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COUNCIL CONTACTS
Parish Council: Clerk • Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Rd, Warlingham CR6 9DW
clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk (07483 337461)
Chair • Kim Jennings email: kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk, (577328)
Website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield
Tandridge District Councillor• Martin Allen,38 Paynesfield Rd, Tatsfield TN16 2BG (577201)
Surrey County Councillor• Becky Rush Becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

OTHER CONTACTS
St. Mary’s Church Hall - Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)
Village Hall - Bookings Secretary• Helena Garcia (tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk) (07983 011028)
W.I. Hall - Bookings •Sheila Cook (577443)
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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. 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 Magazine, The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2NA.
Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). All loose inserts need to be booked an approved at least ONE MONTH in advance of insertion.
Small Ads These are accepted only from Tatsfield or Titsey residents (No Trade) and are free of charge (Max 10 words plus phone number.) We will include them in the next issue space permitting.
Calendar Dates Our calendar usually covers six weeks or more from publication so please give us your dates in good time. If you don’t want your event to clash with others why not check with us early?
Advertisements We take no responsibility for the goods and services advertised in the magazine.
EDITORIAL

Surprise! A clue from the Tea Angel

It was very good to be with you in Tatsfield for the Village Remembrance service. A moving occasion with all generations well represented. At half-term, I visited some of the generations of my mum’s family near Angle. In a sense, it is the end of the world. We used to chase sunsets there when our children were little. It’s the end of the land on the south side of Milford Haven, 10 miles west of Pembroke, deep south west Wales. At the Seamen’s Rest in the churchyard of St Mary’s Angle, is a Tea Angel. As you can see, unmistakably Welsh - and, finally, an angel for my mum. My mum does love a cup of tea (at all sorts of times, except one occasion when she dropped it and it scalded her). And sharing it with others. So, I was delighted to find an angel for her, not far from where she was born near the end of the war.

I wonder where and what your angel is? As we come into these special (and sometimes strained) seasons of Advent and Christmas, I hope that this tea angel might help you to look again for your own angel and find something of God there. Your wonderful, ancient, living parish church at St Mary’s can help you to do that. The church can help us, as nowhere else can, to focus our attention, bring our failures, help us to recognise what’s what, find comfort and challenge, work together and give thanks, and be fed for our next steps, as we watch and wait again for the light shining in the darkness, and celebrate again the wonder of Jesus’ birth for us all.

I wish you all blessings at Christmas, and hope in God with us for the new year - with tea, or whatever else you’re drinking.

James Percival

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Tatsfield online

Village website: www.tatsfield.org.uk
Village facebook page: search for ‘Tatsfield Village’ on facebook
Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for ‘Tatsfield Talk’ on facebook, and ask to join to be able to view and post.
Dear Editors,
The third Remembrance Service sponsored by Tatsfield Parish Council took place at Tatsfield village centre on Saturday November 9th. The weather turned out to be just about perfect with a sunny sky along with a bit of a cold chill and rain forecast at around 2pm. At 8am there was a team of Community Volunteers with brooms led by Jan Hancock already at work clearing up the many fallen leaves as were others (Roy Bell, Ruth and Jim Yeeles, Ian Kirk, again Jill Hancock and Roger Sawyers all led by Jon Allbutt.) They were seen placing cones and barriers out to be ready for the start of the service. There was a large team of people including our Tatsfield Parish councillors led by the chairman Kim Jennings who welcomed every one of the many visitors from all over the country who had come to remember the fallen of the Village. Helena Garcia was great at placing the groups of wreath layers in correct order. On parade were the group of 2427 Biggin Hill Squadron ATC cadets under their Officer Commanding Squadron Leader John Wohlgemuth and he took command of the whole parade. Before it all started, all of the ATC cadets and 1st Tatsfield Scouts groups assembled in the Ship car park. Then with banners held aloft, they all marched to the position in front of the Ship pub looking at the Remembrance stone, ready to start the service. We were so proud of all of them.

The Revd. James Percival welcomed everyone and kindly conducted the service having been nominated by Vince Short who is presently on sabbatical. It is a nice surprise to find that this event is growing in attendees each year and the amount of running order booklets had been printed (once again) proved that there wasn’t quite enough.

The music was once again provided by the Locke Brass Consort conducted by Leslie Lake. The hymn “O God our help in ages past” was sung with the lovely singing voices of some of the local Tatsfield Singers group being amplified through the public address system to the audience. A lovely and very moving poem was read out to the audience by its author Johanne Turner who is also Scout Leader at 1st Tatsfield Scouts. It is titled One Hundred Years and featured further on in this magazine. She was followed by Martyn Saines reading the Roll of Honour. The Parish Councillor Stephen Mittins read “The Fallen” and The Last Post was played by Tim Hayward followed by a recording of Big Ben. The two minutes silence and the Reveille was followed by The Kohima Epitaph read by Paul Stainer. Trevor Smith read
out to the huge audience, the names and associations of the 36 wreaths that were laid. The final hymn was Abide With Me and the National Anthem was followed by a blessing from the Revd. James Percival. I concluded the service and then there were hot and cold drinks available from the Fairtrade team of Barbara Hester, Hillary Vale, Sheila Alexander and Sherida Burgess. Also, in their gazebo on the Ship Green were David Vale and David Alexander selling all sorts of items for the British Legion fund which raised a super total of £1,550.07. I’d also like to thank the Parish Council’s clerk Samantha Head and her husband Paul, who kindly helped me in setting the sound system up (and down). Summing up, you were all marvellous!

Dave Bishop

Dear Editor,

I have had many comments about the "Purple Poppy Wreath" I laid at our Annual Remembrance Service on the Ship Green, so thought I should fill in a few details. The purple poppy is recognised as the symbol for the many millions of equines (horses, mules and donkeys), dogs, and many other creatures lost during the Great War of 1914-18 that I have written about in previous parish magazine articles over the years. It is now recognised as a symbol for all creatures lost in war, usually knitted or crocheted.

I obtained the knitted poppies for my wreath from The War Horse Memorial Charity, supporting both equine and human charities, including the Royal Artillery and the Household Cavalry, as well as other great charities such as The Brooke and Mane Chance Sanctuary, all of which are well worth looking up and supporting individually.

I am proud to say we now have Tatsfield Village photos posted on the "War Horse Memorial" Website and hope villagers look them up and see what else is going on. I was only sad the lovely Welsh Cob joining in our own Memorial Service didn't like the tannoy and was thankfully taken away before heavy trucks coming into the Village didn't completely spoil his day!

I am very much looking forward to the next one, and many thanks as usual to Dave Bishop and the Parish Council for their support of a very memorable occasion.

Lin Saines
One Hundred Years On

From the bustling streets of London,
To the boulevards of France,
Tension grew around the world,
Peace never stood a chance.

Politicians argued,
Speaker’s Corner overflowed,
Mothers worried for their sons,
And begged them not to go.

“It’ll all be done by Christmas,”
The men took up the cry,
“To fight for peace and justice,
For King, we’ll do or die.”

Troops were mustered all around,
And kitted out in green,
Flags were waved as men marched off,
T’was a patriotic scene.

From South Africa to Canada,
Men fought for what was right,
The talking got them nowhere,
So now they had to fight.

The war went on for months and months,
And soon turned into years,
Telegrams were sent each day,
And met with widow’s tears.

Young boys lost their childhood,
As soldiers they became,
As even if they made it back,
They’d never be the same.

Now, fields in France are all at peace,
And languish in the sun,
Where men and horses battled once,
Until the war was won.
The land is full of poppies now,
Fields of darkest red,
No sign of battles lost or won,
Where so much blood was shed.

It takes a moment to remember,
A lifetime to forget,
And though a hundred years have passed,
Those men are thought of yet.

Thought of and remembered,
And with each poppy’s grace,
A soldier will be honoured,
No more a nameless face.

By Johanne Turner
Dear Editor

Remember, Remember the 5th of November

The one day of the year I would expect kids and adults to enjoy the anniversary of the Gunpowder plot as I once did. However, I have an animal and I’m sure I’m not the only person, who is absolutely terrified at every bang, whistle and flash that fireworks produce. This I can accept with grace for the one night of each year whilst administering comfort and close attention to a fearful, wide eyed, shivering mass until it’s all over. But it’s not all over. I think this year there were ten consecutive nights when fireworks were let off, prompting the same adverse reaction from our dog on each occasion. I do think spreading firework displays over so many days dilutes the excitement of the occasion, and the historical significance of the event as well as inflicting extended distress to so many animals. Please be mindful of this. As an afterthought there may be many climate conscious among us who perhaps are not aware of the amount of pollution created by fireworks and that the one off organised events are probably the best for all concerned. Thank you.

