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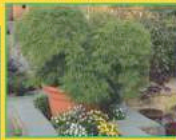
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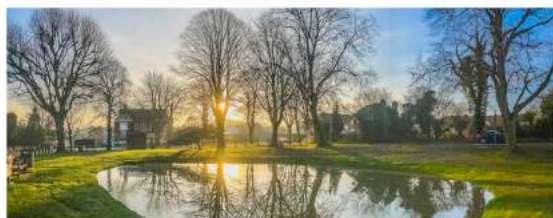
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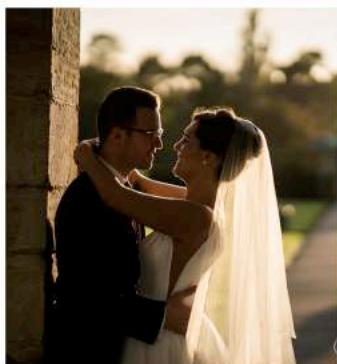
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### COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

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## EDITORIAL

I wonder how we feel about landmarks in our lives? Are we sorry once the moments of celebration or commemoration have passed or are we glad to get back to normal? The recent celebration of Easter may hold similar tensions. For some there have been special family times or even a holiday, for others it is perhaps a gateway to looking forward to a beckoning summer.

For the Church, Easter is the highpoint in the year, surpassing even Christmas but then after the specialness, there is the danger of breathing a sigh of relief that it is all over. The Sunday after Easter is referred to as a “Low Sunday” since attendance will definitely be down compared to Easter Day. However, if we believe the Biblical account, the reverse would be true, as an exciting new chapter had begun with the risen Lord Jesus Christ. In Luke chapter 24, two disciples were on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus when a stranger joined them. At first they didn’t recognise Him but then their eyes were opened and they were overjoyed to have had Jesus with them. Thus the story of the birth of the Church continues with other significant festivals following thick and fast - Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity, within weeks.

When two became three on the Emmaus road, there was something that speaks to our human condition, since they appreciated the company, even before they acknowledged “God with us”. Whilst solitude may have its place, for the most part we value engagement with others and we prefer not to be alone. Loneliness is, we are given to understand, widespread. It also takes more than one form, since we can be lonely in the midst of a crowd. Additionally, the role of leaders can in some ways be a lonely one and so our local and national leaders deserve our support in what may often be a difficult task, even though it is conducted with colleagues.

In Tatsfield, we can be thankful for all the groups and services that are available, where we might connect with one another but let’s also be mindful of those who may not yet be receiving their benefit and, as we seek to be good neighbours, let’s build on our reputation as a friendly place. I look forward to seeing those who visit our Flower Festival at St Mary’s on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May (details with this issue).

God bless,

**Vince Short**



## **LETTERS**

Dear Editor,

We would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful neighbours of our father Tom in Shipfield Close who sadly passed away recently. Since our mother died nearly 10 years ago they have looked out for him, provided him with friendship and company and are a shining example of what community really means. Also deep gratitude to the congregation at St. Mary's who welcomed him into their community and similarly provided friendship and comfort which he valued to the end. Thank you also for the generous donations to the Heart Foundation and Stroke Association in memory of Tom.

Yours sincerely,

**Stephen, Paul, Susan and Robert Menham**

## **TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

Here is the edited report from the outgoing Chair of the Parish Council Nichola Stokoe, given at this year's Annual Parish Meeting:

One of the most important roles for a Parish Council is to consider planning applications. This year we have looked at and commented on 43. This seems to be a number similar to previous years. They have ranged from minor changes - to major extensions and also plans for replacement or new builds. We try very hard to ensure that we have considered both the current planning regulations and the potential impact on the area when we make our submissions.

One particular application, which may have caught your attention, was down on the A25 at the Moorhouse Tile works where an application had been submitted for a parcel distribution depot, which attracted widespread opposition. The Parish Council had gone along with the alternative idea that Moorhouse would be an ideal site to accommodate some of the extra housing the government is pressing communities to accept. Tandridge planning officers, however, recommended that the distribution centre was the right kind of development and had the support of our District Councillor. In the event, objectors overturned the recommendation and the application won't be going ahead – at least for the time being.

Another role we have is to support and help local clubs and organisations that benefit the Tatsfield community. This is usually with a financial grant for a specific project or to support their work in a more general way. We have been pleased to support and sponsor Dave Bishop's two annual village events. The remembrance service and carol

singalong. These two events are extremely important to the village and Dave and the team of volunteers work so hard in making these events successful. I'd like to thank them all for all that they do. I'm also very excited that Dave is organising a family event on Westmore Green this summer the details of which Dave has published in this month's magazine. The Parish Council was asked to sponsor the event but before we had a chance to vote on it KJ from Park Wood Golf Club heard about it and wanted the chance to be involved and has kindly donated funds.

We also like to support organisations based outside the village that provide vital services to us when we need them. Oxted CAB, local Victim Support, Crimestoppers, St Catherine's Hospice, and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex air ambulance.

Having looked at the finances for the year commencing May 2019 we have decided to increase the precept to £44,000. A £2,000 increase on last year and the first increase in five years. Reasons for the increase were to keep up with inflation but also there are various services being cut at District and County level, for example, grass cutting, and it will likely fall to the Parish to cover the additional costs. Whilst this is disappointing, we have to sadly accept the fact that if we aren't going to cover the shortfall then the work simply won't get done.

This Parish Council's last year of our four-year term has been an extremely busy one and I thought I would highlight some of the projects that we have been working on.

I am delighted, at long last that we have managed to do something with the pond. One of the reasons we took so long was that we wanted to get it right this time but acknowledged that we didn't individually have the correct knowledge or experience. We were therefore enormously grateful when Ian Hayman from Tatsfield Aquatic's got in touch and offered to look after it on our behalf. The combination of the new liner and the rainfall capture from the roof of the village club is working really well and you will have noticed the water level has been maintained. Ian Hayman and his team have done an amazing job and we are very lucky to have them on board. The next stage is planting. The Tatsfield Aquatics team are just waiting to ensure all frosts have ceased for the year and then the planting will begin. The plants have all been carefully considered as we need to make sure they are suitable and that they will not cause any damage to the liner or water balance.

Last summer, we also managed to complete the long awaited Scout Hut path from the village to the hut and beyond to the crossing to the entrance to the old Beaver Water World car park. We also installed the new white gateways as you enter the village along Approach Road and have overseen the upgrade of the path across Tatsfield Green the cost of which was covered by a very generous resident. We hope that all these improvements have made a difference to our residents and village life.

Martin Allen and I spent nearly a year in discussions with both Surrey County Council and Kent County Council regarding increased gritting on Lusted Hall Lane down to the Kent border and the Westmore/Crossways/Paynesfield circuit but sadly drew a blank. We approached local farmers and landowners but they didn't have the right equipment to be able to help us. Thankfully, in one of the first meetings we had with Becky Rush she mentioned that Woldingham Parish Council has a running contract with the Fuller family at Church Farm Services and that they have a tractor with a gritting spreader and snow plough. We have been able to negotiate a contract with them and they are now on board to help us keep Tatsfield open when the bad weather hits. Although, we have only had the need to call them out a couple of times so far, we have been very happy with the results.

As you know, we own and look after the AMB and also the village hall. The new porch and glass doors to the main side entrance have recently been installed and we are currently looking in to tidying up and repainting the emergency side entrance and also the doorway and porch facing the road. If we can agree figures then hopefully these works will start in the summer.

We had hoped to carry out some building works to the AMB. In so doing the intention was to create a new smaller meeting room, which could be separately rented out on an ad hoc basis. Having been through various options sadly the cost proved too prohibitive and so we have had to put that project on hold for the moment. The new Parish Council may look to replace the carpets and curtains and have a repaint which will make it a little fresher.

