

# MICKLEHAM PARISH Magazine

A community magazine for Mickleham and Westhumble



A.N. Colwell 1984

December 2024





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14<sup>th</sup> January

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# Mickleham Parish Magazine

December  
2024

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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FEBRUARY MAGAZINE

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editor@micklehammag.co.uk

Co-editors

Charlotte Daruwalla

07933 300744

Jan Budleigh

07780 976301

Contributions in any form  
are welcome as are good  
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local charity and community  
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submitted for publication  
depending on space.



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Dear Friends

As December approaches people celebrate the achievements and notable events of the year. Surprisingly the word 'brat' was Collins Dictionary's word of the year. I thought it described children who were irritating or a bit of a nuisance but no longer. It now describes a cultural movement sparked by a music album. A brat is someone 'characterised by a confident, independent and hedonistic attitude'. Confidence and independence have their place but hedonistic seems self-indulgent and selfish particularly as Christmas approaches. I am not thinking of becoming a brat!

A word new to me this year is microaggression. This is to be avoided. It does not mean tiny aggression but rather refers to subtle and/or unintended discrimination particularly linked to race or gender and often through words, including compliments. A black person was told 'I keep forgetting you are not white and do not think of you as black'. This was intended to help the person feel they belonged, but the black person heard 'white is the only colour that counts here, and you must act as if white to be accepted.' Compliments are great, they are often helpful, but they can cause upset so attention to the wording is needed, particularly perhaps thinking about how they might be received.

Compliments can of course also be used to deliberately manipulate or humiliate. We have, I am sure, all been on the receiving end of a backhanded compliment which was meant to insult. This is a form of microaggression. Many of us have probably experienced this. When first ordained I was told 'that was a good sermon, for a woman'. This suggested to me that a woman preaching was unacceptable. Using a compliment in this way is demeaning or hurtful. I developed a measure of resilience and willingness to forgive as I am sure many of you have had to do.

Compliments, genuine or otherwise reveal the values of the giver and what the giver feels is good and virtuous and positive about people. When I compliment someone on doing a good job, I am both affirming someone and stating what I believe to be a well-executed task. Jesus did compliment people when he affirmed faith or insight and right behaviour but overtly criticised hypocrisy and injustice. He was not usually subtle!

Jesus came as the Word of God that first Christmas, God's ultimate message to us, a revelation of God's love, mercy and presence with us for ever. A message of hope we all need to hear today as much as ever. May we celebrate the coming of Jesus this Christmas and may our words, our compliments be genuine and convey love and kindness in a world torn apart by conflict and selfishness and confused by deception and untruth. May we bless others, work for reconciliation and pray for peace.

It would be great to all celebrate together and I hope to see many of you at our Christmas services and events, all detailed in this magazine.

I wish you and yours a very joyous, peace-filled and blessed Christmas and New Year.

*Sandra*

The Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, Parish Priest

# St Michael and All Angels Church, Mickleham Special Christmas Services 2024

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 11 am – Christingle Family Service  
 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 3.15 pm – Messy Church in Mickleham Village Hall  
 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 pm – Candlelit Carol Service  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 6 pm – Carol Singing in the Chapel Ruins, Westhumble  
 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December from 7.15 pm – Carol Singing round the local pubs  
 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10 am - Communion Service with carols  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4 pm – Christmas Eve Crib Service (Westhumble)  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30 pm – Midnight Holy Communion  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10 am – Christmas Day Communion Service for All  
 Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 10 am – Informal Holy Communion (no creche)

If required, Zoom codes for all services held in church will be available in Pews News Online which is sent to all church members each week. For more details or if you would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact Alison Wood: email [admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@micklehamchurch.org.uk) or telephone 01372 376443

For Bible Study Group and Advent Course see page 7



## St Michael's Church Community Group Christmas and Beyond

Christmas is when our parish goes into overdrive, but also into self-drive. There are so many, now well-established events fighting for dates, driven by local groups and by the church calendar, that the Church Community Group restricts itself to just two: the 'Advent Gatherings', established as 'Advent Windows' when meeting people was 'socially-distanced' during Covid, and the Christmas Fair at the Chapel.

This year, the first of the **Advent Gatherings**, the now-traditional church **Christmas Tree Lighting** ceremony, will take place at 5 pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. This follows on from Tracy Kennington's much-anticipated performance of 'Carnival of the Animals', advertised elsewhere in this magazine. Mulled wine and mince pies (what else) will be available at very modest cost, and free soft drinks. Any profits will go to The Children's Society, Tracy's nominated charity for the concert. Many thanks in advance

to the Runners for their continued and appreciated sponsorship of the Church Christmas Trees.

In amongst all this, the Group will be holding the **Christmas Market** at the Chapel on **14<sup>th</sup> December**, between 2 and 4.30 pm. This proved very popular last year to both locals and passing ramblers/cyclists: the latter drawn especially by the outdoor mulled wine and mince pie stall. It's a great chance to buy local gifts. The tables this year include Alison Wood's marvellous **Quilts**, 51° North **Xmas Goodies**, Christmas **Wreaths** by the Garden Shed, Mickleham-made **chocolates** (which flew off the shelves last year) by Ingrid Mrazova, local **Norbury Blue** and other **Cheese** (Michaela Allam), **Patchwork** quilts/cushions etc from Mandy/Jeff Wilkes, and, most locally of all, **Honey** from Sophie Adshead's bee-hives in The Chapel garden itself.

### Events for Early 2025

The continuing popularity of the soup/cheese lunches was evidenced by the Autumn Events, with 40 or more attending. Next year's **Lent Lunch** programme will start on or around 6<sup>th</sup>

### Advent Gatherings

The programme is still under development, but put these dates in your diaries:

**7<sup>th</sup> December** 6 pm Drinks and finger food Sarah and Kelvin, Byways, Adlers Lane, Westhumble

**8<sup>th</sup> December** 5 pm Canapes and Carols (and Mulled Wine) at 51'North between 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>: TBC;

**19<sup>th</sup> December** 5.30 pm Drinks and Nibbles The Courtyard, off Swanworth Lane

March and run approximately weekly on Wednesdays or Thursdays until the last week of Lent beginning 12<sup>th</sup> April. The quality and imagination of the soup varieties is extraordinary.

Judging from the intense concentration shown by the 'trial' bingo at the Harvest Supper, the old ones are often the best! And the Group therefore intends a **Bingo Evening** in late Feb/early March. The evening will be split by a little competition revolving around nostalgic TV advertising/programmes.

Mark Day Church Community Group

## Christmas Market

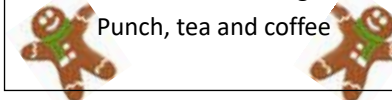
Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December

2 pm

Range of stalls selling stocking fillers and seasonal gifts

Punch, tea and coffee



## Remembrance

Following a much-appreciated service in church on Remembrance Sunday, wreaths were laid at the war memorial on behalf of the Church, the Parish Council, Box Hill School and the Ambulance Service. The following day, 11<sup>th</sup> November, the children of St Michael's School placed their carefully painted stones on the memorial as an act of Remembrance.