Howard Aylett

The 15th Annual Christmas Carol Singalong

This event is held on Friday 13th December at 7pm and we will be singing some well-known carols with everyone being given a songbook with all of the words beforehand. There will be the usual band of the “Tatsfield Saints” under their conductor Leslie Lake, and Father Christmas and his Elves will be arriving at 7.45pm with a present for all of the children. The Parish council’s chairman Kim Jennings will give us a Christmas message and the Revd. Vince Short will give us a Christmas blessing. All we need is you! Don’t forget your warm hats and gloves because whatever the weather it will all happen that Friday evening. It’s a terrific way to put you in the mood for Christmas.

Dave Bishop

GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES EAST SURREY

HUSTINGS

Wednesday 4th December 2019
WI Hall Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield
7.30-9.30pm

Come along and meet the Candidates and join in the Lively Discussion!
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

What a beautiful morning of Autumn sunshine we had for the third Remembrance Service. The event, organised by the amazing Dave Bishop and sponsored by The Parish Council, was very well attended. Thank you to those that assisted Dave on the day and the Fairtrade group for supplying a well needed warm drink.

Planning
The following applications were considered by the Parish Council in November.
TA/2019/1740 29 Westmore Road, Tatsfield Proposed single storey side /rear extensions including demolishing of garage. (Application for a certificate of Lawful Development for an Existing Development): No Comment.
TA/2019/1711 50 Crossways, Tatsfield Erection of fencing and changes to fenestration. The Parish Council had no objection to the changes in fenestration but objected to the fencing.
TA/2019/678/cond 1 Hawthorn Dene, Ricketts Hill Road. Tatsfield Details pursuant to discharge condition no 3 (Materials) of planning application re:2019/678 dated 30/05/2019.: No Comment.
TA/2019/1827 The Linnes, Goatsfield Road, Tatsfield TN16 2BU Two- storey rear extension including 2 solar panels and 4 x roof lights to side: No comment.

General Election Hustings
The Parish Council have organised a Hustings to be held on 4th December from 7.30-9.30 at the WI Hall. Please see further information elsewhere in this issue.

Parish Council Fundraising Christmas Hampers Raffle
This year the Parish Council will be raising funds for worthy causes through a Raffle. This will consist of 3 Fabulous Hampers full of seasonal goodies. They will be on sale in Sheree’s Store, Ye Olde Ship and The Tatsfield Club. The three winning tickets will be drawn on Friday 20th December. Tickets are £1 each and available from 1st December.

Christmas Singalong
The Parish Council are again sponsoring the Christmas Carol Singalong organised by Dave Bishop. Hope to see you all there on Friday 13th December at 7pm.

Emergency Plan
We now have in place a new Emergency Plan in place. To add your name to our Volunteer list please see request elsewhere in this magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Kim Jennings, Chair
(Tel: 577328; Email: kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)
HOW TO DISPOSE OF LEAVES

Every year when the leaves start falling, our street cleaning crews clear away hundreds of tonnes of leaves from pavements and roads.

Many of these leaves fall naturally in these areas, but please don’t blow or rake the leaves from your property or driveway into the street or gutter as they can block storm water drains. When leaves go into storm drains, they clog the pipes, and this may cause street flooding.

Removing these extra leaves also slows down our street cleaners and increases costs.

Please help us by scooping up the leaves that fall on your property and not blowing or sweeping them onto the pavement or road. Leaves can be disposed of properly either by placing them in your garden waste bin, composting them, or bagging them up and taking them to community recycling centres.

For more information on our Garden Waste Club, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/gardenwaste.

TATSFIELD EMERGENCY PLAN - CAN YOU HELP?

Tatsfield Parish Council holds a list of volunteers that would be available to assist in the event of a community emergency, whether it be heavy snowfall or a power cut that disables the village and creates a danger to life, especially to the elderly and vulnerable, or flooding and fallen trees preventing access, especially for emergency vehicles, or a severe storm.

We are currently updating our list and are calling out to anybody within the community that would be willing to volunteer and be called on in such an event. If you have a 4x4, chainsaw, quad, tow ropes, nursing/first aid skills or any other type of machinery or equipment that would be useful in a difficult situation, then please email your details to ianhayman@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk.

Ian Hayman
TANRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

New wheeled waste bins – Tatsfield and Titsey will be provided with new wheeled bins for rubbish during the week commencing 2\textsuperscript{nd} December via their waste contractor. When you receive your new bin, you can start using it straight away. From this point, only the new official council wheeled rubbish bin will be emptied.

You can reuse your old wheelie bin or dustbin in many ways, including turning it into a water butt or using it for storage in your garden, or it can be taken to your community recycling centre.

If you no longer want your old bin and you can’t take it to a community recycling centre, TDC are currently arranging for residents to bring their empty old bins to specified locations in the district and TDC will take them away and recycle them. They are currently working on the locations and the dates and as soon as they know they will send the details to all councillors, put them on the website in the e-newsletter which is sent to subscribers each Friday and on social media. If any residents would like to sign up to the news and events e-newsletter visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/signup.

Tandridge Magazine
The winter issue of the Tandridge Magazine will be landing on door mats from 11 November, so look out for your copy.

Delivered to every household in the district, the magazine combines news about council services with information about how to register to vote in elections, staying well and much more. It’s also the best place to find out what’s going on locally and in your community.

The winter cover story features colleagues from the team which manage the council house building programme, celebrating 100 years of council housing. It features an update on the Local Plan examination taking place at the Council Offices and details the government support we have received to progress the design and delivery of the South Godstone Garden Community. It also features the new team of Community Officers who cover the whole district, making the district safer and cleaner for everyone. They highlight the number of fly tipping incidents, by commercial businesses, they have to deal with each month as well as their partnership working with the police and other local action groups.

Not forgetting all the great events coming up and the activities on offer, including Oxted’s Christmas events, as well as at the district’s leisure centres during the school Christmas holidays and beyond.

Find out more about all the things which can be recycled over the festive season, as well as the Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish collection days.

Anyone who has not received a copy should e-mail customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk, requesting a copy.
Did you have your say about council services 2019? A report presented the findings of a survey, carried out in July 2019, designed to help the Council find out what residents think about the services it provides, where they live and how well the Council communicates with them. 59% are satisfied with the way the Council runs things. 35% agree the Council provides value for money. 69% think the Council keeps them well informed. 75% strongly feel they belong to their local area and 56% trust the Council. In Tatsfield and Titsey 53 surveys were sent but only 23 responded, not a good response from us on this one. Did you answer it, do you disagree with the above or were you one of the 29 that did not answer? I would be interested to hear from you.

You are probably now reading or hearing about the large overspend on the Council Budget for 2019/20. As a result of this I have been attending more meetings than is normal and I hope my input to the continued change that is needed at Tandridge District Council will be helpful for the management team currently in place.

I and Parish Councillor David Pinchin have negotiated a set of agreements with the CEO of Biggin Hill Airport regarding the Noise Sensitive Areas of Tatsfield and Biggin Hill. This was ratified by the Parish Council and you will be able to find the details of this on their and the village website.

Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201 cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk

Bulky rubbish clearance weekend

At the Bulky rubbish clearance weekend residents can take large items including ceramics furniture garden waste glass household rubbish metal items and up to two washing machines along and they will take it away.

Saturday 14th December 7.30am–10.45am in the Village Hall car park.

COLLECTING AND RECYCLING YOUR OLD RUBBISH BINS

We are providing households in the district with a new black wheeled rubbish bin for their rubbish. When you receive your new bin, you can start using it straight away as we’ll only empty the new official council wheeled rubbish bin.

You can reuse your old wheeleie bin or dustbin in many ways including turning it into a water butt or using it for storage in your garden, or it can be taken to either Caterham or Earlswood community recycling centres.

We’ve also arranged for old bins to be collected by our Street Cleaning team, at our bulky rubbish clearance weekends in November and December.
At these weekends, residents can bring their empty bins to one of these locations and we’ll take them away and recycle them. If the bins have rubbish inside them, they won’t be taken away.

The plastic rubbish bins will be made into plastic pellets, which are used to make other plastic items and the metal bins will be recycled to make new metal items.

Tatsfield’s date and location is:

**Saturday 14 December**

**Tatsfield**

**7.30am-10.45am**

**Village hall car park**

You can leave your empty bin with our officers, at one of the locations, on the specified times and dates, but please do not block the road or pavement.

If you are unable to take your bin to one of these collection dates because you are an older person, have a disability or a medical reason, please complete the form at www.tandridge.gov.uk/newbins or e-mail customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk. We will arrange for your old bin to be collected.