You may have read in the magazine or on the Facebook page that we recently received confirmation from the Post Office that there were no plans in the village for a new post office to open. I am delighted to say that the village club has come forward to see if they may be able to run one from there, with a few alterations, and initial meetings have taken place. The Parish Council realises how important a post office is to many residents and are therefore attending the meetings and will offer support as and when it is needed. I very much hope that the new Parish Council will continue to build this relationship and offer any help where it can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our existing councillors for all the hard work and dedication over these last few years. We have achieved an awful lot even though there have been some uphill battles. I would also like to personally thank our clerk, Samantha, who has been a constant source of support.

As for what projects will be undertaken next year, it really depends on the new Parish Council. There are seven spaces and we find out on 2<sup>nd</sup> May who you have voted for as your parish councillors. We have been delighted that so many people have come



forward following our calls for help and approaches and I am confident that there will be an excellent team ready to take over.

It does look, however, as though most will be new councillors and so a number of us have offered to come along to meetings to offer background information and guidance until they find their feet. They will, of course, be helped by our excellent clerk, Samantha, who will keep them on track.

**The next meetings of the Parish Council will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 pm. As always, the agenda will be made available on village notice boards and at: [www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/](http://www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/)**

**Nichola Stokoe, Chair**

**(Tel: 576443; Email: [nicholastokoe@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:nicholastokoe@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk))**



## COULD YOU BE THE SECRETARY OF TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL?

Sadly, Carol Jordan, who has been Secretary of the Village Hall for many years, has had to give up the position because of ill health and we are looking for someone to take Carol's place in helping run the organisation which provides such an important and useful service for the village.



The Village Hall is a registered charity and it is run by a management committee, which I chair. The other officers are Bob David (Vice Chairman), Roger Sawyers (Treasurer) and Helena Garcia Macleod (Bookings Secretary). The rest of the management committee consist of representatives of the regular users of the hall.

The hall is booked solidly during weekday day times (mostly by Little Acorns Pre-School but also by Bowls and Dog Training classes) and weekday evenings (by regular users such as the Art Group, Table Tennis Club, Badminton Club and Yoga). At weekends it is booked for parties and celebrations, for the Curzon Cinema film showings and for such village events as the Horticultural Shows and the North Downs Sinfonia concerts. The committee aim to keep the hall in good condition (the floor has just been re-sanded and the kitchen will have a major refurbishment in the summer) and to keep hire rates as low as possible (the rates have just been increased for the first time in four years). Villagers are charged preferential rates.

The Secretary's job (which is separate from that of Bookings Secretary) is a voluntary one. It is important in keeping the committee well organised and together. Its duties include organising the monthly committee meetings, taking the minutes of the meetings, following up action agreed, acting as the contact point with other bodies, writing letters on behalf of the committee and keeping necessary records as a charity. On average this takes about two hours a week.

Would anyone who is interested please contact me and we can discuss the position informally and without commitment. Please phone me on 07941 822580 or email me at [lloyd.gulley@talk21.com](mailto:lloyd.gulley@talk21.com).

**Lloyd Gulley**

## **WARNING ABOUT DRIVERS USING MOBILE PHONES**

We are warning drivers about the dangers of using hand-held mobile phones while on the road and the potential consequences of their actions. While we appreciate most drivers adhere to the rules of the road, there are those who flout the law by checking messages or even taking pictures and video on the road. The penalties if you are caught are severe, six points and a £200 fine, but a brief distraction could result in a life-changing crash.

RPU Sergeant Phil Dix, who has seen first-hand the effects of using a phone when on the road, has also made a personal plea to residents. He said: "I've attended many road traffic collisions that have involved people using their mobile phones and becoming distracted and not seeing what is ahead of them. "Talking on the phone can distract you from driving. It's not the same as having a passenger in your car who can warn you about a potential hazard - the person at the end of the phone can't see that sort of thing."

Our advice is:

- Legally, you can't use a hand-held device behind the wheel when the engine is turned on. This includes using a phone as a sat-nav, unless it is fixed into your car prior to setting off. You can only use a phone if it is fully hands-free. If you are holding your mobile, you must be safely parked with the engine turned off - not waiting at a red traffic light or in a traffic jam.
- If officers see you on your phone while driving, they will stop you. The penalties are severe, including a fixed penalty notice of £200 and six points on your license. If it is a second offence then you will be banned from driving. New drivers are banned for a first offence.
- If you know you can't resist looking at your phone, put it on 'do not disturb' or 'driving mode' and place it in your glovebox, this will prevent people from ringing you when you are driving and lower your chances of being distracted.
- If you are on the road and see a driver using a hand-held mobile, you can report them here. You will need to submit subsequent evidence. This could include dashcam or helmet cam footage.

If you are on the phone to someone who is driving, could you ask them to ring you back when they have reached a place of safety and have turned their engine off?

A delayed conversation is infinitely better than no conversation at all.

Drive safely,

**Tom Moore (Corporate Communications)**

## **POLICE RESPONSE REGARDING COMPLAINTS OF AGGRESSIVE TAILGATING AND OVERTAKING AT SPEED ON THE TITSEY ROAD.**

From the Casualty Reduction Officer:

"The location is not a current priority site for police and as such no enforcement has occurred at the location. Surrey Police have over 270 roads on East Surrey (over 700 force wide) which are monitored looking at casualties, collisions and speed data. These sites are prioritised with the focus on Police enforcement being conducted at the locations showing the highest collision, casualty patterns and recorded average speeds. This data is recorded on the Surrey Speed Management Plan (SMP). This is a joint document shared between us, Surrey Safety Camera Partnership and Surrey County Council Highways.

In relation to the speed limit change at the location, when speed limits are changed further assessments should be conducted to assess how much compliance of the new speed limit there is. This will then determine what action, if any is taken at the location. We were not involved in the speed limit change here, so we have emailed Surrey County Council and a member of traffic management in Surrey Police to see if anything has been completed at this site and I am awaiting a response.

I have reviewed reports made to police in the area and on Titsey Road in the last year we have no reports of collisions or concerns regarding standards of driving at this location. I appreciate persons have reported this to you but this is not echoed in our reports at the location. There have been two vehicle stops by local officers at the location, one which resulted in process for using a hand held mobile phone whilst driving and a vehicle stop which resulted in an arrest for driving whilst over the prescribed drugs limit.

Anti-social driving, suspected driving offences and dangerous driving can be reported online via the Surrey Police website <https://www.surrey.police.uk/> or by calling 101. If witnesses do have dashcam footage – which is becoming more and more common nowadays this can help support any action taken against offending drivers and prevents it being one word against another. For information, footage must cover two minutes before and two minutes after the event.

In relation to the bus company driving faster than the speed limit – I would recommend if this behaviour is witnessed also complaining direct to them with date, time and bus number if obtained. They will be able to identify drivers and deal with complaints against them as well."

No Tandridge District Council report from me this month due to elections.

**Martin Allen Home 01959 577201 , Mobile 07515 923826**



## **POLICING**

Just when we think we've all heard enough about 'MAY' (Theresa), we now have to read an entire magazine with MAY everywhere in it! Whatever is due to happen or not with Brexit (hopefully) this year, to me you will always be the independent territory of PRT (People's Republic of Tatsfield).

Well, if it wasn't for one idiot recently, the crime report section would be occupied solely by tumbleweed. Yes, only one crime, in late March.

A locked vehicle was somehow entered at the car park of Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery on Church Hill. A coat, sunglasses and Easter decorations were taken, with the coat discarded nearby. CCTV there has been viewed, and showed a male get out of a silver Toyota. Frustratingly, the footage was not close enough to get a facial for him. Most of a plate number was readable, but sadly there were no matches to any vehicle. So if anyone sees a silver Toyota acting suspicious in the area, call us on 999 immediately. Thanks.

