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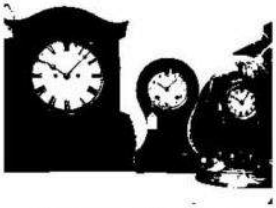

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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

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website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield

Tandridge District Councillor • Martin Allen, 38 Paynesfield Rd, Tatsfiel d TN16 2BG (577201)

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St. Mary's Church Hall - Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)

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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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Cover Photo: With the kind permission of Amanda Stewart

EDITORIAL

With this edition of Tatsfield Parish Magazine, St Mary's Church warmly invites Tatsfield residents to complete our Community Survey using the enclosed form or the link to Survey Monkey on the homepage of our website: *lttm.org.uk/stmarys .*

This year, the month of March also marks the start of Lent and so I would like to offer a brief comment about its historic significance, before making some suggestions that might include something for everyone.

Lent is traditionally intended to be a period of serious reflection, prayer and action concerning our spiritual condition, in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Some years ago, a clergy colleague spoke of a wide range of possibilities in order to have a "good" Lent, especially if our chosen activity is something different from what we normally do. Here are some of his suggestions (to which you might add your own):

- Fasting with a purpose, for example, money saved could be given to charity.
- Bible reading, with the aid of Bible reading notes or a simple commentary.
- Reading Christian books and or other inspiring literature, including novels.
- Learning a little about art.
- Enjoying some music.
- Taking time to just be!

For the last one, he offered the following prayer:

You do not have to look for anything, just look.
You do not have to listen to specific sounds, just listen.
You do not have to accomplish anything, just be.
And in the looking, and the listening and the being,
God say, "find me".
(author unknown)

In keeping with the spirit of my colleague's suggestions, Oxted and District Churches Together are offering weekly Lent Groups, open to all, where we will be reflecting on the spiritual messages contained in selected poems.

With my best wishes for a "good" Lent and our enjoyment of the long-awaited season of spring, with its parallel message of "new life".

Vince Short

NOTE: In addition to the Church survey this month, the Neighbourhood Plan team is in need of information from residents. Please see the piece on page 25. the Not So Young club is in need of volunteers on the committee. If no-one comes forward it will sadly have to close. See page 52 for more details.

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

Are you interested in helping your village?

Would you be interested in representing the local community?

Could you help to improve the life of those in the parish?

Are you someone who would help to deliver services to meet local needs?

If yes to the above, you could become a parish councillor.

The election for the new parish council takes place on May 2nd. The current parish council is holding two information meetings for anyone interested in finding out more information about being a parish councillor.

Please come along on either Thursday 7th March at 7.30pm or Saturday 16th March at 10.30am to the Aileen McHugo Building and join us for a cup of coffee and informal chat or, if unable to come along to either date but would like more information, please contact Kim Jennings by email or telephone.

kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk or telephone 01959 577328.

LETTERS

Dear Residents of Tatsfield and Titsey

Thank you very much for electing me to be your Surrey County Councillor.

Since my election on 31st January I have been to County Hall for my induction and also attended my first full council meeting on 5th February where the council approved the budget for the next financial year. I've also received many calendar invites from your parish council and from Martin Allen (Tandridge District Councillor) so that I can get fully involved in your local issues and ideas as quickly as possible. I attended your parish council meeting on Monday 11th March to meet the team and start to get properly involved in your local area.

Currently I have not been allocated to a county council committee; I'm grateful for that as having campaigned for a month I have a good list of issues and ideas from the doorstep that residents would like me to tackle and I intend to do what I can with this in my first 100 days. Plus, I have a lot of work to do on some of the big issues for the area such as finding a way (with the County/district and Parish Councils) to bridge the funding gap enabling Bond Road recycling centre to remain open until a new facility for North Tandridge can be built - something everyone cares strongly about.

I have a new County Council email address (see below) and I'd like to use this as my main point of contact for anyone who wants to get in touch with me. I will post updates on Facebook from time to time and of course write for the Tatsfield magazine and TN16 for the wider area but, if you email me, I will get back to you.

I am an ordinary mum and live my life with my family in and around the area; you are likely to see me in a supermarket, in a local pub for lunch or out on a family walk in the Titsey Estate, do please say hello! I won't always be able stop to chat though (I'm probably running late for school pick up and the like) and hope you will be understanding of that.

I look forward to working with you all.
Cllr Becky Rush (Becky.Rush@surreycc.gov.uk)

Dear Editor,

Children with Cancer UK
Many villagers may know that several years ago, Dr Bridget Hopkins nursed a son with this cruel illness. Thankfully she was able to see him restored to good health.

For the past four years she has run a marathon for this charity, and in April she will run her fifth and last marathon. It takes two months to prepare for this gruelling commitment; while the mental and physical disciplines necessary can only be admired. I am certain that everyone who has met Dr Hopkins during the 19 years she has spent at Stock Hill surgery, will have appreciated her warm personality and professional esteem.

How gratifying it would be for her if she receives a very impressive number of sponsors for this final marathon.

Betty Perry

Ed. Please give generously!

Dear Editor,
Pam, Kay and David would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and support at the sad passing of Ron Miriam. Also for the cards flowers and donations to Prostate Cancer which raised the sum of £130 at the crematorium. Thank you once again.

The Miriam Family

To whom it may concern!

A big thank you to whoever organised and carried out the snow clearing from Paynesfield Road, especially at the bottom end before the unmade-up track. This is the first time in over 30 years that I can recall it being cleared this far down - it enabled us and our neighbours to get out without many hours of hard shovelling!

Hoping you will be able to do this again for us if there are any future conditions like the old "Beast from the East"!

Yours gratefully,

Mr & Mrs Ford

Dear Editor,

On Friday 8th February, storm Erik was battering much of Surrey with winds of 50 to 60 miles per hour. Did you get caught up? I don't know if any other part of Tatsfield was affected but mid-morning that day two enormous trees came crashing down across Ninehams Road, just missing the house Treeview and the cars parked outside. Treeview is about one third of the way down Ninehams from Ship Hill.

The road was completely blocked, which meant that those living on the wrong side of the blockage had to use Johns Road or Georges Road/Old Lane to get out – that is if their vehicles were up to using those roads, some parts of which are difficult to navigate.

Ninehams Road, like most of the unmade roads in the village, is a public bridleway and a public footpath and Surrey County Council are responsible for the upkeep of the road so that it can be used by horse riders and walkers. We approached the County Council but were unable to get a positive response (they needed to contact the owners of the land from which the trees had fallen before they would consider doing anything).

So, organised by Mark Stokoe, some of the Ninehams residents set to on the Saturday afternoon, the day after the trees had fallen. With the help of Andy Bell (a friend of Mark's who lives elsewhere in the village), who was armed with chainsaws, and District Councillor Martin Allen, who offered his help, we cleared the fallen trees so that vehicles could use the road again. Ninehams residents are very grateful for their help.

Is there a moral to this story? Perhaps it is "Beware of living down an unmade road". Or perhaps "Live down an unmade road if you want an exciting life".

Bob David

Dear Residents,

If you live in Ricketts Hill Road, and do not receive our regular emails, and wish to be included on our email system, please contact Alan Allchorne on al.allchone@btinternet.com. It is free to join our group. Alan also updates 'Tatsfield Talk' with any reports of burglaries, the Nottingham Knockers, or suspicious activities. If other 'roads' within Tatsfield wish to start up their own NHWatch system, we would be happy to advise.

I am sorry to report that we had three burglaries in our road over the last two months. The brilliant news is that during the last burglary at Firs Farm, a neighbour recorded the number of a suspicious car and the robbers have been caught. Always a relief but we must keep watch more than ever…if you see any car parked up in a lay-by or unmade road, they could be 'casing the joint so to speak' and if you can please record their car number plate and make of car or colour.

I have often heard that when burglaries occur many people update their security. Please do consider a small safe if you do not already have one; they are not expensive. One of our fellow Tatsfielder's has a shop in Green St Green called Express Locks (01689 850008) where you can get advice and help. I have also spoken to Rebecca Veale and she has been given a DNA Marker pen by the Police, which she thinks would be useful to mark all her property with this pen, as each pen is recorded with your own DNA. At least if the stolen items were found they can be traced back to your ownership. These can be bought by yourselves using the web site www.selectadna.co.uk and use voucher code DNASURREY50 and the price will be reduced to £29.75.

Going forward on our watch 'PLEASE DO TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS' if you are going away, even if it is only one night, as at least an extra eye will be kept on your property. I know we always mean to, but maybe a quick text or email would suffice as we all like to look out for each other.

I have cleaned the two NHWatch signs displayed on the start of Ricketts Hill as they were both very dirty and will check the others in due course.

If you receive unwanted telephone calls and are on the BT Call Preference List, sometimes they still get through which is so annoying! If you dial 1572 it will block that caller's number. I myself was not aware of this service and phoned BT Direct as the caller had said that the Call Preference Service would be disconnected later in the day, which I knew was a scam! BT identified the number, and in fact repeated all the numbers I had received during the last couple of days as they are all recorded and the nuisance calls were from overseas. I was given the option of not allowing any overseas numbers to be received. Just a thought if you never get overseas calls that it may be another line of defence? The numbers concerned are now blocked and that has

stopped them for the moment. I have since tried 1572 on an unwanted call and it works!

