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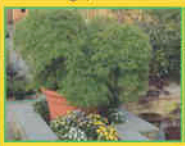

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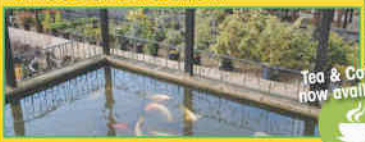

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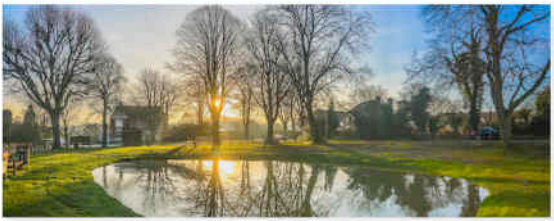

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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16th of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Dec/Jan double issues. 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 Date sour calendar usually covers six weeks or more from publication so please give us your dates in good time. If you don't want your event to clash with others why not check with us early?

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EDITORIAL

The idea of a second chance is something that can capture our imagination, as it offers hope and encouragement. I therefore followed Andy Murray's return to the tennis court with some interest. Earlier in the year he had retired due to a hip problem, but following a further operation he was now declaring himself to be pain free and ready to go. It was then surprising that he not only returned to the court but together with partner, Feliciano López, he won the men's doubles at the Queen's Club.

Recently, I re-read the old Bible story of Noah and the Ark. If you know it, then whatever else we may think about it, it is perhaps another example of fresh opportunities, as it has a happy ending with Noah and his family and all the animals emerging from the Ark into a renewed world following the Great Flood.

The hymn writer, John Newton, gave us the hymn "Amazing Grace", which may be seen as testimony to changes in his life. On a spiritual level, his becoming a Christian meant leaving behind his involvement with the slave trade and campaigning with William Wilberforce for its abolition, which was to be a significant moment in our history (although the battle with modern-day slavery continues to this day). What may be less known was John's earlier experience in March 1748, when he cried out for God's mercy in the midst of a storm at sea and was subsequently saved from almost certain death. This resulted in his conversion and may well have inspired the opening words of the hymn: "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me".

I sometimes struggle with concerns for those I love, for the work I do and for the world at large. In the face of this, it is probably important to remember that each new day is a fresh gift – a second chance! Therefore, we might look for things to be thankful for and positive things to contribute. I recall our Flower Festival at the end of May (reported in this edition), with so much that was good – almost overwhelmingly so, when you consider the incredible beauty of a single bloom or leaf – or indeed the red admiral butterfly that I saw on my way to the Village Hall the other day.

God bless,
Vince Short

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LETTERS

We have received a letter from Betty Perry this month. Her handwriting is so beautiful, we have reproduced as we received it, to share this work of art with you all!

Ed.

As I reflect on the Flower Festival Concert held in May I am conscious of many villagers who deserve a volume of thanks.

I have no doubt that Sheila Cook seized the task of selling tickets as she did last year for the original concert. Her extreme kindness to those of vintage years is the reservation of seats which ensure that we enjoy the occasion in full measure.

Members of the floral group had applied their artistry and skill to make our lovely church look magnificent. The obvious need to keep the flowers regularly watered during the three days of the festival was all part of their diligent service.

The music performed by our talented young people was very moving. Some of them were having to cope with A-levels or GCSE's which proved the extent of their dedication. The excellence which they achieved was admirable.

When I went down to the hall to enjoy some refreshments I was astounded by the vast array of varied dishes professionally presented. I immediately enquired who was responsible, and was told that Lucy Budgen had been in charge of a group. Knowing that Lucy worked full-time at Oxted County School I could only marvel at how she had found either the opportunity or the energy to produce this unique feast!

Having enjoyed a most memorable evening I humbly and sincerely offer my appreciation to everyone concerned.

Once again we have witnessed the effect of the wonderful spirit which prevails in this village, embracing three generations.

Betty Perry

Dear Editor

Once again it was such fun being involved in the Tatsfield Flower concert. Many thanks for asking me back again, I sang “You raise me up”, “Empty chairs and empty tables” and along with a lot of the other performers did a rendition of “Any dream will do” from Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the ladies that helped with the chorus for that!

Also, thanks to Ann Lovelace who did a brilliant job of being compere and to Sheila Cook for organising tickets and things, the evening went down very well.

Well done to all involved and I hope it was the huge success I felt it was.

I hope to be invited again.

Angus Morton

Dear Editor

The Residents at the lower end of WESTMORE ROAD (i.e. the unmade-up part) have recently paid to have some repair work done to improve the condition of the road. If you are a regular user of the road you will have noticed the difference now that the potholes and undulations have been smoothed out. Wear and tear from the weather cause enough damage as it is so could we please ask you to DRIVE SLOWLY & CAREFULLY when using this part of the road. Thank you.

Sara Williams

THE MYSTERY OF THE BULLETS AT BEACON SHAW

Did they belong to a spy or a decorated war hero? I read last month's Daily Mail article about the bullets at Beacon Shaw, purportedly having belonged to Soviet spy Donald Maclean. This got me wondering, so I thought I would investigate. By way of background, my godfather, Teddy Leslie, and Luis De La Torre bought Beacon Shaw in 1955. My father, Dominic McHugo, bought Beacon Shaw I from Teddy Leslie in 1962. Teddy, Luis and Dominic were lifelong friends as they had been to school together at John Fisher school in the 1930s. I therefore knew the De La Torre family very well. According to them (resident at Beacon Shaw II 1955-2004) their father Luis held onto his rifle and two German pistols and ammunition on returning home after the Second World War. Luis used the rifle for fox control when the family had 300 laying chickens in the late 1950s. In the early 1960s the rifle was reluctantly handed in during a gun amnesty. However, Luis kept the two pistols under the floorboards in his bedroom and unbeknown to the rest of his family, he took them when they moved to Herefordshire in 2004.

After Luis's death in 2011 the family found the pistols in a briefcase under his bed, one of them was loaded! They were taken to a police station packed into the boot of a car surrounded by sandbags in case the loaded pistol went off. Many of the “Tatsfield old guard" will have known Luis De La Torre. Please forgive the trip down memory lane. Luis served during the war as a Royal Marine Commando in the Operation Chariot raid on the St Nazaire harbour docks on the north bank of the river Loire. After being taken as prisoner Luis spent his war years at the notorious Stalag VIII B prisoner of war concentration camp, and despite four attempts to escape he remained a prisoner until liberated. In later years Luis was honoured with an MBE in 1997 and received the French Legion d'Honneur in 2006.

The Russian spy Donald Maclean was in contrast unlikely to harbour a gun or ammunition, being an academic. Maclean was head of the American department of the Foreign Office and was only resident at Beacon Shaw for just over six months. Donald Maclean defected from Beacon Shaw on Friday 25th May 1951, on his 38th birthday, with fellow spy Guy Burgess, who used the false name of Roger Styles which was taken from an Agatha Christie novel. They drove a hired car on a 100-mile journey to Southampton to catch the last ferry to St Malo and then via diverse routes travelled to Moscow. Did Maclean leave his bullets at Beacon Shaw in the rush to escape capture? I think not.

Maclean did however leave his two sons Donald and Fergus and pregnant wife Melinda who joined him in Moscow a few years later.

Did the bullets belong to a decorated war hero or a Russian spy? I will leave it to you to decide.

Tim McHugo, Beacon Shaw I

FROM THE CURRENT OWNERS

As the current residents of Beacon Shaw II, and the person that made the recent discovery of the bullets, Tatsfield Parish Mag asked Suzanne Rhule for her thoughts on this piece. She said, “It’s really interesting hearing different stories and theories about this beautiful house”.

Ed.

THE KEY2 LIFE

I have lived in Tatsfield with my family since 1975. You may have seen me around the village, either running, cycling, or just walking. I retired in May 2004, having run a successful financial planning business. In June 1975 I attended an International sales conference in San Francisco, USA. At this meeting I was introduced to an idea called "The Whole Person Concept". It really made sense to me and has been the guiding light to me ever since. The Whole Person Concept teaches that we are Whole People and that all areas of our life should be in balance. If any one area of our life is out of balance with other areas, we can have problems.

I have designed a Life Development programme which will help people become all they were meant to be, do and have in every area of their lives. "The Whole Person Approach, The Key2Life, Success and Happiness."

I am now 83 and would like to pass these ideas on to others. I don't want to die with the music still in me! I am presenting a nice low-key friendly talk on The Whole Person Approach, The Key2Life, Success and Happiness at Sheree's Store and Tearoom on The Green, Tatsfield at 10am on Saturday September 14th, 21st and 28th.

It is free – the only thing asked of you is your presence, a note pad and pen. The programme has worked for me, my friends and clients. It could be your satnav to a great life. Come along and find out more. What have you got to lose?

Roy Savery

Please note, if you ever require an additional copy of the Parish Magazine, extra copies are available at Sheree's Tearoom and can be purchased for £1.

Paracise™

Classes now at TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL -TUESDAYS 4.15pm (1st CLASS FREE) then only £5 per 45 min class.

Gentle yet effective exercise programme ideal for those who find conventional classes too demanding.

Improves balance, mobility, strength & posture with NO FLOOR WORK.

Fabulous music! Call Tara: 07717 797 027 or just turn up!

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The new Parish Council is now settling into its various roles with a busy June meeting attended by many parishioners and guests.

Planning

We received six notices of planning to consider this month. For five we had no comment and one objection. (Details of these decisions can be found under minutes of meeting 10th June at Tatsfield Village website www.tatsfield.org.uk.)

Website

In this magazine you will see an appeal for help in setting up a new village website. If you have any expertise in this area and can help, we will be setting up a small group and volunteers are very welcome.

Hedges and Overhanging Branches.

The Parish Council has received a few comments about overgrown hedges in the village. Please if your hedge/trees are now growing out into the roads and footpaths they need to be cut back. Please

Make sure site lines are kept clear, and don't forget we have an excellent composting centre in the village for your trimmings.

Tatsfield In Bloom

The judging of Tatsfield in Bloom takes place in July. I think you will agree the team have done an excellent scheme again this year. Please help by having a tidy around your gardens and helping to show off our beautiful village.

Tennis Court at MUGA

Once again, a tennis net will be put up at the MUGA for the summer. Please take care when using this facility and report any problems. The MUGA will be open every day during the summer holidays.