With thankfully much warmer weather around now, please be aware of the security of your property. I know I've said it before here, but if you have valuables which you would rather not be parted with, please get them protectively marked by going on government website [Immobilise.com](https://www.immobilise.com). This is operated by the National Crime Agency (NCA), and as long as the items have a make, model, and some kind of unique serial/code number, they can be added to the list, which is broken down into categories. However, if you have jewellery, such as rings, which are devoid of detail, any modern phone with a camera can be used to photograph individual pieces, then can be uploaded onto the website at the same time as the data. Then the NCA will send back an email to confirm you are registered, and then linked to your items, so if the worst happens, even if just lost, those items would get back to you if any police force in the UK finds, recovers or seizes them.

Lastly, for all residents: if you see something dodgy happening out the window at your neighbour's house, call 999 immediately. Might make the difference!!

Kids: You've all got more holidays this month, lucky things. During that time, give your parents a shock with an act of random kindness. Go on, I dare you!

That's all folks. See you around the village,

**Rupert**

**PCSO 12599 KELLEY**

## TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Year 3 – Impressionism

Year 3 have been learning about Impressionism. In class, we have explored the work of impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. We have studied Claude Monet's work closely and have recreated some of his famous paintings. We have also had a go at capturing our own school landscape. Impressionists used quick brush strokes so we used this style of painting in our own work. We thought very carefully about capturing the natural light and colour in our art work, rather than finer details of objects we were painting.



By Tommy Ramsey



By Grace McMullan



By Phoebe Hunt



By Lacey Freeman Parris



By Ava Mew



By Madeleine Browne

## LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

Spring term was a busy term, with lots of visitors coming in to see us. We were able to offer the children a diverse range of fun and interesting things to see and do, thanks to parents and the local people of Tatsfield.



With thanks again to Revd Vince Short for returning to the pre-school. Vince spent time with the children, reading the story of Easter and playing by request the children's favourite nursery rhymes.



We also had some young chicks and a rabbit come to see the children, allowing them to observe and touch them, as well as learn and listen how to care for them. Having a range of animals, which the children can interact with, really does enrich their experience here and builds upon their understanding of the world around them. Having a careful and kind approach to the animals also teaches to respect and care for living things and their environment, whilst building conversations around the things they observe.

We would like to say a special thanks to Tatsfield Aquatics ([tatsfieldaquatics.co.uk](http://tatsfieldaquatics.co.uk)) for supplying us with a tank, plants and some frog spawn. The children will now be able to enjoy watching the tadpoles grow. This encourages the children to ask questions and builds conversations around growth and changes over time, as well as talking about natural things they have discovered.



The children were also treated to an Amelia Jane Yoga class, allowing them to have fun, practice some yoga poses, relax and let their imaginations flow. The children really enjoyed the class and it perfectly relates to the children's physical development, together with progressing their listening and attention skills; experimenting with different ways of moving and successfully negotiating space.



Staff and children are looking forward to our annual trip to Godstone farm in May with parents, carers and children. Is this a great opportunity to get up close to the farm animals, which is particularly special during spring, as we hope to see lots of baby animals. A trip to the farm is also a nice way for the children to

spend some time with friends away from the pre school setting, encouraging new friendships between them. They also especially enjoy the tractor ride!

Finally, we would like to update you with our fundraising total which was raised during our Eastercise event in April. The support given to the children and our pre school really was immense, with a staggering total of nearly £1000! So, thank you again to everyone who contributed to this fantastic amount. We look to update and extend our technology equipment for the children and the pre school with this money, of which we are very grateful for- thank you!

**Jen Creed**

[office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk)

## **TATSFIELD ART GROUP**

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

**Mike Fryer - Knife Painting – Acrylic Landscape**

**13 May** (Demo) and **20 May** (Workshop)

(Non Members – Demo £10/Workshop £15]

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





## NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA



Our next concert is on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall as usual. We are proud to introduce an international soloist, Edwin Kim, who will play the Elgar Violin Concerto. This was composed in 1910, and recorded by Elgar with a young Yehudi Menuhin playing, in 1932.

Edwin divides his time between Vienna and Seoul, where he is Professor of Violin at the University.

In the first half, we will also be playing the overture to the Mozart opera *La Clemenza di Tito*, his very last opera, composed in the year of his death, 1791.

The second half will consist of Beethoven's masterpiece, the *Symphony No 5 in C minor*. Everyone knows this of course, with its unmistakable first da-da-da-dum notes. The familiarity of the opening may have prevented you from listening to the whole piece recently. However we have found coming back to this immense work has been incredibly rewarding, as beyond the barrier of over-familiarity, is one of the greatest works in the repertoire.

The opening was used by the BBC in the War as a V for victory sign, others say that the opening motif is Fate knocking at the door.

The programme will be conducted by Francis Griffin, and tickets will be available as usual from Jan or Peter Maynard on 01959 577659 or by emailing [northdownssinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:northdownssinfonia@gmail.com). There is no booking fee, and tickets can be reserved in advance and picked up and paid for on the door.

**Peter Maynard**

*North Downs Sinfonia*



## SPRING CONCERT

An International Soloist in Tatsfield!



Saturday 11th May 2019 at 7.30 pm  
Tatsfield Village Hall TN16 2AG



Mozart - Overture to "*La Clemenza di Tito*"  
Elgar - *Violin Concerto in B Minor*  
Beethoven - *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor*



Conductor *Francis Griffin*

Violin *Edwin Kim*

Leader *Sylvia Seaton*

**Tickets £10 Concessions £8**

By email:  
[northdownssinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:northdownssinfonia@gmail.com)

By phone:  
*Jan or Peter Maynard: 01959577659*



*Scan with smartphone  
for email address!*

[www.northdownssinfonia.co.uk](http://www.northdownssinfonia.co.uk)

## TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

The mulching of the beds in the car park and the orchard was eventually finished this month. Again a big thank you to Kenny Thurgood of Acacia Tree Surgeons for all the wood chippings. The volunteers have also been busy clearing all the twig and branches from Tatsfield Green and tidying the perennial bed. The vines have been pruned and tied ready for the new season.



We have entered the South & South-East in Bloom competition again and have been informed that this year we will have **eight** other competitors in the Large Village category! This, we believe, is the largest entry in this section since we started taking part. The other entrants are: Cobham (Kent), Eastchurch, Eynsford, Five Oak Green, Limpsfield, Mayfield, Titchfield and Woodchurch. SSEIB have informed us that judging of the village will take place on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July in the morning**. Please put the date in your diary so that we can have as many volunteers available as possible.

The summer season really begins on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** when we will be planting up all the baskets and mangers after the THS Plant Sale. All offers of help would be most appreciated.

The plants for the Fairtrade logo on the Tatol bed are being delivered on 7<sup>th</sup> June and the design will be planted on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June**.

Donation boxes are still in Sheree's Store, the Bakery, Old Ship and Village Club if you would like to contribute to the work carried out by Tatsfield in Bloom throughout the year.

Don't forget we are always looking for new volunteers to help us look after the village. We meet at 10.00am every Saturday morning outside the Bakery.

Many thanks for your support.

**Jill Hancock (577622)**

## THE TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (THS) SPRING SHOW REPORT

April 13<sup>th</sup> was a lovely sunny day. It was fitting weather for the THS Spring Show in the Village Hall and most welcome following a period of chilly and often overcast weather, but it was nowhere near as warm as the amazing record breaking spell we had at the end of February. This unseasonably mild weather not only brought early discomfort to hay fever sufferers but also challenges to THS Gardeners planning on entering their daffodils in the Spring Show. By late March blooms were fading fast across the village (everywhere except Bob David's garden it seems!).

THS committee members were at the Village Hall on the evening before the show, getting everything ready for competitors to set up their entries from around 8.30am until 10.30am on Saturday, when the judges would arrive to cast their eye and decide on the winning entries. This year there were 223 entries, up from 204 last year, which was very pleasing especially bearing in mind that we had heard that a horticultural society not too far away had recently decided to abandon its Spring show and hold just one show a year due to dwindling interest.



