# DECEMBER 2023

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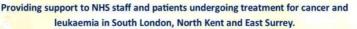
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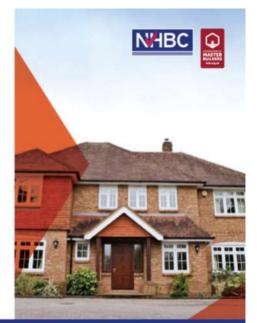
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#### Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

Editors • Tara Barry and Tracey Syrett

Chairman • Vacancy

Treasurer • Madie Langford (577114) Distribution Managers • Jim and Ruth Yeeles (577489) Advertising Manager • Sarah Tait Production • Ruth Yeeles

#### CHURCH CONTACTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Church Lane, Tatsfield, TN16 2JX, www.lttm.org.uk

Anglican • Team Vicar: Vacancy

Church Correspondence • c/o The Church Office, High Street, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG or email: stmoffice@lttm@btinternet.com Wardens • Marjory Broughton (541059), Chris Hancock (577622)

#### COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk • Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Rd, Warlingham CR6 9DW clerk@tatsfieldpc.org.uk (07483 337461) Chair • Kim Jennings email: kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk, (577328) Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

 Tandridge District Councillor • Martin Allen,38 Paynesfield Rd, Tatsfield TN16 2BG (577201)

 Surrey County Councillor • Becky Rush Becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

#### OTHER CONTACTS

St. Mary's Church Hall Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443) Village Hall Bookings Secretary• Helena Garcia-Mcleod (bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk; 07983011028) W.I. Hall Bookings •Sandra Shury (07867502235)

Parish Room Bookings • (07483 337461) email clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

Tatsfield Village Club • (577330)

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Village Website: 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: <u>tatsfieldpm@gmail.com</u>, Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (<u>tatsfieldmag@gmail.com</u>). 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: Tatsfield Lit Up for Christmas. Photo courtesy of Tracey Syrett.

#### EDITORIAL

#### Dear Friends,

I write this letter as November closes and Advent begins. That glorious season when we can bask in the anticipation of all that Christmas holds.

Advent which gets its name from adventus, the Latin word for "arrival" was first celebrated in northern Italy. Here churchgoers observed a week-long preparation for Christmas that involved fasting, prayer, and reflection on Christian values.

Advent is now considered the first season of the liturgical year, the church's annual cycle of feast days and scripture readings. Much like their ancestors, modern Christians see it as a season of preparation in honour of Christ. Advent is celebrated on four consecutive Sundays, beginning on the Sunday closest to 30 November and ending on 24 December, Christmas Eve.

Each Sunday has a traditional meaning and prayers and readings assigned to it; they represent, in order, the Christian <u>virtues</u> of love, joy, hope, and peace. For believers, Advent represents a multi-faceted period during which to prepare for the birth of Christ, celebrate faith in and conversion to Christianity, and anticipate the eventual resurrection of the son of God.

Considered a season of light in the dark apex of winter, Advent is symbolised in the church by a candlelit evergreen wreath and each Sunday I invite a member of the congregation to light the candle.

You are warmly invited to join us for Advent and any of the Christmas services which you will see the dates of in the Church calendar.

With assurance of my prayers and love, Rev. Helen

#### ST MARY'S CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR THE INTERNMENT OF ASHES AND BURIAL AREA

Some years ago, St Mary's Church was gifted a strip of land adjacent to the current churchyard for the



creation of a new Memorial Garden and additional burial spaces.

Now all planning permissions have been granted and the land has been consecrated we are able to create the Memorial Garden.



As the facility is available to all residents of Tatsfield we are opening an appeal to help with the cost of the construction of the Memorial Garden and its future upkeep and the upkeep of the additional burial spaces. Please give generously to this cause through this QR Code – Just scan with your phone camera and click into 'givealittle' link or call Madie on 01959 577114.

#### LFTTFRS

#### THANK YOU. BOB DAVID

I did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to Bob at his recent farewell so I thought I would put pen to paper. I first met Bob on the day we arrived in Tatsfield in April 1996. He was outside our house selling horticultural books. I explained I knew nothing about horticulture; however, he suggested I entered the shows as there were many different categories - from sunflowers to cake making. I found him very motivating and positive so I bought one of the books, thinking I must do something. In the September my son Charlie who was aged three won the sunflower completion and was so happy to win sweets and a voucher! As the years followed, we entered different exhibits. When I won the cup for the novice flower section Bob congratulated me and asked if I would do the flower arrangement on behalf of the badminton club for the Tatsfield Flower Festival in 2002. I explained that I had never done anything like that before, however he insisted. Although my first arrangement was basic, I so enjoyed making it I carried on and eventually organised the 2017 Flower Festival. I continue to do different festivals now which I thoroughly enjoy. Without Bob I would never have even considered doing a flower arrangement and finding a new hobby.

Bob also introduced me to and taught me to play badminton. I would always chuckle to myself when the shuttlecock flew over my head (without a chance of me hitting it) and, fortunately, landed out. Bob would always shout out very loudly "Well left" he was always so motivating and kind. Again, this was a hobby suggested by Bob which I wouldn't otherwise have done, and it led to my son joining the juniors at the age of six he now plays for Portsmouth University and has a lifelong hobby.

Thank you, Bob, for your recommendations, kindness, motivation and making me feel a part of Tatsfield life. I wish you all the very best for your new venture. Tina Boys

#### FAREWELL TATSFIELD HELPLINE

A TSFIELD The Tatsfield Helpline was formed in 1995. Originally it was intended as a general help service; but it soon became apparent that there was a need for our volunteer drivers to respond to assistance for lifts to hospital and for general medical appointments. The helpline went on to carry out an average of 130 calls annually for the next 25 years. The service was forcibly halted by Covid in 2021, since when guite a few of our regular clients have sadly passed away or moved from the village. The service never recovered fully from Covid, and it became apparent that it had run its useful life. At a meeting in October of this year, the committee agreed to formally end helpline operations and to transfer the remaining bank balance to the Parish Council for distribution to other Tatsfield projects. A small donation was also to be given to Little Acorns towards their Christmas activities. It only remains for us to thank all our coordinators and volunteer drivers over the years for their willing and kindly assistance when requested. Hazel Cartwright, Secretary



#### ST MARY'S TATSFIELD CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER



TIME: 4.00 PM

FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

LOCATION: ST MARY'S CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

HOLY COMMUNION TIME: 10.00 AM

HOLY COMMUNION TIME: 6.30 PM

> LOCATION: ST MARY'S CHURCH

#### SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER

CHRISTINGLE Nativity Service

TIME: 4.00 PM

LOCATION: TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

#### CHRISTMAS DAY



TIME: 10.00 AM

LOCATION: ST MARY'S CHURCH



#### PARISH MAGAZINE ADVERTISING MANAGER ROLE

Our Parish magazine is funded by kind donations and paid advertising from local businesses. We are looking for someone with good organisational and computer skills to take on the volunteer role of Advertising Manager. There is plenty of scope to make the role your own.

