

NOVEMBER 2020

# Tatsfield Parish Magazine

25 YEARS



1995-2020

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PAST AND PRESENT

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### **Fridays**

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11.15am-12.15pm

#### **Tatsfield WI Hall**

Paynesfield Road,  
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## ADULT TAP CLASS

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

**Editors** • Tracey Syrett • Tara Barry

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**Treasurer** • Madie Langford (577114) **Distribution Manager** • Jim and Ruth Yeeles (577489)

**Advertising Manager** • Sarah Tait

**Production Team**

Ian Mitchell • Ruth Yeeles

### CHURCH CONTACTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Church Lane, Tatsfield, TN16 2JX, [www.lttm.org.uk](http://www.lttm.org.uk)

**Anglican** • Team Vicar: Revd. Vince Short

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

**Wardens** • Marjory Broughton (541059), Chris Hancock (577622)

### COUNCIL CONTACTS

**Parish Council: Clerk** • Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Rd, Warlingham CR6 9DW  
[clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk) (07483 337461)

**Chair** • Kim Jennings email: [kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk), (577328)

**Website** [www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk)) (07983 011028)

**W.I. Hall** - Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)

**Parish Room** - Bookings • (07920 772880) email [clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Tatsfield Primary School** - Head • Kevin Bellinger (577356)

**Tatsfield Village Club** - 577330

**Furze Corner Sports Pavilion** - Bookings 07533 033325

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**Tatsfield Helpline** - (577749) • **Pet Register** - Val Moore (574810)

**Village Website**: [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://www.tatsfield.org.uk)

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Photo taken by Stephen Mittens.

## EDITORIAL

In November, we have two significant events for remembering those who have gone before us, with All Souls' and Remembrance just a week apart at the beginning of the month. Whilst large gatherings cannot take place in the Village or the Church, there are details of revised plans in this edition of our Magazine. This year's All Souls' service (on Zoom) will include special additional words and prayers in response to the suffering and loss caused by COVID 19 and for Remembrance Day, the Government has invited us as a Nation, to stand in silence on our doorsteps at the 11th hour on the 11th November for 2 minutes and show our respect.

The Pandemic has changed so many things. Even our language, as new phrases have come about and others have taken on a fresh significance. I've had a go at an alphabetic list but maybe you can think of others: Antibodies; Chief Medical Officer; Circuit-Breaker; Clap for Carers; Coronavirus/COVID 19; Curfew; Deep Cleaning; Face Mask; Furlough Scheme; Hand-Washing; Key Worker; Lockdown; Long COVID; New Normal; Pandemic; R number; Rule of 6; Self-Isolate; Social Distancing; Strange Times; Test Positive or Negative; Track and Trace; Unprecedented; Vaccine; Vulnerable; Wuhan.

I was recently at Southwark Cathedral for a rather reduced but joyful socially distanced service for the licensing of new Lay Readers to lead and preach at services in their parishes. The preacher, Peter Graystone, was inspiring and challenging as he asked us to think about what we will be remembered for. He had previously told us the story of how he had the privilege of helping someone to turn their life around over a 4-year period. As an author of several books, he went on to say that ultimately it would not be his books that mattered but rather the ways in which he had touched the lives of others.

As we enter the winter months and increased restrictions, we are thankful for Sheree's Store; the Post Office; the Parish Council and all who have been involved in care and support in recent months and going forward. On page 25 please take a look at details of the opportunity to be involved in exploring an additional initiative aimed at promoting community and mutual care.

In addition to our personal contribution, I wonder what our Generation will be remembered for? Probably as the first generation to face COVID 19 and its successors; and perhaps also for our response (or otherwise) to the causes and effects of Climate Change.

Let's strive to make a difference for the good of all!

God bless,

**Vince 01959 577289 email: [vince@ltnm.org.uk](mailto:vince@ltnm.org.uk)**



## TANDRIDGE DISTRICT AT MEDIUM COVID ALERT LEVEL

*At the time of going to print,* under the new three tier system of local COVID Alert Levels introduced by the government, the Tandridge District and most of Surrey are currently at medium alert level. This is the lowest level with two other levels of high and very high.



For the medium level the current restrictions are:

- People must not meet in groups larger than six, indoors or outdoors.
- Overnight stays are allowed subject to social contact rules.
- Work from home where possible.
- Shops, schools and further education colleges, youth clubs, healthcare services, leisure centres and gyms remain open.
- Hospitality venues (pubs, restaurants, etc) are open with some restrictions, including table service only and 10pm closing time.
- Businesses and venues selling food for takeaways can continue after 10pm, as long as this is through a delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-thru.
- Entertainment and tourist attractions remain open, except for nightclubs and adult entertainment.
- Residential care is open to external visitors with additional precautions
- Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.
- No travel restrictions but avoid travelling to higher risk areas where possible.
- Organised sport and licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules.
- Places of worship are open, subject to social contact rules.
- Registered and wraparound childcare open. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted.

**Please remember to wash your hands regularly, wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and stay 2 metres apart.**

A postcode checker on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) shows which alert level applies in each area.

## COVID-19 testing

There is very high demand for COVID-19 tests and it is vital people with symptoms are able to get a test to help stop the spread of the virus. When thinking about whether you or one of your employees should book a test, please consider the following:



You should get a test if you:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, new, continuous cough and loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) you must get a test.

If you or any of your employees have symptoms and need to book a test, you can do this [online](#) or by calling **119**. Please do not call **111**, which is an urgent care service and cannot help with tests.

You should not get a test if you:

- Don't have symptoms.
- Have returned from abroad or are about to travel and don't have symptoms.
- Are returning to the workplace and don't have symptoms.
- You have been in contact with a confirmed case, or if another member of your household has symptoms, only get a test if you have symptoms.

Employers should not ask staff to get tested before they come into the workplace. The testing service is also unable to test people without symptoms, to provide proof of a negative test result, which some employers are asking for.

## Job Support Scheme extended

A six month Job Support Scheme is set to replace furlough from 1 November.

The government will pay two thirds of salary if businesses are forced to close, up to a maximum of £2,100 a month. It gives state support for those who can work some, but not all their hours.



This will also include businesses forced to close because of local or national lockdowns, eg pubs, restaurants, including waiting staff at restaurants that become takeaways. Employers are only responsible for any national insurance and pension payments needed.

[Get all the details at Job Support Scheme.](#)

## TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT PAYMENT FORM

The Test and Trace Support payment of £500 ensures those on low incomes can self-isolate without having to worry about their finances. The **Test and Trace support payment form** to apply for this support is now available on our website.

To be eligible, you must:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because you've tested positive for COVID-19 or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.
- Be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.
- Be employed or self-employed.
- Be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.

You need to complete and submit our **Test and Trace Support Payment form**. To complete the form, you will need your:

- Council Tax account number.
- NHS unique ID number (which you'll receive if you test positive).
- Proof of benefit.
- Name and address of employer, or proof of self-assessment if self-employed.

From 28 September, those with symptoms must self-isolate by law. Anyone eligible for this new payment, who needed to self-isolate from 28 September, will receive backdated payments.



## KEY HELPLINES

**Fraud:** If you need to report a scam, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

**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.

**In danger, need the police, but can't speak? SILENT SOLUTION** is a way for the public to access help in an emergency situation even if it's not safe, or they are unable to speak. This solution allows someone to make themselves heard and let the 999 operator know the call is genuine.

**Bright Sky App:** Bright Sky is an App providing support and information for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or someone concerned about a friend or family member. In addition, the app is available for use by employers and service providers and includes:

- A UK-wide directory of specialist domestic abuse support services
- A secure My Journal tool to record incidents of abuse via text, audio, video or photo form, without any of the content being saved on the device itself
- Questionnaires to assess the safety of a relationship, plus a section on dispelling myths around domestic and sexual abuse
- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse

You can download Bright Sky for free on the Google Play Store and App Store, where it is available in English, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu.

**Surrey County Council Helpline:** If you need the help of volunteers and community groups, financial support, or help with prescriptions they can be contacted on 0300 200 1008.

**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,

### *Our "Local" newspaper*

For 20 years I have written a digital sound recorded report about the goings on in and around our Tatsfield Village. Those writings along with many hundreds of photographs that I have taken have been published weekly in the Surrey Mirror newspaper. Everything was going along nicely until March of this year when this blooming virus mucked it all up. The editor Mark Davison informed us correspondents from different areas in Surrey, that almost all of the staff had been furloughed and he was no longer in charge. The result has been that due to staff shortage we Tatsfielders no longer have the weekly cover in the local Community News columns.

A week ago, I invited Mr Davison along with the Limpsfield correspondent Fran Godfrey and our Tandridge District Councillor Martin Allen, to afternoon tea and cake bought from Sheree's Tea Shop that we enjoyed sitting on Westmore Green. The weather wasn't all that great, but we had a goodly catch-up chat during which I learnt a few things about the newspaper industry from Mark. Now I am "old school" and I do enjoy reading books and newspapers. But the thing is (apparently,) up to some 70% of us now are getting our daily news from mobile phones, along with laptops, notebooks and computers. The sad thing from my point of view is, that my mind went back to one of many landline telephone conversations that I had had with the late editor of the County Border News Mr Kevin Black, just before he passed away. He stated that "newspapers are a thing of the past Dave, nobody reads them anymore".

