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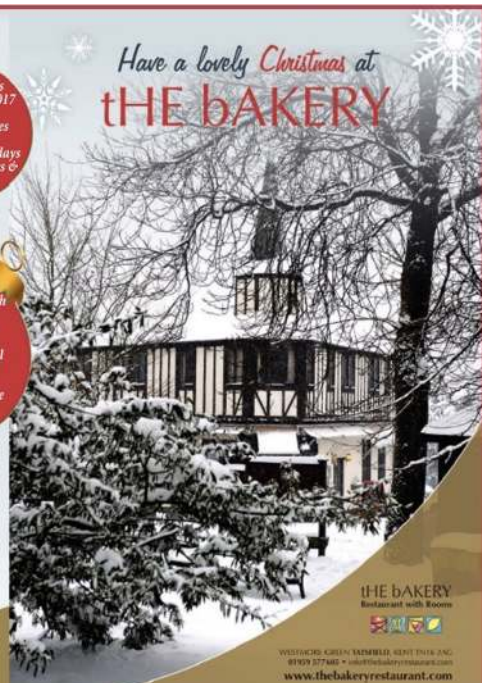
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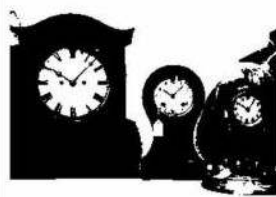
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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. Copy date for the Magazine is 16th of the preceding month. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment in an email to: tatsfieldpm@gmail.com, alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Mag, The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2NA.

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Maureen Perrin (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com)

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Calendar Dates Our calendar usually covers six weeks or more from publication so please give us your dates in good time. If you don't want your event to clash with others why not check with us early?

Ideas/Opinions/Articles We are always looking for news of interest - please contact the Editorial Team on tatsfieldpm@gmail.com.

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EDITORIAL

Let's think about dates. Not the kind that come in a box as a tasty Christmas treat but those that are in the calendar. Christmas Day is on a Monday this year, resulting in a nice four-day break for many, including the preceding weekend. However, this means that Christmas Eve is also the 4th Sunday of Advent, which would normally fall before Christmas Eve, with the resulting possibility of too many things to celebrate in one day!

At St Mary's we will **not** have a 10am Sunday morning service on 24th December, instead we will observe our normal pattern for Christmas Eve with the 4.30pm Christingle/Nativity at Tatsfield Primary School and 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist in Church (There will be a 10am Eucharist to mark the 4th Sunday of Advent at St Peter's, Limpsfield).

Thinking of dates, some will be aware that Jesus Christ was not necessarily born on 25th December but the Church adopted the date for the celebration of His birth, possibly to coincide with a longer-standing festival which celebrates the coming of the lighter days after the darkest point of winter.

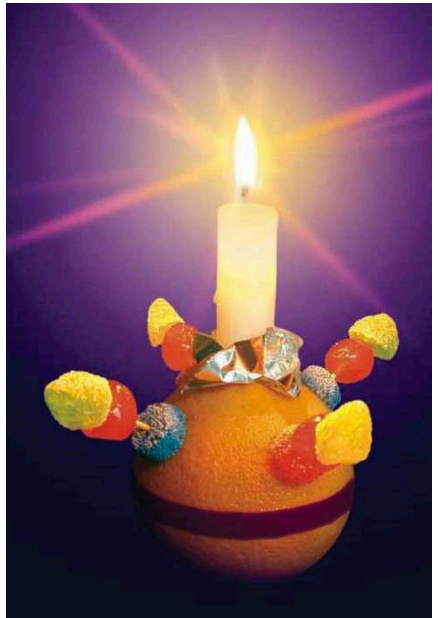
The idea of light is used symbolically to speak of God's holiness. The word "light" is also used in relation to Christ in the traditional midnight Communion reading from St John's Gospel and in that context it is to do with the Christian belief that Christ by His divinity shows us what God is like – just as switching on a light reveals the contents of a room.

Without giving too much away, the related idea of Christ being "the light of the world" is used at our Christingle (pictured) and Nativity service at the School. All are welcome to this and to our other Christmas services at St Mary's.

With my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Vince Short

Editor's Note – January and February's issues will be combined, as usual. Therefore the deadline for submissions for this double issue is 5th January. Thank you.



LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank Lesley Bennett, our local florist based in Westmore Road, for the beautifully verdant wreath she made for me to lay at the horse trough, in memory of all animals killed in conflicts past and present, at the 11th November Remembrance Service of Dedication of the new war memorial.

I was glad to have the opportunity on the day to read a message from HRH the Princess Royal after I had written to her Private Secretary, telling the strange tale of how an old horse trough would be linked with a new war memorial in our village. Within a week of sending my letter an envelope franked "Buckingham Palace" and "EIR" plopped through the letterbox. No, the Princess could not personally write and sign a letter, but she DID send a message to us all, as you can see. *"Her Royal Highness sends you her best wishes for a moving and inspiring Service of Dedication on 11th November"*, signed by her Assistant Private Secretary, Commander Anne Sullivan, Royal Navy.

I was so pleased to present her best wishes in a copy of this letter to Ted Bonwick for him to take back to his Regiment, the Royal Kent Regiment, formerly known as "The Queen's Own Buffs". Since then I have had more requests for copies so that he can hand them to more members who have been actively campaigning to have a war memorial put into place in this village - the only village in Kent, Surrey and Sussex not to have a standing war memorial to lay wreaths around.

So it's now the perfect time for me, after a decade or more, to finally retire from planting out and maintaining the horse trough at the village centre. I suffer badly from arthritis in my back from various horse riding accidents many years ago, so I have finally decided I should take the professional advice given to me years ago and have a rest! Martyn has paid for all those years of planting, apart from one summer, which has been his own personal contribution to the village.

With the war memorial now safely in place, and as a result perhaps more interest in this area being shown in the future, I now look forward to seeing what is planted, and hope that my own displays of herbs have been enjoyed by villagers over the years.

With my best wishes

Lin Saines

Dear Editor

I would like to say a big thank you to Dave Bishop and his team, for all the work he did to make Saturday's remembrance service so good. He's not a spring chicken (sorry Dave) but he worked so hard to achieve a very emotional morning.

Val Bagshaw on behalf of Tatty Knitters

Dear Editor,

A note from the Cotswolds

We are now well settled into our new home in Avening with the church, the pub and the school all just a minute's walk away. Jennie is signed up with the WI and Gerald is now a member of the local golf club, which offers three different courses. However we miss our Tatsfield friends and hope to see you on our occasional return visits.

It was very good to see some Tatsfielders at the licensing service on 9th October – the photo was taken after the service with the Bishop of Gloucester, Wardens, Archdeacon and Area Dean. Since then I have conducted a wedding, two baptisms and a funeral as well as the Sunday services, so beginning to feel well established.



We are both still overwhelmed by the generosity of your gift as we left Tatsfield. It has enabled us to replace a fast dying laptop and to provide ourselves with garden storage which was previously non-existent here. The remainder will be put to good use in the New Year.

With many thanks and very best wishes

Gerald and Jennie South

Dear Editor

Thank you so much Friends of St Mary's and Children of Tatsfield School for the delightful gifts you have very kindly given me from the Harvest Festival.

Last year one of the gifts I received was new to me. My enjoyment of it resulted in its regular addition to my shopping list - as I believe I mentioned in my letter at the time. This year two gifts had the same effect!

Mindful of the different aspects of giving, it is a routine event on the morning following the Festival for a group of wonderful women to sort out the considerable supply of produce into two lots. The major quantity is taken to Brixton for use over a longer period, while the remaining goods are arranged in similar sized boxes with thought and care to achieve varied contents. As many items are tinned these boxes are heavy, and carrying them from the church to the cars must prove tiring. As a very grateful recipient I wish to express my sincere appreciation to everyone concerned for this heart warming gesture, and the spirit in which it is always accompanied.

Betty Perry

Dear Editor,

Looking through the November issue of the parish magazine, Eleanor and I were sad to see the article regarding the closing and sale of Linda's village shop and are sure that both Lin and Brian will be greatly missed. I won't waffle on about Lin and the shop, as we are sure that it has all been said by now by many Tatsfielders and other users/visitors to the shop, and I do not, and cannot possibly add to all the good words that have already been attributed here, except to add that we both agree wholeheartedly with all the good comments.

We are sincerely saddened not to have been able to pass on our best wishes to Linda and Brian personally (I think that I still owe Lin 20p from many moons ago - oops, sorry Lin). So, Lin and Brian we wish you both a comfortable and pleasant retirement, and hope that life is as good to you as you have been over the years to many others.

Another item that caught my attention regarded the horse trough and the plans for a memorial to be attached (at long last). It may be of interest to some as to how the trough came to the village in the first place, so here goes: In my early years as a parish councillor there were some discussions with regard to having a memorial to the fallen Tatsfielders of both wars to be erected in the village. These discussions went on for some time, usually ending with no decision on a suitable site, or affordability, and so it went on. I was then involved in putting together some leaflets regarding walks in and around Tatsfield, and when out one day researching footpaths and bridleways, I spotted this same trough (unused) in a field at Whelans farm, and a 'cunning' plan began to form. I outlined this to my fellow councillors who all agreed subject to certain criteria, including the proviso that the trough would remain the responsibility of the Parish Council and that they had the final word regarding any changes; and they would give financial support in regards to upkeep and maintenance where and when possible. I was then able to discuss this with Mr John Whelan who readily agreed to:

- a) donate the trough to the village
- b) bring the trough to the agreed site where it now sits, and
- c) restore the trough from its somewhat dilapidated condition to a more acceptable state suitable for the purpose.

The trough was then sited and volunteers from the village and 'horti' group put it in order and it was then planted accordingly. This continued for some time until interest diminished and it began to look very sad. Martin and Lin Saines then volunteered take on the planting and general upkeep and have done in my opinion, a most excellent job over the past ten years or so, giving their time and often at their own expense.

The plan to add a memorial and Lin Saines's idea of a welsh slate bringing together Tatsfield's history also strikes the right note. I wish every success to you all with this, and look forward to being able to return to Tatsfield once again for a visit soon.