A fantastic role for someone looking to increase their skill base and to contribute to the Tatsfield community. The Advertising Manager sources and invoices advertisers, manages the advert layout and may occasionally do some advert design. The workflow can be summarised as follows:

**Ongoing:** respond to enquiries and issue invoices for flyer distribution or one-off ads placed in the magazine. Check with Editors that they have room for ads and that invoices have been paid. Liaise with the Distribution Manager to receive flyers for distribution.

Monthly: remind those advertisers who refresh their ads (approx. 6) each month of the deadline to send their new advert.

Annual: invite existing advertisers to renew for the year (in Feb/March) and source new advertisers for available space - invoicing and checking payments received via the Treasurer.

**Production:** once the ads have been received, checked and possibly resized they are inserted into a Word document, pages numbered and then PDF versions uploaded to shared Google Drive for each edition.

Please contact Sarah Tait: 07468 589379 or tatsfieldmag@gmail.com



#### TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 13th November. I chaired the meeting in the absence of Kim Jennings to whom we again sent our very best wishes. At the outset I expressed huge thanks to everybody who had contributed to the Remembrance Service the previous Saturday. It was a very moving occasion with many appreciative comments from those attending. Well done to all.

#### PLANNING

**TA/2023/1233/TPO** 70, Paynesfield Road. Removal of the crown of a chestnut tree which has become diseased. The trunk is to remain potentially allowing the tree to resprout. **No comment.** 

**TA/2022/1336 Planning Appeal** Land west of Thistle Cottage, Shaw Road. This is the planning appeal for the erection of a single-storey detached dwelling adjacent to Thistle Cottage. The Parish Council submitted an objection to this application in December 2022 as inappropriate development which would, by definition, cause harm to the Green Belt. There were no Very Special Circumstances as to why this harm should be accepted. **Objection.** It was agreed the council will submit our objection directly to the Planning Inspectorate reiterating our original objection which still stands. The direct submission is because our original objection is not on record on the TDC planning portal.

**BARNFIELD ROAD – changes to BIFFA collections** Information had been received from a number of residents about a recent decision by BIFFA to cease waste collections from Barnfield Road and parts of Old Lane because of unsatisfactory road conditions. The Parish Council noted the situation with real concern particularly as alternative suggestions made by BIFFA were completely unacceptable. We were pleased to hear that District Councillor Martin Allen was equally concerned and that he was now in urgent discussions with relevant officers at TDC.

#### CHRISTMAS

On 1<sup>st</sup> December the lights on Westmore Green will be switched on. The Christmas carol singalong event will be taking place this year in the rear garden of The Ship pub on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This will be a real family occasion with lots of happy singing and, of course, a visit by Father Christmas. Notices will be displayed around the village with all the details.

The village Christmas tree is on order and will be sited as usual on the memorial green. It is being funded this year by donations from Tatsfield Club, Sheree's Store, The Bakery Restaurant and the Ship Pub. Thank you all so much.

And finally... may we wish you all a very, very Happy Christmas.

**David Pinchin** 

Vice-Chair, Tatsfield Parish Council

#### TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Seems like we were a bit premature last month when reporting that the Plan had been properly and fully reviewed by the LPA. Jason submitted the last edition of the full Neighbourhood Plan and two weeks later I submitted an updated consultation



statement. We all worked very hard on getting this document to the relevant officer only to be advised that they were currently reviewing another plan but promised to come back when they could look at ours.

As you can imagine this was not the answer we were looking for, in fact it was inappropriate and completely unprofessional so I made my feelings known to the chief planning officer who realised that something had to be done and consequently sought the budget to employ an outside consultant, whose sole responsibility this time will be to get the plan to referendum during the elections in May 2024 and one who will not be side-lined from doing this by other planning policy matters.

I know we have heard this before but having contacted Rebecca things are quickly moving on so I hope we can get this done this time. By the time you read this she will have visited and acquainted herself with Tatsfield and had four meetings with us already. We have re-submitted all of the documents directly to Rebecca all of which can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website. They are:

- Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan REGULATION 16 CONSULTATION OCTOBER 2023
- A schedule of changes file showing the changes made to the plan after the TDC response
- A Consultation Statement
- A Strategic Environment screening report updated as per EA request
- Habitat Regulations screening report updated as per EA request
- A Basic Conditions statement
- Local Green Spaces paper
- Tandridge District Council Officers report in response to Regulation 14 Draft Plan

The documents are available on the website for your information and to read ready for the consultation stage that will happen before and during Christmas and the New Year.

It seems there might still be some work to do but with our consultant leading us we feel confident that the end is nigh. With thanks for your patience.

For those that are interested in the wider issue of the Tandridge Local Plan do have a look at the Local Plan examination update on the TDC website: https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning-and-building/Planning-strategies-and-policies/Local-Plan-2033-emerging-planning-policies/Local-Plan-2033

#### Neighbourhood Plan website: https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan/

#### Martin Allen (Chair), Email: martin\_allen@talk21.com Tel. 577201

#### TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Local Government Boundary Commission review** I start this month's report with good news. As a result of village-wide co-operation with hundreds of objections to the commission about our being joined as a three-member ward with Limpsfield, we won the day with our arguments.

Having responded to the argument from the LGBC that Tatsfield & Titsey would be better served as part of a three-councillor ward with submissions from the Independent group, the District Councillor, the Parish Council and hundreds of villagers we were left having to wait until 31<sup>st</sup> October for the final considerations from the commission. Well, I am now pleased to say the commission have accepted our strong objections and compelling evidence that we all put forward for Tatsfield & Titsey to remain as a one member ward. An extract from the report is below:

"We have given careful consideration to the evidence received about our Limpsfield & Tatsfield ward, noting the strong objections. In our view, respondents have provided **compelling** evidence, similar to that which persuaded us to move away from a threecouncillor pattern to create a single-councillor Woldingham ward. We consider that the evidence provided to us has demonstrated that a three-councillor ward in this area would not be compatible with our other statutory criteria. Our view following our visit, and on considering the evidence, is that local community interests and convenient and effective local government would be undermined by a three-councillor pattern in this area. On balance, we therefore consider there to be sufficient evidence to move away from the three-councillor pattern here, particularly as we are also able to reflect this evidence while providing for good Electoral equality which, as noted above, is a key point of difference with areas further south. We are therefore reverting to the existing single-councillor Tatsfield & Titsey ward and two councillor Limpsfield ward as part of our final recommendations."

To see the full report visit:

https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/tandridge\_fr\_report.pdf

The work of the LGBCE is now complete. A draft order will be laid in Parliament shortly. Subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and approval, the new electoral arrangements will come into effect at the elections in May 2024.

So, a big thanks to everyone for their efforts which I hope will also be reflected in a heavy turn out on voting day so that we can demonstrate our independence even further.

**Elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024** As an aside, and to give you an early warning next year's (2nd May) District Council elections for all 43 District Councillors will be combined with elections to five Parish Councils (not Tatsfield) and the election of the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner as well as, we strongly hope, the Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. There is also the possibility of the Prime Minister calling a General Election for the same day. *If you are going on holiday at that time, please apply for your postal vote nice and early*.

**Ultra Low Emission Zone**\_I wonder how those affected are manging their circumstances as I have a cautionary tale for you. I was contacted by an elderly resident requesting my help as they had received a £180 fine, reduced to £90 if paid within a certain time or increased to £270 if not paid at all. Note there is no advice that you owe a charge of £12.50 upon entering the ULEZ - this time they went straight to the fine procedure. So please think carefully when you enter the ULEZ - if you are non-compliant, make sure you pay the charge within the allowed three days.

Because of the timing of their asking for help, I was able to avoid a further fine by paying the charge within the three days; I then made an appeal against the fine basing it on the facts of not understanding the system and by confirming that this resident had now opened an auto pay account. Fortunately, we won the appeal. And I know this resident has now refused to have any treatment within the zone that can be supplied elsewhere and has asked for appointments within Surrey.

If you need any help with setting up an auto pay account, please ask and I will assist where I can.

# One further point as I was writing this article a leaflet came through my door, as I suspect it did to many of you, from Biggin Hill Pharmacy offering a FREE prescription delivery and collection service, so do follow up on that as a way of avoiding the zone in the future.

**£1.2m for small businesses and community groups to grow the rural economy** Grants of up to £50,000 are now available to fund projects that will have a positive impact on businesses and communities in the rural areas of Guildford, Waverley and Tandridge. Active businesses, charities and community groups in these areas can apply for up to 50% of capital costs for projects which create jobs or grow the local rural economy such as farm diversification, food and drink produce, business development, community cafés and shops. Applications can be made at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/ruralprosperity.

**REMINDER** - Household Support Grant Phase 4 To provide financial support to vulnerable households. The second round will be launched on 11<sup>th</sup> December using the same media channels, including the details in the September magazine so ensure you apply before the final £211k is also allocated.

**New legal requirements around fire risk assessments** Regardless of the size of a business, legally all business premises must have a written fire risk assessment. This will identify fire risks and hazards, the people at risk and any actions needed, if necessary. For small businesses and less complex premises, Surrey Fire and Rescue is offering a simple fire safety check called "Business Safe and Well" visits where they will discuss the answer to eight questions after which they can signpost you to further help and support in both being compliant with the law and remaining safe from fire. For more information and to request a visit please email: <u>businesssafety.education@surreycc.gov.uk</u>

**BIFFA** I am aware of a problem regarding BIFFA not being able to collect waste/green waste/recycling from Barnsfield Road and Old Lane residents, and I am grateful for their efforts to patch up the roads to make it easier for the refuse vehicles to pass through safely. I am in contact with the officers and hope by the time you read these we have resolved the matter for the long term.

**Tax** The readers of the Daily Mail may have seen that 33 Conservative members of parliament signed a pledge not to vote for any increase in the overall tax burden. It is nice to see that national politicians have followed my lead when I declared two budgets ago not to approve any budget that comes to Council Tax payers for increases to meet the budget before getting our own house in order.

**Support local businesses and societies** Not quite lastly, but importantly for Tatsfield, please can I urge you to support our local businesses and societies in every way that you can. We rely on our local business so much and we need to show our support to them to ensure that they continue to operate through these hard times and prosper well into the future also.

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

And finally for 2023 may I wish you and yours the best that is possible over this Christmas and the coming New Year.

If there is anything you think I can help you with, please contact me accordingly. Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201 / 07484 185363 / cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk / martin\_allen@talk21.com

#### **CLAIRE COUTINHO MP**

I'm sure many of you are looking forward to trips up to London over Christmas – and you can now breathe a sigh of relief as the day travelcard has been saved after Government intervention. Keeping the day travelcard will save East Surrey commuters hundreds of pounds in travel costs each year and make it easier for residents to enjoy London's brilliant restaurants, shops, and culture. Thank you to everyone in East Surrey who took part in the consultation and made sure our voices were heard.

Closer to home, I recently held a meeting in Oxted with Surrey Police, local councillors, representatives from local businesses and Oxted BID about persistent crime and antisocial behaviour in the town centre. While this meeting was specific to what has been taking place in Oxted, I know that this is an issue that is important to families across the constituency. I want everyone to feel safe in our community, and I know there have been really worrying incidents in recent months relating to organised crime gangs and unacceptable threats towards young shop staff.

Businesses rightly raised their frustrations that 999 calls are not resulting in visits to their stores. Lisa Townsend, our Police and Crime Commissioner, has been working with the

police improve 999 responses, and our Borough Commander Lyndsey Whatley has committed to working with local businesses to improve reporting and ensure their staff feel safe. There will be another online public meeting for local businesses held by the Oxted BID shortly, and anyone who would like to attend can email me for details. I'd also like to thank Oxted and Limpsfield parish councils, Friends of Master Park and Oxted and Hurst Green community centres for their work to install more CCTV and ANPR cameras in the area, which will help deter crime and gather evidence on behalf of the police.

At Oxted Community Hall, I also spent some time talking to parents at their craft-tastic parent-and-baby morning run by local superstar Penny Kirk. In my previous role as Children's minister, I spent a lot of time talking to new parents. Some told me that it can be confusing to find out exactly how many free hours of childcare you are entitled to, so the government has launched a personalised online eligibility checker. Simply go to <u>childcarechoices.gov.uk</u>, enter your details, and you will get a clear breakdown of when you will be entitled to the new support. My office is always available to help you understand any of your entitlements.

Finally, I know there is a great sense of unfairness when petrol station bosses are not passing on savings at the pump. Drivers should always get a competitive fuel price, so in my role as Energy Secretary I've appointed the Competition and Markets Authority and given them new powers to make sure we all get a competitive fuel price.

I've also been spreading the news that we have now increased the cash grant of our Boiler upgrade scheme by 50%, to £7,500. This makes our scheme one of the most generous in Europe and means that some heat pumps will start below the average price of gas boilers. While out and about in Smallfield, I met Dan, who told me that the uplift means that he'll now be able to make the switch to a heat pump. That's exactly our ambition – no families should have to choose between cutting costs and cutting emissions. To see if you're eligible, just search for 'Boiler Upgrade Scheme'.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and to thank you for the many wonderful conversations I've had with constituents on the doorsteps, our in the community and in my many surgeries throughout 2023. It is the privilege of my life to be your MP, and I am here to work for you. If you need help, please never hesitate to get in touch on <u>claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk</u> or 02072195972.

#### TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website:www.tatsfield.org.uk Village facebook page: search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for 'Tatsfield Talk' on facebook, and ask to join to be able to view and post. Twitter: @tatsfieldtweet



#### TATSFIELD WI



Our guest speakers in November were the husband-and-wife team of Fern and Bob Ogley. They spoke about the



poets of the Great War, and Fern movingly read the inspiring and well known words we now associate with war, remembrance and peace. Many of these young men were local to Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

Don't forget, everyone is invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly chat every Wednesday morning between 10am and midday in the WI Hall, Paynesfield Road. A great way to meet other village residents – all ages welcome. So, if you are passing, pop in.

Please note that after many years Sheila Cook is standing down as our Hall Booking Secretary and your new contact should you wish to hire our hall for an event will be Sandra Shury, phone number 07867 502235. **Susan Smale 01959 577660** 



#### TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for September 2023:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Tim Scott	£51.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Craig Seamons	£34.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Simon Hendry	£17.00

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

#### NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

At our AGM our members requested a visit to a garden centre. So we contacted the lovely people at Practical Car Hire (01883 653525), and



they donated a super 16 seated minibus free of charge for the day! How lucky are we? An amazing gesture of kindness.

So early one October morning we headed off to Ruxley Garden Centre. As we had saved the money raised to hire the minibus, we were able to give members a voucher to spend on goodies. We set up a base in the restaurant and with our team of helpers had a lovely time.

Fortunately, due to the success of the raffle at the Coronation celebrations on Westmore Green earlier this year the club have been able to buy walking aids and a wheelchair which makes our little trips so much easier for our members with mobility difficulties.

At the November meeting members enjoyed Stew & Dumplings prepared by Tina, followed by mini tarts and custard. We then played one of our funniest and favourite games "Play your Cards Right".

Next month is our Christmas lunch hosted by Tina in Ye Old Ship in December and part funded by the raffle mentioned earlier. Tina has given us a super discount for which we are extremely grateful.

FINALLY! We are running a Christmas raffle Sheree has kindly agreed to sell tickets for us so from 18<sup>th</sup> November until 11<sup>th</sup> December we will draw the raffle at our Christmas meal on 12<sup>th</sup> December, thank you for your support.

Tatsfield is a very special village and we appreciate all the support we get from everyone.

#### Take care, Sue Dowse, 07816 110929



#### **CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PYJAMAS APPEAL 2023**

The Children's Hospital Pyjamas charity collects brand new pyjamas for children from newborn babies to 18-year-olds and distributes them to hospitals, hospices, women's refuges and anywhere where we feel children

will benefit throughout the country. Many children do not have pyjamas when they are admitted to hospital particularly those who are admitted as an emergency. It is much more comforting and reassuring for children to wear pyjamas rather than a scratchy hospital gown. Last year the charity distributed 20,057 pairs of pyjamas to 202 premises. The pyjamas are given to those children who are in hospital over Christmas, but such is the demand from hospitals that they are distributed throughout the year if there are enough donated.

Can you help by giving a pair of pyjamas (of any size) to this year's appeal? All donations will be very much appreciated. Website: www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk

There is a Collection Box in Sheree's Stores. Thank you. Sarah Williams

#### LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

Little Acorns children are very excited about the forthcoming festive season and this half term we have exploring celebrations! The children have been sharing their own family traditions and celebrations and talked about Diwali, birthdays and Christmas.

The children and their families carved pumpkins for our Halloween

competition, and we had some fantastic entries! Well done to all who entered and congratulations to our winners, Arabella, Baden and Cecily.

Our Little Acorns nativity will soon be rehearsed and polished for the last day of term and the children are extremely excited about a visit from Father Christmas – if they're on his nice list of course!

#### Fabulous fundraising event

The committee are working hard towards our annual **Christmas Event** for all the children of the village, taking place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 11am-1pm in the village hall. Children can make crafts to take home for the tree, enjoy a snack, face painting, glitter tattoos, a visit to Father Christmas and much more. Tickets are £15 per child and available from office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk. (Sausage rolls, cakes and mince pies will be on sale for the grown-ups!)



#### **Christmas Hamper**

Our Christmas Hamper is starting to take shape full of festive goodies, toys and treats. Tickets will be on sale at preschool and from Sheree's shop and winners will be drawn on the last day of term.

#### **Christmas Photos**

Our very talented Jen took some really lovely Christmas themed photos for our families. This is not only a great fundraiser for the preschool but the photos are lovely Christmas gifts for family.



If you would like more information about Little Acorns or would like to register your child or have a look round, please contact Julie Barlow on 540775 during pre-school hours. These are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 0900-1500 and Wednesday and Friday 0900 – 1200.

#### Thank you for reading! Little Acorns Management Committee





#### MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY

As the end of the year approaches and the new year is upon us, we wanted to share with you all what we have been getting up to here at Monkey Puzzle as we have had a few very busy months!

In November, we engaged the children in activities to celebrate Remembrance Day including baking poppy biscuits, mark making and exploring trays with different resources.



To celebrate Diwali, we introduced the children to the meaning behind the festival of light through various



learning opportunities and activities for all ages including storytelling and exploring a range of items.

We also raised money for Children in Need with an array of fun activities for all children and their families to get involved in. These included hosting a teddy bears picnic, a pyjama day, dressing up in fancy dress, crazy hair day, baking and selling lots of yummy treats to raise money. For the whole week of Children in Need we had a "Guess the Jellybean" game and sold raffle tickets and had amazing hampers on offer for the winning



ticket holders.

It's safe to say we all had so much fun in November and are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and the new year with our families.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year from us all at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield!

#### Becky, Lucy and Sharene

#### THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

#### The Evolution of Street Art

Presented by: Roger Mendham Date: Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 Note: there will not be an evening lecture Lecture starts at 2.15 pm at Limpsfield Church Hall, refreshments from 1.30pm



Much as you may dislike graffiti you will like this talk and learn the name of artists new to you! From its roots in American graffiti, street art had evolved to become a global phenomenon. Portraiture, abstract expressionism, many of the major conventional genres are included with leading artists working internationally.



#### **ST MARY'S NEWS**



**All Souls' Service** Led by our Team Rector, Revd. Helen Cook, we gathered on 5<sup>th</sup> November to remember those we have loved and see no more – to share our sadness and give thanks for the lives that have meant so much to us. Names of loved ones were read out and candles lit in their memory.

**Remembrance Sunday** Our 10am Holy Communion led by Bishop Chris Goldsmith included an Act of Remembrance with two minutes silence and singing of the National Anthem. The cash plate and contactless donations were put towards the outstanding work of The Royal British Legion. As always, the Church was tastefully decorated to remember those who have

given their lives for the country in so many



wars. The pedestal and



large window arrangement were created by Tina Boys and the rose window arrangement was created by Ann Vatcher. The Flower Team will be decorating for Christmas on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Annual 'Thank You' for our Volunteers and Teams** Our dedicated volunteers and teams enjoyed coffee and cake in thanks for their loyal and dedicated service to St Mary's. Churchwarden, Chris Hancock personally thanked all those who keep our calendar of services and events running and those looking after the fabric of the Church

and who keep the Churchyard so attractive for our many visitors. In response, Team Rector Revd. Helen Cook thanked Chris and his fellow churchwarden Marjory Broughton, treasurer Madie Langford, the Committee members and administrator Steve Tatler for their contributions and support to St Mary's and the wider Team Ministry.



