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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?
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EDITORIAL

So it’s 2019. Whilst the publication of this double issue may be a little late to wish you all a Happy New Year, we hope things are going well for you all.

Tara and I have now been editing the magazine for just over a year. Not exactly new, but still mere whippersnappers compared to our predecessors! We hope you are enjoying the magazine, and do let us know if you have any ideas or additions.

I’ve lived here for two years here now. Many years to go I know, but I ‘feel’ like a Tasfielder, and I think that’s the important bit!

There’s lots of ‘new’ in the village at the moment. Passing through the centre, its lovely to see the new pond, our new village store and tearoom, and a new florist and gift shop. What a beautiful centrepiece to the village we now have – a real home to be proud of! Please do support the new businesses in the village. As sole traders, not big chains, they rely on us all shopping local and ensuring a long and successful endeavour which brings joy to us all. And the more we use them, the more stock they can carry which will make the shops even more useful. We would also like to thank Sheree for continuing the tradition of stocking the magazine in the village store. If you need an extra copy or two, please pop in as they are for sale there.

Further to David Hodge stepping down as Leader of the Council and our County councillor after many years, we welcome our new leader, Cllr Tim Oliver to the village on 21st January. More details in Martin Allen’s report in this issue.

More exciting new events this month too. We are lucky enough to be having a film premiere in the village! We can’t promise red carpets and A List celebs, but it will certainly be an event to remember. More details from Bob on page 45.

Tracey Syrett

Tatsfield online

**Village website:** www.tatsfield.org.uk  
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LETTERS

Dear Residents,

I have been privileged to be your County Councillor for almost 14 years. I first became a County Councillor in May 2005 after twelve years on Tandridge District Council, and recently stood down as the Leader of Surrey County Council after spending 10 years in Leadership roles at County Hall. I now believe this is also the right time for me to stand down as your County Councillor. I have really enjoyed working hard for Tatsfield and meeting the majority of you over the years walking and knocking on a large number of doors or attending events in the Village. It has been great getting to know so many of you and I thank you for the kindness and courtesy that you have always shown me.

During my time as your County Councillor we have created the new school for Tatsfield and a number of improvements to the parking at the village centre. I was delighted to support Bob David when he drove the new social housing in two areas to meet much needed local needs. Recently Martin Allen has been a stalwart champion for your village and we have an excellent working relationship. Many of us have worked hard to create a new allotment centre and new recycling centre; probably the best in Surrey. Over the years a good many local roads have been resurfaced, such as Ricketts Hill Road, Ship Hill, Paynesfield Road, Approach Road, Clarks Lane with new cats eyes installed and by the time you read this I expect Limpsfield Road from Titsey roundabout past Botley farm to be resurfaced.

I have also been able to support so many local initiatives, like the Tatsfield in Bloom annual event, fairtrade team in Tatsfield, support to the allotment centre and composting works with new machinery and helping to secure lighting and other support at the allotment site, and many other voluntary groups who do so much to make Tatsfield the best village in Surrey. The Tatsfield magazine has been a huge part of my life and my wife Anne has looked forward to receiving a copy each month. Your magazine is a treasure and I know is supported by local businesses and the community.

As a County Councillor I have worked closely with parish councils and have really enjoyed working with your Tatsfield parish councillors over the years, attending the majority of meetings. Parish Councillors are real community champions, giving their time to improve your local environment. Your current Parish Council is a dynamic and enthusiastic group. They are supported by volunteers to drive forward on delivering objectives for your Neighbourhood Plan; this is a critical objective for the long-term sustainability of your village.

There are so many individuals that I should thank personally but that would run into many pages, but without your loyal and honest support I could never have achieved anything for the village. I am indebted to you all. Thank you all for allowing me to represent you since 2005 and I hope whoever follows as your County Councillor will continue to fight for your local issues. I believe Tatsfield would continue to benefit from their own champion at County Hall.

With kindest regards, David Hodge CBE
Dear Residents
After losing so many of our facilities in Tatsfield, I had thought long and hard about moving, even though I have lived here since 1955. But, in November I had surgery on my foot, which has made it hard to get about. I have received help and kindness from so many people, too numerous to list individually and so I would like to give my genuine thanks to everyone in this village who makes so much difference to our lives and to mine. I wish you a Happy New Year and long may the caring community continue.

Babs Heffernon

Dear Residents
Should you be out walking with the dog
Or on your Monday morning jog,
Down Paynesfied Road and past the hall
You will hear the following call:
“Deep breath in, deep breath out!”
And you may wonder what it’s about.
It’s an instruction, loud and sure
To us ladies, who are all “mature”.
For over 55 we all have to be
Including one who’s nearly 83!

You may notice there’s no sign of a man
Though there was one once who was a fan.
“Welcome to the torture chamber!” he’d cry,
Which must have alarmed all the passers by.
Charlotte and the clock don’t always agree.
Her idea of a minute is more like three!
It’s surprising just how long one hour can be
When your joints and muscles are in agony.
But we have to admit when all’s said and done
That despite the effort, it’s a whole lot of fun.
Although Charlotte goes at a heck of a pace,
She knows her stuff and we think she’s just ACE!

Should you peep in you might be surprised
To see what contortions our leader’s devised.
Stretching and bending to improve the core,
Trying to strengthen our pelvic floor.
Dressed in bright lycra, looking fab,
Covering some of that unwelcome flab.
The lovely, fit Charlotte never lets us slack
As we stagger under weights, and do cardiac.

Ann Lovelace and the Fitness Ladies
BARRY CLARKE

14th September 1941 – November 2018

Barry was born during the Second World War in an Emergency Maternity Hospital in Woking, Surrey. The Clarke family hailed from Lambeth but for some of the time during the war as an escape from the bombing, Barry, his mum and his sister lived in the small South Hams village of Dittisham in Devon. Towards the end of the war they moved back to Lambeth where he went to school.

He loved school and made friendships there that lasted all his life. When he was 15, he and one of his chums cycled to Scotland and back; no mean feat then and he often recounted the many adventures they had on that trip.

He was also a very keen scouter and told of the times he took his scouts camping to Windsor for weekends all for half a crown (22½p in today’s money) which, amazingly, also included the train fare!

Barry’s other main love was playing football for the local ‘Trafalgar’ team and supporting Chelsea.

On leaving school Barry worked for GKN in Borough High Street, moving on to Woodhatch and finally working for himself from home.

In 1969 Barry and Paddy were married and Barry waved goodbye to Lambeth, taking up residence in their own small bungalow home, Little Dene, in Ricketts Hill Road.

In time Barry and Paddy had two lovely daughters. As the family increased so did the necessity of converting the bungalow into a most suitable four bedroomed family house, which he did mostly by his own efforts plus a little help from his friends.

Barry was a very happy man who adored his daughters Lisa and Julie, their husbands Michael and Mark and the four grandchildren Cameron, Kate, Tilly and Barney.

Many of us will remember seeing him regularly walking his beloved dogs and lately, more often than not, sitting on the bench on the green on Ricketts Hill with his golden retriever Sheeba at his feet, contemplating the world around him.

For many years, as some of you know, he was a reliable distributor and deliverer of this magazine. Always willing to help friends and neighbours, he loved Tatsfield and vowed that he would never leave.

Sadly, he eventually did and we are all the poorer for his passing.

Finally, Paddy, Lisa and Julie would like to thank all their dear friends for their kind wishes and support given to them over the past few weeks. It has been much appreciated.

Terry Cartwright
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

In response to a report by a resident, Tandridge District Council has checked the trees between the playground and Wedgwoods and agreed to carry out a crown lift on three trees. This work should have taken place by the beginning of February, subject to good weather.

In December we discussed the planning application submitted to Kent County Council to stabilise and restore Covers Farm Quarry across the border in Westerham. If this were approved then it would mean a huge increase in HGV lorries on the surrounding roads, including the B2024 (Clarks Lane). We, along with the surrounding parish councils, have objected to this proposal.