The Parish Council will not be sitting in August and there will be no Bakery sessions during the month. But if you have any queries or problems please do not hesitate to contact myself, the Clerk or any other Parish Councillor.

I wish you all a very Happy Sunny Summer.

Kim Jennings, Chair
(Tel: 577328; Email: kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE JULY/ AUGUST 2019

The Neighbourhood Plan team are pushing ahead with the work to produce our first draft document later this year or early next year. Some important dates for your diary:

- Sunday 7th July – The Scout Fete: The Neighbourhood Plan team will be sharing space in a gazebo on Westmore Green with the new parish councillors and FairTrade. Come and see some examples of your comments following the public consultations in April and May; see the latest analysis of the Housing Survey and the Call for Sites. It is not too late for you to add your comments on our work so far, or to record your views on other neighbourhood matters.
- Tuesday 16th July – The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meets in the Aileen McHugo Building behind the Village Hall at 8.00pm. This is a working meeting and the community is welcome to attend and add its views. There will not be any meetings in August.
- The process of producing the Neighbourhood Plan is not about developing a Mega village/Parish. It is about making sure parishioners have their say in any future development should the government force a housing allocation on the parish.
- The current independent recommendations from AECOM for housing needs in our parish over the next 15 years is up to 167 new properties which would be fulfilled by the current level of planning applications currently being submitted annually. See below.
- How Tatsfield has expanded between 2004 and 2019 from a 2001 population of 1726 to ca.1800 in 2011. Multi-unit developments added since 2004 have been:

2004 31 Paynesfield Road	2 units
2004 Vern Place	9 units
2005 The Copse	13 units
2005 Church Farm Barns	4 units
2005 Crayford Cottage, Johns Road	5 units
2007 Woody End, Johns Road	5 units
2011 Gresham Close	10 units
2011 Bassetts, Westmore Green	7 units
2013 Old school site	2 units
2014 35 Westmore Road	4 units
2017 Shelleys, Westmore Road	3 units

The net number of dwellings added by developers since 2004 is 58. Permission for a further 14 single dwellings has been given in that time, making a total of 72 extra dwellings in the last 15 years - an average of just under five a year and, if continued at the same rate would mean a further 72 units over the period of the plan (2018-2033).

The discussion is about where they should be built. The call for sites brought forward 17 sites across the village from Approach Road through the village centre – Goatsfield Road - Paynesfield Road- Maesmaur Road - Borough Road – Rag Hill Road and Ricketts Hill Road and these sites are currently being assessed independently against very tough criteria to see if any sites are suitable for consideration.

The Steering group is now nearing the time when topic papers are completed and turned into the draft Neighbourhood Plan, so this is now the time for you to become involved and have your say. All comments should be e-mailed to tatsfield.plan@btinternet.com or passed to a member of the Steering Group whose details are on the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan website.

Martin Allen

POLICING

Hello Tatsfield, been hot hasn't it! I believe the official Latin terminology is Sweatus Odourus Maximus! This type of weather, coupled with the longest days of the year, normally lends itself to increased crime levels. That hasn't been the case around these parts, with only one 'regular' crime reported in the village in seven weeks. During June, private stables at a property in Manor Road were broken into, with garden machinery items stolen. Sadly, given the large timeframe and isolated location, there are no witnesses or CCTV evidence to go on.

The only other incident of note during this period was an attack in Paynesfield Road by a dog on another smaller dog. It also bit the owner on the hand, causing an injury. The victim dog had to have surgery and both are now recovering. The dog ran out from a property without the owner seeing. For failing to keep a dangerous dog in a safe and secure place, and allowing it to escape and bite another dog and person, the owner has now been given a Dog Control Order, which contains sixteen conditions, with which the owner must comply, severely restricting the dog's movements. Failure to comply with any of these results in a prosecution. To put any resident fears at ease, the dog in question and its owner, are now no longer residing in the village.

Next, with the summer break upon us, police have been given reports of local children riding bikes and doing wheelies down the middle of residential roads. Needless to say, this is extremely dangerous and should only be done away from any roads. Before Tatsfield School breaks for summer, I intend to attend to give a friendly warning to the pupils to be as careful as possible when riding around the village. It only takes one lack of control, or one motorist to see a bike wheelie too late, to make an incident a real possibility. Can parents please also give similar warnings before offspring go adventuring!

I know I say this every summer, but if you're having a barbeque, invite your neighbours! It cuts right through any issues.

Lastly, kids: have lots of fun, but don't make us grown-ups grumpy, as we're probably having less fun than you already!

That's all folk...see you around the village,

Rupert, PCSO 12599 KELLEY, Surrey Police

STOP PRESS: On 27th June a male resident was robbed of his moped at the old bus stop, Westmore Road. He was there with two friends, when a car pulled up (black Nissan Micra on cloned plates) with three males in it. Two got out, with one demanding he take the moped. Statements have been taken; enquiries are ongoing.
***STOP STOP PRESS*:** The moped was been spotted by pure chance by the victim's sister the next day and has been retrieved. It will now be examined forensically, but the investigation will continue.

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The full council meeting of the 21st May did result in my becoming the Vice Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and will see me in my first committee meeting on the 30th July. My fellow Independent Group Councillor, Jeremy Pursehouse, was voted in to the Chairmanship of the Council with Simon Morrow a Liberal Democrat but a fellow Warlingham councillor as the Vice Chairman. So our roles will be very much Independent against the wants and wishes of the other Groups on the Council. With Tony Elias as the new leader of the Conservative minority, this means that it is the first time for many years there is not an Oxted Councillor leading the Council's administration.

Of course, the European Elections were thrust on us not long after that. Again, much change was evidenced by the vote of the people and the Brexit Party were the driving force in the District.

So the time between my election and writing this report has been taken up with many training programmes from the Council including Planning, Planning Policy and Local Government Finance. I had a meeting with the Chief Executive on the "way forward" for the district where I also took the opportunity to report to her many of the things that I think we are being let down on and I hope to see improvements in the future. Namely on communication and early resolution of reported enforcement and other problems.

I attended a Community Services committee meeting but was unable to attend my Housing Committee and Cllr Becky Rush and I attended the Titsey Parish Meeting which unfortunately was on in the same evening,

As I write this in my other role as Neighbourhood Plan Chairman I have just escorted around the village the staff from AECOM who will be doing the independent assessments on the call for sites.

I continue to report incidents of overflying aircraft in Tatsfield and think now that the weather has improved, we are seeing more incidents of over flying although they do not all seem to be taking off from Biggin Hill so we are also being blighted by some Redhill departures.

By the time of the next magazine I would have met with the P.C.C., attended a Biggin Hill Consultancy meeting, a full council meeting, Speed watch training, met with our local Biggin Hill Councillors, been to the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee as Vice Chairman, attended the Festival of Flight as the guest of the Airport management and various other committees to do with Tandridge District Council and associated roles.

If you have anything that you would like me to raise at any of these meetings please let me know.

A major fly tip occurred down Kemsley Road. We were fortunate that a helpful resident not only cleared up the majority of the dump but also advised TDC of an address where it was likely the fly tip came from. Let's hope for some good news regarding a heavy fine for this one.

On your behalf the Parish Council Chairman and I completed a response to **Surrey Council's survey about "Rethinking Transport in Surrey"**. We pointed out the obvious regarding our services. So many of the questions were not relevant but there are two here that we would be interested in receiving your feedback on so that we can add them to the next stage of this consultation. Use the email address(s) below.

Question 5: *When residents talk about transport and travelling in Surrey, what is most important to them?*

Question 9: *What are residents saying should be the most important aspects of the transport system for Surrey in future, by 2030 and beyond?*

Tandridge Together Lottery

On Saturday 8th June a winner from Kenley scooped the second highest prize of £2,000 in the Tandridge Together Lottery draw. She was one of the lucky 47 winners who all won prizes on that Saturday night. Tickets cost just £1 and all profits will go to good causes in the Tandridge district. Anyone buying a ticket can select the local good cause they want to support from those registered on the website. As there are many Tatsfield clubs and societies do please continue to support this scheme.

Ellice Road car park redevelopment: this has been withdrawn and parking is to be reviewed starting by introducing two hours of free parking at Ellice Road until June 2021. This will replace the current one hour of free parking. But watch out for the starting date and don't get caught out in the meantime.

The Housing Committee approved a broad range of services and activities to be provided at the **Douglas Brunton Centre** by a community organisation. This

organisation will take over the running of the Centre on 1st October 2019 to provide activities and services which will benefit existing centre users and the wider community.

In the meantime, 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

HELP PREVENT FLYTIPPING

Residents and businesses are urged to be vigilant when employing traders to dispose of their waste or risk fines of up to £400.

Although a rogue trader may flytip the waste, it could still be whoever employs them that is fined. To avoid prosecution, residents and businesses must ensure they use a registered waste carrier and ask them how and where they intend to dispose of waste, get a receipt and avoid traders who knock on doors or advertise on websites like Facebook and Gumtree.

Flytippers can face fines of up to £50,000 and imprisonment of up to twelve months if convicted. They are also at risk of being sentenced to unpaid community service or having their vehicle crushed.

Residents can help by making sure anyone who collects waste from their home is properly licensed. The Environment Agency has a public register of waste carriers. You can call tel: 03708 506 506 on look on its website:
https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers

To report flytipping in progress call Surrey Police on 999. In other cases:

- Report it online using the flytipping report form at www.tandridge.gov.uk.
- Call Tandridge District Council in confidence on 01883 722000.
- Call the Environment Agency on 0800 807060 if there is a serious pollution risk or a major incident.
- Report it to Surrey County Council at www.surreycc.gov.uk if the flytip is blocking a road.

RESIDENTS' RECYCLING RESULTS IN STUNNING SAVING FOR SURREY

Surrey residents recycled even more food waste in their caddies last year meaning that £310,000 is now being saved every year and helping to protect essential services.

Residents' efforts have made savings because it costs less to recycle food waste (turning it into electricity) than it does to dispose of it. And, even though it's only a small action, it shows that putting a bit more into your caddy can make a big difference.

Even though big savings are already being made, more food waste can go into caddies. In fact, if all food waste in Surrey went into caddies, it would save an extra £3 million a year. And remember, all food can go into your caddy so please put more in and help increase the savings being made.