David Wood

SARAH JOAN STREET

Joan Street, a resident of Tatsfield for around 70 years, formerly of 24 Lusted Hall Lane, sadly passed away on Monday 23rd October. Wife of the late Douglas Street and mother to Douglas, Jean, Wendy, Clive, Ian, Lorna, Denise, Alison and Michelle, her funeral was held on 10th November at St Mary's, after the family led the procession on foot from the village.

"When I look around I see sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even two great-great-grandchildren and to think she was responsible for all of you.

I know we are grieving but we should also be celebrating her life because without her this world would have been so very different; she has given us so many wonderful memories.

Not so long ago Mum could still name each and every one of her very large family, which must have taken some doing! Mum had a knack of making you feel like you were the only one, that you were special and that didn't stop at her children; all her sons and daughters in law simply just knew her as "Mum".

We all have our memory of the things that remind us of Mum whether it be those creamy rice puddings, the old fashioned stews, or those lovely big cuddles that only she could give, and that lovely smile, the smile that got her lots of sweet treats when nobody was looking which I'm very guilty of!

People have said to me it must have been hard to care for someone with dementia. But my reply to that has all ways been the same— Rewarding. Mum's favourite verse was called Footprints in the Sand. So I'll end this by saying Mum, when you could no longer see your footprints in the sand, it was then that we carried you and it was an honour to do so."

From the eulogy read by Ian Campbell

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting of the Parish Council we reflected on the inaugural **Remembrance Service** and were thrilled that this was so well attended by villagers. Dave Bishop and his team worked enormously hard and the result was very moving. Dave has also asked us to sponsor the annual **Christmas Carol Singalong** on Friday, 15th December. We are delighted to support this family event. This year all three trees on the 'Memorial Green' will be lit and these will be turned on at 4pm on 1st December. Hopefully this is late enough for those who aren't fans of Christmas and yet early enough for those who are. Personally, I'd vote to have them on all year!

At last month's parish council meeting we expressed our sadness at the passing of **Denis Hayes**. As well as being a key member of many village organisations over the decades, Denis was a parish councillor in the late 1980s and again in the late 1990s. He was Chairman for three years and presided over the successful extension and refurbishment of the Village Hall in 1999.

For personal reasons **Mike Pendleton** has stood down as both a Parish Councillor and Chair of the **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee**. Having spoken to the steering committee it's clear that no-one feels able to step forward as Chair and we are therefore seeking a replacement. If anyone would like to fill this position or, at least, find out further information please do get in touch.

We have taken note of all the messages on social media and to all who have stopped us and asked us where **the pond** has gone! We have agreed to commission two expert companies to give us some advice and will report back to you with their findings.

When I met David Hodge and Martin Allen recently, among other issues, we discussed HGV access throughout the village. Apparently Surrey County Council does update Satnav providers with new '**No Through Road/Unsuitable for HGVs**' sign locations but sadly the haulage companies don't always buy the updates. If any residents feel a 'no through road' or a 'your satnav is wrong' sign would be suitable in any particular area please let us know by the end of the year and we will review the situation.

You may also have noted that our **notice-board** opposite the Manor House has now been replaced by a new one in a safer position at the northern end of Tatsfield Green.

Finally, this just leaves me, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building at 8.00 pm on Monday 11th December and then on Monday 8th January 2018 - also at 8.00 pm. As always, the agendas will be made available on village notice boards and at: www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/

Nichola Stokoe, Chairman (Tel: 576443; nicholastokoe@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under Section 87 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that a casual vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for the Parish of Tatsfield following the resignation of

Peter Michael James Pendleton

Under Rule 5(2) of The Local Elections (Parish and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006 it allows for ten electors for the Parish (ward) to request a by-election in order to fill the vacancy, if no such request is made the vacancy will be filled by the Parish Council through co-option.

Written requests for a by-election to be held should be sent to:

The Chief Executive,
Tandridge District Council
Council Offices
Station Road East
Oxted RH8 0BT

and must be received on or before Tuesday 12th December 2017.
(Dated: 22/11/2017)

Samantha Head – Clerk
33 Alexandra Road
Warlingham
Surrey
CR6 9DW

PARK WOOD GOLF CLUB

Dear Neighbours,

We would like to invite you on Wednesday 6th December at 6.00pm to come to the Club where we will be happy to discuss our exciting current and future plans for Park Wood Golf Club. An RSVP to mail@parkwoodgolf.co.uk or 01959 577744 would be greatly appreciated.

5.45pm - Arrival and refreshment

6.00pm - Presentation on future plans followed by discussion

This is also the evening in which our quiz night takes place and you are more than welcome to stay and enter a team! We look forward to seeing you there.

The Team at Park Wood

SAM GYIMAH MP

After a busy first half term both up in Parliament and in East Surrey, here are five highlights from what I have been doing over the last few weeks.



Planning and the Local Plan: Local planning policy is currently based on a strategy published nearly a decade ago in 2008. The longer we go without a Local Plan, the more we are playing into the hands of speculative developers. This is not the way to preserve the quality and way of life that makes Tandridge the desirable area it is. My full statement on the Local Plan can be found here:

<http://www.samgyimah.com/2017/10/10/we-need-a-local-plan-to-protect-our-green-belt/>

Crime & Policing: Several of you have written to me about concerns with local crime and I have had a great meeting in Westminster with Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave and Assistant Chief Constable Nev Kemp of Surrey Police. This gave me the chance to raise the issues you have written to me about, as well as to discuss a crackdown on local burglaries, the importance of street-lighting, the scourge of domestic abuse and the visibility of police officers on our streets.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: I know that animal welfare is a matter that is important to many of us. This being the case, I had the privilege of being given a tour by constituent and Deputy CEO Peter Laurie. Not only was it great to see the brilliant work that the shelter does, but it was good to be briefed on their educational work, animal welfare programmes, and their recent campaign to increase sentences for animal cruelty offences. For a look behind the scenes, my photos can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/GyimahforEastSurrey/posts/908566992630556>

Surgeries: September and October saw many come along to one of my surgeries. Should you wish to book an appointment, please email me or phone the office on 020 7219 3504 and one of my team will be happy to book you an appointment. Surgeries are held every other Friday afternoon.

That's it for this edition. If there are issues that haven't been covered this time and you would like an update on what I am doing in such areas, please email me for details. On a more general note – I have written several pieces over the last few weeks. Should you wish to read any of them, they can be found on the links below:

Southern Rail Dispute and Uber Debacle Shows Labour Will Fight For The Unions, Not You: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/sam-gyimah/southern-rail-tube-strike_b_18189620.html?utm_hp_ref=uk-sam-gyimah

<http://www.samgyimah.com/>

Best wishes, Sam **Gyimah MP** Tel: 020 7219 3504 Email: sam@samgyimah.com

I was humbled and proud to be part of the village's **Service of Remembrance** that was held on Saturday 11th November in the village centre. My congratulations to everyone that organised took part or attended the Service.

Fireworks night 5th November: So there I was thinking that all of the bangs and whoops that I had started hearing from the end of October to literally the 12th November had all passed without any serious fire hazard or complaint. Then it was brought to my notice that a firework display had taken place in the village in an open area and on private land. Now I am not here to spoil whatever enjoyment 5th November gives to people, but I must ask that "private firework parties" are not held on private land without the permission of the landowner. Such events should be held in the relative safety of your own back garden where any possible safety issue is contained there and will not affect any passer-by at that time. We also know the effect that fireworks have on pets so do please be considerate next year. Limit the party to the appropriate night and have the party within your own garden. Thanks.

At the end of October the Parish Council Chairman and I met our **County Councillor David Hodge** to review matters involving Tatsfield. Our meetings will now be held every three months. If you have matters you wish raised please do let me know.

Wellbeing Prescription Service – Taxi Voucher Scheme: I have meetings planned in the next fortnight or so with TDC officers regarding how these services will affect Tatsfield residents and I will make sure details will be fully circulated so that if required you can take full use of these two services.

New Parking regime in Oxted: Don't forget that ticketless parking started on 15th November in the Ellice Road car park.

- Drive in – A camera will scan your number plate and the barrier will open.
- Park and pay later – Type your number plate in to the machine and pay by cash or card.
- Drive up to and out as the barrier will open automatically.
- You can register for an on line account or apply for free parking with your blue badge.
- **Don't forget the first hour is still free.**

The Community Recycling Centres – Update: Surrey County Council is keeping the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) at Bond Road in Warlingham open, but there are some changes to opening times.

- From 8th January 2018: Bond Road will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 8am to 4pm, and on Saturdays from 9am to 4pm.

- Chaldon Road, Caterham CRC will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8am to 4pm, and Saturday and Sundays from 9am to 4pm.

Full details can be found on www.surreycc.gov.uk/recycling.

Surrey Countryside Partnership Board: As the Tandridge District Council representative on this board I attended my first meeting on 9th November at the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Town Hall. What a quaint old building that is.

The Surrey Countryside Partnerships comprises three partnerships: Downlands, which is in the Tandridge area, Lower Mole and Surrey Heathland. Full information about their services can be found at:

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreycountrysidepartnerships>, and

Twitter: @ExploreSurreyUK and @Downygrazers

This organisation like many others is suffering with a shortage of funds which will seriously affect its ability to complete the tasks it has been doing since the formation of this board. It employs some full time staff but the amazing amount of volunteer hours put in is just staggering. They have worked on over 100 different sites for both public and private landowners, improving 12km for public access, looked after seven ponds and improved habitat in the district.

Over 22,000 volunteer hours (equivalent to 13.5 full time staff) estimated to be worth nearly £200,000 of savings to the County and District budgets. Tandridge District Council plays its part in this with a donation of around £23,500 towards the costs and the employment costs for one full member of staff.

For those of you that get out in to the country there is a choice of 22 Chalk grassland sites in Surrey and South London including our own Hill Park in Tatsfield. So do get out to see them at some time. If you want any further information on the SCPB I will be glad to obtain it for you.

And finally at the end of the same day I attended a Resources Committee Meeting and the probably not surprising news from that is that there is a shortfall in the budget for 2018/19 of £276,000 and that is despite a £5 Council tax rise so there are still some tough times ahead for us all.

