

# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

April 2025



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# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

April 2025

Mickleham Rectory

## Mickleham Parish Magazine

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

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

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Hi friends

Recently I have reread words possibly written by King Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes. This text may be over 2,500 years old and is a reflection on the meaning of life. There is a well-known passage that begins 'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun'. At a practical level that is true. Some of our tasks are seasonal, for example spring cleaning or work in the garden. It may also seem true when we look back in history; a time for war and a time for peace, a time for sorrow and a time for joy and how we long and pray for a time of peace with justice for Ukraine. I read too of the seasons or ages of man, which someone described as *Spills (infancy)*, *Drills (school days)*, *Thrills (late teens/early adulthood)*, *Bills (adults with their own homes and maybe children)*, *Ills (later middle age when health problems start)*, *Pills (when there is one for arthritis, blood pressure, cholesterol etc.)*, *Wills (later old age)*. Different ages have their joys and struggles, which we accept with varying degrees of grace. The writer of Ecclesiastes concludes that no matter what the time or season, we cannot find meaning and purpose without God as without him life seems meaningless. He describes how the wealth we work so hard for can be squandered easily, so accumulating wealth for wealth's sake is pointless because you don't have time to enjoy it, and it will not benefit you in the long run. Neither pleasure, nor work nor wealth alone will satisfy us.

The writer notes that life can seem unfair particularly when the wicked prosper or at least only suffer as much as anyone else. He suggests though, we should enjoy what we can of our lives because life is a gift of God, to be valued and treasured in all the ups and downs. We cannot expect that God will protect the good from hard knocks, but he has given things for all to enjoy. God can give meaning and purpose to work, wealth, leisure, life and pleasure.

The Christian faith teaches us that Easter is our source of hope and purpose for this life and gives us assurance of what is to come. As we approach Easter, we can reflect on what it means to have the life to the full that Jesus promised us and died to offer to us. The defeat of evil and death give me hope and knowing that God loves, accepts, and forgives me, helps me enjoy all God gives and share his love with others. On Good Friday we remember that there was a time for the Son of God to die and on Easter Sunday rise to new life. Why not come to our Easter services to explore whether now is the time to discover more about Jesus, his death and resurrection and how faith gives meaning and purpose to life.

Happy Easter!

*Sandra*

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

St Michael's Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11.30 am at St Michael's

Copies of the reports and accounts will be available in church two weeks beforehand. Come along to hear what has been achieved in the past year and to show your support for the work of the PCC.



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## St Michael's Church Services

10 am Sunday Services available on Zoom

Joining information for both Zoom and telephone users is available in Pews News Online each week. If you would like to join us by Zoom then contact Alison Wood for the codes or to ask her to include you on the emailing list for Pews News: [admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk) / phone 01372 376443. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for worship. Please refer to Pews News Online for the latest information. If you missed any of the services or would like to revisit them all are available on the church YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCI4pbewCT91iZhcd0EjBlw>



## Tea and Cake at St Michael's Church

On the last Sunday of the month starting **27<sup>th</sup> April** 3pm-5pm



## Easter Egg Hunt

See page 25 for full details.

## Easter Lilies



Mentioned many times in the Bible, the white lily symbolises purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus. This Easter the church will once again be decorated with lilies given in memory of loved ones. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of a lily and have the name of someone special read out during the service then please contact Alison Wood at [admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk) or call on 01372 376443 by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

## Bible Study Groups and Lent Courses

There is a 5/6 week course during Lent for anyone that would like to come along and experience our Fellowship groups. You do not need to know much about the Bible and no one is asked awkward questions. Our groups are supportive and welcoming. All are welcome.

### Monday Evening Group

This continues until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April



inclusive from 7.30 - 8.45 pm held at John and Mary Banfield's home, Garden Corner, Mickleham. For more details contact Amanda Wadsworth at

[aewadsworth@hotmail.com](mailto:aewadsworth@hotmail.com) or John Banfield on 01372 373912.

### Thursday Morning Group

This daytime course continues until Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April inclusive from 11 am for 11.30 start - 12.30 pm at Westhumble Chapel. For more details contact Alison Wood at [admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk) or telephone 01372 376443.



## St Michael's Church Community Group

News of the group's upcoming events provided by Kelvin Pritchard

## Foodbank Update Thank You for Your Support!

As many of you know, the gap between the need for food and the donations received continues to grow. That is why I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated and continues to do so. You are amazing, and the difference you make is enormous.

I also know that many of you wonder what items are needed most each week. Here are three easy ways to stay informed:

1. WhatsApp Group – I send out a weekly update with the list of needed items.
2. Pews News – Alison includes the list in the church's weekly newsletter.
3. BankTheFood App – Download the app ([www.BanktheFood.org/downloadapp](http://www.BanktheFood.org/downloadapp)), set Dorking as your home foodbank to see an updated list of what is needed.

Your generosity is making a real impact. Thank you so much for being part of this vital effort.



## New Website Launch

Exciting news! We have started to roll out a brand-new website for our church called [Mickleham.church](http://Mickleham.church). It is still in the early stages, and we'll be adding more features and fine-tuning things in the coming months.

In this first phase we have introduced a calendar of events, including Lent Lunches, where you can register your attendance and subscribe to events. This feature allows you to receive reminders and easily add events to your phone, PC, or tablet calendar.

Give it a try and look out for more updates in the coming weeks.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Cassandra Charles-Bagott for her incredible effort, dedication, and patience in creating this website. Her hard work is truly appreciated.



Social gatherings open to everyone

## Men's and Women's Saturday Breakfasts

9-10 am at The Stepping Stones pub

### WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
NEXT BREAKFAST  
19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Book with: Stephanie Randall  
[srandall55@gmail.com](mailto:srandall55@gmail.com)

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
NEXT BREAKFAST  
26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Book with: Andy Diamond  
new email [adiamond714@gmail.com](mailto:adiamond714@gmail.com)



First Saturday of the month

## Coffee Morning Westhumble Chapel

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Come along between 10 am and noon  
Coffee and cake £2 Free drinks for children

Everyone welcome  
For further information call Jonathan Blake 07787 126966



## Tea @ 3

### No Tea@3 in April (Easter Monday)

### Next Tea Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May

If you can help with future events, please contact Julia at [siberrman@btinternet.com](mailto:siberrman@btinternet.com)

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## Lent Lunches - Find Details on Our New Website



You have probably heard of Lent, the forty days (technically forty-six, since Sundays don't count) between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but what is Lent really about? For me, it is a time of introspection, pausing, and resetting, stepping away from our usual routines to reflect.

What better way to pause than by sharing a delicious homemade soup with friends, both old and new? Join us for one of the two remaining Lent Lunches. There will be an opportunity to donate (by cash or card), with all proceeds supporting local charities.

To ensure we have enough soup for everyone, please let Andy Diamond know that you are coming. You can call or text 07789 775 354, email [adiamond714@gmail.com](mailto:adiamond714@gmail.com), or register on our new church website.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mickleham Village Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April. Arrive at 12.45 pm with food served at 1 pm.

