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Chairman • Nichola Stokoe - Meadowside, Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield TN16 2BG (576443)
Parish Council website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield • email clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk
Tandridge District Councillor • Martin Allen, 38 Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield TN16 2BG (577201)
Surrey County Councillor • David Hodge, 30 Haresnest Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6HD (01883 337881)

OTHER CONTACTS
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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 Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com)

Small Ads These are accepted only from Tatsfield or Titsey residents (No Trade) and are free of charge (Max 10 words plus phone number.) We will include them in the next issue space permitting.

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.

Correspondence We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else.

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EDITORIAL

Someone I know was recently involved in a difficult house move. It took ten long months during which different links in the fairly short chain came under threat at different times. The last week was particularly stressful, with the chain in danger of breaking right up until the morning when exchange and completion took place within hours of each other. This then left the people at the top of the chain with the challenge of finding “removers” to help clear their house that same afternoon and evening.

Thinking of chains in the broader sense, if one link breaks then the whole chain is useless, unless you have a use for two shorter chains. This time last month I recognised Easter (with St Mary’s pictured below) as the most important Christian Festival but actually there are further essential festivals in the chain of Christian belief.

The first of these puts Tatsfield on the map! The celebration of Ascension on the Thursday, forty days after Easter Day, has for a number of years been marked by a 6am Open Air service at St Mary’s, followed by breakfast in the Millennium Hall. This attracts visitors from the surrounding villages, where perhaps they might not venture up the hill at other times. The living Ascension (or going up) of Christ to God in heaven is significant because it can sustain belief that He hears our prayers and that He will one day return.

Ten days after Ascension comes Pentecost (Whitsun). This is another vital link in the chain, since the coming of God’s Spirit to the first Christians brought an inner strength or presence of God. I believe that this sense or knowledge of personal relationship with God remains a distinctive feature of Christianity as a religion.

In recent years, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have called upon Christians to especially engage in prayer for their communities between Ascension and Pentecost.

With my prayers for God’s blessing as we begin to enjoy the warmer months.

Vince Short
LETTERS

Dear Editor

The Burbage family would like to thank everyone for there kind thoughts, flowers, cards and donations to her favourite charities on the passing of mum (Amy). She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Many thanks to you all.

Pamela

Dear Editor

On Wednesday March 28, I (Dave Bishop and my wife Jan) was invited by Peter Morris, the Chairman of Surrey County Council, along with 29 other people to attend a Volunteer Reception at County Hall, Kingston upon Thames. We were all presented with a Volunteer Award Certificate and a medal. The celebration was for the unsung individuals who do so much to improve the lives of Surrey residents.

The citation that was read out before I went to receive my award was that “David came to Tatsfield Village in 1952 and has been working hard for the community ever since. He established the St Mary’s Church youth club, organised many ballroom dances and many tea dances. For the past 18 years he has been corresponding about events in Tatsfield to the ESSN Surrey Group of newspapers and magazines. He has run the annual Christmas Carol Singalong for more than a decade and has helped out Father Christmas for some 50 years and still does. In 2017 he oversaw the running of Tatsfield’s inaugural Remembrance Service as well as securing funding for a War Memorial in the village centre. Events like these bring the whole community together and commemoration and this is down to David’s efforts, passion and determination.”

The presentation was such a warm friendly affair and afterwards there was a group photograph taken, followed by a very nice supper. I found out that I was recommended for this award by the Tatsfield’s Parish Council chairman Nichola Stokoe and the clerk Samantha Head and I am very grateful to them for such an honour.

Dave Bishop
NEWS FROM PAGHAM

I thought that we ought to see how Linda and Brian were getting on at their new home in Pagham. So, with Mary Bull, I drove down to see them at Easter when Louise was also there.

They have a lovely bungalow with lots of space and a good sized garden. The sea can’t be seen from the house - but almost. Linda was looking really well and it was obvious that she is very happy there. Brian is being well looked after and the bungalow helps in that respect. Louise has been spending some time at Pagham helping Linda and Brian settle in, and we thought she was looking very good too. Bertie (the dog) looked like he was thriving as well.

One of the photos here is of Linda and Louise in the front garden. The other is of Linda with the new kiln she chose – a Kiltec. Some of the products of her first firing can be seen – it was a bisque firing, Linda said.

We left happy that the move is working out well and with Linda and Louise asking to be remembered to all their old friends. Linda also repeated her thanks to everyone for the gift of her new kiln, with which she is really pleased.

Bob David

UPDATE on 2 & 3 THE PARADE

We are still awaiting planning permission for the conversion of the shops into a single retail space, however refurbishment works upstairs are drawing to a close.

3A (above Tony’s shop): Let Agreed, property will be rented by local Tatsfield residents.

2A (above Linda’s Stores): Available for Rent. If interested please contact Vanessa at vkemitchell@gmail.com
Once again, the Parish Council has a vacancy. Niall Kells has decided to step down due to personal and family commitments. Niall has been an incredibly valued member of the Parish Council and we will all miss him enormously. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Niall and he leaves some big shoes to fill. If there is anyone who would like to join us for our remaining year then please do get in touch.

Whilst we hope that the snow and cold weather has now left us for the year we have carried out a recce on all the grit bins around the parish with a view to replacing broken ones, new sites and refilling in readiness for the winter.

The Parish Council has given a grant to Tandridge’s Neighbourhood Watch Group. In return for this they offer free cycle security marking sessions. We have been in touch and asked if one of these sessions could be held in Tatsfield and we will, of course, let you have details of any event organised.

We are holding our public consultation on the installation of CCTV in the village centre at the Annual Parish Meeting, on Tuesday 1st May, and I hope as many of you as possible will come along to hear the plans.

We have noticed some posts on social media regarding filling in potholes on the unmade roads in the village. Please do remember that many of these roads are bridleways and therefore any alterations to the surface should be made in conjunction with Surrey County Council. Please do get in touch so we can advise and point you in the right direction.

We were delighted to finally approve and accept a quote to renew the existing path along Tatsfield Green (the area between Ricketts Hill Road and Rag Hill) and we are also seeking final quotes to upgrade the main entrance door and porch of the village hall.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building on Monday 14th May at 8.00 pm. As always, the agenda will be made available on village notice boards and at: www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/

Nichola Stokoe, Chairman (Tel: 576443; Email: nicholastokoe@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)
THE TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT
MAY 2018

The Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan Project reaches a new level of activity with our two public information sessions on 24th and 28th April, there have also been further meetings of the individual Topic Groups and also the Steering Group.

All of this activity is a vital part of ensuring the Neighbourhood Plan accurately reflects the communities’ view for our vision of how we wish to see the development of Tatsfield over the next 20 years under the key headings of Community Facilities, Housing, the Built Environment, the Natural Environment, the Local Economy, and Transport and Infrastructure.

An important development will be the circulation of a Housing Needs Survey to every household in the parish; this will be followed by detailed analysis of the result, which will be included in the ongoing public consultation process. Please look out for this important document, fill it out and return it, we must ensure there is a good return of this survey to make it statistically valid; we will be providing further details in the near future.

We continue to collect and record information and observations from individual Tatsfielders, this is a vital part of the process and we will be organising further public information sessions; however if you missed these two events and want to make your contribution please come along to the next meeting of the Steering Group on Wednesday 16th May at 8.00pm in the Parish Room, or contact Steering Group Chairman Martin Allen on 577201 or email him on martin_allen@talk21.com

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Our member of Parliament, Sam Gyimah is now Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. **Sam will join us on Friday 11th May from 11am to 1pm so please put this date in your diary.**

As with the P.C.C. I will take him on a tour of the village and show him the allotment site, composting and all the work of the many volunteers in the village around the village centre. He will be meeting with members of the Parish Council and the Fairtrade Team to receive an update on both their work in the village. We will then return to the Aileen McHugo Building around midday where we will hold a sort of open surgery where he can meet the villagers and give you the opportunity to discuss anything that may affect you or the village in general. I would really like you to come along to the meeting to show how Tatsfield greets their visitors so please email me on the address below to confirm your attendance so I have an idea of numbers. With thanks for your support with this.