Once again there was much support and interest in the Junior section and we were delighted to see more new entrants this year – Emily and Oliver Morgan, Henry and George Peniston-Bird and

Max Musselwhite aged just 2 ½.

At 3 pm the doors opened for all to come in and admire the entries, see who has won a coveted First and of course the trophies for the most points in the sections. The hall was full of colour and scent and there was quickly a queue for tea, coffee and fresh home baked cakes.



Bob David won the Colegates Challenge Cup for the most points in the Horticultural Section and also the Derek Weller Cup for the best entry in the Daffodil Section; Rita McKay won the Sue Warren Trophy



for the most points in the Flower Arrangement Section and also the Emily Streets Cup for the best flower arrangement; Catherine Webber won the Theobald Cup for the most points in the Craft Section and also the Tom Rushden Cup in the Domestic Section; Maggie Garstang won the Lambert Art Trophy with the most points in the Art Section; John Pearson won the Ray Collins Trophy in the Photography Section; Emily and

Oliver Morgan won the Peter Hallam Trophy in the Junior Sections; and finally Sheila Alexander won the Tatol Trophy for the best exhibit in the Art Section. Sheila's Pen and Ink painting of St Mary's Church Tatsfield was much admired by Jürgen Prachnau from



Germany who was visiting long-term friends the Hadden family for the day – so much so that he purchased it and it now hangs in Berlin!

Please note on your calendars that it is the annual THS Plant Sale morning on Saturday May 11 on Westmore Green, and this year we have the **Knife Ninjas mobile sharpening service visiting us from 0930am**. A great opportunity for gardeners, cooks and craft hobbyists to get secateurs, shears, knives, scissors and more sharpened professionally for the coming year. More details in this magazine edition and on the THS website at [tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com](http://tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com) (why not bookmark this in your web browser?).

Our shows are open to all members of the THS; if you would like to join us and take part just contact any member of the committee or our Membership Secretary Christine Stainer on 577803, or email her on [christinestainer@yahoo.com](mailto:christinestainer@yahoo.com).

### **BULKY RUBBISH COLLECTION – 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

- 7.30am-10.45am: Village hall car park

#### **What can be accepted at the site**

- Large items including ceramics, furniture, garden waste, glass, household rubbish, metal items and up to two washing machines.
- If you want to recycle your items, please take them to the community recycling centres at Bond Road, Warlingham, or Chaldon Road, Caterham.

#### **What can't be accepted at the site**

- Fridges, freezers, asbestos, car batteries, concrete, hardcore, hazardous chemicals, oil, paint, plasterboard, trade waste or tyres. For advice on getting rid of these, please contact Surrey County Council on [contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk) or **03456 009 009**. We cannot accept any rubbish brought to the site in a lorry.

Please do not leave waste if the vehicle is not there. This is flytipping, which is illegal dumping and a crime.

For up to date details visit [www.tandridge.gov.uk](http://www.tandridge.gov.uk) before taking your bulky waste anywhere.

## TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER 2019 EVENTS

### PLANT SALE AND KNIFE NINJAS - 9.45 am SATURDAY 11 MAY AT WESTMORE GREEN

\*Good quality popular bedding, basket and vegetable plants at good prices. Be there sharp on 9.45 because everything goes quickly!

\* Specially arranged visit of **KNIFE NINJAS** with their mobile sharpening service for all your gardening tools and your household knives. See next page for details.



### VISIT TO RHS WISLEY

#### MEET AT WISLEY AT 10.30 am ON SUNDAY 19 MAY

This is a group visit (THS are affiliated members of the RHS). If interested, contact Martin Allen on 577201 or email [martin.allen@talk21.com](mailto:martin.allen@talk21.com). We will do our best to arrange lifts if necessary.

Visitors can expect to see Battleston Hill ablaze with the colours of Azaleas and Rhododendrons; the spring bedding displays will be in full bloom and the Alpine Meadow should be at its best. Be sure to look at the progress with the new Welcome Centre and Centre for Learning as they near completion. The Bicentennial Glasshouses will be full of scent and colour. If you look carefully you may also spot some exotic butterflies!



### 18<sup>th</sup> TATSFIELD GARDENS TOUR – 1pm - 5 pm SUNDAY 2 JUNE

- \* Visit six very different gardens.
- \* Refreshments. No charges – just optional donations to charities.
- \* All the details in the leaflet coming with this magazine.

# MOBILE SHARPENING SERVICE



On Westmore Green

From 0930am

Saturday May 11th 2019

THS Plant Sale Morning



- Shears..... £5.00
- Secateurs..... £5.00
- Loppers..... £5.00
- Knives.....avg £2.00
- Mower Blades.....£5.50
- Scissors.....from £5.00
- Axes.....from £5.00
- Wood Tools.....from £3.00
- Hedge Trims.....p/t £0.45
- AND SO MUCH MORE!



MOBILE SHARPENING SERVICES  
**KNIFE NINJAS** .CO.UK

## **ST MARY'S NEWS**

### **St Mary's Tatsfield Community Survey**

Thank you once again to those who took part. We received 35 replies in all (by completed forms and electronically on Survey Monkey). Among the respondents, there is some interest in the Church offering services at times other than a Sunday morning and also in places other than the church site, for example, Village Centre locations. In relation to possible events and activities that we might offer, there were many good ideas for us to consider, although no clear consensus through several people sharing the same idea. We were grateful also for those who took the trouble to use the opportunity of the survey to express thanksgiving for all that is already contributed by the Church in our shared work alongside the Community. Results of the survey will be further considered going forward.

### **St Mary's Food Bank Collection**

The next food delivery to Christ Church Food Bank, Brixton, is planned for June 2019. We continue to ask for and collect food donations during this time and up to the planned delivery. We also support the local Westerham Food Bank when we can.

The Westerham Food Bank is very low on food supplies at present, due to an increased number of families needing help. Due to this circumstance we plan to make an extra delivery on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 and it would be great if we can show our support.

Please consider any of the following: Tinned vegetables, spaghetti, baked beans, fish, meat, tinned cooked meals or pies, pasta and cooking sauces, cooking oil, tinned fruit, rice pudding, custard, long-life milk, rice, coffee, fruit juice, cereals, biscuits, sugar, toothpaste, deodorant, washing up liquid, laundry liquid/powder, cleaning products, toilet rolls. Please leave any donations in the narthex at the back of the church.

### **Hilary Vale**

### **Lent Lunches**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Lent Lunches, which raised a total of £359 in support of the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal for projects in Sri Lanka, Kenya, London and Zimbabwe. A special thank you to those who made this possible by making soup and helping to serve the lunches: Peter and Maryrose Fawke, Madie Langford, Marjorie Broughton, Rebecca Veale, Jennifer Evans and Mary Smith.

### **Flower Rota**

5th May - Jan Maynard	12th May - Ann and Sam Vatcher
19th May - Ann and Sam Vatcher	26th May - Flower Festival

### ***Ann Vatcher***



## Flower Festival

Please see full page advert for the preview concert and loose-leaf flyer for the festival itself in this edition of the magazine.

**Open the Bible (monthly All Age Service at 10am, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)**



Our next Open the Bible services will be on 5<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

## Sunday Teas

These will start on 5<sup>th</sup> May and will continue every Sunday afternoon, 3-5pm, until the end of September.

## Ascension Day

Our 6am service will take place in the church grounds (weather permitting) on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May, followed by breakfast in the hall.

## The Churchyard

Tidy up mornings (10am – 12noon) will be as usual on the first Saturday of each month, May 4<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 7<sup>th</sup>. All help appreciated.