For more information on how to recycle food waste, visit surreyep.org.uk.

PFA 100 CLUB DRAW

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

1st Prize:	Nigel Gracie	£49.50
2nd Prize:	Alan Thorpe	£33.00
3rd Prize:	Chris Heasman	£16.50

and for May 2019:

1st Prize:	Keith Woolfrey	£49.50
2nd Prize:	Ken Budgen	£33.00
3rd Prize:	Tom Ellis	£16.50

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

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

GARDENING CLUB

After half term in February we planted our broad beans and peas in beds which had grown other vegetables in last year, explaining to the children about rotation of crops. Unfortunately, before we had a chance to cover them, our furry or feathered friends had a meal of the new, young shoots! However, we replanted and then netted them and they have grown well so far. The children water them when necessary and weed the beds.

We also planted a bed of carrots, parsnips and spring onions, which were slow to germinate but eventually have come through. We have now sown some butternut squash seeds in the same bed to see if we can be successful with these this year. The two large tyres are being planted with courgettes, grown by the children from seed, and salad vegetables, the other tyre already having been sown with radishes by Year 2 and the crop harvested.

Once the crops have grown, the children will harvest them, bag them up at lunchtime and sell them to the parents after school for a nominal amount. The funds from this go towards the seeds for the following year. The children will also be picking the raspberries, gooseberries and other fruit in the orchard for selling to parents.

Our raised beds are full at the moment of self-seeded poppies and borage which the bees are loving! When these are finished, we will be replacing them with marigolds and other annual plants which the children have been growing in the potting shed.

Music at Tatsfield School

It's hard to believe that the end of another school year is fast approaching! Life at Tatsfield School is perpetually busy, delightfully varied and jam-packed with exciting activities and the busier one is, the quicker the days and weeks fly by!

Music is the most wonderful subject to teach and over the last year, we have enjoyed a variety of musical events. The autumn term celebrated another Harvest Festival, closely followed by our two Christmas Nativities: 'Hey Ewe' performed by our key stage one pupils and 'The Icing on the Cake' by key stage two children.

In the spring term, we took part, for our fifth consecutive year, in Sign2Sing, in which the whole school learnt to sing and sign simultaneously, having considerable fun whilst also raising much-needed funding for the Deaf Health Charity Signhealth. During this same term, the orchestra and choir started preparations for our May Music concert and our Year 4 class had a term of weekly class lessons learning the violin under the expertise of Mrs Todd, our peripatetic instrumental teacher. This culminated in a performance to parents and a few pupils wishing to continue lessons, which was very pleasing! Year 2 also had the opportunity to learn an instrument, the recorder, and they also enjoyed show-casing their achievements to their parents.

The summer term is, without doubt, the busiest as we have the May concert just prior to half term, followed by our end of year musical.

The May concert was a great success, with the choir and orchestra performing several pieces and an impressive number of pupils keen to play a solo. These included: violin, flute, recorder, clarinet, piano and voice and we were immensely proud of all those children who displayed courage and talent in copious amounts

Our summer musical is 'Pantastic', a version of James Barrie's wonderful story, 'Peter Pan' and rehearsals are underway. The show opens with a song entitled 'Nobody wants to grow up' – a notion that I totally relate to with my imminent retirement in July. I feel extremely privileged to have enjoyed 14 years teaching a subject that I am passionate about, at the most wonderful village school. In Plato's words:

Music gives a soul to the universe, Wings to the mind,
Flight to the imagination, and life to everything.

Jan Akhtar

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

Our trip to Godstone Farm in May was once again enjoyed by all. It was lovely to see so many parents come along with their children and it was great for the children to play together as a group in a different environment, especially in the glorious sunshine!

The children experienced a tractor ride, enjoyed the indoor play barn, a picnic in the sun, giant sandpits and were lucky enough to see some piglets and lambs. Some of the children also chose to handle some of animals in the barn.

For the second half of the summer term we worked with the children in preparing them for the transition into primary school and to be overall more competent and confident with their individual independence.

We practised dressing and self-care routines, together with providing games and activities particularly promoting active sharing and turn taking, whilst building upon their relationships and friendships with their peers and familiar adults.

Twenty-one of our children here at Little Acorns move onto big school this year. It has been an absolute pleasure to teach and care for them and it has been especially rewarding to witness them grow and develop into capable and confident young children, in preparation for this big transition in their lives. We wish them all the best of luck in their new schools and will very much miss their presence in our setting.

We still have spaces for funded and non- funded children to start in September 2019. For more information or to arrange a visit please contact our Office Manager on the email below.

Jen Creed
Practitioner at Little Acorns Preschool
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

HEAR HERE

Are you interested in being a Hearing Champion?

Would you like to join our team of volunteers providing this useful community service?

Hear Here is a free aftercare service for NHS Hearing Aids in Tatsfield. **This drop-in Hearing Aid service is held on the first Thursday of each month between 1.30pm and 3pm in the Aileen McHugo Building, behind the Village Hall.** This session is offered by St Mary's Church and several volunteers. Two of the volunteers have been trained as Hearing Champions and supplied with batteries and tubes to deliver this drop-in service. Those who attend the sessions are provided with easy access to support and help, for which they would otherwise have to travel to the hospital, saving them time and a longer journey.

To become a Hearing Champion training is provided by the local NHS Audiology service in partnership with the Diocese of Guildford. The training is two sessions on one day and then you are supported by the trained Hearing Champion at the monthly session. Further updates are available at different times of the year. For more information or to enquire please contact me on 01959-577864. Or why not drop in on one of our sessions to see the set up and have the opportunity to ask further questions.

Hilary Vale

CALLING ALL WEBSITE GURUS

At the end of March 2020, Surrey County Council is withdrawing the website platform currently used by Tatsfield Village and the Parish Council. Although a bit of a blow, it is the perfect opportunity to redesign and update our website. Tatsfield Parish Council is looking to put together a small working group to manage the redesign and migration. If you have expertise in this area and would have some time to spare to help with this project then we'd love to hear from you.

Please email Alex Davies at:

alexdavies@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

1st TATSFIELD SCOUTS

It's hard to believe that when you read this article the summer holidays will have almost begun, and another year of scouting will have come to an end. We shall be saying a fond farewell to five Beavers who will be moving onto Cubs, two have been with us for over two years and have been such incredible role models to all new Beavers and will be very much missed by us all.

This half term we have been very busy, at the start of June, we gave each Beaver Colony several cereal boxes, tubes, tin foil and tape and asked them all to create a robot each. The outcome was amazing! As you will have seen if you read the Surrey Mirror, Beavers are this year working with Tatsfield in Bloom to help them achieve their Gardening Badge. We have been planting seeds ready to sell at our Summer Fete as well as planting the troughs outside Sheree's Store and the School. For Father's Day we provided each Beaver with a canvas, bolts, screws and nuts and they produced a heart shaped picture. It surprised me how many bolts and screws were required to fill a canvas. We had a visit from Martin the Lollipop man from Biggin Hill Primary School, to talk about crossing the road safely and what his equipment is used for. On Tuesday 25th June we all met at Downe Activity Centre for Go-Carting - it proved to be a very competitive evening with everyone having a lot of fun.

To finish the term, we shall be having Boom Art Academy coming in to do Street Dance, a hike in Limpsfield Woods and our summer party.

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

Jenny Snelling, Beaver Scout Leader

Cubs have also had another busy term. They have learned how to build an electric car using batteries, card, plastic and wheels - the finished cars were amazing. On 12th June we had a visit from a group who demonstrated "parkour" and allowed us to learn techniques to give us the opportunity of having a go ourselves. On the 19th June, we learned how to do essential bike maintenance (mend a puncture, oil a chain and adjust the brakes), with the summer-light evenings, these skills will come in handy. On Saturday 22nd it was the turn of the Cubs to join their district for a fun day of activities (SCRAM). The weather was perfect, and all Cubs had a great time. The rest of the term we shall be selling raffle tickets, attending district rounder's competition and activities at Downe Activity Centre.

Leigh Keegan, Cub Scout Leader

THE OXTED ROTARY CHARITABLE TRUST

Rotary
Club of Oxted & Limpsfield

Oxted Rotary Club is always keen to help the local community, so it is with some enthusiasm that it has announced the launch of a community grant scheme that will enable the distribution of modest funds to deserving people throughout the Oxted area.

In time, the club hopes to expand the scheme so that it benefits any number of local social groups but, initially, the Oxted Rotary Charitable Trust is offering immediate needs grants of up to £250 to single parent families to enhance their daily lives.

If you are a single parent with one or more children under the age of eighteen and you are living with mental health issues, some kind of disability or serious illness, or a very low income, you may well qualify for a grant, so why not consider making an application?

Applications will be considered for anything that will enhance the living experience of parent and child and it will be up to the applicant to put his or her case. The worthiness of all applications will be assessed by the Trust, so, if you think you might be eligible for an Oxted Rotary grant and your special venture or project is just beyond your reach, you should apply now.

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered on a monthly basis, depending on what funds are available. To request an application form, send your name, telephone number and address by email to grants@oxtedrotary.org.uk using SINGLE PARENT as the subject. You can also call Stella Clare at Tandridge Voluntary Action to request an application form.

TATSFIELD IN THE SUMMER OF 1919

From time to time during the twenty years I was Tatsfield's representative on the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee, there were complaints about drivers taking short cuts to the airport and increasing traffic on Tatsfield's local roads unduly. Until recently, I thought this was a new problem.

The other day I stumbled across an item in the Kent and Sussex Courier from the summer of 1919! This was from the time when the Royal Air Force was improving the fighter station that was to become so vital to London's defences in the next war. This didn't stop Tatsfield complaining. Later that summer, the outcome was a financial offer from the RAF - £67 in compensation – roughly £3,500 in today's money.

> Thte SURVEYOR also reported that a considerable amount of damage had been done to the surface of Tatsfield Lane by traffic from Biggin Hill Aerodrome, and asked permission to submit the case to the Joint Roads Committee, with a view to compensation being granted.

> SURREY and KENT BORDERS.
> Nearly 800ft. up. 3 miles Westerham Station.
> TANGLANDS CASTLE, TATSFIELD.
> Attractive Freehold RESIDENCE in Mediaeval-style, with Stabling, Garage and Pleasure Gardens and Grounds of 3 acres. Good detached House and a Cottage. Company's water and telephone.
> DENYER and RUMBALL will include this Property in their Auction on September 16th, as above.