As you probably know, Councillor Hodge has now stepped down from his role as leader of Surrey but, more importantly, as our County Councillor. David was a great friend to Tatsfield over the years and we are grateful to him for all his hard work and efforts. There will be an election on 31st January to choose his replacement.

We have received complaints that a number of residents are using the school and village hall car park as an overflow for their residential parking. Often this parking is overnight. We would state that those parking spaces are for the users of the school, the hall and the Aileen McHugo Building and ask that this habit is stopped. It has further been reported that after parking their car some residents then climb over the fence between the hall and their premises. Please don’t. The fence is becoming wobbly and, if this continues, we will need to check the CCTV to see exactly who is responsible to ensure they have the fence mended.

Phase One of the pond renovation is now complete. Phase Two will take place in the spring. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Ian Hayman and his team at Tatsfield Aquatics for all their hard work. It looks even better than I could possibly have imagined and we are truly grateful to them.

There will be Parish Council elections in May of this year. If you are interested in standing or just finding out more about what’s involved, then please do get in touch.

The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building on Mondays 11th and 25th February 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)
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Plan Group is looking forward to a busy 2019 and we have some important news about the next phase of this project:

A Call for Sites has now been issued inviting householders and landowners to register their interest if they have land that they consider is suitable for development.

A Business Survey has been launched inviting all who have a business based in Tatsfield to provide us with information and ways the NP may be able to help for the future.

This is a very important aspect of our project; we need to include in the Neighbourhood Plan plans and policies to provide support for local businesses.

The documents for both of the above can be downloaded from the Neighbourhood Plan website at www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan or from any Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group member, and can be returned to tatsfield.plan@btinternet.com or by post to The Clerk, 33 Alexandra Road, Warlingham CR6 9DW.

We continue to analyse the results of our Housing Needs Survey and will be including the data in the ongoing development of the Topic Papers.

It has been decided to merge the Built and Natural Environment Topic Groups to help develop these two important areas and ensure that any future developments in Tatsfield will seek opportunities to sustain and develop a balanced, quality environment for householders and the natural environment.

We are planning to hold more Public Information sessions to provide you with the opportunity to comment on our progress and contribute to our. We are very keen to hear from you if you have an opinion on where and when you think these sessions should be held; the Steering Group are prepared to meet with local groups where this would be more convenient for you; please contact Jon Allbutt on 577100 or email him at jon@jonallbutt.co.uk.

If you would like to get involved and help us prepare our Neighbourhood Plan please contact Jon Allbutt or Martin Allen 577201 or email at martin_allen@talk21.com
TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I trust you all had a really good Christmas and I wish you all the best for 2019. It is good to see the centre of the village revitalised so please support the businesses when you are able.

You will see in greater detail elsewhere in the magazine that David Hodge our County Councillor has resigned his position and that of the Leader of the Council. Despite this within three days of his announcement of giving up the Leadership of the Surrey County Council David Hodge was visiting Tatsfield where he attended the quarterly Councillors’ Consultative Meeting.

I met David to ensure that he received the thanks of us all in the village for everything that he has done for Tatsfield during his time as our County Councillor. I look forward to working with the newly elected County Councillor who ever that may be. There will be a by-election that is being planned for 31st January.

So, for my role as your District Councillor I did say I would repeat my position from that already given in May 2018. May 2019 will bring to an end my fourth and final year as your District Councillor. Thinking to what is popularly known as succession planning, if you are thinking that you would like to take on the role of 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.

STOP PRESS….. The new Leader of Surrey County Council Cllr Tim Oliver has accepted an invitation to come to Tatsfield to meet me and Parish Council members to discuss his new leadership and how it affects the residents of Surrey. If you would like to meet him please let me know on 01959 577201 as space will be limited. The visit will be during the afternoon of Monday 21st January 2019.

Ellice Road. The S & R committee agreed the redevelopment of Ellice Road car park will be postponed for a year to reduce disruption to businesses, which will already be impacted by the development of the Oxted gasholder site.

Council’s financial position clearer following government and Surrey County Council announcements. Recent funding announcements from the government and Surrey County Council have given the Council more clarity over its financial position going as ahead

Cllr David Hodge, District Councillor Martin Allen with Parish Council Chairman Nichola Stoke and Clerk Samantha Head at the meeting on 16th November

 Council’s financial position clearer following government and Surrey County Council announcements. Recent funding announcements from the government and Surrey County Council have given the Council more clarity over its financial position going
forward. The Council’s robust financial planning has enabled it to continue to fund vital services despite receiving no Revenue Support Grant and it is confident this approach will continue to best protect services in the challenging times ahead.

Despite this the Council still has some difficult decisions to make and is working hard to close the remaining budget gap of £200,000 so it can set a balanced budget for next financial year. Final decisions will be taken by the full Council on 14th February.

**Suspicious activity or vehicles or persons.** Having been asked by a resident to clarify what to do with such information I am advised that you can report matters such as this online following the below link:

https://surrey.police.uk/contact-us/report-online

**Moorhouse.** The Officers, Applicant, DPD Senior Management and Surrey County Highways met again in December and I and other local Councillors questioned the information that was being given from all those involved in making this application. It seems that Surrey County Council now has a better understanding of the Highways problem but a final decision is still awaited.

**Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan.** Again more detail elsewhere but it was disappointing that although we know there are 21 Tatsfield people on the Tandridge Housing Register not one of them responded to the Housing Needs Survey. If you are one of them I would be interested to know why you did not respond. Details below.

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

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**Committee approves the submission of the Local Plan**

Last night’s Planning Policy Committee approved the submission of the Local Plan to the government for independent examination. This means it will be submitted in advance of the introduction of a new government target, which would require the district to plan for 12,900 new homes or 645 homes per year. Based on the rural nature, environmental and landscape designations and the significant proportion of the district covered by Green Belt, the Council believes the number of homes the Local Plan can deliver is 6,056 or 303 homes per year.
The Local Plan will deliver new homes, including affordable ones, some of which will be only available to local people. The infrastructure-led plan will also create road improvements and an improved Godstone railway station, as well as improved healthcare facilities and schools to support existing and future generations. There will be new employment areas and opportunities to increase the number of local higher skilled jobs.

All comments received during the three Regulation 18 consultations and the Draft Local Plan Consultation, known as the Regulation 19 consultation, which ran from Monday 30th July to 5pm on Monday 10th September 2018, will also be submitted.

The Committee agreed to explore all options to help accelerate the delivery of the garden community, including directly acquiring land within the area, preferably by negotiation, but by using compulsory purchase powers if necessary. In addition, the Committee noted the involvement of Engie, a multinational energy infrastructure provider and Clarion Homes, the country’s largest registered provider of affordable homes, which have agreed to work jointly and proactively with the promoters to deliver the community.

Officers are working with Homes England and has also applied to Homes England to join its national garden community programme. Working with Homes England, the Highways Agency and Surrey and West Sussex County Councils, the Council is drawing up a detailed business case to apply for funding from the government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund. The funding is to cover upgrade works for junction 6 of the M25 and the Felbridge junction on the A22.

Within a few weeks of the Local Plan being submitted the Secretary of State will appoint a planning inspector who will oversee the process including an examination in public. More information on this timetable will be shared as it becomes available. To be kept up to date, please sign up for our Local Plan e-mail newsletter by visiting www.tandridge.gov.uk/signup.

The Local Plan, the Regulation 22 Statement of Consultation document and all the responses received during the Draft Local Plan Consultation are available at www.tandridge.gov.uk/localplan. There is also a question and answers document to cover some of the main points around the Local Plan.

Councillor Keith Jecks, Chair of the Planning Policy Committee, said: “The decision to submit our Local Plan to the government for inspection is a significant step and the culmination of a number of years of hard work with input from our residents through the consultations. Our plan has been evidenced and considered to ensure it not only creates the affordable homes we need, but that it delivers great infrastructure improvements including road and rail improvements, healthcare facilities, schools and employment opportunities for the benefit of all.”

All Committee meetings are broadcast live and remain available to view on the Council’s website for six months. Visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/webcast.
POLICING

Happy New Year Tatsfield. Really, where does the time go? Only 11 months until Christmas…….

