den building, team building exercises and fire making.

This year we have been incorporating many elements of our 'indoor' curriculum with opportunities to learn outside. After reading the *Stick Man* story, Year R helped sort twigs into various sizes and made their own stick man. Year 1 children enjoyed reading the book *Rainbow Fish* and spent time finding ways to sort leaves to make their own fish collage. We have seen that such activities promote independence and increase motivation and confidence.

We are planning exciting outdoor learning opportunities across the curriculum in the coming months ranging from Andy Goldsworthy-style art using natural materials to identifying living things and making bug 'hotels' in science.

We think that providing many opportunities to learn outside will help our precious children grow up to be successful, well rounded and happy adults.

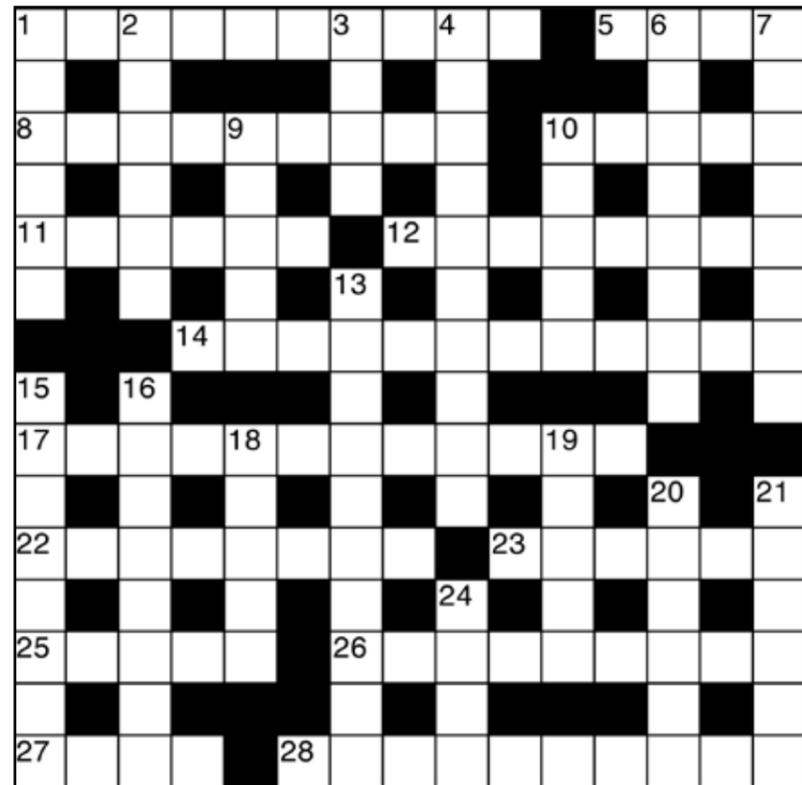
Jeremy Smith

Photographs: St Michael's School



From left: Mr Smith in the story circle; sorting sticks; fire lighting

Cryptic Crossword

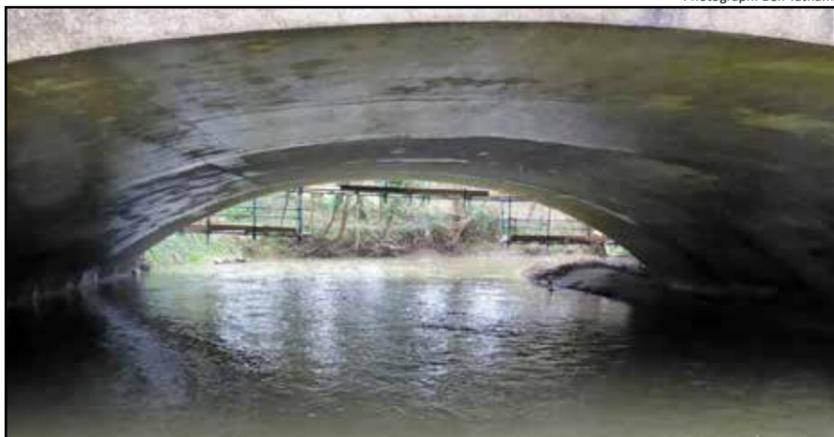


Across

- 1 A mobile ban? Terrible! (10)
- 5 Some hairy etiquette may follow one in the Himalayas (4)
- 8 Parallels of varying altitudes (9)
- 10 Some arts degrees are in the sink (5)
- 11 Groups of bees gather around Violet and call for drinks? (6)
- 12 Big suitcases? Eight is too many! Cut down (8)
- 14 Didn't revise enough, but still got the job? (12)
- 17 Fearless author tested to destruction (5-8)
- 22 Janine's car got slimed in France. What did it? (8)
- 23 In which a stag has turned out speechless? (6)
- 25 Even zero zero speed indicates a certain amount of energy (5)