**District Council Elections Thursday 3rd May**

By the time you read this polling day will be close, but don’t worry we in the village have nothing to do this year. Fourteen District Councillors will be voted in in other wards across Tandridge. You can keep in touch with the results on the Council website during the following day.

As for myself this date will bring the end of my third year as your District Councillor leaving just one more year to do. Thinking ahead to what is popularly known as succession planning this is the time that if you are thinking that you would like to take on the role of a District Councillor for Tatsfield I would be quite happy to talk to you about it. Equally if no one comes forward I would be happy to stand for re-election in 2019. Ultimately it will be your choice whichever way. So please send any feedback on your thoughts to the contact details below.

**Closer to home** there will have to be some patience and understanding during the week of the 14th May as to try and alleviate the parking issues of the overflow from Crossways Court they will be having some additional spaces included on site. This will necessitate the closing of the car park for this week so please park considerately during this time and drive carefully and thoughtfully while the work is on and we will all be better off for the additional spaces.

**Tandridge Together Lottery**

50 lucky winners scooped £625 worth of prizes in the first Tandridge Together Lottery draw and raised £1,390.80 for 85 good causes in the Tandridge district. In addition five players won £25 each and 43 players won three free tickets, 3 of which including myself came from Tatsfield so we have started to support the good causes in the village. Then, in the draw on Saturday 14 April, one lucky Tandridge Together Lottery player from
Tatsfield won £2,000! In addition one player won £25 and 53 players won three free tickets. Tatsfield Horticultural Society and Composting Group were the winner’s choice of local good cause to support with their ticket purchase. Philip Brett, a representative of the group, said: “We are delighted one of our supporters has won the biggest prize so far. We rely on community support in so many ways and joining the Tandridge Together Lottery is a very good way to raise some extra funds to continue our activities in the village. We are so glad one of our supporters has won this super prize.”

There are 115 good causes in the Tandridge district registered on the website and anyone buying a ticket can select the local good cause they want to support from these. 50p of the £1 ticket price goes directly to the chosen good cause, with a further 10p in every pound going into a fund for the Council to distribute in the form of small grants, to a wide range of good cause projects that apply for support in the Tandridge district. The rest goes towards prizes and administration costs. The draws will be every Saturday at 8pm. Tickets are available to buy at www.tandridgelottery.co.uk and residents who don’t have access to the internet can also take part by calling 01883 460555.

**Potholes / Dog Fouling / Parking**
Both your Parish Council and I continue to work with David Hodge our County Councillor to ensure that we get our fair share of the budget spent on repairing the many potholes that you can obviously see developing across the village.

I have also just recently sent over details of what I think are important roads that need resurfacing and/or repair. These include Ship Hill, Church Lane/Church Hill and the road from Botley Roundabout to the Limpfield Road. They will be put in to the pot of other roads in the Warlingham District and I am hopeful that we will with David’s help we will see much of this repaired.

Tandridge District Council continue to support us with the clearing up of the Dog Fouling in the village and we are seeking further visits from them which is being costed and will be decided by your Parish Council.

The parking problem in the village centre has now been sent to the Tandridge Local Committee to review. More news as it comes.

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@tandridgedc.gov.uk
Or martin_allen@talk21.com
After a busy first half term both up in Parliament and in East Surrey, here are a few highlights from what I have been doing over the last few weeks.

Many of you will have received periodic updates on particular issues you have individually contacted me about, so if you want further details please do email me at sam@samgyimah.com for the latest news.

**New Universities Minister**

In the January re-shuffle, I was absolutely thrilled to be promoted to the post of Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation. It is a huge privilege to be following in the footsteps of David Willetts, Greg Clark and Jo Johnson.

The brief sits across two departments: The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and The Department for Education, having responsibility for the public funding of science and research and I have been so impressed at just how the UK punches well above its weight in the quality and impact of our research. On the DfE side, I have oversight of England’s Higher Education sector I know that going to University is a big moment for students, as well as their parents.

*(Top-left - meeting Zeno the robot who helps young people with autism, top-right - Boaty McBoatface the submarine in Southampton, bottom-left - getting hands on with researchers at Cancer Research UK, bottom-right - discussing science, research and innovation cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore)*

**Sam on Campus Tour**
I have always believed that politics matters and that everyone should be involved, particularly young people. For this, I started a tour of universities to speak directly with students about their concerns. So far, I have been to Brunel University, Queen Mary University of London, University of Birmingham, Manchester Metropolitan University, Canterbury Christ Church and Bournemouth – with more planned for the coming months.

Perinatal Mental Health in East Surrey
Mental health matters greatly to be and it has been an issue I have long campaigned for. This is why I was so pleased to team up with Sally Hogg, head of the Caterham chapter of the NCT, to help raise awareness about perinatal mental health – the period during pregnancy and the first two years of a baby’s life. We have had two meetings in the past few months bringing together representatives from the East Surrey CCG, local charities, children’s centres, midwives and brave mothers who have experience perinatal mental health problems.

I will be writing a letter to the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, about this issue as well as aiding in a poster campaign across East Surrey to help raise awareness of the indicators of mental health problems and where new families can go for help and support.

Potholes – Filling in the Gaps
Potholes are an issue many of you have raised with me via email and in surgeries and I have been liaising with local councillors to try and get your concerns dealt with. I was very pleased to see the Government announcing a further £100million to help repair roads across the country and protect them from future damage from storms and cold
weather. Surrey will receive £1.8million of this fund and I will be writing to David Hodge, to ask for a breakdown of the spending and to ensure that East Surrey gets its fair share for our roads.

**Gatwick and Route 4**
After the news that Route 4 has reverted to a temporary status, with planes continuing to legally fly the route, I met with representatives from Gatwick to discuss the recent quashing of the Civil Aviation Authority's decision to make the route permanent. There will be a process of redesigning the route, but no changes are expected in the short term. I was very pleased to hear Gatwick's commitment to community engagement throughout the process of redesign - this is absolutely vital. It is clear that this is going to be a long-term process, but I can assure you that I will continue to engage with Gatwick to ensure the voices of our community are heard loud and clear.

**NHS 70 Parliamentary Awards – Heroes in the NHS in East Surrey**
In July this year, the NHS celebrates its 70th birthday and as part of this, NHS England and NHS Improvement have established the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards. For this, I have the privilege of nominating individuals and services for their dedication, hard work and commitment in providing healthcare across East Surrey. My nominations are:

- Michelle Cudjoe from the Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust in the Person-Centred Champion Category.
- Bonnie Koo, also from SASH, in the Patient and Public Involvement category.
- TIHM for Dementia Project from the Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust in the “NHS Future” Category.

So, I wish Michelle, Bonnie and all the staff at the TIHM for Dementia Project the best of luck and we’re all rooting for you! Thank you for going above and beyond to help those in our community.

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.

Best wishes,

Sam Gyimah MP
POLICING

Hello Tatsfield folk. Finally, it’s warm and Spring is, yes, finally here. Normally this brings out some fair-weathered criminals, but they must have missed the memo!

There has only been 1 (one/une/uno) crime in the past month. But I’m not shouting about it, as doing that tends to bring on a crime deluge........(so, shhhhh !!).

During the course of a few days during April, a vehicle was stolen from a driveway on Paynesfield Road whilst the owners were on holiday. Quite how this was done is not known, as the owner still has their keys, and as yet, there were no witnesses or timeframe as to exactly when it happened. The vehicle has a national marker on it, but unless more evidence comes up, the case has been filed.