Even though I hope for some variation between different years when it comes to seasonal crime, there seems to be no variation from mid-November to mid-December when it comes to burglaries. Sadly, North Tandridge seems to have been targeted by what appears to be one or a pair of offenders who have been prolific during December. The locations and timings across the area seem quite random and despite concentrated patrols, they have been sustained across every part of North Tandridge.

There have been three properties in Tatsfield hit, and all have been in the same part of the village, strongly suggesting the same offender/s. Surrey Police have names in the frame as likely candidates, but clear evidence is vital to identify them and, so far, this has been elusive. Firstly, a property on Old Lane was entered during the evening while the residents were upstairs, with a set of vehicle keys taken, and the new vehicle on the drive then taken. It was fitted with a tracker, so the owner located it in the London suburbs and got it retrieved. Forensic examination of the property and vehicle were negative, as were local enquiries. Just before Christmas, a property in Ricketts Hill Road was entered while the female resident was out. The only item taken appeared to be a piece of jewellery. Wrapped presents were unwrapped but not taken. Forensics and other enquiries were negative. Lastly, a different part of Ricketts Hill Road had a property entered after Christmas, with a jewellery box and cash taken. There were no positive lines of enquiry with this one. A very frustrating time for all involved.

This would be a good opportunity for us all to review the security of our property. Every method of making where we live as unattractive to a would-be burglar, should be taken up where possible. The addition of high side gates (locked), motion sensor lighting, noisy shingle drive, ‘Ring’ doorbell with hidden motion camera, and front gates are all examples of improvements that are recommended.

Any professional advice can be obtained from security expert colleague Mark Howells on 01483 637044.

Kids: if it does snow, please be sensible, as it tends to hurt a bit upon impact with a face, thrown or fallen on!

That’s all folks… see you around the village.

Rupert, PCSO 12599 KELLEY, Surrey Police
LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

Term Topics
Last term we had lots of fun looking at different celebrations including Thanksgiving, birthdays and Christmas. The children all worked very hard to put on a lovely nativity show for our families and we really enjoyed our end of term party with games and party food! The children all had a full bag of Christmas crafts to take home with them that they had been working on in the weeks leading up to Christmas, and we finished the term with our Christmas jumper day with festive baking and a Christmas sing-a-long with one of our talented parents playing instruments for the children.

Fundraising
We had some fantastic fundraising events for Christmas; our Crafty Christmas event was very well attended and everyone had a great time making some lovely Christmas crafts to take home including mosaic Christmas pictures, 2019 calendars, beaded tree decorations and Christmas cupcakes. This along with our Christmas photos, Hamper Raffle and Nativity cake sale made over £1000! Thank you to all of our families who contributed towards this fantastic total!

Open Day
On Saturday 2\(^{nd}\) February between 10am-12pm we’ll be welcoming new and prospective parents into the village hall to see how the preschool runs and meet our friendly staff and committee. Join us for a morning of fun and information, whether you’re looking for flexible childcare whilst you work, future options for your baby or a stimulating environment for your child to make new friends in, we’d love to meet you!

Thank you for reading and we wish everyone a happy new year from all of us at Little Acorns!

Mareka Newberry
Office Manager
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk
WWII – Bomb Shelters

Year 5 at Tatsfield Primary School has been learning all about World War II – We had a competition in our DT lessons to make bomb shelters that would withstand a bombing!

In groups, the class carefully planned their constructions, considered the materials they were using, measurements, tools suited to the job and also worked on the appearance of their designs.

The children’s shelters were subjected to a series of 1 kg ‘bombs’, a downpour of rain, a bomb aftershock and judged on their exterior by Mr Bellinger.

The worthy winners! Harry, Oliver, Jack and Corey!

Oops! Some were stronger than others!
Valentine’s Day is named after Saint Valentine. Valentine’s Day is on the 14th February every year.

People show their love to another person on Valentine’s Day.

Who was Saint Valentine?
Valentine was a Roman priest. The Roman Emperor, Claudius, had forbidden people from getting married because he said that it was distracting the men from fighting in his army. Valentine thought that people should be able to get married if they wanted to. He secretly carried on marrying people, until he was sent to prison by the Emperor. Valentine was made a saint and people remember him every year on the 14th February, with a celebration about love.

Kingfisher Class have been writing poems about love.

These are some of our ‘love’ themed acrostic poems.

Cupid flies
Underneath, a gift to give,
People falling in love
In February Valentines
Darling.
Hazel

Give me love
I’ll grant your wish
Forever and ever
Til the world ends.
Layla

Love is beautiful, an
Orange sunflower
Very happy and smiley
Every time I see you I feel happy.
Isabelle

Can’t ever forget our mum
Aren’t ever going to give up
Red hearts in the air
Drinking love potions.
 Archie
TATTY KNITTERS

Happy New Year to you all. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and didn’t indulge too much.

In December we had a superb meal with our fun and games party. Thank you to all those that came along.

Now is the time to start looking at lovely Spring ideas to make. Please look at the craft section of the Horticultural Society booklet when it comes through your door and maybe you’ll be tempted to enter something.

The February meeting will be on 12th, in the Bakery from 7.30 until 9.30ish. Cake supplied, buy your own drink.

Happy crafting!

Val Quick 07761 571071

TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

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

1st Prize: Pete Harrison £49.50
2nd Prize: Michael Wiggins £33.00
3rd Prize: Tom Ellis £16.50

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 at les.eames@ntlworld.com.
Our Christmas party involved everyone bringing along their signature dish and the result was a table groaning with savouries, salads, deserts –all forms of makes and bakes - accompanied by mulled wine and fruit juices. A great start to the festive season.

We were joined on December 4th by Jenny South on her visit to their Tatsfield family, and by Bob who kindly presented the Brenda David Trophy to this year’s winner Shirley Murgatroyd for her valued contribution to our institute and the wider community.

The first meeting of the year was important as it gave our members the opportunity to discuss the six proposed resolutions for 2019. After a lively debate on each of the resolutions the ladies of Tatsfield WI cast their votes for the resolutions that each individual feels the WI should turn into a campaign.

Resolutions have underpinned the WI’s work to empower and support women within society on taboo issues and have also brought about many positives changes in legislation and government policy. In 2018 the WI celebrated 100 years of resolutions, and in that time has passed more than 400 resolutions. The ladies of the WI are proud to have achieved change on hundreds of issues that affect women and their communities across the world.

Currently the WI are tackling issues such as mental health stigma and loneliness; food waste and food poverty; microplastic pollution and climate change, the WI gets involved and really makes a difference.

After the proceedings of the formal meeting, we were joined for a delicious lunch by the Not So Young Club. This is always a friendly and relaxed gathering giving everyone a chance to catch up after Christmas. The food was prepared by Pat Walsh and Shirley Murgatroyd of the WI, entertainment provided by The Not So young - the hard work of all those involved was much appreciated.

The next WI meeting is on Tuesday 5th February at 2.15pm. Our speaker will be Jackie Simmonds talking about ‘My Life as a Tiller Girl’.

If anyone would like further information about the WI there are a number of ways you can get in touch. There is a post-box by the door of the WI Hal, in Paynesfield Road, just drop us a note, or pop into one of our meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.15pm or ring Sue Smale on 01959 577660 for a chat.
You can also get an update on the village website. (https://www.tatsfield.org.uk/other-groups/womens-institute.

We are a friendly bunch and very happy to welcome new members. We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year and look forward to a year of new experiences, social events and activities – something for everyone to enjoy.

Sue Smale and Sandra Shury

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

NDS held their informal Young Soloists concert on a bitingly cold Sunday afternoon on January 6th. Francis Griffin conducted the orchestra in Beethoven’s Coriolan overture, before the soloist, Jonathan Hayward, played the Mendelssohn Violin concerto. Jonathan is a young man of prodigious ability – he has only been playing for seven years, but he played with a maturity beyond his years, and the audience loved every minute.