Chris Hancock (left) and Revd Helen Cook (far right) thanking the St Mary's Volunteers, Teams and Staff.

#### St Mary's Tatsfield 100 Club Draw for November 2023

5 M. & L. Lambert £22 6 M.&R. Smith £12 27 M.&R. Smith £6 St Mary's £40

#### St Mary's Services and Events for Christmas 2023. All are welcome.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm Carols by Candlelight, led by the Tatsfield Singers. Mulled wine and mince pies follow.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 4pm** Christingle and Nativity Service in Tatsfield School hall led by Bishop Chris Goldsmith.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December, 10am Holy Communion led by Revd. Barbara Gentilella; 6.30 pm Christmas Eve mass led by Revd. Kevin Scully.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 10am Morning Worship led by Lay Reader Nick Smith.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** There will be no service at St Mary's. We are invited to join the 10am service at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield Village.

We will again be collecting for The Children's Society at our Christmas services and look forward to Sauro Gabelli's wonderful Christmas Tableau in the Narthex at the church (which is also in aid of The Children's Society).

**St Mary's Churchyard** Our 'tidy-up' sessions are now finished for the season. These are something we really enjoy and warmly welcome others to join us. We meet on the first Saturday morning of each month from March to October from 10am - 12noon, as we keep the churchyard looking beautiful for our many visitors. We also enjoy cake and a hot drink at 11am! **Mary Smith.** 

**St Marys Church Memorial Garden** Please look out in this edition for our appeal towards the cost of construction and future maintenance of a new Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes and space for additional burials, within gifted land adjacent to the current churchyard.

**Foodbank Donations** We received a lovely letter of thanks from Westerham Foodbank highlighting that our food donations are very gratefully received. Westerham is facing increased food demands whilst incoming donations have decreased. As a result, we will be focusing on local need and will no longer deliver to Christ Church, Brixton Road. We delivered to Westerham on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November and plan another trip on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Donations particularly needed during this cost-of-living crisis include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish or meat, tinned vegetables, long-life or powdered milk, custard and rice pudding. You can leave any non-perishable food donations in the Narthex of St Mary's church, Tatsfield, which is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 8.30am to approximately 3.30pm, or please contact me. If you would like to donate in the monetary way this will be used to purchase further food. Thank you for your support. Hilary Vale (01959) 577864

**Sunday Services at St Mary's while the Church is in Vacancy** We continue to maintain our main 10am Sunday service with music, led by visiting clergy and/or lay people. All are welcome. Further information is in our weekly Notice Sheet which can be accessed on the home page of our website: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys. If you wish to receive the Notice Sheet, please email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

**Holy Communion for the sick and house-bound** If you are unwell and/ or house-bound and wish to receive Holy Communion at your home or place of residence, please contact one of our Churchwardens.

**Personal Prayer Requests** For those wishing to have prayers said on their behalf please note that there is Prayer Request Book near the Baptism Font. Or you can email your request to: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

**Baptisms at St Mary's Tatsfield** We welcome all enquiries relating to Baptism for those of any age, including adults. For further information please email the office: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

**Millennium Hall** Our well-equipped Millennium Hall is open for bookings. Enquiries from individuals and groups are very welcome. **Sheila Cook (01959 577443)** 

**Donations for sales table in the Millennium Hall** Please note that we currently need any small suitable items (except books) for the hall sales tables. Donations would be gratefully received. Thank you.

#### Sheila Cook

**St Mary's Church opening times** Our pretty church is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday from 8.30am approx to 3.30pm approx.

#### From the Records

16 <sup>th</sup> July	Baptism of Zara Bailey
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Interment of Ashes Shona Brown
14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Interment of Ashes Grace Softley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Funeral of Gloria Forzani
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Interment of Ashes Gloria Forzani

**St Mary's Tatsfield Church Office** Please note the Church Office has been re-located to the Parish Office at St Peter's Church, High Street Limpsfield RH8 0DG. Our Parish Administrator will be available 9.30am to 1.30pm each Thursday in Limpsfield, by phone as above and by email. Emails are checked during the week for any urgent matters.

St Mary's Church Website: <u>www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys</u> Email: <u>stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com</u> Telephone: 01883 712512 (via St Peter's Church Parish Office)

#### **REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION**

Sun	9.30 am 10.00 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH Church service – StM
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
Mon	9.30 am	Over 60s, 70s, 80s fitness class with Gary - WIH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	6.30 pm	Cubs - SH
	7.15 pm	Adult Ballet - TPS
	7.30 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	10.00 am	Chair Yoga with Mel - WIH
Tuc .	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
Wed	10.00 am	WI Pop In – WIH
meu	2-4 pm	Composting Site CLOSED from 1 <sup>st</sup> October
	6.30 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary - WIH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
mu	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	10.40 am	Over 60s, 70s, 80s fitness class with Gary - WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)
	4.45 pm	Under 8s Judo - SH
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	6.15pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
Fri	9.30 am	Combat Fitness -SH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	4.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Tots Street Dance – VH
	4.45pm	Boom Arts Academy Lower Junior Street Dance – VH
	5.30pm	Boom Arts Academy Theatre and Singing – VH
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Ju Jitsu- SH
	6.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Junior Street Dance – VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (16+) Ju Jitsu – SH
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
Sat	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00 am	Composting site CLOSED from 1 <sup>st</sup> October
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH
	11.45 am	Adult Judo – SH

If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to tatsfieldpm@gmail.com. Please also let us know if any information has changed.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND**

#### DECEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	12.00pm 5.00pm	Tatsfield History Weekend, AMB OLCS Christmas Concert, United Reformed Church, Oxted
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	evening	Strictly 2023 presented by the Chartwell Cancer Trust, VH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	12.00pm	Tatsfield History Weekend, AMB
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	7.00pm	Triptych Portraits Demo, VH
10 <sup>th</sup> Sun	7.45pm	The Unravelling Wilburys, Barn Theatre, Oxted
11 <sup>th</sup> Mon	7.00pm	Triptych Portraits Workshop, VH
15 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.00pm	Christmas Carol Singalong, Ye Olde Ship in the rear garden
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	A Celebration of Christmas, Barn Theatre, Oxted
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Christmas Tidings, Tatsfield Singers Concert, VH
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	A Celebration of Christmas, Barn Theatre, Oxted
17 <sup>th</sup> Sun	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight, StM
18 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.00am	Little Acorns Christmas Event, VH
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	4.00pm	Christingle Service, TPS
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.00am	Holy Communion, StM
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	6.30pm	Holy Communion, St M
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	10.00am	Morning Worship, StM
31 <sup>st</sup> Sun	10.00am	Morning Service, St Peter's Church, Limpsfield