In recent years most people adopt the email system and knocking on doors is seldom done, only for newcomers. As we go forward our emphasis will remain email communication, which is both fast and effective. We would welcome any ideas of suggestions from you on security, please do email on neil.warren1@btinternet.com

Sue, Alan and Ken

DOG OWNERS BEWARE

Four confirmed cases of ALABAMA ROT – a fatal dog disease – have been picked up in the woods around the Woldingham area (Church Wood/Marden Park/North Downs Golf Course)

It is not clear the exact cause of this disease – it is thought to be picked up in boggy ground/standing puddles; possibly worse after heavy rain.

Advice is to rinse mud off your dog after walks

The first signs are skin sores that have not been caused by physical injury

There is a good article on the BBC Countryfile website www.countryfile.com

Dear Customer

Tatsfield Post Office®
2 The Parade, Westmore Green, Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2AQ

As you may be aware the above Post Office closed last year following the resignation of the Postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use.

Since then we have been exploring our options for restoring a Post Office service to our customers in the area. The vacancy in Tatsfield will been advertised on our website and a member of the field team has also personally visited the area, but so far we have received no interest or formal applications for the position.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to identify a suitable solution and I'm therefore writing to you and other local representatives to advise you that as there have been no suitable opportunities to re-establish a service, this branch will remain closed.

We would of course consider any appropriate options if there are any significant changes in the area in the future. However due to the length of time the branch has been closed, we would need to satisfy ourselves that any new opportunity would be sustainable for both the Post Office and the operator. If you have any suggestions please contact the National Consultation Team as detailed overleaf.

It would be helpful if you could share this information with any local groups or organisations that you know within the community or in your organisation.

We're carrying out this notification in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. A copy is available at the end of this letter.

We regret that we have been unable to restore a service locally and have provided details at the end of this letter of alternative branches in the area, which we hope our customers will continue to use.

Yours faithfully

Samantha Coe

Samantha Coe
Area Network Change Manager

How to contact us:

comments@postoffice.co.uk
FREEPOST Your Comments
postofficeviews.co.uk

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TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

I hope many residents benefitted from the additional gritting we had over the snowy period. We now have a contract with Nick Fuller, a local farmer from Woldingham. Nick and his team will grit and clear snow and ice along Lusted Hall Lane to the edge of the Surrey border as well as the Westmore/Crossways/Paynesfield circuit.

You may have discovered that our Community Responders Scheme is not working as well as in the past. This is due to the regional ambulance service - SECAMB - being in 'special measures'. We heard from a resident recently that they had endured a three hour wait for an ambulance. Has anyone else suffered the same or similar delays? If so, please get in touch. We may have to explore other options available to us for a community responder scheme.

Thank you for all the offers of structures and duck houses for the pond. I appreciate that at the moment the pond does look a little bare, but the parish council is very keen to get the pond refurbishment right and has consulted the owner of Tatsfield Aquatics who has been carrying out the restoration. The next step will be to introduce plants to the pond gradually. The parish council is keen to concentrate on phase two of the project which will begin in the spring, once the frosts have passed, and ensure that the new plants 'take'. Therefore, the parish council will keep all offers in mind and look at this again once the plants have become more established.

We were joined at our February meeting by Becky Rush, our new county councillor. We congratulated her on her successful election and are looking forward to working with Becky over the next few years.

As you may know, there are parish council elections coming up in May. If you are interested in standing, please come along to one of our informal information sessions this month**.** Alternatively, please speak to a current parish councillor who can let you have more details.

Because of this year's elections, the Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2nd April. Please look out for the posters for more detail.

The next meetings of the parish council will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building on Mondays 11th and 25th March 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

Please note the following important dates and events:

Wednesday 20th March – Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting – The Aileen McHugo Building at 8.00pm

You are welcome to attend our regular meetings, listen to the latest news and contribute to the discussions

Tuesday 30th April – Public Consultation on Progress with the Neighbourhood Plan – 2.00pm – 8.00pm in the Aileen McHugo Building

Saturday 4th May – Public Consultation on Progress with the Neighbourhood Plan – 11.00am – 5.00pm in the Aileen McHugo Building

Please come along to one of these consultation sessions – look at the latest versions of our topic papers and let us have your views! You will also have the opportunity to win £20 (for the first four winners drawn out of the hat) in our special **Tatsfield Places Photographic Quiz.**

If these dates are not suitable for you please let us know; we will be organising further sessions with local groups and organisations.

The full report of the analysis of our recent **Housing Survey** will be available. Preliminary outcomes of the analysis are indicating a demand for small one and two bedroom houses and apartments but where would they be built? Your contribution to these ongoing discussions will be important and will be included as we move forward to developing our **Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Tatsfield.**

Further information is on the Neighbourhood Plan website https://www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan/. Please send your comments to tatsfield.plan@btinternet.com or contact Jon Allbutt at jon@jonallbutt.co.uk or call me on 577100.

TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CALL FOR SITES

If you think you have a site that may be suitable for development, please complete the following questions and send the information by post or email to: Parish Clerk, Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Road, Warlingham CR6 9DW; clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk or tatsfield.plan@btinternet.com.

1. Site name
2. Site address (please provide a site plan drawn to an appropriate scale with a red line marking the site boundary and a blue line around any adjacent land you own)
3. Ownership (please provide contact details for future correspondence)

4. Site area (hectares)
5. Site description and current use of site
6. Expected use/number of units
7. Timescales for development (when will the site be available and when could it be developed)
8. Barriers to delivery (legal issues and restrictive covenants, contamination, access, environmental constraints)
9. Other (any other relevant information)

TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Tatsfield's Neighbourhood Plan, when completed and adopted, will form part of the formal Tandridge planning process. It will give us the opportunity to represent the preferences and priorities of the village in future developments.

The steering group working on this plan values local businesses and would welcome any input from you to plan our vision for the parish over the next 15 years. Further information about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the website: www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/neighbourhood-plan.

If you respond to the following questions it will enable us to reflect the views and priorities of the local business community at this early stage. We will let you know our progress over the coming months. The information you provide will be used only for the development of the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan and will not be used for any other purpose.

1. What are **the benefits** of your business being based in Tatsfield?
2. What about being based in Tatsfield causes your business a **problem**?
3. What changes in the future could **adversely affect** your business?
4. What changes would help your business **grow and prosper**?
5. Do you currently employ any **local workers**?
6. Are there any circumstances which would enable you to employ **more local workers**?
7. If you work from home would you consider **renting space and/or sharing an administration function** in the future?
8. Any other comments?

Please post a written response to these questions to: Susan Smale, 21 Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield TN16 2AT or Tatsfield Parish Council, Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG. Alternatively you can email your response to: susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk or tatsfield.plan@btinternet.com. Please remember to state your business name and contact details.

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tandridge Magazine: I know you are all well aware of the poor delivery service that Tatsfield and Titsey have received regarding this magazine so in future TDC has agreed to add Tatsfield to the Royal Mail door to door service for the next issue. This means the magazine will be delivered with the post. I hope this gives reassurance that we are doing everything we can to ensure the delivery of the magazine for the future.

Tandridge District Council: Since last month's report I have met the Chief Executive twice to discuss the Member/Officer protocol to improve communications between officers and Councillors, which in turn will allow me to do a better job of informing residents of events within Tandridge district. I attended multiple Medium-term Financial Strategy Workshops and Finance Committees where the future finances of the Council were discussed and agreed for the future good of the district.

I met the Enforcement Department of TDC to receive an update on outstanding enforcement issues in Tatsfield and the wider district. These are multiple and are mostly caused by people not knowing the rules, so please always check with the officers at TDC as to whether permission is needed for any change of use of your property that you may be considering.

I took Becky our new county councillor along to meet one of our businesses the other day so that she can get to understand some of the problems of staffing in our areas. If you would like me to arrange a visit to your premises please let me know with some dates and I will attempt to organise it. Otherwise you will get to meet her in various events throughout the early months of her tenure. We have organised a formal meeting with Becky, the parish council and myself at the end of April so if there are any points you wish to raise please let me know before then.

On behalf of Tandridge District Council I have responded to multiple complaints about the deterioration of the surface of Crossways and have put some suggestions to the residents about dealing with the problem.

I and the parish council have had a meeting with the new leader of Surrey County Council and I will give an update on that meeting and soon as I can.

I am expecting the decision on the Moorhouse planning application on March 7th so keep a look out for this on the TDC website.

District Councillor: As I have already stated twice in this magazine, May 2019 will bring to and end my fourth and final year as your district councillor**.** Thinking ahead to what is popularly known as succession planning, this is the time to consider whether you would like to take on the role of district councillor for Tatsfield; I would be quite happy to talk to you about it. By the time you read this there will be just the one month left for nominations to be sent in, so 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.

At the same time the parish councillors will have completed their four-year cycle and will have to be making the same decisions about whether they will stand again. So as with above if you think standing as one of our seven parish councillors is something you would want to do for the good of the village it will have to be done during March to be nominated by early April. A small group of us have got together to arrange some meetings where you can find out in more detail what this involves. Speak to one of the parish councillors if you are interested.

Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan: It is pleasing that we are now forging ahead with the next stages of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Call for Sites has been issued, the responses of the Housing Survey have been analysed and the findings will be presented at our public consultations later and our business survey should be with you now, so we look forward to involving you more in the process as it develops. The next Neighbourhood Plan meeting in March will be on the 20th. So please do come along and get involved.