Our Spring concert is on Saturday May 11th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall as usual. Put this date in your diary now, as it will feature an international star soloist, Korea’s Edwin Kim, playing Elgar’s virtuosic Violin Concerto. It is a real coup for NDS to work with such a prodigious talent, and we are very excited about this opportunity! We will supplement this with Beethoven’s most famous work, his Fifth Symphony, with its characteristic theme, and the concert will again be conducted by Francis Griffin. Tickets will go on sale in March, from Jan or Peter Maynard on 01959 577659, or by emailing northdownssinfonia@gmail.com.
SOUTHERN COUNTIES DRAMA FESTIVAL AT OXTED’S BARN THEATRE

The All England Theatre Festival has a history dating back to 1919 when the British Drama League was formed. It is the only national competitive one act drama festival in the UK and organises an eliminating series of festivals, which lead ultimately to the British final. The Southern Counties Drama Festival (previously The Betchworth Festival) is a preliminary round of this festival and has been an important part of local amateur dramatics in Surrey and Kent for more than 60 years.

The result is the return of an exciting week of festival drama in 2019 from February 26th – March 2nd at the Barn Theatre in Oxted, with 10 groups competing against each other. Nick Wilkes GoDA will have the difficult task of deciding who should be declared winner to go forward to the next round of festival.

We also hope that our Patron, the newsreader Nicholas Owen, may be able to attend during the week. Nicholas is a well-known journalist and TV presenter of the news, on the BBC News channel and BBC One. He was born in London and initially educated at Hamsey Green primary school just up the hill from the Barn Theatre. He began his journalistic career at the Surrey Mirror in 1964, soon moving to Fleet Street and thereafter switching to television reporting in 1981, since which he has become a household name. Moving to ITN for over 20 years he then returned to the BBC in 2006 where he continues to present news and current affairs programmes. As a Strictly Come Dancing contestant he was voted off in the first week of the show in 2006 and decided the news desk was the best place for him. As a member of Reigate Amateur Theatrical Society (RATS) he enjoyed the live stage and has taken part in this festival and on the Barn stage, as a competitor, when in 1977 he won the Best Actor Award in Two Gentlemen of Soho.

With a mixture of youth and adult teams during the week, most entrants are experienced in festival and some have had recent success in the further rounds that lead to the English and British finals.

Tenacity and perseverance have ensured that this festival endures, and you can support the endeavour by ordering your tickets by telephoning 01959 561811 or ordering online from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk. General enquiries can be answered by telephoning 01959 561811 or by email at scdfatbarn@btinternet.com. More information is also available at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk/scdf.html

This year’s selection of plays is an eclectic and interesting mix of comedy, tragedy and drama and a week not to be missed.
TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spring Show Craft sections 2019

The Horticultural Society are looking to improve the number of craft entries at the Spring Show and now have a list of the entries available:

- A homemade Easter Card
- An embroidered picture for a child’s room
- A hand painted jug
- A vase of knitted or crocheted flowers
- A piece of handwork ie Patchwork, knitting or crochet made in to a blanket

Please do have a go as they give so much pleasure and interest to people coming to visit the Show, and I think we have tried to incorporate a variety of skills.

Sue Warren

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY YEAR BOOKS 2019

As most of you are aware, each year between January and March volunteers knock on your door to deliver the Horticultural Society Year Book.

The Year Book is great value and for the sum of £5 per household or a small donation from Senior citizens you become a member of Tatsfield Horticultural Society (THS).

Members receive a 10% discount card (on the back page of the year book) for use in the Knights Gardens Centres at Chelsham and Woldingham when purchasing horticultural items such as plants, compost, light garden tools etc. and again, this coming year, members receive 50% off Suttons Seeds and 15% off other items in the catalogue. The Suttons Seeds catalogues will be offered when your year book is delivered, or one can be obtained from myself (contact details below). The unique order code is also in the THS Year Book.

Being a member also entitles you to exhibit at the Spring and Autumn Shows in the various sections, with the possibility of winning a cup/trophy/prize.

We also hold a few Gardening Club evenings in the WI Hall throughout the year (details will be in the Parish Magazine and in the year book) where we have a glass of wine/tea/coffee and listen to a speaker on specific aspects of gardening.

The year books are now out for printing so we will start delivery in or around the end of January and look forward to your support again this year.

Christine Stainer (Subscriptions Secretary) Tel: 577803 (christinestainer@yahoo.com)
TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

During December the volunteers have been busy clearing the fallen leaves on the village greens. The leaves were taken to the Allotments where a bay was found for them to rot down.

A new hedge was planted between the Community Orchard and the Meadow with saplings donated by The Woodland Trust. This hedge will grow to replace the wooden fence dividing the two areas at the present time.

A Saturday morning was also spent planting daffodil bulbs on Westmore Green in the area between the old bus shelter and the pond as most of the original bulbs in that location are no longer flowering.

The Committee have been meeting to discuss the plans for 2019. The 10-year anniversary of Tatsfield Fairtrade will be celebrated on the Tatol bed with plants and other material making up the Fairtrade logo. It is intended to start a tree nursery on a small allotment to grow some native British trees to mark the centenary of The Forestry Commission.

Would you like to come and help us? An hour on Saturday morning to help keep our lovely village tidy? Just turn up at 10.00am by The Bakery and we will greet you warmly!

Jill Hancock - Tatsfield In Bloom (577622)
TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

QUIZ OF QUIZZES

Saturday 23 March 2019
7.00 for 7.30 pm start

Tables of 6 please
£10 per person to include supper and pudding
(Advance notice of dietary requirements essential)

Quiz Prize and a Raffle
Licenced Bar
(Please do not bring your own drinks)

To reserve a table:
contact Roger Sawyers on 577434
or acresroger@aol.com

All local club and individual teams welcome

Proceeds towards hall improvements.
Hello all you amazing gardeners. After last year’s success we are back. It’s coming up to that time when you have to get your thinking caps on and come and enjoy an exciting evening.

You may compete in teams of up to four people. If you haven’t got a team of four don’t worry as we will combine people into teams on the night.

We have devised a quiz that should be informative and fun and is not designed to be stressful, but a fun evening.

The questions will be presented on a large screen and paper and pens will be provided

There will be a selection of canapés, nibbles and drinks at half time and a prize for the winning team at the end of the evening

Any queries please contact Martin Hazlewood on 07881 950550

Everyone is welcome Entrance £1 per person
ST MARY’S NEWS

Christmas Flowers
On 16th December we decorated St. Mary’s to be ready for the candlelit Carol Service and Christmas Day. My grateful thanks to Tina Boys, Pauline Conlon, Brenda Fairclough who also brought us mouth-watering mince pies, Kay Longley, Wendy Maddison, Jan Maynard, Shirley Murgatroyd, Christine Rosenbaum, Sue Saunders, Pat Walsh and Sue Warren. Also thanks to Rhod Jones and his team on the Titsey Estate for the wonderful selection of greenery plus additional supplies from Sue Warren and Louis Philibert. We were spoiled with mulled wine and coffee provided by Veronica Short. Sometimes ladies bring their own flowers and greenery with maybe a possible design in mind to be added to when they see what has been provided but at Christmas their creations are mostly designed on the spot which are always such a delight.

Ann Vatcher

(With thanks to Peter Maynard for the photos.)

Christmas Services
Thank you once again to all who supported our Christmas services, including the Tatsfield Singers with their Musical Director, Sarah Fryer, who enriched the Carol Service with their singing of congregational and performed items. We also enjoyed a lovely duet by Lucy and Amy Coop, with Mum, Sarah, on the piano. Many thanks to Tatsfield Primary School for the use of the School Hall for the Christingle Service, which was much appreciated.

Flower Rota for January/February 2018
Jan Maynard and Ann Vatcher will look after the pedestal and the Pascal Candle (as required) until the beginning of Lent.