The beautiful display of poppies in St Michael's for the Remembrance Service

## Lighting of the Christmas Trees



Outside St Michael's Church

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December

5 pm

after children's concert, see page 5

All welcome to join this traditional event and enjoy a glass of punch and a mince pie



## Christingle Craft Workshop

Christingle Craft workshop at St Michael's School from 9.30 to 10.45 am on 1<sup>st</sup> December followed by the service in church at 11 am.

## Messy Church

Just to let you know that the very last meeting of Messy Church will take place in Mickleham Village Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 3 to 4.45 pm. See also page 17.

## Carols in the Woods

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December, Mickleham Choral Society are leading 'Carols in the Woods' at 'Wild About Coffee' in Norbury Park at the top/Timber yard at 11 am. All welcome, with some audience participation.



## Carols at Westhumble Chapel Ruins 6 pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Carol singing at Chapel ruins opposite Chapel Farm, Westhumble at 6 pm. If the weather is very bad we will sing in the barn at the farm. Singing is followed by mulled wine and mince pies at the farm with a collection for the Gambian Horse and Donkey Trust. There will be carrots to feed the horses and donkeys and refreshments for children.

## Christmas Carols Round the Pubs Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Join us for carol singing at one or more of the pubs in Mickleham and Westhumble.

Put the date in your diaries.

7.15 pm at Stepping Stones,

8 pm at Running Horses and

8.45 pm King William VI

Jonathan Blake 07787 126966

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Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

7 pm Stepping Stones

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St Michael's Church Eco Group  
Real vs Fake Christmas Trees See page 19





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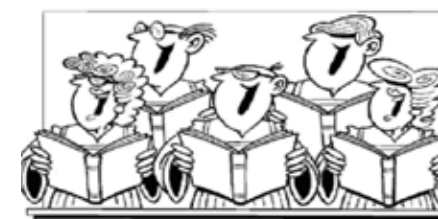


Warmest Christmas wishes  
and a happy & healthy  
New Year to  
all our local friends

Bernie & Denis Bailey, Mary & John Banfield,  
Cathy Cain, Andy Diamond, Sandra Faccini,  
Charlotte & Rustom Daruwalla, Rosemary Glover,  
Val & Mick Hallett, Elizabeth Watson, Jo Brown,  
Barbara & David Jones, Cathy & Keith Lee,  
Jennifer Louis, Frances Presley, Bernard Salsbury,  
Sarah & Kelvin Pritchard, Stephanie Randall,  
Fiona Roberts-Miller, Rose & Stan Spence,  
Sue & Ben Tatham, Judy & Brian Wilcox

Again this year we are sending our Christmas greetings through the parish magazine and giving the money saved on cards and postage to charity. The money raised by this MPM Christmas card will be split between St Michael's CofE Infant School, St Michael's Community Nursery and the Mickleham Playground

## Come and join St Michael's Church Choir



Do you enjoy singing? If you do, why not join our happy band of singers in the choir of St Michael and All Angels, Mickleham.

We are lucky at St Michael's to have a choir to lead the singing in our services.

So many churches nowadays have lost their choirs which depletes the music available to sing and to listen to. We urgently need altos, tenors and basses and would welcome sopranos to help with descants which put the 'icing' on some well known hymn tunes.

As a choir our needs are simple. We have only one pre-service practice on a Sunday. This means that we do not have to turn out again midweek. We sing both ancient and modern hymns and anthems which are learnt over a very short period.

If this sounds feasible to you, why not come along to try us out? Now is a very good time as we are just getting into our programme of carols for Christmas, so do not delay. We do have fun!

Contact me **bevmehta42@gmail.com** on 01372 374304 or talk to any member of the choir to find out more. We look forward to hearing from you.

Beverley Mehta

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS**  
By Saint-Saëns

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm**  
St Michael and All Angels Church, Mickleham  
Tracy Kennington and Caroline D'Cruz – Piano  
Andy Diamond – Narrator  
Retiring collection for The Children's Society

*Lighting of the Christmas trees with mulled wine and mince pies to follow*



# Sinalunga Loren Ipsum Choir

*A view from a member of the Mickleham Choral Society:*

How to capture the essence of the cultural exchange between Sinalunga and Dorking (twinned towns)? It took place in October 2024 when Lorem Ipsum, a choir from Sinalunga, Italy, visited Dorking on an exchange with Mickleham Choral Society (MCS).

Exchanges between the towns had happened before and friendships existed between choir members, in particular between Juliet, the conductor of MCS, and Gianni, the conductor of Lorem Ipsum. The Rampant Roosters (Morris dancers) had visited Sinalunga previously and been so well received that they offered to provide transport whilst Lorem Ipsum were in Dorking even though they were not involved in the choir. Similarly, hosts offered homes and beds despite not being in the choir. Moira on the twinning committee went the extra mile to ensure

guests were well looked after. Choir members provided accommodation and food for celebratory meals for the sheer pleasure of returning the hospitality they had received in Sinalunga the previous year.

The resilience and indomitable spirit of Lorem Ipsum was shown immediately at Gatwick Airport where they arrived late at night after lengthy delays and burst out into exuberant song in harmony in the car park! The concert they gave at St Michael's Church, Mickleham was wonderful with Beatles songs, numbers from the shows and popular Italian songs. The party afterwards was unforgettable. Tables piled high with food and drink and spontaneous piano playing, singing and dancing.



Sometimes the little things make the greatest impression such as my guest's polite acceptance of porridge for breakfast, the uniqueness of which only became apparent when he took a photo of his food and sent it to his daughter! And he sent a lovely message of thanks afterwards for the warm welcome.

Patricia Reeves (Trish)

*And a view from the audience:*

Va bene. Those of us who had turned up expecting an evening of Verdi and Puccini were disappointed or, probably, relieved when the Sinalunga Loren Ipsum choir launched into an unusual setting of *Help!*, followed by another 11 Beatles songs (I counted). Including the most beautiful renderings of *Across the Universe* and *Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da*. I couldn't possibly suggest that their version of the latter was better than that of the Mickleham Choral Society, but whisper it if you dare.

We moved on to selections from musicals, some sung in Italian. Then to an eclectic mix taking in ABBA, Andrew Lloyd Webber (lovely solo of *I don't know how to love him*), *Stand by me*, and a *Mary Poppins* medley in Italian (\*since you ask, the Italian for *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* is *Supercalifragilisticperalidoso*.)

Finishing up with a series of rollicking Italian numbers, said to be celebrating the links between Italy and the UK. Irony in this context that I attended a 21-strong Men's Breakfast here shortly before the Brexit referendum, and a straw poll showed me and Ben Tatham as the only Remainers. Come to think

of it I didn't see any of that lot at the concert.

Sacred music this was not, unless *Jesus Christ Superstar* counts, but great fun it was. Conductor Maestro Gianni Bagnoli waved his arms about energetically, a bit like the way Italians speak, and had clearly planned the programme and rehearsed his choir meticulously. Accompanist Maestro Andrea Moschetti is one of the most inspirational pianists I've heard for a long time. The choir of six women and four men sang beautifully, pushed out lot more volume than those numbers suggest and looked like they were seriously enjoying themselves. This member of the audience certainly did.

