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

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Anglican • Team Vicar: Revd. Vince Short

The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2NA (577289; vince@lttm.org.uk)

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clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk (07483 337461)

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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)

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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 Jan/Feb 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.

Cover image: Battle of Britain memorial display at the Tatol bed, taken by Ethan Syrett.

EDITORIAL

The passage of time is a strange thing. It can seem to move slowly for a while and then suddenly speed up as a result of unforeseen changes and renewed activity. Twice, I've been caught out in this editorial, when some of it became out of date in the short time between writing and publication. To play it safe, I'll begin with fact. Today, 25th June, St Mary's Church re-opened for private prayer for the first time since 22nd March (details of opening times are in St Mary's News and may be updated in the weeks to come). We haven't had to paint two metre lines along the church path in anticipation of large numbers! But I hope that it is still reassuring news. We now need further information and planning before returning to a limited form of Sunday worship in church.

Our usual programmes in life have been disrupted, as we have worked together to contain the COVID-19 Pandemic. This may have led to healthy reflection on what we normally do and why we do it.

For the Church, the baseline when everything else is stripped away is, I believe, the outworking of belief in Jesus Christ, whom the Bible describes as "the same, yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews chapter 13, verse 8).

As I write, on the hottest day of the year so far, there is a sense of relief and cautious optimism as the lockdown continues to be eased, particularly from 4th July. However, we must not forget those who have suffered health problems and lost loved ones and or livelihood.

Some have suggested questions for our reflection on other aspects of the changes that have affected us all. For example, as we look back, we might ask ourselves "what was the greatest lesson that we learnt?" and maybe we can retain any benefit around that. In a similar vein, as we look forward, we could ask "What would we most like to see changed?" and "What can we contribute to make it happen?".

We are very fortunate, on the whole, in our village of Tatsfield. I hope that you can join with me in being extremely thankful for our local surroundings and the loving care of many toward their neighbours and the wider community.

With my prayers, as the coming seasons unfold,

Vince

Tel: 01959 577289 email: *vince@lttm.org.uk*

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Domestic Abuse: If you are at risk, please contact East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service in confidence on: 01737 771350 or the National Helpline 0800 2000 247 which is manned 24/7. The Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership is aware the measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 will put survivors of domestic abuse at further risk. Being unable to leave the home will make accessing support even more difficult and being isolated at home with a perpetrator increases the risk of serious harm or worse. The Home Office has published advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse during the outbreak.

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Tandridge District Council: If you have a business, Tandridge are responsible for administering the grants and business rate relief that you may be eligible for. You can register on https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Your-council/Coronavirus

Food available for parents struggling to provide family meals: Those finding it hard to put food on the table are being encouraged to talk to their child's school or early years setting, or to contact the Community Helpline set up by Surrey County Council to find out about the options available. There are various other sources of food available, including food banks and community fridges. In addition, food hampers are available for some families who need them and again schools will be able to help with allocation.

LETTERS

Dear Editors,

It's been around twenty years since I was first asked to write a weekly column in the Surrey Mirror newspaper that (then) went under the heading of Borderlines. It was a weekly presentation of local news. I started adding pictures of places that I had visited that week and I am delighted to say that Linda sold an awful lot of that newspaper as a result. The editor of that particular column (and many others) was Mark Davison who already had a number of his books on travel already published. I had been told by my predecessor that writing the previous week's news was easy. All one had to do was make a copy of the local Parish news. Well, as I have told you before, that wasn't my way of doing things and having worked in various positions (posts) in the BBC for the last 41 years, I intended to make it an up to date newsletter complete with new pictures of local happenings and people, each and every week.

Over the years it has been a whole lot of fun, but it has meant that my Sundays have been fully occupied with writing anything up to two and a half thousand words. Also involved was the compiling something like four (or more) photographs to send in by late Sunday evening's (the print deadline) to the editor, Mr Davison.

And then this virus sadly came along (very sadly locally) and the new word was born - "furlough". With it came the news that most of the editorial staff at the Surrey Mirror were stood off for an indefinite time. The result is that with such a limited staff working flat out the newspaper cannot possibly cover the many things that sell local newspapers, i.e. the local news, pictures and the events happening at our Tatsfield Village. As our local heroine Sheree reports, "if Tatsfield's people are in the Surrey Mirror all of the copies that are sent to me sell out." Luckily it seems that the good Lord has come to our rescue and fingers crossed the epidemic (as I write this short piece) is decreasing. If that is so then our Mr Davison should be returning to do what he does best. That is to work hard on what us local correspondents send to him weekly. You dear reader will be able to pop into Sheree's Tea Shop and Stores and see Simon on a Thursday morning (before 9.30 when the shop closes) and pick up your local Surrey Mirror newspaper complete with pictures of as many people as I send into what is now called Community News.

I must conclude with a thank you to the team at the Surrey Mirror who have found space and time to include a few of the pictures and words that I have been sending in weekly on Tatsfield's behalf and have been published. Thanks again especially to Daniel.

Whatever the news turns out to be I intend that the next annual Remembrance Service will go ahead on Saturday 7th November even if we are still with the two metre rule and also the Christmas Carol Singalong will also take place. That's a fact of the matter as one of daughters used to say when she was six years old. So blooming there!

Over many years I have taken hundreds of photographs of you Tatsfielders and if any of you would like a copy for your albums or whatever, please email me on davedbsound@gmail.com and I'll be only too pleased to oblige.

Finally, do you recognise this couple, that I saw out and about in the village?

Dave Bishop

Dear Editors,

Helena's letter in the June magazine about how she marked Ali MacLeod's 80th birthday was modest about her husband. It gave no explanation of the 'GM' after his name.

I wonder whether everyone in Tatsfield knows about Ali's encounter with Walter '*Angel Face*' Probyn in Poplar on October 16th 1964.

Ali was one of a group of police officers responding to information that Probyn, on the run from Dartmoor, was at an address in Burdett Road. Several officers discovered him and his wife on a flat roof over the front of a shop. They called upon the pair to give themselves up but they moved to the roof of the next shop where Mrs Probyn tripped over a wall.

One constable grabbed her as she fell but Probyn turned and fired a gun at the officers. There was a second shot and then another in the direction of police in the street below. One of Ali's colleagues used a broom to strike Probyn, who staggered but kept running and firing.

It was then that Ali took the action for which he was later awarded the George Medal for bravery. The citation says: "*At this point Constable MacLeod rushed at the man and brought him down with a tackle but he broke loose and fired again*". After four more shots, Probyn was finally caught and overpowered.

Alasdair was one of four officers at the incident who were awarded the George Medal. Three others received the British Empire Medal for their actions.

Probyn and his wife were later sentenced to twelve and five years' imprisonment respectively.

Ian Mitchell

Dear Editors,

I was extremely saddened to here of the passing of Barry, he was so special to me and always there when you needed a shoulder to cry on. He never let you down. Words just cannot express how special he was. We moved to Somerset several years ago now, but stayed in touch. My last evening in Tatsfield was spent with Barry and Mary having a glass or two of wine to say goodbye. I will never forget him and feel truly honoured that I knew him. Rest in peace my good friend.

Love, Julie Wood (Miss August to Barry) and Dave Wood

Dear Editors,

POODEMIC Is Tatsfield faced with the threat of a poodemic? Have we to bring about doggy lockdown and introduce DNA test centres to find which canine backside is depositing unacceptable turdingtons in public places? The CRAPP Team (Community Revolting Against Pervasive (dog) Poo) is aware of the exasperation of some residents, demonstrated by notices addressed to wayward dog owners who let the dog plaster the outside of their property and fail to pickup, despite, in one case, there being a Council poo box opposite. Why is it not realised that in certain circumstances dog poo contamination can be just as deadly to an individual as Covid 19? The maximum fine for such abuse is £1000 but sadly the threat seemingly has no teeth, so how do we reach those owners who must sneak out at the dead of night wearing their cloak of invisibility just to avoid picking up. The team have only on two occasions encountered owners about

to walk away from their dog's pavement obstruction and when challenged proffered the lame excuse of having forgotten the poo bag, pathetic.