And now for something completely different. Regarding parking in the village, may I remind certain residents/visitors of the Highway Code (item 243 to be exact) which states : “No parking within 10 metres of any road junction”. This is regardless of the presence or not of council yellow lines. In this edition I will turn attention to the junction of Paynesfield Road with Johns Road and Crossways.

Both Crossways and Paynesfield Road have adequate parking for all, without the need for parking right on this junction, and yet this seems to be a constant issue, and residents are not happy about it.

This location has been reported, and is currently being discussed by Tatsfield Parish Council, Tandridge District Council and Surrey Highways Dept. as this parking causes potential accidents every day.

If you are reading this and are somewhat guilty of this illegal parking, please consider other’s safety and be responsible when parking locally. Enforcement will follow if this continues longer term.

Finally, kids: if any of you are even vaguely thinking of getting out on your bikes to do wheelies down the road, my colleagues and I will be on your case. So don’t. Be safe.

That’s all folks, it’s short and.....short. See you around the village.......

Rupert
PCS0 12599 KELLEY, Surrey Police
SURREY POLICE: MARKING AND REGISTERING YOUR PROPERTY

We have recovered quite a few tools over the last year or so and we are struggling to a) get them back to their owner and b) charge the person who stole them as we can’t prove they are stolen.

Please mark/engrave your tools with your name and postcode

Also register them at www.immobilise.com where you just have to register with an email address and a password.

Anything with a unique serial number can be logged on there – mobiles, laptops, bicycles, garden equipment – just make sure you write down the right serial number. Something like a hedge trimmer for example has numbers written all over them. Some are part numbers and aren’t unique to the item. If you aren’t sure, Google it.

All Stihl garden equipment for example have 9 digit serial numbers that are numbers only and usually on a white sticky label.

Dewalt tools generally have the serial number computer etched into the plastic. The current drill driver we have, a DCD776 the serial number is etched into the plastic in the battery compartment of the handle of the drill (you need to remove the battery to see it).

Dewalt serial numbers can vary. They will be a series of numbers between 4 and 7 digits and will either be imprinted into the battery compartment or on the rating plate sticker on the side of the tool.

Festool tools have a TNR number which is a batch number and SNR which is a serial number. Ideally write down both.

For a mobile phone if you dial *#06# on any mobile you will get the unique IMEI serial number.

Often items have S/N before a number - this is the number you need to record.

You can also take photos and add them to the website. The best thing to do is take a photo of the item and a photo of the serial number.

The police then use a linked website. Say an item is stolen and we recover it, the first thing we should do is check the serial number and if it is registered on immobilise.com it will ping up with the details of the owner that were registered on immobilise.

Any recovered property we put out on our Facebook page. Just follow us at Tandridge Beat.
PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF ELLICE ROAD CAR PARK, OXTED: RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

The planning application for the re-development of the Ellice Road car park in Oxted was recommended for approval by the Planning Committee on Thursday 5 April.

The application was taken to the full Council meeting on 19 April for the Council as a whole to decide whether to grant planning permission. If it is approved work is expected to begin in June and be completed by the end of the year.

There was one amendment imposed on the application, which was to remove four more spaces to create more landscaping to screen the car park from properties in Amy Road.

The application is for a car park with 300 spaces, including disabled parking provision, parent and child spaces and charging points for electric cars. To view the planning application, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk and search for planning application reference 2018/350.

While the Council owns Ellice Road car park and has submitted the planning application, it is in our capacity as the planning authority that the application will be considered and subject to the same criteria as any other planning application received.

The delivery of additional visitor and business parking for the town is key to the RegenOxted programme, which will also lead to the removal of the gasholder, an Urban Redesign project and a hub to encourage the start-up and growth of local businesses.

To keep up with news regarding the RegenOxted project, please sign up for e-mail updates by visiting www.tandridge.gov.uk. If you have any questions please call 01883 722000 or e-mail customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk and a member of our RegenOxted team will come back to you.

BULKY RUBBISH CLEARANCE WEEKENDS 2018

Saturday 28th April, Saturday 15 September, Saturday 8 December; 7.30 – 10.45am

Rubbish that can be accepted includes:

- Large items including ceramics, furniture, garden waste, glass, household rubbish, metal items and up to two washing machines.

For up to date details visit www.tandridge.gov.uk before taking your bulky waste anywhere.
TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Wednesday 7th March Year 6 went to Down House, Biggin Hill to explore evolution and the life of Charles Darwin further.

Although it was a cold day, the sun was shining and it didn’t stop Eagles from exploring the house and gardens. They thoroughly enjoyed seeing where Charles Darwin lived for 40 years and wrote ‘On the Origin of Species’.

Their favourite thing to see was the replica of a giant sloth’s skull and all of Charles Darwin’s study.

The class have been fascinated by the topic in English and Science. Since the trip they have created profiles on the Adelie Penguin (our class sponsored animal), written brochures on Down House and will soon be writing a diary as Charles Darwin during his exploration of the Galapagos Islands.

SMART MOTORWAY WORKS ON M23 JUNCTIONS 8 - 10

The development of the M23 Smart motorway near Gatwick airport from junctions 8 and 10, is set to continue with advanced works this month.

Initial CCTV works began on Monday 23 April and these will be followed by the installation of narrow lanes on Monday 18 June to allow a safe working place for the road workers. During construction three narrow lanes will be maintained at speeds of 50mph. The main construction works will begin later that month.

Both lane closures and full closures overnight will be necessary during construction. Full closures will take place between 10pm and 5am and diversions will be clearly signed. All closures will be subject to change and weather dependent.

Smart motorways aim to reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability by making the hard shoulder available as a traffic lane and using variable speed limits to smooth traffic flow.

For more information, visit http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m23-junctions-8-to-10-smart-motorway/.  <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/m23-junctions-8-to-10-smart-motorway/>
TATSFIELD SINGERS

Rehearsals for our Summer Concert are in full swing and we are really enjoying revisiting some of our favourite music from our repertoire dating back to 2009. Alex our Musical Director, with her enthusiasm and sense of fun, has introduced some new songs for the singers, one or two of which we hope will amuse and encourage audience participation. There may even be some daft props.

It’s not too late to come and join in the fun. The Summer Concert is not until June 23rd so here is plenty of time to learn the songs. So whether you’re a soprano, alto, tenor or bass don’t just sing in the shower or in the car, come and sing with us and see how much you enjoy it. The best thing of all is that singing is good for your health in so many ways and can help to improve your mental health and wellbeing. There is a great buzz of happy people in the room at the end of an evening of singing. Tatsfield Singers meet on Thursday evenings (7.35pm-9.45pm) in Tatsfield Village School. No auditions necessary. Please ring Sara Williams (574446) or Pat Coombe (577863) if you would like further details. “He who sings frightens away his ills.”

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA CONCERT – 12th May

The next NDS concert will be on Saturday May 12th at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

We have a varied and exciting concert lined up, starting with the overture to the Rossini opera ‘An Italian Girl in Algiers’, written in 1811. This will be followed by Mariela Cingo, who has played for us many times before, who will play the Mozart Piano concerto No 24. Written and performed in 1786, with Mozart himself as soloist, this has been called his greatest piano concerto. He left much of the solo part unwritten, and no doubt improvised on the night.

The second half of the concert starts with the Gerald Finzi ‘Eclogue’ for piano and strings. Originally written as one movement of a piano concerto, this was never finished, but now stands on its own for its musical merit. This will be followed by Beethoven’s first Symphony in C. Beethoven was responsible for the full emergence of the symphony as a repository for a composer’s most important ideas, and his first symphony, although owing a lot to his predecessors Haydn and Mozart, demonstrates this.

The concert will be conducted by Bryn Clarke, who has taken three previous concerts for NDS.