## Records

19 <sup>th</sup> March	Funeral of John Stokoe
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Funeral of Thomas Menham
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Funeral of Edward Massey (at Beckenham Crematorium)

## St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the April draw:

31. S Cook £23.75 73. D Gulley £14.25 6. M & R Smith £ 9.50 St Mary's £47.50

**St Mary's Church Website:** [www.lttm.org.uk](http://www.lttm.org.uk)

## EASTER AT ST MARY'S



PHOTOGRAPHS WITH KIND PERMISSION OF  
REVD VINCE SHORT, MARJORIE  
BROUGHTON AND ANN VATCHER







# Flower FESTIVAL CONCERT

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, TATSFIELD, TN16 2JX**  
**MUSIC & FLOWERS**  
**FRIDAY MAY 24TH 2019 - 7-30PM**  
**ADMISSION BY TICKET - £10**  
**INCLUDES WINE / SOFT DRINK & CANAPÉS**



**FOR TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT:**  
**SHEILA COOK 01959 577443**





# TATSFIELD SUMMER FAIR

## Saturday June 8th

- \* Circus Skills Workshop
- \* Raffle
- \* Carnival Rides
- \* Tombolas
- \* Side shows
- \* Bar
- \* BBQ
- \* And More!



Tatsfield School  
Ship Hill, Tatsfield  
£1 entry per family





**TATSFIELD SINGERS**  
**PRESENT**

*Singing through  
the Year*

**ON Saturday June 22nd 2019**

**AT Tatsfield Village Hall**



**DOORS OPEN 7.00pm**

**CONCERT STARTS 7.30pm**

Price includes a *Pimms*  
or *soft drink*

**ADULTS £7.50   UNDER 16s £5.00**

Tickets available from  
**Sara 574446 | Pat 577863**  
or in the New Village Store  
Or at the door on the night

## **SPRING INTO MUSIC – A 5 STAR REVIEW**

As if training for the London Marathon wasn't enough, Sarah Coop, together with her entire family, sprung in to action to raise money for her chosen charity – Bowel Cancer UK. This mammoth task brought "Spring into Music" to Tatsfield Village Hall on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. What a concert it was, what joy it brought to all who attended. Performers of all ages - professional and amateurs, brought the village hall alive.

Kick starting the evening was The London Concert Chorus conducted by Georg Tormann. The London Concert Chorus is often to be found performing at the Royal Albert Hall! Forty of the choir came to Tatsfield and gave us wonderful renditions of "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" by Whitney Houston, "Africa" by Toto and "9-5" by Dolly Parton. With the village hall lacking the capacity of the Albert Hall, the choir had to pop over the road to The Old Ship after their performance!

Young talent also took to the stage. The Budgens Emily, Madeline, Connie and Bridie wowed us with their clarinet playing and their voices. Lucy and Amy Coop wowed us with the cello and their voices. Members of Bromley Youth Music Trust (BYMT) – Musical Theatre group demonstrated their vocal and performance skills. To see such young confident performers was a real treat.

John Moore's performance of "If Ever I Should Leave You" was spine tingling and Georg Tormann's "Sunset Boulevard" brought the west end stage directly to Tatsfield.

What a treat the first act was, leaving us eager for the second which most certainly did not disappoint. The recently formed Westerham U3A Strummers (a group of people who are getting on a bit who just want to have fun!) had us singing along and dancing in our seat as they played their ukuleles and sang popular melodies.

Lucy and Josh performed moving solos, and then it was time for performers from The Orpheus Centre. Sarah's mum, Ann Lovelace, has worked with the young people at Orpheus for many years and they kindly agreed to come and support Sarah.

The power of all their performances was extraordinary. Luke Tye and Angus Morton brought tears to our eyes as they sang "Ireland in the Spring" and "Bring Him Home". Charlotte Rowling without doubt brought the Royal Opera House to the village as she took us to unbelievable heights singing "Queen of the Night" from Mozart's Magic Flute. Jo Langston made the rhythm course through us as she drummed her way through "Wipe Out" a mixed medley. It was sheer joy to watch the engaging and energetic Andrew Self (Orpheus's very own TV star – as he appeared on the Greatest Dancer earlier this year) dance to "Can't Stop The Feeling".

The finale of "Any Dream Will Do" by talented performers from Orpheus probably reflects Sarah's own dream – reaching the end of her 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive London Marathon!!

Sarah raised an amazing amount – well over £2,000 on the night of the concert - and she would like to thank all who supported her.

## REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.00 am	Fitness classes with Charlotte Limpenny - WIH
	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	7.15 pm	Adult Ballet - TPS
	7.30 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	1.30pm	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	10.00 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	6.00 pm	Cubs – SH
	8.00 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	1.30 pm	Hear Here – AMB (1 <sup>st</sup> 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	Composting site (open until Midday)
	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

### MAY

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs</b>		<b>Parish Council Elections, VH</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>	<b>11-5pm</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultations</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	<b>11-5pm</b>	<b>TAG Exhibition, VH</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Plant Sale and Ninja Knives sharpening, Westmore Green</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>NDS Spring Concert, VH</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Mon</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>TAG Painting with knives workshop, VH</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Bulky Rubbish collection, Village Hall car park</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>	<b>7.45pm</b>	<b>Mary Queen of Scots, Tatsfield Cinema, VH</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>THS visit to Wisley</b>
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Fri</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Flower festival concert, St Mary's</b>

### JUNE

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>		<b>Tatsfield School summer fair</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Tues</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>NSY event, VH</b>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sat</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Tatsfield Singers concert, VH</b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sat</b>		<b>Orpheus centre open day</b>

### JULY

<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sun</b>	<b>1.00pm</b>	<b>Tatsfield Village Fete, Westmore Green</b>
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#### Venues

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

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION – DEFIBRILLATORS

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

Village Hall, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Crossways Court, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Mayfield Stables, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day, on left hand side of entrance.

## TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS

### JUDO GRADING SUCCESS!

7<sup>th</sup> April saw the first judo grading of the year for members of TMA. The morning started with the under 8s grading. Gradings focus on the basics of judo to help the transition to competitive judo, which starts from age 8 (under 8 grades are identified by a white belt with a coloured stripe running through it, rather than a whole colour belt).



All our little warriors did extremely well, having to come out in front of everyone and demonstrate their grading requirements. Edie Plinston (age 7) was grading for her brown stripe – the highest under 8 grade which normally takes 3-4 years to reach. As part of this grading, the judoka has to compete in a competitive line up – so three fights, one after the other, with no rest. The outcome of the fights isn't important in



terms of the grading, what is important is 'judo spirit' – the effort, grit and determination that is displayed. I'm pleased to say that all the under 8 judoka, including Edie, passed their grading and went home with shiny new belts!

The over 8s grading then took place. This grading is far more technical, with performance skills to be demonstrated, along with some randori (judo sparring). The over 8 grades are called 'mons' and each coloured belt has three mon grades assigned to it, displayed as red tags on the end of the belt. You can only grade one mon at a time, it is not possible to jump 2-3 grades, which ensures technical knowledge, which in the long run produces better judo players, isn't lost. This grading ran really well, we had been preparing the children for a few weeks so everyone knew what they had to do and all passed with flying colours.

We have children judo classes on Thursday and Saturday, along with children's jujitsu classes on Fridays. Plus, adult classes on Thursday (jujitsu), Friday mornings (self defence & combat fitness) and Saturdays (judo). Feel free to pop in and take a look.

**Adam Plinston**

## **TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB**

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	Chris Maynard	£49.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	Michael Burbage	£33.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	Brian Wiggins	£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](mailto:les.eames@ntlworld.com).

## TATSFIELD WI



Our April speaker was booked to tell us about Medieval cooking. I thought immediately of a sumptuous banquet with great platters of joints and tasty pies.