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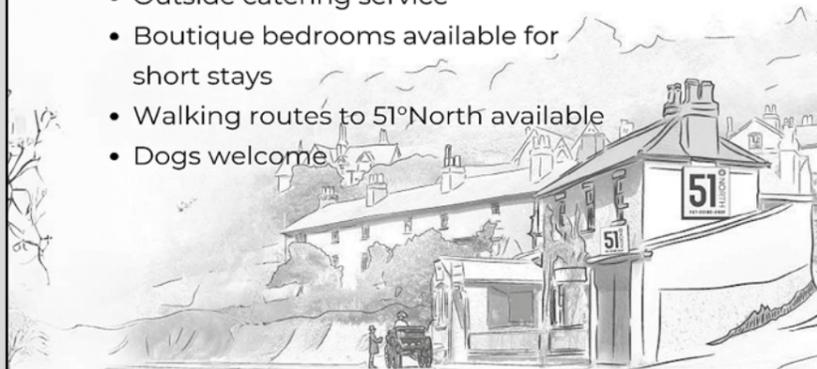
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**Church Quiet Afternoon**

1 – 4.45 pm Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Led by Rev. Camilla White at The Dell Centre, St. Giles Church Ashtead



This event is open to all in our community. The Dell Centre is set in beautiful grounds, of which we are welcome to make use. Just to be clear, this is not a discussion group, and no-one will be asked for any input or put on the spot.

Traditionally people have met God in silence. Jesus himself often took 'time out' to be with his Father. A Quiet Day offers us the chance to encounter God in a deeper way than is not often possible in the busyness of our everyday lives. There will be two talks by the Reverend Camilla White who is leading our day and plenty of time for our own reflection and prayer. Camilla will also make suggestions as to how we might engage with silence and use our time. She will be available should you wish to talk to her during the afternoon. If you have never been to a Quiet Day before this should be a gentle introduction.

We will be encouraged to walk around the grounds and use the prayer room, so those that find keeping still and silent

difficult will have a chance to walk and enjoy the surroundings. There will be tea and cakes served during a break in the afternoon. Parking is available and car shares can be arranged.

We hope that it will be a very relaxing day, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We meet in an oasis of quiet enabling us to reflect on Jesus and our faith.

Numbers are limited so please contact Amanda Wadsworth by email on [aewadsworth@hotmail.com](mailto:aewadsworth@hotmail.com) as soon as possible if you would like to come. The cost is £10 per person.

Here are comments from attendees of our previous Quiet events:

'A great opportunity in a very peaceful and lovely place, to think beyond the immediate and the day-to-day.'

'A wonderful time, in a calm environment, gently challenged by a spiritual leader, to reflect on my faith.'

'I left feeling relaxed and refreshed in body and mind as if I'd been on holiday for the afternoon.'

'An interesting time together in a peaceful setting. The gardens are delightful.'

Amanda Wadsworth

**EVENING CONCERT**  
7PM, SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2025  
ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MICKLEHAM

**SURREY TRIO**  
AMY NG, CLARINET  
DAVID WONG, CELLO  
NGAI-YI MOK, PIANO

*Programme*  
Fauré Trio in D minor, Op.120  
Brahms Trio in A minor, Op.114

SurreyTrio@gmx.co.uk  
<https://about.me/SurreyTrio>

Children from St Michael's School will be singing at the Lent Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Details on page 3.  
One not to be missed.

Spring Concerts at Dorking Halls  
Mickleham Choral Society will be part of the choir on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> April.  
Programme includes Will Todd's Passion Music and Jazz Missa Brevis.  
Tickets still available.  
Please come and support the MCS.

# Eco Group and Hedge-laying

The ancient art of hedge-laying was originally devised by farmers for thickening up hedges and thereby making them stockproof. An added benefit was that hedges so treated became much more useful for wildlife, rejuvenating the hedge and providing much needed dense shelter for birds, small mammals and insects. Over three Wednesday mornings in February

and March an intrepid team of Surrey hedge-layers, led by Ollie Watt, got to work laying the eastern hedge in the Mickleham churchyard. I say intrepid to illustrate their hardy nature, contending with sub-zero temperatures in the early morning, some torrential rain at times and the vicious thorns of hawthorn and blackthorn. By the end of the task, sixty-two metres had been artistically

shaped by this ancient country craft. At the start the hedge-layers were faced with a hedge that was planted ten years ago (known as a maiden hedge) that had been allowed to grow out to about ten feet tall, which gives them enough height to work with. They are always looking for new hedges to lay. Contact [davidkennington144@gmail.com](mailto:davidkennington144@gmail.com) for details.



First, the stems, known as pleachers, are partially cut through on the diagonal and then bent over at an angle of 33 degrees, the excess is sawn away leaving the cut scar visible, but crucially leaving a section of the stem intact and still connected to the root. This allows dense vertical shoots to spring up and reform the hedge.



Excess branches are cut away and then stakes are driven down vertically through the hedge using the beadle. This is usually a suitable piece of large hazel connected to a smaller branch. As Ollie is demonstrating this is, in effect, a natural sledgehammer.

It is important to get the hedge to a manageable height, which is usually about three feet. Ollie demonstrates with his special measuring stick (far left), a hazel wand shaped naturally by the stem of wild clematis (Old Man's Beard).

The enlargement (left) shows the remarkable spiralling produced in the wood of the hazel by the clematis.



Now the binders, which are freshly cut and pliable hazel coppice about ten feet long, can be woven continuously between the stakes to bind the hedge together.



Once the process is complete, the stakes are all sawn to the same height and tipped at forty-five degrees and the binders are beaten down with the beadle to knit tightly and hold the hedge in place.

The team take a well-earned break. The cut hedge excess in the foreground has to be cleared away.

## Eco Changes to Church Heating

Last year we achieved a silver award under the Church Eco-Audit Scheme. One of the areas where we fell short of gold was our energy use/carbon footprint. Our gas boiler has some years of life left before we can change to renewable electric heating. Therefore, our interim approach is to 'Heat the People... Not the Space', which was highly recommended in our Energy Audit.

Before next winter we intend to install heated pew cushions and kneelers. These will be powered by renewable electricity. Heating will be controlled by an inductive wireless system, linked to the church Wi-Fi, and as soon as your posterior hits the cushion, its heating

will operate. Background heating, protecting the organ and piano etc. will continue, but additional heat for Sunday services will be provided only where people sit, and started only as your bottom imparts pressure on the seat. The heated kneelers will be activated by movement and pressure sensors. They can be kept on your knee or wherever needed. Think of it as a hot water bottle.

Currently, the gas boiler is boosted in the early morning so that the whole volume of the church is 'at temperature' by 8.45 am, and all that for just an hour-long service. 'Heat the People' will hugely benefit our carbon footprint.

All of this will be phased in. It would be counter-intuitive to provide this local heating to the back of the church first. So, for Year 1, some vacations of 'your usual seats' will have to take place to the area forward of the cross aisle.

The cushion heating will be sensitive to the weight applied, so that if two people sit together on the 1.3m cushion-heater, more heat will be supplied, up to a sensible maximum. We do not wish to roast the congregation! Further, in accordance with church GDPR policy, weights of individuals will not be recorded.

Next year, we will be installing a drone system for collection of in-church plate giving.

Ralf Polio

**Save the date: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10 am**  
 A special Worship for All service to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day with a picnic afterwards (from 11.30 am) in the Rectory Garden. More details in the May magazine and on the church website.

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## Maggie's Surrey Cycle Challenge

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May starting from Box Hill School at 7.30 am



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care

You are warmly invited to take part in Maggie's Surrey Cycle Challenge, a fantastic cycling event that starts and finishes at Box Hill School.

Maggie's provides invaluable practical, emotional, and psychological support to people affected by cancer. By taking part, you'll be making a real difference. Last year's event raised £30,000.

With plenty of fuelling snacks at rest stops, all routes will also include a stop at Maggie's at The Royal Marsden for lunch, refreshments and encouragement along the way.