Tickets will be the usual £9 for adults, and £7 for those under 18 and pensioners. They are now available at Ye Old Ship, or please phone 01959 577659, or email northdownssinfonia@gmail.com for tickets, or book at ndsmayconcert2018.eventbrite.co.uk (booking fee applies).
TATTY KNITTERS

We had a lovely meal in The Bakery last night, our Easter celebration. Unfortunately a few knitters were unable to come along, but a good time was still had by all.

The next Tatty Knitters get together is on 8th May. This will be a normal get together so bring your craft with you. Time: 7.30 until 9.30 ish in The Bakery, buy your own drink, cake supplied.

Val Quick 07761 571071

FAIRTRADE TEA TENT
SATURDAY 12th MAY at 9.30am

Tatsfield Fairtrade Group will be offering FREE cups of Fairtrade tea and coffee together with delicious ‘tasters’ made from Fairtrade ingredients.

Come and join us, hear more about Fairtrade, see and perhaps buy some of the wide selection of fairly traded goods available.

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

Come and join us in the Village Hall from 7.30 – 10 pm

Diana McKinnon – Textile Art
(www.DianaMcKinnon-textile Art)

Monday 14th May – Demo (£10) & Monday 21 May – Tutoring (£15)
(Ring Carol Gaskell – 577724/Christine Stainer - 577803 for further information)
LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

This half term...

Before the Easter holidays we had lots of fun making Easter biscuits and daffodil cards for our families. We had a fantastic day taking part in our Eastercise games raising lots of money towards the development of our outdoor play area. The children all did brilliantly taking part in different activity stations around the hall, including beanbag throwing, goal scoring and going down the slide. After the games all of the children received a gold medal and Easter egg to congratulate them!

Thank you to all of our families, sponsors, committee and staff who helped to make this event so enjoyable!

Next term...

When we return from the Easter holidays we’ll be concentrating on our theme of Nursery Rhymes. We’ll be looking at ‘Old McDonald’ to tie in with our trip to Godstone Farm in May and we will also be visited by one of our talented parents who will be playing some nursery rhymes on different instruments for the children!

Race Night

Our next fundraising event will be our Race Night on the evening of Saturday 9th June. This was a fantastic event last year so we look forward to seeing lots of you there again! Everyone is welcome so please email chair@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk for tickets.

Thank you for reading!

Mareka Newberry
Office Manager at Little Acorns Preschool
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk
1st TATSFIELD SCOUTS

Beavers
Anyone who is aged 5 3/4 - 7 years who would like to join Beavers at 1st Tatsfield Scouts from January 2019 please contact Jenny Snelling, Beaver Scout Leader (marksnelling333@btinternet.com)

HELP BAG A SAVING BY RECYCLING YOUR CLOTHES AND HOME TEXTILES

The lead-up to summer is when many of us refresh our wardrobes and replace old clothes and home textiles. But don’t throw out the towel or banish your boots just yet, why not recycle them and help save money and the environment?

Simply put clean and dry clothes and textiles in a standard sized, tied carrier bag and leave it next to your green caddy on your usual collection day. There are also textiles recycling banks at community recycling centres and in various locations around the Tandridge district.

All clean and dry clothes and home textiles including towels, sheets, pairs of shoes, bags and socks can be recycled. We can’t recycle stuffed items like pillows, cushions and quilts and clothes and home textiles left in bin bags, untied carrier bags or recycling bins.

Recycling all clothes and home textiles instead of throwing them in your rubbish bin could save up to £4 million a year, which could be spent on other services. It also contributes towards a better environment.

To find out more about recycling clothes and home textiles, download the Recycle for Surrey app, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk<http://www.tandridge.gov.uk> or call 01883 722000.
ST MARY’S MATTERS

Easter Festival
The church was full as we celebrated Easter in the midst of the beautiful flower arrangements and decorations. We thank the Flower Team, and also Peter Boys and Ann Vatcher for their photos. The customary Easter Egg hunt in the church grounds after the service was conducted with great enthusiasm by the children. Vince was disappointed that he couldn’t find a single egg that they had missed!

Ascension Day
Our 6am service will take place in the church grounds (weather permitting) on Thursday 10\textsuperscript{th} May, followed by breakfast in the hall.

Open the Bible
(Monthly All Age Service at 10am, normally on the 1\textsuperscript{st} Sunday of the month.) Our next Open the Bible service will be on May 6\textsuperscript{th}.

Sunday Teas
These will start on 6\textsuperscript{th} May and will continue every Sunday afternoon, 3-5pm, until the end of September.

St Mary’s 100 Club results for the April draw:

Records
19\textsuperscript{th} March Interment of ashes of Margaret Parsons

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

Llimpsfield and Tatsfield Churches Team Golf Society Meeting
A Team Golf Society has been organised by St Mary’s to be held at the Orida Parkwood Golf Club, Tatsfield, on Saturday 19\textsuperscript{th} May. Tee off at 1pm.

To register, please email marjorybroughton@gmail.com and send your cheque together with your main course choice to: Marjory Broughton c/o St Mary’s Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield TN16 2NA made payable to St Mary’s Church Tatsfield PCC for £38.50 for golfers and £9.50 for non-golfers. The closing date for entries is Saturday 12\textsuperscript{th} May

Flower Rota
I would like to say a very big thank you to the team who produced the beautiful displays for Easter: Sue Warren, Sue Saunders, Tina Boys, Pauline Conlon, Kay Longley,
Kay Roberts, Wendy Maddison, Shirley Murgatroyd, Brenda Fairclough, Chris Rosenbaum, Pat Walsh, Barbara Piggott, Jan Maynard, Joan Payne, Maryrose Penver and supported with coffee and cake by Veronica Short and Marjorie Broughton. Thanks also to Rhod and his team from the Titsey Estate for the beautiful flowers and tree cuttings that they contributed.

For my first ‘pulling it together’ I was really touched how kind and supportive everyone has been. The May rota is as follows:

6th and 13th May: Kay Longley  
22nd and 27th May: Wendy Maddison

Ann Vatcher

THE CHURCHYARD

Tidy-up mornings will be as usual on the first Saturday morning of each month, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th and September 1st.

Mary Smith
ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING
AT
TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

TUESDAY 1st MAY 8pm
(Refreshments at 7.30pm)

Come and listen to talks on:

TATSFIELD’S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
POLICING IN TATSFIELD AND TANDRIDGE
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON CCTV INSTALLATION
THE TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (THS)
SPRING SHOW REPORT

To be able to present prize winning blooms at our Spring Show after such a dull, wet, and at times cold, winter and early spring is a daunting challenge for our Tatsfield gardeners, but that is exactly what they did! As the THS Committee members worked hard on Saturday morning (14th April) to get the Village Hall ready for the competitors to set up their entries we wondered if this show would be a success. We had heard reports of our neighbouring Society Shows being low on numbers and tales of woe from our local gardeners. By 10.30 the judges arrived to see a hall ready for them to decide who would be winners, and losers, in the 73 sections; in fact, to our delight we had 204 entries (a bit down on previous years) by 47 competitors including 8 folk competing for the very first time. We were delighted to see good support in the Junior Sections where numbers have been low in recent years – well done and thank you to parents and children.

At 3.00pm the doors opened for all to come in and admire the entries, see who has won a coveted First and of course the trophies for the most points in the sections. There is something very special about the sight and smell of a hall full of flowers, vegetables, and domestic produce, and of course the delicious home-made cakes, tea and coffee!

Despite his claims of disasters in the garden, Bob David won the Colegates Challenge Cup for the most points in the Horticultural Section; Rita McKay won the Sue Warren Trophy for the most points in the Flower Arrangement Section and also the Emily Streets Cup for the best flower arrangement; Catherine Webber won the Theobald Cup for the most points in the Craft Section; Maggie Garstang won the Lambert Art Trophy with the most points in the Art Section; Nicola le Provost won the Ray Collins Trophy in the Photography Section; Betty Batker won the Peter Hallam Trophy in the Junior Sections; Angela Sawyers won the Derek Weller Cup for the best entry in the Daffodil Section, and finally Carol Gaskell won the Tatol Trophy for the best exhibit in the Art Section.