Thanks to Dorking and District Town Twinning Association and Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival. The link with Sinalunga came because it's twinned with Dorking, and Mickleham Choral Society toured there a couple of years back. It was good to be able to welcome them back here.

The choir had gone to great trouble to introduce each song very carefully in English, so it was a pity that, none



of them being mic'd up, they were inaudible at the back of the church. Not that that mattered when it came to rather a lot of speeches by a variety of civic dignitaries, Italian (the *tricolore* draped around his shoulders was a bit of a giveaway there) and British. A special shout-out therefore for our very own Rev'd Dr Sandra Faccini, who managed to keep her speech brief, loud, heartfelt and to the point. Brava.

But that's a small quibble on an otherwise splendid evening. We are so lucky that Sandra and her PCC allow the church to be used for these musical soirées. Next up, *Carnival of the Animals* on 1<sup>st</sup> December at 4 pm. It's going to be emotional, particularly as my rather petite wife is playing the elephant.

Will Dennis



Thank you everyone who joined us for another fantastic event. Rob, Clint and Stephan did a grand job running around in the darkness to launch an impressive display of fireworks. An enormous thank you to our team of volunteers on the food stand: Hilary, Simon, Will, Annie, Colin, Lorraine and Karen; with our food captain Doug expertly coordinating efforts to ensure everyone was well fed and topped up with hot drinks. Jonathan Blake has yet again illuminated us with his lighting arrangements. Thanks to the dry weather the bonfire went up fiercely well, so that Vlad, Pete and Chris had a very important job as bonfire safety crew. The guy provided by Ailsa and Elly atop the bonfire lasted a good while, but eventually succumbed to the inferno. Thank you to Toby, Graham, Alex and Jorick for manning the gates to collect entrance tickets, an important part of ensuring that we can continue the run the event in future years.

So much work goes into organising and building the bonfire prior to the event itself. On top of our core team,

## Bible Study Group

28<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December

The Thursday Bible study group will be meeting at 11 for 11.30 am start until 12.30 pm on those three Thursdays, at Mickleham village hall, Dell Close, except on 12<sup>th</sup> December when we shall meet at Fredley Lodge.

If anyone wants more information they should contact Alison Wood on 01372 376443.

# Westhumble Bonfire and Fireworks



From above left: Bonfire building nearly completed; above and right: the bonfire lit up the sky followed by a spectacular firework display.

Jim, Chris, Jonathan and Graham (self-confessed pyromaniacs) continue to provide massive support every year, and we get a wide range of other volunteers who help out at key stages across many weekends: Aidan, Rufus, Craig and Pete, to name just a few. It's a great coming together of the community and I highly recommend people get involved in future years.

We continue to support our local businesses (Dorking Butchery, Coughlan's Bakery, and Fullers for the fireworks) in running this community event. Keep an eye on the parish magazine in the run up to next year's bonfire; it will be the third year for the new organising committee, and we will give details of the tweaks to event timings and food/drinks offerings



once determined, as we act on useful feedback from attendees.

Jonathan Cain

## St Michael's Advent Course 2024

Monday nights from 25<sup>th</sup> November - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024

At John & Mary Banfield's home From 7.45 - 9 pm

All are welcome. We will be following three Bible studies and then on the last session we will have a social evening with wine and nibbles.

If you are looking to take time out and reflect during this busy and exciting period please come along and join us for friendly, non judgemental discussion and fellowship. There will be no cost for the course study material, refreshments will be provided for the three sessions and we will have a 'bring and share' for the social evening.

For more information, please contact Amanda Wadsworth on aewadsworth@hotmail.com or John Banfield 01372 373912.



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## The Garden Shed Talk on Bulbs

We enjoyed a very interesting talk on the A-Z of bulbs delivered by Johnny Walker of Walkers Bulbs. He began by giving us some history of his life in bulb growing. His father first came to the UK from Holland in 1930, settled in Spalding and built up his bulb company. Johnny began his career as a quality technical manager for a bulb cooperative in Lincolnshire in 1968, where he taught over 100 farmers in different counties of England about daffodil growing methods. He then went on to become an expert on all there is to know about the daffodil bulb. His great achievement was to win 25 consecutive gold medals at Chelsea. Did you know that there are over 400 varieties of daffodils? Nowadays the bestselling of these is Tête à Tête.

His slide show gave us a taster of the large selection of different bulbs, from A to Z. For each variety he gave us tips on growing, and many different varieties were recommended. The first rule to remember is the large range of bulb sizes, from the size of a pea to a tennis ball. So, when planting always plant twice the depth to the size and cover with soil.

The well-known bulbs that naturalise are crocus, lily of the valley (The late Queen's favourite, placed on her Christmas table every year), anemone which in the past was grown in Cornwall to manage the leaner months as a cut flower. As it has a hard corm, a tip is to soak the bulb for a few hours before planting; and aconite

which gives a splash of yellow in the spring. Johnny showed us a marvellous show of Camassia, a photograph he took nearby at Wisley. We all know the bulb of bluebells and we were shown how to identify the difference between Spanish and English. They love inhabiting woodland and will create a magnificent show. Dog's tooth violet is also planted extensively in Wisley where it establishes best under trees in drier conditions. Winter cyclamens are a delight also to see, and Fritillaria prefer a wetter condition. Snowdrops can be difficult to grow in some conditions. It is important to plant straight away as they are a tiny bulb. Some unusual species can cost £200 to £300, just for one bulb! For tubers such as dahlias the jury is still out on whether they should be lifted in winter months, Johnny feels with the weaker frosts in recent years he tends to leave his dahlias in the soil and puts extra leaf mould on top. His results show that the ones left in do better. Irises he suggests growing in shaded dry conditions where they can naturalise, but not in wet soil.

There are so many new varieties of the tulip bulb; parrot, lily, variegated are just a few to mention. Some trial beds were held at Wisley for different varieties of tulips where it was found the larger tulips tend to come back for a few years. Mona Lisa is a very fragrant new variety of lily which is double headed and has no stamens. Grape hyacinths are very popular, Muscari is the one we all know, and presently



trials are underway to create some new colours. A tip mentioned was to use your shears on the top of the green tips as it will prolong the flowers when they appear.

And so to daffodils, as this is where Johnny first began to build his incredible knowledge of bulbs. This country is the biggest grower of daffodils in the world. Around 10,000 acres of land in this country are used and 3,000 tons are exported to North America, Canada, and most of Europe. It was the most interesting talk with a lot more information shared than we have space for, as well as being a fascinating insight into the world of bulbs.