Howard Aylett

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TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is of course closed at the present and will remain so as long as necessary. Nevertheless, the Management Committee is meeting (remotely) every month to take decisions on maintenance etc, and to ensure that, when the hall re-opens, it will be in the best possible condition. Because of the excellent way that our Treasurer has handled the finances, we were able to install a new kitchen last year, and further upgrading was scheduled. Unsurprisingly, this has been put on hold for the present, but we are able to announce that when the hall does open, hire rates will be exactly the same as last year - there will be no increases until at least April 2021. A lot of people have been forced to postpone events for which they have paid deposits, and these are being held by the Treasurer – where the hirer has agreed – for when the event has been re-scheduled.

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.

TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE FINANCES. YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2020

Below is a summary of the financial position of the magazine for the year to 31 March 2020. As you know the magazine is distributed to all houses in the village free of charge which is only possible by charging for advertising, sales (to those outside the village), donations from village organisations and individual donations. Our costs are mainly the printing of the magazine but also include some postage and stationery and sundry expenses.

A summary of these figures on the basis of the actual amounts paid and received in the year is as follows.

Income	2020
	£
Advertising	7609
Sales (Including postage from Subscribers)	194
Donations from Village Organisations	1415
Donations from Individuals	435
Bank Interest	41
Total	9694
Expenditure	
Printing	8756
Postage and Stationery	141
Sundry Expenses	299
Total	9196
Surplus in year	498

Many thanks to all who advertise, give donations and give of their time thus enabling the production of a great magazine.

Madie Langford, Treasurer

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 8th June via Zoom. The meeting started by noting that the funerals of Barry Bull and Terry Cockle had recently taken place. Both sad occasions had been marked by large numbers of villagers turning out to line the streets in their memory.

Planning

Two planning items were dealt with as follows:

TA/2020/727 Tregantle, Hillside Road. Erection of single storey rear extension (Certificate of Lawfulness for a Proposed Development). The PC has concerns about this proposal when combined with a previously built extension. Our view is that it would create a disproportionate addition to the original house. Despite TPC not being consulted about this – it is a larger home extension notification under Permitted Development – it was agreed to advise TDC accordingly.

ENF/2020/103 81 Paynesfield Road. Follow up of a refused application for the erection of three metre tall fence within the garden of this property apparently purchased by Croydon Council. Despite the refusal a fence has now been built with Croydon Council justifying it as a 'permitted development' and alleging that the enclosure will be a conservatory. The matter has already been referred to TDC enforcement who seem reluctant to act. The PC agreed to raise the matter again with TDC asking for enforcement action for removal of the fence to be progressed. Councillor Allen to pursue the matter also.

Covid-19

Inevitably a great deal of discussion centred around the effects of Covid-19 and the current pandemic on the village. Despite the hardship felt by many and the negative impact on people's lives, particularly the elderly and those in vulnerable categories, there had been reports of so many acts of kindness as villagers pulled together to support each other. The PC expressed heartfelt thanks to all those who had freely given of their time to those most in need. Particular mention was made of the efforts of Sheree, Kim Jennings, Stephen Mittins and a band of willing volunteers who have continued to provide residents with prescriptions and shopping. And Andrew and Tina were now offering takeaway meals from The Bakery and The Old Ship. Recent events have undoubtedly created a whole new community spirit.

Despite all the Government restrictions, TIB volunteers, including several who have been newly recruited, have done a sterling job in planting out the village which now looks beautiful, as it does every summer. The Tatol bed, in particular, with artwork created by Ben Holmes, in commemoration of the Battle of Britain is truly inspiring and will be the centre of a small commemorative event on 10 July attended by the Mayor of Bromley and representatives of sponsors from Biggin Hill Airport.

Regrettably, the Tatsfield Beer Festival has had to be cancelled this year; the organising committee were rightly concerned about the risks associated now in planning for such a major event in September.

Thanks to Samantha, our clerk, the PC has recently received two grants from TDC for allocation to small businesses in the village who have suffered hardship in recent times. Various applications have now been received and by the time you read this hopefully the money will have been allocated.

Fingers crossed, we are slowly coming out of lockdown. Let us hope we will be able to return to some form of normality soon. Meanwhile, stay safe everyone…

And finally, one further thought. Our hard-working Chair, Kim Jennings, has recently lost her dear Mother, so she is understandably taking some time out from PC duties. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kim and her family at this sad time.

David Pinchin, Vice-Chair
Tatsfield Parish Council (Email: davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

By the time you read this, we will either be nearing the fourth month of some level of lockdown or being released from some prior level of lockdown. Whichever it is as we head off in to what will be perceived to be the actual holiday period, the summer months of July and August may I ask you to be vigilant and stay safe and be thoughtful of each other and adopt whatever distance may be required whilst we all try and get back to normality. I hope everyone will arrive through this situation safe and well.

As we come through this our local shops/pubs/restaurant/services that have been closed are slowly opening up again, including Sheree's Store and Tea Room that has stayed open and done a marvellous job of serving the community. They will need the support of us all to get them back on their feet. By supporting these businesses locally, we can ensure that they will be with us for some time to come. I for one have been supporting Sheree's all the way through and have also enjoyed some good take away fish and chips from The Old Ship. I understand that this service will continue in the future also. So please support our local business as soon as they are available.

On the matter of funding, I am pleased that I was able to assist with a whole range of Tatsfield businesses and individuals being made aware of grant funding that was made available by the government and to date I believe that all of the business and definitely those I contacted were successful in their grant applications. Details of grant funding made available by the government can be found on the Tandridge District Council website.

With most of the Council staff either working from home or remotely and with many of the staff working on Covid 19 issues, it remains quiet on the meetings front but since my last report to you, the system of online virtual meetings has continued apace with on meetings and briefings. An investment sub-committee discussed but postponed any further purchase of property by the Council. A Housing Committee voted in a new Homelessness Strategy and finally a Planning Policy committee took place where an update was given regarding the Local Plan which is still in deliberation with the Inspector. All updated papers can be found on the web site regarding the Local Plan.

July will see further meetings regarding the Council's recovery and Governance issues that have dogged the council over the past couple of years.

Councillor Keith Jecks from Woldingham resigned from the Conservative party and Jeremy Pursehouse, my co Independent Councillor offered Cllr Jecks a home with us and I am pleased to say that he accepted our invitation and joined our party so we are now three.

Therefore, the Independent Group are entitled to another seat on the committee. So the Council now has an Independent Councillor Chairman of the Council, a Chairman of the Planning Policy committee and a Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

On the 27th May I attended Kemsley Copse with Thames Water and Mrs Jay Aston regarding the flooding issue. Thames Water will come back with their proposals regarding their land thereafter we can then communicate with Natural England to sort out their piece of land to alleviate the flooding at the Kemsley Road end.

At least during the crisis it is accepted that our cleaner skies and air have been beneficial for us all but now that light aircraft have been permitted to fly again I will be back on the case of any overflying aircraft over Tatsfield. But if you do see or hear any that I do not please do register the noise complaint on the Biggin Hill Airport website.

Remember to help Tatsfield Good causes by buying your Tandridge Together lottery tickets.

Finally, please see the following letter. If you have any comments please send them to me.

Thank You. Remember have a happy but safe summer holidays even if it is at home.

If there is anything you think I can help you with please contact me accordingly.

Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201 cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk or martin_allen@talk21.com

EMBANKMENT STRENGTHENING WORKS M25 JUNCTION 5-6 CLOCKWISE

Highways England is carrying out works on the M25 clockwise carriageway between junction 5 Sevenoaks to junction 6 Godstone, starting on Monday 29th June and due to finish by November. These works are to strengthen the embankment.