Also that summer, a piece of prime property came up for sale. This was the 'folly' in Goatsfield Road said to have been built by a Victorian entrepreneur for his Spanish lover. It was later the home of Rutland Boughton, composer of the 'Immortal Hour' – an opera first performed in 1914. In the decades that followed this became one of the most frequently performed operas on the English music scene.

Tanglands Castle, when not in private hands, later became a youth hostel and was also used by trade unions in the 1930s as a training centre. By the 1960s, it was ripe for re-development. Apparently riddled with dry rot, it was burnt down while being demolished in the 1970s.

The summer of 1919 was the first after four years of war and it was time for celebrations. The

Westerham Herald described a procession from the school in Church Lane to Westmore Green. *"Great excitement was caused by the arrival of the Ukelele Jazz Band and its pet monkey*". A "*Joy Day*" tea was arranged for village children in the afternoon with the Parish Hall decorated with flags and flowers. Fifty servicemen were entertained to tea at Mr Potter's tea rooms – now the Old Bakery restaurant. "*An entertainment was provided by a local concert party, happily augmented by the East Surrey Cycling Club Glee Party who happened to be passing through the village*". Rain prevented outdoor sports, but the day ended when a bonfire "*surmounted by an effigy of the Kaiser consented to burn in first rate style, and large number of fireworks were let off*".

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

TATSFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Hi there, we are your local 'Sunday friendly' cricket team. We are a team of varying ages and abilities who play friendly matches throughout the summer in Tatsfield. We always welcome new players, regardless of experience, and new supporters. We are planning to tun some Kwik cricket/basic cricket skills sessions for the junior members of our community: 12.30-13.30 before each home (H) game. If you like the sound of this, please contact us: **tatsfieldvillagecc@hotmail.com**.

July	7th	H	2pm	vs Priory
	14th	H	2pm	vs Warlingham
	21st	H	2pm	vs Orpington 2nds
	28th	H	2pm	vs Locksbottom 2nd XI
August	4th	H	2pm	vs Nuxley
	11th	H	2pm	vs Chevening Amblers
	18th	H	2pm	vs Old Dartech
	25th	H	2pm	vs Bromley Town
September	1st	A	2pm	vs Broadway
	8th	A	1pm	vs Nutfield CC
	15th	A	1pm	vs Addington 1743
	22nd	A	12:30pm	vs Downe

ST MARY'S NEWS

Flower Team and Flower Festival

First and foremost a big heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the Flower Festival, making it such a success. Particularly Barbara Bailey, Tina Boys, Pauline Conlon, Barbara Hester, Sylvia Hyett, Kay Longley, Ann Lovelace, Rita McKay, Wendy Maddison, Jan and Peter Maynard, Jill Manners, Shirley Murgatroyd, Joan Payne, Barbara Piggott, Kay Roberts, Christine Rosenbaum, Sue Saunders, Sue Smale, Hilary Vale, Pat Walsh, Sue Warren, Sara Williams of our amazing flower arranging team. Plus Sandra Shury and Brian Ling for the paintings specially requested and paintings from other artists. Molly Chapman and Andrew Long for the delicious looking bread plus the support and supply of coffee and cake from Veronica Short. Also, of course, Rhod Jones of the Titsey Estate and his Team who are so supportive of our yearly celebrations. Plus all who helped where ladders etc. were required. Grateful thanks, too, to our sponsors.

This was my first Flower Festival, which I viewed with much trepidation but with the guidance, hard work and support of Jan and Peter Maynard it all seemed to come together. It was also mine and Hugh's first attendance to the Friday evening concert held in the church. Wow, what talent we have in this village plus the beautiful voice of Angus Morton of the Orpheus Centre. Much appreciated was the delectable supper afterwards.

July/August Flower Rota

July	7th Christine Rosenbaum	14th Christine Rosenbaum
	21st Sue Saunders	28th Sue Saunders
August	4th Kay Longley	11th Sue Warren
	18th Sue Warren	25th Kay Longley

Ann Vatcher

Flower Festival *continued….*My thanks to all who worked so hard towards the success of the Concert and Festival, also including the staff at Wilmot Budgen who helped with the design and production of the publicity materials; and the teams who provided tea, coffee and cakes; and Jill Hancock for the delicious ploughman's lunches. Our theme of "Signs and Symbols of the Christian Church" was imaginatively portrayed. Nearly 500 visitors enjoyed the events over the late May Bank Holiday weekend and £2,700 was raised towards the upkeep of St Mary's Church, for which we are very grateful.

Vince Short

Open the Bible (monthly All Age Service at 10am, 1st Sunday of the month)

Our next Open the Bible services will be on July 7th, August 4th and September 1st.

The Churchyard tidy up mornings (10am – 12noon) will be as usual on the first Saturday of each month - August 3rd and September 7th. All help appreciated.

Annual Service at St James, Titsey 6.30pm Sunday 28th July

Please join us for our annual walk to the Titsey Estate. We will meet by St Mary's Church at 4pm for a walk to the Titsey Estate Tea Room, arriving at around 5pm. The Tea Room will be open until 5.45pm especially for this occasion, as the annual choral evensong at St James, Titsey, will follow at 6.30pm. All welcome.

St Mary's Food Bank Collection

Another delivery of food was taken to Christ Church, Brixton on Monday 17th June. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously in a food or a monetary way to enable us to take such a good quantity of food to Brixton. We are one of two churches that regularly supports Christ Church's weekly cafe throughout the year. The cafe is regularly attended by 20 - 25 people who are given 6 food items each week. We plan to make another delivery in mid-August, date to be confirmed. Thank you again, **Hilary**

New Treasurer for St Mary's Church

We are looking for a new Treasurer, to commence as soon as possible, as our current Treasurer, Madie, is anticipating moving. Accounting experience is necessary and Parochial Church Council membership will be desirable but not essential. Sympathy with the aims of the Church would also help. Madie will be available to conduct training and handover. For further information, please speak to Madie or Vince.

St Mary's Tatsfield Golf Day at Limpsfield Chart on Wednesday 11th September

- Limpsfield Chart Golf Club Westerham Road Limpsfield Oxted RH8 0SL
- Handicap not a requirement. Arrival time 9.30am onwards for coffee and bacon roll before start of play - 18 holes. Tee Off time starts at 10.30am. Lunch will be served early afternoon at end of play + prizes
- Cost per person - £40.00
- To reserve a place please call: Marjory Broughton - 01959 541059 or Chris Hancock - 01959 577622. Any suplus funds from the event will be used to purchase food bank contributions.

Records

19th May Baptism of Sam Merron
19th May Baptism of Alfred Judge
2nd June Baptism of Zachary Merron
2nd June Baptism of Autumn Green
8th June Marriage of Lisa McDonald and John Good
13th June Interment of ashes for Olive Briggs
16th June Baptism of Luke Pratley
24th June Funeral of Lerryn Rowson

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the June draw:
56. B Cook £23.75 95. N Ellis £14.25 59. S Murgatroyd £ 9.50 St Mary's £47.50

FLOWER FESTIVAL PHOTOS
With kind permission of Peter Boys and Peter Maynard

WESTMORE GREEN
21st SEPT 2019
1pm - 9pm
Tatsfield Beer Festival
- 2019 -
• REAL ALES • CRAFT LAGERS •
• CIDERS AND PERRIES • WINE • FAMILY FUN •
• BBQ • FAIRGROUND RIDES • LIVE MUSIC •
Find us on Facebook
www.tatsfieldbeerfestival.co.uk
YES

THE WI

If you love jewellery you would have been in for a rare teat this month at the WI. Our speaker Janie Ramsey used her professional expertise with Sotheby's to show us some of the fabulous jewels owned by Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor and eventually sold by Sotheby auction. We learned about the Windsors and the courtship, marriage and life of Wallis and Edward.

There seems to be a story behind each of the pieces, most of which were designed personally by the couple, and sourcing the amazing rare gems was a tale in its own right. Often the Duchess altered and updated pieces – she was a leading light and forerunner of the Art Deco age. When the Duchess eventually died in 1987 she left her 'good jewellry' for auction by Sotheby's, which is when our speaker became familiar with the effects of the Duchess. I wondered how one defines 'good' and 'not so good' jewellry. I guess that is why they are the experts and why the £50m auction record for a sole-owner sale remained for over 30 years. We also learned the fate of some of the iconic pieces when they were resold over the years. When Wallis died the Paris apartment and personal effects were bought by Mohamed Al-Fayed and it was not until the tragic death of his son Dodi that Sotheby's was again asked to auction the rest of Wallis's possessions and jewellry. This auction lasted nine days.

On August 6th we take to the skies with a talk entitled Glamour in the Skies and our gorgeous cabin crew - that should give our summer holiday flights a new perspective.

If you would like to come and try out our meetings please get in touch and I will tell you what is in the programme for coming months. You can also get an update on the village website: https://www.tatsfield.org.uk/other-groups/womens-institute/

Sue Smale, 01959 577660

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The new committee of the Not So Young Club has been very busy sorting out the club's administration affairs and organising the first Members' Afternoon Meeting they have independently organised for this wonderful little group.

The members enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea of delicious homemade cakes, and tasty sandwiches. It was served on beautiful vintage crockery with flowers on the table just to make it seem a little more of a treat! We had a very interesting talk on the Golden Years of Hollywood. At the end of the afternoon we held a raffle and everyone seemed to go home having enjoyed themselves.

The committee were extremely fortunate in being supported by a fabulous group of ladies who volunteered to help the committee make this afternoon go so smoothly. The committee send out a big thank you to these ladies, we couldn't have done it so well without your help. We do still desperately need new committee members.