Policing: I thought it important to stress in this column the following that I read in the Police Neighbourhood Watch information:

"6,500 canisters of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) were discovered. In 2016 eight people died after inhaling the substance whilst prolonged exposure may result in bone marrow suppression and poisoning of the central nervous system. The risks are more acute if exposure to the gas is combined with alcohol or other drugs. Please stress these points to the children and young adults of Tatsfield."

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

Options for local children's centres considered: On 5th February the Tandridge Strategy and Resources Committee considered how the district council can minimise the effect of potential changes to the area's children's centres proposed by Surrey County Council (SCC) at the end of last year. SCC has been consulting on a range of proposals that would help it make savings. Current proposals could see children's centres in the district go from five to one.

At its cabinet meeting on 29th October, SCC confirmed its decision to close all the children's centres in the district, with the exception of the one in Caterham. It plans to replace those centres with a newly designed family resilience service and has agreed to work with the district council on the design of this. The council may ask to be

considered as a provider of the new family resilience service once more details about it are available.

The Strategy and Resource Committee also agreed to work with SCC and other partners, including the voluntary sector and the health service, to see whether some of the valuable services, which would be lost if the centres close, can be provided in a slightly different way.

The committee supported the motion proposed by the Chair, Councillor Martin Fisher, and seconded by Councillor Chris Botten, Leader of the Liberal Democrat group, to allocate £75k to this work in the first instance. A further report will be considered at the next meeting on 21st March.

The Committee resolved to ask SCC not to close any centres until appropriate alternative arrangements are in place.

Councillor Fisher said: "Children's centres provide services which many families in the district, including those who are vulnerable and on low incomes, rely on. We fully appreciate the financial challenges facing Surrey County Council and acknowledge that difficult decisions must be made. We are determined to do what we can to mitigate the impact of these closures and cannot support any changes until appropriate alternative solutions exist."

All committee meetings are broadcast live and remain available to view on the Tandridge website for six months. Visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/webcast.

Tandridge Together Community Fund awards over £30,000 to local organisations: The Tandridge Together Community Fund has awarded over £30,000 in grants of up to £2,000 to local organisations to help fund initiatives which will directly benefit residents. The fund invited local organisations, which operate in the Tandridge district, to apply for small grants at the end of last year. More than 60 local organisations applied. The Tandridge Health and Wellbeing Board met in January to award the grants to initiatives which directly benefit Tandridge district residents. The grants will help a wide range of projects from collecting and distributing donations for babies and children, befriending services for the elderly, support for vulnerable residents and carers, as well as delivering mental health workshops in schools and supporting a variety of clubs, activities, outdoor gyms and play areas.

The fund has been made up of £16,500 raised by the Tandridge Together Lottery and £17,000 from the Council's Small Grants Fund. Thanks to the success of the Tandridge Together Lottery, which launched in March 2018, the sums available to local organisations increased this year. 10p from every ticket sold goes directly into the Tandridge Together Community Fund for the Council to distribute in small grants.

Councillor Martin Fisher, Chair of the Tandridge Health and Wellbeing Board, said: "We are absolutely delighted to support the amazing work carried out by our local voluntary

and community organisations. The hard part for the Board was selecting which good causes would be successful, as we were amazed with the number of applications submitted and the excellent initiatives being proposed. It is wonderful the grants allocated have been bolstered by the success of our Tandridge Together Lottery, which is played weekly by many residents. This is a positive way to help local good causes raise funds which help improve the health and wellbeing of our residents."

Local organisations who were awarded a grant: East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services; Stripey Stork; Age UK Surrey; Crossroads Care Surrey; Oxted Young Persons Theatre (OYPT); Caterham Barracks Community Trust; Prospero Theatre Community Interest Company; Surrey Welfare Rights Unit; Viewpoint Centre CIO; Tandridge Befriending Service (Tandridge Voluntary Action); Family Voice Surrey; Challengers; East Surrey Carers Support Association; The Woodhouse Centre; Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield and District; Caterham and Warlingham Citizens Advice Bureau; Breck Foundation; The Orpheus Centre; YMCA East Surrey.

Council agrees district council tax increase of 2.99%: At the full council meeting on the 14th February 2019 an increase of £2.99% was agreed (for a Band D property) in Tandridge District Council's share of the Council Tax for 2019/20. This means Band D Council Tax will increase by £6.27 to £215.98. Tandridge District Council's share of the Council Tax helps fund a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street sweeping, housing, housing benefits and children's play areas.

The increase will help resource work to improve our town centres, invest more in our parks and open spaces, protect our greenbelt, deliver affordable homes and support the district's most vulnerable residents.

Surrey County Council, which provides services including schools, adult social care, children services, roads, fire and rescue and libraries, together with the office of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, have both agreed to increase their Band D level for 2019/20.

Surrey County Council has agreed a Council Tax rise of 5.99% in 2019/2020, which includes a percentage for social care, while the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner agreed an increase which includes the costs to support more front-line police officers on the streets.

This year's total band D Council Tax will be £1,797.37, which is divided among the different organisations as follows:

Authority	2018/2019	2012/2020
Tandridge District Council	£209.71	£215.98
Surrey County Council	£1,411.29	£1,453.50
Surrey Police & Crime Commissioner	£236.57	£260.57
Tatsfield Parish Council	£47.57	£49.32

This gives an overall Band D Council Tax level of £1979.37 for the 2019/2020 financial year.

This was unanimously agreed by all councillors from all sides of the chamber.

All councils are facing a challenging financial situation due to reduced government funding. Tandridge District Council is doing all it can to generate savings, as well as reviewing its services and how they are currently delivered. The overall aim is to continue providing services to a high standard and to always be available to support our more vulnerable residents."

TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for January 2019:

1st Prize:	Debbie Bishop	£49.50
2nd Prize:	David Hines	£33.00
3rd Prize:	Gary Weaver	£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.

POLICING

Hello Tatsfield. As I write, it's Valentine's Day. Recent events in the village, featuring resolute actions of residents, have led me to almost tangibly 'feel the love' around this place, with passion and resolve to tackle any hint of crime from the outset. In case nobody else says it, - WELL DONE!! I wish all areas had this kind of community spirit.

When it comes to the (few) crimes in question covering two months, please fasten seatbelts now. This may be a bit of a ride. Ultimately a good one though.

Starting with back in January, the last of the string of break-ins on Ricketts Hill Road occurred. A computer, jewellery and three legal firearms were stolen. The suspects were caught on the property's CCTV camera, thus confirming the vehicle details, and were witnessed by an eagle-eyed resident visiting family at the right time in the right place. Other neighbours also kindly provided vital CCTV of the suspects. In short, the vehicle details were circulated, and it was stopped by the Met Police within days, with both suspects arrested, and a stolen item still within the vehicle being identified by the victims. Suspects were arrested also for a series of similar offences. The vehicle was on cloned plates. Both suspects are now charged, with a decision to be made on this and other cases at the end of March.

There are two further incidents to report within the time period. Rather strangely, they involve the same property on Rag Hill Road. Firstly, at the end of January, two males were seen suspiciously with a van on the road near the property. One of them took a low-value item from the front garden. When challenged, they left quickly with vehicle details passed on to the police. At the moment the vehicle was stopped by units on the edge of the village, only the suspicious activity was known. Despite details for both males being taken, it was not deemed proportionate to further investigate the matter for a subsequently-revealed small-value item being taken.

The other incident was during February, with the occupants disturbed in the night by three males with torches lurking near the property. Police were called immediately, with several units arriving quickly, plus a dog unit and force helicopter. The males left their vehicle and fled across Parkwood Golf Course, where the units chased and caught all three. One hid up a tree (holding a balaclava!) and claimed that the dog unit was 'barking up the wrong tree' (sorry, couldn't resist). All were arrested for Attempt Burglary, plus Going Equipped for the interesting array of items found in their car. RESULT.

Sorry, no space left for security advice. Generally, when not in use, keep everything shut. Except eyes, ears and CCTV systems. Please keep open.

Kids: I haven't heard about any problems recently involving you, so please keep up the good work, of behaving. Another WELL DONE!

Rupert, PCSO 12599 KELLEY, Surrey Police

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

In Year 6, we recently used 'The Piano'- an animated short - as inspiration for our writing. We wrote from the old man's perspective as he cast his mind back over key life events whilst playing a particularly moving piece on his piano. Here are some extracts from our writing.

'The sweet melody fills my ears. I am alone. As my fingers dance across the keys, the air is no longer filled with the rose scent I long to smell but sadness, gloom and emptiness. The darkness I am now in engulfs me.'

By Elizabeth Troake

'A hand joins me as I play the bittersweet music. Memories with my wife flood into my head – in a month it would have been our fiftieth anniversary together – we first met at a restaurant and I loved her ever since.'

By Thomas Alexander

'Missing my wife, I remember the last time I looked in her glistening eyes at the hospital but I always play the heart-warming words she said to me as she passed, 'Never give up' and I didn't. She taught me to play the piano. Every night at 7, we would go to the village restaurant and play a duet together: everyone would dance to the music. I miss every second of those long gone nights.'