- Phase 1 - Piling works: Access from M25 for approximately five weeks, from June to July. Some work will take place during the day and there will also be some overnight works.
- Phase 2 – Verge works: Access from M25 for approximately seven weeks, from August to September. The work will take place during the day.
- Phase 3 – Embankment earth and drainage works: Access from Water Lane, for approximately nine weeks from August to the end of October. No closures are required, but traffic on Water Lane will be busier.

Residents in the area are being sent a letter about the works. The initial overnight works may generate some noise, but noise levels will be monitored and the work carried out in a way that minimises disturbance as much as possible.

If you have any questions about this work please contact the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on **0300 123 5000**, available 24 hours a day.

CLAIRE COUNTINHO, EAST SURREY MP

Over the past month the Government has been relaxing social distancing measures as the number of new COVID-19 infections fall.

I am sure many of you will be as delighted as I am with the news that from the fourth of July the UK will be opening-up with the new safety guidance.

This is great news particularly for families who can now reunite and for many local businesses that will be allowed to open.

Hotels, campsites, restaurants, pubs, outdoor gyms and hairdressers will be allowed to open but must follow the relevant safety guidance to protect staff and customers. Social distancing should be maintained at 1m where 2m is not feasible.

It will be a relief for many that places of worship will be allowed to re-open and churches will be open for weddings with a max of 30 people as long as they maintain social distancing.

I know many of you have been supporting local shops throughout the pandemic, and these have in turn been vital in keeping the community going and supporting its vulnerable members.

Small businesses are the financial pillars of our local community and the lifeblood of our national economy.

Earlier this month Crispin Blunt and I, together with local council leaders Cllr Mark Brunt, and Cllr Tony Elias, launched a new Taskforce to support East Surrey's economic recovery and helping local businesses bounce back from Covid-19.

We will be looking at ways in which local economic activity can be stimulated and hopefully uncovering key local issues that could stall or block economic recovery so that these can be addressed sooner rather than later.

The past few months have been an extremely tough time and I am very much looking forward to touring and visiting local businesses and venues across Surrey as they reopen. If you have a local business you would like me to visit or share, or if anyone is still worried and concerned about COVID-19 please contact me for the latest guidance at claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk or sign-up to my regular newsletter at https://www.clairecoutinho.com

CORONAVIRUS-RELATED SCAMS - HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. To date, Action Fraud has received reports from 2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million.

How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams
There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what need to do:

1 - Watch out for scam messages
Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk

2 - Shopping online
If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, for example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support
Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. Remember, legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

NHS Test and Trace scams

The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

What you need to know:

Contact tracers will only call you from the number 0300 013 5000. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service.

All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to type the web address https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk directly into their browser, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.

The NHS Test and Trace service will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at https://www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

POLICING

Hi Tatsfield…keep going everyone, you're all doing so well!! We're getting back to normal, whatever the new 'normal' might mean to us all.

I hoped that times would change regarding local crime, but sadly it continues…

During the lockdown in May, four teenage males were seen trying entry doors around the Primary School, witnessed by staff. All four were detained, cuffed and questioned by officers, with their details obtained. However, without any clear offences, the males were given a warning and allowed to leave the area.

Into June, a resident on Old Lane heard a small explosion during the night. The following day, they discovered in the woods nearby, the charred remains of a small motorbike, not able to identify. Despite locals hearing youths speeding around on small bikes throughout the lockdown, there were none that could be linked with this discovery.

Stables in Ricketts Hill Road had targeted graffiti put on their entry post by unidentified persons, with the victims subsequently worried that the stables may be entered for thefts. CCTV was viewed, but failed to produce any facial images of males seen. Crime prevention advice has been provided.

Finally, two (different) teenage males entered grounds of the Primary School during an evening, climbing on the roof causing minor damage and spitting at a CCTV camera. Thankfully, staff identified one of them, with him receiving a Community Resolution (CR), which involves a full admission of guilt. His father then managed to get details for us, of the other male involved, who also got the same CR with an admission.

KIDS: Listen, hopefully you will all be back to school come September, so please persevere (keep going), and your patience will be rewarded. In the meantime, during the summer… BEHAVE, OK? Thanks.

That's all folks...see you around the village.
Rupert
PCSO 12599 KELLEY
Surrey Police, Caterham

TATSFIELD BEER FESTIVAL 2020 CANCELLED

It is with regret that the Beer Festival Committee have decided to cancel this year's event which was to be held on Saturday 12th September. We have been waiting for as long as possible to see how the effects of the coronavirus outbreak would disrupt the Festival but we feel that the unknown risks are too high for it to go ahead.

We shall be setting a date for September 2021 early in the New Year and we hope that you will be ready to support us again then.

Jill Hancock on behalf of the Beer Festival Organising Committee

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Thankfully June was sunny which helped lift the spirits of our members who are all safe and keeping well. Following on from last month's article we thought a delve into the 80's and 90's would be fitting.

In the 1980's the club was well established and had three times the current members, although there was an age restriction to the over 60's this was reviewed opening it up to much younger villagers. A quote from a publication by Jan Akhtar 'Today any age is acceptable if it is acceptable to oneself to be termed 'Not So Young!'.

Christmas celebrations continued to play a major part in the celebrations here is a picture from December 1986.

In 1987 the club raised money for Action Research by doing a sponsored walk around the village clearly a very enjoyable time was had by all-especially enjoying the refreshments after.

1991 saw the 40th Anniversary with the traditional cutting of the cake. Throughout the 1990's the club enjoyed many activities including craft making in Amy Burbage's wonderful garden - although it does not look like much was being made just lots of goodies being consumed!

Members took an active role in promoting the village shop publishing this in their monthly article - not sure Sheree can price match.

Our little feature has now reached the 21st century, if anyone has any photographic memories for the 'Not so Young Club' from 2000 onwards please could you contact me so we can continue the story..... that is unless we are allowed to meet in the meantime. Keep Safe

Sue Dowse 07816110929
notsoyoung100@gmail.com

TATSFIELD FAIRTRADE GROUP

SHARED INTEREST ONCE AGAIN RECEIVES ROYAL SEAL OF APPROVAL

Shared Interest, the ethical investment co-operative has once again been awarded the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development. This prestigious award is given to a product or service which benefits society, the environment and the economy. In their 30-year history, this is the third time that Shared Interest have been recipients of the award.

Shared Interest, based in Newcastle with offices in Africa and Latin America, helps people trade their way out of poverty. The co-operative works by pooling the investments of their 11,500 investors. At present, £44 million in funds are used to provide loans and credit facilities to primarily Fair trade businesses. Their finance ensures that farmers are paid on time for their crops, helps Fair trade handicraft organisations to buy raw materials and enables Fair trade co-operatives to pre-finance orders from their overseas buyers. Shared Interest reaches almost 200 Fair trade organisations in 55 countries and supports Fairtrade products such as coffee, fresh fruit, nuts and cocoa and handicrafts such as weaved baskets and furniture.

If you are a UK resident over the age of 16 you can invest in a Fairer World by opening a Shared Interest Share Account. The minimum investment is £100, and the interest rate is currently 0.25%. More information can be found at www.shared-interest.com.

Barbara Hester
Tatsfield Fairtrade Group

ST MARY'S NEWS

All services and events at the present time are by Zoom Video Conference, due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We are reviewing the possibility of a return to limited Sunday worship in church later in the summer. Please check our notice sheet, available on the St Mary's Church website, for updates.

For further information or if we may be able to help in any other way, please contact us on 01959 577289. Revd Vince Short

St Mary's Church is open for private prayer
Times: 10am-1pm on Thursdays; and 2pm-5pm on Sundays.

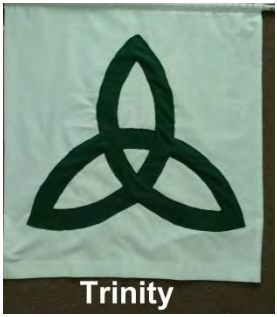
Visitors are asked to read and follow the safety guidelines by the entrance porch and to make use of the hand sanitiser provided on entry and exit.