The fund-raising event on Tuesday 18th June where Dick Griffin gave us an extremely engaging talk on his role as a bodyguard to the Queen and HRH Prince Philip was extremely well received by one and all. Everyone at the Not So Young Club would like to warmly thank all our supporters, including those that supported the event anonymously. Some people came from far afield, one lady having flown over from Jersey to support the Not So Young Club! We would also like to give a big 'shout out' to all the generous local businesses who have given donations for the raffle, they include Andrew from the Bakery, Waitrose Biggin Hill, KJ at Park Wood Golf Club, Sheree from Sheree's Store, Tina from the Ship and the generous donation from the Blue Anchor, St Mary's Platt. Also, a big thank you to Tina from the Ship and Sheree from Sheree's Tea Room for being amazing ticket sellers! It should be noted our District Councillor; Martin Allen, made a generous donation even though he and his partner couldn't attend. So many great cooks baked us delicious food to sell. The evening could not have been the success it was if it hadn't been for everyone's generosity and good spirit on the evening. We managed to raise £918 for our lovely members! All of us at the Not So Young Club are overwhelmed by the support and generosity we have been afforded.

The committee will now be organising the next Members afternoon Meeting, to be held at the WI Hall on the 9th July at 2pm.

The Secretary
The Not So Young Club
Nevertoooldclub@gmail.com

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 (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
	7.00 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

JULY

12th Friday		In Bloom Judges visit
14th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
16th Tues	8.00pm	Neighbourhood plan Steering Group, AMB
21st Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
28th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
28th Sun	6.30pm	Annual Service at St James Church, Titsey

AUGUST

4th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
11th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
18th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner
25th Sun	12.30pm	Tatsfield Cricket club home match and coaching, Furze Corner

SEPTEMBER

11th Wed	9.30am	St Mary's Golf day, Limpsfield Chart Golf Club
14th Sat	10.00am	The Key2Life, Sheree's Tearoom
21st Sat	10.00am	The Key2Life, Sheree's Tearoom
21st Sat	1pm	Tatsfield Beer Festival, Westmore Green
28th Sat	10.00am	The Key2Life, Sheree's Tearoom

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 Club TPS - 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.

MEET THE PEOPLE TOURS – FAIR TRADE HOLIDAYS

Moyna Bridge lives in Oxted and is our Traidcraft rep. She has visited more than 20 producers in five different countries through 'Meet the People Tours'. We asked her to write about her most recent tour.

My first trip to Nepal was a walking holiday in 2001. We were mainly in the foothills and the countryside was beautiful and the mountains very dramatic. The three places we visited were Kathmandu, Pokhara and Chitwan National Park. The people were very poor farmers who worked hard but were happy. The saddest thing I saw was on the road from Kathmandu to Pokhara. Whole families of adults and children were sitting beside the road breaking up stones to build roads.

Earlier this year I returned to Nepal on a 'Meet The People Tour'. This was a very different trip. Our guide was Prajol, a Newa who originated from Kathmandu Valley. He was delightful. As well as the usual sightseeing we visited four fair trade producers. This is about two of them.

The first was Get Paper Industries (GPI) where we were shown all the processes of making and dyeing paper. They make handmade paper from waste materials such as cotton material left over from making clothes, banana fibres, straw and water hyacinths that grow like weeds! Then the paper is used to make books, boxes and carrier bags for gifts. For decoration the paper is dyed or screen-printed which is a very skilled job. Natural dyes are used and a water treatment plant processes the waste water.

GPI has a big contract with The Body Shop for gift boxes for their Christmas sales. In addition to the fair trade requirement of paying fair wages, providing good working conditions, free health, child minding facilities etc. for staff. 4% of the money from sales goes to social programmes: Girl's education, Aids awareness, the Environment and Stopping Trafficking.

200 girls from poor families have their schooling funded. Not only does this allow them to get a good education it has also encouraged families that can afford the fees to send their girls as well as the boys. We visited one of the schools set up by GPI and were entertained to a musical event and dancing.

Now back to the stone breaking community I had seen before. GPI have set up a school to educate the children and break the cycle of such hard work and HIV Aids awareness courses are run for staff and local people.

To look after the environment GPI calculate how many trees would have to be cut down if only wood pulp was used to make the paper. GPI then fund the same number of trees being planted every year by local groups who also look after them. 10,000 have been planted so far.

To stop girls being trafficked GPI has mobilized 1000 girls in 60 groups and have given them training so they are more aware. They have also provided training in money generating schemes such as chicken farming, cow raising, buffalo keeping, felt production, beauty parlour and café work as well as paper making. With all this knowledge and help in their communities they can help other girls.

We also visited Kunbeshwar Technical School (KTS). This wonderful organisation was set up to help the Sudra, the untouchables, the lowest of the caste system. They are the street cleaners, butchers, and poor farmers. It was started with childcare and adult literacy classes that included health and nutrition and an immunisation programme.

We visited the nursery school and a primary school for 250 children. The orphanage was purpose built with four dormitories with washing facilities, a dining room and an outside games area. The children are educated and are given training for a job until they are able to live independently.

Income generating schemes involve carpet weaving, knitting and carpentry with all the benefits of fair trade. There are 2300 producers and they benefit 4000 family and community members.

Whilst at Chitwan National park we were able to see the rhino, crocodiles, deer and lots of species of birds. Also on the programme was a visit to the vulture restaurant!! What was this we thought? The vultures were being poisoned from eating dead cows that were on antibiotics. Solution was to buy the old sick cows from the farmers and look after them until they die. Cows are sacred animals and cannot be killed. The environmental group breed vultures and when the cows die they only feed ones not on antibiotics to the vultures. A win, win situation all round.

Meet the People Tours offers small groups an opportunity to gain an authentic insight into a country's history and culture. Undertaken on fair trade terms and working in partnership with local people they visit fair trade producers and development projects far removed from any tourist trail. They also focus on keeping their footprint light. Their destinations include Peru, Thailand, Malawi, Eswatini, India, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Cuba, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ghana, Vietnam, Chile and South Africa. Their website is meetthepeopletours.co.uk

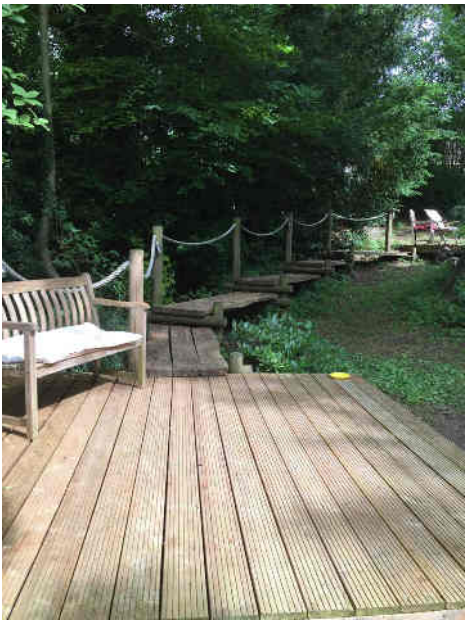
Tatsfield Fairtrade Group

TATSFIELD GARDEN TOUR 2019

As I sit down to write about the garden tours, I find it hard to believe how Tatsfield Horticultural Society ensured it was held on the sunniest day for some time, but manage it they did. On Sunday, 2nd June it was the 18th Garden Tour and once again, Bob David managed to gently persuade six willing volunteers to open their gardens for all of us to enjoy. Each of the gardens, whilst very different in style, size and substance all had a very similar theme, that of tranquillity. It wasn't an easy task to visit all six in the allotted four hours as there was so much to see at each one and I hope I manage to do them all justice.

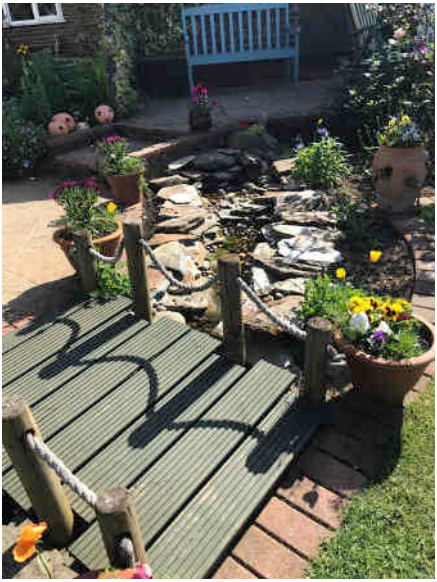
We started off at Tor Croft Grange and Timberdale which are both situated on Tatsfield Lane and the homes of Sue Moon and Virginia and Chris Dodd. The setting of this gated development is perfect with beautiful open spaces reached by an Acer tree lined drive. There was much to see including manicured lawns, herb gardens, flower beds, an orchard, hostas impressively with zero slug damage, a paddock filled with wild flowers and an enormous pond and jetty attracting a number of wildlife and insects, including electric blue dragonflies, much to my children's excitement. It was a perfect resting place for the afternoon with live music and even a fly past by two Spitfires.

Next, we ventured to Craigstone in Barnfield Road and our hosts, Gillian Phillips and Stephen Mittens. Stephen is not only one of our new parish councillors but also heavily involved in the In Bloom team and volunteers. My expectations were high and I was not disappointed. On entering the property we were met with a plethora of colour from the beautiful herbaceous border filled with wild geraniums and poppies. So much work has been put in to this garden by Gillian and Stephen over the eleven years they have lived there, and their efforts have not been in vain. The garden is cleverly divided into different areas including a pollinator garden sewn with wild flowers, a vegetable patch including courgettes, celery, radish, spring onion, strawberries, tomatoes and herbs, compost heap and a beautiful purple clematis. There was also room for tadpoles. Down the lower end is a quieter patch with a Buddha creating a calming effect for this eco-friendly garden.



We then travelled down to the two properties in Paynesfield Road, firstly, number 101, known as The Wood and the hosts Carys and Andrew Long. The first thing you notice on entering is the garden pond full of gold fish and Lilly pads. This seemed, very much, like a garden for entertainment, especially children, mine were in their element. At the top near the house there was a fabulous terrace with pizza oven which must be lovely for dining al fresco in the summer months. In the bottom half, reached along a wooden staircase, is a fabulous play area including swings, slides, seesaw, trampoline, hammock, play house and the most amazing concrete seating structures which must be brilliant for endless games of hide and seek. It took much persuasion to move on to the next house.

Disappointment at leaving The Wood was thankfully replaced with joy at Orchard Leigh, 104 Paynesfield Road where Alex Holroyd and Nick Walsh have built the most amazing wooden castle hand made by Nick. Perhaps, more importantly, from my point of view, there was also a bar! The work and effort that must have gone into making “Hogwarts” is enormous and keeping with the Harry Potter theme future plans include the prison, Azkaban with zip wire. I knew, when I saw my husband squeezing himself into the secret slide compartment and beaming from ear to ear that I had lost my family for the rest of the tour. They didn’t arrive home until much much later and are now begging me for a replica.