Open the Bible (monthly All Age Service)
Our February 3rd service at 10am will include the opportunity to remember our Baptisms – children and adults are invited to bring their Baptism candle (extra candles will also be available).
St Mary’s Church 100 Club results for the December draw:

St Mary’s Church 100 Club results for the January draw:
96. C Prendergast £24.00  93. G Shaw £14.40  73. D J Gulley £9.60  St. Mary’s £48.00

Records
6th December  Funeral of Dorothy Rushen
19th December  Funeral of Ronald Miriam (at Surrey & Sussex Crematorium)
20th December  Funeral of (Bobbie) Audrey Tabner

St Mary's Food and Toy Christmas Delivery
A huge thank you to everyone who donated food and toys for our Christmas delivery to Christ Church, Brixton. We delivered a large car load of the donations on Monday 10th December, with everyone’s Christmas wishes, which was received by Reverend Tim Jefferies. The Christmas food was distributed in the cafe session that week and on Christmas Eve. The remaining food will help to sustain the food cupboard into the New Year for the provision of food parcels given out at the weekly cafe sessions, providing a much-needed service to the local community. The toys are given to local families as needed. Tim thanked us all for our continued support with our food and toy donations and commented that the cafe would really struggle without our help, so please keep the food donations coming and thank you again.

Hilary Vale

Children’s Society Collection
The collections at the Christmas services, together with donations from those visiting the Nativity Tableau in the Narthex by Sauro Gabelli, were for the work of The Children’s Society. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the total gift of £700 and also to Sauro for creating such a beautiful tableau.

Lent Lunches in St Mary’s Millennium Hall – dates for the diary!
This year’s lunches will be on Saturdays 23rd March, 30th March and 6th April; and on Palm Sunday, 14th April.

St Mary’s Church Website:  www.lttm.org.uk
REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun  10.00 am  Church service – StM

Mon  9.15 am  Hiit/Circuits & Abs - SH
         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  9.15 am  Boxing (SH)
         1.30pm  Whist – WIH (Last Tuesday of the month)
         1.45pm  Not So Young Club (2nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
         2.15pm  WI Meeting (1st Tuesday of the month) WIH
         5.30pm  Beavers – SH
         7.00 pm  Scouts – SH

Wed  9.15am  Lift to Lean (full body workout) – SH
         10.00 am  WI Pop In – WIH
         1.30 pm  Short Mat Bowls –VH
         6.00 pm  Cubs – SH
         7.00pm  DnB Workout – VH
         8.00 pm  Yoga – VH

Thu  10.00 am  Over 50s Yoga – WIH
         1.30 pm  Hear Here – AMB (1st Thursday of the month)
         2.00pm  Scrabble at AMB (2nd Thursday of the month)
         4.30 pm  Under 8’s Judo - SH
         5.45 pm  Over 8’s Judo - SH
         7.15pm  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  Bootcamp (TPS outside)
         10.00 am  Composting site (CLOSED for winter)
         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 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

JANUARY

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<td>19th</td>
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<td>Incredibles 2 – Tatsfield Cinema – VH</td>
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<td>19th</td>
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<td>The Bookshop – Tatsfield Cinema - VH</td>
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<td>31st</td>
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<td>By-election for County Councillor</td>
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FEBRUARY

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<td>10-12</td>
<td>Little Acorns open morning, VH</td>
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<td>My Life as a Tiller Girl, WIH</td>
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<td>TAG Abstract Painting demo, VH</td>
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<td>26th</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Drama Festival at The Barn Theatre (until 2nd March)</td>
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MARCH

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>3-5pm</td>
<td>Fairtrade Tea Party, VH</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Quiz of Quizzes, VH</td>
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Venues

AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CGA - Community Games Area MH - Millennium Hall • SH - Scout Hut • StM - St. Mary’s Church TACG – Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden • TVC - Tatsfield Village ClubTPS - Tatsfield Primary School • VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women’s Institute

EMERGENCY INFORMATION – DEFIBRILLATORS

The following Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in and around Tatsfield. No prior training is required as instructions and audio guidance is provided:

Village Hall, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Crossways Court, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Mayfield Stables, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day, on left hand side of entrance.
THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

They say it never rains till it pours and so it was in November when Tatsfield had 141mm (the long-term average is 88mm); the minimum temperature was -2, and the maximum was 13.5. December rainfall was 97mm (the long-term average is 84mm); the minimum temperature was -3 and the maximum was 12.5. The mild conditions have resulted in some winter flowering shrubs starting earlier than usual; on 1st January I counted half a dozen small bumble bees feeding hungrily on my winter flowering Honeysuckle (Lonicera fragrantissima) and my Sweet Box (Sarcococca humilis) – fill your garden with winter scent and help our wildlife to survive!

Have you noticed that there is one plant guaranteed to do well over the winter period and that is moss; why is that and what is moss anyway – is it really a plant?

Moss is a plant but a very primitive one, it does not produce flowers nor does it have proper roots, it also does not have the internal ‘plumbing’ system of tiny tubes that transport fluids and nutrients around stems, shoots and leaves.

The reason why it thrives on our lawns and borders at this time of the year is that it loves cool, dull, damp conditions; when the weather warms up and day length increases it produces spores and largely dies off ready to burst back into growth when conditions are just right again. In dark damp shady places you will notice that it can survive all the year round.

Tidy gardeners and lovers of fine flawless lawns consider it to be the enemy and must be destroyed by using moss killers, rakes and lots of energy! Before you charge off to the garden centre to prepare for war, pause a moment; the various forms of moss are beautiful to look at close up, they are an important part of your garden ecosystem not only because they are an important part of a birds’ nest but much more than that. If you are a grass-nut then consider that the moss is in fact telling you that your lawn drainage and aeration is very poor, and maybe in shade, using chemicals will not change these situations. Use a garden fork and fill the lawn with holes by pushing the fork vertically into the ground giving it a generous wriggle on the way down and back up. This takes a lot of time but is very good exercise and is much more effective than the spikers for hire – they only penetrate a few inches. In late February and into March give the lawn a good raking (scarifying) to take out moss and other dead plant material (the professionals call it thatch). Putting a couple of handfuls of moss in a net and hanging it from your bird table will get you a big thank you from your birds and provide much entertainment! If you are still feeling energetic after that then apply a dressing of sharp sand and brush it into the holes; but if all this activity is making you feel faint, then learn to love your moss!

Jon Albutt
You are invited to celebrate Tatsfield’s 10th Anniversary as a Fairtrade Village.

Reserve your place at a tea party featuring Fairtrade Chocolate / Cocoa.
email tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com
phone 01959 577 357

at The Village Hall
on Sunday 10th March at 3 – 5pm
Curzon Country Cinema are back in the Village Hall with two films in January and a special showing in February of a new independently produced British film. Tickets for all are £5. Pay at the door or reserve online at www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk

Saturday 19 January

Doors open at 3.15pm for “Incredibles 2”. This is a computer-animated film produced by Pixar and is a sequel to “The Incredibles” of four years ago. Do your eyes glaze over when you read a description like that? Well, perhaps we should think again because it is widely held that the sequel is even better than the very popular original and because one critic’s very positive summary – “Slapstick genius, profound social comment and a monstrously funny infant combine to conjure a magical second outing for the superhero family” – sums up the general view.

In the evening (doors open at 7.30pm) is “The Bookshop”. This is a gentle celebration of books and booklovers. It tells the story (adapted from the semi-autobiographical novel by Penelope Fitzgerald) of an amiable young widow who comes to a remote coastal Suffolk town in the late 1950s, buys a dilapidated property there and enterprisingly converts it into a bookshop. The lead role is played by Emily Mortimer and the other main parts by Bill Nighy and Patricia Clarkson So, an interesting story and a good cast – must be worth braving the January cold!
Not seen before! Tatsfield is one of the places in Surrey for the world premiere preview of a new independently produced British film “Great in Britain: The Movie”. The director of the film, Howard Webster, has sent this message and hopes to be with us to talk about his film on the 16th:

“My movie is a very British musical comedy starring Peter Bowles (To The Manor Born), Jason Flemyng (Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button), Larry Lamb (Eastenders), Colin Salmon (Prime Suspect, Live Another Day, Mortal Engines), iconic British pop stars Right Said Fred and a cast of well-known British names. Now here is the big news for everyone living in the area. One of the handful of exclusive UK premiere preview screenings is happening here in Tatsfield at the Village Hall. The premiere preview screenings are courtesy of Barrie Gilbert of Curzon Country Cinema.