This is a wonderful opportunity to ride through the stunning Surrey countryside while supporting a truly meaningful

cause. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome to join one of three scenic routes:

- 🚲 28 miles – Ideal for beginners and families (ages 13+ with an accompanying adult)
- 🚲 50 miles – A great challenge with breathtaking views (ages 16+ with an accompanying adult)
- 🚲 75 miles – For those ready to conquer Surrey's finest cycling terrain (ages 18+)

You are also invited to cheer on the finishing cyclists on Box Hill School front lawn.

Register at [bit.ly/surreycycle25](http://bit.ly/surreycycle25)

For any questions, feel free to contact:  
Claudia at Maggie's  
[claudia.sandu@maggies.org](mailto:claudia.sandu@maggies.org)  
Daniella at Box Hill School  
[marketing@boxhillschool.com](mailto:marketing@boxhillschool.com)



WE ARE SUPPORTING THE SURREY CYCLE CHALLENGE  
Sunday 4 May

Will Dennis is putting together a Mickleham/Westhumble village team for this event. If you would like to join it, contact him on:  
[will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk](mailto:will@micklehamhallfarm.co.uk)

## Move it or Lose it with Kimberley

Fun and friendly fitness for the over-sixties

New class at Mickleham Village Hall

Wednesdays 12 to 1 pm

Contact Kimberley Weston 07766 118 420



Kimberley says, "Move it or Lose it classes use a selection of exercises to build your strength and balance. They are a great way to improve your fitness levels so you can continue to do the things you love."

By attending regular exercise classes, you can increase your physical activity

and meet new people. Our classes are for people who want to stay flexible and improve their strength and balance to reduce their risk of falls.

Our unique programme features chair-based exercises and standing exercises, so everyone is welcome. They are great fun and can improve your energy levels too. So, if you've been searching for over-sixties exercise classes near you, you've come to the right place!

Move it or Lose it keep fit classes have been developed by experts in ageing research to help you to improve your flexibility, aerobic health, balance and strength for greater independence. "The Move it or Lose it programme of exercises are scientifically proven to improve strength, leading to better balance to reduce falls risk." (Professor Janet Lord, Director of the Centre for Healthy Ageing Research at University of Birmingham).

## Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The council itself does not have all the details at present but they are keeping up-to-date the news they do have at:

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/lgr](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/lgr) for FAQs and videos explaining the LGR process, key timelines and outcomes.

Or email [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk)

Or telephone 03456 009 009 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays.

# Bewitched! Hemiparasitic Plants

This month we are discussing a subject that is very dear to (at least one of) our hearts: hemiparasitic plants. You might think you wouldn't want to grow parasitic plants in your garden, but who would refuse a bit of mistletoe in a tree or yellow rattle in a meadow?

Hemiparasites are green plants that grow on other plants, but unlike climbers such as ivy or clematis, they penetrate the host's transport system and extract water and nutrients from them. They have the green pigment chlorophyll, which is used to make energy, namely sugars from carbon dioxide, water and sunshine.

However, their chlorophyll is often in low concentrations, meaning that the hemiparasite will need to get additional sugars from a host.

Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is a hemiparasite with which most of us are familiar. You may have noticed the rather heavy infestation of the trees on the Zig Zag Road going up Box Hill. They give a lovely show of light green leaves to cheer us in the winter and, later in the year, birds enjoy eating the white berries.



A heavy mistletoe infestation

In Roman times, mistletoe was hung over doorways to protect the home and bring peace, love and understanding. During the festival of Saturnalia, held roughly around our Christmas time, mistletoe was used for decoration and probably as an excuse for kissing, as it is today.



Mistletoe inserting into the host branch

One of mistletoe's favoured host trees is the apple, but it also grows well on other species like whitebeam and hawthorn. To grow your own, collect a few berries from wild plants or Christmas sprigs and strip off most of the sticky white part of the fruit to leave the dark coloured seed. Cut a small nick in the bark of an apple tree and insert the seed. Make several different insertions as not all will take. Once established, leave only one or two successful seedlings as too many may damage or kill your tree.

Another hemiparasite that many of us are familiar with is yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). There is usually a lovely display of these in the summer wildflower meadow at RHS Garden Wisley. Their name comes from their bright yellow flowers and the rattle of



Yellow rattle

their ripe seed pods when the wind blows through them.

Yellow rattle attaches to grass roots with specialised organs called haustoria. Like mistletoe, it draws water and nutrients from the host grasses, making their growth less vigorous. This helps other wildflowers to establish themselves rather than being outcompeted by grasses. To grow yellow rattle on a meadow or lawn, wait until around September when the other flowers have seeded. Yellow rattle will not grow without a host so must be sown into a grassy area, not a border. Cut the grass very low, expose some soil and sow the seeds at the rate of about 1g to a square metre (or more if the grass is very dense), pressing them into the soil. Some suppliers recommend sowing just yellow rattle in the first year, and then a general wildflower mix the following year when the grasses are not so robust.



Witchweed in Africa

Finally, a quick explanation of the main title. *Striga hermonthica* is another hemiparasite and it attaches to the roots of crops like sorghum and maize in Africa. Its common name is witchweed because farmers knew that if they saw it in their crops, their yield would be reduced or completely destroyed. They believed that their crops had been bewitched. Its pretty flowers are at odds with its catastrophic nature; witchweed is considered one of the most destructive pathogens in Africa.

Janet Barker and Sue Willis



The wood and chippings

You might be wondering what our latest event was all about. If so, please read on about a very interesting local visit.

Felton Farm is situated in Brockham. It has been in the family for forty-five years. In the last twenty years, Alex Brodie along with his son have been researching and building a new business.

He received a green bank loan and purchased machinery from a Welsh farmer who had developed the biochar system. The installed machinery was

# GS Visit To Brodie Biomass



The pyrolysis unit



Biochar

operating at 80% capacity by 2024 and has now reached 100%.

It uses wood and chippings from local tree surgeons, which get fed into a machine, where a number of processes take place. In the central part of the process, the chippings heat up to 800°C in a process called pyrolysis. The resultant emissions are minimal. The processed material finally reaches a state called biochar. The product is then mixed with normal farm compost to create a highly rich soil because it binds nutrients,

which makes for a dense compost or fertilizer. Details about the process and purchasing this compost can be found on [www.brodiebiomass.co.uk](http://www.brodiebiomass.co.uk) or [www.soilfixer.co.uk](http://www.soilfixer.co.uk)

Susie Gowenlock

Our next two Garden Shed events at **The Stepping Stones Pub**

See our website for details  
[www.gardenshedclub](http://www.gardenshedclub)  
Pauline Davis 07759 646 353  
[paulinedavis33@icloud.com](mailto:paulinedavis33@icloud.com)

Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society  
[www.mwhortsoc.org](http://www.mwhortsoc.org)

## SPRING SHOW



Coffee Morning, Plant Sale & AGM  
**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**  
Mickleham Village Hall

Bring your exhibits between 9 and 9.45  
Show starts 10.30 the AGM at 11.15  
Full schedule and entry form on page 23

## The Magic of Houseplants with Sarah Foss

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 7.30 pm**  
Tickets £6 on the door - no need to book

## Flower Arranging a demonstration by Fiona Bliss

with the opportunity to buy one of the displays  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm**  
Tickets £8 on the door  
Limited Places - **Booking Essential**

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Dear Friends & Neighbours

As we enter April we look forward to more sunny days, our spring menu, and of course celebrating Easter with family and friends. Our bar is gearing up with the ever-popular Pimm's and Aperol Spritz. Did you know, the origin of the latter is Padua, Northern Italy, 40 km west of Venice?