The building is currently a little bare due to health and safety considerations but we pray that renewed access will be helpful to all our visitors.

A different way of being
For our Zoom services hosted from The Rectory, Veronica Short has prepared background banners for the changing seasons of the church year, as an alternative to a blank wall!

Easter

Pentecost


Trinity

Food Bank Update
Another delivery of food was taken to Christ Church, Brixton, on Monday 1st 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. Reverend Tim Jeffreys is managing to continue to provide bags of 6 items of food per person, which are collected from the side door of the church. This service is greatly appreciated by those in need of the provisions. My plan is now to collect for the local Westerham food bank and to take any provisions needed down to them as soon as I can. If anyone would like to know specific items that

they need or would like to donate please contact me on 01959 577864. We also plan to make another delivery to Brixton in mid-August, date to be confirmed. Thank you again, Hilary.

Church Compost Available
Bagged compost is currently available in the churchyard composting area for collection free of charge. Please take care when collecting.

Flower arranging team
We do hope you are all keeping well and that we will be able to contact you soon regarding re-starting of the rota, now that a vague glimpse of normal is on the horizon.
Ann 577207 Jan 577659

Records
26th May Funeral of Barry Bull (at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium)

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the June draw
19. L Sande-Vine £23.75 62. M & L Lambert £14.25 40. M Perrin £9.50
St Marys £47.50

St Mary's Millennium Hall
At the time of writing, the hall remains closed in accordance with Government guidelines.

Farewell to our Team Rector, Revd James Percival
James's last live-stream service in Limpsfield was on 14th June. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology he also joined with St Mary's for our Zoom service. Presentations were made to him on behalf of each of the three Team churches. In addition to our monetary gifts, he received a book of photographic memories, a collection of video messages and a copy of Whitaker's Almanac (which he will enjoy as a keen cricketer). In a "thank you" note, he said: "Thank you so much for your very generous collection which will make a real difference to me and my family in the coming months, and for your contribution to my memory book. Thank you again for all we have shared. I will fondly remember Tatsfield as the down-to-earth parish on the top of the hill….". We pray for James and the family, as he commences a Teacher Training Course and as the Portsmouth Diocese seek to progress plans for their new home, in connection with his wife Kathryn's ministry at the Cathedral.

Looking outwards
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have recently been able to make several annual donations to mission links and charities. Here are a couple of expressions of thanks:

A heartfelt "thank you" from The Church Army *"I just want to share a heartfelt 'thank you' from all of us here at Church Army. The current pandemic is increasing the heartache, need and desperation, lived out in the lives of people who God calls our neighbour. Your gift will ensure that Church Army can continue to support people at their point of need. Thank you so much for helping to ensure there is hope on the streets, particularly in these most challenging and unprecedented times. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Every blessing, Nicola Thornback (Fundraising Administrator)"*

A Big Thank You from Renewed Hope Trust at Redhill *"Thank you so much for the recent donation from your Missions Committee....You may already know that we are presently not able to open our usual weekday Drop In but we are offering showers and a daily packed lunch take away service. We have also opened our own Food Bank and we are seeing more and more bags of food, toiletries and cleaning materials going out the door being delivered to struggling families and isolated individuals. Thank you again for being part of this. Yvonne Dover - Administrator - Renewed Hope Trust"*

St Mary's Church Website: www.lttm.org.uk

Contact Citizens Advice in Tandridge:

Tel: 03444 111 444 (available weekdays 10am – 4pm)
advisers@oxted.cabnet.org.uk (monitored weekdays)
office@caterham.cabnet.org.uk (monitored weekdays)

NB Please provide phone contact and postcode for email

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Tuesday 2nd June, we were delighted to see our Year 6 class return to Tatsfield Primary School after an absence of 10 weeks due to the COVID19 lockdown. They were joined by some of our Year 1 class on Thursday 4th June and our Reception class returned on Monday 8th June.

The staff has worked extremely hard to prepare for the return and as you can see from the photographs, the children are happy to be back with their friends in an environment that has been made fun but safe for all on site. We wait with anticipation for further announcements from Government regarding other classes returning to school in September and, in the meantime, we continue to support our pupils who carry on with home learning.

LITTLE ACORNS

It's been a busy month at Little Acorns as we prepared to welcome back some of our children on 2nd June. With a brand-new setup to keep everyone as safe as possible we divided the hall into two small 'bubbles' of children and we couldn't be prouder of how well the children adapted to all of the changes!

The children have really loved being back in preschool as part of the red or blue bubble and seeing their friends again.

We wanted to say a big 'thank you' to all of the people that contributed to our fundraising page to allow us to buy low level dividers and another hand washing unit for our new setup. We also wanted to thank all of our staff, families and community for helping the preschool during this challenging time.

Since we've been back, we've had lots of fun enjoying the sunshine during outdoor play, going for walks to the pond and hunting for bugs, making rainbows for the windows in the village hall and a giant rainbow for Sheree's Store!

We hope to be able to return with our usual opening hours in September, but we will of course continue to monitor government guidelines and reassess this over the summer holidays.

If you would like to enquire about a place for September, please do get in contact; we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have, and you'll be welcome to visit the preschool as soon we're able to do so safely.

Thank you for reading!

The Little Acorns Team
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Welcome back to Nature Notes. We have a little catching-up to do. Firstly, as the following email confirms, the winner of the 'First Brimstone Sighting in Tatsfield Competition, 2020', is. . . Jim Yeeles. Well spotted, Jim!

'I'll throw my hat into the ring: Brimstone spotted briefly this morning (11th March) on the edge of Millennium Wood and Tatsfield Green. Spring, at last!'

A fortnight later, Carol Gaskell spotted more than one. In fact it was a small gathering of Brimstones. It must be your magnetic personality that attracts them, Carol!

(24.03.20) '(Had my) first Tatsfield sightings of Brimstones today. Three in the garden. Also Commas, Small tortoiseshells and Peacocks. Lots of bees! Listening to Great spotted woodpeckers at the moment and we have heard the Green woodpecker's call too. All very gratifying.'

Following April's notes, I'm delighted to now include two very encouraging messages regarding the proposed wildflower meadow. The first is from a new contributor, Nick Troake of Westmore Road, the second from Desmond and Margaret Bishop:

(12.04.20) '*I read your item in the Tatsfield Parish magazine and I think your idea to convert part of Westmore Green into a wildflower meadow is brilliant. It would make such a difference and I would very much support any moves to bring this about. But one thing - no English wildflower meadow can be measured in "hectares" - it has to be acres*.'

(28.04.20) *'We heartily agree that it would be lovely to have a wildflower meadow on the strip of Westmore Green opposite the allotments. The wildflower meadows we have seen in various National Trust gardens have been magnificent.'*

Thank you for your responses; it's so good to receive positive feedback. Perhaps if enough of us express our interest something will be done? Obviously, it needs to be a Parish Council led project, so who knows when we may see a flourishing wildflower meadow. 2030? As you see, I'm an optimist! Thanks also, Nick, for your observation regarding the use of measures. I must say I have absolutely no idea what a hectare looks like. It was simply the measurement used in the articles I was reading. I will, indeed, stick to acres in the future.

Liz Armitage has sent a couple of emails mentioning the different birds observed in her garden. One of these I would very much like to attract. Another, I would hope to deter!

(11.05.20) 'Just had an unusual bird swoop across my garden and sit on the trellis. Took a picture (supplied) *but it's not clear enough to see what it is and my bird book doesn't really show anything like it. It was brownish-grey, about a pigeon size, with distinctive stripes underneath its wings going from front to back, not body to wingtip, and not swirly either. The way it sat seemed falcon-like, or like some other bird of prey. Any ideas?'*

Your new visitor, Liz, is almost certainly a Sparrowhawk. This is bad news! All those lovely little song birds you spend time attracting to your garden are on his or her menu. Don't be surprised to find a pile of feathers on your lawn sometime soon.