The movie was shot on location in Surrey and the last two scenes were filmed in Tadworth at the end of 2018. I am thrilled to be able to bring a UK premiere movie release to a village hall cinema like the one in Tatsfield. When I first considered the idea I had no idea that there were so many of these venues across the country. It turns out that it is quite a movement. In rural areas they are called village hall or community cinemas, in urban areas they are called ‘pop-up’ cinemas. Regardless of what they are called it appears that people still want to come together to watch a movie and share an experience. In an age where technology has led to isolation and a lack of community where people often don’t even know who their neighbours are any more, it is heartening to see the numbers of these village hall/pop-up cinemas growing.

While I am now looking forward to the movie’s release, there have been so many highlights during its making. Amongst them were getting to shoot two big dance numbers in Kew Gardens, seeing Strictly Come Dancing winner Tom Chambers in action on the Sackler Bridge and watching the legendary Peter Bowles at work and delivering pitch perfect lines.

‘Great in Britain: The Movie’ is the heart-warming story of three old school friends and of what really matters in the end. Be prepared to be cheered up in 2019!”

Doors open at 7pm on 16 February.

Bob David
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

What a wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by a good attendance of the members, after what seemed like a total disaster, when four of our five committee members were unable to give the support needed, due to health problems. But, hey presto, as usual there were several members who stepped into the breach and gave unstintingly to help us out. We are so grateful to all of them.

There was a huge amount of food, provided by a caterer experienced in her career and there were many prizes given by members for the raffle. The highlight of the afternoon was the entertainment provided by Vince and Veronica Short, giving songs and jokes and old London songs we could all join in with. Then, of course the carols. Thank you so much both and additional thanks for helping to clear up afterwards!

Babs Heffernon (540602)

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

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

25th Feb · Marie Antonio · Demo – Abstract Painting

(Ring Carol Gaskell = 577724/Christine Stainer = 577803 for further information)
On the first day of the New Year, Mars can be found on the meridian, due south, a little after 5pm and as far as planets go that’s all there is to see in the evening sky. If you’re unlucky enough to go back to work the following day and are up reasonably early then the morning sky in the south east will reward you with a view of two bright planets and the Moon. At 7am a thin waning crescent Moon has the brilliant planet Venus slightly to the west (right) and Jupiter a little lower down to the east. By the 22nd, Venus will have moved eastwards and will be just over two degrees north of (above) Jupiter. Then on the 31st the crescent Moon has returned to join the two planets although by now their positions have switched around. As the weeks pass Venus will move slowly back towards the Sun whilst Jupiter continues to do the opposite until it appears so far to the west of our parent star that it is visible in the evenings once again. As the weeks pass, Saturn begins to appear low down in the south-east before sunrise. On the morning of February 18th the brilliant Venus passes just one degree north of the ringed planet and will act as a guide to finding it.

The Earth will reach perihelion on January 3rd at 5:19am. This is the moment in time when we are at our closest to the Sun during 2019. It might seem strange that we are closest to the Earth at what is the coldest period for the northern hemisphere but the variations in our distance from the Sun have the tiniest of effects on temperature. It is the tilt of the Earth’s axis that provides the changes in temperature that accompany the seasons. The Sun shining on us from very low in the sky, as it does in winter, means that the heating effect per unit of energy is far more spread out that when the Sun is much higher in the sky as it is in summer.

As I mentioned before, there will be a total eclipse of the Moon in the early hours of January 21st. The Earth’s shadow begins to take a bite out of the Moon at 3:33am and it will be fully eclipsed from 4:41am until 5:43am. The event concludes at 6:50am when the Moon finally leaves the Earth’s shadow. It will set just over an hour later so we are rather lucky with timings here in the UK.

There is also an active meteor shower, called the Quadrantids, to watch out for. It is active from January 1st to the 6th with a sharp peak in activity predicted for the early hours of January 4th. If you can’t be up at that time then do have a look as late as you can on the evening and night of the 3rd. At its very best there is a prediction that there may be 80 meteors per hour although this does assume absolutely ideal conditions. One thing that will be in our favour is that the Moon is close to “new” so it will not interfere with viewing. The point in the sky that the meteors appear to radiate from, known as the radiant, is close to the handle of the plough and will be close to due north. However, as the meteors can appear a long way from the radiant it isn’t necessary to watch around that area. Looking north east or north west about half way between the horizon and overhead point will be as good a place as any.

Brian Mills FRAS
NIGEL’S NATURE NOTES

Correspondence:

We begin the New Year with a letter (hand written = instant happiness!) from Diane Gay who isn’t a local person and not even a close neighbour. I think it’s fair, however, to refer to her as a ‘distant neighbour’, living in Hurst Green. Not too far as the crow flies. (Mind you, whenever I observe flying crows, they seem to wander all over the place!) Diane is kindly picking up on various reports and comments of previous months and presents an encouraging report of garden life (29.10.18):

‘Reading your ‘Nature Notes’, I thought I would comment on one or two happenings in my garden in Hurst Green. In fact, we’ve had more sightings of butterflies this year than previous years when there have been virtually none, despite having buddleias in the garden. This year we have seen Large Whites, Orange-tips and Brimstones, plus small brown and blue butterflies in the wild grass area.

I am rather jealous to find you have Hedgehogs as, despite building a shelter for them years ago, I’ve never seen one in our garden. Even squirrels have been scarce despite having mature trees. Fortunately, with a couple of small ponds, there are newts and (unfortunately for the frogs) a number of Grass Snakes. Also a lot of toads, probably due to all the beetle grubs hatching out of the old log piles and the slugs that benefit from my love of hostas!

I also note your dismay at the report of ‘global warming’. When I was young it was talk of the coming ice-age (!) and in some ways, as far as the human race goes, I sometimes feel we have reached it. However, it is all too easy to get negative about things and much easier to carry on the way we are and think we can’t make a difference. Trying to stay positive and simplifying our approach I’m sure helps. On a practical front, I’m trying to walk more – and use my bus pass! In the garden, one innovation has been to build a ‘dead hedge’. It now has ivy growing up through it and is a satisfying way of using old wood and prunings that would originally have been burned.

Coming back to the wildlife issue, I have also seen the return of small birds, although we still get the Magpies and Crows. Next door, a Blue Tit family raised their young in a small hole in the eaves and this year we’ve had most of the tit species in the garden, as well as Goldcrests and a warbler making itself known. We have also had Green and Lesser-spotted Woodpeckers, so I’m not totally despairing of the situation. The one thing we don’t currently see are Starlings and [House] Sparrows, although I think the Sparrow population is increasing in places. One bird we’ve never lost is the Dunnock, hopping about the garden.’

News, views and poetry – what a great start to 2019! It seems that your experience of the natural world, Diane, is very

‘Without moving a hair, the birds sing,'
similar to our own, although I have picked up with interest on the word, toad. I don’t recall a single report of toad activity within, or around, the village of Tatsfield. Perhaps our readers know otherwise? (Suggested springtime activity – pull on your wellies and go on a toad hunt!) I must say, I love the idea of a ‘dead hedge’: Benefiting the natural environment whilst saving a fortune on fencing costs! Many thanks for this report, Diane, and for your interest in our parish magazine.

Ps. Please don’t be jealous, but I’ve just seen a dozen Starlings on the back lawn!

Now, you may recall, last month, that I promised you (further) exciting news from Ruth Yeeles. Well, it turns out that Jim Yeeles –‘Adventurer Jim’– recently received an award for the volunteering work he does for the Kent Wildlife Trust. This was their citation:

‘Jim has been volunteering at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve for over 10 years. He is a great asset in the running of this and other local nature reserves, carrying out important conservation work and ensuring that vital activities can take place. Jim really cares about the reserve, making suggestions for improvements, researching information about how to optimise the way the reserve functions and helping to complete surveys. He is also trained as a chainsaw, brush-cutter, mower and winch operator which has come in handy on many occasions. Jim recently played a crucial role in enabling American mink control on site because he is willing to help when staff are unavailable.’