#### JANUARY

9 <sup>th</sup> Tue	10.00am	Charity Chair Yoga Class, WIH
12 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
13 <sup>th</sup> Sat	1.30pm	Aladdin Barn Theatre, Oxted
13 <sup>th</sup> Sat	6.00pm	Aladdin Barn Theatre, Oxted
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	1.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	6.00pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
17 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
18 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
19 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
20 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
20 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Aladdin, Barn Theatre, Oxted
26 <sup>th</sup> Fri	9.00pm	Ghosthunters, Barn Theatre, Oxted
27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Comedy Night, Barn Theatre, Oxted
31 <sup>st</sup> Wed	2.15pm	The Evolution of Street Art, Limpsfield Church Hall

#### Venues:

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



Season's Greetings to you all. As we reach the end of another busy year, it's my pleasure to let you know what we've been doing with the money raised from your generous donations.

This year saw the culmination of a two-year appeal to fund The

Oncology Guide, a major project that takes our reach nationwide and extends the impact of your support, changing the lives of young oncology patients and their families across the country. There simply isn't space here to do this project justice so I encourage you to visit the website at <u>www.theoncologyguide.co.uk</u> to see for yourselves - I'm sure you'll be impressed!

As many of you know, we have been supporting additional staff in The Chartwell Unit for over eighteen years. Our staff funding this year covered the full costs of a Health Care Assistant and a Specialist Consultant Oncologist and we now have "proper" coffee machines dedicated to the patients in the unit as well as the staff room for the medical team.

We also continue to support patients financially while undergoing treatment where appropriate, ensuring that nobody will lose their home because of their illness, I'm not aware of any other charity that does this.

Our other projects include providing supplies of games, toys, arts and crafts materials, facilitating oncology family meetings, providing AV1 No Isolation robots to allow children undergoing treatment to access their education remotely and much, much more.

Our holiday home on the Isle of Wight for oncology families was again very popular this year making precious memories for families as they escape from the hard realities they face on a daily basis.

The Rainbow Unit in Croydon University Hospital is now fully operational, supporting many chemotherapy administrations and inpatient stays. The upgraded facilities have totally transformed both the daily life of the medical teams and the treatment and care experience of patients and families. £750,000 well spent!

Thank you all again for your valuable donations, we couldn't do what we do without your help. Our entire team wish you all warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas and Good Health for 2024.

#### Michael, Senior Trustee

T: 01959 570322 W: chartwellcancertrust.co.uk E: info@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk

## TATSFIELD ART GROUP

On 30<sup>th</sup> October the group enjoyed an ink and bleach workshop with



Sheila Alexander. Sheila demonstrated how to draw using bleach over an inked surface, it was an evening playing and experimenting with just these two products we were all amazed with the surprising effects achieved. Acrylic and alcohol inks don't seem to work for this technique; the best ink to use seems to be Quink or something similar. Practise this on cartridge paper then when you are confident use thick watercolour paper, but remember to use synthetic brushes as the bleach eats the bristle away.



On 6<sup>th</sup> November we had a mixed media workshop developing inspiration from pictures and life with Hannah Franklin. The group began with a quick two-minute observational drawing of the person sitting next to us, then a three-minute non-dominant hand drawing from a photograph this certainly produced a lot of laughter and some very interesting results.



Hannah's workshop reminded us how valuable a sketchbook can be, jotting down ideas before they disappear; also keeping a sketchbook journal helps to focus your interpretation of something that really matters, making you fix on what is important and improves technical abilities. Sheila and Hannah's workshops allowed us to have fun experimenting and not worry about producing masterpieces, many thanks to both.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December Ian Henderson will demonstrate how to paint 'Triptych portraits in pastels', and he will lead a follow-on workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

TAG's paintings are available to buy in Sheree's Tea Rooms and Ye Old Ship Pub. Membership includes free workshops, free entry to display your work at our annual exhibition, access to our store cupboard of equipment and refreshments. We meet Mondays at 7.00 - 9.30pm in the Village Hall during term times. Our Annual Fee is £150 (less than £5.50 a session). For non-members the cost of a demo is £10 and a workshop £15. Pop along to any session to see what we do. For further details contact: Sandra Shury: wallernuttytart@aol.com or Carol Gaskell: carol.gaskell1@btinternet.com.

## NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

I had been looking forward to this performance by the NDS for quite some time. It was highly anticipated by all involved, musicians and audience members alike for several reasons; performing together once again with an intriguing programme, meticulously assembled by Chairman Jon Maynard, and the return of the brilliant Haru Ushigusa.



For a theme of 'Heartbreak and Tragedy', the atmosphere was far

from it- the evening was extremely uplifting! First on the agenda was Beethoven's symphonic Overture 'Zur Namensfeier'. An interesting choice as this piece is not widely known and is scarcely played today, making this performance an utter treat - and what a unique experience it was! Almost 218 years after its debut by Beethoven himself, with Jon Maynard waving the baton and led by Sylvia Seaton, the NDS started as they meant to go on as they brought this exuberant overture to life. An exceedingly quirky piece in which the instrumental cast embodied faultlessly, wholly enhancing one another. The fortissimo opening C-major chord grasped the pleasingly large audience and allowed them to relish this composition.

Next, it was time for Schubert to take the reins. Whilst this symphony, composed only one year later than Beethoven's above overture maintains a sombre theme, excitement and drama are projected throughout. The NDS encapsulated every emotion, every persona and the very aura Schubert had written into the symphony, each orchestral member and each instrument distinctly characterizing the dark tone. The dialogue between the strings and the woodwind is prominent, conveying the drama of the piece. Though written in a minor key the orchestra were light and crisp, pouring excitement into the melody and delivering a delightful contrast to the title nicknamed 'Tragic'. A stunning tribute to this piece.