And so, I ventured alone to the last but by no means least of the gardens, that of Alan and Liz Armitage at The Croft on Westmore Green. What first struck me about this lovely garden was how amazing to be in the village centre and yet be so quiet and serene. I was interested to see and hear about the transformation they have carried out over 20 years and what a success they have made of it. For me, I particularly liked all the water features including the stream with bridge over to reach the newly re-lined and rainwater filled pond. Alan told me he counted over 157 fish when refilling it. Quite remarkable. There were also blue tits and coal tits nesting in this beautiful garden and I can't say I blame them.

There must have been well over 100 visitors to all the gardens and I understand nearly £1,000 was raised for various charities and village organisations. On behalf of Tatsfield residents and those from further afield I would like to thank, not only the hosts who went to so much trouble to have their gardens ready and welcoming, but also the Horticultural Society for putting on yet another superb family afternoon out.

My eldest, Edward, suggested perhaps we could open our garden next year, much to the look of horror on my husband's face!

Nichola Stokoe

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
HIRE OUR 8 X 3 METRE GAZEBO

Are you planning a family function in your garden this summer? Are you concerned that the weather might spoil your event?

We have an 8 x 3 metre white gazebo for hire that is easy to erect (needs a minimum of four pairs of hands); it has sides that zip together with windows, a string of lights and a rubber mat that covers the area.

You can hire this for just £20.00 per day as part of our fund raising for Society events.

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JULY/AUGUST

Gardening is a series of challenges, mainly by Mother Nature! We took some risks in May and June – first it was cold and wet then it was very hot with some very heavy rain, and now we are threatened with near record high temperatures. The heavy rain is not much use to gardeners, it causes damage and with high temperatures will dry off quickly and not penetrate the soil. Some Tatsfield gardeners reported to me that they had to sow two or even three lots of beans as the earlier sowings rotted in the ground; our Tatsfield in Bloom volunteers worked hard planting up our hanging baskets, mangers and troughs only to see the lovely lime green coleus plants struggle to grow in the cool wet conditions.

In June we had 117mm of rain (more than twice the long-term average) but 60mm of that total fell in the 24 hours on the 10th and 11th June; the temperature ranged from 27C to just 7C, typical for this time of the year.

Now we have the challenges of July and August; probably very hot and periods of very dry weather but rain and wind too, maybe some more summer storms. Here are some survival tips:

- If you have to water plants in the garden in dry, hot weather make sure to do it in the late evening. This gives time for the water to soak into the soil and reduce evaporation. Watering in the heat of the day is usually a waste of time due to evaporation but remember a small droplet of water on a leaf in full sun is a magnifying glass and will result in damage. A quick swish of water over the plants every day does not good at all, better to spend the time soaking the soil, maybe giving it several goes until it soaks away, once a week.
- Get a neighbour or a friend to look after your plants when you are on holiday – a plant sitter! Coming home to a disaster of shrivelled dried up plants can be very frustrating.
- Move containers out of direct sun if you are going away to reduce moisture loss.
- Remove dead heads and trim back plants such as fuchsias and roses so they produce more flowers later on; watch out for those fuchsias that produce seed that develop into black/purple fruits; they may look nice but they are robbing the plant of energy with the result of much reduced production of more flower.
- If it is very hot do not water the grass! Let it go brown and it will 'green up' with rainfall and cooler weather. Part of the reason for grass leaves going brown is not just that the ground can be dry, the leaves can be scorched by the heat of the sun even if the soil has some moisture. Repairing dead patches is best left to September – more on this next month.

Jon Allbutt

TATSFIELD ALLOTMENTS

Its several months since I wrote an article about the allotments - mainly because there is no activity in the winter months, just the stalwart few preparing plots for future rewards.... hopefully! After the hottest April on record and what seems likely to become the wettest June, it's a wonder anything is growing on the site.

You may have noticed some waterworks going on - the water butts are now eight years old and showing signs of wear and tear, so they are being replaced with standpipes as they were a bit unsightly and the constant battle with algae was a nuisance. Alan plans to do one a week until all six are replaced.

The parish council gave us a generous grant towards the cost of a new keypad entry system to replace our old padlock, which was fiddly and gave everyone backache as it hung on a huge chain at knee level. Niall Kells arranged the installation, which involved welding a plate and bolt onto the existing posts. This is now at eye level - so much easier to operate, and it has automatic closing, which is a huge bonus for those of us with arthritic knees and memory problems (hopefully!) Although we have had a few teething problems - some frantic phone calls of "help, I'm locked in!" But we want to assure you we do not imprison workers.... but if your plot is untidy...who knows! About 30 diehard allotmenteers supported our plant swap in May and stayed on all afternoon to enjoy burgers, beer & wine and a good natter in beautiful sunshine. Wildlife is thriving up at the allotments - we are happy to report that our resident partridges are back on site and we are hoping for some offspring this year. However, we are not sure if the frogs that keep jumping out and scaring the ladies are so welcome!

Sadly, we lost all of our bees in the last cold and wet winter. A kind beekeeper in Westerham gave us a few to start us off again. But then Peter Maynard reported he had an excess of bees so we were very happy for him to bring them up in their hive to join the Westerham swarm. Let's hope they all stay and don't fight over accommodation - Ian McAfferr's luxury 5* hive hotel is superb.

By the time you read this, what has become our annual BBQ-cum-Biggin Hill airshow will be due - always a popular occasion as the view is spectacular - and the food is pretty good too!

And in July, some of us are going on an exciting adventure. More about that in the next issue...

Liz Armitage

COMPOSTER'S CHRONICLE

I can't believe we are already halfway through this year's composting season! The bins, which we built last winter, are now all full and we have moved on, a little out of our normal filling sequence, to the previous year's new-build which are all empty at the moment. This is because we are going to try to replace the remaining bins as we empty them rather than filling them up and having to empty them again over the winter to do the rebuild. This may seem like common sense but it is going to be a bit of a challenge, as we will be doing the rebuild at the same time as our normal composting duties. Wish us luck!

I have noticed that we are slowly getting more supporters on the Tandridge Lottery. Ticket sales have gone up from 13 to 17 each week over the last couple of months, which is great news as we get 50p each week from every ticket sold. So, thanks to the newcomers and to all of those who support us. We are still quite a long way off our 50-ticket target, though, so if any others fancy a flutter you can find us most easily by Googling "Tandridge Lottery Tatsfield Composting". We share the page with the Horticultural Society but they very kindly let us keep all the proceeds while we are going through our expensive rebuilding programme.

The new shredder is performing beyond our best expectations. It is particularly good at dealing with the greener, more sappy material as it doesn't have a grating to block up and also has a gale of air blowing through it all the time. We did have to do a bit of experimentation in capturing the shreddings due to the strong airflow. Directing them into a wheelbarrow not only failed to capture them but also removed anything that was already in the barrow but we solved it in the end using a builder's bag supported by four posts.

Hope that the weather is good when you read this and you are enjoying the summer.

Hints and Tips for using the composting site:

Please separate waste three-ways into soft green, which doesn't need shredding, tough green for shredding and woody for shredding.

We will always try to take all your compostable waste but it helps us if you can try to limit it to no more than a large builder's bag or equivalent in any one week. If you have a larger amount please get in touch with me in advance. This will allow us to manage the waste more efficiently.

Please keep any soil and especially stones out of any waste for shredding as these are both bad news for the shredders' blades.

Using our compost will greatly improve your soil and helps us pay our bills!

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

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

We are again competing in the Large Village category of South and South East in Bloom where our competitors are Cobham Parish Council, Eastchurch Parish Council, Eynsford in Bloom, Five Oak Green, Limpsfield in Bloom, Mayfield, Titchfield in Bloom and Woodchurch in Bloom. The judges will be visiting us on Friday 12th July, when they will tour the village for one and a half hours starting at 10.00am. Our volunteers will be out earlier that morning doing the last-minute jobs including litter clearing, and if you would like to help we should be glad to see you in the village centre between 8.00 and 9.00.

The main theme of the floral displays in the village centre this year is the celebration of 10 years of Tatsfield as a Fairtrade Village. On Saturday 8th June a small team of Tatsfield in Bloom volunteers (Ruth and Jim Yeeles, Marian Godfrey, Pam Bishop and Paul Stainer), under the direction of Jon Allbutt, spent much of the day planting the Tatol bed on the corner of Westmore Green at the entrance to the village centre with a picture of the Fairtrade logo. The design is made up of two kinds of carpet bedding plants supplied by Kernock Park Plants in Cornwall plus recycled glass for the black parts of the logo (we could not find a reliable black plant for this). The two plants are senecio serpens (kiena) and sempervivium 'Standard Green'. Yet to go up at the time this is written is some signage explaining the bed.

The first picture shows the scene soon after the team began work and the second shows the team (minus Marian) on completion of their work. The bed now needs

careful maintenance: Jim McKenzie has the responsibility for watering the bed, Ian Longley for grass cutting and Pam Bishop and Marian Godfrey for the plants.

Also at the end of May and beginning of June, the volunteers planted up all the containers, tubs, horse trough and beds with the summer planting of coleus, petunias and dichondra. The colours of these plants represent as near as possible the colours of the Fairtrade logo. As part of their Gardening Badge, the Beavers helped to plant the troughs in front of the shop and at the school. They also sowed quick growing annuals to sell at the Scout Fete on 7th July, and also sowed sunflowers on our allotment plot to enter the Giant Sunflower Competition.

A very big "thank you" to all those of you who have donated towards TIB's costs this year especially for the donations made in the box in Sheree's shop, the Village Club and The Ship.

If you would like to help us on a Saturday morning, we meet at 10.00am every week outside the Bakery.

Many thanks for your support.

Jill Hancock (577622)

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JULY AND AUGUST 2019

The giant planet Jupiter was at its closest to Earth last month and is now rising at a slightly more sociable hour. Although the giant planet rises in daylight at the start of the month it is only 15° in altitude above the south-south-eastern horizon at 10pm. However, it rises earlier and earlier each night until around the 20th/21st of July it is due south at 10pm. There will be no problem identifying the planet as it is by far the brightest object in that part of the sky. Saturn is nearby in Sagittarius but we will look at that later when it is better positioned.