On a more positive and private note may I wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

If you think I can help you with anything to do with the Tandridge District Council or anything else please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Martin Allen (01959 577201 cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk or martin_allen@talk21.com)

POLICING

O little village of Tatsfield, how still we see thee lie...(mostly). 'Tis the season to be jolly (unless you are a victim of crime). Deck the halls with...as little as possible. Do not give a burglar an incentive to break in, by keeping presents out of sight.

Silent Night...please keep it nice and quiet at night, by securing all windows/doors and outbuildings. Any security questions, please call Mark Howells on 01483 637044.

Right, that's enough of that. No singing please. Crime-wise, this past month has been small on numbers (three), but sadly, two of them are burglaries. Firstly, in October a property on Chestnut Avenue had its garage broken into, with several large garden tools stolen. Sadly, because of the remote location and time it happened, there are no witnesses or any lines of enquiry to follow. The other one, in November, happened in Paynesfield Road. It's upsetting to report that a large number of items were stolen, including jewellery, electronics and a car. Thankfully, due to a fitted tracker, this was located a few miles away. There were forensic clues at the scene which hopefully will produce an identity for the offender. Finally, another case of post being stolen from a remote box has been reported from Ricketts Hill Road, with financial accounts being applied for without the residents' knowledge. These are serious cases of fraud, so please do all you can to avoid having your post intercepted, and report to police all postal activity that appears strange.

In addition to the actual crimes, there have been two further incidents that need to be mentioned for your awareness. In October, two males were seen in a rear garden, climbing on a shed on Rag Hill Road. They were spooked by the owner and ran off. In these longer, darker nights please make sure you have external lighting which helps deter would-be thieves from coming close to your property. Also, in November a male attempted to steal a car from a driveway in Ricketts Hill Road. Again, he was shoed off by the resident and a crime was avoided. This was an obvious case, but any even vaguely suspicious sightings must be reported to Surrey Police immediately on 999. Then there is a much greater chance of those involved being caught.

Following reports of local boys doing bike wheelies down Paynesfield Road during various hours, several of them were located and given stern words to stop this activity. The explained scenario of them ending up under a car, or also injuring an unwitting driver, we hope has had some effect. Since our encounters, we have not had any more reports, but we will keep checking and giving words of advice.

It has been reported that during the fireworks season, a number of residents (adults and children) had their own display out on The Square. There is an offence of throwing a firework in a public place, but not this specific event as mentioned. However, as this location is on TDC land, I would advise to those involved that safety-wise, this was not a good idea, and should be confined to private property.

Another report brought to my attention is from Old Lane. Several residents have encountered parked/abandoned vans at various times, blocking the road (track). Being

single lane, and with no alternative route, please could this location be kept clear at all times. If Surrey Police are called, and find no owner with a vehicle, we may have no alternative but to remove it. Many thanks.

Kids: do not be tempted to climb up into open chimneys to look for Father Christmas. All three of us emergency services will be busy enough during this period, without child retrievals. Also, how can Father Christmas successfully come down to deliver your present, when you're coming up? I rest my case. Common sense please.....thank you!!

I will end by wishing all residents a peaceful and happy (but not too 'merry') Christmas. Let's all focus on the positive and heart-warming side of this time of year.

Will catch you in 2018 -see you around the village,

PCSO 12599 RUPERT KELLEY, Surrey Police

WHERE IS TATSFIELD? KENT OR SURREY?

We pay our Council Tax to Surrey; our County Councillor is leader of Surrey; Dave Bishop's weekly column is in the Surrey Mirror. Look at an estate agent's website however and you're quite likely to find Tatsfield being described as in Kent. Order something over the Internet and the odds are that the automatic address-finder will say you're in Kent. Some years ago the then leader of Surrey County Council told me he thought Tatsfield was in Kent!

How does this happen? It's all because of the way Royal Mail organises itself. Until a century and a half ago - 1859 to be exact - letters for Tatsfield came to us via Limsfield. Then, the story goes, the route up the hill from Westerham was preferred to the steep climb up Titsey Hill, and so it was from Kent that our post was delivered from that time on.

Tatsfield has never been in Kent. It's been on record as being in Surrey for nearly a thousand years and the so-called Cross-Valley Dyke down on the A25 at Moorhouse survives as a border installation from long before that.

The Post Office stopped insisting on county names in addresses more than twenty years ago. The Royal Mail's advice now is: *"When you address your mail, you don't need to include a county name - your letters and parcels will reach your intended recipient without one".*

I heard a story the other day that someone who believed we were in Kent pulled out of buying a house here when told their children would not necessarily qualify for admission to a school in Kent.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project: Email: Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376

THE 13TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG



For those new people who have recently come to live in our lovely Tatsfield Village will now learn about the annual Christmas Carol Singalong which by Friday 15th December will have reached the total of thirteen times that it has been staged outside the Ship pub.

The event starts at 7pm and we will be singing fifteen well-known carols with everyone being given a songbook with all of the words beforehand. There will be the usual band of the "Tatsfield Saints" under their conductor Leslie Lake. Father

Christmas and his Elves will be arriving at 7.45 with a present for all of the children at 7.45 after they have sung "Away in a manger".

The Parish council's chairman Nichola Stokoe will give us a Christmas message and the Revd. Vince Short will give us a Christmas Blessing.

Don't forget your warm coats, hats and gloves because (whatever the weather) it will all happen that Friday evening. It's a terrific way to put you in the mood for Christmas especially now that we have so many extra lights in the trees.

Dave Bishop

2017 BMX SUCCESS

The Longley brothers, Lewis and Ben, have had another successful year on the BMX race circuit leading to qualification for the European and World Championships in 2018.

Ben has made strong progress with some great National racing, he finished 6th overall in the South Regional series and had a great 3rd podium finish in the South Region Championships. He represented Great Britain in Bordeaux earlier in the summer where he did his country proud!



Lewis has had an amazing season finishing overall 8th in the country in his age group. He took National podiums twice during 2017. Lewis was crowned both the South Regional series winner and the South Region Champion. The future looks bright for Lightning Lewis, as he is known on the circuit, as he enters his third year of competitive racing. Team GB are keen to see his progression.

We would like to thank all of our friends and family in the village that continue to support us whilst our children fulfil their cycling dreams....

Karen and James Longley

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Saturday, 11th November 2017



What a turnout and well done everyone for all that you have done to make the first ever Remembrance Service to be held in the centre of Tatsfield's Village such a huge success. Congratulations to all of you and both Ted Bonwick and Dennis Tapsell are thrilled to bits as Tatsfielders having done your very best to fulfil their dreams of having our very own Memorial Stone right where it should be. I thought in thanking all of the people who have helped that I would name names in this short "thank you " piece but the list is far too long and you all know who you are anyway. So thank you all again Tatsfielders and as I have written before, you are simply the best. I'll let the pictures speak for themselves.



Just some of the well over 300-strong crowd at the first Tatsfield Remembrance Day Service in the Village Centre



Seats were provided for those people who welcomed this addition



*Andrew Bond of The Bakery restaurant lays his wreath
at the new Remembrance Stone*



*The Locke Brass band and the Reverend Vince Short in full flow to the hymn
"The day Thou gavest Lord is ended"*



*The Tatty Knitters (L – R) Jan
Bishop, Kim Jennings and Val
Bagshaw whose wreath was
knitted by their group.*



*The whole place at 8 am was deep in
fallen leaves and these Saturday workers
arrived at 9am and cleared them all away
- a wonderful job*

LINDA'S FAREWELL

The sad day finally came – Saturday 28th October. At 4pm Linda's Stores closed its doors for the last time. And later that evening, over 200 people packed into the Village Hall to say goodbye and give their thanks to Linda Dance, husband Brian and daughter Louise.

We were reminded that Linda had taken over the shop 40 years ago in 1977. It has been a lifetime of devotion to the village - up at five in the morning to sort out the newspapers and hard at it all day. It's not just the hard work but the way it has been done – not just helpful and friendly but caring too. The village will not be the same.



We were told of how in the last few weeks villagers had put into words how they felt: "It's so nice to come into the shop and be greeted by name – what a difference that makes." "This is the end of an era. Tatsfield will not be the same without you." "Thank you for always going the extra mile." "Linda's was the first place my mum let me go by myself. I remember once I was 2p short for Dip Dab and Linda kindly put it in for me." "Yours has been so much more than a village shop – the hub of our community." "Linda came to the rescue of the village in 2001 when we had lost our Post Office. If Linda had not come forward, we would not have a Post Office and there would be little prospect of us getting one in the future."

Louise was thanked too. She started working part-time in the shop when she was 15 years old and has been full time for the past 24 years, always cheerful and always helpful.

The village wanted to show its appreciation in a practical way. Fundraising started with Lorraine Maddison opening a Crowdfunding page to raise money for Linda to buy a kiln as Linda loves pottery but does not have a kiln. Lorraine raised the marvellous amount of £1675 in this way. Then two donation boxes were put in the Village Club and the Bakery, raising £630 and £1,657 respectively. In addition another £580 was donated, so that we had the magnificent grand total of £4542, which says so much about what we all think.



Lorraine presented Linda with a cheque for £4042 and Louise one for £500, and also lovely bouquets for each. We then all drank a toast to Linda, Brian and Louise: our thanks to them and our very best wishes for the future. We concluded the evening by bringing the roof down with a rendering of "For she's a jolly good fellow".

We all hope that the sale of the shop will be completed soon and that Linda and Brian will be able to move to a new home by the sea as they wish.

Bob David

THANKS

I would like to say a very big thank you for all of my lovely gifts and cards and all of the money donated for my kiln. You were all so generous. Thank you too to all of you who organised the goodbye party for me, who provided the food and drinks and who helped clear up. I will miss each and every one of you. By the time you read this I hope to be in my new home with Brian and Bertie. Thank you so much.

Linda

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW SHOP OWNERS

Apologies for any inconvenience caused by the shop's and Post Office's temporary closure. The sale of the premises is progressing well and we are looking forward to opening it as soon as we can after renovation works have taken place.

LONDON MARATHON 2018 IN AID OF THE BRAIN RESEARCH TRUST

I am really pleased to have a place on the London Marathon 2018 and I will be running for a charity I am passionate about - the **Brain Research Trust**.

The charity funds vital research into brain tumours, Alzheimer's, dementia, epilepsy, Parkinson's, strokes, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, migraine and many more brain related conditions. I know adults and children that are currently undergoing treatment for such conditions and some of my friends and family have lost loved ones to one of the conditions listed above.