During the interval, whilst enjoying some glorious tea and biscuits, I had the pleasure of conversing with many members of the orchestra and the audience; a common theme - the anticipation of Haru's performance! Tchaikovsky's Violin concerto is a renowned piece today, though shunned for many years before it was perfected, and oh my goodness was it perfected on Saturday night! Tchaikovsky would never have doubted this concerto had he heard this rendition himself. The orchestra were beaming before commencing and NDS took us on an immense and emotional journey, a real musical experience. Calm but passionate, timid yet heroic. The woodwind like a choir, the brass noble, the strings an utterly precise whirlwind driving the music with Jon tenderly yet demandingly navigating them through the piece. And then; Haru. It's so hard to capture in words. The music pouring from her violin is soul cleansing; just pure, pure beauty. Within each pause you could not hear a single breath being drawn, all eyes were on her, and time just paused as though we were in another realm. Taking possession of every pair of eyes and ears within the room, Haru along with the NDS played delicately yet with conviction, dancing through the folk-like melody, amplifying each other's sound and

exacting the utmost out of the piece. It really did challenge and successfully showcase



the full depth of the orchestra and the brilliance of the soloist. Upon the finale, emotions were high, and rightly so. What an honour to have witnessed this celestial violin solo along with such a brilliant orchestra. The programme for the evening really was perfect and illustrated the knowledge, diversity and ability of Jon and the NDS. Absolutely captivating and I very much hope to see them altogether again. Lauren Hobbs



## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN DECEMBER

The autumn rains have gone a long way to rebalance our groundwater deficit especially in the North Downs chalk aquifers. As usual at this time of the year there is speculation about the snow risk in Tatsfield over the next three months. Tatsfield usually gets a shortlived dusting of snow and icy roads this month, at the moment the long-term forecast shows no long periods of very cold weather.

My very late crop of Geranium and Fuchsia cuttings is doing very well with just a few lost to root rot. I am making sure to keep the compost as dry as possible, as the old gardeners say, "In the winter keep growing compost on the dry side of moist". My propagators are set to maintain a temperature of 15c maximum. I am keeping a minimum temperature of +5c in the greenhouse and making sure to open up all the vents on a dry day, this keeps the greenhouse dry and airy, and reduces the risk of mould fungi developing on leaves and shoots.

I am being asked for ideas for Christmas presents for that green fingered member of the family. I am a great fan of winter flower and fragrance so how about buying a beautiful winter flowering evergreen commonly known as Sweet Box (Sarcococca confusa), these small shrubs grow well in a container and will give months of pleasure on a cold winter's day. Trim back after flowering is finished to maintain a compact shape.

If you have grown sunflowers this year, now is the time to hang those heads of seed outside as a Christmas present for the birds.

Growing Agapanthus in borders is becoming more popular. The mops of brilliant blue and white flowers are a lovely sight in the summer months, but they can suffer severe damage from frosts and cold easterly winds. A good level of protection can be provided by making a mound of dry straw or the trimmings of other perennial plants.

If you have ornamental grasses growing in your borders, they can be cut down now; but if they still have flower and seed heads showing maybe it would be better to leave them until the Spring as they are a valuable food course for seed eating birds. They also look lovely especially on a frosty morning sparkling with the sun shining through them.

The recent weather has been ideal for growing grass! On a dry day make sure to give your grass a light cut to keep it looking neat and tidy. If you have not cut it for some time your will need to rake off the cut grass or it will lay there and make bare patches. Winter mowing? Yes, it is becoming a more frequent garden task as our climate changes!

Jon Allbutt

## WINTER TIPS FOR HEDGEHOGS

Tatsfield is almost devoid of hedgehogs but every year there are a handful of recorded sightings. In other words, there are a few hogs in town, and they could probably do with some help getting through winter. Juvenile hedgehogs are sometimes too small to hibernate so they will need to forage through winter to springtime and

beyond. Hibernating adults will also occasionally awake for a mid-winter meal too. They eat worms and insects that will be hiding in leaf piles, so please leave leaves in your flower beds and elsewhere if possible. And if you want to go the extra mile, try putting out some hedgehog food, or dry cat/dog food providing the main ingredient is meat. The likely problem is that cats and badgers might beat the hedgehogs to it so you may need a hedgehog feeding station to restrict access. I've seen signs of hedgehogs on Ricketts, and because we have cats, I'll be making my cat-proof feeding station ASAP.

How do you know if you've been visited by hedgehogs? The obvious evidence is hedgehog poo which is black and about the size of a slug and will generally have crunched up pieces of insect shell clearly visible. Perhaps too much detail is that I believe poo will be green if the hog is unwell.

**The gloomy bit with a light at the end of the tunnel** The UK's hedgehog population has massively declined, and the average hog will only live 2 years, though they can live for 5. So, if we can help them survive just one winter it could make a massive improvement to their reproduction and recovery rate. All it would take would be a few houses in each street to join in to recreate a healthy hog habitat.

I imagine you might be familiar with hedgehog plight but for reference: <u>https://ptes.org/campaigns/hedgehogs/</u>

https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-our-hedgehog-street-campaign/stateof/

#### Jim Kenney

## TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – DECEMBER AND 2024 NEWS

By the time you read this the Society would have held its final event for 2023 - the Annual General Meeting. We changed the venue and the event to try to make it easier for people to attend and then just pop off home after a welcome drink and some snacks before the formal part of the meeting. We will have to let you know whether the format worked.

Accounts and reports have been circulated by email but, if you did not get one, please email: martin\_allen@talk21.com and I will send you a set of papers over.

After the Annual General Meeting there we held the normal committee meeting where we discussed the 2023/2024 Yearbook and the 2024/2025 programme of events. If you have any suggestions for the 2024/2025 show entries, please do let us know. We still need committee members for this very worthwhile society so please do consider putting yourself forward to join us. We need a Treasurer and someone who can handle our social media and membership emails and reports.

The 2024 season will start with the Gardening Clubs:

6<sup>th</sup> February - a Quiz night with drinks and snacks.

**6**<sup>th</sup> **March** - when we will be regaled as usual by our resident expert Mr Bryan Everest. So put the dates in your diary, along with the Wisley visits below.

Good early news from Sue Warren. Sue has booked for two garden visits to RHS Wisley next year: **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May; and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. We have booked the start of the October half term which might appeal to our younger members as well with the Halloween Theme. Put the date in your diary now!

Have you got your Yearbook yet? If you wanted to pay up front and have a book dropped through the door, please make your £5 payment or donation to the Society's bank account: **Sort Code 08 92 99 Account Number 65516610** adding your address as reference to enable us to deliver a book or confirm by email payment has been made and we will deliver soon afterwards.

You will find in the Yearbook the usual details for Knights and Suttons discounts and details about RHS Tickets, and of course all of the classes for the Spring Show that will be held on Saturday 13th April.

Please do support the society by joining both the committee and the membership, by volunteering, by entering the show if you can or at least visiting the show and enjoying the excellent cakes.

With thanks, Martin Allen, Treasurer

## 'A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS'

## Barn Theatre, Oxted Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2.30 & 7.30pm

The Barn Theatre Oxted, The Really Happy Company and all involved in the 'Celebration of Christmas' show are working harder than ever to raise vital funds for two charities: **Young Lives vs Cancer & The Royal Marsden** children's unit. The combined forces of Young Lives vs Cancer and the Royal Marsden provide support for young patients & their families from all angles:

- Young Lives vs Cancer: emotional support for all the family, financial advice, logistical support, a navigation tool in the new clinical world families have entered.
- The Royal Marsden: the powerhouse of cancer research and drug development, the centre of excellence for treatment.

The Barn Theatre invites you to join us in any way you can in supporting local families just like Abi's.