By Jacob Jackson

'I see the image of my beautiful wife's hand playing by mine, the song we used to play together. Memories are drawing me back to that time. She was the one who taught me how to play my wonderful grand piano: the magical sounds and notes. I would sit on an old, comfy chair and watch as her hands elegantly flowed across the keys. Cherishing her, I realised how lucky I was to have her as my wife.'

By Keira Welsh

Little Acorns Preschool

Term Topics

So far this term we've had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year with a Chinese food tasting and making gifts for people we love to celebrate Valentine's Day. We've also had lots of fun setting up our tuff trays with different activities for the children to explore and develop different skills, including different wooden items for the children to create their own play with, practising our fine motor skills with scoop scissors to put pasta and rice into numbered cups and using blocks and characters to encourage conversation around prepositions.

After half term we'll be celebrating World Book Day with some fantastic costumes and book choices from the children and staff! We'll also be supporting Red Nose Day and getting ready for our Easter-cise fundraising games. In the lead up to Easter we're looking forward to a visit from the vicar to talk to the children about Ash Wednesday, along with Easter crafts and activities to get us ready for the holidays.

Fundraising

Towards the end of the term we'll be holding our ever-popular Easter-cise games to raise money for the preschool! Our Little Acorns children are encouraged to get as many sponsors as they can for completing different activities around the hall including beanbag throwing and goal scoring. The children always love this event and it's a great opportunity for our families to join us for lots of fun, fundraising and of course some Easter eggs for the children's hard work!

Open Day

Due to the snow we unfortunately had to cancel our open day in February. We're very pleased to have rescheduled this for Saturday 16th March between 1 and 3pm at Tatsfield Village Hall. We'll be welcoming prospective parents into the 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!

Mareka Newberry
Office Manager at Little Acorns Preschool
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

TATSFIELD WI

My Life as a Tiller Girl – and what a life! Jackie Simmonds joined the famous dance troupe in the 60's when they were in their 'heyday' and started a lifetime in the entertainment world. It was not an easy life with regular stage and television shows, special and charity appearances, travel throughout the country and abroad – oh yes, there was also choreography and rehersals for each new show. Despite this she loved the life and after the era of Sunday Night at the London Palladium, Billy Cotton's Bandshow and the Black and White Minstrel Show, she continued in the entertainment world through acting and guest appearances. The Tiller Girls kept in touch (and in shape!) and performed many special shows, for the military charities in particular. HRH Prince Phillip's 90th birthday party was also on their agenda.

Four reluctant 'volunteers' joined Jackie on the (WI Hall) stage as she walked us through a routine including the famous wheel line up. We did not do too badly considering the lack of rehearsal, but were not required to join Jackie in her high kick finale.

During our concluding discussion we noted that our retiring Kent Federation Chairman is up for election as a National WI Trustee; we shall be collecting for the Hygiene Bank at our Annual Meeting in Tunbridge Wells (https://www.thehygienebank.com/our-story) and we are looking forward to a spring walk in the Bluebell Woods in May.

Our March meeting will include a return visit from Ann Chance who is a highly talented and entertaining speaker, this is intriguingly called The Mafia and I Conquered Mount Etna.

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 Hall 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.

Sue Smale

READY STEADY COCOA!

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**

We are a Fairtrade Village

FAIRTRADE ®
Look for products with this Mark

READY STEADY COCOA!

FAIRTRADE BAKING COMPETITION

CELEBRATING TATSFIELD'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FAIRTRADE VILLAGE

SUNDAY 10TH MARCH

AT TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

ENTRIES SHOULD BE BROUGHT, NOTING THE FAIRTRADE INGREDIENTS USED, TO TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL AT 1.30PM ON SUNDAY 10TH MARCH.
COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL.
JUDGING WILL BE IN TWO AGE GROUPS 13 & UNDER AND 14 & OVER.
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED DURING TATSFIELD'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY TEA PARTY LATER THAT AFTERNOON.
DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.

TO ENTER PLEASE EMAIL
TATSFIELDFAIRTRADEGROUP@GMAIL.COM

OR CALL 01959 577 357 BY THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

We are a Fairtrade Village

FAIRTRADE
Look for products with this Mark

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF BEING A FAIRTRADE VILLAGE & WHY IT'S GOOD TO EAT FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE!!!

Tatsfield Fairtrade is celebrating its 10th anniversary of being a Fairtrade village, with a tea party on Sunday, March 10th as part of FAIRTRADE Fortnight. The emphasis is on cocoa, the main product for making chocolate.

Farmers of this much-loved product have seen prices fall to crisis levels in the last few years, making life incredibly difficult. This is especially true in west Africa where most cocoa is grown. The drop in cocoa prices means it's more important than ever to shout about why choosing Fairtrade is so important, but we need to go further.

Choosing Fairtrade is so important because it gives the farmers greater security. In 2019, Fairtrade nationally are launching a 3-year campaign to encourage everyone in the cocoa sector – consumers, companies, governments and others – to play their part and make a living income a reality for cocoa farmers.

Farmers of many crops live under the poverty line and aren't able to earn a living income. As Fairtrade starts its new campaign for living incomes, there are numerous reasons why the focus is on cocoa as an example of the gap between actual and living incomes for farmers. There is a high concentration of cocoa production in two countries: Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. Between them they account for over 60 percent of world production of cocoa and they rely heavily on this income. High levels of poverty affect small-scale farmers and their families in these countries, preventing them from accessing basic human rights. Fairtrade is playing a leading role in calculating what the living income should be for farmers of various crops and putting in place strategies to close the gap. The most progress is in cocoa. Almost all cocoa farmers live in poverty. It is estimated that the majority live on 73p per day, just £1.82 is the amount a cocoa farmer needs to earn in order to achieve a LIVING WAGE.

When you next reach for a bar of chocolate or a pack of cocoa look around and make sure it has the Fairtrade logo. This will mean that what you are enjoying eating is positively impacting on the cocoa farmers.

Look for makes such as Divine Chocolate, Chocolate & Love, Seed & Bean, Cocoa Loco, Ben and Jerry and look for the Fairtrade logo on bars

in any supermarket, for example Waitrose, Co-op, Sainsbury, M&S, Aldi, Oxfam.

In addition to featuring Cocoa, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group together with St Mary's and Tatsfield Primary School is taking part in the 90kg Kilombero fairly-traded Rice Challenge. Each 90kg of fairly traded rice enables a child in Malawi to go to secondary school for a year. We will be selling rice at all our events so please come to our tea party and find out more and buy some bags of rice.

We are also delighted that Sheree is now stocking the Zaytoun FAIRTRADE Olive Oil. It has a delicious nutty taste and I would highly recommend it...dip a hunk of bread in it or drizzled over your favourite dish!

Alizon Mooney, Group

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

NDS held its 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 Hay-ward, played the Mendelssohn Violin concerto. Jonathan is a young man of prodigious ability – he has been playing for only 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! Before this will be the overture to the Mozart opera 'La Clemenza di Tito', a very late work which was completed in the year that he died, 1791. In the second half we will be playing 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.

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

The volunteers have been busy during January and February working in the Community Orchard and school car park. Beds have been dug around all the fruit bushes and trees and then they were all mulched with a delivery of wood chippings very kindly supplied by Kenny Thurgood of Acacia Tree Surgeons. The rest of the mulch was used on the other beds in the Orchard, around the new hedge planted in the meadow and in the car park. Pruning of the shrubs in the car park has been undertaken and is still ongoing.

When snow covered the village at the beginning of February, the volunteers spent a Saturday morning clearing the snow from the entrance to the school car park, the path to the Village Hall and to the Aileen McHugo Building and the pavement from the village centre down Ship Hill, and then spreading salt over all these surfaces so that they did not freeze again. That was done in just an hour after which they squeezed into the crowded Sheree's Store and Tearoom for a very welcome coffee.

The Committee has been meeting to finalise 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 use the colours of the Fairtrade logo, lime green and pale blue, for the planting of the baskets, mangers and containers around the village. The Committee is in discussion with the Allotments Association to start a tree nursery to grow some native British trees to mark the centenary of The Forestry Act and the formation of the Forestry Commission.

Please see the enclosed flyer for further information if you would like to make a donation towards our work in the village. Please put your contribution in the special box on the counter at Sheree's Stores, The Bakery, The Old Ship or The Village Club, or send to Mrs Jill Hancock, 12 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, TN16 2AU. Please make cheques payable to "Tatsfield in Bloom". **Jill Hancock (577622)**

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM APPEAL FOR FUNDS 2019

I should like to contribute £ …… Name …… (optional).

Contributions can also be made direct to: Tatsfield In Bloom, A/c No: 65383694, Sort Code: 08-92-99.

ST MARY'S NEWS

St Mary's Tatsfield Community Survey

Please find our survey form enclosed with this edition. This contains information about the survey and an invitation to take part by completing the form or via Survey Monkey.

World Day of Prayer 2019 10am St Mary's, Tatsfield, on Friday 1st March

This year's we have the privilege of hosting the local service here at St Mary's, in Tatsfield. Women, men and children are all welcome to join us for this special service, which has been prepared by women of Slovenia, with the theme: "God's Invitation is for all".

LENT LUNCHES in support of the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal for projects in Sri Lanka, Kenya, London and Zimbabwe.