(05.06.20) 'Just sitting watching a Grey Wagtail on my fountain. (Photo supplied.) He actually climbed up the netting instead of flying on, getting his feet tangled at every step! Is he really stupid, or clever? He had a shower, picked a few insects off the bowl and then flew off. Straight after this, a fat, speckled thrush came to visit. Haven't seen either of these birds in our garden for a long while, so I'm really pleased.'

Wow! I must turn my pump on - I might be able to attract your wagtail. I haven't seen a Grey Wagtail for many years. What a great sighting!

And finally, this month: Mary Smith reports dramatic activity in her garden:

(10.06.20) *'Since the beginning of this year I have been starting to create a bee, bug, bird and butterfly friendly wildlife garden. A pond was installed in mid-May and within a couple of days it was being used by a variety of birds to drink and bathe. Red and blue damselflies also hovered over the water. Then on the 6th June the garden became wilder than I expected when I looked out and saw a Kestrel pinning a young Starling to the ground. In spite of my being within five metres of him and taking photos he spent the next half hour plucking and eating his prey. Then he dragged the carcass about six metres into the corner of the fence and flew away. Four hours later he was back, feeding for several minutes before flying off with the remains.*

At the moment there is almost no cover for the birds as there is just grass and bare soil until planting is done at the end of June. I am looking forward to seeing how the wildlife will then develop in the future and to see if the Kestrel ever returns.'

Fantastic sighting, Mary, and what a great photograph! Many thanks for sharing with us.

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

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JULY AND AUGUST 2020

The phrase "What goes around comes around" must be more applicable to astronomy than it is for any other branch of science. We know that the yearly path of the Earth around the Sun gives rise to the gradual passing of the seasons and the almost imperceptible changing of the constellations that we associate with each season in turn. For example in July and August the appropriately named Summer Triangle is dominant whilst in the depths of winter Orion and his retinue take centre stage. Although the Hunter has gone for now we know that when the long nights return, so shall he. Similar rhythms hold true for the planets although they all have their own individual yearly cycles.

Since the beginning of 2020 we've been used to seeing the brilliant Venus shining in the west after sunset but now it has gone: moving into the morning sky whilst tiny Mercury has followed suit. However, there are compensations and they come by way of the reappearance in the evening sky of the "gas giants" Jupiter and Saturn to be followed in late August Mars. If you look due east from the middle of August onwards at 11pm or later you will see the red planet close to the horizon. It should be easy to identify because of its red hue and also because it will be the brightest object in that part of the sky.

At the beginning of the July Jupiter rises at 10pm with Saturn following about fifteen minutes later. However, things improve later in the month because both make their closest approach to Earth in mid July: Jupiter on the 14th and Saturn on the 20th. The time when another planet is closest is referred to astronomically as "opposition" and simply means that Jupiter (or Saturn) are opposite the Sun in the sky. It follows then that as the Sun sets in the west the planet in question rises in the east with the reverse happening in the morning. Any planet at opposition is therefore visible throughout the hours of darkness (short as they are at this time of year).

The diagram shows the positions of Jupiter and Saturn at 11pm around the middle of July.

Sadly the positions of both planets at the moment mean that they never rise particularly high in the sky and so are not seen at their best. However, if you have even a modest pair of binoculars you will be able to follow the motions of the four brightest satellites (the Galilean Moons) of Jupiter as they circle the planet. You will be able to see them more easily if you are able to mount your binoculars on a tripod: failing that you could find a solid fence post to rest them on.

Don't forget that the Perseid meteor shower reaches its peak on August 12th when, if we are lucky, we might see one meteor every minute or two. The Moon interferes with the shower in its earlier stages but on the night of maximum activity it is a waning crescent that rises at midnight so go out and look as soon as it's properly dark. The most comfortable way to observe is to lie on a sun longer with the head end raised and face north-east looking at around 45° above the horizon. Meteors appear over a wide area of the sky so precise alignment is not important.

Brian Mills FRAS

FUNDRAISING FUN!

Our fabulous posties dressed up at the beginning of June to raise money for Cancer Research. They raised over £1000 which is fantastic.

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

The Tatsfield in Bloom Organising Committee decided back in October that the theme for 2020 would be to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain; a general red, white and blue colour scheme for the containers in the village centre plus a special floral carpet at our Tatol Bed on Westmore Green depicting a warplane flying towards the village centre. Carol Gaskell suggested that maybe the Tatol Bed might look even better with a backdrop of original art depicting WW2 scenes painted by local artist Ben Holmes. Our plans were confirmed, plants were ordered and our sponsors confirmed their support. All was in order and we looked forward to an exciting year culminating in a remembrance event in July. A very appropriate way to also celebrate 24 years of our volunteers working to keep Tatsfield looking lovely.

At first, in the early weeks of the outbreak of COVID19, we didn't quite grasp just how widespread the effects would be. However, we quickly realised that the restrictions on movement, the importance of observing safe distancing and the need to protect elderly and vulnerable folk - the majority of our volunteers are over 70 - would have a severe impact on our plans.

We agonised about whether to cancel our whole In Bloom project, cancel the plant orders, leave Tatsfield with no flowers and no commemoration of such an important historical period. We decided to reduce our plans by about half, no hanging baskets, no high-level manger baskets, no plants in the containers along the busy walkway by the side of the Village Hall, and no manger baskets on the walls of Westmore Road. We re-arranged our planting programme to ensure safe distancing, we appealed for new volunteers and hoped that we might have some colour in the village centre and be able to go ahead and commemorate the Battle of Britain.

Tatsfield responded as only Tatsfield can, with the help of a video produced by Andy Moore and a team of experienced, and new volunteers, we have colour in the village centre and our lovely floral carpet with a backdrop of three panels of superb original art depicting WW11 scenes. We do not know yet whether we will be able to have a

commemorative event in July, we must wait to see if the restrictions will be eased, but we are going ahead and making plans.

The Organising Committee are very grateful for the help and support from our volunteers and sponsors, we hope their hard work will be appreciated and bring some cheer during the challenging months ahead.

Jill Hancock (577622)

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THS Autumn Show

The Autumn Show is THS's biggest and best attended event in the year, with 300+ entries and around 200 visitors. This year, of course, things are rather different! The committee is aware that, no matter what precautions are taken, some people will not want to enter or to attend. We are having a meeting to decide just what to do, and will let everyone know *via* Tatsfield Talk, the THS website, the Tatsfield Village website, emails to members and public noticeboards.

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.

COMPOSTER'S CHRONICLE

As we hoped, we managed to get the composting site up and running on the first Saturday in June.

Due to the need for social distancing we can only have five or six people working at the same time so our capacity will be somewhat reduced but it is good to be working again.

As we are operating under strict distancing rules, please help us by complying with the following:

Turn sharp right on entering the main gate and queue in your car along the fence until directed to the receiving bays by a composting team member.

We will be unable to assist you in unloading your car so please bag up your garden waste into easily manageable amounts. This is particularly important with soft material as you will probably be asked to take it around the outside of the compound and place it directly into one of the bins. This may be some distance away.

Please take extra care in sorting your waste into woody shredding, green shredding and soft before you arrive in order to keep queueing times to a minimum.

Please check the THS website each week this year as we may not always be able to open the site on Saturday mornings. The website will be updated by 6pm the previous Thursday.

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 577420 philip.k.brett@btinternet.com

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JULY AND AUGUST

It is proving to be a very strange year for us; difficult enough to deal with COVID19 and its aftermath. Things we took for granted as 'normal' are now having to be re-examined – going to school, work, and having a summer holiday are all being reassessed. The weather has also been behaving in a different way – or not if you believe the climate change scientists. The May rainfall is usually 59mm but in fact it turned out to be just under 2mm – hardly enough to lay the dust; the May temperature ranged from +2.8 to 33 centigrade. So far in June we have had 33mm (the long-term average is 53mm) and most of that was in downpours; but after such hot weather it is likely to end with a bang and dump more heavy rain that is no good for farmers and gardeners. 'Flaming June' was very true with record high temperature! Who knows what we will experience for the rest of the summer, my guess if save your water and use it sparingly!