Although this is my third marathon, I know it will be just as challenging both mentally and physically, as I am not a regular or natural runner. I find the training gruelling (especially in the winter months) and the marathon itself is probably the hardest thing I have ever done (and it wasn't any easier second time round). If you are able to support me, any donation will be very welcome. You can find my fund raising page by going on to the Virgin Money Giving website and searching for my name. <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/>

To help raise money for the charity, I am holding a Quiz Night in Tatsfield Village Hall at 7.30pm on Saturday, 27th January. If you are interested in coming, please do join up with friends and family to make up tables of up to eight. Places cost £12 per head and a light supper will be provided during the evening, but please bring your own drinks and glasses. To book your place, please contact me on 571521 or email sarah.coop@mail.com.

Sarah Coop



**TATSFIELD ART GROUP
Village Hall Westmore
Green Tatsfield TN16**

Watch a Demonstration by SHARON HURST "Fantasy Artist" in watercolour
12th March 2018 7.30 – 10.00 p.m. £10
Please ring Carol Gaskell 577724 or Christine Stainer 577803 for further details

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



On Monday 13th November we were wearing odd socks to school, because it was Anti Bullying Week. We decided to wear odd socks to represent us being both unique and at the same time all the same.

We were enjoying the activities about Anti Bullying week and we learned about the different types of bullying – physical, verbal, indirect, and online.

We also looked into ways of how to stop bullying and how to support the victims of bullying.

We hope everyone at Tatsfield School has built the confidence to stand up to bullies!

By Felicity and Lilly, Year 4 (Kestrel Class)



1st TATSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS



We again have had a great month at Beavers, the children have been carving pumpkins and enjoying decorating Halloween biscuits. During the week of 5th November the children made a huge Guy Fawkes from newspaper and old clothes, we hope to burn him the next time the group have a fire! Thank you to Karen for providing Beavers with Sparklers (please see photos below). We discussed Health and Safety issues associated with fireworks and

linked this to our first aid training that we have received from St John Ambulance (Biggin Hill) before half term. All Beavers were very well behaved and no incidents!

Saturday 11th November was a very special day in Tatsfield, when the people of Tatsfield, along with 1st Tatsfield Scouts, came together to remember the service men and women who have fought for our country in both WW1 and World War11 plus many other conflicts, to allow us to live our lives in peace. 11 Beavers attended this special service outside The Ship pub, on what was a very wet, cold day. Alice and James were our flag bearers and walked at the front with the rest of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts following behind, down Paynesfield Road towards the Village Centre. Makrk Gale (GSL) and Madeline Budgen represented the Scout Group and laid a wreath on our behalf. It was a lovely service and one that everyone will remember.



We still have a lot of exciting events coming up – a visit to Biggin Hill Airport, Tatsfield Church and training from Tatsfield Village Dementia Team.

Beavers run on a Tuesday night, term time, 5.45-6.45. Beaver Leader is Jenny Snelling with Assistant Leader Karen Vowles.

SCOUTS



The lovely wreath made by our talented Scouts for the village Remembrance service.

TATTY KNITTERS

Time is rushing by, I'm wishing I'd not decided to make things for Christmas. Several members of the group have taken part or are taking part in local craft fairs, selling things from blankets to dog coats.



This month we are having our Christmas meal. It's an evening of fun and frivolity. Cost is £25 for a 3-course meal, if you'd like to come along please let either me or The Bakery know.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM US ALL. January's get together will be on the 9th.

Val Bagshaw 07761 571071

COMPOSTER'S CHRONICLE

Mother recognised as champion recycler - but more about that later!

Firstly, I must do something I really should have done last month and that is to thank our five hard-working Duke of Edinburgh volunteers who did such a fantastic job this year. So thank you Adam and Josh Dennis, Nat and Cecily Bateman and, last but by no means least, Harry Boys. We couldn't have done without you!

Now, who's the mother who recycles absolutely everything and wastes absolutely nothing? No prizes for guessing that, as a composting enthusiast, I am talking about Mother Nature.

This amazing process is carried out by a huge array of different organisms - bacteria, algae, fungi, earthworms, nematodes, millipedes - the list goes on and on. Ninety-five percent of all vegetable matter is consumed by micro-organisms and only five percent by animals. Without these little critters working away, mostly unseen, there would be no returning to the earth of all the essential minerals and nutrients for the next generation of plants. Gradually the soil would be exhausted and, slowly but surely, plant-life would succumb. All our food crops and all our trees – no food, no oxygen. Not good!

Back above ground, planning for next year has started in earnest and we are hoping to begin major repairs to the site, replacing a lot of the old, rotting pallets that were used in the initial build, with some more substantial woodwork. This should improve efficiency and greatly enhance the visual impact of the site. Our big shredder will be going in for a service and our volunteers will be taking a well-earned rest. As you probably know, we are always looking for more help, so if you would like to lend a hand next year please "ping" me on the email address below.

It just remains for me to say, on behalf of the composting team, have a very merry Christmas, health and happiness in the New Year and enjoy all that lovely Xmas fayre brought to you, in no small part, by the amazing composting process.

Philip Brett - hollygrove6-philip@yahoo.co.uk

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

This half term we're looking at 'Celebrations' including Guy Fawkes Night, Hanukkah and Christmas. We've been busy making a pretend bonfire at the start of November and making lots of Christmas crafts including Christmas



calendars! The children made a beautiful handprint wreath to lay at the memorial for the Remembrance Service in the village. We also supported Children in Need on Friday 17th November by asking our children to wear something spotty to the session, decorating biscuits to sell to parents and supporting the Children in Need duck race!

This half term we were sad to say goodbye to our long serving member of staff Ana, but know she will be fantastic in her new role- good luck Ana!



Christmas at Little Acorns

We've got a very busy few weeks coming up as we approach Christmas! We're excited to have a visit from the 'Search for Santa' interactive workshop for the children to enjoy, and preparations are well underway for our end of term Christmas party and show for the parents! We'll be enjoying party food, Christmas games and a visit from some Christmas puppets before we get ready to put on our festive show for the parents with the Christmas story and lots of songs to sing along to! We may even be visited by a very important Christmas guest at the end of the show!

We've also got our 'Crazy Crafty Christmas' event at the Village Hall at the start of December, our popular Christmas Hamper raffle and our Christmas postbox for the children to post their letters to Santa and cards to each other!

Thank you for reading and wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Mareka Newberry

Office Manager at Little Acorns Preschool (office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk)

Ticketless parking in Ellice Road car park

Starts 15 November

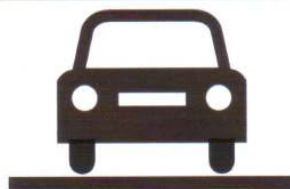
Drive in

A camera will scan your number plate and the barrier will open.



Park and pay later

Type your number plate into the machine and pay by cash or card. Alternatively register for an online account.



Drive out

The barrier will open automatically.



Visit **www.tandridge.gov.uk/parking**.

- To register for an online account.
- Apply for free parking if you're a Blue Badge holder.
- Find out more about how your business can support its customers.

Tandridge
District Council

Don't forget the first hour is free!

ST MARY'S MATTERS

All Souls' Service, 29th October

The church was nearly full as we remembered our lost loved ones. Over 50 names were read and candles were lit in their memory.

Remembrance Weekend – Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th November

Following the success of Saturday's moving special event in the village centre, the Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion and Observance in church included the opportunity to recall some of the events of World War 1, as a reminder of the sacrifices made on our behalf. We are very grateful to the flower arrangers for the beautiful arrangements.



Open the Bible – December and January

On Sunday 3rd December we'll be celebrating the 1st Sunday of Advent and there will be a collection of new toys to be taken to our link church in Brixton along with the food delivery (see below). On Sunday 7th January, we will think about The Epiphany, when the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus.

Food Bank Christmas Delivery

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the St Mary's Church Food Bank with your donations. We are planning to make a Christmas delivery to Christ Church, Brixton, on Monday 18th December. It would be great to be able to deliver a good quantity of food with our Christmas wishes. Please place any donations of non-perishable food for this trip in the box provided in the narthex (at the back of the church). There is also a small money box, available only during Sunday services, for anyone who would like to donate money that will be used to purchase further food donations.

Posada

The figures of Mary and Joseph are making their way around the village during Advent seeking shelter in Tatsfield homes as they travel to 'Bethlehem'. Their journey ends on Christmas Eve as they arrive at the Christingle service.

Christingle making at 10am on Saturday 23rd December at Tatsfield Primary School

Please come and help us turn oranges, sweets, fruit and candles into these symbols of the Christmas festival in preparation for our Christingle service on Christmas Eve – fun for all the family.

Christmas services

These are listed on the Christmas card accompanying this magazine and we hope to see you at one or more of them. At the candlelit Carol Service (4pm on 17th December) we will be joined by The Tatsfield Singers, our Community Choir. Mince pies and mulled wine will follow. For the Christmas Eve Christingle Service at 4.30pm at Tatsfield

Primary School, children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels or wise men. The crib figures of Mary and Joseph will be welcomed back at the end of their journey around homes in the village. This joyful service is a great way to start the celebration of Christmas. There will also be our annual 'midnight' celebration of Holy Communion at 11.30pm and a service for all the family on Christmas morning at 10am. Collections taken at all our services over the Christmas period will go to The Children's Society, which is

Nativity Tableau

We are delighted that Sauro Gabelli will again be building a nativity tableau in the entrance area of the church. This is a well-established Italian tradition and Sauro's creations, different every year, are always much admired. The tableau should be in the church towards Christmas time – do pop into the church, spend a few quiet moments and enjoy! The church is usually open in daylight hours. Donations to The Children's Society are invited.

Flowers

There will be no flowers in church on the first two Sundays of Advent. However, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas commencing at 9.30am on Saturday 16th December. Please contact Jan Maynard on 577659 if you would like to join us - you would be most welcome.

2018 Diaries

There are a few remaining 2018 St Mary's Church pocket diaries available free of charge at the back of the church.

100 Club results

91. A. Long. £25 17. C. Swetenham £15 33. J. Ellis £10 St. Mary's Church £50

We have given £600.00 to St Mary's for the year ending November 2017.