For information about the new wheeled rubbish bins, please visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/newbins, for information about our bulky rubbish weekends, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/bulkyrubbish and for information about community recycling centres visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/community-recycling-centres.
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Great news for Warlingham Community Recycling Centre (CRC)

I am delighted to be able to share with residents that Warlingham CRC is no longer under threat of closure. You may recall that in January, Surrey County Council consulted with residents on their intention to close four CRCs in Surrey. A decision was subsequently made at the beginning of February to instead run a recycling only trial there and simultaneously set up a Task Force to look at the recycling offer and solutions across the whole of Surrey. I joined this task force with the personal objective of saving Warlingham CRC as well as addressing the wider question of waste and recycling in Surrey.

The task force of six cross party councillors worked hard to understand the dynamics of waste management and disposal; and to identify opportunities and cost savings.

The task force paper can be found in the public documents online at the SCC website; headlines were:

- We must do more as a county to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle what we can – the growing mountain of waste produced in today’s society is a problem that we all need to address together; keeping recycling centres open is key to helping residents deal with and dispose of their waste responsibly. Extending the opening days and hours should also be considered.
- We need to work with more voluntary sector organisations and help provide them with the bandwidth to do more – examples are charities that redistribute furniture to vulnerable and people in need; or groups like the composting group in Tatsfield who manage the composting of green waste in their village, therefore minimising green waste in the waste stream.
- We need to increase the percentage of waste recycled, by providing information to residents, providing the services we need (CRCs), and by supporting districts and boroughs in their contract negotiation.

Specifically, for Warlingham CRC, whilst I am absolutely delighted that the facility will remain open until the purpose-built facility for North Tandridge that is in the pipeline is built, I want to see some vital services returned, such as wood, hard plastic etc. I attended the Cabinet meeting on 29th October and spoke about these vital services and about potentially viewing Warlingham and Caterham CRC as a combined offering enabling residents to have most waste and recycling services within a two-mile distance and alleviating some of the congestion at each. I have already opened this dialogue with the Cabinet member for waste and he is receptive to this, we will be arranging a site visit and will take it from there.

I think it is essential that we make it easy for residents to recycle responsibly. Keeping Warlingham CRC open is a critical step towards doing this. Many people contacted me
about keeping the facility open; please use your local facility, details of what is accepted there can be found on the Surrey County Council website.

If you would like to contact me, please email becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

Becky Rush

POPPY APPEAL 2019 IN TATSFIELD

In his second year as Poppy Appeal organiser for Tatsfield, Dave Vale reports that the excellent sum of £1550.07 has been collected in the village. This has come from collection boxes which have been placed in many sites in the village and includes the collections made in the pop up shop outside Sheree’s Tea Room on 2 November and at the Remembrance Service in the village centre on 9 November, when he was glad of the help of Dave Alexander and Sherida Burgess. The funds raised are used by the Royal British Legion to help support serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Dave is grateful to all the places which housed collection boxes and the village in turn thank Dave for organising the collection.

Dave Alexander and Dave Vale in the pop-up shop outside Sheree’s.
I have recently had the unenviable task of taking over from Ian Mitchell representing Tatsfield Parish Council on the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee. A massive vote of thanks is due to Ian for all his hard work over many years.

One of the first issues I faced, along with Martin Allen representing TDC, was the problem of aircraft flying low over Tatsfield, sometimes over the centre of the village, which is not supposed to happen. This was raised at the July meeting of the committee and discussed in some detail. Particular concerns I raised were that it appeared light aircraft pilots were not adhering to present rules, that there was a lack of clarity about what the rules were, that overflying had recently increased and that the airport’s complaints procedure was not being managed effectively.

At that meeting, the new CEO of the airport, David Winstanley, was very sympathetic to our concerns and made a commitment to investigate and deal with the problem. As a result, Martin and I had subsequent meetings with him and some of his senior colleagues after which he produced a briefing note for Tatsfield residents clarifying the rules and explaining how they are to be reinforced. The document has now been finalised in conjunction with Martin and me and is set out below. Although it is inevitably a bit technical, I hope it is readable. It will also appear on the village website.

The CEO has been very supportive of the need to protect our village from excessive noise and low overflying and I do believe that as a result of his commitment and the work we have done there has been a marked improvement in recent weeks. Only time will tell, of course, and there will inevitably be incidents from time to time which will need to be reported. Do please use the complaints procedure referred to in the briefing paper. A summary of such incidents, follow-up investigations and outcomes will be presented to the Consultative Committee.

David Pinchin, Vice-Chair Tatsfield Parish Council
davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

This briefing note is to inform residents of Tatsfield of London Biggin Hill’s Noise Abatement Procedures as they pertain to Tatsfield as a ‘Noise Sensitive Area’.

Current Noise Abatement Procedures

Aircraft operating from London Biggin Hill Airport are requested to comply with the noise abatement procedures which include nominal ‘no fly zones’ such as Tatsfield.
These are programmed into the Airports Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System (NMTKS). As Tatsfield is designated as a Noise Sensitive Area and, providing it is safe not to do so, the village centre should not be flown over. However, this only applies to aircraft operating from Biggin Hill Airport which are the limit of the airport’s control.

**Specific Instructions to Pilots (UKAIP)**

Departures from Runway 21: If departing to the east or north via the Sevenoaks or Swanley reporting points, immediately after passing the upwind end of the runway, pilots are instructed to turn slightly right by ten degrees to track 220 to a distance of two nautical miles before turning left and tracking to the south east. In all cases, aircraft commanders should arrange their flight to avoid the Noise Sensitive Area of Tatsfield village.

Pilots are provided with additional guidance regarding reducing power on departure to ensure they have regard to noise nuisance on the ground.

**The ideal departure profile**

The diagram below shows an actual flight departing from Runway 21 and correctly following the noise abatement procedures. Additionally, whilst not exact, the diagram shows a digital representation of the noise sensitive area e.g. the area of Biggin Hill and Tatsfield within the grey boundary.
Automatic tracking system

The Airport’s Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System (NMTKS) has an automated off-track warning system, which identifies aircraft that are ‘off track’ i.e. those aircraft that overfly areas such as Tatsfield. These aircraft are identified as ‘off track’ whether an individual has made a report or not. These tracks will be recorded and reported through the airport’s Noise and Safety Sub Committee and then to its Consultative Committee on which both Tatsfield Parish Council and Tandridge District Council are represented. Following investigation of individual incidents, appropriate action ranging from warnings to fines is taken. In the main, those responsible for such incidents are private pilots in small light aircraft.

Difference between AMSL (above mean sea level) and AGL (above ground level)

Several complaints express some confusion regarding the altitude recorded by the Airport’s tracking system and the height they estimate when observing an aircraft. The difference in height is as a result of the altitude of an aircraft being measured above sea level and the elevation of the point at which the observation is made. This is particularly relevant to Tatsfield which is approximately 750 ft above sea level.

This diagram shows the difference between Altitude, Height and Elevation.

![Fig 1: AMSL v. AGL](image)

If an aircraft is correctly flying at an Altitude of 2500 ft amsl around the borders of Tatsfield i.e. not in the no-fly zone and the Elevation of an observer’s location is 750ft
above mean sea level, then by deducting the Elevation from the Altitude it will give the Height of the aircraft which may seem lower than the advertised 2500 ft.

\[ \text{ALTITUDE} - \text{ELEVATION} = \text{HEIGHT} \quad 2500\text{ft} - 750\text{ft} = 1750\text{ft} \]

**Controlled airspace**

The challenges for aircraft operators around London Biggin Hill Airport are complicated by the proximity to other major Airports and the establishment of controlled airspace protecting such airports.

Airspace protecting airports starts from ground level and extends into the London Traffic Management area airspace which starts at 2500 ft amsl. This means that aircraft not wishing to enter controlled airspace must fly below 2400 ft amsl and avoid flying into airspace around certain airports.

The impact for Tatsfield and the surrounding area is that many aircraft including those from other airports are effectively funnelled south of Biggin Hill and north of Gatwick at below 2500ft. As a result, some aircraft not operating out of London Biggin Hill may fly over Tatsfield as they avoid Gatwick airspace.

**Complaints Procedure**

Ideally, the Airport would prefer noise or track keeping complaints to be made via the Airport website [www.bigginhillairport.com](http://www.bigginhillairport.com) and by selecting the Noise & Aircraft tracking system - once at least 45 minutes has elapsed after the incident. The website provides step by step instructions regarding how to make a complaint. Alternatively, complainants can call the airport on 01959 578580. Arrangements have been recently updated to ensure replies and responses are routinely given.

Information required when making a complaint will include the following:

- Date and Time of occurrence
- Whether the complaint is regarding excessive noise or off track (ie the aircraft has flown overhead the village) or both
- Type of aircraft: light propeller aircraft or jet aircraft
- Approximate height if possible.

Any enquiries relating to this briefing note should be addressed in the first instance to the Tatsfield Parish Council clerk: clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk.
In October, Year 6 went to Little Canada in the Isle of Wight for a fantastic PGL residential experience.