Solution to November's  
Strands puzzle

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

Sparkler Fountain Roman  
candle Banger Rocket Bang  
snaps



## Shoe Box Appeal

I write to say that I was quite disappointed that this year's appeal was changed. I have no problem with supporting the countries indicated in the leaflet, and have done so, in particular the Ukraine with cash and collecting warm clothing and blankets. However, previous year's appeals have supported the Samaritans appeal and others, all sending to third world countries. Over the years I have

purchased items throughout the year, when I have seen such suitable for my box, for a five-to-ten-year-old lad. Thus, I now have a number of items not required by this year's appeal.

I do not take a size eighteen shoe, which I imagine is the size of box to be able to contain the items 'it should contain'. I will do my best, but do wonder whether whoever thought up the list had tried to put the items in a normal size shoe box.

Bernard Salisbury



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**Mickleham Choral Society's**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL PARTY**  
**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL 7.30 pm**  
**Carols and festive music followed by buffet and mulled wine**  
**Tickets £15 Children 12 & under £ 7.50**  
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## Visit to Adam Aaronson Glass Blowing Demonstration



decision. The shop is open to visitors and the studio also runs hands-on workshops where you can 'have a go' and experience for your self turning a blob of glass into whatever you fancy. I would like to thank Andrianna Aaronson, not only for allowing me to quote from her article in the Premier Magazine, but also for serving us with coffee and biscuits. My grateful thanks are also due to Bridget Carr who very kindly took the photos.

Frances Presley

It is always surprising how little one realises the number of interesting activities that happen within a ten-mile radius of your own home.

I recently received details of a visit the Leatherhead Community Association were organising to go to the Adam Aaronson Glass Studio. I had only ever seen glass blowing on the island of Murano, close to Venice. There, with furnaces blasting out a great deal of heat, and anvils close by, two men were standing with puffed out cheeks, sweat pouring down their faces, blowing down long tubes into long pieces of molten glass. Then followed *Il Trovatore*-like banging, which resulted in the most beautiful shapes and sizes of drinking glasses, vases, and much more. We all had to stand well back and the blowers must have been very short of puff!

About twenty members of the LCA went to this demonstration which is in West Horsley, tucked behind Squires Garden Centre. We were sitting no more than three metres from the two artists, that is exactly what they are, and after a short talk about the making of glass itself we were introduced to the fascinating art of making beautiful pieces out of glass: vases, paper weights, Christmas baubles, every conceivable animal or bird in a farmyard or jungle. You name it, it was in the shop.

What Adam was doing is, and I quote, 'combining modern experimentation with time-honoured techniques.' He and his dedicated team create beautiful

pieces in myriad shapes and sizes, from relatively simple forms to impossibly delicate and complex constructions.

This studio is one of the largest 'hot shops' in the UK. There were three blast furnaces alight, and to hand were all the tools that are needed, hammers, tweezers, shears, and many more, to transform molten glass, possibly over 1000° C, into a work of art. Adam and his colleague did not have to blow continually down a long blow pipe, after the first few blows, they could use various controls down the pipe, and with a tweak here, being pulled there, or a snip or hit anywhere, gradually a blob of glass became a recognisable shape: a mushroom, a robin, a decoration to hang on the tree in December.

But it did not stop there. Once the main shape had been formed the hot object would be rolled in pellets of colour, or even silver leaf, and the result was a plain vase being finished with the most delicate colouring in the glass. Of course there were several stages that each item had to go through before it was the finished article.

As well as making such 'beautiful pieces in myriad shapes and sizes' Adam also accepts commissions from many different organisations; at the moment he is designing a trophy for Walton Heath Golf Club.

When the demonstration was over we were let loose in the shop, and I think it solved many a Christmas present

## Mickleham Parish Council Housing Needs Survey

In January Mickleham Parish Council (MPC) will be launching a Housing Needs Survey for Mickleham. This will be a collaboration between Mole Valley District Council, MPC and Surrey Community Action (SCA). It will be designed to evaluate what, if any, housing is needed and might be permitted, without affecting the character of our lovely village.

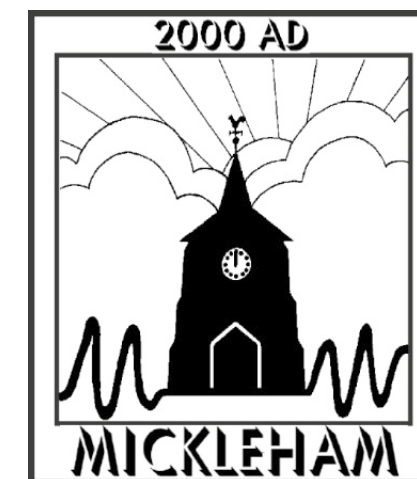
MVDC's Local Plan rightly places heavy restrictions on building in rural villages like Mickleham, but they are prepared to entertain exceptions where needs can be demonstrated.

The purpose of the Housing Needs Survey is to provide us with a better

understanding of the needs of our community. This could include 'Affordable' (subsidised/council housing), 'Family Housing' (2-3 bed houses) or 'Downsizing Opportunities' to allow older people the ability to remain in Mickleham.

The survey will be run by SCA, a not-for-profit organisation that carries out this work for MVDC. This maintains the high standards and consistency required to evaluate any findings.

Thank you for reading this and we hope that everyone will fill out the questionnaire when it arrives, in order to provide as comprehensive a survey as possible. All information and



responses will be 'Strictly Confidential' and the results will be available on the MPC website following the completion of the report.

## Mickleham Choral Society Remembrance Concert



As the church clock struck 7 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November the plaintive call of The Last Post, played by 13-year-old Eliza Aarvold, heralded the Mickleham Choral Society's Remembrance Concert. It began with an exquisite version of *They Shall Not Grow Old* composed by choir member Barbara Steadman Allen for an ensemble of singers, accompanied on guitar by Fiona Harrison.

The programme this year, devised by our conductor Juliet Hornby, was structured around the themes of four movements from Mozart's Requiem. The first, *Requiem Aeternam* (Grant Them Eternal Rest) was followed by pieces evoking tranquility, including Robert Louis Stevenson's *Requiem*, sung by Mike Benson, and Karl Jenkins' *Adiemus* with its African influences enhanced by Lol Herbert playing the drums.

*Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath and Anger) led to Stanford's *Why Does He Gallop* and two spirituals, then *Rex Tremendae Majestatis* (King of Tremendous Majesty) brought Rossini's *Ave Maria* and *Hal'lu Alleluia*, a mixture of Sephardic and Anglican tunes with complex but haunting harmonies by the contemporary composer Roxanna Panufnik.

The final movement, *Lacrymosa* (Days of Tears and Mourning) was followed by two beautiful songs of loss: the sea shanty *Tom's Gone to Hilo* and Paul



Left: Eliza Aarvold;  
above: conductor Juliet Hornby

McCartney's *Yesterday*, arranged by Chilcott and Naverud.

With readings of poems between each section, it was a true evening of remembrance stirring every emotion and hopefully honouring the sacrifice of the few to save so many.

Dina Stovell

Editor: Any donations of strong plastic bags used to deliver the magazine are very welcome. They are in short supply at present. Please leave at St Anthony in Pilgrims Way. Thank you.