Lately I have been invited to become an Ambassador for the new owners of the "Surrey Mirror online newspaper and a number of the weekly pieces I have written about us locals and their events, are included in it already. But I wonder if this new electronic system will eventually be the cause of termination of our local newspaper? Any Tatsfielders have any thoughts about that possibility/probability happening I wonder?

I have just received an email from the local Parish Council who has given some guidance on what is allowed to happen on Remembrance Day service held in the Village Centre. All who would like to lay a wreath should bring them along and lay them against the Ship pub's frontage by 10.30 am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Your wreaths will be collected and placed by one of six people that will be allowed on the green and the Roll of Honour names will be read out by Martyn Saines from 10.45am onwards. The Last Post will be played live followed by the two minutes silence and Reveille. Then Trevor Smith will read out the names of the wreath donors.

Finally, and very sadly, the annual Christmas Carol Singalong will not be taking place this year. I have written a letter to Father Christmas and his Elves telling him the bad news.

**Dave Bishop**



*An archive picture showing when some the wonderful Tatsfield Community Volunteers and helpers, joined together for a Tatsfield village clean-up. Efforts like this helps for the joyous news that “we” have won yet another Gold Award in the South and South East in Bloom competition - 2020.*

Dear Editors,

*TOTO/COCO*

Alan Frame, a close friend and a long term past resident of Tatsfield, author, broadcaster and journalist has released a most riveting new book that explores the extraordinary lives and friendship of Toto Koopman and Coco Chanel. The two women were the toast of Paris and London high society with Winston Churchill and newspaper genius Lord Beaverbrook on one hand and Hitler, Himmler and Mussolini on the other with Toto a heroic British spy whilst Coco a Nazi agent. A truly absorbing read. Alan was an active member of Tatsfield Am Dram group and supporter of various village charities including the hilarious Pub v Church cricket matches.

**Howard Aylett**



THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



## DONATE TO THE POPPY APPEAL

The Royal British Legion's  
Poppy Appeal supports the  
Armed Forces community,  
past and present.

If you don't have cash,  
there are other ways to donate:

Scan to donate



To donate £2 text POPPY2 to 70545 \*

To donate £5 text POPPY5 to 70545 \*

To donate £10 text POPPY10 to 70545 \*

# EVERY POPPY COUNTS



Registered charity number: 219279

\*You will be charged £2, £5, or £10 plus one message at your standard network rate. The Royal British Legion will receive 97%. We will contact you by text on the mobile number you used to give you the opportunity to let us know how you would like to be contacted in the future and to find out whether you would like to add Gift Aid to your donation.



It's good to talk....

...and yet we know from research and our own experience that in today's world many of us feel isolated and lonely. This is especially true at this time of COVID-19 and as we go into winter.

A group of Tatsfield villagers together with St Mary's Church and the Parish Council are looking at additional ways of promoting a Community that mutually cares for one another.

If you would be willing to explore helping with setting up a network of 'wardens' whose aim is to KEEP TATSFIELD TALKING, please get in touch with Barbara Hester on 01959 439439 or Hilary Vale on 01959 577864.

## BE SAFE, BE CONSIDERATE THIS BONFIRE NIGHT

With organised bonfire and firework events unfortunately being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are encouraging residents to be considerate of others when having their own bonfire and fireworks night at home.

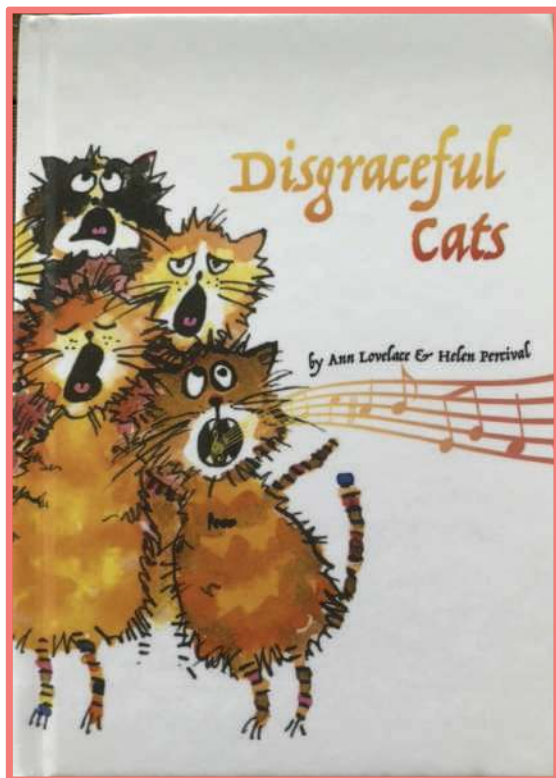
If you are considering having a bonfire and fireworks at home, please:

- Don't arrange a large firework party in your garden, as only six people can meet socially outdoors. You may be fined at least £200 for breaking the rule.
- Let all your neighbours know well in advance and where possible, only light fireworks on 5 November or the two weekends either side. Ensure they are finished by 11pm.
- Consider buying low noise fireworks, only those which carry the CE safety mark and from registered sellers only.
- Don't light sky lanterns.
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework.
- Burn dry, clean and natural materials.
- Check your bonfire before you light it because small animals such as hedgehogs may be inside.
- Don't ever leave bonfires or fireworks unattended and make sure the fire is out before leaving it.
- Keep a bucket of water or a hosepipe nearby.
- Dispose of fireworks safely. Put them in a bucket of water overnight and then put them in your black wheeled rubbish bin or take them to your local community recycling centre.

Visit our website at [www.tandridge.gov.uk/fireworks](http://www.tandridge.gov.uk/fireworks) for more information.



## DISGRACEFUL CATS!



Many of you generously supported me in my 100-mile fund-raising charity walk for The Orpheus Centre. Like all charities in these difficult times they are still dependent upon donations for their fantastic work with young disabled people.

So, here I am again with another idea! Many of you may be cat lovers or even if you aren't, will have friends or relatives who are. With the help of generous friends who have donated to have it printed, I have written a little book of comic cat poems. It has been beautifully illustrated by talented cartoonist Helen Percival and makes the ideal stocking filler for Christmas or gift for a friend needing to be cheered up. It costs £9 with every penny going to the Orpheus Centre.

To see all about it there is a very entertaining online 20-minute video of its launch which brings it to life – with that great wordsmith Sir Richard Stilgoe giving his thumbs up to the poems, students singing and more besides. You can watch this on the following link:  
[https://youtu.be/ ZTaEX6C4D0](https://youtu.be/ZTaEX6C4D0)

To purchase the book directly without paying for postage, contact me directly by calling me on 01959 576 213 or emailing [lovelace@clara.co.uk](mailto:lovelace@clara.co.uk) and I will deliver to you personally.

**Ann Lovelace**

### **TATSFIELD ONLINE**

**Village website:** [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://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.

**Twitter:** @tatsfieldtweet

## **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – A JOINT STATEMENT**

2020 has been and continues to be an extremely difficult and unprecedented year with the Coronavirus pandemic affecting all aspects of our lives, not least public events.

We are acutely aware how important it is for the people of Tatsfield, and beyond, to pay their respects every year at this time. With this year being no exception plans have been in place for a ceremony in the village centre on Memorial Green on Saturday 7th November. However, as we all know, in September the Government revised its COVID guidelines to limit gatherings, both indoors and outdoors, to six people so together we have had to revise our plans.

At a recent meeting, we jointly decided that an event will still take place although it will not be in its usual format and, unfortunately, it will not be a public one as in the past. Instead, there will be no road closure this year and a team of six, effectively forming a bubble, will conduct the whole service on Memorial Green. There will not be a live band but instead recorded music from the Cenotaph service will be played and a lone Trumpeter will sound the Last Post.

The wreath laying will unfortunately need to be very different from previous years.

Instead of individuals or organisations laying their wreaths around the Memorial Stone in the usual way, people will be invited to leave their wreaths on the pavement outside Ye Old Ship on the morning of 7th November, before 10.30am. Members of the 'bubble' will then transfer them across to Memorial Green before the start of the service. The roll of names will be read, as is customary, and the wreaths will be positioned around the memorial by members of the team, who will be using appropriate PPE to minimise the risk of infection. No one else will be allowed to access Memorial Green during the ceremony.

Of course, the wreaths will stay in place around the Memorial Stone for some time after 7th November and all are welcome to take a closer look, at the same time observing appropriate social distancing.

The Parish Council and I understand that this is not quite the event many had in mind but we have worked really hard to provide a legally acceptable alternative service for all those for whom this annual Remembrance event has become such an important feature in Tatsfield village life.

**David Bishop, Event Organiser and Tatsfield Parish Council**

## **TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council met on Monday 12 October, again by Zoom to which we have all become reasonably well-accustomed, albeit it really is nothing like meeting face to face round a table in the AMB!

Once again, the current pandemic featured significantly on the agenda as the village prepares for winter. What is clear though is that the ever-present community spirit in Tatsfield will see us through, whatever we are faced with during the coming months, particularly in making sure our more vulnerable and possibly lonely residents are properly supported. In fact, Barbara Hester has come up with the splendid idea of creating some form of street by street road monitors so that the whole village can be adequately covered. She will be leading this initiative which has our full support. Also, Sheree has already said she is ready, with her willing band of volunteers, to reintroduce essential deliveries to people's homes throughout the village should that become necessary.