Records

21st October Marriage of Peter Mills and Lorraine Clegg

10th November Funeral and burial of Sarah Joan Street

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting on Monday 6th November

The PCC were pleased to note the completion of recent work to replace the pew cushions in church and the lychgates at the main entrance to the churchyard. The quinquennial (five-yearly) inspection of the church and hall was completed by an external architect on 3rd November and a report is awaited.

St Mary's Church Website: www.lttm.org.uk

Vince Short

THE HOUSE, THE SHOE AND THE WITCHES

We bought our house, Tatsfield Lodge, in 2015. Many readers will know it as Dr Benison's old house! We believed it was built in Victorian times and that, as with many properties from that era, it had been altered and extended over the years.

From what we can establish we are only the 6th owners since its construction with Dr Benison and his wife and family having been here prior to us since 1970.

Fortunately Dr Benison had retained all the original documents relating to the property and the surrounding land dating back to 1893. Whilst we can't be certain of the exact date, as the deeds refer to various plots of land and buildings, we believe the house was constructed between 1890 and 1900.

As soon as we bought the property we had our planned to make it our own and alter it to fit the needs of our family. In the first year we concentrated on the garden and out buildings. This year we decided to tackle the interior, which I began re-modelling myself (I retrained as a fine furniture and cabinet maker six years ago) as I felt more than comfortable doing the non-structural refit myself.

Now you know why I was knocking down walls in our house hopefully the rest of this tale will make some sense!

Starting on the upstairs space, I needed to take down a piece of stud walling from an old part of the house. With all the original construction being lathe and plaster, this was a messy job. As I cut through the old plaster and started to lever it off of the lathes, I noticed the edge of something, as yet un-determined, inside the wall behind the lathes. This did not look like a piece of builder's rubble or off cut, indeed it looked like brown leather.

Needless to say I was more than a little intrigued. Taking extra care removing more plaster I saw what looked like a SHOE inside the wall. Of course many things went through my mind including - where is the foot that goes with the shoe and will I find a body buried in the wall with it! Fortunately it was nothing so macabre. It was in fact a petite, well-worn ladies Victorian button-up shoe. While a relieved at not having to call the police to solve a 120 year old murder, the presence of the shoe was odd as it had clearly been put in the wall on purpose.

So now modern technology came into its own and I googled the meaning of "shoes hidden in walls".



Surprisingly there were several references from a range of sources about this practice and I merged information from them to gain the fullest picture of what it's all about. It appears this is a practice that can be traced back to the late 14th to early 15th century, which only died out as late as 1920!

It is believed to be a superstitious folk magic designed to ward off witches and evil spirits. However there is little, if any, documented evidence as to the specific practice - not surprising really considering the church's persecution of anything construed as witchcraft or magic throughout most of this period.

Most of the shoes uncovered have been located around entrances to buildings or in specific rooms (as this one was). Apparently if you find one there may well be more hidden, though I have no intention of taking more walls down just to look!

Interestingly most of the shoes are children's or ladies, and you only ever find one shoe of the pair. The theory is that a shoe, rather than any other form of clothing, takes on the full imprint of the person who wore it and who requires protection.

There are also one or two examples of the mass concealing of worn shoes in specially built cavities in some larger houses, often behind chimney breasts. The largest find uncovered over a hundred boots and shoes in one location. So there must have been a lot of Tudor or Elizabethan people hopping around with one shoe, and I imagine a thriving market for black pointy hats as well!

The mystery however does not stop there. The practice followed explorers to many historical outposts of the empire with similar finds in the USA, Canada and Australia. There have only been a few finds across Europe (France, Spain and Poland) but this may be due to a lack of records.

The Northampton Museum seems to be the preeminent recorder of such finds with over 1900 recorded since the 1950s. I intend to send them the records of our find so they another to add to their historical collection. If any of you ever come across something similar please do not throw the shoe away - send the records to Northampton.

I am also going to write a short note about the shoe and its reason for being concealed in the wall. I will place the note and the shoe back inside a wall in our house for someone else to find in the distant future - and of course just in case to ward off the witches and evil spirits!

Peter Viner

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS

These events, weekly unless stated otherwise, normally take place at the times given below, but there can be variations e.g. in school holidays. Please check with the organisers if necessary.

Sun	10.00 am	Church service – StM
	9.00 pm	Open Mic night, The Old Ship
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	7.15 pm	Adult Ballet - TPS
	7.30 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	5.45pm	Beavers – SH
	7.00 pm	Scouts – SH
Wed	10.00 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	6.00 pm	Cubs – SH
	8.00 pm	Yoga – VH
	8.00 pm	Quiz Night, The Old Ship
Thu	10.00 am	Over 50s Yoga – WIH
	1.30 pm	Hear Here – AMB (1 st Thursday of the month)
	various	Tatsfield Martial Arts - SH
	7.30 pm	Duplicate Bridge – WIH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
Fri	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
	10.00 am	Pilates – WIH
	10.30 am	Forget Me Not Café - AMB
	10.00 am	Self-defence and Fitness, Tatsfield Martial Arts (SH)
	11.00 am	Pilates – WIH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	5.30 pm	Badminton club for Juniors - VH
Sat	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
	10.00 am	Composting site (now CLOSED for winter)
	various	Martial Arts - SH
	11.00 am	Parish Council Café -The Bakery [to noon]

Venues

AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CGA - Community Games Area
 CH - Church Hall • FC - Furze Corner • SH - Scout Hut
 StM - St. Mary's Church • TACG – Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden
 TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
 VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women's Institute

If you would like your VILLAGE event included in this diary in future please send details to:
tatsfieldpm@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

Events shown in **bold** where there is more information elsewhere in the magazine

DECEMBER

1 st Fri	7.30 pm	Richard Durrant Candlelit Concert, St John's Church Hurst Green
3rd Sun	10 am – 12pm	Little Acorns Crafty Christmas -VH
3rd Sun	10 am	Open the Bible - StM
2 nd Sat	7.30 – 10.45am	Bulky Waste Collection, VH Car Park
2 nd Sat	10 am – 4 pm	Oxted Christmas Festival
5th Tue	1 pm	WI Christmas Lunch
5 th – 8 th	7.30 pm	Les Miserables, School Edition, Barn Theatre, Oxted
6th Wed	5.45pm	Presentation at Park Wood Golf Club
9th Sat	7 pm	Tatsfield Singers Christmas Concert -VH
9 th Sat	2.30 & 7.30	Holly Jolly Barn, Barn Theatre, Oxted
10 th Sun	7.45 pm	Kast off Kinks, Barn Theatre, Oxted
12th Tue	12 pm	Not So Young Club Christmas Lunch
16th Sat	9.30 am	Decorating church for Christmas - StM
16th Sat	3.15 pm	Arthur Christmas, Curzon Country Cinema - VH
16th Sat	7.30 pm	Their Finest, Curzon Country Cinema - VH
17th Sun	4 pm	Candlelit Carol Service - StM
22 nd Fri	9.00 pm	Live Music, Tommy Coylecovers, The Old Ship
23rd Sat	10 am	Christingle making - TPS
24th Sun	4.30 pm	Christingle Service - TPS
24th Sun	11.30 pm	Midnight Celebration of Holy Communion - StM
25th Mon	10 am	Family Christmas Service - StM

JANUARY

7 th Sun	7 pm	North Downs Sinfonia, Young Soloists Concert
12 th -20 th	various	Puss in Boots, Barn Theatre, Oxted
27 th Sat	7.30 pm	Marathon Fundraiser Quiz, VH

If you would like your LOCAL event included in this diary in future please send details to:
tatsfieldpm@gmail.com



"TATSFIELD IS BUZZING" 2017



Now that the autumn planting has been completed, the volunteers have been busy over the past month trying to keep the fallen leaves under control around the village centre. This helps to protect the grass and also keeps the gutters and drains clear so that rainwater can clear away.



The team did an amazing job in the rain on Remembrance Day to clear the village centre of leaves and help set up for the service.

The Committee has decided to continue the pollinator theme of "Tatsfield is Buzzing" for a further year. Ideas are being drawn up to extend the project whilst keeping the beds, baskets and containers full of plants attractive to pollinating insects. The Bakery Lawn bed will be left to develop next year with the addition of a few new plants.

We are always looking for new volunteers to give up an hour of their time on a Saturday morning to come and help us. Please just turn up at 10.00am by the Bakery and we will greet you warmly!

Jill Hancock - Tatsfield in Bloom (577622)

THE BRIGITTE TRUST

The Brigitte Trust offers a free volunteer service of emotional support and practical help in the home when there has been a diagnosis of a life-threatening illness. When a family is faced with serious illness it can be devastating, and practical issues like driving, shopping and getting to hospital for treatment can sometimes be hard to manage.



Working alongside the medical teams and in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, the Trust offers a volunteer who will visit weekly and build up a relationship with the patient and carer offering company and time to listen without judgement.

There is a free training course in January 2018 for those who attended the November Taster sessions. We are particularly keen to reach out to the Tatsfield community to recruit volunteers.

Contact Ingrid in the office on 01306 881816 or find out more on www.brigitte-trust.org

TATSFIELD ROVERS JUNIORS

Tatsfield Rovers v Lewisham Tigers (H) - 19th November 2017 (cup match)

Tatsfield 4- 0 Lewisham

Harry Medhurst - Captain for the match.

A dry but muddy match at Furze Corner on Sunday saw Tatsfield Juniors back on form with a goal from Callum Hamilton and a hat trick from Ashton Stovell.



It was a great team result with some fantastic defending and assists on goal. The second half saw Aiden (Goalie) swap with Harry to give them both a chance in different positions.

Man of the match was awarded to Callum Hamilton - he will be team captain at the next match.

Catherine Medhurst

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA – AUTUMN CONCERT 2017, “AN EVENING WITH A TENOR”



On Saturday 11th November, I attended my first North Downs Sinfonia concert. A musician myself, I'd heard a little about the orchestra so I wanted to come and hear them for myself, and what a pleasure it was! A 'hidden gem' was what came to mind during the performance and I was very excited. In this little village hall, one you'd miss if you didn't know it, was a group of the friendliest and most talented amateur musicians, who quite clearly loved what they were doing and gave a very successful performance from start to finish.