Our shows are open to all members of the THS, if you would like to join us and take part just contact any member of the committee or our Membership Secretary Christine Stainer on 577803, or email her on christinestainer@yahoo.com.
TATSFIELD GARDEN TOUR 2018
SUNDAY 3 JUNE FROM 1 TO 5 PM

- Visit four very different gardens in the village, the Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden and Composting Scheme
- Refreshments. No charges – just optional donations to charities
- All details in the leaflet coming with this magazine
- Arranged by Tatsfield Horticultural Society

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

Calling all CREATIVE TATSFIELDERS. We would be delighted if you would come and help us make willow BUTTERFLIES and DRAGONFLIES this year. We hope to produce a number of sculptures to use around the village.

Date: 19th May  Time: 10 am – 2pm
Venue: Village Hall

If you are interested in joining us please ring me for more details:
Carol Gaskell 07815775859

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE! IF WE DON’T DO IT OURSELVES, NO-ONE ELSE WILL!

ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP AT ALL? YOU DON’T HAVE TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL SKILLS AND YOU DON’T HAVE TO COMMIT YOURSELF REGULARLY.

IF YOUR ANSWER IS “YES” OR “MAYBE”, HAVE A CHAT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO ANGELA SAWYERS ON 577434 OR EMAIL HER AT acresroger@aol.com
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 1.30 pm Whist – WIH (Last Tuesday of the month)
      5.45 pm 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 (1st Thursday of the month)
      2.00 pm Scrabble at Kayani, Greenways (1st Thursday of the month)
      4.30 pm Under 8’s Judo - SH
      5.45 pm Over 8’s Judo - SH
      7.15 pm Adult Ju Jitsu - SH
      7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge – WIH
      7.30 pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
      8.00 pm Table Tennis – VH

Fri 10.00 am Pilates – WIH
     10.00 am Self-defence and HIIT, Tatsfield Martial Arts (SH)
     11.00 am Pilates – WIH
      1.30 pm Short Mat Bowls – VH
      5.30 pm Badminton club for Juniors – VH
      6.30 pm Over 10’s ju jitsu
      8.00 pm Badminton Club – VH

Sat 9.00 am Under 8’s Judo – SH
  10.00 am Composting site (OPEN to September)
  10.15 am Over 8’s Judo - SH
  11.00 am Parish Council Café - The Bakery [to noon]
  11.30 am Adult Judo – SH

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

MAY

1st Tues  8.00pm Parish Council Meeting, VH
8th Tues  7.30pm Tatty Knitters, The Bakery
11th Fri  11.00am Sam Gyimah MP visit to Tatsfield
12th Sat  9.30am Fairtrade Tea Tent
8.45am Plant Sale, Westmore Green
7.30pm North Downs Sinfonia Concert, VH
14th Mon  7.30pm Dianna McKinnon Textile Art Demonstration, VH
16th Wed  7.45pm There Goes the Bride, Barn Theatre, Oxted
17th Thu  7.45pm There Goes the Bride, Barn Theatre, Oxted
18th Fri  7.45pm There Goes the Bride, Barn Theatre, Oxted
19th Sat  10am Sculpture Workshop, Tatsfield in Bloom, VH
1.00pm Limpsfield & Tatsfield Churches Team Golf Society meeting
2.30pm There Goes the Bride, Barn Theatre, Oxted
14th Mon  7.30pm Dianna McKinnon Textile Art Tutoring, VH
19th Sat  10.00am Sculpture Workshop, Tatsfield in Bloom, VH

JUNE

3rd Sun  1 – 5pm Tatsfield Garden Tour 2018
9th Sat  7.45pm Yesterday Once More, Barn Theatre, Oxted
10th Sun  7.45pm House of Stand Up – Comedy Night, Barn Theatre, Oxted
23rd SAT  7.30pm Our Singing Thing, Tatsfield Singers, VH
24th Sun  5.30pm Hairspray Jr – Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre, Oxted
7.30pm Hairspray Jr – Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre, Oxted

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

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 • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women’s Institute
TATSFIELD RAISES A GLASS TO FAIRTRADE

Around 80 people, including SCC leader David Hodge and his wife Anne, attended the rescheduled Fairtrade Wine tasting evening, which was held in the School Hall on Saturday 7 April.

Roger Pearce presented six wines, from South Africa, Argentina and Chile which all have Fairtrade accreditation. Roger gave a brief history of winegrowing in these countries before the tasting began, while Hilary Harber talked about the Schools and the Clean Water that the Fairtrade Premium provides.

Of particular interest was The Running Duck Brand, which is made by Stellar Organics – a pioneer winery from Western South Africa. The wines are certified organic and have also been made according to “Fair for Life” guidelines. This social and fair trade certification ensures that: human rights are guaranteed at any stage of production; workers enjoy good and fair working conditions; and smallholder farmers receive a fair price. The brand is named after the Indian Runner ducks sent roaming into the vineyards to eat snails and other threats to the vines. This natural pest control allows the winery not to use pesticides and other harmful chemicals. It is also sulphite free.

However, the favourite wine of the evening proved to be the Sainsbury’s Taste the Difference Morador Malbec.

Roger’s final thought for the evening: It doesn’t matter if the glass is half empty or half full – there is clearly room for more wine. Clearly Tatsfield agrees.

Photos: Dave Bishop
TATSFIELD IS BUZZING AGAIN IN 2018!

The Bellis daisies and daffodils in the Tatol bed have been slow to bloom due to the cold weather but at last in April we were able to enjoy the fruits of our labours. Unfortunately though, as you will have noticed, they have all had to be removed in order to lay the meadow grass for the summer display! We were as disappointed as everyone to take them up but the plants and bulbs are available for residents to take away and will be at the Horticultural Society’s plant sale on 12th May. The Tatol bed has been planted with turf already sown with wild flower seeds and we are hoping that the weather will improve and let it become a mass of colour by the summer and attract lots of bees and butterflies.

The Tandridge Together Lottery is now up and running with tickets at £1 each on sale online at www.tandridgelottery.co.uk or by telephone on 01883 460555. In the first weekly draw one of our supporters matched two numbers and won further tickets for the lottery! Please support us if you can – 50p of every ticket purchased goes direct to our cause. Prizes range from £25,000 for matching 6 numbers to 3 new tickets for matching 2 numbers.

The Annual Village Spring Clean will take place on Saturday 28th April and we hope that as many adults and children as possible will be able to help so that we can cover the whole village. Please turn up at 10.00am on the Village Green – all hi viz jackets, bags and litterpickers will be provided!

We have been grateful for your generous donations to Tatsfield In Bloom for 2018. If you would still like to donate, boxes are available in The Bakery, The Old Ship and The Village Club or drop it through my door at 12 Shipfield Close.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Jill Hancock

Tatsfield In Bloom (577622)
COMPOSTER’S CHRONICLE

With the new composting season well under way, I thought you might like to know exactly what we do with your green waste once you have left it in our tender loving care.

Your carefully separated woody and tough green waste materials are expertly fed into the shredding machine by our highly-skilled operators in such a way as to produce an ideal blend. The woody material keeps the mix “open”, allowing in air, and the green waste provides some of the fuel which will power the composting process. This is layered into heaps with your other carefully sorted material – the soft green waste. This provides the bulk of the fuel in the form of nitrogen and moisture to power up the temperature of the heaps. I’m sure you have noticed how hot and how quickly a pile of grass cuttings can get.

We then monitor the heaps for temperature and moisture content and, most importantly, “turn” the heaps. This involves pitch-forking the heap into an adjacent empty bin, thus adding air and incorporating material which was on top or on the sides of the original heap into the middle of the new one so that everything gets a good blast of sterilising heat.