“I was scared on the trapeze but my group and groupie gave me the confidence to jump.”
Jacob PT

Year 6 challenged themselves throughout the week and conquered a lot of fears.
LITTLE ACORNS

Our Little Acorns and Breakfast club children worked hard on creating some lovely wreaths in aid of Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you to the children who represented the Pre School by presenting the wreaths in the village, along with Jackie Apps the Pre School Manager.

For the second half of the Autumn term we have made spikey hedgehogs; exploring different textured materials, made real soup from healthy ingredients and explored sparkly gel sensory trays— to name just a few activities!

The children have really enjoyed taking part in some Autumn themed fun.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to all those who supported our Race Night. It was once again a popular fundraising night and has raised valuable funds for the Pre School. Thank you to our Chairperson, Jenny Bradshaw for organising.

Little Acorns will once again be holding an Open Day next year. This enables new and prospective parents a chance to visit, meet the staff, pick up some information and to see what Little Acorns Pre School has to offer. Keep your eyes peeled for the date in March; to be confirmed!

Thank you for reading!

Jen Creed
Practitioner at Little Acorns Preschool
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk
On 1st November our first sleepover took place at Tonbridge Jump In with Biggin Hill Beavers. After a briefing they took to the trampolines, this was followed by pizza. We then made our way to the rooms upstairs to set up for the night. All the Beavers slept in one room and the leaders in another. After everyone was changed and teeth cleaned, they settled down for the night. Everyone slept well (except the leaders, who could not believe how hard the floor could be!!) The following day, after breakfast, it was a chance to have a final jump before going home.

Karen, Maxine and I were so proud of all our Beavers; for many was their first experience of being away from their parents. We are looking forward to teaming up with Biggin Hill again next year for a camp at Easter.

We celebrated Diwali by making Rangoli patterns with coloured sand. The Beavers made some great patterns while learning about Diwali.

On 5th November, we had sparklers and made poppies. It was great to see the children taking really pride in making our wreath, which was laid by Chloe at the Remembrance service.

The Tatsfield Remembrance Service took place outside The Ship on a cold but bright Saturday morning. We paraded behind the Air Cadets and took our place in front of the band. Isabella was our flag bearer and did a fantastic job. The rest of the Beavers (17 in total) did our section proud and despite the cold, stood patiently throughout the service.

Jenny Snelling, Beaver Scout Leader

On 6th November, cubs had a fantastic evening when they had the chance to see owls and raptors up close. Many of the Cubs had the chance to have one of the owls fly and land on their hand (while wearing a special glove). It was a very interesting evening and one that was enjoyed by all.

Like the Beavers, Cubs had a great turnout at this year’s Remembrance Service. Cubs like the beavers paraded from the Ship car park around the memorial and stood with the rest of the sections. Alice was chosen to lay the wreath, with Ellis holding the section flag.

Leigh Keegan, Cubs Scout Leader
Scouts and Explorers have returned from the half term break to a trip to Jack Frost’s for fireworks and a huge bonfire. It was an enjoyable evening despite the rain.

The Scouts and Explorers took had a good turnout for this year’s Remembrance Service with Will and James selected to lay the wreath for both sections. Madeline and Cormac were flag bearers.

If your child is interested in joining Scouts (10.5 years -14 years) or Explorers (14-18 years) please do contact us. For Scouts contact Jo Turner, or Explorers please contact SJ Mumford for details.

THE WI

In November we heard from an ex Scotland Yard detective about a national and international crime that can potentially affect us all and it has no respect for sex, age, ethnicity or bank balance; whatever you have the criminal will take. That crime is fraud. The fraudsters will use the phone or computer to persuade you that they are trying to help and may even knock on your own front door. The simple message from the experts in fraud prevention is STOP, THINK, and CHECK.

Fraudsters will try to rush or panic you into complying with their instructions before you have time to think and check. So hang up, say no thank you and shut the door or walk away from the computer and take five minutes to think.

Verify what you have just been told; phone the bank using the phone number on the back of your card or bank statement or phone 101 if they claim to be from the police. A bank will never need to know your card details (they already have that information) and if you pass that information on or authorise a transfer you may be unable to get your money back. Spread the word as soon as possible if you suspect a fraud, they may be targeting a specific area or postcode.

All sound and practical advice. Never be rushed into an unwise action, talk to a family member or friend first.

Always report fraud to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040. (www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Our next two meetings on December 3rd and January 7th both start at 1pm and are unashamedly self-indulgent. Our Christmas and New Year meetings are both lunches and there will be food aplenty.

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. Sue Smale, 01959 577660
TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

DELIVERY OF YEAR BOOKS 2020 – HELP!!

As I am sure you are aware the Horticultural Society Yearbooks are delivered each year between the months of January and March to your door by our wonderful volunteers.

Our Volunteers are brilliant but, as we all know, either age or family commitments can take up any spare time we have. We do need some new volunteers to help to deliver these magazines.

It involves delivering the Yearbook in a specified road/s. The full round only needs to be carried out once, at a time to suit yourself and when you think most people will be in. A knock on the door – hand over the book – take the money/donation and leave. A note is provided for you to put through the door should they be out asking them to let you know, by telephone/email, if they if they want a book. Very easy and not too time consuming – you can make it what you want – there is no pressure – you have approximately 2 months in which to choose when you deliver the magazines.

I am pleased to inform you that this will be the last time that delivery will take place during the Winter months. We are aware of the difficulties of delivering during this time and, after much discussion, it has been agreed by the Committee that this year the Yearbook will cover THREE shows – Spring and Autumn 2020 together with Spring 2021.

This means that the following Yearbook will cover Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022 and delivery will therefore take place during April/May 2021 and will carry on in this way thereafter, which means the end of delivering the Yearbook in the cold, wet weather!

The more Volunteers we have the shorter the rounds.

If you would like to help, please let me know either by telephone or email.

Thank you

Christine Stainer, Subscriptions Secretary

Tel: 01959 577803 (christinestainer@yahoo,com)
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

As the weather turned colder, we welcomed our speaker David Carter, from the ‘Warmth Matters’ project. He gave us a few hot tips on keeping warm this winter and our members enjoyed heated discussions on how they may be able to save money on their utility bills this winter.

We then tucked into piping hot vegetable soup followed by doughnuts and bread pudding. A good afternoon was had by all and we would like to thank our helpers who do a marvellous job and make the afternoon run so smoothly.

We are looking forward to the last meeting of the year, our Christmas celebration. We will be celebrating with a buffet lunch and some of the children from Tatsfield Primary School choir will be entertaining us with their delightful singing. If anyone would like to join us, especially members we have not seen for a while, you will be most welcome. Who knows, Santa may even take time out of his busy schedule to join us!

Finally, from everyone at the Not So Young Club we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sue Dowse Notsoyoung100@gmail.co.uk 467750
TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

The Committee are continuing to make plans for 2020 commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Although our first thought for the Tatol bed was the RAF roundel, we are now looking at having a Spitfire in flowers. Watch this space for more news on our exciting plans!

Now that the Autumn planting has been completed, the volunteers have been busy over the past month trying to keep the fallen leaves under control around the village centre. This helps to protect the grass and also keeps the gutters and drains clear so that rainwater can clear away. The team were out in force clearing the village centre of leaves and tidying the Bakery lawn beds before the Remembrance Day service on 9th November.

The volunteers had a very pleasant surprise when having coffee after a Saturday morning session when two children and their mother presented us with a lovely card and box of biscuits to thank us for our hard work! The boys had written this in the card:

‘Dear Gardeners – Congratulations on getting Gold you did very well. We are very proud of you.’ From Haydon Roberts, Age 10

‘Dear Garden Villagers – Thank you for keeping our village looking so beautiful and tidy we really appreciate it and well done for getting GOLD in the best Large Village in Bloom.’ From Ashton Roberts, Age 10

The sentiments in the card were very well received as were the delicious biscuits. Thank you very much boys!

We are always looking for new volunteers to give up an hour of their time on a Saturday morning to come and help us. Please just turn up at 10.00am by the Bakery and we will greet you warmly!

Many thanks for your support.

Jill Hancock (577622)
ST MARY’S NEWS

Vince’s sabbatical (September – November)

Vince will be back on duty from Sunday 1st December. We are grateful to all who have helped out during his absence.

We warmly invite you to our upcoming All Age services

On Advent Sunday, 1st December, there will be a collection of new (or very nearly-new) toys to be taken to our link church in Brixton along with the food delivery (see below). At Epiphany, 5th January, we’ll remember the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus.

*On each of these Sundays there is also an 11.30am quiet Holy Communion service.*

Christmas Food Bank Delivery on Wednesday 4th December

Please support this by donating non-perishable food and toiletries into the box provided, located in the Narthex at the back of the church. You can leave donations any day of the week, not just Sundays. I will also be putting a small money box out on Sunday mornings, during the service, for anyone preferring to donate in the monetary way, this will enable me to buy further food supplies. It would be great to take a good quantity of food with our Christmas wishes! Any questions, please do ask me. Thank you for your support.