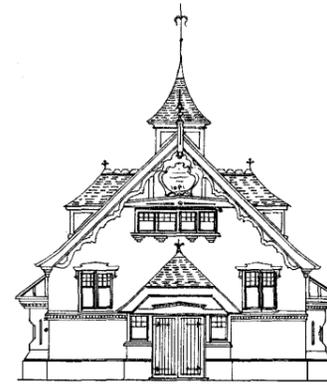
Facts like this could be handy for our annual Fundraiser Quiz for Mickleham Playground and Nursery on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Keep the date free.

We'll have some music events over the summer. Do keep an eye out here, or on our Facebook and Instagram accounts for more details.

See you in the sunshine, Anne, Eamonn & Kat

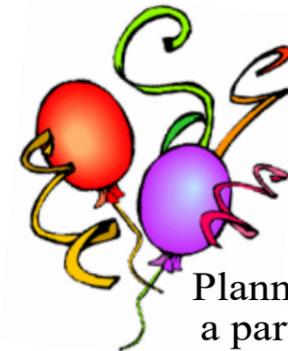
Byttom Hill Mickleham 01372 372590

[www.thekingwilliam.com](http://www.thekingwilliam.com)



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[bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk)  
[www.micklehamvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.micklehamvillagehall.org.uk)



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01372 373912

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

**Community Directory**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| BOX HILL AND HEADLEY HEATH (National Trust)  | 01306 888793   |
| Lead Ranger – Meredith Westall (Merry)       | <a href="mailto:meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk">meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk</a><br>07811 088097   |
| Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards     | 01737 842889<br><a href="mailto:lyn@mra.uk.net">lyn@mra.uk.net</a>   |
| BOX HILL SCHOOL                              |  |
| Headmistress – Hayley Robinson               | 01372 374814<br><a href="mailto:reception@boxhillschool.com">reception@boxhillschool.com</a>   |
| DORKING CRICKET CLUB                         |  |
| Chairman – Andrew Homewood                   | <a href="mailto:homewooda@hotmail.co.uk">homewooda@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS                     |  |
| Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth        | <a href="mailto:patriciabooth100@gmail.com">patriciabooth100@gmail.com</a>   |
| DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB            |  |
| Maddy Halliwell                              | <a href="mailto:madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk">madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk</a>   |
| DORKING RUGBY CLUB                           |  |
| Jim Evans                                    | 07789 176417<br><a href="mailto:jim@flintcottage.net">jim@flintcottage.net</a>   |
| THE GARDEN SHED                              |  |
| Pauline Davis                                | 07759 646353<br><a href="mailto:paulinedavis33@icloud.com">paulinedavis33@icloud.com</a>   |
| JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE                    | 01306 734501   |
|  | <a href="mailto:enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org">enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org</a>   |
| Head of Centre – Sarah Wyper                 | <a href="mailto:s.wyper@field-studies-council.org">s.wyper@field-studies-council.org</a>   |
| Friends of Juniper Hall                      | <a href="http://friendsofjuniperhall.org">friendsofjuniperhall.org</a><br><a href="mailto:friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com">friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com</a> |
| MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION  |  |
| Secretary – Sarah Parfitt                    | 07767 891772<br><a href="mailto:sarah@sarahparfitt.com">sarah@sarahparfitt.com</a>   |
| MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY                     | <a href="http://www.micklehamchoral.org.uk">www.micklehamchoral.org.uk</a>   |
| THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL |  |
| Conductor – Juliet Hornby                    | 01372 373106   |
| Secretary – Mike Benson                      | <a href="mailto:secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk">secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk</a>   |
| MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB     |  |
| Secretary – John Atewell                     | 01372 374745   |
| MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL                     |  |
| SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES                | <a href="http://www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk">www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>   |
| Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland               | 01372 379381<br><a href="mailto:rev.ireland43@btinternet.com">rev.ireland43@btinternet.com</a>   |
| Parish Clerk – Feena Graham                  | <a href="mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com">clerkatmpc@gmail.com</a>   |
| MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE                    |  |
| Co-Editor – Charlotte Daruwalla              | 07933 300744<br><a href="mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk">editor@micklehammag.co.uk</a>   |
| Co-Editor – Jan Budleigh                     | 07780 976301<br><a href="mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk">editor@micklehammag.co.uk</a>   |
| MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL                       |  |
| Chairman – David Kennington                  | 01372 362309<br><a href="mailto:davidkennington144@gmail.com">davidkennington144@gmail.com</a>   |
| Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell            | 07790 941601<br><a href="mailto:bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk">bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk</a>   |

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

*within the United Benefice  
of Leatherhead and Mickleham*

INCUMBENT – The Rev'd Will Perry 01372 372313

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini \* 01372 417664  
07763 488961

parishpriest@micklehamchurch.org.uk

\* Main working days: Monday, Tuesday and Sunday

CHURCHWARDEN

Catherine Diffey 07790 473167

Mickleham@diffey.me.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Vickie Leney 01306 884054

safeguarding@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Alison Wood 01372 376443

admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC SECRETARY

Caroline Jones 07504 271376

pccsecretary@micklehamchurch.org.uk

TREASURER

Richard Siberry 01372 375303

pcctreasurer@micklehamchurch.org.uk

ORGANIST

David Fishwick 0208 7732420

davidfishwick1@btinternet.com

WEDDINGS CO-ORDINATOR

Elaine Machin 01372 724972

weddings@micklehamchurch.org.uk

BAPTISMS CO-ORDINATOR

Vickie Leney 01306 884054

baptisms@micklehamchurch.org.uk

FUNERALS CO-ORDINATOR

Carole Brough Fuller 01737 842918

funerals@micklehamchurch.org.uk

WEBSITE MANAGER

Kelvin Pritchard 07770 280410

website@micklehamchurch.org.uk

PCC ECO GROUP

David Kennington 01372 362309

davidkennington144@gmail.com

[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'

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

1	Tuesday	7 pm 7.30 pm	Compline in church Garden Shed talk at Stepping Stones pub p11
3	Thursday	12.45 pm	Lent Lunch at MVH with St Michael's singing p3
5	Saturday	10 am to noon	Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel p2
6	<b>Fifth SUNDAY of Lent</b>	10 am 11.30 am	Family Service Annual Parochial Church Meeting at church p1
<i>Copy deadline for May magazine</i>			
7	Monday	7.30 - 8.45 pm	Last session of Lent Course, Garden Corner p3
10	Thursday	11 am - 12.30 pm	Last session of Lent Course Westhumble Chapel p3
11	Friday		Deadline for Easter lilies donation p2
		7.30 pm	MCS at Dorking Halls in LHM p5
12	Saturday	10 am to noon	Easter Crafts at Dorking Library led by Museum p25
13	<b>Palm SUNDAY (Holy Week begins)</b>	8 am 10 am	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion
15	Tuesday	7 pm	Compline in church
17	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	12.45 pm 7.30 pm	Lent Lunch in Village Hall Holy Communion
18	<b>Good Friday</b>	2 pm	Service of Reflection
19	Saturday	9 - 10 am 2.30 pm	Women's Breakfast at The Stepping Stones p2 Open Day at Pippbrook Bowls p17
20	<b>SUNDAY Easter Day</b>	10 am	Family Holy Communion followed by Easter Egg hunt in Rectory Garden
26	Saturday	9 - 10 am 10.30 am 2.30 pm	Men's breakfast at the Stepping Stones p2 M&WHS Spring Show and AGM at MVH p11 and 23 Open Day at Pippbrook Bowls p17
27	<b>Second SUNDAY of Easter</b>	8 am 10 am 3 - 5 pm 7 pm	BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel Holy Communion Tea and cake at the church p2 Sunday at Six concert p5