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Please note, we are closed on the eve of Christmas eve and Christmas Day as Anne and I will be in LA (Little Ampton) with family, but will be back again on Boxing Day raring to go.

For those of you who remember her, our lovely ex-staff member Abbie Flowerday came in with her family to celebrate her fella 'putting a ring on it'. She is so happy, and getting married in St Paul's Cathedral. It will be a wonderful day, which we are really looking forward to.

Happy Christmas to you all, Eamonn and Anne.

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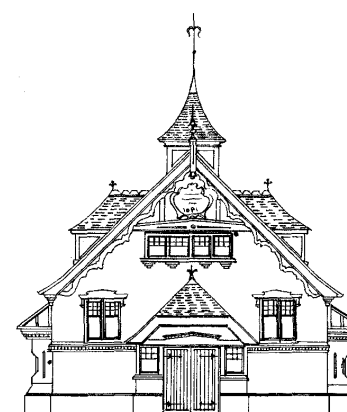
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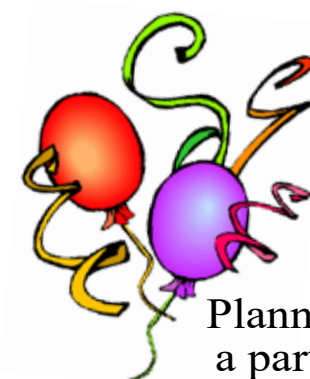
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## Community Directory

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Lead Ranger – Meredith Westall (Merry) [meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:meredith.westall@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
07811 088097

Friends of Box Hill – Chair Lyn Richards 01737 842889  
[lyn@mra.uk.net](mailto:lyn@mra.uk.net)

BOX HILL SCHOOL 01372 374814  
Headmistress – Hayley Robinson  
[reception@boxhillschool.com](mailto:reception@boxhillschool.com)

DORKING CRICKET CLUB  
Chairman – Andrew Homewood [homewooda@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:homewooda@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS  
Exhibition Secretary – Patricia Booth [patricia booth100@gmail.com](mailto:patricia booth100@gmail.com)

DORKING LAWN TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB  
Maddy Halliwell [madeline\\_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:madeline_halliwell@hotmail.co.uk)

DORKING RUGBY CLUB 07789 176417  
Jim Evans [jim@flintcottage.net](mailto:jim@flintcottage.net)

THE GARDEN SHED 07759 646353  
Pauline Davis [paulinedavis33@icloud.com](mailto:paulinedavis33@icloud.com)

JUNIPER HALL FIELD CENTRE 01306 734501

enquiries.jh@field-studies-council.org  
Head of Centre – Sarah Wyper [s.wyper@field-studies-council.org](mailto:s.wyper@field-studies-council.org)  
Friends of Juniper Hall [friendsofjuniperhall.org](mailto:friendsofjuniperhall.org)  
[friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofjuniperhall@gmail.com)

MICKLEHAM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION 07767 891772  
Secretary – Sarah Parfitt [sarah@sarahparfitt.com](mailto:sarah@sarahparfitt.com)

MICKLEHAM CHORAL SOCIETY [www.micklehamchoral.org.uk](http://www.micklehamchoral.org.uk)  
THURSDAYS 8 - 10 pm – MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL  
Conductor – Juliet Hornby 01372 373106  
Secretary – Mike Benson [secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@micklehamchoral.org.uk)

MICKLEHAM OLD BOX HILLIANS FOOTBALL CLUB  
Secretary – John Atewell 01372 374745

MICKLEHAM PARISH COUNCIL [www.micklehampc.org.uk](http://www.micklehampc.org.uk)  
SEE WEBSITE FOR MEETING DATES 01372 379381  
Chairman – Rev'd David Ireland [rev.ireland43@btinternet.com](mailto:rev.ireland43@btinternet.com)  
[clerkatmpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkatmpc@gmail.com)

Parish Clerk – Feena Graham

MICKLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 07933 300744  
Co-Editor – Charlotte Daruwalla [editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

Co-Editor – Jan Budleigh 07780 976301  
[editor@micklehammag.co.uk](mailto:editor@micklehammag.co.uk)

MICKLEHAM VILLAGE HALL 01372 362309  
Chairman – David Kennington [davidkennington144@gmail.com](mailto:davidkennington144@gmail.com)  
Bookings Manager – Deanna Darnell 07790 941601  
[bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@micklehamvh.co.uk)



## 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

### DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN

Timothy Mathieson 07555 597163  
TimothyMathieson@aol.com

### 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

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*For information about services for other denominations  
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*Search on 'Churches Together Mole Valley'*

## REGISTERS

### BAPTISM

17<sup>th</sup> November Sienna Maya Rudolf-West, daughter of  
Nicky and Nathalie Rudolf-West

### INTERMENT OF ASHES

18<sup>th</sup> November Robert Edgar Walker



## CALENDAR DECEMBER



### 1 SUNDAY CHRISTINGLE

9.30 - 10.45 am  
11 am  
4 pm  
5 pm  
church p3

Christingle Craft Workshop at school p3  
Christingle Service **Note later time**  
Carnival of the Animals Children's Concert p5  
Lighting of the Christmas trees outside

3 Tuesday  
5 Thursday  
7 Saturday

7 pm  
3.15 pm  
10 am to noon  
6 pm

Compline in church  
Messy Church in village hall p17  
Coffee at Westhumble Chapel p19  
Advent gathering Byways, Adlers Lane p2

### 8 Second SUNDAY of Advent

10 am  
11.30 am  
9.15 am to 12.30 pm

Holy Communion  
BCP Morning Prayer at Westhumble Chapel  
Garden Shed Christmas Workshop p18  
Advent Gathering at 51<sup>st</sup> North p2  
MCS Christmas Carol Party p10  
Christmas Market at the chapel p3

13 Friday  
14 Saturday

7.30 pm  
10 am

CW Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Candlelit Carol Service in church  
Carol Singing in the Chapel Ruins, Westhumble p3  
Advent Gathering at the Courtyard, off  
Swanworth Lane p2  
Carol Singing round local pubs p3

### 15 Third SUNDAY of Advent

8 am  
10 am  
6.30 pm  
6 pm  
5.30 pm

17 Tuesday  
19 Thursday

20 Friday

from 7.15 pm

### 22 Fourth SUNDAY of Advent

8 am  
10 am

BCP Holy Communion at Chapel  
Holy Communion with crèche  
Ex-Crew get together Stepping Stones p 3  
Crib and Nativity Service Westhumble p21  
Midnight Holy Communion

23 Monday

### 24 Tuesday Christmas Eve

4 pm  
11.30 pm

### 25 Wednesday

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10 am  
9 to 10 am

Holy Communion for all  
Men's Breakfast at the Stepping Stones p27

### 29 SUNDAY

10 am

Informal Holy Communion (no crèche)