Two years ago, I saved a lot of home-grown seed of my Foxgloves, Californian Poppies and Aquilegia (Columbine), when they were dry in late summer I sowed them around the back garden and now two years later the display has been the best I can remember. This wonderful display amongst the perennials and shrubs was all free! Not only that but it brought even more pollinating insects into the garden, especially bumble bees, many more than in recent years, the garden was really buzzing. The flowers are now fading and I will be gathering the seed heads again, putting them in paper (not plastic) bags, and when they are ready I will be sowing them again in the bare areas in the borders. No need to prepare the soil, just scatter them around and then very lightly rake over the areas to cover the seeds between existing plants, they will do the rest!

The strange weather has resulted in many roses being confused and some stopped flowering early. I have seen some very sad looking specimens when they should be growing strongly and making a new flush of growth. Very hot weather can stop the production of flowering wood and it can take a week or two of cooler weather to get them going again. If this is happening to your roses then give them a summer prune; remove up to 30cm (12" in old money) of the stems down to a bud, give them a liquid feed and water thoroughly if the weather is hot and dry. In no time they will get going again and be flowering right through to the first frosts.

Jon Allbutt

TATSFIELD 100 YEARS AGO

In the summer of 1920 Tatsfield seems to have kept Oxted court rather busy. Two local characters were fined for grazing horses on Tatsfield and Westmore Greens. One was alleged to have allowed two mares and a pony to damage 54 trees. He had been in court for similar offences several times in the past but told magistrates that this time he wasn't planning to pay the fine. He would rather 'go to quad'. They told him this could mean a month in prison and gave him time to think it over. Another man was fined for not having a dog licence.

Further Tatsfield cases at Oxted Petty Sessions involved a woman applying for a separation order after alleging neglect by her husband; a woman fined ten shillings for assault and a further case of a third woman being bound over for threatening two others.

In the May magazine I recalled Post Office plans in 1920 to extend a telephone line along Rag Hill Road to a point opposite 'the Old Chalk Pit'. I said I couldn't find such a chalk pit on any of our maps. Jim Yeeles of Old Lane has done some research. He's found an old Ordnance Survey map showing the pit to be in the field on the north side of the road as you leave Tatsfield, near the boundary stone opposite the house called Brindlewood.

Now I have another query-– at least for readers who may have memories of Tatsfield half a century or more ago. As time goes by, more and more newspapers and other material are being made available to various archives. Among recently released items have been some 'small-ads' with references to Tatsfield.

Between 1950 and the mid-1960s a Tatsfield enterprise known as 'Herbal Service' placed advertisements for various types of herbal tobacco in the Daily Mirror, the Sunday Mirror and the Sunday Pictorial. The 'H.S. smoking mixture' was promoted as containing no nicotine or saltpetre. One advert claimed that women preferred the H.S. brand of Smith's herbal cigarettes because 'they appreciate their Virginia flavour at less than a penny per fragrant smoke'. The price was four shillings (20p) for 50 full-size filter tip cigarettes. In 1965, Herbal Service said it was located in Lusted Hall Lane, Tatsfield.

I would be fascinated to hear from anyone who knows any more about this enterprise and could help fill in the background – email and phone details below.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376
Our new website address is: http://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/

TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for the following draws in 2020:

February:

1st Prize:	Stuart Hendry	£48.00
2nd Prize:	Jon Dunn	£32.00
3rd Prize:	Roger Luck	£16.00

March:

1st Prize:	Mary Wiggins	£48.00
2nd Prize:	Chris Maynard	£32.00
3rd Prize:	Tom Ellis	£16.00

April:

1st Prize:	David Hines	£49.50
2nd Prize:	Pete Harrison	£33.00
3rd Prize:	Chris Heasman	£16.50

May:

1st Prize:	Roger Luck	£48.00
2nd Prize:	Alan Thorpe	£32.00
3rd Prize:	Chris Maynard	£16.00

Apologies for the late results, which was caused by being locked down in New Zealand for three months – there could have been worse places!

Thank you again for supporting sport in Tatsfield – hopefully it won't be too long before we can get back again. 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

FIVE MINUTES WITH… BEN HOLMES

Ben is the artist who has created Tatsfield's beautiful art panels, commemorating 80 years of the Battle of Britain on our Tatol bed. Here's a little more about him.

How long have you lived in the area?
I have lived in Biggin Hill for most of my 46 years.

So we guess you like planes then?
One way or another, aviation has always played a big part in my life.

My love of aeroplanes began at an early age, my parents taking me to my first air show at Biggin Hill in the 1970s. It was at around the same time that I discovered my love of drawing, and I knew then that I wanted to be either a pilot or an artist – although I was not sure which!

Some 25 years later I fulfilled one of my ambitions when I obtained a Private Pilot's Licence at Biggin Hill, followed by a Commercial Pilot's Licence at Bournemouth. The Commercial Licence left me in serious debt, and for a few years I had to give up flying altogether. It was while I was looking round the trade stalls at the Shoreham Air Show in about 2011 that I had an idea; why not combine my interest in art and aeroplanes, and try my hand at aviation art? My initial efforts were not convincing, but after a bit of practice I was able to pull off a reasonable painting of two Spitfires, which I took to my local social club to show friends. A stranger immediately asked me how much I wanted for it, and that night I made my first my sale! From then on, I was determined to be an artist!

What did you do next?
I spent the next eight years or so refining and developing my technique, visiting art galleries and making copies of Old Master paintings from photos. Although I learned a lot during this time, I was not confident enough to show my pictures to "proper" artists, and was disheartened when I failed to sell a single a picture at a well-known art fair two years running. Then, in 2019, a serious and established aviation artist who had seen my work on Facebook persuaded me – almost under duress – to submit some paintings for possible inclusion in the Guild of Aviation Artists' Summer Exhibition. I didn't think my pictures had a chance of even being accepted, but I submitted two just to keep my artist friend happy. To my surprise, both pictures were accepted, and some months later – to my astonishment and delight – one of the two earned me the trophy for best picture by a non-member.

It was a good decision then!
From that point on, it's fair to say that my sideline as an aviation artist has really "taken off", with commissions arriving almost by the week. It was in November 2019 that a former schoolteacher of mine - Carol Gaskell - contacted me with regard to putting together a display to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of The Battle of Britain in 2020. We decided on a large-scale triptych, depicting different aspects of the Battle. I felt it was important to represent the efforts of both the pilots and those on the ground – particularly the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) who were a vital presence on the Home Front. Painting the three panels proved to be my biggest challenge to date, but it's also been the most rewarding, and the one of which I am most proud!

TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE – 25 YEARS AGO

This month we continue our review of the magazine as it was in 1995. Thius was a time of change for the magazine. It has evolved several times since then, and we would still love to hear your thoughts! Please email tatsfieldpm@gmail.com

EDITORIAL

Is anyone there?

As I take over editorship of the Parish Magazine, I have to admit to some feelings of disquiet. During the first half of this year the Village Appraisal Committee's follow-up report has been issued, the revamped Parish Mag has been launched, the Annual Parish Meeting has taken place and both District and Parish Council elections have been held. All occasions, you might think for a bit of controversy, some plain speaking, a fresh face or two, some little local excitement? Did you notice any? We had national praise for the Appraisal but not much local enthusiasm; there was a good turn-out for the Parish Meeting but very few questions; and for the first time in decades no contest for the Parish Council election. Is everyone happy as Larry out there? Are we all dull as ditchwater or just complacently pleased with ourselves? Is Tatsfield becoming (heaven forbid) **BLAND?**

There's a new District Councillor - have you met her? There's a new (recycled) Parish Council - do you know what they're up to? Shall we scrap the Village Hall and put up a Millenium complex? Do you want to pay professionals to tell us what to do with the village centre? Do you care about our young people? Let's hear from you - write a letter for publication, or even an article!