Ruth tells us, Jim, that you are too modest to mention your achievements. Well, please accept my apologies, but this is simply too big an achievement not to be mentioned. On behalf of our readers, all of whom I feel sure would want to join the KWT in recognising your support and hard work, I would like to offer you heartfelt congratulations. What with Sevenoaks, Hill Park and the village pond, I begin to wonder how you and Ruth find time to do anything else. It’s great to do these things while you’re still able-bodied and, believe me, your and Ruth’s efforts are very much appreciated: WELL DONE!!

I don’t often plan in advance, but I can tell you that next month sees the publication of John Rosenbaum’s, 2018 bird observation and sighting notes. Hotly anticipated and most definitely not to be missed!

Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway.
TATSFIELD RAMBLERS
Details of walks in the surrounding area for January and February 2019 are as follows. Everyone welcome including your dogs.

Sunday 20th January 2019
Leader: Annette Glazebrook and Jean Bossley
Start Point: 10.30am Toys Hill car park.
Map Ref: TQ 470519 Postcode: TN16 1QG
Description: We walk around Toys Hill and then up to Ide Hill village for refreshments, stopping at either the Cock Inn or the Community Coffee Shop (your choice) before returning via a more direct route. Approximately 6 miles, 3.5 hours in total with some steps up and some uneven ground. Two stiles.

Sunday 3rd February 2019
Leader: Carol Vening
Start Point: 10.45am at Westerham Green.
Map Ref: TQ 446540 TN16 1AS
Description: A fairly direct walk from Westerham to the Carpenters Arms (where we will have refreshments) and back. Fairly even terrain with one steep hill at the start. 5 miles total. No stiles.

Sunday 10th February 2019
Leader: Richard Gadd
Start Point: 11.15am Biggin Hill Recreation Ground.
Map Ref: TQ 420590 Postcode: TN16 3LB
Description: A gentle walk from Biggin Hill Recreation ground past FOAL Farm on to the Aperfield Inn where we will take refreshments. Slightly shorter route back. No hills. No stiles. Just under 3 miles in total; 2 hours.
Sunday 17th February 2019
Leader: Mary Hayward
Start Point: 10.30am Hosey Common car park.
Map Ref: TQ 452530 Postcode: TN16 1TA

Description: A walk from Hosey to Toys Hill where we will stop for refreshments at The Fox and Hounds before returning via a different route. Some hills. Please note we will be following a different route to the New Year’s Day walk.

Sunday 3rd March 2019
Leader: Richard Gadd
Start Point: 10.30am Keston Ponds car park. On main road from Biggin Hill to Bromley Common, halfway between Heathfield Road and Fishponds Road.
Map Ref: TQ 419639 Postcode: BR2 6AT

Description: A walk to Farnborough Village and back, via the Wilberforce Oak and High Elms. We will stop for refreshments in Farnborough at The Woodman before returning via a shorter route. Approximately 6 miles in total, 3.5 hours. Some hills. No stiles.

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)
TANDRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE RE-OPENS

Tandridge Leisure Centre has officially reopened after an extensive refurbishment. Following the management takeover in May, Freedom Leisure in partnership with Tandridge District Council committed to invest £1.1 million in a significant improvement of the facility in Oxted.

The investment has been used to modernise and refresh the centre. The reception area has been refurbished and made bigger and now has a cafe serving Costa Coffee.

The fitness suite upstairs has also been greatly improved – with the addition of a brand new studio, meaning that the centre now has two studio spaces and can offer more group exercises classes. Finally, the new gym has been extended with a new functional training space, state-of-the-art kit and a free weights area which has tripled in size.

Councillor Martin Fisher, Leader of Tandridge District Council, said: “We are very proud to be part of the transformation of Tandridge Leisure Centre and being able to support it with a £1.1 million investment. As a member of Tandridge Leisure Centre I have watched the progress with great interest and the new gym facilities are fantastic. The membership packages offer people real value for money and easy access to a facility to help everyone achieve a healthier lifestyle and spend leisure time with family.”

Centre Manager, Chris O’Neill, says: “The team and I are over the moon with the new developments and cannot wait to show customers around. Not only do we now have one of the best fitness facilities in the area, with some of the very best kit, but we also have more stations, more space and more classes – just in time for the New Year when everyone refocuses on their health and fitness goals.

We also have some truly fantastic New Year membership offers to really support local residents to be more active. I’m certain that once people see our centre, they will be as excited about it as we are.”

To find out more about classes, opening times and activities on the Tandridge Leisure Centre visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk and keep up to date at the centre’s Facebook and Twitter pages.

From left to right: Councillors Jackie Wren and Catherine Sayer, ward councillors for Oxted North & Tandridge, Ivan Horsfall-Turner, Managing Director of Freedom Leisure, Louise Round, Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council, Councillor Martin Fisher, Leader of Tandridge District Council, Louise Brownsey, British and World 17-21 Trampoline Champion, Pam Cooley, Chairman’s consort, and Councillor David Cooley, Chairman of Tandridge District Council.
BARN THEATRE
BLUEHOUSE LANE, OXTED, RH8 0AA

FEBRUARY 2019
Southern Counties Drama Festival – A first round of the All-England Theatre Festival
Tuesday 26th – Saturday 2nd March (Tues, Weds, Thurs, Sat, (7.30), Fri (7.00))
(Tickets (£10.00) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811)

MARCH 2019
The Merry Opera Company – The Pirates of Penzance (Buckle your squash and enjoy an evening packed full of sentimental pirates, blundering policemen, absurd adventures, improbable paradoxes – and realistic women)
Friday 8th (7.45) (Tickets (£15.00) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811)
Wickham’s Wandering Oldetyme Stagers – Strictly Music Hall (They are back, despite popular request… Good Old Music Hall at its Nostalgic Best… Naughty but Nice!)
Saturday 16th (7.45) (Tickets (£12.50 (concs. £10.00)) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811)

Information pertaining to all the above shows can be obtained from:
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 15a High Street, Westerham. Kent. TN16 1RA. 01959 561811

THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE
HOSKINS ROAD, OXTED
(OPPOSITE THE LEISURE POOL)
SPRING SALE
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2019, 10AM – 12 NOON
CAKES – COLLECTABLES – RAFFLE
BOOKS – FANCY GOODS – COFFEE
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
TATSFIELD 52 YEARS AGO - HOW DIFFERENT WAS IT?

My brother, Peter Garnham, telephoned me – a rare event. It was to tell me that there was a house opposite his bungalow in Maesmaur Road that was for sale. I was heavily pregnant with our first baby and living in Waterloo, very near the ‘Bexleyheath line’. We had been scouring Kent for a house we could afford. We moved to Tatsfield in July; Matthew was born at Farnborough Hospital in September. That was the hospital before the PRUH on the same site, with two main buildings and several wooden huts for wards. New house, new baby – everything about this special village was about to cast its magic on me. Later, my mum and my little sister Jakki came to the village too.

52 years ago it was a different little village, with a general store and post office. There was a raised wooden staging outside the store and a wooden railing, rather like in a cowboy movie, where you could tie your horse! There was a greengrocer run by Linda Dance’s mum and dad. Next to the greengrocers was a café with a pinball machine and very little else; Vi Jupp worked there. There was a drapery and hardware store in Westmore Road and a newspaper and sweet shop. Mr Longley ran the butchers’ shop. ‘The Wooden Spoon’ – a sort of bistro – was run by Mrs Bellatti; she also made wonderful cakes and, when the Wooden Spoon ceased trading, she did a lot of catering for the Henry Wilkinson Wine Bar in Westerham. The Old Bakery was a general store which sold everything from bread to light bulbs to washing powder. The doctor’s surgery was near the Wooden Spoon and there was a hairdresser too.

We had a good bus service to Croydon and even a green line bus to Tring! (Why Tring?) Tony Watson ran the garage and sold petrol. The pub was run by Ian Monteith and his wife Dossie who always made us very welcome; having the garden there meant we could take the baby there on sunny Sundays. Everyone met in the pub.