Hilary Vale

Flower Team

Many thanks to Kay Longley and Jan Maynard for the poppy displays around St. Mary’s for Remembrance Sunday. Also to Pat Walsh and Rita McKay for the beautiful Pedestal and Paschal Candle displays during November.

December Flower Rota

There will be no flowers during Advent until we dress the Church for Christmas on Saturday, 14th December at 9.30. All wishing to help will be most welcome as well as joining in with a chat, mince pies and coffee.

Ann Vatcher

New Treasurer for St Mary’s Church

We are looking for a new Treasurer. Accounting experience is necessary and Parochial Church Council membership will be desirable but not essential. Madie will be available for training and handover. For further information, please contact Madie Langford (577114).
Records

2nd November Interment of ashes for John Stokoe.

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

88. A Hall £23.75 34. J Spicer £14.25 66. A Hopkins £9.50 St Mary’s £47.50

Christingle Making at 10am on Monday 23rd December at Tatsfield Primary School

Please come and help us turn oranges, sweets, fruit and candles into these symbols of the Christmas festival in preparation for our Christingle service on Christmas Eve – fun for all the family.

Christmas services

These are listed on the Christmas card accompanying this magazine and we hope to see you at one or more of them. At the candlelit Carol Service (4pm on 15th) we hope to be joined by The Tatsfield Singers, our Community Choir. Mince pies and mulled wine will follow. For the Christmas Eve Christingle Service at 4.30 pm at Tatsfield Primary School, children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels or wise men. The crib figures of Mary and Joseph will be welcomed back at the end of their Posada journey round homes in the village during Advent. This joyful service is a great way to start the celebration of Christmas. There will also be our annual ‘midnight’ celebration of Holy Communion at 11.30 pm and a service for all the family on Christmas morning at 10 am. Collections taken at all our services over the Christmas period will go to The Children’s Society, which is a national charity that runs local projects to help children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn.

Nativity Tableau

We are delighted that Sauro Gabelli will again be building a nativity tableau in the entrance area of the church. This is a well-established Italian tradition and Sauro’s creations, different every year, are always much admired. The tableau should be in the church towards Christmas time. – do pop into the church, spend a few quiet moments and enjoy! The church is usually open in daylight hours. Donations to The Children’s Society are invited.

2020 Diaries

At the time of writing these have yet to be received. By the time of publication, there should be some spare diaries, available free of charge, at the back of the church.

Thrift Sale – Saturday 19th October
A very big thank you to all who came and supported St Mary’s Thrift Sale on 19th October and to the WI for use of the hall. It was another fabulous event raising £182 in support of Robes, a charity that through church venues and a super team of volunteers provides shelter and welfare advice for people who find themselves homeless in South London.

A steady stream of people popping in meant the hall was abuzz with general chatter and laughter, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Once again people’s generosity meant there were some super treats on offer with many items still having the original price tag attached. A sterling job was done by the team in the kitchen as they were kept busy re-filling pots of tea and plates of biscuits throughout the afternoon.

We were extremely grateful to our helpers and all the very generous donations of clothing and accessories we received, without which the thrift sale would not have been as successful as it was. Any unsold items have since been donated to local charity shops with the children’s clothes going to our link church in Brixton to help those in need in the local area.

So one last thank you in helping us make the afternoon as successful and enjoyable as it was.

**St Mary’s Churchyard**

This season has been brilliant for the amount of help we have had in maintaining the churchyard and the carpark area despite rain, rain and more rain. One person has commented that the churchyard is looking as good as it has ever been. The new strip of land has been left untended, but the new whip hedge seems to be flourishing behind all the weeds/wild flowers. As there are plans afoot for a new cremation plot at the top of this new strip the hedge between it and the church will eventually be removed to allow access. Thanks go to Peter Maynard, Dickon Poole, Kay and Keith Roberts, David Gulley, David and Marion Randall, Vince and Veronica Short, Tom McMahon and Lloyd Gulley for their willing and regular volunteering and their evident enjoyment of seeing the results of their efforts.

We shall look forward to helping to keep the churchyard as a place of beauty and tranquillity in 2020.

**Mary Smith**

**St Mary’s Church Website: [www.lttm.org.uk](http://www.lttm.org.uk)**
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
     5.00 pm Junior Street Dance - VH
     5.45 pm Break Dance for All - VH
     7.15 pm Adult Ballet - TPS
     7.30 pm Art Group – VH [Term time]
     8.15 pm Bingo – TVC

Tue  1.30 pm Whist – WIH (Last Tuesday of the month)
     1.45 pm Not So Young Club (2nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
     2.15 pm WI Meeting (1st Tuesday of the month) WIH
     5.30 pm Beavers – SH
     7.00 pm Scouts – SH

Wed  10.00 am WI Pop In – WIH
     1.30 pm Short Mat Bowls – VH
     6.00 pm Cubs – SH
     7.30 pm Yoga – VH

Thu  1.30 pm Hear Here – AMB (1st Thursday of the month)
     2.00 pm Scrabble at AMB (2nd Thursday of the month)
     4.30 pm Under 8’s Judo - SH
     5.45 pm Over 8’s Judo - SH
     7.15 pm 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 (now closed for Winter)
     10.15 am Over 8’s Judo - SH
     11.00 am Parish Council Café - The Bakery (to noon)
     11.30 am Adult Judo – SH

If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to: tatsfieldpm@gmail.com
UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

DECEMBER

2\textsuperscript{nd} Mon 7.30pm TAG Pippa Doig Workshop, TVH
4\textsuperscript{th} Wed 7.30pm General Election Hustings, WI
5\textsuperscript{th} Thurs 6.00pm Xmas Craft evening, The Ship
8\textsuperscript{th} Sun 7.00pm The Barnstormers – Encore! Barn Theatre, Oxted
10\textsuperscript{th} Mon 7.30pm Tatty Knitters Christmas Dinner, The Bakery
13\textsuperscript{th} Sun 7.00pm Christmas Carols in the village, Westmore Green
14\textsuperscript{th} Sat 7.30am Bulky Rubbish and Bin collection, TVH car park
14\textsuperscript{th} Sat 7.30pm Tatsfield Singers, A Taste of Christmas, TVH
14\textsuperscript{th} Sat 2.30pm The Gift Barn Theatre, Oxted
7.30pm The Gift, Barn Theatre, Oxted

JANUARY

10\textsuperscript{th} Fri 7.30pm Treasure Island, Barn Theatre
11\textsuperscript{th} Sat 1.30pm Treasure Island, Barn Theatre
11\textsuperscript{th} Sat 5.30pm Treasure Island, Barn Theatre (and other dates see website)

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.
NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

The cold, wet, dark November night found its ideal counter in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th November with the latest instalment of the North Downs Sinfonia concert programme. Having attended the May concert, I was delighted to be invited back to review what looked to be a scintillating programme of Schubert, Mendelssohn and the promise of the showstopping Beethoven 3rd Piano concerto.

The orchestra's leader Sylvia Seaton and the conductor Brynly Clarke were introduced by the chairman Jon Maynard, and Bryn then provided an interesting explanation of the legend of Melusine which had inspired Mendelssohn (well that and the fact that he thought he could do better after having seen the efforts of one of his contemporaries!)

The orchestra set off a little hesitantly but soon grew into the piece, with the themes of love, loss and the babbling river recurring throughout the overture, with clear changes of tone and volume denoting the passage of the story.

We were then treated to Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto — an intense and romantic work, typical of Beethoven's virtuosity and vision. Mariela Cingo, a much-loved soloist from previous years, reprised her position at the piano and immediately captivated the audience with her playing which moved seamlessly from the delicate to the commanding. Beethoven's 3rd is a work of substantial contrasts which Mariela and Bryn interpreted expertly. The dynamics between the orchestra and piano were precisely balanced, ensuring that the full genius of Beethoven's composition could be enjoyed by the entire room. I particularly enjoyed the brief looks of panic amongst the orchestra as Mariela concluded the second movement and launched straight into the third with a sense of urgency leaving players scrabbling to turn their music. The performance as a whole felt spontaneous, natural and avoided the pitfalls of seeming over-rehearsed.

We all needed the interval (complete with tea, coffee or wine) to recover from the triumphant climactic conclusion of the Beethoven!

Schubert's 6th Symphony provided an altogether contrasting experience to the Beethoven which allowed the audience to lose themselves in the simple but intricate melodies. I thought that the orchestra again produced an excellent tone, with perfect
balance between sections, highlighted in the call and response interludes. It was noticeable that every musician performed with confidence and obvious enjoyment. I thoroughly enjoyed my evening and will definitely return for the next concert.