I'll practise what I preach by saying a big thank you to Bob and Les our Assistant Editors who have been moulding the new-look magazine these past three months, but adding that I'm not too happy with the layout of the cover and wonder if the Mag's too full? What do **YOU** think?

Eileen Kane
Editor

INSPECTORS' PRAISE FOR TATSFIELD SCHOOL

Tatsfield Primary School has been highly praised after a rigorous inspection by OFSTED (the Office for Standards in Education).

The main finding of the team of inspectors, led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors, is that Tatsfield School is "a good school where the overall standards achieved in many subjects are above the national expectation and the quality of education is high". The inspectors went on to judge the school as being efficient, well-managed and giving good value for money.

Tatsfield School is in the final stages of changing from a First School for 5-8 year olds to a Primary School for 5-11 year olds.

The inspectors made detailed observations of all aspects of school life, including 61 lessons, break times and some of the many extra-curricular activities.

The inspectors judged that overall standards in the three core subjects, English, Maths and Science, are above national expectations throughout the school. The same was found to be true in Geography, Music and Physical Education, while in History, Art and Religious Education standards are in line with national expectations with some aspects above. They also noted that the curriculum had been enriched by the introduction of French during the last two years. "In nearly all subjects standards are commensurate with pupils' abilities and on occasions significantly higher."

The inspectors praised children's behaviour, which they say is "consistently good in and outside the classroom. The staff were given recognition for their commitment and for the way they work as a team, offering a broad range of experience and subject expertise. Parents greatly appreciate the accessibility of staff and governors which ensures parents' strong support.

Simon Dothie, Chairman of the school's Governing Body, comments: "All of us involved with Tatsfield School knew that we had a good school. However, it is good to see a team of independent inspectors confirm our view. We have a committed and talented teaching staff, who are assisted by many others, and who are led by an excellent Head Teacher, Mrs Jennie South. We can all take satisfaction that our children are being given a fine start to their educational lives."

Tatsfield Primary School

Dear Editor - A Polite Plea

Hopefully we shall soon have some long, warm, summer evenings when we can meander, plod or just sit under the stars and enjoy our gardens and air the house with windows open late into the night. This I look forward to after a tedious day driving about in traffic. However, occasionally this longed-for opperunity is totally spoiled by neighbours burning green and therefore very smokey bonfires late into the evening, and because it isn't blowing in their garden, they assume it isn't blowing elsewhere. Hence my polite plea - leave your bonfire until November, or take your hedge clippings to Bond Road dump, or compost them if possible.

Dawn Forrester-Groom, Manor Road

SPORTS NEWS

CRICKET CLUB

By now the cricket season is well under way. Captained by David Bacon the club has had its usual mixture of wins and defeats, but more importantly, even the losses have had their good points. The team were regularly scoring between 150 and 180 runs in their early fixtures, but were being beaten by better sides; at least everybody involved is thourghly enjoying themselves. On the mid-May tour to Watchet the club, even though considerably weakened by the absence of some regular players, had a notable victory over the Feckless Acolytes, returning home with the much coveted trophy that the clubs play for each season.

In July Tatsfield will be hosting Citibank, on the 2nd, and Chistlehurst on the 23rd. July also sees perhaps the highlight of the season, on Sunday 16th the club plays host to a selection of Tatsfield residents/reprobates who otherwise refer to themselves as the Bluebelles. Irrespective of the weather, this will be a day to remember with most people appearing in fancy dress (another excuss for Trevor Smith to wear Jane's underwear) and all proceeds are being split by the school and the cricket club. Please watch around the village nearer the time, when we will have placed posters in stategic places. It will be a fun day for ALL age groups, so please support the function and help us to help the school. If you would like perhaps to run a stall then please let me know, I'm sure we can accomodate you for a modest fee or percentage of your takings.

Each Friday we hold "club night" at the Furse Corner Playing Fields, and every Monday evening sees our notorious Junior Coaching Sessions taking place. If you ever feel like wandering along you will be made most welcome. Otherwise we look forward to seeing you on Sunday 16 July.

Ray Chamberlain (577592)

COLTS SOCCER

I am very pleased to report that the first TATSFIELD JUNIOR 7 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT was a huge success. This was due to the effort and committment of our parents, hel all those people who came to support their te enjoy a good day out watching quality ju attendance for the day was well over 200 Our (and 'B's (The Nippers), were up against some of the best junior sid Junior Leagues.

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

By the time this report is published we shall be completing our first academic year as a group. We have learned new techniques in watercolours and have tried portrait sketching. As I write, two members have gone away to the River Hamble with our teacher to spend two whole days painting.

There will be other opportunities to do this if members wish to try - and at a reasonable cost too. David is also taking groups to France in the summer holidays. As I shall be amongst their number, the rest of you can have a first hand report in September - in time to start planning your own visit for next year!

At the end of term we shall have a general "American Supper" for all members to come and meet and discuss next year's programme. As we have a grant we can have some good all-day workshops if we like - at the weekend - and experiment with some quite different techniques or try some other guest teachers.

May I take this opportunity to thank the WI for letting us hire their hall. It has been a good venue for us and seems to be adequate for our regular numbers. We look forward to using it next term. We have tried out the Church Hut this month and that is a lovely site as a base. We also visited Keston Ponds - so we have gone "public" and it was not too embarrassing! This is the best time of the year to be out and about painting, so hopefully we shall be doing just that for the rest of the summer.

Dawn Forrester-Groom (Tel: 577585)

AMERICA "LAND OF THE FREE"
by Colin Corke

In mid-May I flew for the first time to stay with a friend from college days near Washington DC in the USA. He's there for three years, renting a house and - just to confuse everyone - is also called Colin.

My first reaction was horror at how little I knew of American cars - but you can learn a lot in 2 ½ weeks..... Their cars are getting smaller and better built, but with heavy influences from Japan. My friend had a basic Ford - fitted, of course, with air conditioning, cruise control, automatic gears and power steering, not to mention the essential cup holders!! One side effect of the "downsizing" of their cars is that in poorer areas the cars are older and therefore bigger!! Gas (petrol) is still cheap, and much as I love cars the Americans did seem a little too car centred. Drive-through banks and no sidewalks (pavements), huge car parks at every Church, even a golf cart style buggy at the Cadillac dealer so that you didn't have to walk to choose your new car.

Everything was, of necessity, air conditioned - even the Churches - and it was not even summer. Supermarkets were a disappointment - very little for vegetarians, and dreadful fruit - though with bewildering choice. Even to buy a tube of toothpaste was a mind-boggling experience. A cup of coffee came with a choice of " flavors" - and you often had to microwave the water. It's a good job I'm not a great drinker in the land of no kettles.

In the "land of the free" you have to keep your ID on you at all times. Americans find it strange that a UK driving licence does not have a photo on it. In Maryland State, where my friend lives, you cannot carry alcohol unwrapped in public, nor travel with booze in the passenger compartment of your car. In Columbia village, his immediate neighbourhood, you could only paint your house certain colours and not have a "dysfunctional family relationship" or lodgers - I hope Tatsfield Parish Council does not get ideas.

Washington DC was fascinating. Rich and poor in juxtaposition. Grandeur and squalor, embassies and museums, beggars and bagladies - an amazing city. My memory of the White House will be a garden full of grey squirrels. Almost hidden in a park was the Vietnam war memorial - a long black marble wall with the names of all Americans who had died in that conflict. One of the reflections from this sobering monument was the American difficulty with coping with failure.