The evening began with a friendly welcome from the orchestra's conductor, Francis Griffin. We were introduced to the evening's soloist, Davide Sorrentino, who enticed us with his Italian, giving us a taste of the treats in store that evening. I quickly forgot the cold weather I had left outside, with the first of seven Italian operatic arias, the iconic *La Donna E Mobile* from *Rigoletto* by Verdi, doing a good job to convince me I was somewhere far more exotic! The orchestra got off to an optimistic start with the well-known opening theme being passed between the strings and wind. Davide joined them with the bright and rhythmic tenor melody, putting a smile on everyone's faces. The music continued in this entertaining yet sumptuous style, ending with a powerful, sustained high C. If they weren't already, the audience were certainly now all hooked on this tenor.

Next was *Recondita Armonia* from *Tosca* by Puccini. The cellos began, soon joined by the rest of the orchestra with the woodwind singing sweetly above. Davide joined them, giving us a romantic performance of another famous aria with his warm, tonal quality charming the audience once again. After this, we returned to *Rigoletto*, with *Questa Quella*.

Here, it was announced that Davide was taking a well-deserved rest. Continuing with the theme of opera, we were treated to *Der Freischutz Overture*, by Weber. It was with this that I felt the orchestra really shone. There was much to commend in their performance, including tight rhythmical passages, led fantastically by Francis, and beautiful solos from numerous players. A special mention must go to Sylvia Seaton, whose energy captivated me throughout the piece. Another mention goes to the horn section led by Paul Kajzar, whose solos were faultless throughout.



Davide then returned to the stage to perform another beautiful Italian aria; *Una Furtiva Lagrima* from *L'Elisir d'amore* by Donizetti. At the start of this piece, we were able to appreciate the rich, velvety tones of the bassoon, with a beautiful solo played by Janet

Bruce. As this is a less well-known instrument of the woodwind family, it was nice that Francis took time to talk about this to the audience. Our soloist then selected a piece of his own choosing; *Caruso* by *Lucio Dalla*, and our conductor provided his own arrangement of the music for the orchestra. This was a highlight of the night, knowing the deep involvement of the soloist and conductor with the music. To complete the first half of the concert was *Torna a Surriento* by *Ernesto De Curtis*, in which Davide gave another passionate and expert performance and finally *Nessun Dorma* by *Puccini*, which in my opinion “An Evening with a Tenor” could not have been complete without. A fantastic first half!

When the orchestra returned to the stage for the second half, we were treated to another skilled performance from the orchestra of Dvorak’s 7th Symphony. I noticed many of the woodwind players had changed seats and it was enjoyable to hear some different players in this piece. Although perhaps quite a large work to take on for a small orchestra, this was executed well and they managed to produce a strong sound from beginning to end. The rolling cello theme got the piece off to a convincing start, soon interjected by the clarinet and French horn motifs. The strings, who demonstrated convincing playing with a sustained drive throughout, then led us onto a more dramatic subject, with the clarinets, oboes and flutes sitting perfectly on top. The movement develops into a bit of a battle between instruments, held together seemingly effortlessly on Saturday by Francis Griffin, building to a climax to finish. We again enjoyed the sound of the woodwind players at the start of the Adagio. The strings played the second theme and the horns shone with the third. The final two movements of this symphony are quicker and brought the evening to an exciting finale. Parts were sometimes a little untidy but the piece as a whole came together beautifully, under both the guidance of the conductor and strong playing of the leader.

Francis Griffin’s energy and dynamism brought this orchestra together to deliver an expert performance of some very challenging and interesting works. This programme was pitched perfectly for the audience, being both highly accessible and fantastically executed and led to rapturous applause at the end of both halves. I for one cannot wait to attend another performance to see what else the NDS has to offer.

YOUNG SOLOISTS INFORMAL CONCERT

Following North Downs Sinfonia sell-out concert on November 11th, an informal concert will be held on Sunday January 7th in the Village Hall to showcase the talents of one of our young musicians, Alex Trigg. He will be playing Haydn’s Piano Concerto No. 11. Also being played will be the ever-popular ‘Marriage Of Figaro’ overture by Mozart, and two movements from Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 1, which he composed at the age of only 15! The concert will start at 3.45pm, and is expected to be finished by 5pm, with tea and coffee beforehand. It will be entirely informal – tickets cannot be reserved, and will cost only £2 on the door, with free admission for anyone under 16. One for the whole family!

Emily Hanley

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS – UPDATE

The end of the year is always a busy time for the club, with lots going on in terms of gradings and competitions.

Our U8s judoka's had their grading on Sunday 5th November. The grading is along the lines of a progress award, the children need to demonstrate certain techniques to gain their next belt, and I'm pleased to report that all our children passed and gain their new belts and certificate.

In the afternoon, it was the turn of our adult judoka. The adults grading is slightly different from the under 8s, as well as demonstrating certain techniques the adults have to fight and how they perform has a bearing on the grade they are awarded. I'm pleased to say everyone made it through the grading in one piece (unlike last time!) and everyone went up two grades each after some very tough contests.

(At the end of November/start of December our over 8s judoka's and adult jujitsu members have their gradings – along with the annual TMA judo club competition. Update to follow)

I'm pleased to say that club coach Andy Mumford has completed his level 1 coaching certificate with the British Judo Association. Andy, currently a 1st kyu (brown belt), will soon be grading for his 1st dan (black belt) – if he passes he will be the first 'home grown' dan grade TMA has produced since opening, so we all wish him the best of luck!

Finally, following the success of our new self defence and HIIT fitness session on Friday morning (if you haven't been to one, why not?) the club has plans to open a new class in 2018 - a children's jujitsu class (over 10's only) on a Friday evening. Details will be shared in due course, but if you would like more information please get in touch.

Thanks

Adam Plinston



HORTICULTURAL HIGHSPOTS

50 people celebrated Sue Warren's triumphant first year as the Chairwoman of THS. Sue reflected on a year which featured memorable garden visits to Wisley and Titsey Place, a range of garden club events, an Open Garden trail, a busy plant sale and two excellent shows in the spring and autumn. Especially pleasing was the autumn show which had 400 entries, the best number for seven years. Top exhibitor in terms of number of entries was Bob David with 49, closely followed by Britta Erbes at 36.



*Sue and Tim Parker
Photo by Dave Bishop*

The committee was thanked for all its work last year and then re-elected. We welcomed Sara Williams as a new member. Especial thanks were given to Martin Allen for all his work on the compost site that produced 22,000 litres of Tatsfield Black Gold this year! Phil Brett is going to assume responsibility for the site for the near future.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation by Tim Parker who leads the National Trust gardening teams at Chartwell, Quebec House, Emmetts and the woodlands around Toys Hill.

Tim's lifelong enthusiasm for his job was obvious, especially his determination to replicate the gardens at Chartwell as they were planned by Winston and Clementine. "There is a beautiful Golden Rose Avenue book in the main house that we have used to help with the full restoration of that feature", he said. "We have also undertaken much research from old letters between Winston, Lady Churchill and the head gardener and have used these to support a sympathetic restoration programme". Tim admitted that such actions sometimes court controversy but pointed out how the reintroduction of coppicing in the woodlands of Emmetts and Toy Hill is allowing the strongest trees to grow well. Winston's famous walls are in need of some repair and the pathways around Chartwell are being improved to allow better access for the 230,000 visitors who come every year.

Tim praised the work of the many volunteers including some Tatsfielders who give their time and expertise to the National Trust houses and gardens. More are always welcome. Explore the websites to see how to join in.

At the present time the HORTI committee is preparing the Yearbook for 2018. We will be selling these for £5 (£1 for senior citizens) early in the New Year and look forward to all your entries. Can we beat 400? I AM SURE WE CAN! Remember that being part of the HORTI SOC and using the card on the back of the booklet entitles you to a discount of 10% at Knights at Chelsham and Warlingham.

For dates for your 2018 diary please see upcoming events on page 45.

Carol Gaskell

WI REPORT

If you thought that all bees do is buzz from flower to flower in the pleasant summer sunshine then return to their hive and mix up a batch of honey (with the occasional side trip to sting an unsuspecting passer-by) then think again.

Michelle our speaker was a dedicated and knowledgeable bee-keeper. She took us inside the hive and explained how and why it is constructed, how the colony operates, how they control the temperature and humidity by co-ordinated 'wing-power', who does which job, who holds the balance of power. Her knowledge was encyclopaedic and delivered in a friendly and fascinating way. She even gave us the chance to hand-roll some beeswax candles.



Our next meeting will be our Christmas Lunch at 1pm on December 5th. Everyone contributes a dish of goodies and there is always a great choice of old favourites and new recipes and seasonal offerings. I can't wait!

If you would like to come and try out our meetings please get in touch and I will tell you what is in the programme for coming months.

Sue Smale, 01959 577660



NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The club had an early Christmas raffle this month, as our December meeting will be at the Bakery. Many thanks to all those who brought such a wide variety of gifts. There was also a speaker – Mr Cooper, who gave a description of his life in the police force. Also his experiences with dog handling in the force, which he did for many years. And he brought some albums of the many dogs that came into his life. He would not charge for his services, but was willing to take a donation for St. Christopher's Hospice, who cared for his wife.

Next month we will all be meeting at The Old Bakery for our Christmas meal. Will everyone please be there at 12 o'clock on the 12th December, when I hope everyone will be able to get into the Christmas spirit! We look forward to seeing you all then.

Babs Heffernon (540602).

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for October 2017:

1 st Prize:	Nigel Gracie	£ 49.50
2 nd Prize:	Margaret Burton	£ 33.00
3 rd Prize:	Michael Burbage	£16.50

Thank you for supporting sport in Tatsfield.

It is good to see some new members of the 100 Club, meaning that the prize money has been boosted, with more funds for maintaining and improving the facilities at Furze Corner. If you would like to join the 100 Club please contact me and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Les Eames

(Les.eames@ntlworld.com)



One small gift can make a BIG difference...

Make a difference to Cancer Care this Christmas ORP17

THE CHARTWELL CANCER TRUST

We support the Chartwell Cancer and Leukaemia Unit in The Princess Royal University Hospital. The Unit serves the London Borough of Bromley and surrounding areas.

WHAT WE DO...

We fundraise for additional medical staff, capital projects, equipment and training. We fund local Childhood Cancer Support Groups in Bromley, Croydon and Woolwich offering valuable support to oncology children and their families at a very difficult time in their lives.