Amy Parris

TATSFIELD SINGERS 10th ANNIVERSARY

In 2009, part inspired by Gareth Malone’s TV Choir series and partly to try and lift everyone’s spirits at a time of financial and political doom and gloom, the idea of starting a community choir was suggested. After discussions with all the interested parties, and with funding from the County Council specifically for cultural enterprises, Tatsfield Singers was born. Since then the choir has been going from strength to strength and is now celebrating its tenth year of being a village community choir.

Tatsfield Singers have been so fortunate in having a succession of great Musical Directors over the years. Graham Dinnage was instrumental in helping to set up the choir and give invaluable guidance. He was followed by Alex Davies, Sarah Coop and our current Musical Director Sarah Fryer, all of whom have given their patience, enthusiasm and musical expertise to encourage and teach both novice and more experienced singers to perform two concerts a year. We are so grateful to them all.

Although Tatsfield Singers is a village community choir, members come not only from Tatsfield but also from Biggin Hill and Oxted and new members are always welcome wherever they live. We are self-funding and perform informal concerts at Christmas time and in the Summer, and when possible, try to make donations to causes in the village or local charities. We meet every Thursday evening during term time for rehearsals, and there is always time for a chat and a cup of tea or coffee too.

Our next concert, ‘A Taste of Christmas’, is on 14th December at 7pm and we look forward to welcoming as many people as possible to help us celebrate our 10th Anniversary with Christmas songs and carols, mulled wine and mince pies.

Sara Williams, Chair, Tatsfield Singers

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.
TATSFIELD SINGERS
PRESENT
A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 14, 2019

TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL
Doors open 7.00  Concert starts 7.30

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ADULTS £5.00 KIDS UNDER 16 FREE
Includes mulled wine, soft drink & nibbles

TICKETS: SARAH 574446
            PAT  577863
Or at the door on the night

Peace
TATTY KNITTERS

Christmas dinner is on the agenda this month. No knitting or crafting just a lot of eating!

We are meeting on 10th December in the Bakery at 7.30 for our Christmas meal.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Val Quick
07761571071

PFA 100 CLUB DRAW

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

1st Prize: Keith Woolfrey £51.00
2nd Prize: Justin Naughton £34.00
3rd Prize: Mary Wiggins £17.00

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

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

THE OLD SHIP

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 6 -9 PM

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

RAFFLE

Raising money to help local community.

Gifts for Christmas made by local talented people.
THE SPIRIT OF GIVING?

"Maybe Christmas," he thought,
"doesn't come from a store.
"Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ...
means a little bit more!"

The Grinch: Dr Seuss

Do you want your Christmas gifts to mean a little bit more?
Would you consider buying from people who don’t want charity and are just wishing to retain their dignity and independence by trading fairly?
Would you think about fair giving?

Wine is almost always a welcome gift and most supermarkets now offer good quality Fairtrade wine. Locally, Sainsbury’s, Tesco and Waitrose all have ranges. Marks and Spencer’s merlot is popular.

Oxfam has lots of Fairtrade and Fair Trade gifts: purses, baskets, nuts, chocolates, throws & rugs.

Closer to home, Sheree stocks foodie gifts.
The Divine tasting set is a favourite.

How about buying a Fairtrade woven basket (or covering a shoebox) and making up your own hamper with olive oil and chocolate from Sheree, nuts from Oxfam and perhaps spices or wine from a local supermarket?

If you shop online, the Tatsfield Fairtrade website has ideas for Fairtrade and Fair Trade gifts. Even if you don’t see anything which especially appeals, there are links to 90 websites offering other attractive things to browse through.

Our website is www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com. Please do take a few minutes to look at it. You can reach it from the village website or just search for tatsfield fairtrade.

Carol Jordan, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
WAS THERE ONCE A WORKHOUSE IN TATSFIELD?

This has puzzled me for many years. The late Doris Geary, in her 1987 ‘Tales of Tatsfield’, refers to a workhouse in Greenway, once called Union Road. For centuries, parish overseers administered the poor laws. I’ve consulted the reference books but have yet to find any mention of a workhouse in Tatsfield. The 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act established ‘Poor Law Unions’. They combined the resources of groups of parishes. Tatsfield became part of the Godstone Poor Law Union - the predecessor of our District Council. The Godstone Union consolidated its activities at a site in Bletchingley.

An 1822 watercolour by John Hassell does, however, support Doris Geary. It’s entitled ‘Poorhouse Tatsfield’. If you look at it and forget the houses and tall trees in today’s Greenway, there’s a good case for saying that this ‘Poorhouse’ was where ‘Charmwood’ now stands. Even so, I can find no 19th century map showing such a building and no reference to Union Road before 1901. But why else would the road have that name?

John Andrews, who has been living at Charmwood since he was a child, has also been doing some research and offers the following account of this part of Tatsfield.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376 www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldhistoryproject/

A LIFE AT CHARMWOOD

In 1952, my father and grandmother bought Charmwood prior to auction at the Hoskins Arms in Oxted for the sum of £2,950. We moved in on Christmas Eve. The house was semi-derelict, having been unoccupied for some time. In several of the rooms the woodwork was dark blue and the walls pale green. It was awful. A single light bulb barely lit the kitchen. Every room had bare floorboards and peeling wallpaper. It was dismal. Mains water had just been installed but the hand pump for the rainwater well was still in use in the kitchen. An extension behind the kitchen contained a coal-fired and very basic copper boiler for handwashing clothes etc. Hot water came from a large industrial-type Beeston boiler in the kitchen, coke fired and very ugly. All the other rooms had open coal fires with large marble surrounds. The two front bedrooms had large floor-to-ceiling sash windows – hard to open and even harder to shut.

I have some old documents relating to the house and land which go back to the end of the 19th century. The land was once part of Colegates Farm, otherwise called Cold Court Farm, and sold in 1891 by Weldon Thomas John Broughton to Aubrey Augustus
Timbrell. He leased it to Fanny Freeman-Smith for eight guineas - £8/8s/0d or £8.40 – a year.

The house, then known as ‘Argovie’, was bought by Charles Edward Lawrence, in 1920. The family stayed until 1947. One of C.E.’s sons told me D.H. Lawrence of Lady Chatterley’s Lover fame was his uncle. C.E. Lawrence was certainly a publisher and novelist while resident here, but I haven’t found evidence of D.H. and C.E. being related.

In 1947 Stuart George Fitzroy Kerr paid £1,850 for the house and changed its name from ‘Argovie’ to ‘Charmwood’. Until the late 1920s, Greenway (also known as Greenways) was ‘Union Road’ and Crossways was ‘Louisa Road’. In 1951, Charmwood was sold on to a Mr & Mrs Moss and then in 1952 to my father, Christopher Jack Andrews. My wife and I inherited the estate after his death in 2002.

The house is part brick and part timber-framed under a clay-tiled roof. Most internal walls are lath and plaster on timber studs. The ground floor joists are supported on large flint and mortar pyramids about three feet high, topped with slate for a damp course. Some of the floor joists appear to be re-used with mortise and tenon joints cut in them and must have been part of an earlier construction. I am of the opinion that the house may have been partly built from the remains of the old workhouse which stood nearby. Over the years I have renovated and repaired many areas within the house including replacing many floorboards, rebuilding the front porch and rear conservatory and fitting new windows. I also found that the house is built about four inches out of square – a nightmare when decorating or laying flooring.

During the Second World War the house was severely damaged; a large bomb crater is still evident in the back garden. A lot of repair work was of poor quality and much had to be replaced. In about 1970 my father started a business, ‘The Forge of the Iron Man’, making and repairing ornamental ironwork and repairing large machinery for local farms.

In 1975, Margaret and I married and have made this our home ever since. Our children grew up in the house and now in turn have raised their own. I am sure all have happy memories of running wild in the woods and caring for the many animals we had. The house has now been home to five generations of the family.

There’s been talk of ghosts. Many visitors ask: “Is the house haunted?” When I was at school the local children considered the house to be haunted by a witch and refused to enter. Both my wife and eldest daughter, Mary, have on separate occasions woken from sleep to see the shadowy figure of a young girl standing at the foot of their beds. As for myself, in all my years at Charmwood I have never seen a ghost. However, doors do sometimes open of their own accord and I have heard floorboards creak as if
someone was walking across the room when no-one else was in the house. Perhaps it’s all in the imagination. In winter storms the wind whispering down the chimney stirs the flickering flames from the log fire into a frenzy of action, the old house sighs and creaks with the burden of age and the warping of time, but like a well-worn chair it’s comfortable and welcoming and now in my 80th year I hope its quirky character, all its irregularities, its utter disregard for uniformity, or as some may put it more politely, its rustic charms, will continue for future generations of my family yet to come.

John Andrews

FILMS IN TATSFIELD

At the Village Hall

December

None in December while our Curzon Country Cinema projectionist, Barrie Gilbert, takes a break.