### **Planning**

This month we had two planning applications to consider:

TA/2020/1590 3 Vern Place

Erection of part single, two storey rear extension, first floor side extension and addition of first floor rear window. No comment.

TA/2020/1561 19, The Square

Demolition of existing garage and rear extension, erection of large two storey side extension. Object.

Further details of these planning applications can be found on the Parish Council website.

### **Remembrance Service**

A remembrance service will still be held in the village this year on Saturday 7 November organised by our good friend Dave Bishop, which is really good news, although it will be in a much-reduced format because of COVID restrictions. It will not be a public event. We have had discussions with Dave about what can and can't be allowed, as a result of which a joint statement from him and the Parish Council was ratified at the October meeting and appears elsewhere in this magazine. The service will take place on Memorial Green as usual but will comprise a team of six people only. Regrettably, there will be no live music apart from a Trumpeter playing the Last Post and wreaths will be laid by one of the team. Any spectators who attend will need to observe from Westmore Green.

Obviously, we will need to take account of any further Government guidance issued prior to 7th November.

### **Christmas Carol Singalong**

It will not be a surprise to anyone to learn that we have had to cancel the much-loved Christmas Carol Singalong and Father Christmas event, another occasion organised by



Dave Bishop. Clearly, under present restrictions, singing is not allowed and there would be major risks with the handing out of presents to children. Everybody was upset about the prospect of cancellation, but we felt we had no choice under the circumstances. Other local councils in the vicinity have cancelled their events also.

Having said that, there is one bit of good news which is that the village Christmas lights, are going to be replaced and extended on to trees on Westmore Green. That work is being donated by Magna Electrics for which we are extremely grateful. We are hoping to have them switched on formally on 1st December – and we have invited Dave Bishop to do the honours.

**David Pinchin, Vice-Chair**

**Tatsfield Parish Council (Email: [davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk))**

## **TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Feed your food bin**

More time at home means our bins are fuller. If your bins are bursting, then what better time to watch your waste and take advantage of the weekly food waste collections. All food waste can be recycled, so if your leftover food doesn't get eaten, then put it in your green food caddy. Not only will recycling your food waste free up room in your rubbish bin, you'll also be helping the environment as recycled food waste is turned into fertiliser or electricity.

Fill in the Council's form to get hold of your free green food caddy. Remember you can keep your caddy clean by lining it with a plastic bag, such as shopping bags, pedal bin liners or even bread bags.

### **And that includes Pumpkins**

Did you know about 18,000 tonnes of edible pumpkin ends up in rubbish bins each year? This is the same weight as 1500 double decker buses. So, don't just throw the edible pumpkin away when it can be added to some lovely autumnal recipes. Look on the Love food hate website.

For the non-edible parts, you can compost it in your home bin or put in in your food recycling caddy remembering to remove any candles or tea lights before doing this. Please recycle it and do not put it in your waste bin. For more information on what should go in to you waste bin visit [www.tandridge.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish](http://www.tandridge.gov.uk/recyclingandrubbish).

For more information on how to recycle food waste, visit [surreyep.org.uk](http://surreyep.org.uk).

### **How can you help prevent flooding?**

As autumn is upon us, we are urging residents to do their bit to reduce the risk of flooding by raking up leaves that fall in your garden or driveway. Avoid blowing or sweeping them onto the pavement or into the road and gutter. This could see you reported as fly tipping. The collected leaves can be composted along with garden and kitchen waste to help

improve your soil next spring or if you have the green waste collection they can be put in your brown bin. You can also bag them up and take them to your local community recycling centre. Check your property's gutters and drains too because they can also get blocked with fallen leaves.

### **Unitary situation**

The Unitary situation seems to have gone away for the moment as it has been reported that Surrey were not going to be one of the chosen Councils for this to start with. The suggestion is that Tim Oliver has been advised that there could be a large loss of Conservative Councillors at the May 2021 elections if this was raised before that time.

I will keep you updated on any developments with regards to this important matter as it develops but do please join the debate by reading everything relevant to any proposals so that we can be sure that you have your own say and input when the time comes for consultation.

### **Other business**

I continue to attend **meetings** on a variety of subjects as well as dealing with neighbour disputes and planning enforcement matters and other social issues within Tatsfield.

**Overflying** - I am still reporting instances of "overflying" which I am constantly in touch with the CEO about it and he will be reporting the problem at the BHACC meeting w/c 12<sup>th</sup> October. The CEO David Winstanley came to the village to see and acknowledge the problems for himself. There is a dis-connect between 'visually observed flight' from the ground, Web Trak tracked flights and Pilot reports. We do not at this stage know the exact degree of error. We are working on it and will be following it up.

**Tandridge District Council - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy for Tatsfield** – this is now in the consultation stage and includes areas in Tatsfield for inclusion in the program over the next 5 years. Visit the website for further details and how to contribute.

**Tatsfield autumn cut back in your area to protect waste collection service** - vegetation letters were sent out in the spring to roads/properties that have been identified as having potential access issues for our contractor, Biffa, as vegetation develops during the year. If you received one of these letters, please make sure that you cut back your trees and hedges to save you receiving an Invoice for the council doing it for you.

Lastly and importantly for Tatsfield can I urge you to **support our local businesses** in every way that you can. We rely on our local business so much and we need to show our support to them. Remember to help Tatsfield Good causes by buying your Tandridge Together lottery tickets. Thank You.

**Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201 [cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk) or [martin\\_allen@talk21.com](mailto:martin_allen@talk21.com)**

## CLAIRE COUNTINHO, EAST SURREY MP

As someone who used to work in education and social justice policy, I was delighted to see the Prime Minister focus on skills this month, announcing a package worth over £1.5 billion across further and higher education to help get people working again after Covid-19, as well as giving those in work the chance to train for higher- skilled, better-paid jobs.

More broadly, I'm continuing my work with the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce, which I established in June to support the local economy and ensure a joined-up approach with various bodies in doing so. The taskforce meets fortnightly with the Leaders of Tandridge District Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Coast2Capital LEP, Surrey County Council, and the FSB. To date, we've managed to secure £1.7 million funding for shovel ready projects, which make up around 10 per cent of the total funds available on this round for the entire Coast2Capital area.

I've also been lobbying the Department for Education for funding for East Surrey College's Advanced Technology Centre to help our young people get the skills they need for high quality and green jobs, as well as pushing to secure a local Jobs Youth Hub to support young people into employment and for targeted employment support in and around the Gatwick areas for aviation workers. Last week, I also met with the CEO of Gatwick Airport and the Surrey Economic Growth Board led by Surrey County Council. As the only sitting MP on the board, I am looking forward to shaping a medium-long term strategy to return Surrey to growth. I know that the livelihoods of so many local people depend on the airport or related industries, so this is a top priority for me.

Something that I've really appreciated over the past few months is our beautiful surroundings. I know that enjoying our natural green spaces has also been of huge importance to local residents during what have been trying months. It's also another one of my key priorities in Parliament.

For example, I launched the Green-tember campaign – to dedicate the whole month of September to focusing on green issues, which I know is of huge importance to local residents in Tatsfield too. Our area is a treasure chest for the environment, so I was really thrilled that so many local residents supported the campaign, by joining me for Saturday litter-picks to clean up Westway common and Horley, and for an East Surrey residents special Q&A with Minister for the Environment and green super-champion Zac Goldsmith.

The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is on my desk at the moment too. We're supporting the Board in its desire to extend the boundary of the AONB so that we protect that beautiful green space for generations to come. I'm working hard with other Surrey MPs to make that happen, and what I'd say is watch this space over the next few weeks. I'm also really excited to follow up my visit to the British Wildlife Reserve by visiting the Lingfield Reserves this month.



This year, I was also delighted to be appointed to the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme which will see me embedded in military training. I know there is some wonderful work done locally to support our resident veterans, and I very much look forward to embracing this opportunity to learn more about the lives of our brilliant armed forces.

Finally, on coronavirus, we have seen a new tier system brought in, due to a rise in transmissions and an understandable desire on the part of the many residents for the rules to be made more simple to follow. On the day of writing this, East Surrey remains in the medium tier, but I know that this will be a worrying time for many of you, so please do keep up to date by checking my Facebook page where I will post regular updates.

**If you need help, please contact me at: [claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk); or call 0207 219 5972. Do please also check out my Facebook Page (@claire4eastsurrey) for the latest updates.**

## **POLICING**

Hello Tatsfield. Hope you are all coping ok with various restrictions, with changes to the rules seemingly every week.

We as a force will do our best to keep you all safe, enforcing any breaches of licencing or gathering rules.

On the local crime front, a slight upturn on the number of reports.....

At the end of September, Parkwood Golf Course had a theft of tools (chainsaw and leafblower). A male approached the greens staff pretending to be a tool salesman, and while in their buildings, stole the items while unattended. A nearby CCTV possibility came to nothing, so the incident has had to be filed.