## JANUARY

4 Saturday 10 am to noon

Coffee morning at Westhumble Chapel p19

### 5 SUNDAY Epiphany

10 am

Family Service

### 12 First SUNDAY of Epiphany

10 am  
11.30 am

Holy Communion  
BCP Morning Prayer at Westhumble Chapel

*Copy deadline for February magazine*

18 Saturday 9 to 10 am

Women's Breakfast at the Stepping Stones p27

### 19 Second SUNDAY of Epiphany

8 am  
10 am  
3 pm

CW Holy Communion  
Holy Communion  
Tea@3 p19

### 26 Third SUNDAY of Epiphany

8 am  
10 am

BCP Holy Communion at Westhumble Chapel  
Holy Communion



### MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sarah Pritchard	Elaine Machin
Mark Day	Tim Mathieson
Andy Diamond	Beverley Mehta
Catherine Diffey	Kelvin Pritchard
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### 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

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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.*



# 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 01306 885001  
Cllr Chris Budleigh 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)  
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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

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Supervisor – Hilary Budd 01372 361021  
stmichaelsnursery@btinternet.com

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

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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  
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## 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 a lot 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

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## Brian Cole 1936 - 2024

Brian was born in Enfield and lived in London during the Second World War. He was brought up during the Blitz, in a poor household, but studied incredibly hard to gain access to the local grammar school. From here he earned a scholarship to study at Trinity College, Cambridge, one of only two boys in his entire year to have been admitted from a grammar school to study at Cambridge. Not only was he academically gifted but he was also an accomplished musician, achieving one of the highest musical awards, the ARCM, at the tender age of 17 and being tutored by one of the most renowned piano teachers of the postwar era, Eleanor Franklin Pike.

He started work at BP in the early 1960s, at about the same time that he married his wife, Sayda. Life in the Oil Industry provided him with a fascinating varied

career of more than 30 years, being posted across numerous locations from Tunisia to Nigeria and from Benin to Paris. When he retired, at the age of 55, Brian had travelled the world and developed a wide network of friends and colleagues across many countries, including numerous ambassadors and well-known politicians. During his time overseas he learnt to speak foreign languages and it was during those years in Africa where he developed a lifelong interest and fascination for this incredible continent, its people and culture. In his core he was a hard-working and accomplished, knowledgeable individual with a keen eye for detail, a sharp intellectual mind and a deep-rooted commitment to hard work.

Brian and his wife Sayda, daughter Heather and son Andrew moved to Westhumble in 1975 where they

settled comfortably into village life. When Sayda, a devoted member of the Mickleham parish, became ill in 2010, Brian cared for her with love, patience and tenderness for the remaining 12 years of her life, enabling her to stay at home until she passed away. Brian became a faithful member of the church community, with the highlight of his week attending the meetings with the Bible Study group, many of whom became dear friends to him. The family are very grateful to all those who looked out for him during his final years. Brian was best known for his sharp sense of humour, his charismatic wit and his endless ability to banter to and fro about history, politics and the state of the country! He will be dearly missed. We send his family our deepest sympathy.



## Community News

Welcome to Lee Bowerbank and wife Katia Bartolomucci who have moved to Westhumble from New Malden;

Diana and Robert Dyson of Burney Road welcome a third grandson born on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024, Sonny Gene Dyson. His parents David and Helena (below with Sonny) live in Teddington.



Just to let you know that the very last meeting of Messy Church will take place in Mickleham Village Hall on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 3 - 4.45 pm.



The editors and the magazine's panel members wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you to all who contribute.





## Liz Harper 1947 - 2024

Elizabeth Jane Kinnear was born in 1947 in Wimbledon. The family moved to Kingston Vale, where Liz grew up and made lifelong friends.

After school, she became apprenticed to a hairdresser in Kew, while also attending the London College of Fashion. She worked full time into her mid-twenties on completing her traineeship, and continued hairdressing on and off for the rest of her life.

Liz met Mike Harper indirectly through Mike's best friend, Keith. Liz and Mike forged a devoted and loving partnership that endured for over 50 years of marriage. Liz also embraced the role of stepmother to Mike's children, Clive, Lynn and Karen. Following their wedding in 1973, Mike and Liz started

their new lives together in Wimbledon. They enjoyed trips up to their favourite bistro on the King's Road, dinner and dances and events at the rugby club. The Harpers were also well known for their annual Christmas parties.

After the arrival of Paul Anthony in 1974, Mike and Liz moved out of London to Surrey. Clare Elizabeth was then born in 1977 and soon after, the family moved to Dormers; it was regularly full of visitors. Liz was a terrific hostess and cook, and could effortlessly organise successful dinner parties and large family Christmases. The annual summer tennis tournaments were also a huge success.

Incredibly community-spirited, kind and selfless, Liz was always keen to help others. Over the years, she helped out with meals on wheels, cleaned and looked after the Westhumble chapel, raised money for the RNLI, was a member of the Westhumble Residents Association committee, and helped to protect the ancient woodlands of Norbury Park, alongside her friend Jenny. Liz also spent a few years working at Chapel Farm with school children and she worked alongside her friends making crafts to raise money for a cancer charity. Liz also

led craft sessions as therapy for people trying to beat their addictions.

Liz always enjoyed holidays. She and Mike fell in love with Portugal and spent many holidays exploring the Algarve from the late 60s onwards.

In 2010, the first of three grandchildren, Lucia, was born to Paul and Nina, followed by Frederick; Sophia was then born to Clare and Mark. Liz showed nothing but love for and devotion to the three children.

At the beginning of 2020, Liz and Mike decided to leave Dormers and moved to Dorset, fulfilling Mike's dream of living close to the sea. Liz's famous warmth and hospitality continued in their new home.

Following a last Mediterranean cruise and a weekend in Devon to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, Mike passed away after a short illness in August 2023. His ashes were interred alongside Liz. Her beloved parents also lie a few feet from her burial place.

Liz was a devoted wife, a loving, caring mother, stepmother, mother-in-law and grandmother; and a loyal and trusted friend to many. Her passing leaves an immeasurable hole in so many people's lives. We send our deepest sympathy to her family.

### Mickleham & Westhumble Horticultural Society New Membership or Renewal

Annual subscriptions of **£5 per household** are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Membership fees enable us to hold our popular shows in Mickleham 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. All members are invited to join our new gardening-related WhatsApp group.

Although we still accept cash, we encourage payment by standing order, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, or online bank transfer to the following account:  
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)

2025 dates for your diary:

Spring Show and AGM - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Village Show - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT WORKSHOP

★

### MAKE A WREATH or TABLE DECORATION

Mickleham Village Hall

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

9.15 am - 12.30 pm

Cost £45

Refreshments included  
Booking essential

For enquiries or bookings,  
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07759 646353 or  
[paulinedavis33@icloud.com](mailto:paulinedavis33@icloud.com)



## St Michael's Church Eco Group

### Real vs Fake Christmas Trees: Greenest?

**S**urely the answer is obvious: with the use of oil/energy for manufacture, 90% in China, and the impact of plastics, it must be a real tree? But, like most things environmental, it's not quite so simple. A range of factors come into play, not least, the re-usability of an artificial tree over perhaps 10 Christmases. The cutting down of a real tree? And the means of disposal of your real tree, hundreds of thousands of which simply end up in landfill every year.