Don't forget the partial lunar eclipse on the evening of July 16th. It begins at 9:01pm when the Moon begins to move into the Earth's shadow. On this occasion just the northern portion of the Moon is eclipsed with maximum immersion occurring at 10:31pm. The Moon then gradually moves clear of the Earth's shadow and has left it entirely by 11:59pm.

Also remember the Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak on the night of August 12th/13th. Look generally northwards after 10pm but be aware there will be a nearly full Moon in the south/south-west that will mask the fainter meteors.

<u>The Apollo Story (Part 3)</u>

In pursuit of President Kennedy's promise, Apollo 8 blasted off on December 21st 1968 atop a Saturn 5 rocket and after a brief spell in Earth orbit the engines fired to break out and head towards the Moon. During the ten lunar orbits that followed the crew were able to practice some details for future missions as well as photograph both the near and far sides of the Moon. They also made a number of broadcasts one of which was when they famously read from the Book of Genesis on Christmas Eve. Apollo 8 did not carry a Lunar Module (LM) although it was ballasted to synthesise for the presence of one. The mission was deemed a success allowing the next flight to go ahead with both a crew and an LM on board for the very first time.

Apollo 9 launched on March 3rd 1969 but remained in Earth orbit to test the functionality of the LM as a separate entity capable of sustaining life in its own right. Manoeuvrability of the module was tested to simulate docking in lunar orbit and two of the astronauts, David Scott and "Rusty" Schweickart, performed space walks. This was another successful mission whose completion gave the green light for a full lunar flight which would do everything planned for Apollo 11 apart from touch down on the surface of the Moon.

Apollo 10 was very much seen as a full-dress rehearsal or a "dry run" for the lunar landing mission to follow. It launched on May 18th 1969 and following just one and a half orbits of Earth it left to become the second Apollo to go to the Moon. It carried a full complement of modules for the first time and included the Command and Service Module (CSM) nicknamed "Charlie Brown" and the LM, "Snoopy". Also aboard were three astronauts Thomas Stafford, John Young and Eugene Cernan who would all go on

to crew later Apollo missions. During the three-day journey to the Moon Young separated the CSM from the LM adaptor, turned it around and docked onto the LM to withdraw it. On arrival they entered lunar orbit and leaving Young in the CM Stafford and Cernan crawled through into Snoopy. The two craft separated and tests were carried out on both the engines for the descent stage (which was jettisoned and crashed into the Moon) as well as the ascent stage of Snoopy. NASA had concerns that the crew would attempt a landing so short-fuelled the ascent stage to prevent this happening. In the book "Rocket Men" Eugene Cernan said in an interview ".....had we literally tried to land on the Moon, we couldn't have gotton off." Following tests on the radar systems the two craft docked again before the ascent stage of the LM was released and sent off into orbit around the Sun. Following an uneventful return flight splashdown occurred in the Pacific Ocean on May 26th 1969.

To be continued.....

BRIAN MILLS, FRAS

Jupiter in Infrared from Hubble Image Credit: NASA, ESA, Hubble

TATSFIELD RAMBLERS

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

Sunday 7th July 2019

Leader: Richard Gadd

Start Point: 10.15am at Marsh Green – by St John's United Reform Church (parking in the road by the church or in the high street).

Map Ref: TQ 438443 Postcode: TN8 5PU

Description: A walk mainly across fields but with some woodland from Marsh Green to Cowden Pound where we will take refreshment at the Queens Arms – a rural Victorian pub where time has stood still. The walk is largely flat but there are some mild undulations. Approximate distance 7 miles, 4 hours, with 6 stiles in total.

Sunday 21st July 2019 – 70's Saunter

Leader: Carol Vening

Start Point: 11.00am Shoreham Station (or if car park is full, in the road adjacent to the station).

Map Ref: TQ 525614 Postcode: TN14 7RT

Description: A walk from Shoreham to Lullingstone Park where we will take refreshments at the visitors centre before retracing our steps. This is slightly longer than our other saunters at 3miles, 2 hours – but it is flat, and will be taken at an easy pace. No stiles. This should coincide with the lavender fields being in bloom at Lullingstone.

Sunday 28th July 2019

Leader: Richard Gadd

Start Point: 10.30am Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve Car Park

Map Ref: TQ 357615 Postcode: CR2 8QF

Description: To Fickleshole via a mixture of ancient woodland and open fields. We will stop for refreshment at the White Bear and return via a different route. The walk is about 6.5 miles in total, 4 hours (both halves are about the same length), with some medium hills. One stile.

Sunday 4th August 2019

Leader: Jan Shepherd and Kathy Bonome

Start Point: 10.30am at Andrews Wood Car Park, Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount

Map Ref: TQ 502616 Postcode: TN14 7BD

Description: This is a 5 mile, 3 hours walk following the Sevenoaks District Council's "Orchid Walk", with a detour to Shoreham for refreshments at Ye Olde George Inn. A steep hill with steps on the return leg.

Sunday 18th August 2019

Leader: Tony and Christine Tomsit

Start Point: 10.30am By the Green, Chiddingstone

Map Ref: TQ 501451 Postcode: TN8 7AH

Description: A fairly easy walk via Hever Castle, Meechland's Farm and Oak Wood to Markbeech where we will take refreshments at The Kentish Horse before returning to Chiddingstone via Hoath Hill. Approximately 6 miles in total. 3.5 hours. Gently undulating with one short steep downhill with steps.

Sunday 25th August 2019 – 70's Saunter

Leader: Carol Vening

Start Point: 10.30am Toys Hill Car Park

Map Ref: TQ 470519 Postcode: TN16 1QG

Description: A 2.5 mile, 2 hour walk to Emmetts where we will take refreshment in the tea room. Some inclines but nothing severe – an no stiles. Note the early (for a saunter) start time – this is because Toys Hill Car Park can become very busy on a summer Sunday.

Walks can be subject to change at very short notice. Please either telephone or check the website. www.westerhamramblers.org.uk The Ramblers do not carry insurance. They started as an informal group and never felt it necessary, so everyone is responsible for themselves (and their dogs). **Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434 Email acresroger@aol.com**

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

We have three new contributors this month – Jim, Shelly and Mary! Jim (Kenney) is the first of these with a report from his garden and beyond (28.04.19):

'In response to your nature notes on Martin Allen's Brambling; I snapped a photo of one in our garden in Ricketts Hill at Easter thinking it was a Chaffinch but it turned out to be the rarer ***Brambling****. It inspired me to photograph the other birds in my garden as we had clocked up an impressive 26 species last year. It is now the end of week one of my bird diary and I have snaps of* **[Pied]** ***wagtail, Robin, Nuthatch, Nightingale, Collared dove, Stock dove, Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Blue tit,*** **[Carrion]** ***crow, Magpie, Jackdaw,*** *and* ***Chaffinch****. We used to get regular visits from a Peacock too but he's stayed away for a couple of years, though we still frequently hear him.*

On a related note I witnessed a pair of **[Carrion]** ***crows*** *attempt an aerial fight with a* ***Red kite*** *on Westerham Hill a few days ago. The kite dived at the crows and knocked one out of the sky so the second crow acknowledged defeat and hid in a tree. The kite lazily circled above for a couple of turns and then calmly went on its way. The crows were OK and later flew off together to lick their wounds. Spectacular stuff!'*

Spectacular indeed, Jim. And what a great idea it is to build a photographic record of your garden visitors. I foresee frustration, however, when an unusual specimen evades your lens! What interests me most about your report, however, is the possibility of you having seen a Nightingale. If this is so, I believe this to be the first reported sighting (?) within the village. I await your confirmation with bated breath!

Off now to one of our regulars. Mary (Smith) presents us with a query (13.05.19):

'I saw two birds which were unknown to me on the bird table a couple of weeks ago. On looking them up I found they were ***Siskins****. It is interesting that since living in the middle of the village* ***Redpolls****, Siskins and a* ***Grey wagtail*** *have all visited the garden whereas when I lived in Old Lane, on the edge of the woods, none of these were seen over a period of thirty years of bird-watching.'*

I know, Mary – it's astonishing how a few hundred yards can present a completely different set of wildlife observations. We've had several similar enquiries of this nature before and the only factors I can think of to explain this are the variation in habitat and the differences in foodstuff availability. What do our readers think? Alternative or additional explanations are welcome!

Next, an exciting report from Shelly (Bashford) (14.05.19)

'I thought I'd drop you an email and tell you about my findings over the past few days. While leaving the village on Tuesday morning I spotted mummy duck and around 15 or so ducklings [since identified as **Mallards**] *on the grass opposite the allotments heading towards the village. I only hope the cars saw them and slowed down. Then, walking across the park with Sarah (Andrews) today, we spotted what I'm pretty sure was a* ***Black Bee****. It was definitely a bee and definitely black – ha ha! He or she was crawling*

amongst the grass. If we weren't walking so slowly we would have missed it. Then tonight while driving into the village at around 9pm, just before the Tatsfield Aquatics driveway, an owl flew down and hit the front of my car! With help from Sarah and a torch I checked the boundary fence by Waylands Farm but spotted no feathers and heard no flapping. I can only assume it was temporarily stunned then flew off. Luckily for the owl I was only travelling at 20 mph! I'm pretty sure it was a ***Long-eared owl****, or possibly a* ***Tawny owl****. I'm not an expert but it had 'bignore' ears! I hope he/she was okay. Lastly it looks like our* ***Hedgehog*** *friends are back! The tell-tale signs were there this morning; a trail of poo was found across the decking and pathway, so that's good news, although not so much for the slugs! No bats of yet, but that doesn't stop the cat from being on the lookout.'*

Shelly, thank you for your exceptionally annoying email! How come you get to see all the good stuff? Are our 'duck crossing' traffic signs still up in the village? I wonder where all those ducklings have disappeared to. I would love to have a close encounter with an owl although possibly not as close as yours! As for the Hedgehogs; I know exactly what you are talking about. Our sideway seems to be a favourite depositing ground, particularly in front of the side gate! But, as you say, it's good to know that Hedgehogs are around. The other evidence was the shifting around of piles of empty plant pots while slug hunting. They are certainly effective slug eradicators. I recall years ago going out on the lawn in the early morning to collect the multitude of giant slugs that I knew would be found there. (They made great classroom 'pets'!) This year I haven't seen a single one. Slug bait is not only deadly when consumed by wildlife but is unnecessary when you allow a hedgehog to share your garden. Creating a gap in or beneath your boundary fence will allow free passage for your local, friendly Hedgehog who will happily gobble-up your nocturnal garden pests. **Let's make Tatsfield a Hedgehog-friendly village!** And please remember: When it gets hot, they will appreciate a shallow bowl of rainwater (not tap).