This year we will again be hosting a series of four lent lunches in the Millennium Hall in support of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. The first three, at 12.30pm-1pm on Saturday 23rd March, Saturday 30th March and Saturday April 6th, will follow a similar format to last year - our soup and cheese lent lunch with the addition of some child friendly food options and some low-key activities to keep little fingers busy. Our final lunch will be held on SUNDAY 14th April (Palm Sunday). This lunch will run on from our post-service coffee and chat and as well as the above will also include an opportunity for all ages to participate in some fun Easter Crafts, including decorating some real eggs for our Easter Tree! Please do make a note of these dates now, and look out for more details a little nearer the time. As in the past, our Vicar, Vince, will offer or arrange for a very short thought for the day (or the performance of an appropriate song) after lunch for those who are able to stay for a few minutes. We will also have a raffle, with the results being drawn at our final lunch.

Maryrose Fawke

Flower Team

My grateful thanks to Jan Maynard and Tina Boys for their invaluable help in keeping the pedestal and Paschal Candle decorated until Lent. There will be no flower displays in the Church during Lent. We look forward to a Flower Festival at St Mary's over the weekend 25th/26th/27th May 2019. A meeting was held on 28th February to discuss arrangements.

Ann Vatcher

Mothering Sunday, 31st March

We warmly invite you to our 10am All Age Communion on Mothering Sunday, which will include the distribution of daffodil posies.

Next Food Bank Delivery - Monday 18th March

Please support this by donating non-perishable food and toiletries into the box provided, located in the Narthex at the back of the church. You can leave donations any day of the week, not just Sundays. This delivery is intended to provide a boost to the food stores at Christ Church, Brixton, for Easter (Westerham Food Bank will also be supported if there are sufficient donations). I will also be putting a small money box out on Sunday mornings for anyone preferring to donate in the monetary way, which will enable me to buy further food supplies. Any questions please ask and thank you.

Hilary Vale

Thrift Clothing Sale 2-5pm WI Hall, Paynesfield Road, on Saturday 27th April

St Mary's is holding a thrift sale of new, nearly new and good condition second hand clothing, shoes and accessories on Saturday, 27th April and we welcome you to come and visit us! The date coincides with Fashion Revolution week, a global movement which focuses on changing the way our clothes are sourced, produced and consumed so what we wear is made in a safe and fair way. This year commemorates the 6th anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse which tragically killed 1,134 people and injured many more. The venue will be the WI Hall, Paynesfield Road from 2pm till 5pm where a warming drink will be on offer to help you browse. However, we really need your help as our thrift sale is reliant on kind donations. So please do save the date and as spring approaches, if you are considering de-cluttering your wardrobe, we would be very grateful for any donations of women's, men's or children's clothes, shoes or accessories. You can either bring these with you on the day or drop off to the WI Hall earlier in the day where a team of volunteers will be on hand to assist. Items will be on sale for no more than £10, with a range of prices to suit all budgets. The Bishop's Lent Call, this year supporting projects in Sri Lanka, Kenya, Southwark Diocese and our Link Diocese in Zimbabwe, will be one beneficiary of any proceeds. We very much hope you can come and share in what we hope will be a successful and enjoyable afternoon for all. So keep your eyes peeled as we will be promoting the event more widely around the Village in the coming month.

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the February draw:
33. J. Ellis £24.00 45. V. Geary £14.40 21. V. Payne £9.60 St. Mary's £48.00

Records
14th January Funeral of Sidney Wilson (at Croydon Crematorium)
17th January Funeral of Ronald Golding
7th February Funeral of Michael Green
St Mary's Church Website: www.lttm.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2019-20

The Church Electoral Roll is your parish church's register of electors. It is the list of those entitled to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for:

(a) the parochial church council;
(b) the parish representatives on the deanery synod.

Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

Preparation for a new Electoral Roll will take place from Sunday 31st March to Saturday 13th April 2019.

Under the Church Representation Rules any persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they:

- are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- have signed a form of application for enrolment;

  and, either:

- are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;

  or:

- are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

If you wish to be considered for the Electoral Roll, please obtain a form from Chris Hancock (01959 577622), Rev Vince Short (01959 577289) or from the Church Narthex.

Please return completed forms **by Sunday 13th April 2019** to:
Chris Hancock
Electoral Roll Officer
12 Shipfield Close
Tatsfield
Westerham,
TN16 2AU

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.00 am	Fitness classes with Charlotte Limpenny - WIH
	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	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

MARCH

7th Thurs	**7.30pm**	**Parish Councillor Information Evening, AMB**
8th Fri	7.45pm	The Pirates of Penzance, Barn Theatre, Oxted
9th – 10th	**12-6pm**	**Tatsfield History Weekend, AMB**
10th Sun	**3-5pm**	**Fairtrade Bakery Competition and Tea Party, VH**
11th Mon	**7.30pm**	**Animals in Coloured Pencils, VH**
12th Tues	**7.30pm**	**Tatty Knitters, The Bakery**
12th Tues	**7.30pm**	**Gardening Club Talk, WIH**
16th Sat	**10.30am**	**Parish Councillor Information Morning, AMB**
16th Sat	**7.00pm**	**Bohemian Rhapsody, VH**
16th Sat	7.45pm	Strictly Music Hall, Barn Theatre, Oxted
18th Mon	**7.30pm**	**Animals in Coloured Pencils, VH**
20th Wed	**8.00pm**	**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Parish Room**
23rd Sat	**7.00pm**	**Quiz of Quizzes, VH**

APRIL

10th – 13th Wed-Sat		Iolanthe, Barn Theatre, Oxted
30th Tues	**2-8pm**	**Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultations**

MAY

4th Sat	**11-5pm**	**Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultations**
5th Sun	**11-5pm**	**TAG Exhibition, VH**

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.

HISTORY WEEKEND – MARCH 9th AND 10th

Whether you are a newcomer or whether your family has been in Tatsfield for decades, there'll be a chance to learn more about the village, your house or your predecessors over the weekend of **March 9th and 10th.**

Everyone is welcome to come to 'drop-in' sessions at the **Aileen McHugo Building behind the Village Hall between 12 midday and 6 pm on each day**.

You will be able to see originals and copies of items from the parish archives, as well as browse collections of old postcards and other images. Also available will be searchable indexes of the thousands of items in our digital archive.

At regular intervals we will also screen presentations tracking the history of our parish.

Further details will be posted on Tatsfield Talk and on village websites.

We would also welcome the opportunity to copy any items of local historical interest you may care to bring along. We look forward to seeing you!

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

www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldhistoryproject/

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The Oxted Bereavement Support Group, which runs as a partnership between St Catherine's Hospice and three Oxted Churches, meets every 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of the month at Oxted United Reformed Church in Bluehouse Lane. Bereaved people are welcome to drop in anytime between 1pm and 3pm to chat and share, and are welcome to bring along a friend. There is no obligation to attend regularly. Trained volunteers are on hand for emotional and bereavement support.

The next dates that the Group will be meeting are Thursday 14th and Thursday 28th March.

For more information please contact St Catherine's Hospice on 01293 447343.

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS – SUCCESS AT SURREY CHAMPIONSHIPS!

On Sunday 3rd February the club entered its first competition of 2019: the Surrey county junior (children) Red belt and Yellow belt championship, and the senior (adults) kyu grade (all grades apart from black belt) championship.

We had a total of ten club members enter this competition, of whom only two had previous experience of competing outside the club having entered the same competition in February 2018 – the remaining eight were first timers! Everyone fought hard and did themselves and the club proud. There were some extremely tough contests, but no one gave in and everyone gave their all. In the junior events, the results were:

RED BELTS	Olivia Coppock	Gold	Phoebe Hunt	Bronze
	Matthew Parker	Gold	Gemma Merredew	Bronze
	Lizzie Merredew	Gold	Connor Philips	Bronze
	Stevie Ruggins	Silver	Khyan Dixon	Bronze
YELLOW BELTS	Sam Walsh	Bronze	Jolyon Coombs	Bronze

In the senior events, the only person we had entered was Kevin Ruggins in the brown belt u81kg category. Kevin won his first fight, despite giving away 20 years, when his opponent was disqualified for continually backing away and stepping out of the contest area. He was warned four times before the referee disqualified him. Kevin's second fight was with a brown belt from the weight group above, who had been allowed to fight in the lighter group as there was no else in his weight group. Despite giving away a few kilos, within seconds of the contest starting Kevin threw him for an ippon score to win the fight and the gold medal! This win also gave Kevin 10 points toward his black belt, only 90 more to go.

All in all, it was a great day for the club, some great judo. Lots of guts and determination, and fantastic support from the club parents. Well done all!!

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.

A message from Sarah Coop
Running the London Marathon in April – in aid of Bowel Cancer UK

This year I am taking part in the London Marathon and have chosen Bowel Cancer UK as my charity as I have friends and family members who have been affected by bowel cancer.

Although this is my fourth marathon – it definitely gets harder every year and when I am training and actually running the marathon I tell myself 'never again'! I am not a natural born runner – so need as much encouragement and as I can get.