Woody material on its own absorbs nitrogen from its surroundings in the early stages of composting which is why a good mix of nitrogen-rich green stuff and woody material is needed to make a good compost heap and why you should never dig fresh woodchip into your soil.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Only bring waste up to the site during opening hours (10am – noon on Saturday mornings from first Saturday in April to last Saturday in September).

2. Please sort material to go into the appropriate receiving bay:
   i. Woody material for shredding
   ii. Tough green waste which requires shredding
   iii. Soft green material which doesn’t require shredding

3. No kitchen waste.

4. Nothing thicker than an inch (or not much thicker, anyway).

5. The facility is for moderate amounts of waste from normal gardening activity. (Please ask before bringing large quantities.)

Philip Brett – hollygrove6-philip@yahoo.co.uk - 577420
THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MAY

Our dull cold and wet late winter merged with April to give us more of the same, but by the end of April it was beginning to look as if Spring was happening at last! Despite the rain and wet snow our display of Daffodils along Approach Road looked great, what a resilient plant!

You will not be surprised to learn that our March total rainfall was nearly double the ten year average for our area at 100mm; April looks like being an average month for rainfall and temperatures so we can expect to be very busy in the garden this month.

If you have Daffodils and Crocus in your grass please leave them until the foliage has started to go yellow and die down but during this period why not give them a bit of help with making next years bulb by scattering some slow release fertiliser over them just as they finish flowering. Remove the old flower heads to stop the production of seed as this takes a lot of energy that could be put into the making of a new bulb.

“Ne’er cast a clout till May is out” is an old country saying that refers to not putting away ones winter clothes (clouts) as May can have some short cold spells. Last year we had a couple of really nasty frosts that damaged young growth so be careful and don’t be tempted to put out tender plants unless they can be covered over on a cold night.

May is a critical month for newly planted trees and shrubs as they make new growth (roots and stems). A warm week with no rain can result in the plant suffering as the roots start to grow away from their original root ball. A good mulch of composted green waste (why not call in to the Composting Group for some ‘Black Gold’ – Saturday mornings at the allotment site in Approach Road) will help to reduce drying out. When watering remember that a good soaking (a bucket full per plant) once a week is much more effective than a splash of water on the surface.

At the Spring Show I was asked for advice on the old problem of how to protect garden plants from attack by browsing deer. The best answer of is to put up deer fencing – a minimum of two metres (six foot) all round the property; this is not a very practical solution to the problem due to cost and the fact that the boundary line might be your neighbours responsibility! The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) is carrying out deer surveys all over the country to gather information that will help us to better understand this problem, in particular which plants are avoided by deer. Included in this list are some plants that do well in Tatsfield e.g. Berberis, Buddleia, Choysia, Bay Tree Laurus nobilis), Mock Orange (Philadelphus) and may more. You can contribute to the pool of knowledge by taking part in the survey, but even more useful is the list of plants that, according to completed surveys, are being avoided. You can learn more by looking at the RHS website on www.rhs.org.uk and searching “deer survey”.

Don’t forget the Horticultural Society Plant Sale on Westmore Green by the pond on Saturday morning 12th of May starting at 9.45am!

Jon Allbutt
The **Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA)** was an organisation set up in 1939 by Basil Dean and Leslie Henson to provide entertainments for British armed forces personnel during **World War II**.

The first big wartime variety concert organised by ENSA was broadcast by the BBC to the Empire and local networks from RAF Hendon in north London on 17 October 1939. Despite many extremely talented entertainers and movie stars working for ENSA, the organisation was necessarily spread thin over the vast area it had to cover; thus many entertainments were substandard, and the popular translation of the acronym ENSA was "Every Night Something Awful" was coined.

We heard about the trials and tribulations of being part of a ‘troupe’ of singers, dancers, comedians, and jugglers etc., who could be sent anywhere, home or abroad at a moment’s notice. Many very well-known names entertained whenever and wherever they were required. ENSA paid those who performed for it £10 a week while those who worked in the chorus were paid £4 a week. By the standards of the time these were generous amounts of money. In 1941, after Pearl Harbour, the United States took up the challenge and The United Service Organization was founded in 1941. In more recent war zones the tradition continues including Vietnam, Korea, the Falklands, and Afghanistan.

Our next meeting on 1st May will be our annual Meeting when we review what we have achieved this last year and share plans for the next. We also hear what is happening in the District and nationally. 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. You can also get an update on the village website: https://www.tatsfield.org.uk/other-groups/womens-institute/

**Sue Smale, 01959 577660**

**NOT SO YOUNG CLUB**

Our numbers were down this month yet again sadly. We had our usual afternoon tea and the plan was to have a musical Bingo, but the CD player was not working, so Enid did a sterling job singing the songs to us. We also had our usual jokes from George. I hope the members were kept amused with their chatting instead. Oh dear!

Next month, on the 8th May we are having a salad lunch, which I know everyone enjoys. Please remember to be there at 1.30 for 2 o’clock. And please let us know if you cannot get there. Ring Enid on 577719.

**Babs Heffernon (540602)**
TATSFIELD SINGERS
PRESENT
Our Singing Thing
ON Saturday June 23rd 2018
AT Tatsfield Village Hall

DOORS OPEN 7.00pm
CONCERT STARTS 7.30pm
Price includes a Pimms or soft drink and nibbles

ADULTS £7.50 UNDER 16s £5.00

Tickets available from
Dawn 577585 | Sara 574446 | Pat 577863
Or at the door on the night
“THE GREATEST SHOWMAN” COMES TO TATSFIELD!

We are finishing our 2017/18 film season with a bang! That’s not what I thought when I first heard that Curzon Country Cinema were bringing “The Greatest Showman” to Tatsfield for our May film, as I had seen the lukewarm reviews the film had received on its release last December.

However, while I have not yet seen the film, it seems that I, along with most of the reviewers, was very wrong for “The Greatest Showman” has proved to be a huge success with audiences. Not only has it been attracting large numbers but 3 months after its release it has received an 88% rating with those who have seen the film as against a 55% score given by the critics. And the soundtrack, released in early January, spent the next 11 weeks at the top of the album charts.

“The Greatest Showman” is a biographical musical from the songwriters of “La La Land”. It stars Hugh Jackman as P. T. Barnum, who starts out as a penniless orphan but becomes the world renowned creator of the Barnum and Bailey Circus. The film tells the story of the creation of the circus and the lives of its star attractions, and it is suitable for the whole family.

The film will be showing at the Village Hall on Saturday 19 May in the afternoon (doors open at 3.15pm) and in the evening (doors open at 7.30pm). Tickets are £5. Pay at the door or reserve online at www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk. We will be taking a break in the summer and then returning in September.

Bob David
Last month I wrote about how the long period without any bright planets visible in the evening skies was coming to an end. Venus is the most striking addition and now easily visible once the Sun has set. The best time to look for it, in the first week of May, is around 9pm when you will find it in west-north-west sixteen degrees above the horizon. It will almost certainly be visible before that but I suggest looking at 9pm because the Sun will then be six degrees below the horizon which is the point at which we say that civil twilight is ending and nautical twilight is beginning. By then the sky is darkening and the brilliant planet will be easily visible to the naked eye. It will be visible until approximately 10.30pm but will be lower in the sky by then and have moved towards the north-west.

If you were to look at Venus with a telescope during May you would see that it isn’t circular but is in fact “gibbous” in phase. The word is also used when we talk about the Moon and means “more than half illuminated” and refers to a phase that occurs both between first quarter and full and then again a little later in the cycle between full and third quarter. You might think that as the phase of Venus decreases then its brightness must also diminish but the opposite is the case simply because Venus is drawing closer to us at the moment, something that will continue until late October. As this proceeds the phase of the planet will continue to change with less and less of the illuminated
side turned towards us whilst its apparent size increases to ultimately become a crescent (see diagram).