In October, the residents of a property on Church Hill were woken by noises outside. A female was searching through their vehicle on the drive. When challenged, the female ran off, but later it was discovered she had come in a vehicle and left it on the victim's grounds. This was recovered, and searches were made for the female. She was found by the Met Police in Biggin Hill and detained.

Also in October, an elderly resident of Lusted Hall Lane was the victim of an attempted fraud, by someone pretending to be from their bank's fraud department. Cleverly, the victim then contacted the REAL fraud department who confirmed it was all a scam. The male caller then phoned again the next day to get account details. When told by the victim he knew they were fake, the caller screamed and hung up. Please treat any similar contact with the same level of suspicion.

A genuine call from your bank will normally be to your mobile number, not the landline. But banks don't normally call anyway, they post.

Finally, we had a report confirming the sighting of a naked male walking in a field off Goatsfield Road. Description: white, aged 50s, height 6'2", bald head, skinny build, no clothing described though..... If anyone has any idea who this gentleman might be, please let us know on 101, quoting reference P20223180.

KIDS: Enjoy those fireworks, but stay safe and don't do anything risky. Hope the evening goes off with a bang (ooo, ahh).

That's all folks.....see you around the village.

**Rupert**

**PCSO 12599 KELLEY, Surrey Police, Caterham**



## **POPPY APPEAL 2020 IN TATSFIELD**



Last year, in my second year as Poppy Appeal organiser for Tatsfield, we saw more than £1500 collected in the village. Tatsfield's support for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal 2020 is looking and feeling very different as a result of COVID-19. In line with the national picture there has been no distribution of traditional collection boxes at the regular village locations.

Anyone wishing to purchase a traditional poppy, tie pin or other poppy items is able to do so from a Covid-19 friendly table I am manning at Sheree's Store and Tearoom on Saturdays 24th and 31<sup>st</sup> October from 0930 to 1200. Most large corporate supporters such as supermarkets also have poppy items available. You can also show your support by donating online at [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).

I hope to be back in 2021 to mark 100 years of the Poppy Appeal. Thank you for continuing to support us as your commitment helps fund life-changing work and allows the Legion to help thousands of members of our Armed Forces community every year.

**Dave Vale**

## LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

We have had a very fun and creative month at Little Acorns and have welcomed lots of new children to join in the fun! We've been playing outside, whatever the weather, and even used the hose to make our own puddles to splash in when we had a dry day!



The children took great interest in our nature table, looking closely at chestnuts and their shells using magnifying glasses and tweezers. We've also enjoyed



lots of craft activities including making 'boats' out of cardboard boxes, playing with playdough together as a group and exploring texture with rice and bird seed, using funnels, spoons, bowls and measuring jugs to pour it in different ways.

### Fundraising

We were very pleased to show our support for the Alzheimer's Society by making a pretty paper flower display and raised a fantastic £52.50! Thank you to all our families for their craft skills and generosity. When we return from half term we'll be starting work on our poppy display and collection.



### Open day

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October we welcomed some new and prospective families to have a look around and meet some of our team. Although our open day had to be spaced out due to government guidelines we were still very happy to meet some wonderful children and parents during the course of the day.

We have a limited number of preschool spaces still available, so if you would like to enquire about a place for this term please do get in contact; we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have and we can now safely arrange visits.

## Breakfast Club



It's been lovely having our regular breakfast club children back along with some new faces in the mornings. We've been busy with games, craft and building activities, ensuring that the children have a fun and relaxed start to their day.

We're pleased to be able to offer flexible breakfast club



sessions again, which we know are particularly important to our parents who work different shift patterns, as well as our prebooked days. If you would like to enquire about using breakfast club, please call or email the office.

Thank you for reading!

**The Little Acorns Team**

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



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Delicious, freshly baked croissants and pastries delivered to your door on from 8am on Saturdays and Sundays.

**ALL BUTTER CROISSANT - £1**

**PAIN AU CHOCOLAT - £1.25**

**PAIN AUX RAISIN - £1.25**

Deliveries within Tatsfield village. Please send me a text or WhatsApp message to order: Ethan Syrett 07482 402988



## Tatsfield Primary School – Year 6 Bikeability

Eagle Class recently took part in the Surrey Bikeability Scheme which teaches children how to ride their bikes safely on the road. As you can see from the comments, the children thoroughly enjoyed their experience.



"The bike ability instructors are knowledgeable and they teach you how to ride your bike on the road safely. They make you confident and are friendly."

"I learnt how to indicate whilst riding."



"I learnt when to look before you start to ride and whilst riding."

"It's fun, you learn lots & I liked seeing how I got on at the back of my personalised certificate."



## SURREY HIGHWAYS COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS



Surrey Highways have just invested in a fleet of 39 new amazing gritter vehicles which are set to hit the roads this winter.

“Our gritters are such an important part of our service that we believe

they deserve to be given a name rather than a number. So, Surrey Highways are launching an exciting competition to name their gritters and hoping that school pupils can help!”

“All 39 of the lorries need names - the more wild and wacky the better! In other parts of the country, local children have conjured up names such as ‘Gritty McGritface’, ‘David Plowie’ and ‘Gritney Spears’. We have no doubt that here in Surrey we can go one better and really put our county on the map with some imaginative names for our new gritters.”

Surrey Highways are asking each school to submit up to 12 names for the new gritters by 12<sup>th</sup> November.

### YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DISTRICT’S OPEN SPACES

We want to hear how residents and interested parties would like us to provide, manage, maintain and get the best use out of the district’s many parks and open spaces, which we know have taken on extra importance during the pandemic.

We launched our consultation on 28 September and have already received some feedback. If you haven’t given your thoughts yet, you have until 5pm on Monday 9 November to get involved and have your say in shaping the future of the district’s open spaces. You can send us your views by:

- E-mailing [openspaces@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:openspaces@tandridge.gov.uk).
- Writing to: The Strategy Team, Open Space Strategy Consultation, Tandridge District Council, Council Offices, 8 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0BT.

This consultation will shape our Open Space Strategy, building on our work in July 2019 where we worked in partnership with residents, councillors, parish councils and other interested parties, to see how they would like to use the district’s parks and open spaces both now and in the future. More information on the consultation and our draft strategy can be found on the Tandridge website.

## ST MARY'S NEWS

### Harvest at St Mary's

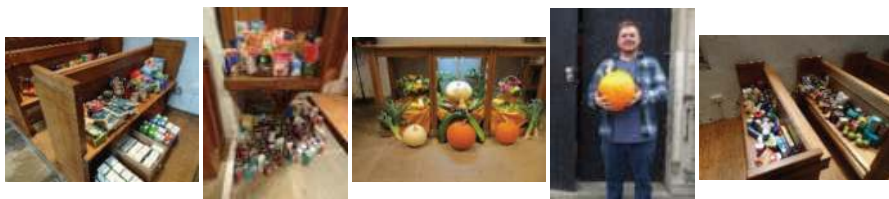


A big thank you to our Flower Arrangers for beautifully decorating the church, which was much appreciated by the 9am congregation and those who visited the open church during the afternoon (photos from Peter Maynard and Vince Short in this edition). For our 10am Zoom service

from the Rectory, we're grateful to Veronica for making a harvest loaf and harvest banner.

### St Mary's Harvest Festival Food Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated food and money so generously to the food bank collection and the Harvest Festival service. A particular "thank you" to Tatsfield Primary School for all the food that they provided and to the Titsey Estate for the wonderful



vegetables from their gardens. Thanks also to everyone else who added to a very generous collection of food. This was all displayed at the church for the Harvest Festival service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Three cars were loaded up on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October with all the food donations and taken to Christ Church, Brixton Road (the fresh produce was taken up separately on a subsequent occasion – the photos include one of Marcel, who coordinates the food distribution at Christ Church). The gifts were received with grateful thanks and they will go a long way in providing provisions to all those who attend the weekly 'Food Café' on a Tuesday morning, at the church. The 'Food Café' continues to be a much-needed service, which has a growing demand. We regularly collect donations throughout the year to support Christ Church and Westerham Food Bank. If you would like to donate or have any questions, please contact me on 01959 577864. The next planned delivery will be at the beginning of December, in time for Christmas.

**Hilary Vale**



### **Toy Collection**

On Advent Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November, we hope that we may be able to collect toys for Brixton or a local charity. Due to COVID 19, this would only be new toys this year.

Please look out for further announcements.

### **Introducing our new Parish Administrator, Steve Tatler**

Steve began working with us on 11<sup>th</sup> March but his induction and probationary period were somewhat interrupted by Lockdown, when he worked reduced hours at home to produce our weekly notice sheet remotely. Steve can normally be contacted at the Rectory between 10am-1pm on Thursdays, when he'll also pick up any emails to the Church Office: [stmooffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmooffice.lttm@btinternet.com)



Steve leads music in worship at his church, St Ambrose Catholic Church, Warlingham, whose priest, also covers Oxted, which is coincidentally part of the historic sharing agreement with St Mary's, Tatsfield, for use of the building for Mass and the occasional funeral. Steve and Vince have discovered that they have a mutual interest in guitars!