The village school was in Church Road and there was a little shop at the junction of Old Lane and Ship Hill. At Maesmaur Road and Ship Hill was another shop – a sort of wholesalers. So many shops – 10 plus the garage, the pub, surgery, the school and the telephone exchange. Dick the milkman, was not just a milkman – he also delivered bacon and other essentials everywhere whatever the weather.

There was no Shipfield Close, no Vern Close, no Aileen McHugo Building. What is now the Millennium Hall was a little wooden hut where tea was served on Sundays. There was a nursery school in Paynesfield Road. Little Acorns started in the Village Hall when Matthew was a toddler, I think. I remember going to Downing Street (with push chair) with the founder of Little Acorns to demand better funding for nursery education. In those days you could go into Downing Street and hand in your petition at the door of Number 10. Perhaps Little Acorns has a record of that?

Tatsfield was not ‘en route’ to anywhere. There was no motorway, so no rat runs. My sister-in-law used to walk to the Spinning Wheel to get a bus to Redhill. Rag Hill was quiet and Ricketts Hill was safe to walk on, since traffic was very infrequent. Only people who worked locally or perhaps in Croydon lived here, or those who had their
own transport to get further afield. Tatsfield was known by Warlingham residents as Tatty Tatsfield – with justification perhaps, or jealousy. It was remote and quiet, and the houses were affordable.

Some things are much better now. The village is well cared for and our district councilors work closely with Tandridge and ensure we aren’t forgotten. Our Parish Council is proactive. The village appraisal must take the accolade for improving so many aspects of village life. The Parish Magazine has grown like topsy since I first came here. There have always been entrepeneurs here and very vibrant variety of artists. The Paynesfield Road Gang was a famous group of nutcases who made fabulous, inventive and very large movable trailers to compete with Westerham at their summer gig. There was, and still is, a potter in Greenways. There were concert pianists in Cudham and Paynesfield Roads. My little sister had an ‘egg round’ and started her first riding school in The Avenue and later in Gorsey Down. My boys played in Maesmaur and later in Manor Road and on Tatsfield Green and in the woods around it. It was safe for them to play there because there was no traffic to speak of.

Everything changes, and so did our village school. Surrey decided to make it just an Infant School, so all pupils aged eight were moved to Hamsey Green or St Leonard’s at Chelsham. Our village school was a happy place, but the splitting up of friends and a very unreliable school bus to St Leonard’s took its toll on me – trying to be at two schools at once. Thanks to hard work by the Parish Council, eventually Surrey changed its mind and the Junior School was re-established. The village is so lucky to have good, thriving primary school again, and this keeps the village balanced.

The appraisals we have had brought all sorts of clubs and groups together and there is truly something for everyone. Our Parish Magazine is the glue keeping track of these and keeping the village informed. Tatsfield is not an inward-looking village and our twinning with Vern D’Anjou is an important part of the village history. Long may it continue! Closer to home my New Year wish is for a regular hourly bus to Oxted which would benefit the village enormously.

As the weather warms up, I look forward to meeting up with my friends for tea and cake in Sheree’s Tearoom, and to seeing the pond developing into a beauty spot.

The big attraction of Tatsfield is, of course, its location - set in gorgeous countryside, with the North Downs Way hugging us. Our lovely bluebell woods, our greens, and our ancient Church make the village a little jewel to be nurtured.

I know there are others here in the village with tales to tell, so I look forward to their reminiscences in the future. Happy New Year.

Dawn Forrester Groom
Welcome to our article featuring a local resident with a story to share. This month we are talking to Lorraine Maddison.

**What is your connection with Tatsfield?** I was born in Tatsfield. My dad was the local butcher on Westmore Road and I grew up here. I rode my ponies around the village and, in my teens, worked at Beaver Water World helping with the animals and also at the Bakery wheeling around the sweet trolley at the weekends. In 1998 I opened The Summerhouse a beauty salon in a beautiful building at the back of my parents’ house. My dad had built it to be his garage - but I decided it was far too nice for cars (luckily, he agreed!). Mum and dad moved two years ago when they built their dream home on Goatsfield Road. Alex Davies bought the old butchers and has let me stay on to run my business!

**What are your favourite childhood memories of the village?** There are so many! I guess when everyone came together: the carnivals used to be magical with the floats coming through the village and everybody dressed up on the green. The time we were snowed in and everyone was helping each other baking bread and making sure everyone was ok. We used to sledge on Ship Hill and the local punks would prepare the path first by going down on a sheet of plastic so it was faster!! I thought their hair was awesome! Maybe that’s why I still secretly want pink hair!

The shops were a big part of my childhood. We lived opposite Mrs Balletti’s house which used to be a bakery and the smells from her kitchen were amazing. Mr Balletti who went on to teach music at Oxted would practice his scales on his flute. There was a paper shop where we would buy ice creams in the summer and take our bottles back for the 10p’s we’d receive for returning them. We would buy carrots for the ponies wrapped in old newspaper from Charlie Browns the greengrocer and, of course, get our sweets in little paper bags scooped out of jars in Linda’s. No plastic packaging back then! I remember the pavements were made of slabs and there were trees down Westmore and of course a lot less cars! The Bakery was “Dick’s Stores”. I can still picture him wearing a tweedy suit that was a bit frayed, and he had a little poodle that would wear a sleeve of a jumper with holes cut in it as a coat in the winter. There were pots and all sorts of things hanging all over the place and we went there to buy jamboree bags and bread.

Raising my own kids in the village was a great privilege; Tots on Top at the church hall and the village school are amazing and great for the mums to get together as well as the kids. Tatsfield still has a sense of community and that’s what makes it so special.

**So, what now?** In 2012 my world was turned upside down and I had to leave my lovely home in Old Lane. I now live in Edenbridge but am lucky enough to have been able to continue to work in the village at what is now Source Health Clinic with Alex and Ben.
This big change led to lots of re-evaluations regarding my life and I decided to go back to college.

Years ago I had looked in to training in McTimoney, this is a gentle form of chiropractic which is used to treat both humans and animals and I had first come across it whilst being with horses. The fact that animals react so brilliantly to McTimoney though they lack the consciousness to derive any placebo effect from the treatment re enforced my passion for this therapy.

I’m currently studying to be a chiropractor and am in the fourth year of my Masters degree at McTimoney Chiropractic College. So, I’m working to expanding my massage practice to specialise in mobility issues. Especially for those who maybe aren’t so sporty or are noticing some aches and pains. Keeping mobile as we age is so important - the old adage “use it or lose” it is even more appropriate. Often people regard mobility issues as a natural part of the ageing process, but this doesn’t need to be the case. Keeping active throughout our lives maintains circulation and muscle balance, improves proprioception and has been shown to reduce the likelihood of falls.

A chiropractor crunches bones right? NO!! McTimoney specifically is a very gentle but powerful treatment with the emphasis on the speed rather than the force of the adjustment. The pop you sometimes feel and hear on adjustments is caused by the release of pressure that builds in a dysfunctional joint. Gas when under pressure dissolves in synovial fluid and when the pressure is released by the adjustment that gas is released, it is then harmlessly absorbed by the body.

Many people ask me “what is the difference between Chiropractic and Osteopathy?” The short answer is the intention. Chiropractors manipulate and mobilise the skeletal system - in particular the spine which, due to its segmented structure, is prone to fixations. The intention is to improve the passage of nerve impulses in order to promote healing by the body’s innate intelligence and immunity. Osteopathy manipulates and mobilises the skeletal system in order to increase vascular supply for the same purpose. So essentially the purpose is the same… healing. The process is similar, but the intention is different. Obviously, there is a fair bit of overlap!

How is the studying going? Studying for a master’s degree in your mid-forties has some challenges! Balancing life and work and studies is tricky. I have found that I just need to stop beating myself up and if I can’t manage to do something try not to feel guilty about it because that’s just not constructive! Sometimes things just have to give… its hard as a mum to get priorities straight, as sometimes, for example at exam time, I need to study. I reassure myself that I’m showing my kids that it’s never too late to get your degree, it’s never too late to change direction.
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