WHY?

We exist to support local cancer and leukaemia services by providing funds to improve and enhance patient care.

A gift to The Chartwell Cancer Trust could be the most important gift you give this year. Please give what you can: every penny helps.

DONATE BY TEXT TODAY: CHRT01 - £5/£10/£20 to 70070 eg. CHRT01 £10

The Chartwell Cancer Trust, Room 1, Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green
Tatsfield, Kent TN16 2AG Tel: 01959 570322 www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk/donate
email info@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk Registered charity: 1109784

Merry Christmas!

Friday Mornings 10.30 until Noon
The Meeting Room, Aileen McHugo
Building, Tatsfield

Forget-me-not Café

🌸 *Companionship over a cuppa* 🌸

Our Café continues to bring opportunities for creative activities, revisiting past skills that haven't been used for a while or finding new ones! Amongst enjoying all of the activities is the chance to chat, relax and develop new friendships.



Those of us who meet are of differing ages and experiences some come for the whole time and some just pop in for a chat and to see what is going on. There is no pressure and there is always a welcome for any and all.

Our activities for December are noted below, and will be lovely, particularly the school children singing to us.

We have already put together a programme for January, and look forward to sharing the details with you in the next magazine.

The photos are to give you a flavour of what we are getting up to. We also want to **thank you** for all the jewellery that has been donated in response to our appeal we have already sent off three large bags to the Alzheimer's association which will go to support their work. We are still collecting and the photo shows you some of the jewellery we have already sent.



December Programme:

- Dec- 01** Making Pomanders, games
Refreshments
- Dec- 08** Tatsfield Primary School
Children singing Christmas songs
Refreshments,
- Dec- 15** Christmas table flower decoration
Refreshments

If you would like any more information please call Sandra on 01959 557338 or email dementiafriendlytatsfield@yahoo.co.uk.

TATSFIELD FAIRTRADE GROUP – GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS



Who do you know with a taste for adventure? Excite their taste-buds this Christmas with Black Mamba Chilli Sauces and pestos. Fusions of fresh herbs and organic jalapeno, habanero or cayenne chillies can be used to add a punch to meat or vegetable dishes or blended with yogurt for a spicy dip. The chillies are *grown and the sauces prepared by the “chilli grandmas” of Swaziland*, women caring for children orphaned by AIDS.



For someone who appreciates extra thoughtfulness, this pendant is handcrafted by Yumé Martin who sources her precious gems from gemstone mines in Africa and her metals from a Fairtrade refiner in the UK. Fairtrade certification means that your jewellery will have come from a mine where the practices of conventional gold mining - child labour, toxic chemicals, exploitative wages and environmental damage - are controlled.



The company which makes these colourful tumblers with artwork inspired by Frida Kahlo is based in Kashmir. The artists work from home on a small cottage craft basis. Employees receive a bonus at the time of the Eid festival and the company sponsors a local football team. Their power comes from solar, wind and hydro energy. Although the format of the design is Kahlo-esque, the enamel hand-painting derives from a traditional style that originated in Iran. A good gift for someone with a sense of fun.

Luxury olive oil is a great gift for someone who “has everything”. First marketed in 2004, Zaytoun’s olive oil has now won several awards for both taste and ethics. Palestine is the spiritual home of the olive tree and today’s growers learn their craft from generations of growers before them. In a world of mass industrial production, slave labour and reports of fraud and adulteration, Palestinian olive oil is an authentic and truly artisan product. It’s something positive to come out of Palestine, something to celebrate.



Ring Carol on 01959 577584 to arrange collection or delivery.

website links and lots more ideas at

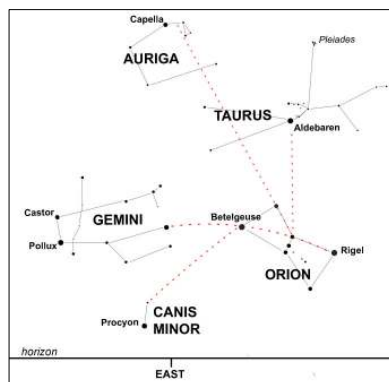
www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com

Type it in your browser, google “Tatsfield Fairtrade” or click on the logo on the [Tatsfield Village website](http://www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com).



THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2017

By 8pm in the middle of December, the brilliant constellations of winter are beginning to make their presence felt. If you look due east you will see that the hunter, Orion, has risen along with a number of his companions including Taurus (the bull), Auriga (the charioteer) and Gemini (the twins). In the north the Plough has passed the point when it is closest to the horizon and is just starting to climb once more. On the other side of the pole the familiar “W” of Cassiopeia lies on the meridian and close to the zenith (the overhead point).



December brings with it the Geminids, the year's most prolific meteor shower which is active from the 8th to the 17th with maximum activity predicted for the night of the 13th/14th. The vast majority of meteors are caused by tiny particles about the size of a grain of sand that are deposited in space from either a comet or asteroid as it passes on its regular orbit. The Earth then meets these particles causing them to burn up in the atmosphere. The radiant (the point in the sky where the meteors appear to radiate from) lies just north of the celestial twins, Castor and Pollux, and rises as the sky is getting dark. For the really hardy souls the best time is after midnight because the Earth will have turned to meet the approaching particles head on. The prediction for numbers of events when the radiant is at its highest (around 2am) is 120 meteors per hour. If you observe in the early evening look generally east at an altitude of about 45°. If you are watching later it might be wise to look more towards the south although meteors can appear over a large area of the sky.

Women in Astronomy – Vera Rubin (Part 2)

Vera Rubin was born Vera Cooper in Philadelphia on 23rd July 1928 to Jewish immigrant parents. She had one sister, Ruth, who went on to become an American Judge in the Defence Department.

Early in her life astronomy became a passion. She would lie in bed, at the age of 10, and watch the stars move around the celestial pole from her north-facing bedroom window. She also observed meteors and would memorise their locations so that she could plot their positions on a star map the next morning. Vera read widely and on one occasion bought a second hand book for 25 cents, only to find that it had no index, so she read through the entire book and made an index of her own! Her parents, fortunately for her, were very supportive of her scientific interests and with the help of her father, who worked for Bell Telephone Company, built her first telescope with a lens and a cardboard tube that linoleum had previously been rolled on. “My father helped me build a telescope, which was really a total flop, but was sort of fun” she later said.

Following education at Coolidge High School, Vera attended Vassar College in New York partly because it was one of the few that admitted women but also because the famous astronomer Maria Mitchell had taught there. She was the first American woman to become a professional astronomer and was everything that the young Vera aspired to be. *To be continued....*

Brian Mills FRAS

DOWN AT THE ALLOTMENTS

Not much going on at the allotments at this time of year - a bit of tidying up, cutting down dead foliage, stoking the compost in preparation for next season. Manure is starting to appear outside some of the local stables, so grab some when you can and spread it on your plot to work its magic for next year.

But plenty of maintenance still going on. You may have noticed several giant holding bays recently erected by the pedestrian gate and at the Beaverworld end. Sturdy wooden structures lined with perspex donated by yet another generous benefactor. These are to store the ever increasing loads of various materials - bark chipping, pebbles, manure etc, that kindly folk give us when they have a surplus. We are always grateful.



The intended replacement of water butts has been put on hold as Alan had a brainwave! To save money and labour, we are going to replace the damaged tanks with standpipes as an experiment - and see how it goes. As long as everyone remembers to **TURN THE TAP OFF!**

As part of our regular cleanup campaign, some of the guys spent several days at the beginning of November, collecting all the accumulated rubbish and leftovers onto a giant pile. Yep, you've guessed it, we had a bonfire party! We had a good turnout again, burgers and sausages were eaten with relish. Wine and beer quenched the thirst. It was a great way to celebrate another productive year "down at the allotment".

Liz Armitage

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Correspondence:

Our first report this month, from Peter Burgess (Crossways), recounts a touch of drama that I know other readers have experienced (10.09.17):

'On Friday 8th September I was sitting in the sitting room when through the window I saw something drop fast from the trees at the end of the garden. This was accompanied by a flurry of pigeon feathers. My initial thought was that someone had shot a pigeon in my garden. I went out to investigate and as I walked to the end of the garden a buzzard flew off with the pigeon towards Goatsfield Road across the back gardens. The following day I walked the dogs down Goatsfield Road and came across the evidence of one more pigeon and a dove having met the same fate.'

Thanks for this, Peter. I must say this sounds much more like the behaviour of a sparrow hawk. Are you sure it was a Buzzard?

'No I am not sure and you are most likely right as I thought it looked smaller than a buzzard. I only saw it from the rear. It had a dark brown, barred tail.'

I'm now 100% sure you saw a **sparrow hawk**, Peter. In fact, this is a more interesting sighting than a buzzard. People are constantly reporting buzzards but we haven't had a sparrow hawk report for a long time. So, well spotted! And thanks for the email.

Having received Peter's report and commented on the lack of sparrow hawk sightings, a few weeks later John Rosenbaum (Ricketts Hill Road) sent this report (08.10.17):



'This morning, around 11 o'clock, a male **sparrow hawk** decided he was hungry, so he swooped on an unsuspecting wood pigeon in the garden where, lo and behold he had breakfast! The sparrow hawk spent the next hour happily feeding on his catch with some interest from **maggies**, **carriion crows** and a male **pheasant** (sitting on the fence behind him). It was quite a sight (see attached).'

Thanks for this, John. There always seems to be something exciting going on in your garden. I'm sure we're all looking forward to your regular end of year report.

Jo Monks (17.09.17):

'Just thought I'd drop you a line regarding **swifts** in the village. I live in Restcot, Kemsley Road, and have a family of swifts that nest here, in our garage, every year. Also, in our garden I have a run with geese and chickens which has a fairly big pond, and for the last week we have had an unexpected visitor; a lovely juvenile **moorhen**! It seems to have made itself right at home, sharing food with both chickens and geese, and also loves a good swim with the geese! It's surprisingly calm, almost tame? It doesn't fly off when I'm in the run or cleaning out the coops. I'm hoping it will stay, as it's pretty safe in there with the electric fence. I'm not sure where it goes/roosts over night, but it's here for breakfast, dinner and tea!'