### **New Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) for the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team of churches**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Sarah Paxton, from St Peter's, Limpsfield, was licensed as a Lay Reader at a special service at Southwark Cathedral. As a result of the current interregnum



at St Peter's, while we seek a new Team Rector, Vince attended the service as Team Vicar and he and Sarah are pictured here at St Peter's, where Vince conducted her welcome as a Reader on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. The opportunities and responsibilities of a Reader include leading and preaching at services. Whilst they may not preside at Holy Communion or take weddings, they can train and be authorised to take funerals. We

congratulate Sarah and pray for every blessing in her continuing ministry in the churches and the community.

### **Flower arranging team**

As many of you will know we were thrilled to be invited to produce flower arrangements to celebrate Harvest Festival at home but to be placed in the church. The result was stunning and most were kept in situ until the 13th October. We are now only decorating the Paschal Candle. We also thank Mr. Rhod Jones and his team of the Titsey Estate for the generous supply of garden produce to add to the floral arrangements.



**Ann 577207 Jan 577659**



## **All Souls' Service Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 3.30pm by Zoom from the Rectory**

This year our short service to remember those we have loved and see no more will be by Zoom video conference (the link can be accessed via the notice sheet on the homepage of our website).



## **Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

There will be a short service of Holy Communion in church at 9am and a 45-minute service of Holy Communion at 10am (via the link in our notice sheet which is accessible via the homepage on our website). Although neither service includes 11am, the roll of honour will be read and the 2-minute silence will be kept at both.



## **Revised weekday opening time from 1<sup>st</sup> November**

With darker evenings St Mary's Church opening time for private prayer has been brought forward an hour to 1pm-4pm on Wednesdays. Visitors are required to wear a mask. Please read and follow the **safety guidelines** by the entrance porch, including the use of the **hand sanitiser** provided on entry and exit.

## **Lectio Divine – weekly Bible reflection 7.30pm-8.00pm each Wednesday by Zoom**

Led by Chris and Ellen Goldsmith. Each session explores and brings to life a short Bible passage as we first listen and then each share a word or phrase that stands out for us. All are welcome, as each week stands alone. The Zoom link can be found in our notice sheet which is accessible via the homepage on our website.

## **Records**

20<sup>th</sup> September                      Interment of ashes of Janet Curtis

## **St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the October draw (prize values to be confirmed)**

7 J. Ellis                      71 M. E. Miles                      86 K. Longley

*The Millennium Hall remains closed at present but we will continue to review when we may be able to re-open to our regular groups.*

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

HARVEST FLOWERS DISPLAYED AT ST MARY'S



## TATSFIELD FAIRTRADE GROUP FAIRTRADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you are beginning to think about Christmas and want to give gifts that also benefit the producers, then what better way to do it then look for Fair Trade products.

Sheree is going to stock some extra Christmassy FairTrade items, and she has both the Traidcraft Autumn/Winter and Christmas Gifts catalogues in store, so you can help yourself to one and start ordering!

In addition Moyna who lives in Oxted does bulk orders of Traidcraft and will deliver up to Tatsfield, which will save you any postage, her telephone number and email address are 01883 716257 and moynabridge@yahoo.co.uk

You can also view the Traidcraft catalogue online at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk).

There are other websites to look at too, for instance the Fairtrade website, <http://fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/> has gifts and more practical items, for example beauty products, flowers and gold jewellery. You might enjoy looking at are the Ethical superstore and Oxfam (either online or you could pop into Oxted or Bromley and buy from their shops).

Amazon do sell some Fair Trade products, and if you would rather circumvent ordering from them you can look online and go to the companies direct. There are some lovely gifts e.g. stationery to give you some ideas.



And of course, you can get your Fair Trade advent calendars, Christmas cards and calendars for next year.

Enjoy shopping and enjoy feeling you are really helping the producers, especially when they have had such a difficult year.

**Alizon Mooney**  
**Tatsfield Fairtrade Group**



## **NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA – STILL LEARNING!**

North Downs Sinfonia held another rehearsal at the Village Hall on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. 29 ½ people attended out of the 30 permitted, the ½ being the 2-month old daughter of our wonderful violin soloist Haru Ushigusa! For the first time, the hall committee agreed that wind players could take part, for which NDS thanks the VHMC, and all agreed that it was very successful.

Francis Griffin conducted, and we would love to say that he will conduct our usual Autumn concert next month, but of course that is not possible. Nobody knows what will happen in the next few months – will there be another lockdown, will a vaccine be approved, will the rules be relaxed a little – so it is not even possible to plan for a Spring concert next May. However, the NDS Committee have been thinking of possible (partial) solutions, and as events unfold, we will keep our loyal audience informed.

**Peter Maynard**

## **TATSFIELD HELPLINE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Since lockdown the Helpline has had to discontinue the service, but if it can be re-instated when things improve, it desperately needs some new officers. Our Annual General Meeting will be held towards the end of November. If anyone out there is interested in keeping the Helpline to function, please contact our Chairman, Angela Sawyers on 577434 or our Secretary, Hazel Cartwright on 577749, who will be more than happy to give you further information.

### **TAGGERS KEEP BUSY**

We have not been able to meet up of course but are planning our new 2021 calendar.

If you are interested in joining our group or exhibiting your work under our aegis please get in touch with me on 07815775859.

Carol Gaskell

<https://tatsfield-art-group.weebly.com/exhibition-august-2020.html>





## BARN THEATRE, OXTED

Fortunately, the new regulations only affect those who would like to book more than six tickets, so we plan (at the moment) to hold the attached event at the theatre in November. We consider safety to be paramount, so masks must be worn, social distancing must be practised and entrances and exits will be controlled. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a return to some sort of normality after what has been a very challenging time for all.

### NOVEMBER

**Oxted Comedy Night** (*When did you last have a good laugh? Change that and come and see Bob Mills and the comedians from House of Stand Up*)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> (7.45) (Tickets (£25.00) 18+

**Information pertaining to all the above shows can be obtained from:**

**[www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 15a High Street, Westerham. Kent. TN16 1RA. 01959 561811**

## TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for August 2020:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	Bob David	£48.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	Justin Naughton	£32.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	Craig Seamons	£16.00

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](mailto:les.eames@ntlworld.com)

Les

### 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.



## FILMS AT THE VILLAGE HALL IN NOVEMBER



We have two films from Curzon Country Cinema this month, one of them a special – the hit musical “42nd Street” filmed live at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane - and the other a special too - “1917”, a British film about the First World War, variously held to be “phenomenal”, “amazing”, “extraordinary” and “audacious”. All social distancing and other Covid-19 measures will apply. The number of seats will be limited, so you should book and pay online – at [www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk](http://www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk). Tickets are £10 for “42<sup>nd</sup> Street” and £5 for “1917”.

### “42<sup>nd</sup> STREET” ON SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.30pm.

As the curtain opens in America in 1932 at the time of the Great Depression, young acting hopefuls get wind that acclaimed Broadway producer Julian Marsh is casting his new musical show. As an extensive tap audition begins, we are introduced to Peggy Sawyer, a talented and enthusiastic young star who manages to pass her audition and join the company.

Dorothy Brock, an over the hill star, is set to be the leading lady but breaks off her relationship with the financier who is to fund the production. As the group head to Philadelphia for their out of town try-out, this move threatens the entire production. On opening night Peggy bumps into



Dorothy during a dance routine, sending the star to the floor with a broken ankle forcing the curtain to come down. The question now is, who will take over the role and be the new star, as the show must go on.....

Bonnie Langford plays Dorothy and other leading roles are taken by Tom Lister, Claire Halse and Philip Bertoli “42<sup>nd</sup> Street” is one of the great musicals, full of tuneful numbers and spectacular tap-dancing routines. You may well be tap dancing your way out of the Village Hall at the end!

## **“1917” on Saturday 14th November**

Doors open at 7pm and the programme starts at 7.20pm.

The film was directed and produced by Sam Mendes (who also made “American Beauty” and “Skyfall”). It is partially inspired by stories told to him by his paternal grandfather. It stars George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman, with Mark Strong, Andrew Scott, Richard Madden, Claire Duburcq, Colin Firth and Benedict Cumberbatch in supporting roles. It is filmed in one extraordinary take.

It is soon after the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line. Two young lance corporals, who are messengers, have like the rest of their company been lulled into a false sense of security by what appears to have been a German retreat and an imminent “big push” from the Allied forces to clinch victory. But their commanding General



tells them that aerial photo reconnaissance has disclosed that far from having retreated the Germans have just withdrawn to a position where they are better defended, luring the enemy onward into a trap.

Now another British division is about to advance into certain slaughter. Field telecommunications having been cut off, the only way to tell them to call off their attack is via messenger. And so, the two messengers have to make their way across no man’s land, across the abandoned German lines, through (supposedly) vacated German territory and as far as the advancing Allied troops.

The two soldiers travel through the terrible landscape, a bad dream of broken tree stumps, mud lakes left by shell craters, dead bodies and rats. And when they stumble into the German trenches, they discover how much better built they are and how much better equipped they are. But they must carry on, and they do.

**Bob David**

## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

I always find it stimulating to see something, whether out and about or at home, and not know what it is. And it seems I'm not the only one. Louise Tanner sent us this query (with a video attached) back in August (12.08.20):

*'A friend of mine videoed this creature in his garden (Dartford way). Any idea what it might be?! I've tried to look it up but no joy.'*

I let Louise know that I was on the case and, being equally unsure, decided to forward the video to the Natural History Museum in London. Unfortunately, I received no response. In the meantime, Louise had carried out some further research herself and wondered whether it was an unusually coloured **Lobster Moth** caterpillar. Although not entirely sure, with further internet research, that ended up being our joint conclusion.