Following the crescent phase Venus reaches “inferior conjunction” when it lies almost exactly between us and the Sun and is then invisible to Earth because the sunlit side is now turned fully away from us. I use the words “almost exactly” because the alignment of the three bodies is not precise, but if we could see Venus at inferior conjunction we would note that it appeared to pass either slightly above or slightly below the Sun. If the line up were perfect then we would see the dark body of Venus pass in transit across the face of the Sun; one of the rarest predictable events in astronomy. The last transit of Venus was on 6th June 2012 with the next one not due until 10th/11th December 2117 which sadly will not be visible from the UK. After that it’s just eight years until the next on 8th December 2125 which will be partly visible from here.

Mercury as well as Venus lies within the orbit of the Earth and it is therefore the only other planet in the solar system that can transit the Sun. With Mercury there is a better chance of observing such an event because it orbits the Sun in just 88 days compared to 225 days for Venus. In fact the next transit of Mercury takes place next year on 11th November 2019, followed by one thirteen years later on 13th November 2032.

Also visible this month is the planet Jupiter that passes closest to Earth on 9th May, an event known astronomically as “opposition”. On that evening it rises in the south-east at sunset and will be thirteen degrees high by 10pm. It will not reach the meridian, due south, until almost 1am. If you have binoculars, and can tripod mount them, turn them on the giant planet and see if you can spot its four largest moons. Don’t worry if you don’t see Jupiter in May as it will be in the evening skies for some time to come.

Brian Mills FRAS
NIGEL’S NATURE NOTES

First Brimstone of the Year:
And the winner is … well, we sort of have two winners. Ruth (Yeeles) emailed on 26.03.18:

‘Am I the first to see a Brimstone this year? It was flying up and down Tatsfield Green next to the woods today. I await your reply with anticipation!’

I immediately replied saying: ‘Drum roll, please …………… yes, Ruth - you are the, 'First Brimstone of 2018 Champion'!! Congratulations!!’ But then, the very next day, I received the following email from Nicola (Reeves) (27.03.18):

‘Just seen a Brimstone – spring might just have sprung!!’

Although received on the 27th, it was originally sent on the 22nd, three days before Ruth’s message. Now, this may seem to be an insurmountable dilemma, but not so. Ruth was named ‘Champion’ and remains so as she was the first to successfully message me. But don’t for a moment think Nicola is being hard done by; she has a follow up that is equally glorious!

Correspondence:

Message received from Nicola and Nathan (Reeves) (30.03.18):

‘Sorry, I forgot to mention in my last email that we’re pretty certain we’ve had a Firecrest in our back garden (Friday 16 March). Thought at first it was the Goldcrest as we often get to see them, but this one had a different song and slightly different manner. After searching through the bird book and listening to the Firecrest song on the RSPB website, we’re sure that’s what it was. The first, but hopefully not the last, sighting!’

Now that is MASSIVE news! I don’t believe we’ve had a sighting of a Firecrest before. I was thinking just the other day that it’s been a long, long time since we had a report of a rarely seen bird – and here it is. Now, there will, of course, be those who doubt the accuracy of this observation. Surely, it’s simply a Goldcrest? A relatively common sighting in certain parts of the village. But here we have two people who have experience with Goldcrests, have identified differences, have carried out book research and have visited the RSPB site to compare the song of each bird. With all this information they have concluded that it was indeed a Firecrest that they observed and that is certainly enough evidence, to my mind, for this sighting to be accepted. Well done, Nicola and Nathan!

A few notes about the Firecrest:

This tiny visitor from Eastern Europe is a winter passage migrant (it’s travelling between places) so the chances of it (or they) being seen again is unlikely. Nevertheless, now
one has been seen, it will be worth keeping an eye open come next winter. Although
similar in size and appearance to a Goldcrest, its distinguishing feature is a bold black
and white eye-stripe. Apart from this, the main difference is with their call. The
Goldcrest calls, ‘see-see’, whereas the Firecrest calls, ‘zit-zit’. Being just 3½ inches long
(9cm), this difference in call may be the only chance you have of identifying the
Firecrest, as spotting one can be quite a challenge. Goldcrests, incidentally, are resident
all year round so you don’t need to worry about misidentification from spring to
autumn.

I thought it may be interesting to take an historical look at the Firecrest in Surrey. The
first point of note is that in the past it appears to have been known, perhaps just
locally, under another name: Fire-crested Wren. (The Birds of Surrey, Bucknill, J.,
1900.) At the end of the C.19th, even more than now, it was considered to be quite a
rarity:

‘Mr. J. H. Gurney, in a paper entitled ‘The Status of the Fire-crest as a British Bird’,
published in the Zoologist, 1889, states that it has been obtained [almost certainly
trapped or shot] in all of the southern counties, although he does not specifically
mention Surrey. He informs me that he understands that it has been observed in the
county by a Reigate naturalist, but cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of the
record. Beyond this he has no further knowledge of its appearance locally. There is no
reason why it should not have occurred in Surrey as a straggler, although I know of no
definite record of its having done so.’ (John Bucknill)

Recent news tells us that Firecrests have been spotted around Frensham Ponds and
Redhill Common (15th February), Leatherhead (21st February), Haslemere (5th April),
Richmond Park and even outside Tate Modern!

**A disturbing note about Tits:**
We seem to have our regular pair of Great Tits taking up residence in our House
Sparrow nesting box (!), so while I was in Mr. Bucknill’s book I thought I’d have a quick
look to see what I could learn about them. To be honest, I was slightly horrified: ‘It will
devour bees with great voracity, and has been known to attack and split the heads of
weakly birds in order to eat the brain.’ What?! So much for the ‘sweet, little birdies’ in
the garden!

Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway.
TATSFIELD HISTORY WEEKEND

It was good to see so many people coming to last month’s ‘History Weekend’ to view originals and copies of items from the parish archives, collections of old Tatsfield postcards and other images - as well as searchable indexes of the more than 5,000 items in our digital archive.

Over the two days there were displays on specific topics, including the pond, Tatsfield’s shops and – topically as it turned out - pictures of Tatsfield in the snow going back to 1906.

It was a useful weekend both for those of you who found answers to questions and obtained copies of items you were interested in and for the History Project itself, which, thanks to the generosity of donors, was able to add to its collection.

If I’ve failed to pass on to you any information or copies of items that I promised over that weekend, don’t hesitate to get in touch. At times things were quite hectic and I’m more than likely to have ‘mislaid’ a request – or two!

I was most encouraged by and grateful for the time given by those of you who helped deal with the many queries that came up as the hours went by. It looks as though further sessions will be in order.

Just after that weekend I received ‘out of the blue’ an email from someone in Australia who had bought a picture at a garage sale.

On the back of the picture was a label from 1956 linking it with Evelyn and Gerry Cooke – our predecessors in Greenway! More about that later!

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project: Email: Tatsfield.history@talk21.com
Tel: 577376
"Due to a cancellation our lovely five bedroom (sleeps 12) house in South West France (near Riberac) is available to rent for 13 days from Sunday 1 July to Saturday 14 July 2018 (13 days) for a special price of £2500. Would normally be £3400 for 2 weeks. Please see our website [www.lepailleur.co.uk](http://www.lepailleur.co.uk) for details.

If interested please email [sandy@jonallbutt.co.uk](mailto:sandy@jonallbutt.co.uk) or phone 577100. Mobile: 07889 911750.”