If you feel able to sponsor me, donations can be made through Virgin Money Giving (by searching for my name) or you can click on this link: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/sarah-coop-SAVMLMBONDS3332016-28697

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MARCH 2019

To appreciate the brilliant winter constellations, you need to view them early in the evening at this time of year. Orion (the mythological hunter) can be found due south on the meridian at 7pm at the beginning of March but by the 31st of the month, with the increasing daylight hours, he and his retinue are best seen in the south west at 9pm. On that date Mars, whose brightness is still diminishing, can be seen just a few degrees below that tiny group of stars that astronomers know as The Pleiades but are more commonly referred to as "The Seven Sisters". If you look generally north you will see the plough (Ursa Major – the great bear) standing on its tail whilst on the opposite side of the pole, Cassiopeia, with its distinctive "W" shape descending towards the horizon.

The smallest planet and also the one closest to the Sun, Mercury, is visible in the evenings for the first few days of March before it disappears into the twilight once more. Look low down (about ten degrees in altitude) in the west around 6:00 to 6:15 pm, which is after the Sun has set and when it is approximately six degrees below the horizon, signalling the end of civil twilight.

The spring (or Vernal) Equinox occurs at 9:58pm on March 20th when, in general terms, day and night will be of equal length. When an equinox occurs the Sun has reached the intersection of two "Great Circles" in the sky called the "ecliptic" and the "celestial equator". Our ancestors believed that there was a celestial sphere, with the Earth at its centre, which had the stars fixed upon it. Naturally, we know this to be untrue but the analogy of a sphere with lines drawn on it certainly makes understanding some celestial phenomena easier.

The first great circle that we can draw on the inside of our imaginary sphere is the ecliptic. This is the Sun's path across the sky over the course of a year as it moves through the constellations of the zodiac. Of course, because the Sun is so bright we cannot actually watch this although if we could we would observe it moving steadily eastwards as the weeks and months pass. This motion is nothing to do with the Sun but is due entirely to the movement of the Earth in its orbit providing an ever-changing viewpoint against which to view our star.

The second great circle to draw is the celestial equator, which is simply a projection of the Earth's equator out into space and onto our imaginary sphere. Because the two circles that we've drawn are not coincidental, there are two places where they cross; these are the equinoxes. In winter and early spring the Sun is always low in the sky moving eastwards on the ecliptic until it reaches the intersection with the celestial equator (spring equinox) after which it finds itself north of that point and the hours of daylight outweigh the hours of darkness.

Don't forget that British Summer Time (BST) begins on Sunday March 31st at 1am (GMT) and that clocks need to go forward by one hour.

Brian Mills FRAS

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDENING CLUB

"SECRETS OF SHOWING!"

A TALK BY BRYAN EVEREST

7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH

AT THE WI HALL

* BY POPULAR DEMAND, A REPEAT APPEARANCE BY ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN GROWERS OF TOP CLASS FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES IN THE AREA.

* BRYAN WILL BE SHARING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH US. HOW TO PREPARE AND STAGE YOUR ENTRIES IN THE SPRING & AUTUMN SHOWS. TIPS ON SOWING VEGETABLES THIS SPRING. HOW YOU CAN PRODUCE THE BEST SWEET PEAS THIS SUMMER. GROWING BEAUTIFUL DAHLIAS. AND MUCH MORE.

* AS HE ALWAYS DOES, BRYAN WILL BE BRINGING A GENEROUS SUPPLY OF FLOWER AND VEGETABLE PLANTS – ALL TO BE GIVEN AWAY FREE.

ALL WELCOME –
ADMISSION £1 (INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS)

1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

The Beavers have had a fun packed start to 2019 with lots of badge work – My Skills, Royal Navy, Healthy Eating, Hike and Heathrow Air Activities, plus our annual visit to The Barn Theatre for the Panto – Robin Hood. We have also been off site to Bromley My Golf centre where we were able to have a go on the driving range. The Beavers each had 50 golf balls, and all had a great time hitting them. We have also been making Paddle boats with plastic containers, pencils and rubber bands - to prove they could float we tested them out in a paddling pool. The fruit kebabs and chocolate banana splits proved to be very popular while we worked towards the Healthy Eating Badge, we also had a go at the fruit machine game, which the Red Colony won. It was a foggy and damp evening when the Beavers headed into the village for a hike, our hi-viz jackets ensured we stood out while walking from/to the Scout Hut.

Next half term we are looking forward to a visit from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Climbing at Downe Activity Centre, handling reptiles, making bouquets for Mother's Day and Pancake making.

We currently have a waiting list for Beavers but if your child is between 5-6 years old and would like to be added to the waiting list please do get in touch.

Jenny Snelling, Beaver Scout Leader

Cubs have started the new term working on lots of badges – Personal Safety Activity Badge, Home Safety, Health Eating and Adventure Challenge as well as attending the Panto with the Beavers (a good turn out from our section). We have invested lots of new Cubs as well as two new starters have brought our numbers to 28. We are looking forward to next half term when we shall be off to Downe Activity Centre for wide games, district night hike (and sleepover) and pancake making.

Leigh Keegan, Cub Scout Leader

Scouts started the New Year with three children moving up from Cubs. They have enjoyed taking part in archery, circus skills as well as a night hike in the snow, which was very much enjoyed by all that took part. Next half term they will be experiencing chocolate delights, pancakes and Colditz (an overnight hike in Oxted, competing against other district Scouts to return to base first).

If you are interested in joining Scouts and aged 10 1/2 – 14 please contact us.

Jo Turner, Scout Leader

It's been a full-on time for the Explorers since the start of 2019 with a camp (Fire and Ice) over a very cold weekend in January with the Scouts. Everyone enjoyed all the activities that were on offer plus the fun of camping in the winter. They have joined the Scouts, taking part in the archery and circus skills evening. They are ending the half term with a trip to Nando's in Bromley.

Next term they will be entering a team in the Colditz event as well as making pancakes and taking part in a cooking event.

If you would be interested in joining Explorers and are aged 14-18 years old please contact **Sarah-Jane Mumford, Explorer Scout Leader**

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The meeting on 8th January was held jointly with the WI who gave us a delightful meal of leek and potato soup, followed by cheese and biscuits and a cup of tea. The NSY chair provided us with a very entertaining quiz and so, a most enjoyable afternoon.

On 12th February we celebrated the NSY Club 56th Birthday with the usual tea and then some birthday cake. To follow we had port and lemonade, with three choices of cheese and biscuits and a cup of tea to round off.

We had an in-depth talk to see if anyone would join the committee, as three of the committee are obliged to resign, due to ill health. So far there are no offers and **I fear it looks as though the Club will have to close if no-one comes forward**. Very sad, as I know the members do look forward to an afternoon together. It is only on one afternoon a month, so there may be someone with a few hours to spare to take on the role and save the club? If so, please ring Enid Garrard on 577719.

Next month is our AGM, when the Club will be wound down if nobody comes forward. Members, the usual time of 2pm please.

Babs Heffernon (540602)

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – February event

Tuesday 12th February saw the Horticultural Society organise their second Martin Hazlewood Garden Quiz where 20+ villagers and members of the Society pitted their wits against the best that the internet could offer in a variety of questions and answers and picture quizzes that vexed even the best of our village horticultural experts. In all there were 85 points available to be won and it ended up being a very closely fought contest between the teams with only 8 points between the winners and the team in the final position.

The winning team strangely named Rangotans, (I do not get it either), consisting of David and Denise Hadden, Sue Warren and Christine Stainer, were rewarded with £5 Knights vouchers each as their prize. Martin was also kind enough to give a losing voucher to a member of the losing team. Further he tells us that next year's quiz would be roughly based on questions about Monty Don's Gardens, antique garden tools and garden quotes. So start cramming now.

For those that were unable to attend the Society have agreed to put the questions on the website over the next few months with the first member, (you have to be a paid up member of the society and did not attend the quiz), that emails the ten correct answers can win a bottle of wine to the value of £5 or a Knights Voucher for £5.

Can you sort the following garden related anagram: life err tiz

Further details of this and all other THS events can be found at http://tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com

Martin Allen, Treasurer

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MARCH

January was typical of our winter weather these days with temperatures as high as 10C and as low as -5C. Some sharp-eyed readers have commented to me that their thermometers register lower readings than my reports; this will always happen especially in the frost pockets i.e. low areas where the cool air gathers. My outside thermometer is housed in a meteorological screen fixed at one metre above the ground, this avoids extremes due to sun or wind chill. Rainfall in January was well below average at just 33m (just over an inch in old money), the long-term average is around 80mm. February however is already heading for above average rainfall with 60mm (around two inches) already recorded before halfway through the month – the long-term average for February is 60mm; in one twelve hour period on the 8th we had 19mm along with the high winds.

This year is the centenary of the Forestry Act that led to the formation of the Forestry Commission and the planting of commercial forests but also the planting and

management of our great woods to replace huge losses of mature trees to feed industry and two World Wars. I am very concerned about the loss of mature trees in Tatsfield, losses due to old age, development (remember the row of big trees in the back garden of the Old Ship?) and gardeners wanting more light.

Please think carefully before removing trees in your garden, imagine how Tatsfield would look without our great trees and read the thought-provoking poem below, reproduced by kind permission of Jim Crumley.

Jon Albutt

LAMENT FOR A WOODLAND THAT WAS NOT

Scent the distilled whiskey of the land.
Scan the sheep-shorn glen.
Toast the woodland that was not.
Drink:

To every willow, That never wept with the joy of being.

To every silver birch, That never found its crock of gold At summer's rainbow's end.