Saturday 18th January

“DOWNTON ABBEY”

The film of the Crawley family of the hugely popular TV series of the same name.
Doors open 7.15pm.

Saturday 15th February

“JUDY”

The film stars Renee Zellweger as the legendary Judy Garland.
Doors open 7pm.
THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2019

The bright planet Jupiter that we’ve been watching in the evening skies is now too close to the Sun for easy observation but as compensation Saturn, that is still just visible, has been joined by the much brighter Venus. It can be found low down (approximately ten degrees in altitude) very close to south west shortly after sunset. You can look for it any evening from now on although if you look on December 10th you may be able to use Venus as a guide to find the much fainter Saturn which, on that date, is just two degrees immediately above Venus. Venus is moving quite quickly eastwards (to your left) and northwards so that by the 13th and 14th it is at the same altitude as Saturn but a few degrees to the east of it. The crescent Moon will be close to Venus on December 28th and 29th.

The Apollo Story (Part 5)

Following the euphoria that followed the success of Apollo 11 NASA rode the wave of adulation that swept across not only the USA but most of the civilised world. However, as with all waves, it would eventually fade and in the case of Apollo it would take just three and a half years for America to fall out of love with the Moon.

Within four months of the first Moon landing, Apollo 12 would take to the skies to complete the second such mission. There was an early scare when the Saturn 5 rocket was struck by lightning a minute after launch causing some of the instrumentation to malfunction, fortunately without lasting repercussions. The lunar module (LM) landed in the Oceanus Procellarum (the Ocean of Storms) close to where Surveyor 3 had come to rest in April 1967. One of the objectives of Apollo 12 was to visit the earlier spacecraft and remove some parts and return them to Earth. This was to be the first mission that carried a colour TV camera but unfortunately while Alan Bean (LM pilot) was positioning it on the lunar surface he inadvertently pointed it directly at the Sun destroying some of the internal electronics. Luck obviously wasn’t on his side because he also left some rolls of exposed film behind on the Moon. The astronauts conducted two Extra Vehicular Activities (EVA’s) and remained on the Moon for one day 7½ hours before re-joining the Command and Service Module (CSM) and their colleague Richard Gordon. They returned to Earth safely with the exception of Alan Bean who maintained his run of good fortune by being knocked unconscious by a camera that became dislodged on splashdown.

Just five months later on April 11th 1970 Apollo 13 launched from the Kennedy Space Centre with James Lovell (the Commander), Jim Swigert and Fred Haise aboard. Swigert was a last-minute substitute for Ken Mattingly who was grounded after it was found he had been exposed to German measles. The mission progressed from launch with only minor technical issues and once en-route to the Moon the CSM (nicknamed Odyssey) was turned, attached to the LM (Aquarius) which was pulled clear of the adaptor that housed it. The first mid-course correction worked perfectly but 55 hours and 55
minutes after launch that all suddenly changed with Swigert making that oft repeated broadcast “Okay Houston, we’ve had a problem here”. There had been an explosion in the CSM, and power was being lost because two out of three fuel cells that relied on being fed with oxygen and hydrogen were dead. When Lovell looked out of the window, he could see gas venting into space. It soon became clear that what power was left in the CM’s batteries must be conserved for re-entry if they made it back to Earth. There was a suggestion to abort the mission and fire the service module (SM) engine to bring the craft directly back toward Earth but instead, because it was now so close to the Moon, it was decided to allow it to slingshot around the Moon and then make corrections afterwards to shorten the journey. The other consideration was that, had the correction not been made, the splashdown site would have been in the Indian Ocean with little in the way of US recovery ships. The engine burn went perfectly, and the crew were then on course for a splashdown in the Pacific.

To be continued....

BRIAN MILLS, FRAS

**Recycling Walking and Personal Aids**

In my garage I have a couple of walking sticks, a wheeled walker and a pair of crutches that came from USA (a jaywalking accident in New York!!!) and in a casual conversation with other villagers it seems that many people have walking or personal care aids that are sitting in garages or lofts. I got to thinking what a shame if they ended up in landfill, so I have contacted Age UK and the Red Cross and it is possible that there is a way to recycle them. It would be useful to know how many similar items are out there and if it is worth organising a collection point. Please get in touch and I will find out what can be reused and where we can take them.

*Sue Smale, 01959 577660, susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk.*
This is the time of year when various birds, having neglected us during the summer months, suddenly return to our gardens. But if you’re still wondering where all the birds have gone, the ones that generally flit around your nut and seed holders, well, it may be that they have simply decided to visit a neighbour instead. Why? Well, with all the damp weather we’ve had it’s worth keeping an eye on your bird feeders. I went out the other day and found mould growing on the nuts, and seeds that had congealed into a solid mass; not particularly appealing to our feathered friends! But, with a quick clean out and fresh supplies added, within 24 hours the picture was very different. We had a Coal Tit on the sunflower seeds, Goldfinches on the nijer seed, Blue and Great Tits on the peanuts and Long-tailed Tits dancing around, looking for insects on the bare branches. So, even if it is miserable outside and you need to dress up, it’s well worth the effort of maintaining your feeders at this time of the year. Seeing the birds visiting your garden during the winter months can have a positive effect on your mental health and simply putting out a few nuts or seeds provides a vital source of food for a variety of attractive and entertaining species.

Perhaps you know someone who would appreciate receiving a bird feeder for Christmas? There are plenty to choose from and, as I have proven recently, the greater the variety of foodstuffs you provide, the greater the variety of bird species you may attract. But, as we know, the birds that you attract could well be different to those of someone who lives a few roads away, so the best advice I can offer is to experiment. Provide different foodstuffs (and some fresh rainwater) and see which species come visiting. If, after a month or so, nothing appears, try something else. Eventually, you will find the perfect combination for the birds in your locality and maybe attract something you’ve never seen before. It’s those little surprises that make it fun. And the best thing is that you can observe and appreciate the various comings and goings from the comfort of your own home. Birdwatching doesn’t have to be adventurous!

Nevertheless, should you decide to wrap up warm, grab your binoculars and head off across the fields or into the woods, there’s a good chance that you will see something of interest as this is the time of year when winter migrants make their appearance. During the summer we may have hoped to see Swallows, House Martins or Swifts, and now we may equally hope to see Fieldfares, Redwings, Bramblings, Siskins or Redpolls. I realise there may be some of our readers who are wondering what these look like; you may see them and not realise what they are. With this in mind, here’s a visual guide to these uncommon winter visitors that you may observe during the coming months although, it must be said, you will be very lucky to see any of them! I’ve deliberately neglected to name them. See if you can match the photos with the descriptions.

Brambling – Could be mistaken for a male Chaffinch but has a more pronounced white underbelly, a darker grey head and a white rump (top of the tail) that shows in flight.
Redwing – Very similar to a Song Thrush but the broad white eye stripe and reddish-orange patch below the wing make it instantly recognisable.
Redpoll – The beak tells you it’s a finch but the red forehead and rosy chest set it apart from its other ‘finchy’ cousins.
Fieldfare – Could be mistaken for a Mistle Thrush but the grey plumage is quite distinct. If you’re not sure, listen out for its ‘chack, chack, chack’ call from the treetops.
Siskin – Looks like a small Greenfinch but has more prominent black markings on the crown, chin and wings.
Snowy Owl – Really? Well no, not really; but if Shelley (Bashford) is out driving her car there’s a good chance one may bounce off her bonnet! (See previous notes.)

Well, that’s all for 2019. I thank you all for your news, continued support and interest and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year’!!

Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway.
I have been subject to a bit of teasing lately about my weather notes for November! Many of you are drawn in by much media talk of extreme weather events lately. Although in Tatsfield we did have two periods of rainfall with just over 10mm in 24 hours, the total rainfall for October was 109mm (long term average is 99mm) and so far in November we have had 66mm (long term average is 88mm); the end of November is due to be drier in the South East so we could end up on or near the long term average. The latest news from our water storage is that the reservoirs are full now, but our underground chalk aquifers are still in deficit. All is not quite what it seems!

Digging open soil in our Tatsfield clay is not a great idea at the moment as it is waterlogged – best to wait until later in the month; however under grass and permanent plantings you will find the soil is still dryish at the bottom of the spade. Long term forecaster (the serious ones!) are not forecasting any long period of dry, cold weather at the start of this month, this may change as we move towards New Year; I don’t think I will be betting on a white Christmas!

We moved much more quickly through autumn to winter this year with early leaf fall; make sure you gather your leaves off the lawn as soon as possible to allow light and air to circulate – leaving them much longer will result in big bare patches as the grass dies off. I successfully germinated grass seed sown in January last year but I don’t think I will risk it this year. Laying turf now is a good idea but wait until the spring if you want to sow seed. If you have a pond make sure to check it to see if there are any leaves on the bottom – they need to be raked out carefully, left on the side for a day or so to allow pondlife to get back into the water.