### Dates for your diary

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Maggie's Cycling Challenge 7.30 am VE Day Worship for All Service 10 am Picnic in Rectory Garden 11.30 am
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	GS flower arranging demonstration 7.30 pm
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Mickleham Village Hall AGM 10 am Church Quiet Afternoon 1- 4.45 pm Tea @ 3
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Mickleham Parish Council Meeting then Annual MPC Meeting 7.30 pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	M&WLHG Guided tour of Gatton Park 1.30 pm

### MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Pritchard	Elaine Machin
Mark Day	Tim Mathieson
Andy Diamond	Beverley Mehta
Catherine Diffey	Kelvin Pritchard
Caroline Jones	Richard Siberry
Vickie Leney	Geoff Black

### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

Mark Day	07852 117249
	mickleham@hotmail.com
Denise Darling	denisedarling4@btinternet.com
	07780 673372
Andy Diamond	07789 775354
	adiamond714@gmail.com
Kelvin Pritchard	07770 280410
	Kelvin@wan2lan.com

### ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP HELPING HANDS INCLUDING FOOD FOR FRIENDS

*A service for all residents of Mickleham and Westhumble*

Examples of services we offer:

- Essential shopping/collection of prescriptions
- Changing library books
- Small tasks: eg changing fuses, altering clocks etc
- Dog walking
- Visiting/befriending
- Home-cooked meals for local families going through difficult times

Requests to:

Will Dennis 07903 842674 [wdwdennis@icloud.com](mailto:wdwdennis@icloud.com)  
(who can put requests onto WhatsApp)  
Mary Banfield 01372 373912 [mgbbmw@aol.com](mailto:mgbbmw@aol.com)  
Frances Presley 01306 882473 [jasempres@gmail.com](mailto:jasempres@gmail.com)

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

### Tools With a Mission

List of acceptable donations at [www.twam.co.uk](http://www.twam.co.uk)  
Including agricultural, carpentry, and mechanic's tools,  
sewing machines, haberdashery and IT equipment.  
Contact local authorised collector, Hilda Burden of Brockham  
to discuss donations or arrangements for collection.

[info@hildburden.co.uk](mailto:info@hildburden.co.uk)

# Community Directory

Continued from page 13

MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE BADMINTON CLUB		
Membership Secretary – Sarah Pritchard	tinkerbell0044@hotmail.com	
MICKLEHAM 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 or davidkennington144@gmail.com	
MICKLEHAM AND WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP		
Chairman – Ben Tatham	01306 882547	
	ben@thetatham.co.uk or www.micklehamwesthumblehistory.co.uk	
MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL		
Cllr Chris Budleigh	01306 885001	
	07801 520059	
	councillor.budleigh@molevalley.gov.uk	
Cllr Abhiram Magesh	07765 126399	
	councillor.magesh@molevalley.gov.uk	
Cllr Leah Mursaleen-Plank	07803 353352	
	councillor.mursaleen-plank@molevalley.gov.uk	
THE ARTS SOCIETIES (FORMERLY NADFAS)		
Betchworth – Mary Venning	01306 883301	
Dorking – Sue Tatham	01306 882547	
Leatherhead – Beverley Mehta	01372 374304	
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		
ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY NURSERY		
WEEKDAY MORNINGS – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL		
Supervisor – Hilary Budd	01372 361021	
	stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com	
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL		
Councillor – Hazel Watson	03456 009 009	
	01306 880120	
	hva.watson@btinternet.com	
SURREY WILDLIFE TRUST		
	01483 795440	
	info@surreywt.org.uk	
TREE WARDEN		
David Kennington	07546 952521	
	davidkennington144@gmail.com	
WESTHUMBLE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH		
Lead Co-ordinator – David Allbeury	07860 227451	
	westhumble.neighbourhood.watch@gmail.com	
WHATSAPP GROUP		
Neil MacKay	nlpm@lineone.net	
ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION		
CITIZENS ADVICE		
Dorking – Lyons Court	01306 732302	
Leatherhead – Swan Mews High Street	01306 732301	
CRIMESTOPPERS		
	0800 555 111	
POLICE Non-emergencies		
	101	
<i>(often quicker to make online report) https://report.police.uk/</i>		
Neighbourhood Specialist Team – Dorking Rural East		
General enquiries molevalley@surrey.pnn.police.uk		
NHS Urgent and emergency care		111

## Babysitting by local youngsters

*Those listed below are at least  
14 years old.*

Gracie Owen \*\*07790 900649  
Eva Lanceley \*\*07903 630567  
Ella Parfitt 07746 882175  
Bea Moore \*07444 557958

\* Parent's mobile number

We have recently lost many of our sitters as they move on to higher education or work-life. We wish the best of luck to all of them.

Now is an ideal time to join the list if you were thinking about it. There are fewer people listed so the possibility of more bookings.

*If you would like to add your  
name to this list please get in  
touch with*

editor@micklehammag.co.uk

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## Advertising in the Parish Magazine

Please contact  
**ads@micklehammag.co.uk**  
Small ads: a nominal fee is  
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*We are very grateful to all our  
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this magazine possible.*



## Diana Elizabeth Haigh Fraser 1933 - 2025

Many friends and family members gathered at St Michael's Church on 27<sup>th</sup> February for a service in loving memory of Diana Fraser who died on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Diana was the second daughter of Molly and John Deakin who lived in Cheam, her brother Christopher was born later. By all accounts hers was a happy childhood, despite the war years when her street was bombed. She recalled cycling to school and doing exams as an air-raid started. She often talked about neighbours being killed and their houses demolished. Consequently, the family went to stay with her maternal grandmother in Poppleton, just outside York.

Following the war, Diana went to Sutton High School and at sixteen was packed off to Mrs Hoster's Secretarial Training College on the Cromwell Road in London. A school which son Simon described as 'famous for turning out gels for the establishment'.

She moved into a rented flat in Kinnerton Place South just off Knightsbridge, sharing with two other girls. Life in London clearly agreed with her. Photos from that time show that she was having a fabulous time.

Armed with her shorthand and typing certificates, she began working for Lord Luke, Head of Personnel, in his office at Unilever House on Blackfriars bridge. It was in Unilever House in 1959 that Diana was to have a much more significant meeting. It happened in the lift. She had met a chap called Ian Fraser a few years before at a dance

in Cheam and there he was again. Son Giles commented 'a truly *Sliding Doors* moment. Different lifts and we wouldn't be here today'.

They started going out together. During the ensuing months much of their courtship was by letter as although they both worked for Unilever, Ian, an accountant, spent much of his time in far-flung parts of the UK auditing subsidiaries.

The following year, they married in Abinger on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Ian's birthday, and shortly after moved to Pilgrim's Way, Westhumble. They later moved to The Twinings, the house that was to become their family home for over 45 years.

During the 1960s, Diana's time was primarily spent on bringing up two small energetic boys but come the 1970s when they were packed off to boarding school she became a regular at the Adult Education Centre in Dene Street, Dorking, where she learned upholstery, dressmaking, and other handicrafts. She also took up golf, joining Betchworth Park Golf Club where she became a steady player, helping organise the Ladies' section and regularly winning monthly medals.

In 1972 following her stint as wife of the Chairman of Dorking Urban District Council, Diana became a governor of The Ashcombe School. Ian and Diana were very social, she was a great hostess and cook. They also began playing bridge, which Ian took very seriously.

During the '80s and '90s, they travelled extensively, often with friends. And in



later years, Diana took up painting and became pretty proficient, producing some very good watercolours of animals, flowers and landscapes.