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**PLANT SALE**

*Saturday 12 May, Westmore Green at 9.45 am*

- Good quality bedding and basket plants
- Good prices
- Be there at 9.45 sharp as plants go quickly!
- Vegetable plants and shrubs grown by committee members and others
- Donations of surplus plants welcome on the morning

*Organised by Tatsfield Horticultural Society*

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**TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD 100 CLUB**

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for March 2018:

1st Prize: Keith Woolfrey £48.00

2nd Prize: Simon Hendry £32.00

3rd Prize: Alan Thorpe £16.00

Thank you for supporting sport in Tatsfield. If you know of anyone who wishes to join the 100 Club (for a modest £6 per month) or if you would like additional numbers then please contact me on [les.eames@ntlworld.com](mailto:les.eames@ntlworld.com)

We are also looking for new members to join Tatsfield Cricket Club now, so if you are interested then contact our club captain Gary Weaver at [gazzaweaver@hotmail.com](mailto:gazzaweaver@hotmail.com). We are a very friendly club and play matches on Sundays - enthusiasm is more important than ability (though possession of both would be very welcome!). Indoor nets are currently taking place at Charles Darwin Leisure Centre, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill– Sundays 10:00-11:00, so why not come

Les Eames
TATSFIELD RAMBLERS

Details of walks in the surrounding area for May 2018 are as follows. Everyone welcome including your dogs.

**Monday 7th May 2018**
Leader: Richard Gadd  
Start Point: 8:30am Charmans Farm/Westerham Brewery (off Beggars Lane)  
Map Ref: TQ455550  
Postcode: TN16 1QP  
Description: The Westerham Town Partnership and The Westerham Society will be holding their annual "Beating the Bounds" walk around the Parish on this day. We will be walking the full route anti-clockwise which is a little over 12 miles 7 hours. There are a number of hills. Please note the early start. Additional information (including maps) can be found on The Visit Westerham website:  

**Sunday 13th May 2018**
Leader: Tony and Christine Thomsit  
Start Point: 10:30am Hosey Common Car Park  
Map Ref: TQ452530  
Postcode: TN16 1TA  
Description: A walk from Hosey via French Street and Emmetts on to Toys Hill where we will stop for refreshments at The Fox and Hounds before returning via a different route. Total distance approx. 6 miles 3.5 hours with a long hill on the outbound section and a shorter one on the return.

**Sunday 20th May 2018 – 70s Saunter**
Leader: Carol Vening  
Start Point: 11:00am Outside The Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart  
Map Ref: TQ424518  
Postcode: RH8 0TG  
Description: A gentle stroll starting off from The Carpenters through Limpsfield Common, past some of the delightful “Animal Houses” – though sadly there are fewer of these in good nick now. We will return to The Carpenters for refreshment. Approximate distance 2½ miles 2 hours. No stiles.
Sunday 27th May 2018

Leader: Richard Gadd
Start Point: 10.30am Filston Lane Car Park Shoreham
Map Ref: TQ518765 Postcode: TN14 7SR

Description: A walk on the north downs with a very steep uphill at the start and a corresponding steep down and a corresponding steep down a little later. 2nd half of the walk is fairly flat. Superb views overlooking the Darenth Valley. Skirting the hamlet of Twitton and on into Otford for a pub stop at The Woodman. Back to Shoreham via the sports field and the golf club. Approx 5 miles 3 hours 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)
Welcome to our monthly article featuring local residents with a story to share. This month we are talking to Ben Akhtar.

How long have you lived in Tatsfield?
For me, having lived in the village essentially my entire life, Tatsfield has almost had two sides in a sense. Being actually born in a previous house down Old Lane, I have memories of being with next-door neighbours and playing down the unmade road up until the age of three. Following this, the rest of my childhood was spent more central to the village, relocating to the opposite side of Tatsfield at Furze Corner. Both sides I have great memories of, however, being fairly young when the move occurred, meant home in my mind is most definitely on the southern tip of Tatsfield - with only a vague idea of the old house interior.

Living here meant a much longer walk to the old Primary School site, however, I do remember the move closer to the green, spending just one term at the (now current) Tatsfield Primary School location.

What are your favourite memories of Tatsfield?
In terms of memories that stand out in my mind of Tatsfield, the many snowed-in days off school in the winter months spent down at the Cow Field with friends definitely makes the list, although being snowed in quite as often as it has recently hasn’t been ideal.

Apart from this, summer afternoons on the green and trips to Linda’s always bring back memories from Primary School, particularly being such a quiet village to cycle around. Even to this day, the spring/summer months when it’s warm always makes Tatsfield such a nice place to live, in terms of feeling in the countryside, despite being
close to built up areas. For me, the fact Tatsfield is such a stunning place in the summer and still has so much open space, but also being relatively close to main towns is what makes it.

**What sparked your interest in Gliding?**

I’ve always been interested in anything that’s airborne for nearly as long as I can remember, so I wouldn’t really say anything in particular actually sparked off a pursuit. Perhaps seeing aircraft overhead from Biggin Hill Airport had an effect at a young age, however, regardless of what form of flying, I’ve always been interested in pretty much all disciplines of getting in the air. From a young age I’d have to say the internet / books / models / other pilots were where I probably gleaned the real theory basics regarding all types of aviation – most of it reading up about things that just genuinely interested me.

For myself, Paragliding was my true introduction into flight and adventure sports due to it being (comparatively) cheaper than most other forms of aviation. I began flying in 2013 aged 14, and qualified in November that year as the Youngest Pilot in the UK. Since then, I have gone on to branch out into similar disciplines, such as Paramotoring, which is similar to Paragliding but with the addition of an engine and propeller mounted on a frame with a harness. Flying modified paraglider wings allows much more prolonged flight with ease, no longer dependant on exploiting available lift to stay airborne – qualifying in 2015.

I have also been able to integrate more into fixed-wing flying at Biggin Hill Airport over the past 3 years, working with a fixed-base flying school on the airport whilst embarking on the road of training in planes since December 2014.

Following managing some fixed-wing flying in between AS and A-Levels, I am honoured to now have been accepted onto a training scheme named the ‘Nick Davidson Memorial Scholarship’ based at London’s Biggin Hill Airport, since July 2017. Now currently on a gap year before reading Aeronautical Engineering at Brighton University in September, I am training (inbetween the current poor weather) to gain my Private Pilot’s Licence at Biggin Hill, flying light Piper Aircraft whilst also staying current in Paragliding/Paramotoring when time and weather allows. I no longer compete in these sports, however often work with manufacturing companies to create new and innovative social media short-films based around flying concepts/stunts.

In terms of the future – I cannot see myself ultimately in anything other than an aviation-related career/life, however, anything adventurous and outdoors pulls! My
main focus currently is staying up to date with my current licenses and gaining more experience in the fixed-wing world to qualify in planes before moving down south for University.

Where you have travelled and competed with your gliding?
I have been lucky in Paragliding to experience some amazing countries from an airborne perspective. I began flying with the British Team in Accuracy competitions in 2015, involving precision landings that are scored based on how close you can land to the centre of a dinner plate size electronic pressure pad, measured in cm. This has taken me to countries such as Hungary, Lithuania and even Indonesia for the World Championships.

Seeing culture and meeting amazing people in a unique way is definitely eye-opening, and has allowed me to see sides of countries from a really different angle, not only from the air! In terms of a favourite place, I’d have to say every flying site I have flown at has its moments, as it is hugely weather dependent being such a sensitive sport to conditions. For the view, certainly Indonesia was incredible being above rolling hills of tea plantations, but that said, a summer’s day on the South Coast in the UK can be equally as amazing with Newhaven’s white cliffs.

If I were to give any advice, it would be that it’s been more often harder than not when starting out training and finding ways to progress into the things I have wanted to do, and a lot of dead ends. Achieving any dream is not easy, but in my view that’s why our dreams are so precious to us - whatever they may be.

If everyone could access them with zero effort, they’d be ultimately worthless.

Are you a local resident with a story to share? Please contact tatsfieldpm@gmail.com and have your five minutes of fame!
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