Louise's enquiry proved problematic, whereas the one sent in by Martin (Allen) (20.09.20) was, while equally demanding of research, more straightforward to resolve:

*'Found this [moth] in our front room this morning. Thought one of you might know what it is called. Any ideas?'*



A good quality photograph was attached, so Jim (Yeeles) and myself investigated:

Jim (21.09.20): 'I'll take a punt on **Light Emerald** - [https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/\(\)](https://ukmoths.org.uk/species/)

Me (21.09.20): 'I fully agree, Jim – Light Emerald it is! Lovely to see one, Martin. There are several 'Emerald' moths to choose between. In this case, the markings on the wings are the prime

determinant for me.'

In both cases, team work and photographs were important factors in enabling identification. Thanks to Louise, Martin and Jim for their contributions. If you have any queries, send them in. Between us, we'll probably/possibly/hopefully find an answer!

### Some of my own 2020 observations

**08.06** – One adult and three juvenile **Great spotted Woodpeckers** clinging to the edge of the bird bath, taking a drink.

**11.06** – A passing **Red Kite** comes down in the garden to feed on some meat remains.

**12.07** – A dead, juvenile **Roe Deer** found along Approach Road, outside Beacon Shaw.

**07.08** – Heavy crop of hedgerow berries noted on the path above Pilgrim's farm. Seven **Red Kites** gliding low down on the thermals and a hunting **Kestrel** seen in the same area.

**17.08** – A **deer** runs down the road around midday. (Unusual along Greenway.)



**21.08** – Came across a patch of (what I thought was) Periwinkle, while mowing the back lawn. However, looking the plant up in my trusty, 'Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain' (Readers Digest), I discovered that this was **Marsh gentian**. I'm not easily excited, but this was/is exciting! We have a large patch of this apparently rare plant growing right in the centre of our lawn. Is it marshy ground? No it is not. So what is it doing here? And how did so many plants, covering around a square yard/metre, arrive here? Has it been lying dormant for years? Does it need special care? Local botanists, please advise.

**12.09** – A cheeky **Fox** helps itself to a few scraps from the bird table!



**15.09** – A **bat** is seen flitting around the house. Now I know why the security light comes on unexpectedly.

**06.10** – A charm of 40+ **Goldfinches** fly into (and out of) a nearby Ash tree.

**16.10** – George spots a **Red Kite** swooping down into the garden for chicken remains. It then circles for a while, searching for more, ignoring the other food on the lawn. It's usually the Magpie or

Carrion Crow that collect the chicken, generally within a few minutes of it being put out. I feel it must have been pure chance that the Kite was passing at this time.

### The bigger picture

A viewer, encountering David Attenborough's latest television programme, said she found it too upsetting to watch all the way through during these difficult times. Another expressed surprise that it had been aired at 8.00; a time when it may upset children. Well, viewers, perhaps we could make the world a less scary place by filling it with humans who care about planet Earth? Perhaps these humans will be those who were concerned at a young age about what was happening to the planet and decided to take a path of positive change? Perhaps instead of shielding children from the realities of the situation we should be using David's programmes to enthuse and educate them?

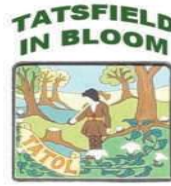
### A semi-relevant anecdote

I must say, I was delighted to read last month that Steve has **Common Toads** in his garden. The last time I saw toads was when one of my 'Year 3' pupils brought a couple in to add to our classroom 'zoo'. He found them in some local woods where they spawned prolifically. Unfortunately, these two escaped overnight and despite our best efforts to find them they remained missing. A couple of years later, while moving a very heavy paper chest, they were found, fully dehydrated, much to the children's excitement. The reaction of one of our supply teachers upon discovering them in the top drawer of my desk was, however, somewhat different! It seems that not everyone appreciates the beauty of a dried toad. Did she ever return? Probably not to my classroom.

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

## TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

Well, I think we can safely say, as I am writing this piece in early October, that autumn is well and truly with us. The trees in the village centre are turning golden and the days are drawing in.



We started off our working sessions at the beginning of September with a litter-picking session around the village centre and our team have been continuing in their own time to keep the village tidy.

The volunteers have started to clear Westmore Green of the twigs, branches and leaves which are beginning to fall, and this will carry on throughout the autumn.

During September and early October, the volunteers have been busy taking up the summer planting and I hope that everybody who wanted them managed to claim some of the geraniums and fuchsias which were left on the Green. They were still looking in great shape and we hope that they will winter well and give you some lovely plants for next year.



The pansies, violas and ivies, together with daffodil and hyacinth bulbs, have now been planted in the mangers and planters, together with the cascade planter outside the AMB building. This was very carefully programmed so that only two people, usually from the same household, worked on a particular container and at different times. The tubs at the front of the Village Hall will be cleared and the tubs removed as most of them need replacing before next year.

The 'Spitfire carpet bed' on the Tatol bed has been left for the time being as it has been decided to turf the bed over for the winter. This will be carried out as soon as the plants are starting to fade. The three oil painted panels have been removed so that they are not damaged by the weather and a new home is being sought for them as Ben Holmes, the artist, has very kindly donated them to the village.

The Committee will be meeting during the month to decide on a theme and the planting for next summer.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with the autumn planting.

We are continuing our work sessions on Saturday mornings, all socially distanced and begun at intervals, and we would be very grateful for any help. Please come and join us at 10.00am on the Bakery lawn.



**Jill Hancock (577622)**

## **THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – NOVEMBER 2020**

For stargazers who prefer to do their observing before midnight there is plenty of interest at the moment as three of the outer planets are now visible in the evening sky. Jupiter is the bright object  $15^\circ$  above the horizon just past due south if you look at the beginning of the month around 6 – 6.30pm. If you have access to a small telescope or binoculars do take a look to see if you can find the four Galilean moons or indeed a hint of the cloud bands that circle the planet. If using binoculars make sure you can keep them perfectly still or tiny points of light like the moons will remain invisible. If you now shift your gaze a handful of degrees to the east (left) you will find the much fainter Saturn that is slightly higher in the sky. Small telescopes will show an elongated body although something a little larger is needed to identify the rings properly. Both these planets were at opposition (something I explained in the September issue) back in July so they are past their best now because the distance between them and the Earth is increasing.

Our planet is much closer to the Sun than either Jupiter or Saturn and because of that we move around our orbit much more quickly. This means that after opposition the Earth simply races away from those dawdlers out in the distant reaches of the Solar System. Next month they appear to pass extremely close to one another although this is merely a line of sight effect and Saturn will still be twice as far from Earth as Jupiter is. By early January next year both these planets will be lost in the Sun's glare until they appear around mid-March in the morning sky when they will be on the other side of the Sun.

This change from being an evening to a morning object has almost nothing to do with Jupiter or Saturn and everything to do with the movement of the Earth which, as I said, is much speedier. This is a topic that we'll look at later.

If you now turn towards the south east the bright object  $25^\circ$  above the horizon is the planet Mars, amongst the stars of Pisces, that itself was at opposition in mid-October. Mars is so bright that you should have no problem identifying it because there are no other bright objects in the area. If you do need help to find it you can draw a diagonal line through the top right and bottom left stars in the Square of Pegasus which, if extended south east, will pass close to the red planet.



By the beginning of November Orion (the hunter) will have made an appearance towards the east by 10pm to signify that winter is fast approaching.

If, however, you are an early riser then the brilliant object between the east and south east is the planet Venus currently in its guise as the “Morning Star”. An extremely thin waning crescent Moon is close to the planet on the 13<sup>th</sup>. If you do happen to be up early enough to see Venus have a look also for the fainter Mercury which will be a little closer to the horizon and very slightly to its east around the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## TATSFIELD COMPOSTING IN NUMBERS

*Composting is good for several reasons: it saves water by helping the soil hold moisture and reduce water run-off; it reduces the need for fertilisers; and, very importantly, it benefits the environment by SUSTAINABLY recycling organic resources.*

Phil Brett and I made a presentation to The Outwood community who had asked us for advice about our community composting initiative, alongside a few other speakers on the theme of sustainability,

It is a reminder of how effective and important our community composting scheme is and how it is one part of our village effort to contribute to environmental sustainability.

- We produce around 20,000 litres of compost each year.
- We estimate we process about 40 tons of Tatsfield's green waste every year.
- Our heaps reach temperatures of between 64 and 70 degrees centigrade



### Our History

- Our composting scheme was initiated in 2001 and took its first green waste in the spring of 2002.
- It started small in a backwater of the village.



*Early volunteers with  
our first shredding machine*



*Our first sieving method  
involved throwing compost up  
against an "A"-Frame*



## **The Present**

- We are now located at the allotment site – a much more visible and accessible location.
- As a consequence of the move we started to receive much more waste every week and had to upgrade our operations.
- We now have a powered sieve and a manual sieving table as back-up.