When Ian fell ill with Parkinson's, Diana supported him and tried to make his life easier during his slow decline. It was a very tough ten years for both of them.

Following Ian's death in 2015, Diana moved to an assisted living apartment in Bramley where she enjoyed being part of the community and forming strong friendships with the occupants of the other mews flats.

In recent years she became increasingly frail as her vascular dementia progressed, but she remained cheery and chatty. She was always hungry for news of the family, especially of her five granddaughters and new great-granddaughter. She maintained her sense of humour to the end. Mercifully death came swiftly, a short time after being admitted to hospital

Diana had a long and happy life, shared with a loving family and many friends.

We send our sincere condolences to Giles and Simon and their families.



## Bowls for fresh air and exercise!

Open Days at Pippbrook Bowls Club, next to Pippbrook House

2.30 pm on Saturdays, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May

Join us for one or more afternoons to try this addictive sport, or perhaps you have played before and would like to start again. No experience necessary, and we have a choice of bowls of various sizes to try. Please wear flat shoes or trainers.

For further information and contact details, go to <https://www.pippbrookbowls.co.uk>

We also offer free taster sessions on our Tuesday evening roll-ups at 6 pm, from 29<sup>th</sup> April. These sessions are occasionally cancelled because of club matches, so please check that your chosen roll-up is happening, by calling: David Pettman on 07885 478 911, Rita Worne on 01306 743024, or the number on the club website.

Or, come to the u3a Bowls Group on Friday afternoons from 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

Details and an introductory video at <https://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk/groups/bowls/>

# Mickleham & Westhumble Local History Group

## The History of Newlands Corner

Following our AGM, Trevor Brook, Albury History Society's archivist, gave a highly informative talk about Newlands Corner. He began with a quote from Eric Parker's 1908 book, *Highways & Byways of Surrey*, where the author wrote 'The downs by Newlands Corner, above Albury and Chilworth, are the loveliest spot in Surrey'. The talk focused on the period from the late 1800s to the present day.

In 1890, St Loe Strachey, editor of *The Spectator* (and cousin of Lytton Strachey), moved to Newlands House with his family. St Loe purchased two adjacent acres of land where he built Newlands Corner as a 'Saturday-to-Monday cottage'.

During WW1, the house was turned into a military hospital and convalescent home with an open-air ward. Mrs Strachey was commandant of the local Red Cross and Amabel, the Stracheys' daughter, became a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) nurse at the house.

the hill until the couple escaped in Mr Strachey's car.

In 1925, the Stracheys moved to Harrowhill Copse, a new house designed by Williams-Ellis. Their Newlands Corner house was sold and converted to the Newlands Corner Hotel, complete with colonnade and tea gardens. The area became a popular tourist destination served by local buses and coach tours from London.

The following year, Newlands Corner gained fame both nationally and internationally when Agatha Christie's car was found abandoned there after she mysteriously vanished from her home in Sunningdale. Wild theories about her disappearance were rife and thousands of volunteers joined the search. Although the author was found eleven days later at a hotel in Harrogate, possibly suffering from amnesia, speculation about the case continues.

*Newlands Corner Convalescent Home 1915*



In 1915, Amabel married the architect Clough Williams-Ellis, a lieutenant in the Welsh Guards, now remembered as the creator of Portmeirion village. The wedding took place at St Martha's Church, not far from the Stracheys' home but at the top of a steep hill accessible only on foot. Intrusive press photography is not just a recent phenomenon. After the ceremony, the paparazzi of the day went into action, chasing the bride and groom down

As tourism flourished, special events were organised. Mrs Strachey allowed her fields at Harrowhill to be used for a British Hospitals' Air Pageant which attracted 15,000 visitors. Another air display took place to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935.



*Clough Williams-Ellis & Amabel Strachey Wedding 1915*

At the start of WW2, Harrowhill welcomed eight children (the youngest only five), evacuees from Southfields who stayed for most of the war. Life in the countryside offered freedom to explore, with discoveries such as pillboxes and tank traps as the war progressed, but it could not make up for the absence of home and family. The children's governess, Ella Samuel, and her young son Ralph were Jewish refugees from Dresden. Ralph's father, still in Dresden, was sent to his death in Auschwitz.

Also far from home were the Canadian soldiers camped at Newlands Corner. The evacuees loved visiting the soldiers who gave them chocolate, chewing gum and doughnuts. The Montgomery Memorial on Albury Heath commemorates the day in May 1944 when Field Marshal

*Newlands Corner Hotel*



*Old World Garden Newlands Corner Hotel*

Montgomery addressed 10,000 Canadian troops shortly before the D-Day landings.

After the war, tourists returned to Newlands Corner, served by a changing

selection of tea rooms, cafes and restaurants. The Newlands Corner Hotel is now Guildford Manor, a hotel and spa.

By 2015 half a million people visited Newlands Corner annually. Surrey Wildlife Trust planned to build a new visitor centre, coach park and other attractions, but the proposal provoked massive opposition and most of the plans were shelved.

Judith Long

## Mickleham on the Map – just



*The Great's Tapestry Map of Oxford*



*Detail of map showing Surrey villages including Mickleham*

When my daughter Jenny visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford last summer, she spent some time looking at 'The Great's Tapestry Map of Oxford'. Marvelling at the fine detail of this giant wool and silk wall hanging she noted that it extended south into 'SURIAE' and was surprised to find 'MICKEHAM' along the River Mole just above the bottom border.

In late Tudor England there was an enthusiasm for cartography, when in the 1570s Christopher Saxton set out to map the country. Consequently

in 1590 Ralph Sheldon of Beoley and Weston commissioned a set of four tapestry maps, each focussing on a single county where the family owned an estate: Oxford, Warwick, Worcester and Gloucester. In order to achieve the desired shape the maps often included neighbouring areas. These impressive textiles, when hung on adjacent walls in his new house at Weston (Long Compton, Warwickshire), presented a panoramic view across England from London to Bristol.

As the family was Catholic with Royalist sympathies, their properties were pillaged and ransacked during the Civil War and the tapestries were badly damaged. With the restoration of King Charles II, the confiscated Sheldon lands were returned to the original Ralph's great-grandson, Ralph Sheldon 'the Great' (1623-1684) who commissioned copies of two of the original four tapestries. It is the Great's copy of the Oxfordshire map that is now on display in the Ashmolean.

Sue Tatham

## M&WLHG Guided Tour of Gatton Park

1.30 pm Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

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**'Zig Zag Zip' - New Zip Wire Course Coming to Box Hill**

By summer 2025, the descent from the summit of Box Hill to Ryka's car park could take under sixty seconds.

That's the time it will take a rider using Zippy-Whizz™, a 1km two-lane zip wire course that's due for construction on Box Hill in the next few weeks, according to Paula Woolover.

Ms Woolover is chair of the newly formed Think Out Of The Box Society (TOOTBS) for Westhumble and Mickleham. TOOTBS (WAM) is one of a number of groups receiving a government grant to find innovative ways to revitalise the countryside following the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

The zip wire course is the brainchild of TOOTBS Chief Innovator Dan Osare. Spanish-born Osare has a lifelong need for speed. This, combined with his creative flare and entrepreneurial spirit, means that Osare is in high demand from the TOOTBS groups. 'We were incredibly lucky to get him for WAM,' Woolover said.

Woolover says the development will draw thousands of extra visitors to the area each year and create the equivalent of at least 3.5 full time jobs. 'Imagine the thrill of whizzing down the hillside and through the trees, flying



Artist impression of the zip wire course above the Zig Zag Road Photo: Grahame Larter

Artist: Mae Duppe

high above cars and cyclists and landing in Ryka's car park in time for a nice cup of tea!' she said, raising her teacup like a trophy.