Excellent notes, Jo! I'm sure Jim will be delighted to hear about your swifts. Do you have an approximate date for when they arrive and depart? We haven't had a moorhen report for years so that is also of great interest.

'At a rough estimate, we think the swifts arrived in April, as they were here earlier than other years. They left here about three weeks ago, we had six here in total. Next year I'll make a proper note of their arrival date. We also have **bats** here, though we don't know which type. We have two bat boxes which have been up for years. Regarding the moorhen, I've done a little bit of research on the internet, and apparently they don't/can't fly very far? So as to how it got here is a mystery, as moorhens usually breed next to lakes or very large ponds. Do you think it could have travelled from the ponds on the golf course? Or Keston ponds maybe? Seems a bit far, if my research is correct? Anyhow, I've just checked on the moorhen, and it's feeding and swimming well, enjoying the all-inclusive package deal! '

It's a long run from Keston! I'm sure moorhens are capable of low-level flight but whether a juvenile would fly that far, I'm not sure. Does anyone know of a local nesting site?

It's great to have two new contributors this month, but let's finish with a note from an old stalwart, Liz (Armitage), who had a new friend looking for breakfast (04.10.17):

'Yesterday, 7.45am, I left the back door open (while I took Alan his morning cuppa!) and when I returned to the kitchen, our cheeky **robin** had flown in and was sitting on the dish-rack on my draining board! Not sure who was more surprised - he flew onto the tap, skidded a bit, and then did a lap of honour round the kitchen before flying straight out the back door again. Is this 'good luck' or 'bad luck'?

Definitely good luck, Liz. I'm sure Santa will treat you well! And on that subject – I **hope all of our contributors and readers have a wonderful Christmas and a joyful New Year.**

Any news or views? Contact: **nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com**

Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.

Nigel Shaw

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN DECEMBER

This year I planted some wallflowers at the edge of the lawn near the busy bird table and discovered that the wood pigeons are very partial – wallflowers are in the cabbage family! They are now protected by a barrier of black cotton thread fixed to canes around the outside. This should work as they usually land at the side and waddle in for the attack – we will see! Wallflowers will give you a variety of colours and fragrance in the spring and will do well in Tatsfield if you can give them a sheltered sunny spot.



Cold weather is on the way but exactly how much and for how long is hard to guess. I see many Tatsfield gardeners are leaving geraniums and begonias still in flower in the ground and in containers – a risky strategy - take care of those tender plants now! Lift tender perennial bedding plants, put them in boxes, dust with sulphur and store in a frost-free place. Check them regularly and remove any dead leaves. Use more sulphur if necessary and avoid watering them unless they have become very dry.

Still looking for a Christmas present for a keen gardening relative? Why not give them some winter cheer with a bowl of bulbs already in bud to provide some colour, and maybe scent, on a cold dark winter's day. If their garden has a dark shady spot why not buy them some ferns, hostas, bergenias or hellebores (Christmas Rose).

Our local garden centres have very good selections of small conifers that are ideal to mix with heathers to give height and shape to a planting scheme – but – be very careful to read the label and make sure it is a dwarf or medium sized plant; most labels should tell you how tall they will grow over ten years. Also make sure to choose heathers that are suitable for our alkaline soil (lime tolerant), choose colours of erica carnea or erica darleyensis or erica erigena. How about getting a young child interested in gardening and growing? Give them some packets of flower or vegetable seeds, a container and some compost to get them started.



Two of the most popular pot plants to have over Christmas are cyclamen and poinsettias; when buying cyclamen try to choose a plant with plenty of unopened buds for a longer display; avoid buying a poinsettia with yellow or dropping leaves. Both plants prefer to be in a cool room and not near a fire or hot radiators, they also don't like standing in water, overwatering is a killer!

Jon Allbutt



FILMS IN TATSFIELD IN DECEMBER



***Special films! *Special reduced afternoon film price!
*Free seasonal refreshments!**

We have chosen two films from Curzon Country Cinema which we think are especially suitable for showing this month on the big screen at the Village Hall – on **Saturday 16th**. Tickets are just £5 for the evening film and a specially reduced £3 for the afternoon film. You can pay at the door or online at www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk. And **free seasonal refreshments** are being provided at both showings! How could you stay away?!



Showing at 3.15pm is **“Arthur Christmas”**, the computer animated film from the makers of Wallace and Gromit, first released five years ago. It is one of those special family films which is equally entertaining for adults and children. Find out what follows when the unthinkable happens and Santa misses one child out of hundreds of millions. There is an unbeatable list of actors’ voices – James McEvoy, Hugh Laurie, Bill Nighy, Jim Broadbent and Imelda Staunton.

The evening film at 7.30pm is **“Their Finest”**, which was released a few months ago. It is a British war comedy-drama about the making of a morale boosting film during the Second World War. It is a witty, romantic and moving portrayal of a young woman finding her way in the mayhem of war. It too has a fistful of fine actors including Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin, Bill Nighy (again!), Richard E Grant and Jack Huston.



Bob David



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

December 1917 brought some relief from bad news from the front for families in Tatsfield, but the hardship being felt because of the war was well in evidence. Conscription into the armed services meant a shortage of labour at home. 23 year old Arthur Smith of the Briars in Ninehams Road had been called up. He was a shepherd and stockman at Botley Hill Farm and the farm was successful in pleading in court that his presence was essential to the farm and vital for food production.

Securing supplies of coal for the village was still a problem and residents were being asked to guarantee that funds would be available to pay for the fuel when it finally arrived. Parish Council minutes recorded that £265 had been raised. A coal depot was to be established at the White House and ration cards would be issued. The expectation was that 50 tons of coal would be supplied over the next six months, but some parishioners expressed dismay at the apparent delays in supplies earlier in the year.

In the New Year there was to be a public meeting to discuss "England's War Aims", organised by the church and arrangements for the delivery of seed potatoes were said to be underway.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project: Email: Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376

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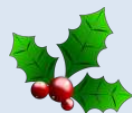


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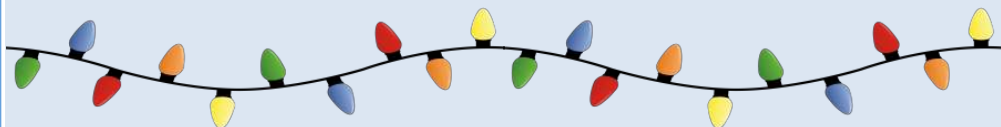
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More details in the next magazine.



Little Acorns Preschool Presents



Crazy Crafty Christmas



Sunday 3rd December

Tatsfield Village Hall

10.00- 12.00



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Details of walks in the surrounding area for December 2017 and early January 2018 are as follows. Everyone welcome including your dogs.

Sunday 10th December 2017

Leader: Tony and Christine Thomsit

Start Point: 10.30am at Westerham Green or 10:40 Mill Lane

Map Ref: TQ446540 Postcode: TN16 1AS (Westerham Green)
TQ444536 Postcode: TH16 1TP (Mill Lane)

Description: To Crockham Hill via Squerryes Park and Crockham Hill common. Returning via Trevereux Manor and Goodley Stock. Refreshment Stop at The Royal Oak, Crockham Hill. About 7 miles 4 hours in total (from the Green) with one short steep hill before the pub and several hills, some steep on the way back.

Sunday 17th December 2017 – 70's Saunter

Leader: Carol Vening

Start Point: 11:00am Shoreham Station (or if car park is full, in the road adjacent to the Station)

Map Ref: TQ525614 Postcode: TN14 7RT

Description: A gentle stroll around the Shoreham area. At the end we will have refreshments at The Old George, Shoreham. Distance 2 miles 1.5 hours.

Sunday 24th December 2017

Leader: Richard Gadd

Start Point: 11.15am at Biggin Hill, Norheads Lane

Map Ref: TQ409590 Postcode: TN16 3HX

Description: Escape pre-Christmas preparation for a few hours with a walk from Biggin Hill to Tatsfield. We will stop for refreshments at Ye Old Ship in Tatsfield before returning via the same route. Approximately 4 miles 2.5 hours in total. We cross a steepish valley in both halves of the walk.

Tuesday 26th December 2017 - Boxing Day

Leader: Mike Evans

Start Point : 10.45am at Westerham Green or 11:00 Mill Lane

Map Ref: TQ446540 Postcode: TN16 1AS (Westerham Green)
TQ444536 Postcode: TH16 1TP (Mill Lane)

Description: A walk from Westerham to Limsfield Chart where we will stop at The Carpenters (and a potential second re stop at The Grasshopper on the Green at the end of the walk for those who fancy it). Fairly even terrain with one steep hill at the start. Exact route and distance will depend on the weather that morning - but will be in the region of 5 miles 3 hours total.

Monday 1st January 2018 - New Year's Day

Leader: Richard Gadd

Start Point: 10.30am at Biggin Hill Recreation Ground

Map Ref: TQ420590 Postcode: TN16 3LB

Description: A walk to Cudham via West Kent Golf Club and Luxted returning via Blackbush Shaw and Berry's Green. We will stop for refreshments at The Blacksmith's Arms in Cudham. Substantial dip crossing the Cudham valley in both directions. A shorter route than previous BH to Cudham walks we have done – total approx. 5 miles 3 hours

Sunday 7th January 2018

Leader: Roger Sawyers

Start Point: 11:00am at The Green, Godstone

Map Ref: TQ350516 Postcode: RH9 8DU

Description: A walk via Garstone Park to Bletchingley where we will stop at The Whyte Harte for refreshments before returning via a different route. Predominately flat. Approximately 6 miles 3.5 hours in total.

Walks can be subject to change at very short notice. Please either telephone or check the website. www.westerhamramblers.org.uk. The Ramblers do not carry insurance. They started as an informal group and never felt it necessary, so everyone is responsible for themselves (and their dogs).

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434 Email acresroger@aol.com)



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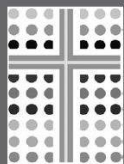
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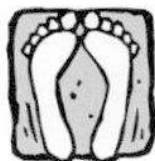
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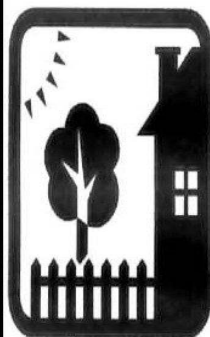


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