## **We ask people to separate their waste three-ways before they arrive – this helps us manage the waste much more effectively**

- Woody Shredding – twigs and branches up to maximum of one inch in diameter.
- Green Shredding – any big, tough, fibrous green material which will need breaking down.
- Soft Green – anything that doesn't need shredding such as grass cuttings, small hedge trimmings, leaves, small weeds and bedding plants, etc.

## **How we process the waste**

- We build the heaps by layering shredded material, grass cuttings and other soft material.
- We add water as this is necessary to get high temperatures.
- After one or two weeks we “turn” the heaps. This involves pitchforking the contents of one bin into an empty adjacent bin. This ensures everything gets a good blast of heat and adds air to the heaps.
- Finally, we sieve the compost and return any un-rotted material back to the heaps for another year.

## **Our Finances**

- Our day-to-day running costs are met by donations made by allotment holders and villagers in exchange for our compost - we suggest £1.25 for a bag and £2.50 for a barrow load.
- We also raise money via the Tandridge Together lottery.
- Purchasing our machinery and new timber has been made possible by generous support from a number of institutions – (see below).
- Servicing our machinery comes partly from our lottery and compost income and the rest from grants.



*The larger of our two shredders*

### **Our Sponsors**

Our machinery has been purchased with grants from:

- Surrey County Council
- The Community Fund for Surrey
- The National Lottery
- Tatsfield Parish Council

The timber for our new bins has been purchased with grants from:

- Tesco
- Skipton Building Society
- Tatsfield Horticultural Society
- Tatsfield Parish Council
- Surrey County Council

Servicing our machinery is normally achieved with generous help from Tatsfield Parish Council.

### **Martin Allen**

## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN NOVEMBER

The October average rainfall is 98mm and so far by the middle of the month we have already had 105mm with 70mm falling in the three days 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, thank you Storm Alex! High temperatures have been within the long-term average at around 14C but we had a slight ground frost (4C) at dawn on the 16<sup>th</sup>, that is early!

We are hearing on the news that we could be looking at a 'long winter' possibly with more restrictions on our movements. If that is the case, we must do everything we can not to lose contact with our gardens and, if we are allowed to, get much needed exercise by walking around the local area. Wrap up warm the step outside, there is much to see, our local environment is full of interest. A cheery 'Good Morning', a quick chat with other folk, and getting some fresh Tatsfield air is a tonic in itself. See how many Red Kites and Buzzards you can spot overhead, especially along Clarks Lane, the allotments, and above the fields around Goatsfield and Kemsley Roads. If the day is mild and the sun is out you can still see, and hear, bees as they forage in the hedgerows. The birds will also be busy as they feed on winter berries and hunt for insects; have you seen the Barn Owl patrolling the hedges along Clarks Lane at dawn and dusk?

Bring the garden indoors by cutting some foliage and winter flowers like Mahonia, Forsythia, Winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) and others; if you have a good supply why not pick a bunch and offer it to your neighbour who may not be able to get outside, it will be much appreciated.

Another way of bringing some colour and cheer inside is to buy some bulbs and plant them in containers, then place them somewhere cool and dark for four to six weeks; as soon as the leaves and flower buds appear bring them into a warm well lit room and they will grow rapidly and fill the room with colour and maybe fragrance. There is no need to use special planting compost; use old compost from your summer containers but make sure to check the compost for Vine Weevil grubs – easy to spot they are tiny, white and curled but slow moving. When the bulbs have finished, they can be planted out in the garden to recover and grow new bulbs for next years display. In our local garden centres now you will find some lovely presents of bulbs, compost and a pot all ready to give as a gift. I have also noticed pots of the small flowered Cyclamen already in flower, they will keep on flowering for weeks if kept in a cool room. It won't be long before they will also have pots of bulbs in leaf and bud ready to burst into bloom when given a little gentle heat.

This winter I am testing the hardiness of the lovely Oleander (thanks to Louis Philibert who grew it from a cutting!). Fifty years ago we would not have dreamed of leaving such a tender plant outside over the winter, and that includes Pittosporums and Olives now growing as shrubs in many local gardens. I am moving the Oleander which is growing in a large pot to the South side of the house and will wrap it in bubble wrap. Climate change is not always bad news!

**Jon Allbutt**

## ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

In November 1920, two years after the end of the First World War, memories were still raw amongst the relatives and friends of the 23 Tatsfield men who had died and the many others who had been wounded in the war. In London that month, the Unknown Warrior was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey, but it would be another nine months for Tatsfield's own war memorial to be dedicated.

Across the country, there were calls for the government's promise of 'homes fit for heroes' to be honoured on the return of peace. Tatsfield's population at the time was a little over 800. The provision of new housing on land in Rag Hill Road purchased by the district council a year before was about to make an impact as details emerged of the contract. The work went to Alfred Hitchcock, the builder of the village hall, whose base was his yard just across Tatsfield Green in Old Lane. The total estimated cost of the six homes was £6,298 and 10 shillings - the equivalent of less than £300,000 in today's money.

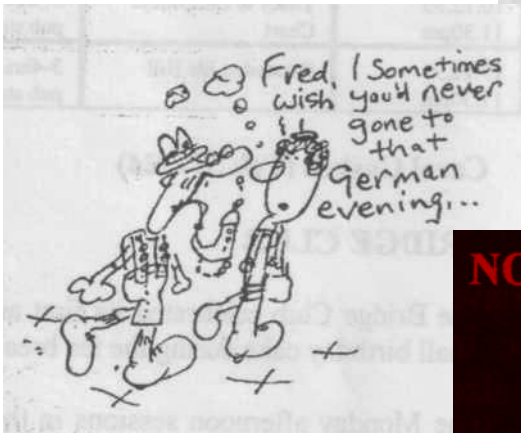
Return to post-war normality also brought back instances of disputes about land. There was one about a public footpath leading from the end of Ninehams Road up to Ricketts Hill Road, apparently through the garden of a house called Firsdale. The owner, John Scott, told the parish council he had no wish to prevent the use of any public footpath, but that in this case people could so easily pass round the corner of his garden. It was another 30 years before a subsequent owner donated land to ease people's use of the footpath.

In another return to pre-war 'normality', there was a long list at Oxted magistrates' court of parents accused of failing to send their children to school. Among the 16 cases dealt with in November were two from Tatsfield. A reason often put forward by parents in such cases in those days was that their children's footwear was not in good enough a condition to cope with the muddy roads.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - [Tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:Tatsfield.history@talk21.com) Tel: 577376**  
**Our website address is: <http://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>**

## TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE – 25 YEARS AGO

This month we continue our review of the magazine as it was in 1995. This 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](mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com)



### NOT SO YOUNG CLUB





## HIGHLY COMMENDED!

Biting the bullet after only 3 issues of the revamped Parish Magazine, the Editorial Committee decided earlier this year to enter the June issue for the Southwark Diocese Parish Magazine Competition 1995. So it was that Bob David and I found ourselves sitting in the nave of Southwark Cathedral months later waiting with bated breath for the outcome.

We had already viewed some of the competition in the Parish Magazine (printed in-house) category and feared that we might be singled out to be "remaindered" for over-secularisation - no one else seemed to be addressing their whole community! Colin Corke had been unable to attend - did he know something embarrassing that we didn't?!



After opening remarks by the chair of the judging panel, Canon Roger Royle made the awards in traditional reverse order. Out of 30 entries, Tatsfield came fifth with a Highly Commended 71 points! There were three other Highly Commendeds; on 72, 73 and 75 points and out ahead, the winner, Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill with 83 points. This was a punchy broadsheet but it had a print run of only 150.

It was instructive to read the marking schedule: we scored well on layout, house style and content - "lots of contributors, good mix, well written, with authentic local feel"!

We lost out on quality of reproduction, print styles and use of graphics, although there seemed to be some confusion in the judges' minds as to whether we used an external printer or not - so maybe we should count that as a plus!

In later group discussions, other magazine editors were very struck by the fact that we deliver free to every household and involve about 100 people in production and distribution. Some magazines were only directed at a small target market, some had no advertising at all and every other magazine had its price.

The presentation evening was certainly interesting and useful and I felt we'd done extremely well to come 5th out of 30. Bob, needless to say, is aiming at the stars - Highly Commended just isn't good enough - watch out Southwark, it's No 1 for Tatsfield next year!

Eileen Pearce

## DOUG MADDISON - BUTCHER

by Eileen Pearce

Maddison's, the butchers, seems to hold an extraordinary fascination for villagers - for according to Doug Maddison about 70% of car drivers passing by his shop in Westmore Road, swivel their heads to check that he's there at his butcher's block!

Doug himself has been there since 1969 - the wooden block a lot longer - but more of that



later. The Maddisons were already butchers in South London when Doug did his training at their Wimbledon shop, but his grandfather was a master baker called Schick, who arrived in Britain from Germany in the early part of this century. The family found it politic to adopt his grandmother's maiden name when anti-German feeling was at its height. So, with this cosmopolitan heritage, how did Doug land up in Tatsfield? The connection stems from schooldays in Croydon and a friend who used to live in Ricketts Hill. When Doug married Wendy (his "Wimbledon girl") his father bought up Tatsfield's butcher's premises and Doug came and joined George and Bob Longley who ran the business (a third Longley brother, Les, was a painter and decorator and his widow, Maud and son, Ian still live in the village).