To every rowan That never raised a green banner over the eagle's throne And to every eagle eyrie never built And every eaglet That never fledged and never Flew from a rowan-bright nursery.

To every hazel, oak and alder That never shadowed the burn And every trout and salmon That never lingered in pools never shaded.

To every songbird That never pierced each silent may day dawn And never lived to die in the fast clutch Of every sparrowhawk Never weaned in nests that never leaned By tall pine trunks that never grew In the woodland that was not.

To every tree-creeping, wood-peckering, owlhootering thing That never clawed bark that never wrapped All the ungrown wood.

And every roe and stoat Badge and bat Squirrel and wildcat, Four-legged this and that, That never stepped into clearings All across the whole unwooded glen.

To every woodland moth And mite and moss and tree-thirled lichen, A health to you wherever you prospered.

It was not here in the glen grown barren as a hollow tree.

From "The Great Wood: The Ancient Forests of Caled" by Jim Crumley

COMPOSTER'S CHRONICLE

Another composting season will soon be upon us!

During the month of March the team will be on site getting things ready to accept green waste from villagers starting **Saturday 6th April**. We should, by then, have finished rebuilding thirteen old composting bins with new timber. If we achieve this, we will be on target to have completely renovated the site by spring 2020, although this does depend on funds being available to buy the timber.

On the subject of money, we received a grant of £5,500 from The Community Fund for Surrey to go towards the purchase of a second shredder. This was great news, but it was £1,500 less than they originally indicated they could find for us. We have to go ahead and buy the shredder before the end of April or we lose this grant and the £3,000 grant from the National Lottery. Obviously, we don't want to lose this money, especially after all the work applying for these grants involves. The Parish Council have kindly allowed us to divert money they had generously promised us for new timber, but we will still be dipping quite deeply into our reserves, something we try to avoid given how expensive unexpected repairs to our machines can be.

Should you wish, you can help us with our finances by buying our lovely, locally produced compost, supporting us via the Tandridge Lottery (you can find us by searching "Tandridge Lottery Tatsfield Composting") or you could always consider making a donation directly to us.

On more mundane matters, I am going to be a bit more specific about the quantity of waste people can bring up to us this year. In the past, we have asked people to let us know in advance if they have a "large quantity". This obviously means different things to different people, so I am going to say up to a large builder's bag or the equivalent in smaller bags is fine but please call me in advance if you wish to bring up a larger load.

I am going to finish this month by including a quote from the report by the Royal Horticultural Society's judges following their visit to the village to judge last year's entry into the South East in Bloom competition.

"…the community green waste recycling is not just something to be proud of but should be shouted about."

Always nice to get a compliment – well done, team!

Philip Brett 577420 hollygrove6-philip@yahoo.co.uk

Ever wondered where Vern d'Anjou is and why it's on our village sign?

Find out more by hosting this Easter!

We are looking for hosts this Easter. It is for 3 nights, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We will take our French guests out all day and evening on the Saturday. We will support you for the Friday evening and on the Sunday. Please call one of the committee, if you would like to know more…

John White **01959 570 097**
Alizon Mooney **01959 577 143**
Johnny Panther **07715 159 991**

Tatsfield & Vern D'Anjou Association

THE MARCH FILM: "BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY"

Were you – are you – a fan of Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the British rock band Queen? If so, you will surely be making your way to the Village Hall on Saturday 16th March when Curzon Country Cinema will be showing "Bohemian Rhapsody", the film which celebrates them and their music. Headlines were made last month when Rami Malek's performance as Freddie Mercury won the Best Actor award at the BAFTA ceremony, something he is tipped to repeat at the Oscars.

It is a foot-stomping film. Freddie Mercury defied stereotypes and shattered convention to become one of the best-loved entertainers. The film tracks the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs and revolutionary sound. They are hugely successful but unexpectedly Freddie, surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie manages to re-unite with his bandmates just in time for Live Aid. Freddie has to face an AIDS diagnosis and then leads the band in one of the greatest performances in the history of rock music.

Rami Malek does an impressive job of recreating Freddie Mercury's moves on stage. The musical vibes and sequences will have you chanting, clapping and singing all the way through.

The film ends by explaining Freddie Mercury's death in 1991 at the age of 45.

Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.35pm. Tickets are £5. Pay at the door or reserve online at www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk.

Bob David

TATTY KNITTERS

There were just a few of us who met up in February, we still had a good natter putting the world to right and a fair bit of knitting and crochet was achieved as well.

Please don't forget to look at the craft section of the horticultural magazine, there may be the opportunity for you to enter.

March 12th is our next get together, it will be, as usual in the Bakery from 7.30 until 9.30ish. Cake supplied buy your own drink. We will be sorting out our Easter meal.

Happy crafting!

Val Quick 07761 571071

SOURCE HEALTH CLINIC

Finally, enough people have said to me "Oh I didn't know you were here" to spur me into action to write a little article. I am amazed that it is two and a half years since someone somewhere smiled down on me and the only house in the village with a separate clinic came up for sale just as I was looking to move. For nearly 20 years The Summerhouse had been in the centre of the village run by the lovely Lorraine Maddison offering beauty and massage therapies. I took it over in 2016 and we are now called Source Health Clinic and have a range of therapies on offer. I, Alex Davies (formerly Deterding), call myself a Muscle Therapist as it seems more accurate than Sports Therapist or Remedial Massage Therapist. I treat any pain or problem to do with muscles. Lorraine is still here with all her lovely treatments on offer but watch this space as in the not too distant future, she will be our own local McTimoney Chiropractor. We also have an acupuncturist and reflexologist. My aim has always been to bring together like-minded therapists whose love what they do and are committed to helping their clients achieve good health and wellbeing.

For general enquiries about the clinic contact Alex or Lorraine. For treatments and appointments, please contact the therapist directly.

Alex Davies, Muscle Therapist	07967 864 235
Lorraine Maddison, Beauty & Massage	07817 548 133
Ben Prentice, Acupuncture & Soft Tissue Therapy	07714 214 836
Flex Walker, Reflexology	07748 764 270

You can also find 'Source Health Clinic' on Facebook.

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

Claire Murthy – Animals in Coloured Pencils

Tatsfield Village Hall, 7.30 – 10pm

11th March (Demo/Workshop) and **18th March** (Demo/Workshop)

(Ring Carol Gaskell – 577724/Christine Stainer - 577803 for further information)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY YEAR BOOKS 2019

As most of you will be aware the **Tatsfield Horticultural Society Year Books** are now in the process of being delivered by our volunteers – many of you, I know, have already received it.

Being a member of the THS not only give you a 10% discount at Knights Gardens Centres at Chelsham and Woldingham (items as specified) but also 20% off Suttons Seeds by using the special code in the Year Book. Should you require a catalogue to order from, rather than doing it on line, then please ask for one from the person who delivers your Year Book or get in touch with me and I will provide you with one.

Being a member also entitles you to exhibit at the Spring and Autumn Shows during the coming year and to also attend the Gardening Club evenings at the WI Hall.

If you missed us calling at your door and would like a Year Book please ring or email me and I will arrange to deliver one to your door.

Christine Stainer (Subscriptions Secretary); Tel: 577803/christinestainer@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES WITH 3rd BIRTHDAY CONCERT

The North Downs Community Orchestra will be playing their 'Party Pieces' at their next Concert. Founded just three years ago by Dave Ellis who was looking for somewhere to play his clarinet, the Orchestra now boasts 40 members - strings, woodwind and brass - and enjoys playing a wide range of music from the classics to films and shows.

'A key objective when we set up the orchestra is that we would have fun playing our instruments, and hopefully provide some fun for our audiences too,' said Dave. 'We usually include a 'sing-along' piece in our concerts as well as a wide variety of styles – something for everyone. The next concert includes the 'Waltz of the Flowers' from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, the well-known Rugby anthem 'I vow to thee my country', 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Freddie Mercury and a few more well-known Party Pieces. Do come if you can'.

The Third Birthday Concert will be at 7pm at St John's, Church Way, Hurst Green on 24th March. Tickets are £5 each on the door or in advance from members of the Orchestra. Under 18s go free, and refreshments will be available.

The orchestra is open to all players of any orchestral instrument. No audition is required and the Orchestra welcomes people who just love to play.