However she explained quite clearly what culinary delights were on offer for the average family. The ingredients involved, if you were lucky, a boring daily diet of vegetables and rye bread with some rare addition of meat and fish. It was a case of what you could grow, forage or catch. Despite this we were pleasantly surprised when we were given samples of honey mead, a vegetable stew based on leeks and mushrooms and 'pottage' (a vegetable



stew with the luxury of a little shin of beef) that sat over the fire and was added to on a regular basis! Condiments were rare and expensive, not usually available to most folk, but wayside herbs played a role in breaking the boredom.

May 7<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual Meeting when we elect our committee, review last year's activities and discuss plans for the next twelve months. We will also vote for or against the WI 2019 resolutions on Rural Transport and awareness of Cervical Screening. We will also enjoy a cream tea to ensure we feed our bodies as well as our minds.

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, at 29 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.

## TATTY KNITTERS

Needless to say it was a delicious meal at the Bakery when we met up for the April meeting.

Our next evening of craft and chat is on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 in the Bakery, cakes supplied buy your own drink.

June 8<sup>th</sup> we, weather permitting will be taking part in World Wide Knit in Public day with tea and cakes.

Happy crafting!

**Val Quick**

07761571071





## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MAY 2019

As there are no major events to discuss this month I thought I would look back at the Apollo program and its upcoming anniversary. It seems hardly possible that it is 47 years since man last walked upon a body in the solar system other than the Earth, but that is the case. On December 14<sup>th</sup> 1972 two of the three astronauts from Apollo 17 blasted off from the surface of the Moon knowing full well that a return any time soon was extremely unlikely. Though estimates vary it is suggested that the total cost of the Apollo program stands at \$25.5 billion with a single launch of the Saturn V rocket costing \$380 million.

But that's rather like telling the story back to front because it was 50 years ago this year that the Apollo mission, which had been in progress since the very early 1960s, achieved its promised goal. The undertaking was kick-started when on May 25<sup>th</sup> 1961 President John F Kennedy told Congress that the USA "should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth." On September 12<sup>th</sup> 1962 he would use a speech at the Rice Football Stadium in Houston to drum up support for the program which he saw as necessary to re-affirm America's technological superiority. Its content is well known because it contains the famous phrase "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard..... "

That the Apollo mission was a success is in itself remarkable and particularly so given that it was conceived and executed in so short a time frame. Regrettably it began in a tragic manner with the loss of three astronauts, not in the inhospitable depths of space but, on the ground during a launch rehearsal at Cape Kennedy. On January 27<sup>th</sup> 1967, in preparation for a launch just a month later, the three men (Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee) were strapped into their seats in the command module for a test to check that the craft could operate effectively on its own internal power. There was no propellant in the rocket boosters so it seems little consideration was given to an emergency occurring. However, a fire began in the command module which is thought to have been caused by an electrical spark igniting glycol coolant and the atmosphere which was, during the test, pure oxygen.

The accident very naturally brought progress on the whole mission to a halt whilst an investigation took place. The command module was re-engineered to much higher standards and a whole raft of changes were brought in. NASA bowed to pressure from the dead men's families and altered the naming convention so that the command module involved in the fire would become Apollo 1. Three unmanned flights (AS-201, AS-202 and AS-203) had already taken place although only two of them carried command and service modules. The now renamed Apollo 1 would have been AS-204. It was decided that the two rockets that flew with modules on board would retrospectively be known as Apollo 2 and 3 so those numbers remain unused, with the next flight on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1967 becoming Apollo 4.

**Brian Mills FRAS**



## THE TATSFIELD POP-IN

Did you know there is a place in Tatsfield where you can enjoy a great cup of tea or coffee for just 50p **every Wednesday morning between 10am and 12 noon**? Beautiful handmade greetings cards and second hand books are also available for an absolute bargain price.



But the best bit is that everyone and anyone is welcome – young or not quite so young, with or without children (childminding grandparents and sleepwalking new mums or dads take note!)

Where is this marvellous place? – Tatsfield WI Hall, 29 Paynesfield Road.

**Come along and see for yourself!**

## NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The meeting this month was the last with the present committee. Sadly we are getting too disabled to keep the club going efficiently and, fortunately for us, there are three younger ladies who are willing to take over. Sue, Lizzie and Jackie came to give us a hand this month, for which we were very grateful. We wish them well in the task and hope they will enjoy it as much as we have in our time.



We have arranged to take the club members out for lunch on the day of the next meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> May at The Ship in the village. Members, please be there at 12.30pm for 1pm.

The new committee have arranged a super fundraising event for all residents to attend, at the village hall, for a small cost of £5 on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

Dick Griffon, a former personal bodyguard to HM the Queen and HRH Prince Philip, has kindly agreed to come and give us a talk on his duties when he worked for the Royal family. Refreshments and goodies will be available, so do bring some extra pennies with you as we would like to raise funds to keep the Not So Young club going.

## Babs Heffernon

### Date for your Diary

Help save the Tatsfield 'Not so young Club'

On Tuesday 18th June at 7.30 we will be holding a special fund raising event in the Village Hall. More information in the next magazine and keep an eye out on local noticeboards too.

**Keep the evening free don't miss out!!**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> TATSFIELD SCOUTS



While I write this article, 1<sup>st</sup> Tatsfield Scouts are on their Easter break. We have ended the term on a high, saying goodbye to six Beavers who are moving up to Cubs. It has been an amazing journey for these six children and I wish them well on the next part of the Scout adventure.

On 19<sup>th</sup> March, twenty Beavers took part in climbing at Downe Activity Centre. At the beginning many of them said they did not want to have a go but once they got kited up, they were all excited to have a go. Many of them got to the top to ring the bell and for one (Oliver) the determination to reach the top was truly one to watch. Well done Oliver. Every Beaver helped and supported each other with belying, holding the rope or just shouting lots of encouragement; it was an incredible evening.



For Mother's Day the Beavers, with the help of Lesley who supplied all the flowers and pots, they made their own flower display. It was

a great evening and it was great to see everyone getting really creative and the finished pots were



amazing. I hope all mums were very proud (as we were).

We finished the term off in the only way you can having an Easter Egg Hunt. We also made chocolate rice crispy cakes, chocolate mounds and coloured in Easter Cards.

Next term we again have a lot in store, as well having six new starters. As it is the summer term, we will be spending a lot more time out of the hut enjoying

what I hope is good weather. If you have a child who would like to have their name added to the waiting list for Beavers, please email me on: [marksnelling333@btinternet.com](mailto:marksnelling333@btinternet.com)

**Jenny Snelling, Beaver Scout Leader**



Cubs enjoyed a trip to Downe Activity Centre for Wide Games and toasted marshmallows on an open fire on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The evening was a great success and one enjoyed by many who had not done Wide Games before. Mother's Day was not forgotten by the Cubs who each made a gift to take home. Let's hope all mums were very well looked after on their special day. We ended the term with games and an Easter Egg hunt, which involved going outside and around the hut spotting Eggs. It was a great way to end the term with 3 children moving on to Scouts, I wish them well.

**Leigh Keegan, Cub Scout Leader**



We have spent the last few weeks of term planning for our Summer Camp. This year's camp is a little different as we shall be camping outside (without a tent) for the whole week. We shall be cooking our own food on an open fire as well as learning lots about Bushcraft. We shall report more on this later in the year.

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

## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MAY

Where has all the rain gone? In March we had well over a month's rainfall in just a few days at the beginning of the month and then nothing! April rainfall is looking to be short of the long term average of 60mm – so far we have only had 11mm with no significant rain in the forecast. The climate change scientists forecasted a gradual drop in our rainfall with an increasing trend that any rainfall will happen in heavy bursts. Capturing this precious resource for our gardens is becoming more and more important so have a look around your house and see if there is room to connect a water butt to your downpipes.

Growing plants from plugs supplied by the many growers is great fun but remember you will need to 'pot them on' into larger containers and grow them on in cool conditions with a good source of light; you can put them outside during the day but be very careful to bring them in at night if the forecast is for temperatures to be below 5C. Avoid putting them in large size containers, a 9cm pot (round or square) is good enough to produce a good sized plant by the end of the month.