Woolover dismissed the suggestion that Box Hill is already struggling to cope with the influx of cyclists following the 2012 Olympics and the numbers of visitors who discovered the area during the pandemic. 'No room, no room, there's plenty of room,' she said, without further elaboration.

Osare is already planning future phases of the project, including zip wire courses to Dorking railway station ('great for commuters') and to Reigate town

centre ('for speedy shopping trips'). He's also looking into the possibility of using hydraulic pulley systems to return riders back to the summit, ready for their next go!

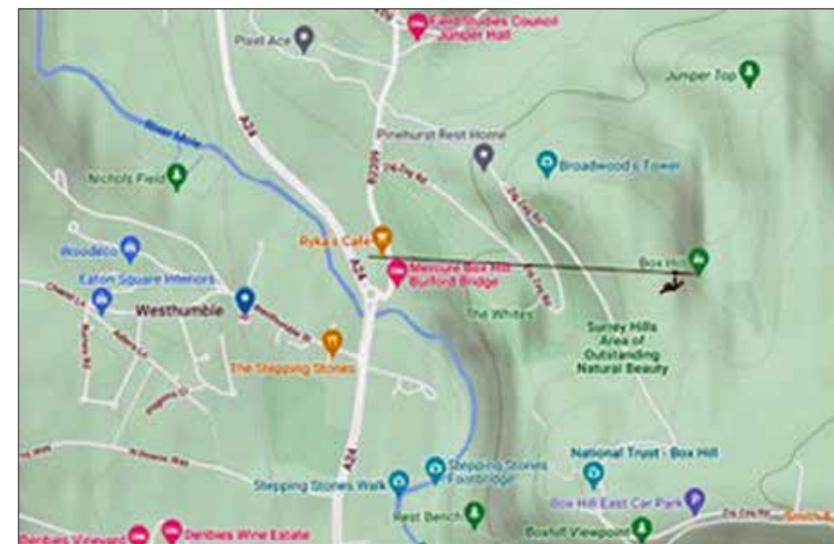
When asked about the planning process, Woolover said that 'the course is of course on course for installation in 2025'. She explained that when she presented the plan at the last meeting of the Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) planning subcommittee, the councillors had been stunned into silence. With no objections raised, Woolover expects building work to be completed before the summer solstice.

All environmental issues will be considered. Measures will be taken to protect roosting bats and birds during the construction phase and riders will be asked to keep screaming to a minimum to preserve the tranquillity of the area.

According to Woolover, construction costs will be met by the government grant, but operational costs must be covered by ticket sales. Ticket prices are not yet finalised, but Woolover confirmed there will be discounted season tickets and concessions for pensioners.

WAM residents can apply for early bird discount vouchers and register as guinea pigs for testing the course by contacting Avril Primavera at TOOTBS (WAM).

Fay Kerr



Proposed route of Zippy-Whizz™ (phase 1)



**Mickleham Village Hall AGM**  
 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10 am in the hall  
 All welcome



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## Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society

### New Membership or Renewal



Thank you to everyone who has already paid the annual subscription of £5 per household. Membership fees enable us to hold our shows in the Village Hall each year and all members are entered into a prize draw at the AGM for garden vouchers of £50. Members are also able to purchase compost and manure at a significant discount. If you have not yet paid, please pay now by online bank transfer to: Account name: Mickleham and Westhumble Horticultural Society

Sort code: 20-23-97  
Account number: 60257931  
Please use your name/house as the reference and email the Membership Secretary, Judith Long when you have paid: [judith.long2@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.long2@btinternet.com)  
We also encourage you to set up a standing order for 2026 and onwards, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. For those unable to pay online, committee members will be going house-to-house to collect cash payments during March and April.

## Spring Show   Plant Sale   AGM

26<sup>th</sup> April 2025   10.30 am to 12 noon   Mickleham Village Hall

### Show Schedule

<p><b>A. Cut Flowers</b></p> <p>1    Narcissus, including daffodils – single head, 3 stems</p> <p>2    Narcissus, including daffodils – multi-head, 3 stems</p> <p>3    Miniature narcissus – 3 stems, same variety or mixed</p> <p>4    Tulips – 3 stems, same variety</p> <p>5    Tulips – 5 stems, mixed varieties</p> <p>6    Any other bulb – 3 stems, same variety</p> <p>7    A small vase of primulas</p> <p>8    Wallflowers – 3 stems</p> <p>9    Pansies – 5 blooms floating on water</p> <p>10   A camellia bloom shown in a glass</p> <p>11   Flowering shrub – 3 stems, same variety</p> <p>12   A vase of decorative foliage</p> <p>13   A vase of mixed garden flowers</p>	<p><b>B. Pot plants</b></p> <p>14   Foliage plant in a pot</p> <p>15   Succulent in a pot</p> <p>16   Flowering plant in a pot</p> <p><b>C. Produce</b></p> <p>17   Seedlings for planting out – 3 seedlings, same variety or mixed, named</p> <p>18   A tomato seedling – named variety</p> <p>19   Rhubarb – 3 sticks</p> <p>20   A spring vegetable – please display on a dinner plate or similar</p> <p>21   Any vegetable – 3 of a kind</p> <p><b>D. Cookery</b></p> <p>22   A Victoria sponge</p> <p>23   A jar of marmalade</p> <p><b>E. Flower Arranging</b></p> <p>24   ‘Spring Sunshine’ – a small jug of spring flowers</p> <p>25   ‘Winter’s Over’ – not more than 15” width, accessories may be used (flowers may be bought)</p>	<p><b>F. Photography</b></p> <p>26   ‘A Winter Scene’</p> <p>27   ‘Wild Spring’</p> <p><b>G. Children’s Classes – please state age (under 16)</b></p> <p>28   Photography: ‘Wild Spring’</p> <p>29   Flower arranging: ‘Spring Sunshine’ – a small jug of spring flowers</p> <p>30   Cooking: 3 Gingerbread Men</p>
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Please submit entry forms to the Show Secretary, Mrs Angela Gilchrist,  
**by 8 pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
Address: Ashleigh Grange, off Chapel Lane, Westhumble – either leave in the mailbox at the end of the lane opposite Chapel Farm or  
Email: [ar.gilchrist@btinternet.com](mailto:ar.gilchrist@btinternet.com)

Please bring entries to Mickleham Village Hall on		Entry form	Submit by 8 pm on Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April		See above	
<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>		Contact details	Section	Class numbers	Section	Class numbers
<b>between 9 am and 9.45 am</b>		Name	A	.....	E	.....
10.30 am: Show opens; Plant Sale; Coffee, Teas, Cake;		Address	B	.....	F	.....
11:15 am-12 noon: AGM including draw for the £50 Garden Voucher.		Phone	C	.....		
			D	.....	G	.....
						(+age)



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## Junk sculpture

Junk modelling is a creative and engaging educational activity that encourages children to use discarded materials or 'junk' to create structures, models, and art. It is particularly valuable in early years education as it fosters imagination, problem-solving, and fine motor skills. Through this process, children are provided with opportunities to explore concepts related to shapes, sizes, textures, and design, all while making use of materials that would otherwise be discarded. So, a fantastic learning experience, which is also very cheap!

Our older children may construct for a purpose. We know when a child has placed value on their creations as they usually want them named and they will take them home. However, creation is a process. Early in a child's learning, creativity is about experimenting with different materials and using differing

techniques. Some children (and quite honestly adults too!) simply enjoy the experience of gluing and sticking. Watching PVA dribble off the end of a glue spreader, even creating a pattern with the runny glue is quite engaging. I'm sure many readers will recall using Copydex in their own childhoods.