Everywhere there was so much space. Tatsfielders would have been amused by the regular roadside entreaties to "Adopt a road" - that is, to commit yourself to tidying the road regularly. The roads were so boring, save for the fascinating cloverleaf junctions which were another by-product of the space.

All in all, America, or at least the part I visited, felt a very foreign land. I'm grateful to all who made the holiday possible. The USA was so vast, diverse, in need of a sense of identity and future. I came to terms with a Church at every corner (choice again), but wondered how or if they ever worked together. There was an obsession with angels, the book of Revelation and specialised Bibles (for women, mothers, men, etc) but a surprising genuine quality to the faith and living of many.

All in all it was a great holiday, leaving me with much to reflect and pray about.

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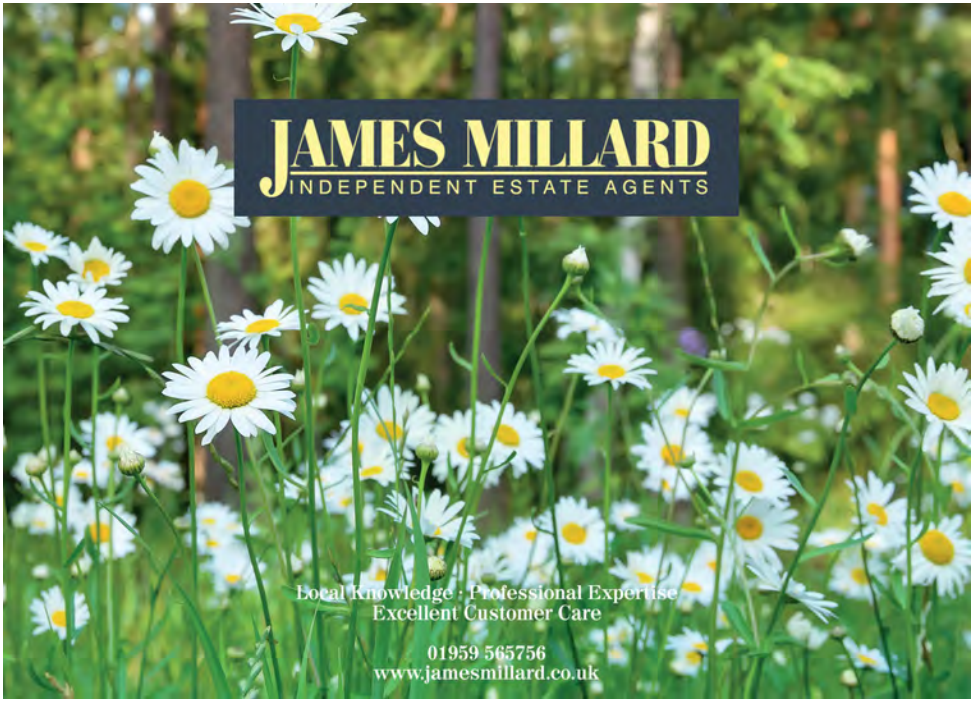

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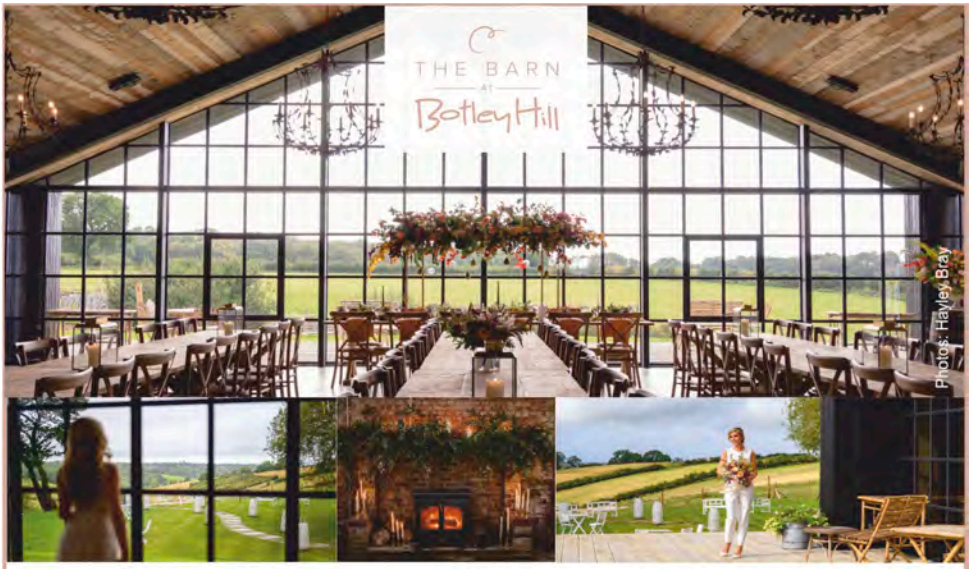

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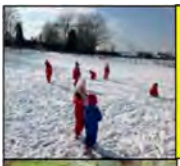

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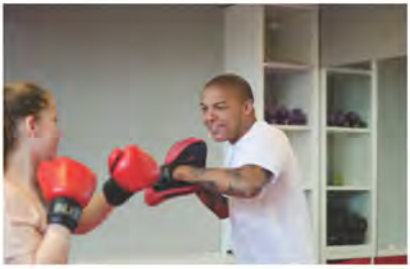

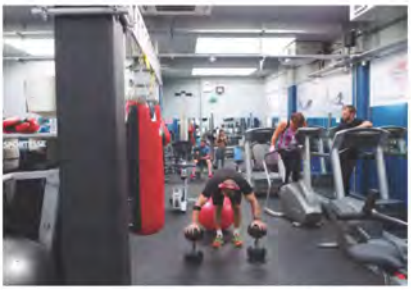

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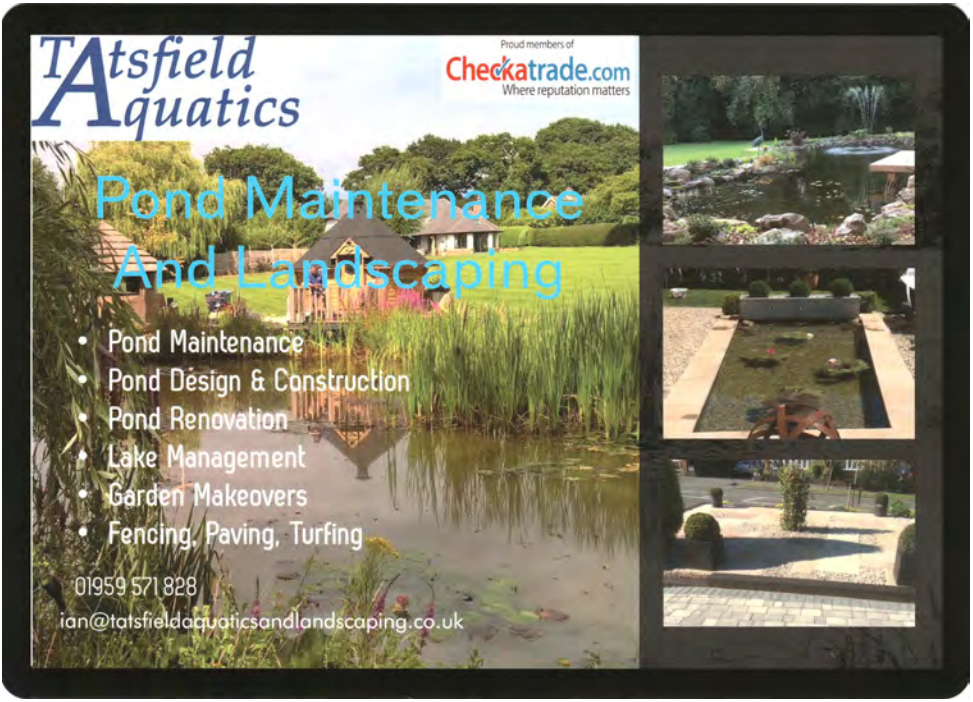

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