I have been looking at what is available in garden centres to help grow on your tiny plug plants and I am surprised to see that there are pots and multicelled trays available that are not made of recycled plastic; the good news is that if you look carefully you will be able to buy recycled pots and trays, even better these are also suitable for using again and again provided they are washed with hot water and disinfectant.

If you prefer to buy your summer bedding plants ready to plant then don't forget the **Horticultural Society's Plant Sale in the village centre on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 09.45am**; if you have some plants that you would like to donate to our fundraising sale please contact Jon Allbutt on 577100. Do you have a gap in your hedge and are looking for a large conifer to fill it? We have some very large pot grown conifers generously donated by a local resident for sale at bargain prices – don't be late, these plants will sell very quickly!

Keen vegetable growers might be tempted to plant out their beans and peas that they have sown in pots and trays to get an early crop – beware low night temperatures and cold winds this month! If you are tempted take my tip and place one or two bean seeds next to each plant just to be sure to be sure!

**Jon Allbutt**

## COMPOSTER'S CHRONICLE

This winter we had new arrangements for allotment waste following the construction of two brand new, purpose-built receiving bays.

There was clear signage all winter that no clods of turf, earth or stones and no woody stems were to be put into the bays. We have now finished transferring this material into composting bins and I am very sorry to say we have found it full of woody stems (some nearly an inch thick which is our limit for shredding during the summer), clods of turf and other heavy clods – some several kilos in weight. The pile of woody stems which we removed was waist high and more or less filled the main “Woody Shredding” bay. There was a tremendous amount of earth in the bays and separating it from the mat of woody stems was incredibly hard, back-breaking work which, in the end, required us to use a pickaxe to achieve. We also found a lot of plastic waste including old CDs! This facility for allotment holders was paid for with public money in the form of grants from the Parish Council and Surrey County Council. A lot of work by the composting volunteers went into building it. That it should be treated with such careless disregard for all this effort is truly depressing.

I do accept that much of the earth probably came from numerous small quantities attached to weed roots, probably mostly grass. I know it is very difficult to completely remove this especially during the wet winter season. With this in mind we will probably restrict next winter's composting to “top growth” only.

An allotment holder approached me to suggest creating one pile for this sort of earthy material. This may be a solution for allotment holders but it is not something I would want the composting site to be involved with as we are very much geared up to dealing with organic waste. The best way to deal with grassy clods is to turn them into the soil on your allotments. Flip them over so that no greenery is showing and they will rot down to give a lovely loam. Much better than giving your topsoil away!

On a happier note, we have been advised that the Composting Scheme has been accepted by Tesco to participate in their “Bags of Help” scheme. Voting will take place during May and June. This will give a huge boost to our bin replacement programme and you should be able to find the official press release elsewhere in this magazine.

Please note we will be featuring in the Biggin Hill and Orpington Tesco branches but **not** the Caterham or Shirley/West Wickham branches.

Wish us luck!

**Philip Brett 577420 [hollygrove6-philip@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hollygrove6-philip@yahoo.co.uk)**





# **TATSFIELD ART GROUP**

## **EXHIBITION**

**Sunday May 5  
11am – 5pm**

Village Hall  
Tatsfield TN16 2AG

**Paintings . Prints  
Sculpture . Cards  
Demonstrations**

**Refreshments**

***Free Parking***

07746965334  
[tatsfield-art-group.weebly.com](http://tatsfield-art-group.weebly.com)

Sponsored by  **NE TSTEP** Managing Director Charles Safapour

## THE MAY FILM: “MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS”



The film brought by Curzon Country Cinema to the Village Hall on Saturday 18 May is very different from “Stan and Ollie” last month. “Mary Queen of Scots” has a 15 certificate and has strong violence and sexual violence. Doors open at 7.15pm and the film starts at 7.45. Tickets are £5 – pay at the door or reserve and pay online at [www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk](http://www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk).



The film explores the turbulent life of the charismatic Mary Stuart, Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary defies pressure to re-marry. Instead, she returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. But Scotland and England fall under the rule of the compelling Elizabeth I. Each young Queen views her "sister" in fear and fascination. Rivals in power and in love, and female regents in a masculine world, the two must decide how to play the game of marriage versus independence. Determined to rule as much more than a figurehead, Mary asserts her claim to the English throne, threatening Elizabeth's sovereignty. Betrayal, rebellion, and conspiracies within each court imperil both thrones - and change the course of history.

The film's stars are Saoirse Ronan as Mary and Margot Robbie as Elizabeth. Also in the cast are David Tennant and Guy Pearce. The film is based on the book by historian Dr John Guy, who describes the film as being “utterly compelling drama – brilliantly scripted, directed and acted”.

Our films have a summer break of three months before returning in September.

**Bob David**

## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

### Correspondence:

At the beginning of this year, Howard (Aylett) kindly updated us on his relationship with the rats living (harmoniously) in his garden (23.01.19):

*'I am much indebted for the advice on how best to manage my rat problem and for one have purchased a humane trap. The next thing I needed to know is which bait to use. So, over the weeks I have, on advice and in turn, stuffed the trap with digestive biscuits, cheese, chocolate and chicken. Short of caviar or foie gras I know not what else to use since I haven't yet caught the little blighter, but by contrast seem to have attracted a variety of other creatures to the feeding table. My next concern is what happens if I actually catch Roland? There is the suggestion I take him as far away as possible from human habitation before releasing. Well, I've looked at my atlas and the Outer Hebrides appears the nearest option, although I seem to recall that conservationists had a problem with rats overwhelming some island there and the puffin population suffering as a consequence, so that's a non-goer. So I guess it's the Arctic, but that then puts me in trouble with the environmentalists who rightly point out that the **Brown Rat** is not indigenous to that part of the world so a specific criteria would have to be met, like supplying the rat with thermals! Anyway, having considered all the options, it suddenly dawned on me that I have already got the solution, well in part, in the form of a Jack Russell, who's job description clearly shows that his number one responsibility is that of "RAT CATCHER" (except he doesn't realise this - but that suits me.) Birdfeeders are now in sight from various windows where Jack maintains a vigil and as soon as Roland puts in an appearance Jack goes racing to the nearest door and out, by which time Roland is heading back to base. But it's enough that Jack has put the frighteners on Ratty and his mates who will, perhaps, now think twice about chancing their luck. So, by keeping the area beneath the bird tables regularly cleared of debris, I think we can now call the situation managed. I will add, to finish, that one should never underestimate the resourcefulness of Roland, as was clearly illustrated today whilst looking out the kitchen window. All our hanging bird feeders now have lids, which has successfully stopped Roland making an aerial attack. However, we do have a three-tier flower basket adjacent to one hanging feeder, but far enough away to discourage Roland – or so I thought. Anyway, I saw Roland climb the tier to determine whether the bird feeder was accessible and he obviously decided that the reach was just a whisker too far. But amazingly, he then whistled up a mate who climbed the tier and then, without hesitation, ran up Roland's back, jumped, and 'Bingo' he was on the bird feeder! Hard to believe unless one actually witnessed the event.'*

Howard, my dear friend, I can hardly believe what a wonderful diet you are providing for Roland and his mates: Digestives, chocolate, chicken and cheese – it sounds like a menu for a summer garden party. And who would have thought that having a rat 'problem' could provide such high class entertainment? I suggest you simply allow your

ratty lodgers to multiply, thereby offering the hand of fellowship to your friends and neighbours. I'm sure over the coming months they will flock to your door with gratitude (whilst secretly concealing some form of clubbing devise!). Jack, on the other hand, may have other ideas!