**Carbon Footprint:** Studies have shown that the carbon footprint of using a real tree is around a tenth of that from manufacture of an artificial tree. That would mean that using an artificial tree for, say, 10 years would bring carbon impacts into parity. A few other factors: carbon from transport/packaging etc come into play, and it can be argued that your tree would not last 10 years anyway (though my Mum managed it!).

But, **critically**, the parity position is shortened if your natural tree is not disposed of properly. All the trees which go uncontrolled into landfills (a few million), decompose under anaerobic conditions and slowly generate methane, which is some 25x worse for global warming than CO<sub>2</sub>. This would bring the parity period down to ca 3-5 years.

So, while there are other advantages of using a real tree, **its ultimate disposal is key**. Burning your tree is relatively carbon neutral; the carbon stored in the tree during growth is simply re-released into the air. Chipping for re-use as fertilizer/mulch is acceptable too. And most local authorities have schemes which will collect to ensure one or the other. Do not send your tree to landfill.

#### Other Issues:

Artificial trees are not **biodegradable**, use non-renewable energy for production, and involve the use of toxic stuff such as chlorine, mercury and PVC. And plastics, of course. All of this will end up in landfills ultimately and may gradually leach out into soils/waters.

**Ecological:** 'Should we be chopping down trees at all?' Most tree producers are chopping only ca 10% of their 'crop' in any year. They plant to replace two or three for every one removed. Hence, the operation is a self-sustaining operation, with ongoing carbon absorption at a steady rate. Additionally, these plantations are often wildlife friendly and remain so year on year.

**Sourcing:** The more local your tree, the better. Flying in your spruce, even from Europe, has its impact. Use a tree which is certified eg by the Forest Stewardship



Council: this ensures a sustainable/ethical source, and no use of herbicides. Or have a potted tree, re-usable for several years and ultimately planted outside. And of course, there are now 'rent-a-tree schemes', where you can have a tree for a month and then send it back until next year. You are encouraged to name your tree, so it becomes 'part of the family'. At a cost of £55 for a 4ft tree, the marginal cost is less than one might have thought.

If you have an artificial tree, use it until it is scarcely decorative, before throwing, like my Mum (she was always right!). And remember, the carbon impact of Christmas trees are wholly insignificant compared to Christmas air travel.

St Michael's Eco-Group



First Saturday of the month

### Coffee Morning

Westhumble Chapel

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Come along between 10 am and noon  
Coffee and cake £2 Free drinks for children  
As a special for 4<sup>th</sup> January  
we will also offer bacon butties as well as cake.  
Everyone welcome  
For further information call Jonathan Blake 07787 126966



## Tea @ 3

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Host Frances Presley, Fredley Lodge  
Fredley Park, Mickleham

If you can help with future events, please contact  
Julia at [siberrman@btinternet.com](mailto:siberrman@btinternet.com)  
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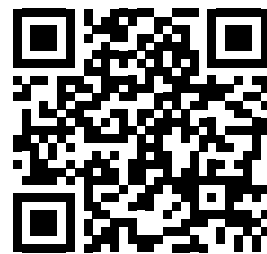
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The Ordnance Survey in Mickleham and Westhumble

## Part 2: Flush Brackets and other Artefacts

Barbara wrote about trig points in  
an article in the October issue of  
this magazine. Here is the second  
instalment about other Ordnance  
Survey artefacts. Part 3 will follow:

Using triangulation points the  
Ordnance Survey was able to  
establish the position of features on  
the ground in horizontal relation to  
one another. It was also necessary to  
establish the height of features relative  
to one another.

All heights in the UK are measured in  
relation to mean sea level recorded at  
Newlyn between 1915 and 1921. A  
network of about 200 fundamental  
bench marks (FBMs) some 30 miles  
apart was established on bedrock.  
Above ground the FBMs consist of a  
granite or concrete block about 45 cm  
(18 ins) cubed with a bronze knob on  
top which is the height marker. They  
are sometimes surrounded by iron railings.  
The nearest FBMs to Mickleham and  
Westhumble are in the grounds of  
Windsor Castle, and on Riddlesdown  
near Croydon.

Below ground there is a chamber and  
another knob installed on the solid rock  
below. This lower knob is the marker  
used in the original extremely accurate  
height surveys. The knob on top of the  
block is used for subsequent, slightly  
less accurate surveying.



Lines of levelling were then established  
along roads and railway lines between  
the FBMs. Before WW1 metal plaques  
about 20 by 10 cm (8 by 4 inches) were  
established every few miles along the  
lines of levelling on prominent structures  
such as railway stations and bridges, and  
churches and schools. They were called  
projecting brackets because they had a  
small shelf projecting from them.

The shelf was the height marker. When  
surveying, the surveyor's assistant  
would hold a red and white measuring  
rod on the shelf and the surveyor would  
look through his theodolite and note  
how much higher the height of the shelf  
was compared to where the theodolite  
stood.

The shelves projecting from the  
brackets proved vulnerable to damage  
by passing traffic so flush brackets were  
introduced. These lacked the projecting



Top: the Riddlesdown FBM; middle: the  
FBM close up; bottom: the flush bracket on  
St Michael's church

shelves but had holes in their place  
where a removable shelf could be  
clipped into position.

Projecting and flush brackets were  
installed along lines of levelling between  
FBMs every 2 or 3 miles. Between  
them would be a number of cut bench  
marks on buildings, and lesser fixed  
objects such as milestones or solid  
roadside rock. These take the form of  
an arrow with a horizontal line, which  
is the height reference point, above the  
arrow. There will be more about them  
in part 3.

There are no projecting brackets in the  
parish but there is one flush bracket,  
on the north side of the church on the  
buttress just before the lightning  
conductor.

From its number, 10009, I would  
think that it is a local height reference  
point and not actually on a line of  
levelling between FBMs. It was probably  
installed post WW1.

Barbara Jones

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## Deceptive Bends!

Longer-standing residents may recall the old Pavilion Cinema on South Street, Dorking: renovated by the band 10CC, to form 'Strawberry Recording Studios' in 1976. The Studios were used by various artists, including Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Cliff Richard and The Moody Blues, until its closure in 1993. A Blue Plaque (commissioned by The Dorking Society and Dorking Museum) was unveiled at the site by current members of 10CC, on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

One of the band's most successful albums was 'Deceptive Bends': named after a road sign on the A24 southbound at Mickleham, just before the first bend. There were at least two versions of the sign: one black/white with reflector studs and another with white reflective lettering on a red background. The latter was discovered in a former road engineer's shed and is currently in the shop 'Spin Sounds', also on South Street. Other memories/photos of the sign are sought by a group who are looking



to reinstate it. After all, the bends have presumably lost none of their deceptiveness over time.

Sue Carr  
*(any memories etc to Mark Day, [mickleham@hotmail.com](mailto:mickleham@hotmail.com)).*

## Crib Service 4 pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December

Please join us for this year's Crib Service, all ages welcome. This is a special event where our children help us to tell the Nativity story as we progress down Adlers Lane in Westhumble from the Burney Road/Chapel Lane junction, towards the fields. We will meet shepherds keeping warm around a fire, angels and kings along the way as we celebrate and sing together.