Hence one of our very popular junk modelling activities is the 'glue table'. Even our youngest children can participate. At nursery our 'glue table' is a cardboard lined builders tuff spot, PVA glue and access to all sorts of junk. Children add their selected pieces of junk, glue or tape them on, or just dribble glue over what is already there. After a couple of weeks, we end up with a 'sculpture'. This term we painted our sculpture black, we then painted dinosaurs and now our 'sculpture' has turned into a neon Jurassic Park!

Hilary Budd



### Family Activities at Dorking Library

In conjunction with Dorking Library, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10 am to noon, we will be celebrating Easter. Children can use craft materials to make an Easter card. Aimed at 4-11-year-olds, materials are provided free and children must be accompanied.

**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
 In the Rectory Garden  
 Following the 10 am Service  
 St Michael's Church, Mickleham  
 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April

The Museum's popular programme of guided walks starts a new season this month. On the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure. Walks on The Deepdene Trail start in May. In the town centre, the Blue Plaques and Statues Walk tells of some of the famous people who lived or were active in Dorking. See Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided

walk of Hidden Historic Dorking. Our ever-popular Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostels, pubs and inns both past and present.

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance. Details and booking at [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/)

Open Thursdays 1 to 4 pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10 am to 4 pm, free entry.

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Sue Tatham 01306 882547

The Stepping Stones  
Westhumble Street



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

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

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

## Spring at St Michael's School

It is wonderful to see some signs of spring! The arrival of spring often brings a sense of renewal and hope, with blooming flowers, longer days, and warmer weather. It's a great time to enjoy nature, start new projects, or simply take a moment to appreciate the beauty around you. The children are enjoying spending more time outside, especially when it comes to their playtimes and PE sessions. The signs of spring link in with our value for this term, 'thankfulness'. We are thankful for the change in the season and the promise of some sunshine and warmth.

It is always encouraging to see our children making strides in their learning and developing their confidence. Celebrating their progress is a highlight of our week when we have Busy Bee assembly. At the beginning of the year, we talked about the Nurture Room at

St Michael's and how it was going to help the dysregulated children and the whole school community. We are now halfway through the year and we are seeing the benefits that this room has offered. It has been wonderful to see some of the children who found learning tricky in September, now accessing the curriculum and being part of the class, working alongside their peers. Thank you to all the staff, especially Mrs McGinnis, for all your hard-work and commitment into making the Nurture Room successful.

We recognise how vital the bond with our parents is, and it was a delightful experience to welcome them into the school to engage with their children's work. This helps to foster a sense of community and collaboration. This opportunity strengthens the bond between families and the school and



allows children to take pride in their accomplishments and share their learning journeys with their loved ones.

On Shrove Tuesday, the Friends kindly arranged a Pancake Café. This was a delightful experience for the children, as they had the opportunity to share the joy of cooking and enjoying delicious pancakes with their classmates. We are very grateful to the Friends for organising this and for giving their time. The Pancake Café brought everyone together, highlighting the strong, supportive community we share at St Michael's. We truly are fortunate to foster such connections. Judith Moore

## Surrey Hills International Music Festival

Tickets are now on sale for our 2025 season with a wealth of fantastic music. Including superb chamber music, fascinating talks, a solo piano recital, and Baroque brilliance, we're looking forward to bringing a huge variety of amazing music to the Surrey Hills between 6-17<sup>th</sup> May. The full brochure can be found at [www.shimf.co.uk](http://www.shimf.co.uk)

Whether you're a regular at the festival or would like to try out a classical concert, you are most welcome. Join us on a guided walk to take in some of our glorious local countryside ahead of a short lunchtime talk with music on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at West Horsley Place, or for a lunchtime concert on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May in Betchworth with students from the Yehudi Menuhin School. Perhaps enjoy a full evening performance in one of our beautiful venues, St Martin's Dorking (a new venue for us) on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May and the intimate and

atmospheric Menuhin Hall in Cobham Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May.

As ever, we are bringing some inspirational world-class musicians to

perform for you including Alim Beisembayev, winner of the 2021 Leeds International Piano Competition playing the Chopin Preludes amongst other solo piano works; members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre with the Sitkovetsky Trio in a chamber concert of romantic variety; and a concert of Baroque masterpieces featuring two of Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* and the famous *Double Concerto for Two Violins*.

To view all details in our online brochure and book your tickets, visit our website [www.shimf.co.uk](http://www.shimf.co.uk)

Do please get in touch with Festival Manager Tracy Lees at [hello@shimf.co.uk](mailto:hello@shimf.co.uk) if you're interested in becoming more closely involved as a Friend or Volunteer. She would love to hear from you.

Frances Presley





## Easter Strand

This family friendly strand is based on words associated with Easter. Normal rules of a strand puzzle apply. The grid contains several Easter words, which you have to discover, but the letters can switch direction within a word and can go horizontally, vertically or diagonally, backwards or forwards as long as there is a point of contact. Solution next month.

E	N	Y	B	A	K
C	N	U	C	N	E
V	I	E	O	T	A
M	R	H	S	C	P
A	O	N	N	U	R
Y	D	K	S	B	O
E	E	G	C	S	C
L	G	N	T	I	H

## Solution to the March Crossword

ACROSS  
 1 Parakeet 5 Island 10 Digestive  
 11 Opium 12 Lark 13 Striplings  
 15 Disputant 18 Fetes 19 Alamo  
 20 Portended 22 Randomness  
 24 Yobs 27 Bated 28 Spaghetti  
 29 Cedars 30 Tapestry  
 DOWN  
 1 Peddled 2 Roger 3 Kiss 4 Edict  
 6 Shoplifter 7 Alienated 8 Damasks  
 9 Resistor 14 Out of order  
 16 Stagnated 17 Alpinist 19 Aerobic  
 21 Destiny 23 Scapa 25 Octet 26 Shoe

Richard Roberts Miller

## Fires on Box Hill

There were two grass fires on Box Hill over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March. The larger one below the viewpoint had to be extinguished by the Fire Brigade. Quite a large patch was burnt and the offending barbecue presumably from earlier that morning (Sunday) was still in place. Unfortunately, the habitat in that area including the Birdsfoot Trefoil has been destroyed. Birdsfoot Trefoil (sometimes called 'Eggs & Bacon') is the main food plant for Common Blue butterfly larvae. Sadly, numbers of the Common Blue are declining, and this careless act will have a long-term effect. While picnicking on the Hill is actively encouraged by the NT, campfires and barbecues are definite no nos. (Picking or digging up wildflowers including orchids are also forbidden.) Please be vigilant and report any such behaviour to NT staff.

Left: Almost sunset in Norbury Park on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Below: The only photo we received of the alignment of seven planets that occurred recently. We are reliably informed that the photo captured Mars, Venus and Jupiter on the evening of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February.



## MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Future Meeting Dates for 2025-2026  
 Start at 7.30 pm

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Followed by

Annual MPC Meeting

### Full Council Meetings

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Details of Agendas/Minutes will be available on the website.

[www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.micklehamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Anyone wishing to attend or raise any issues please email:

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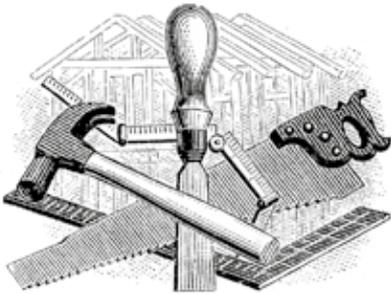
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