I recall John (Andrews) telling us of Black Bees on his property a year or two ago, so I'm not too surprised that you and Sarah saw one. Their 'proper' name is the European Dark Honeybee and, for those of you who are interested, there is a very illuminating website that I can recommend: http://www.biobees.com/blackbees.php

Many thanks to this month's contributors. Hopefully, over the next couple of months, **you** will also see something worth reporting, either in your garden or while out and about. In the meantime, I leave you with a photo sent in by Mary (Taylor) of a nest full of cuddly **Woodpigeons**!

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

FIVE MINUTES WITH….IAN HAYMAN

When did you first move to Tatsfield?

I first came across Tatsfield in 2006 while looking to purchase my own aquatic store, I have been working in the aquatics trade since the age of 14 with my first Saturday job cleaning tanks in a garden centre, of which I eventually went on to run the aquatic department, adding a pet centre and reptiles. After running a very successful department for many years I decided to open my own store, this is when I heard about a small aquatic shop at Waylands Farm, which was up for sale.

Despite the shop being run down and needing a lot of work and a complete revamp, I could see the potential and had no hesitation in taking over the lease. I first opened the doors in January 2007 and 12 years on, it's a thriving aquatics store, which sells tropical fish, marine fish, pond fish and a wide variety of reptiles.

Is it just animals?

No, my passion for pond landscaping has also grown over the years, which has now given us a very successful landscaping company, which caters for all aspects of landscaping, but specialises in pond landscaping. We also have a maintenance and aftercare side of the business which has built up a large portfolio of clients looking after their ponds, water features and fish tanks, from residential to nursing homes, surgeries, schools, golf courses etc. We are very proud to have had the opportunity last year to work with the parish council and renovate the village pond, which we are sponsoring on an on-going basis to keep it looking great. We have now planted it so it will be looking stunning in the summer. Also, our landscaping company has created a new wildlife pond at Tatsfield School which my wife Lisa and I have donated to the school.

How did you get here?

I grew up in Wallington, but in the summer of last year we brought a house in Paynesfield Road and moved in just before Christmas. We absolutely love the village life and extremely enjoy being part of this community as a resident as well as from a business point of view. Lisa and I have three children. Jasper is six and attends Tatsfield Primary, Jessica is two and baby Jordana is five months old, so we certainly have our hands full with us both running the business and three young children!

What can we find at Tatsfield Aquatics?

The shop itself offers a huge range of tropical fish from the very common neon tetra, angel fish and guppies, to the more exotic varieties like piranhas, turtles, frogs and shrimps. The marine section has some very odd-looking varieties like the poisonous lion fish, puffer fish and we even recently had a bamboo shark in that was in an egg which we hatched. The most popular fish we sell has got to be the common goldfish for children's first fish tanks, or the 'bread and butter' varieties within the tropical fish. These are the community type that all live together which most people start with in their first tropical set up and will include the very popular guppies, mollies, neon tetras, corydoras, plecs and Siamese fighting fish just to name a few. As we stock so many varieties from all over the world, the staff are on hand to make sure the right fish get sold into the right environments so they don't all eat each other!

The pond section is open as the pond season is from the end of March through to October, so we are fully stocked with all types of pond fish including koi carp and the very poplar sturgeon fish, plus all types of pond plants and the pond essentials like foods and treatments. We just need a bit of sun now to kick start the season and fingers crossed we have a stunning summer like last year!!

As well as fish, we also have the very popular reptile side of the business, which sells everything from lizards, snakes and tortoises, to frogs, scorpions and spiders. Lisa has extensive knowledge in reptiles and breeds a lot of the varieties we sell herself. She even had a successful pygmy hedgehog-breeding programme a few years back! Lisa and her team fully educate everyone before they purchase a reptile so they know exactly what they are letting themselves in for. The most popular species we sell is a bearded dragon from Australia, these are known as the dog of the reptile world as they are extremely friendly and easy to handle so very popular with children for their first pet.

Other popular species we sell are garden tortoise, leopard gecko, yeomen chameleon and royal python, but we have many more exotic species in for the more daring reptile keeper!

Lisa does a lot of education programmes with the reptiles and often takes a collection to school fairs and Beaver/Cub meetings, in fact she has just recently done an evening at Tatsfield Beavers and was at the Tatsfield Primary School summer fair.

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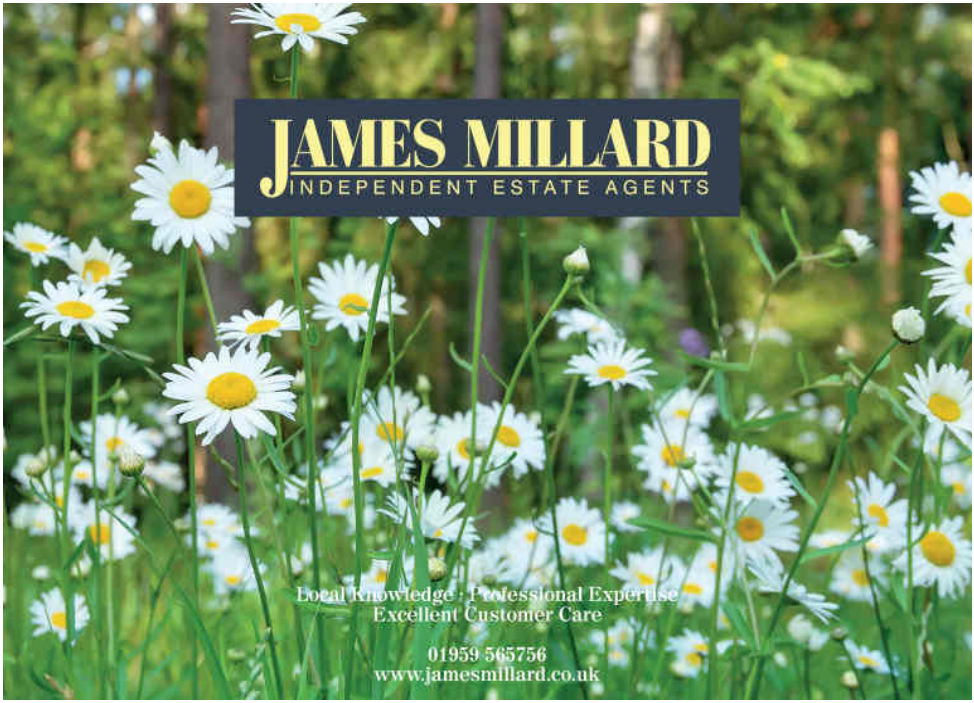

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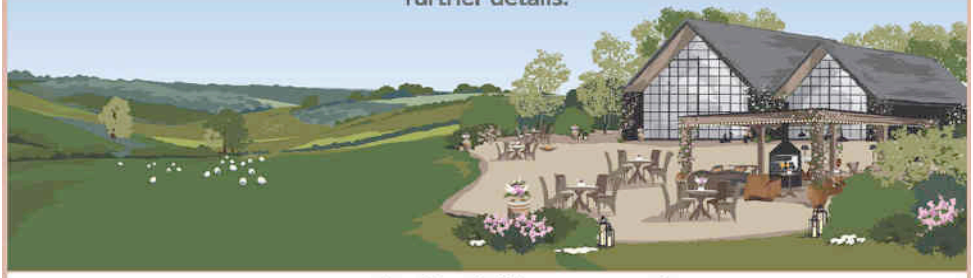

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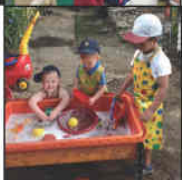

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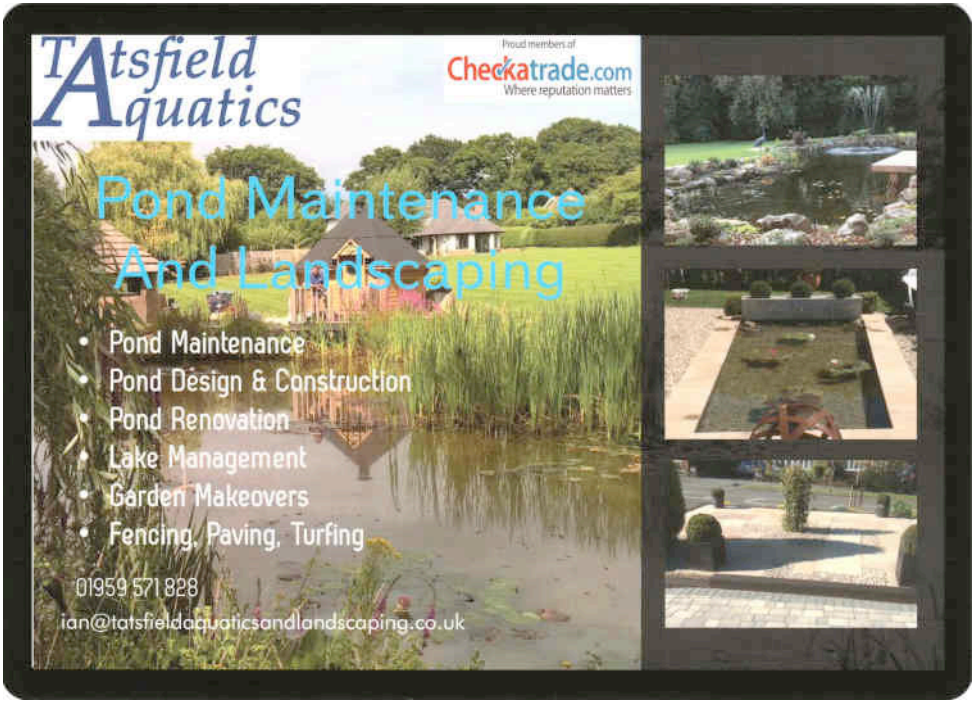

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