Twenty years ago Doug was still aided by Bob Longley and the business ran two vans delivering all over the village and out to Botley Hill Farm as well. Often customers were second and third generations of the same family. Gradually, this side of the business declined, Bob Longley retired and Doug was down to one van. In the 1980s however, there was an up-turn. "Typewriter Jim" introduced Doug to the manager of one of a string of "Firkin" pubs owned by Bruce Breweries in South London (no, honestly, this isn't a tall story!). This manager trained others in the group and so it was that Maddisons of Tatsfield was soon supplying meat as far afield as Camden Town and Dormansland. The trade sadly declined when the Firkins were sold off to a larger brewery.

The advent of Safeways at Biggin Hill obviously hit local retail trade but for Doug the rot had already set in as women returned to work and sought "one-stop" shopping at supermarkets further afield. The use of freezers and microwave ovens and the increase in two-car households has strengthened this trend. There have been other changes over the years; once it was only, say, the Manor House and Colegates who ordered "fancy cuts and joints", but many more are familiar now with noisettes of this, rack of that and saddle of the other. Food is fashionable now, not just necessary - Delia Smith has only to recommend chorizo sausage on Wednesday for butchers to be out of them by Saturday!

Strangely, though, width of knowledge has been at the expense of depth. Customers know far less these days about the cuts and condition of meats. They no longer buy the cheaper cuts and these find their way into ready-cooked meals; they prefer their chickens boned (one very young customer was astonished when Doug explained that they originally ran around on two legs with their wings flapping); and their red meat red. Doug still hangs his beef for 10 days or so to mature properly but in doing so he loses quite a percentage of volume as the meat dries out (just one of the reasons why the supermarkets don't do the same). In some respects, however, diet is healthier with a move from beef to lamb and pork.

I wondered if small butchers felt overwhelmed by EC regulations, but this didn't appear to be a problem. Doug positively welcomed the higher standards of hygiene and regular visits from the Environmental Health Inspector - except when he's making his own dripping - an apparently chaotic process! And that wooden butcher's block? Tradition, for once, has triumphed with the discovery that wood absorbs and neutralises the action of bacteria, a feat plastic can't achieve!

One more tradition remains: Doug still orders about 140 fresh turkeys each Christmas from local suppliers. They always arrive at the shop on 10 December and are hung for 10-14 days, obscuring the view in through the window for all those motorists! The two weeks up to Christmas Eve Doug says are hell - apart from the turkey and ham orders everyone seems to be too busy shopping to eat and for two weeks after the festive season all the left-overs have to be eaten up! But Christmas Eve he enjoys - there's nothing more to be done but dispense his 140 carcasses and wish everyone a Merry Christmas!



## TATSFIELD: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

by Peter Warner

In 1964, after studying painting at the Royal Academy Schools, I illustrated my first children's book and imagined the princely fee of a hundred pounds sufficient to buy a house in London. Those dreams were quickly shattered, but out of the blue came details of the cottage in Hillside Road which has now been my home for thirty years. It was absolutely right in character, location, aspect to the sun and price and was just the place for an artist and Austin Seven enthusiast. Thus I was impelled to Tatsfield.



I found it a curiously unfocussed, dreamy place, mysterious and abounding in secrets you have to dig out. A conspiracy could be happening in the deep shadow of the trees, but so could an Annunciation. Its qualities are timeless and unchangeable, yet to some it is merely "a motley collection of nondescript shacks lurking in the North Downs mists".

But what a place to lurk! Northwards there sparkles a great capital city, never more tangible than on the fiftieth anniversary of VE day, when you felt you could actually see the touchpaper lighting fireworks in Hyde Park. To the south we oversee quite incomparable natural beauty and wildlife habitat. It is a majestic interface, an inspirational place for artists, musicians, naturalists, explorers, writers and philosophers and a sanctuary for the troubled.

Thankfully all this is relatively unsullied save for the odd barbed wire fence (why barbed wire, for goodness sake) and mindlessly dumped rubbish and mercifully free of Biggin Hill style sardine development which desecrates the very space that people migrate to the country for.

For all Tatsfield's space and diversity, perhaps begotten by it, there is a wonderful staunchness about people and unity in times of strife, such as the great storm in 1987 - and it is perfectly possible to meet folk after many years and feel that you are continuing yesterday's conversation.

There is a charm and magnetism that binds like a steel hawser, a sense of home and homeland that Germans call *Heimat*, the concept that was so magnificently painted by Edgar Reitz in two epic films, televised here, about his village in the Hunsrück, high land near Koblenz. They might almost have been about Tatsfield.

Its altitude and proximity to London also underpins some of Tatsfield's history and legend. Connections with the Gunpowder plot and the Church Lane ghost are well known and it was the Tatsfield beacon that signalled the sighting of the Spanish Armada to Parliament.

I would not want to change any of these disparate facets of Tatsfield for one moment, but, with the Millennium approaching and funds being made available for certain projects, I wonder if we could instead celebrate these unique qualities with something that would meet some practical needs, provide a focus and make Tatsfield a little less motley?

This is my idea. When I helped set up Tatsfield Art Group last year, it was clear that no ideal premises would be found and the availability of the existing halls was very restricted by other users. I imagine this must have been true for other organisations. As someone who earns his living as an artist, designer and writer, I see a crucial need for studio space, superbly lit by natural and artificial light, with adequate storage for equipment, materials and work in progress, which is easily adaptable for use not only by artists, but also by printmakers, photographers, filmmakers and various craftspeople and available at any time for use by people of all abilities. Adjacent would be facilities to process and edit film and tape.

Secondly, from a musician's point of view I would welcome a small concert hall of a size suitable for the rehearsal and performance of all kinds of music from chamber music to jazz and recorded works. As importantly the same auditorium could be used as a theatre by Tatsfield Drama Group and possibly as a cinema.

Thirdly, there is an increasing demand countrywide for indoor sports facilities, with specific lighting, equipment storage and changing rooms, for practice and league competition. Gymnasiums are part of many peoples' lives too as the importance of fitness is appreciated.

I believe the need for the kinds of facilities such as I have outlined above will increase as lifespan grow longer and working lives shorten, creating much more leisure time and that arts and sports will flourish in spite of, possibly because of, the speed of technological advances.

My suggestion is that we create a modern beacon, an imaginative, adaptable multipurpose new building by the village centre that would provide a focus and a landmark - without dominating. Its configuration might eventually derive from or reflect an aspect of Tatsfield, but I visualise it now as resembling planets around a sun. The sun would be the main entrance and an interface containing essential services such as exhibition and shop space, catering, changing rooms, toilets and showers, physiotherapy, administration and so on. This would serve the planets which would vary in character and size according to the kind of activity each would be adaptable to.

The building I envisage would be one designed today and probably combining the advantages of both modern and traditional materials. Above all, it must have architectural warmth and character, an accessibility of proportion, space and texture that makes a person want to be there.

The Maltings at Snape on the Suffolk coast have some of these characteristics, provides a now world famous concert hall and, far from ruining Snape, has brought it very welcome new trade, something I imagine would be welcomed by our local shops.

The cost of land, researching, designing and building this beacon would be met by a combination of Millennium funding and sponsorship, with running, staffing and maintenance costs covered by a combination of sensible usages charges and income from marketing events and products.

This may all seem very grand for a modest village, but it is special and we do have needs. We have the opportunity to shine, like a beacon, into the next century, celebrating one and meeting the other. People would look up at the Downs and say "That is Tatsfield". I don't think future generations would not say thank you.





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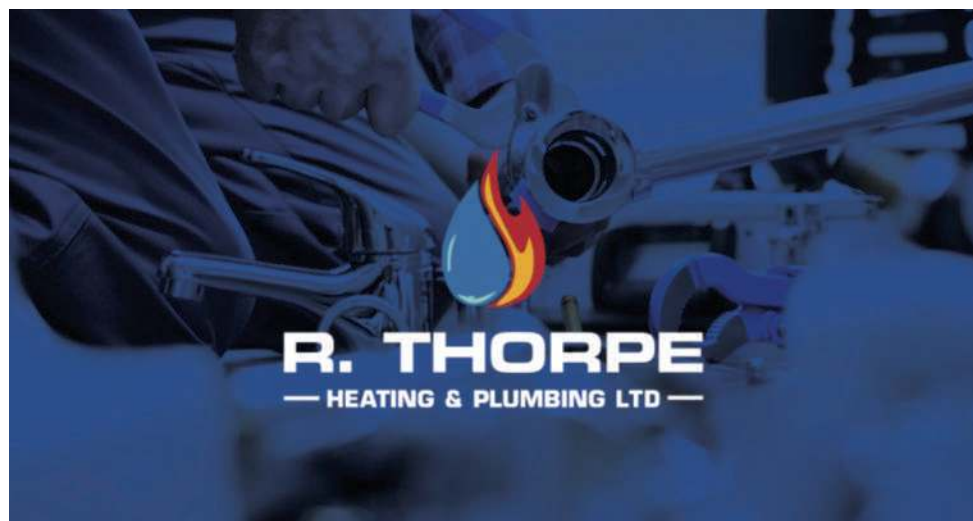


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