Happy Birthday – North Downs Community Orchestra

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Well, as promised, here are **John's** (Rosenbaum) **bird observations for 2018:**

January: Gulls flying over in small groups, mainly Black-headed and Herring with some Lesser black-backed. Pheasants in garden most days at feeding times; three males and six females. Buzzard mobbed by Crows and Jackdaws. (Buzzard roosts in trees in the valley.) (18/01). Tawny Owls calling most nights.
February: Two Red Kites circling over valley, chased off by Crows. (09/02, 09:30-10:00) Pheasants in garden most days.
March: Numerous flocks of Gulls flying over; Lesser black-backed, Black-headed and Herring. Tawny Owls calling at night.
April: Flocks of Gulls flying over; Lesser black-backed, Black-headed, Herring and Common. First House Martins flying up the valley (20/04). Red Kites flying overhead towards the village on a number of days (01, 03, 20/04). Male Blackcap in garden.
May: First Swifts flying around. (27/05). Heard first Cuckoo around 20:00. (26/05) Female Sparrowhawk took Robin in front garden. (22/05). Pair of Treecreepers nest building under tiles of house next door. Disturbed by Magpies then disappeared. Numerous flocks of Gulls flying over.
June: High flying Gulls; Lesser black-backed, Blackcaps, Chiffchaff and Bullfinches singing in trees at dusk. First sighting of fledgling Great spotted Woodpecker near feeders. (22/06). Tawny and Barn Owls calling at night. Fledglings starting to fend for themselves. Three young Crows very comical in garden. Young Tits, Robins, Dunnocks and Blackbirds in abundance. Lots of feeding activity.
July: Pair of Buzzards with young flying around most days. I believe they breed in the trees where I have seen them roost. The female is active most days along the valley.
Swifts and Swallows flying on [weather] fronts above the house. (15/07)
August: Build-up of Blue Tits, Coal Tits, Great Tits, Long-tailed Tits and a few Goldcrests. Flight of seven Herring Gulls descended onto a neighbour's roof.
September: Large flock of Tits, 40-60, going through garden daily. Flocks of Swallows and some smaller groups flying south down the valley at the beginning of the month on most days. Three female Mallards and one male flew into a neighbour's pond.
October: Small groups of House Martins and Swallows flying south down the valley.
Large flock of Fieldfares (1-200) and some Redwings flew over towards the village. (18/10, 07:45)**.** 20+ Redwings and six Fieldfare descended on the Yew tree next door to feed on hips. Stayed around for a couple of days. (20/10)**.** Young Buzzard now seems to be fending for itself. Parents flying independently.
November: Finches forming flocks boosted by birds from the continent. Mainly Chaffinches with Goldfinches, young Bullfinches and at least two Greenfinches, regularly passing through the garden. Considerable number of Gulls flying over. Tawny Owls calling after dusk.
December: Regular sightings of Redwings and Fieldfares in trees, boosted by other continental Mistle and Song Thrushes singing at daybreak. Tawny Owls calling at dusk

and during the night. Considerable numbers of Gulls flying over. Flocks of Finches passing through the garden, mainly Chaffinches and Goldfinches.

Many thanks, John. Your observations are always of interest and provide a useful guide as to what to expect and when. **Keep up the good work!**

Now, last month, as I'm sure you realised, there was a slight hiccup with the presentation of **Diane's poem**. This is how it should have appeared:

'Without moving a hair
the birds sing,
the leaf unfurls on the branch
and the flowers bloom.'

You know, looking out the window and seeing the drifts of Snowdrops, hearing the Song Thrush at dawn and dusk, I can't help thinking that this is a more appropriate time to appreciate Diane's composition. Perhaps fate offered a guiding hand?

The bigger picture:
News today (15/02) that many students took a day off from their studies to protest about the Government's lack of intent regarding climate change. 'Good for them', I say. Perhaps we can look forward to a more concerned and caring generation taking the helm in the not too distant future? (Although, as you know, in my opinion it will be too late to make much difference. But at least they're trying!) I can hardly believe that our Prime Minister chose not to approve of their action. Apparently it disrupted their learning and inconvenienced their teachers. Even worse, some Head Teachers are handing out detentions to those who participated. **We are talking about imminent, life-changing, environmental events!** Shouldn't we start prioritizing our concern by supporting such protests? Or should we simply accept the inevitable chaos that our children will endure?

Any news or views? Contact: **nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com**
Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.

FIVE MINUTES WITH…. SHEREE COOK

Welcome to our article featuring a local resident with a story to share. This month we are talking to Sheree Cook.

How long have you lived in Tatsfield?

We moved to Tatsfield from Biggin Hill five years ago. Our only regret being that we did not move to the village before. We absolutely love living here. To be perfectly honest, at the time we had no real plans to move, but a glance at an advert in the estates window developed into 'wouldn't mind having a look' and ended up with 'your offer has been accepted'.

What are your favourite memories of the village?

Exploring all the surrounding areas with the grandchildren when we first moved in and probably our first summer experiencing Tatsfield in Bloom.

You opened the Store and Tearoom in December, what made you do this?

A happy coincidence really, or possibly fate. It has always been my dream to run a tearoom and combine it with my love of crafting. It became a reality when my daughter, Katie, looked at one of the flats above the store. Vanessa asked if she knew anyone may be interested in renting. At first I didn't think it would be possible, but Simon persuaded me that I should at least meet up for a chat or it could be a missed opportunity I would always regret. I knew within minutes of walking into what was the empty shell, it was meant to be. A week later we paid the deposit, and the rest, as they say, is history. It has been an incredibly steep learning curve for both of us and continues to be so.

What is your favourite part of the day?

All of it! But if I had to be specific it is when the Tea Room is busy. The sound of conversation and laughter is really

uplifting. I would like to think we provide a relaxing space for the villagers to enjoy and I am sure a decent cuppa or cup of coffee with a generous slice of cake helps...what's not to like! Retiring from nursing after 35 years was quite hard and I will always miss many aspects, but I have absolutely no regrets. I love going into work every day, engaging with villagers and learning more and more about the history of Tatsfield and in particular the shop, which has seen many guises in the past. I learn something new almost every day, especially from villagers who have lived here all or most of their lives. One thing that has changed is my general outlook since opening, having had not really thought about it much in the five years since moving here, is that Tatsfield is not just a place, its identity is defined by the people who live here.

What plans do you have for 2019?

I think the Store and tearoom will develop naturally, especially the latter. We are lucky enough to be part of an evolution in the centre of the village. The opening by Lesley of Tatsfield Blooms next door, the amazing work carried out by Ian and his team in restoring the pond, which will only get better when they complete the planting in the spring. Spring and summer at the moment are unknown territory for us, but we are considering additional seating outside. PayPoint is now installed and working and will expand on the services it provides. In addition, we are still trying to get a National Lottery terminal installed. We are always looking to developing the crafting aspect of the business, and introducing local products, and I am sure if we have a summer like last year, we will probably have to look at the capacity of the ice cream freezer.

We always said from the start we would not get everything right, for example setting up the supply of newspapers we thought would be a straight forward process has been, to say the least, emotional. But we have been extremely lucky with the team we have found to work with us, the support from the village and the Parish Council and the amazing amount of positive feedback since opening. Spring and summer are exciting prospects, although I may have some difficulty in keeping Simon away from the cream teas!

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

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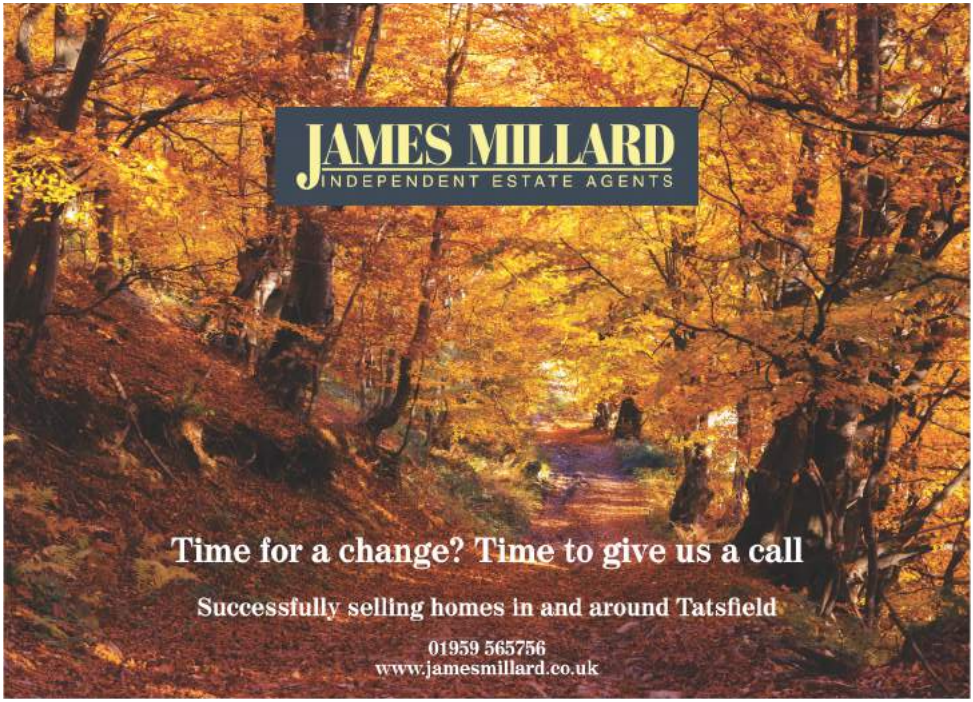

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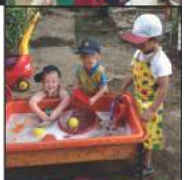

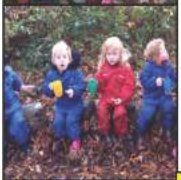

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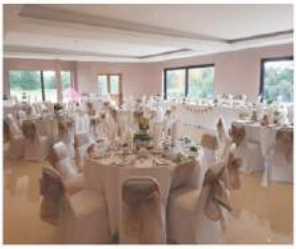
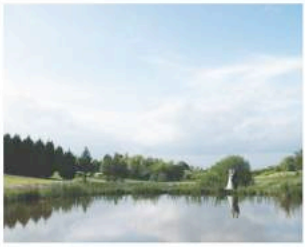

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