The dull and damp weather has allowed slippery algae to grow on smooth surfaces such as paving slabs and wooden decking; this can easily removed with a pressure sprayer but be careful if you use a cleaning chemical near grass or plants as it will cause damage.

Looking for the ideal Christmas present for a keen gardener in the family? Why not give them a membership of the Royal Horticultural Society? Have a look at their website on www.rhs.org.uk

Jon Allbutt
COMPOSTER’S CHRONICLE – Who we are and what we do

Although we share the land leased by the Parish Council with Tatsfield Allotments and Community Gardens, we are in fact part of the Tatsfield Horticultural Society. We take a lot of green waste from the allotments, but our primary aim is to provide a green waste recycling facility for all the village’s residents. We like our users to be members of the Horticultural Society which, at just £5 for a year’s family membership, we think is excellent value given that it includes a 10% discount on garden products at Knights Garden Centres, plus a 50% discount on seeds and 15% discount on all other catalogue items from Suttons.

So, after receiving your green waste which you have previously carefully sorted three-ways into “Woody Shredding”, “Green Shredding” and “Soft”, we introduce a blend of the woody and green material into the shredders in order to produce a nicely balanced mix. Having these separate piles also allows us to increase the woody material if the shredders start to block due to too much sappy green stuff. It is quite an art!

We then build the heaps with alternate layers of shredded material and soft stuff such as grass cuttings, small weeds and leaves. Our bins have a capacity of just under 1.5 cubic metres filled level, but we pile up as high as we can because the rate at which the piles drop is quite astonishing. A tightly packed bin piled up an extra 18-24 inches will usually have dropped below the level of the top by the following week. Big piles also mean big heat which is so important for killing weed seeds and other nasties.

We then finish off building the heap with six watering cans of water. This is a vital ingredient to get the temperature to go right up. We normally reach between 64-70 degrees centigrade – more than enough to sterilise the heaps.

After a week or two we “turn” the heaps. This involves pitchforking the hot, steaming, semi-rotted compost into an empty, adjacent bin. We aim to get material that was originally near the top or sides of the first bin into the middle of the new one to ensure everything gets a good blast of heat. We add another four cans of water which means we use about 100 litres of water per bin in total. Then it’s all down to nature to finish the job!

We then pass the finished compost through our sieving machine to produce a quality product for your gardens and allotments. Mostly this will be the previous year’s green waste but towards the end of the season we usually get around the site to a few of the same year’s bins which are perfectly rotted by then.

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

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

Sunday 8 December 2019
Leader: Richard Gadd
Start Point: 10.30am at Westerham Green
Map Ref: TQ Postcode: TN16 1AS 446540
Description: A walk to Limpsfield Chart via Hosey Common, Chartwell, Mariners Hill and Crockham Hill common. We will stop for refreshment at The Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart. Returning by a shorter, more direct route down Goodley Stock. Some quite steep hills. Predominately woodland. 6½ miles in total 4 hours.

Sunday 15 December 2019 - 70’s Saunter
Leader: Carol Vening
Start Point: 10:30am Toy’s Hill Car Park
Map Ref: TQ Postcode: TN16 1QG 470519
Description: A 2½ mile 2 hours walk to Emmetts (where we will take refreshment in the tea room). Some inclines but nothing severe - and no stiles.

Sunday 22 December 2019
Leader: Mary Hayward
Start Point: 10.30am Toys Hill Car Park
Map Ref: TQ Postcode: TN16 1QG 470519
Description: A walk that starts off going past Obriss Farm and Hendon Manor to Ide Hill village for refreshments stopping at either the Cock Inn or the Community Coffee Shop (your choice) before returning via a more direct route along Greensand Way. Approx 7 miles in total 4 hours with two noticeable (but not “mega steep” – Mary’s words) hills.

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: 01959 577434 or 07718 762593 Email acresroger@aol.com)
This Christmas, The Barn Theatre is proud to support
GEORGE AND THE GIANT PLEDGE
a fundraising initiative for Childhood Cancer, with The Royal Marsden

THE GIFT

A Winter showcase featuring gifted & talented local performers in all aspects of dance, music, drama and singing

Saturday 14th December 2019
at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Sponsored by our friends and supporters at

TANDRIDGE HEIGHTS
Barchester Healthcare

ALL PROFITS GO TO GEORGE AND THE GIANT PLEDGE

Tickets £14
Tickets on sale online from 30th September at www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
I was born in 1961 in a very small village in North Eastern Italy, 30 kilometres inland from the Adriatic coastal town of Rimini. Up to my late teens, I lived and worked on my parents’ farm until, one day, a friend suggested that I go to Tunisia with him to work on the first overhead powered railway in Northern Africa.

It was 1983 when I was still young and free, I took the opportunity and whilst working in Tunisia, I met Sally Bonds. Nothing serious at first, but our relationship developed and a few years later, in June 1987, we married in Cesena surrounded by friends and family from Italy and the UK.

Sally and I soon settled in Italy, but we found it very difficult at first because I was frequently away for 7 days at a time with work. In April 1991 Max arrived and in August that same year I had my first encounter with Tatsfield. We came on holiday to visit Sally’s parents, Tony and Beryl Bonds, who had recently moved from Beckenham to a property in Ricketts Hill Road called ‘Samarkand’.

My first impression of Tatsfield was a very positive one, rural settings in line with my origin, a warm and active community that managed with help from volunteers to create interest at every social level for all age groups. Obviously, at the time I did not know that Sally and I would be very soon upping sticks in Italy and living in the village.

In 1994 Tony Bonds asked me if I was interested in moving to England to join him in his new construction company, Bonds Builders & contractors. I have to say that the pull of my parents and family in Italy was very strong but nevertheless I decided to take the opportunity and embraced the new exciting life with my very young family.

The great move happened in May 1995, at first, we lived with Tony and Beryl but a good little house came up in Valley View, Biggin Hill. We moved in August, Max started nursery at Little Acorns in Tatsfield and thanks to that we started to make some new friends. In October the following year our daughter Isabella arrived and we soon realised that we’d outgrown our little house.

Sally and I wanted to move to the village and the opportunity came when ‘Delamere’ became available due to the previous owners retiring and moving to Yorkshire. We moved to Delamere in Maesmaur road in August 2000, by which time Max was at Tatsfield Primary School and Isabella at Little Acorns. The property was in need of renovation and, for the next two years, extension works proceeded to create a good family home.

Our time in Tatsfield is full of great experiences, from dinner parties with friends, to various fetes of scouts and school, fundraising events; and entertainment was guaranteed!
Max joined the football team Tatsfield Colts and Sally thought it was a good idea to attend the AGM meeting. Unfortunately, attendance on the night was a little bit poor and she returned home announcing herself to me as the new football manager! Sally never followed football and did not know much about it but grew in her new role and managed the boys until they were teenagers and with boys being boys it became increasingly difficult to put together a full team.

Max went from Tatsfield Primary School to Oxted School and, given his aeronautical passion, joined air cadets in Biggin Hill. He then moved onto flying school to become a commercial pilot for Easyjet at Gatwick. Isabella completed Tatsfield Primary, followed Max to Oxted School and then decided to take a year volunteering to work in an orphanage in the middle of the Peruvian Amazon (our family has supported the orphanage ever since with donations and fundraisers). After trying various temporary jobs, Isabella successfully passed the recruitment for British Airways and became cabin crew at Gatwick.

Me..... I never really took any leading role in the Tatsfield community, but I was always a willing participant in the background. My main contribution is to create the Christmas nativity scene at St Mary’s church every year, as a fundraiser for The Children’s Society.

Since I can remember, me, my brother Sandro and my sister, Nicoletta, constructed tableaus for Christmas in our old family farmhouse, so it’s almost routine for me. We started with a square metre and ended up with ten square metres. At that point my mum decided that it was big enough! The Christmas tableau is called ‘Presepe’ in Italian and although the theme is the same, the scenery has to change every year. In Italy there is a strong tradition of constructing ‘Presepi’ and it probably goes back to the Middle Ages when mainly monasteries and churches used to construct them to make the story of Jesus more accessible to everybody or maybe just for the delight of the community. Some Presepi are very sophisticated with moving figurines, changing weather and day and night; others are a works of art with figurines made by sculptors and wearing real clothes. Some Presepi are historical like the Neapolitan one, that uses figurines and ambience from 19th century Naples. Some are huge and some are made inside a light bulb or inside an eggshell; one was even made in the point of a pencil!

In my Presepe, the buildings are made with polystyrene and plaster of Paris. Support for the mountains is modelled chicken wire and the desert sand is saw dust. Whatever your Presepe is made of, no matter the style, never forget what it represents and treat it with the love and admiration that it commands and deserves.

Merry Christmas and thank you!

Sauro Gabelli

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