Next came a brief (sad and somewhat tragic) note from Liz (Armitage) (03.02.19):

*'Been watching a stupid bird for hours. It's getting really cross with its own reflection in Alan's car wing-mirror. Or it is trying to mate with itself? Is it a **Narcissus Bird**?'*

Well, Liz, if it's not a Tit or a Robin I guess we'll have to go along with your identification of the Narcissus Bird. Not that unusual a sighting at this time of year (February). The approach of Valentine's causes many creatures to look into their bathroom (or car) mirrors and consider their reflection: 'How did this happen? Where is that vision of beauty that once stared back at me?' With some sense of despair, aggression often follows. I believe this is a particularly busy time for mirror-makers. Perhaps your avian friend had lost some of his/her finest feathers? What chance of finding a mate now? May as well end it all in the nearest puddle.

And now some exciting news from Penelope (Bateman). I asked her to expand upon a comment she had previously made (25.02.19):

*'The **Buzzard** swooped over our shed roof a couple of times and picked things up, and also landed in our tree. The **Kite** swooped over the shed roof as well, where we leave out food scraps. It was pretty exciting each time!'*

You may recall that I was wondering just a short while ago how long it would be before the Kite, seen regularly circling above the village, would come down to feed. And Penelope isn't the only one to have had a 'close encounter'. Here's an email from Jo (Monks) who lives along Kemsley Road (02.03.19):

*'Just thought I'd let you know that for the last week I've had a **Grey Wagtail** visiting my garden. I've never seen one here before so I'm guessing that maybe this is quite unusual? I managed to take a picture of it, so I could identify it 100%. Also I've been feeding bones, meat, dog biscuits, etc. for the fox, crows, magpies etc. in the field opposite my property. I now have a **Red Kite** who visits. He (or she) swoops down and grabs the food, while being chased by the crows. Such good entertainment!'*

Many thanks to this month's contributors. There are many more people out there with great observations that never get reported. If something interests you it will almost certainly interest others as well.

**Come on – make my day – send me an email!**

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

## TATSFIELD RAMBLERS



Details of walks in the surrounding area for May 2019 are as follows. Everyone welcome including your dogs.

### Sunday 5 May 2019 - 70's Saunter

- Leader: Carol Vening
- Start Point: 11:15am Chipstead – outside The Bricklayers Arms (note parking can be tricky so car share where possible).
- Map Ref: TQ 499562                      Postcode: TN13 2RZ
- Description: A circular walk taking in some of Chipstead lake. Approx 2miles, 1.5 hours flat and no stiles. After the walk for those who'd like to, refreshments at The Bricklayers Arms.

### Bank Holiday Monday 6 May 2019

- Leader: Richard Gadd
- Start Point: 8:30am Charmans Farm/Westerham Brewery (off Beggars Lane)
- Map Ref: TQ 455550                      Postcode: TN16 1QP
- Description: The Westerham Town Partnership and The Westerham Society will be holding their annual "Beating the Bounds" walk around the Parish on this day. We will be walking the full route anti-clockwise which is a little over 12 miles say 7 hours. There are a number of hills. Please note the early start. Additional information (including maps) can be found on The                      Visit                      Westerham                      website  
<http://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/whats-on/w-beating-the-bounds>



## **FIVE MINUTES WITH....ASLAM AKHTAR**

Welcome to our personal feature. This month we are talking to Aslam Akhtar about his life in Tatsfield, and adventures with a Bee Vacuum!

Jan and I moved to Robin Lodge, old Lane, early 1987. I was delighted to be appointed as a partner at Stock Hill surgery, despite there being over 100 applicants for two posts! Dr Rawcliffe was the other partner appointed at the same time. In the old days, our wives were interviewed as well (trial by sherry!) and we were required to live within a three- mile radius of the surgery, due to home visiting and being on call 24/7 on a rotational basis with the other partners - this included home deliveries!

The first 10 years of practice were glorious and, as with all things, General Practice began to change and not all for the better! I began to hate the target setting and underfunding and the loss of continuity began to trouble me even more. As a partnership we remained tight and stable and weathered most of the directives set by NHS England. In the latter years, it has been impossible to recruit partners to practices all across the country and gaps often have to be filled by locums with even more impact on continuity of care.

I'm now 60 and due to a number of factors beyond my control, face retirement in July 2019.

Jan, my wife, has had a long relationship with Tatsfield School as a music teacher and is retiring at the same time. We are both looking forward to travelling more in our campervan along with our dog Sophie. We have loved living in Tatsfield and taken great pride in our community. We have raised four wonderful boys in a very supportive environment, (all of them love coming back to Tatsfield at any opportunity).

I've had many hobbies and interests and some 10 years ago was asked by Ken Thurgood whether I would like three broken-down beehives that were in his woods and scheduled to be burnt! Being a keen wood worker, I set about repairing them and also making a Top Bar hive at the same time. I joined the Westerham Beekeepers' Association and very quickly was given a colony of bees. It is generally accepted by beekeepers that we don't charge each other for bees, and I'm pleased to report that I have started five new beekeepers in our area.

To my shock, I developed a serious Bee Allergy a couple of years ago and had to travel weekly to the Maritime Hospital in Gillingham to be de-sensitised, (this was only partially successful). I am keen to remain as a bee guardian and besides taking sensible precautions, I've invested in a particularly good bee suit!

I have now scaled down the number of hives from eight to three at Furze Corner. My best colony produced 150 pounds of honey last year which we normally don't sell and prefer to share with family and friends. I'm sure there will be other opportunities to write about bees in the parish magazine in the future, but I will finish with a very interesting, once-in-a-lifetime experience that happened yesterday (24/3/19):

John and Laura, who live at the bottom of Paynesfield Road, contacted me and Andrew Lake via Tatsfield Talk. They reported that they had had a dead oak tree taken down, only to discover the tree surgeon had cut through an old bee colony high up in the trunk!



Andrew Lake recently moved to Ship Hill and is a keen beekeeper but does not currently have any bees. However, he does have a brand new Bee vacuum that can be used to literally



hoover up bees in awkward places! The fabulous thing is that bees have an exoskeleton – a hard outer shell that not only gives them structure, but also protection and support - so vacuuming them up didn't

hurt or damage them. As the pictures show, we were able to rescue a beautiful blonde queen along with all her sisters (there are no boy bees at this time of year!). We were able to cut out all of the old combs with a breadknife and house them in the same order in one of Andrew's spare hives.

What was particularly evident in this venture, was the sense of community that we have in Tatsfield. I'm sure John, Laura and her two young sons enjoyed the experience and will be happy to know that their bees will still be flying around Tatsfield and I have made a new 'bee friend' in Andrew, who happens to have the latest Bee vac!

I will, of course, keep you up to date with how the bees get on through the summer.





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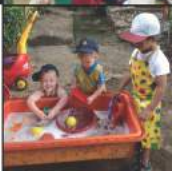


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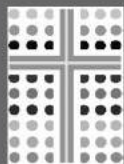
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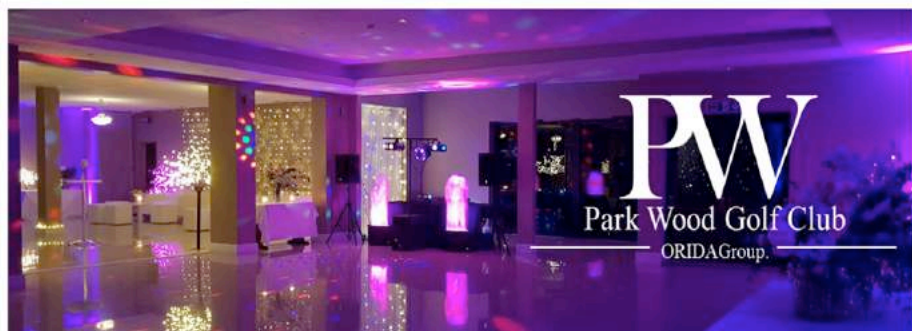


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