 Gathering before our Star leads the way, at 4 pm

 Watching the nativity unfold

 Processing down Adlers Lane

 Meeting the Shepherds by the fire

We are looking for readers, Mary, Joseph, wise kings, shepherds, the star, angels and a baby Jesus to help us bring this Nativity to life.

Let Elly know if you, or any young people would like to take part (and who you would like to be): [ellyjay@gmail.com](mailto:ellyjay@gmail.com)

Please wear wellies or sturdy shoes, this is a working field.

Everyone is welcome and refreshments are available afterwards.



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## Leaves, glorious leaves!

As I visited the nursery during the half-term week, I tried not to look at the mounting fallen leaves in the garden. 'Don't do it. You are supposed to be on holiday' said my inner voice. I am so happy I resisted. When we returned after the break, and no rain had fallen, we had a fabulous carpet of dry crunchy leaves, leaves, glorious leaves! Rather than quickly clear them all away they became part of our play. We made piles of leaves and jumped in them, made leaf collages and non-permanent leaf art, used them as a mud kitchen ingredient and spent time looking at and comparing the differences in shape, colour and size. Later in the week the rakes came out and we all worked together collecting and transporting them in wheelbarrows.

There are so many ways to play and learn with nature's free resource!

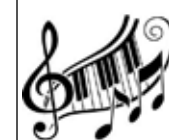
We have also experienced seasonal activities and particularly enjoyed using various techniques to recreate the sights and sounds of Bonfire Night. Including riding our trikes over rolls of bubble wrap to create the pops and bangs of fireworks.

We are now looking towards Christmas, have started to practice songs for our nativity and are excited to hear that Father Christmas will again be visiting our Christmas Fair on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Do come along, join in the festive spirit and take a moment to absorb the excitement of this special time for our youngest children.

Hilary Budd



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Come and visit Silvermere Softplay Centre, where the joy and benefits of play are exceeded!

Situated in the heart of Dorking's Meadowbank Park, Silvermere's newly established softplay centre is an accessible and inclusive space for children and young people to unleash their natural energy through movement, play, and connection with others. We offer soft play sessions; pre-school play and parties. Our aim is for Silvermere Softplay to become a thriving hub for the community, where everyone – young and old – feels welcome. Later this year, we will be introducing structured movement-based groups to enhance wellbeing and connection for adults, as well as for children and young people.



Meadowbank, Dorking RH4 1DX

Our warm and welcoming café – serving a delicious range of homemade, locally-sourced food and drinks – is the perfect space for everyone, including well-behaved pooches, to relax and connect.

For more info and booking: [www.silvermere-softplay.co.uk](http://www.silvermere-softplay.co.uk)  
Proprietors: Katie and Michael of School Lane, Mickleham



**Mickleham Village Hall, Dell Close**  
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Tinned veg / tomatoes / soup / sauces / baked beans  
Powdered milk / UHT milk (green and blue only)  
Rice pudding / long life sponge puddings  
Coffee / tea bags / long life fruit juice  
Pasta / rice / pulses / instant mash  
Jam / honey / marmalade / spreads  
Sugar (500g bags only)

Washing-up and cleaning products  
Tissues / paper towels / tampons  
Men's / women's toiletries  
Laundry products  
Nappies  
Pet food

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



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## Spirituality

At St Michael's this term, we have been developing the children's awareness and understanding of spirituality.

*Spirituality is delighting in all things, being absorbed into the present moment, not too attached to self, and eager to explore boundaries of 'beyond' and 'other', searching for meaning, discovering purpose, open to more.* (Rebecca Nye)

At St Michael's, we define spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. Something that teaches us about questioning, wondering, a sense of curiosity, something that helps us with understanding our relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond.

We explain this to the children using a repeated phrase and associated visuals:

*'I will grow and learn about:*

*myself, who I am (hands overlapping on heart)*

*my relationships with Others, and how I treat them (hold hands out to the side to link with imaginary others)*

*how I understand and look after this Wonderful World (hands draw circle from top to bottom)*

*and think about everything Beyond the everyday (Jump up and draw bigger circle)'*

There are many ways in which we aim to develop and support children's spirituality. These include:

\* Having regular opportunities in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle

in Collective Worship, going for a walk, relaxing in the classroom calm areas, enjoying the beauty of our forest or sitting still!

\* Providing a child-led outside space for reflection, wonder and contemplation

\* Taking part in a spiritual group and sharing those reflections and prayers in worship then providing an opportunity for other children to share their spiritual thoughts and moments

\* Allowing children to be a part of developing prayer spaces

\* Experiencing silence and the impact this can have on emotions, thoughts and feelings

\* Sharing 'Big Questions' and building in time to ponder. This could be through the teaching of religious education, in worship or based on the children's wonderings at any time

\* Acknowledging, engaging and valuing children's ideas, comments and reflections with no pre-planned ideas of outcome or product

\* Using calming or thought-provoking music

\* Singing often, especially with others, with music playing in the background where possible and the whole school community always joining in

\* Constantly reaffirming the importance of relationships. How we talk to, and relate with, each other is fundamental

\* Provide opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world. Take time to wonder.



*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  
No Breakfast in December

NEXT BREAKFAST 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

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

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
NEXT BREAKFASTS

28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AND 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

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





## A Yuletide Whimsy



Fill in the blanks with titles of carols and songs to tell the Christmas story.

The First \_\_\_\_\_

'Once \_\_\_\_\_', 'In the \_\_\_\_\_',  
'While \_\_\_\_\_',  
'Unto \_\_\_\_\_', and 'Angels \_\_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_\_ sing 'Joy \_\_\_\_\_'.

It was 'Past \_\_\_\_\_' when 'The \_\_\_\_\_' arrive  
in 'O \_\_\_\_\_' and ask, 'What \_\_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_\_ 'Away \_\_\_\_\_' watched over by a 'Little \_\_\_\_\_'?  
And 'Hark \_\_\_\_\_' 'Mary's \_\_\_\_\_',  
'Infant \_\_\_\_\_'.

'As \_\_\_\_\_' 'Good \_\_\_\_\_',  
goes out for a 'Sleigh \_\_\_\_\_' and gathers 'The \_\_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_\_ to 'Deck \_\_\_\_\_'. Then he calls out 'O \_\_\_\_\_',  
\_\_\_\_\_ 'Here \_\_\_\_\_' in this Winter  
\_\_\_\_\_.

'It \_\_\_\_\_' that 'The \_\_\_\_\_'  
\_\_\_\_\_ 'end with a 'Ding \_\_\_\_\_',  
and someone shouts 'God \_\_\_\_\_' so  
after singing 'We \_\_\_\_\_' the 'Jingle  
\_\_\_\_\_ cease, and everyone enjoys a 'Silent \_\_\_\_\_'.

Sue Tatham



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