- 26 Humiliation in the cellar (9)
- 27 In a garden you may find refuse (4)
- 28 Emphatic or possibly figurative (10)

Down

- 1 Basil faulty makes it up with daughter? (2,4)
- 2 A so-so range (6)
- 3 Help with article about an opera (4)
- 4 Later sorts out the final option (4,6)
- 6 European Community still euphoric (8)
- 7 Suggestion makes union end strangely? (8)
- 9 Large plant, northern, made of wood, and the Mekon (5)
- 10 African group hostile to unions? (5)
- 13 Create, redo, rebuild (10)
- 15 A drug that can travel through space (8)
- 16 Workers in the carriage trade, or teachers? (8)
- 18 Pocket flashlight or cheap lamp part (5)
- 19 Beagles are endlessly under par (5)
- 20 Rush into a choice of job (bad advice) (6)
- 21 Stationary radio noise? (6)
- 24 Festival including a lavish banquet (4)



Photograph: Ben Tatham

View of a full River Mole flowing under Burford Bridge showing scaffolding used during recent bridge repairs and repointing of the brickwork. Taken from the Burford Meadow side.

ANSWERS TO MARCH CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Collywobblers 9 Afterglow 10 Dupes
- 11 Punish 12 Glowered 13 Detail
- 15 Repartee 18 Checkers 19 At last
- 21 Scantest 23 Scathe 26 Omega
- 27 Absconded 28 Elvis Presley

Down

- 1 Clapped 2 Let on 3 Yardstick
- 4 Oslo 5 Bewilder 6 Endow 7 Residue
- 8 Operetta 14 Teenager 16 Artichoke
- 17 Frascati 18 Custody 20 Tuesday
- 22 Trail 24 Tidal 25 A.S.A.P.

RR-M



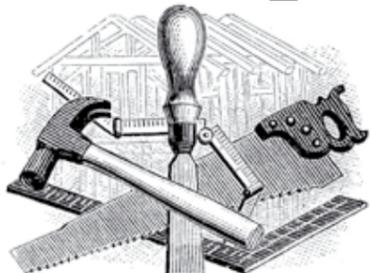
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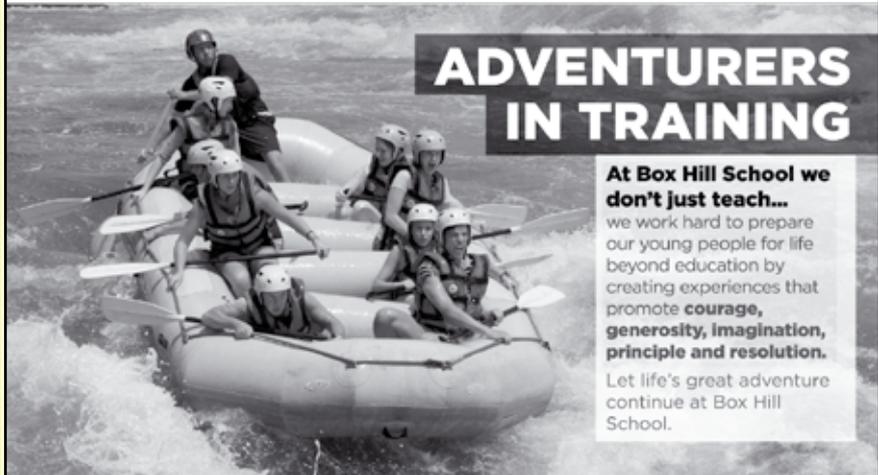
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