To buy tickets for the show which will feature local young performers visit: <u>www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk</u>. To advertise in the program email Rebecca Farrell for details: <u>Bexnsteve.farrell@icloud.com</u>

#### Thank you, the Barn Theatre

## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2023

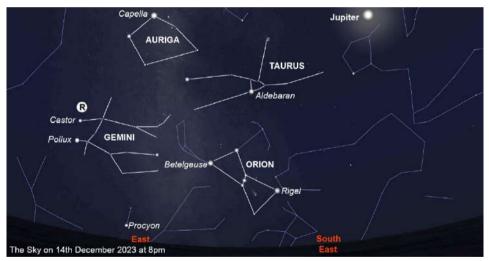
If you are guided more by meteorology than astronomy, then the bad news for you is that winter is here. However, for us astronomers, we're still in autumn and will stay there until the winter solstice occurs on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:27am to be precise. The downside is that winter, for us, ends at the spring equinox on March 20<sup>th</sup> next year by which time those in the meteorological camp will have already enjoyed three weeks of spring.

The night sky also reminds us that the cold weather is here. That doyen of winter constellations, Orion, and the brilliant retinue that surround him speak of crisp frosty nights when even the hardiest astronomer hankers for a warn fireside.

In terms of planets, Saturn and Jupiter are both visible in the evenings. On 1<sup>st</sup> December Saturn is due south at 5:30pm and 25° high, and then exactly south-west at 8:30pm though lower in the sky. If you wait until the end of December, then Saturn lies in the south-west at 6:30pm but is just under 20° in altitude.

Jupiter is by far the brightest thing in the evening sky, bar the Moon, and on 1<sup>st</sup> of December is south-east and 45° up. By the 31<sup>st</sup> it is due south at the same time but higher at more than 50°.

For early risers, Venus has cleared the horizon by 5am throughout December and is a brilliant object above the eastern/south-eastern horizon before sunrise.



The most prolific of the year's meteor showers, the Geminids, reaches its peak on the evening of December 14<sup>th</sup>. The name indicates the constellation (in this case Gemini) that the meteors appear to radiate from although this is simply a line-of-sight effect and nothing to do with that group of stars. The radiant point lies just north of the bright stars, Castor and Pollux, and is shown as a black "R" on a white disk in the diagram. It will have risen by 5pm, lying almost exactly north-east, so Gemini will be visible throughout the night. The diagram also shows some of the brighter constellations (in capitals) and some stars (in italics).

#### **Brian Mills FRAS**

## **NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES**

Receiving correspondence from 'Adventurer Jim' (Yeeles) is always a joy. Here is his latest contribution (13.11.23):

'I completely agree with you that we need to champion our under-appreciated moths. I started running an occasional moth-trap this year and was pleased to discover the high numbers and variety of species we find in our pesticide-free 'garden'. I am very much a beginner though, and many remain unidentified on release as 'another little brown job'. My id skills are improving slowly. I have found James Lowen's, 'British Moths' (Bloomsbury) my most useful reference book for the common species. Amongst the ones I have positively identified are: **Silver Y**, **Toadflax Brocade, Common Carpet, Brimstone Moth, Elephant Hawk-moth, Hummingbird Hawk-moth, Common Footman, Ruby Tiger, Yellow Underwings** (various).

Winter migrants: The **Redwing** sightings are increasing slowly but, so far, we've not seen any large marauding flocks devouring this year's ample berry supply. However, yesterday (12th Nov) we were lucky to encounter a gathering of 100+ skittish **Lesser Redpoll** gorging themselves on the golf course Birch seeds.

Earlier in the day, high above the scarp slope at Hill Park, the ever-present **Red Kites** and **Buzzards** were joined by a pair of **Ravens**. I've occasionally heard what I thought might be Ravens calling in the Chestnut Avenue/Park Wood area and wondered if they could be resident nearby. Has anyone else heard them?

My botanical highlight of the year was the single spike of **Violet Helleborine** spotted on Tatsfield Green by my eagle-eyed neighbour, Phyllis Lawrence. Unfortunately, it was strimmed mercilessly by Council contractors before it had set seed, but at least we know where it is now and can protect it in the future. Sorry my note is a bit lengthy. Please prune as necessary.'

I know it's a good time to be pruning things, Jim, but not your notes. 100+ Lesser Redpoll: I've somewhat ashamedly turned a sickly shade of green. Perhaps in the New Year we can persuade you to tell us more about your 'moth trap'? Tatsfield could become a haven of night-time lepidopterists! And now here's a little surprise for you. About a month before you sent your notes, Amber (Tamcken) sent a couple of emails:

(07.10.23) 'I thought I'd let you know I have spotted a pair of **Ravens** flying over the village! I'm going to try and see if I can get some photos of them.'

(14.10.23) 'Unfortunately I haven't had any luck in trying to photograph the pair of Ravens, but I was very lucky to be given a raven's primary feather! So far, I have spotted the pair flying over Ship Hill and resting in the trees by Manor Road. Their behaviour is typical of ravens as they have been barrel rolling over each other and making their iconic 'gronk' sounds. I hope to be able to photograph them at some point but despite their size they are rather illusive!' Ravens in Tatsfield; who would have thought it? Jim has seen them, Amber has seen them, John (Rosenbaum) has reported them more than once, James (Longley) has relayed a sighting of them, and I may have seen one (behind Lusted Hall Farm, towards Beddlestead), but decided at the time not to believe my own eyes. So, who will be the first lucky villager to have a garden visit? Could it be you?

Well, rather strangely, no sooner had I written last month's notes asking for fungi photos (pre-publication) when along comes Poppy (Andrews-Lampard) with a fine collection of - guess what - <u>fungi photos</u>! (Thanks to Sarah for forwarding them.) Keep up the good work, Poppy. Our village needs keen, young naturalists to promote local environmental interests and issues. Keen, young naturalists like you!





Poppy wasn't the only one to send a fungi photo. Jim (Kenney) was, rather optimistically, hoping for some help with identification (14.11.23):

'Having spotted your call for fungi photos in the mag I thought I'd send you this for an ID please. It's on a verge opposite Tatsfield Green on Ricketts, though I got the feeling that it might readily roam off somewhere of its own accord. Hope you recognise it!'

Bad luck, Jim - I haven't got a clue! But what a

great find. Thanks for the photo. Probably not one for the breakfast table! Perhaps one of our other readers can assist us with the identification? (And what are those pretty white ones that Poppy photographed?)

It seems unbelievable but, once again, it is time to wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and a **Joyful New Year**! I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to read these notes over the past twelve months, and of course those who have contributed photos, observations and comment. <u>Contribution creates unity. Unity is strength.</u>

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

## FAIRTRADE PRICE COMPARISONS

Fairtrade products ensure that workers are treated fairly and that the environmental impact of farming is sensitively managed. Farmers working in Fairtrade Co-operatives are supported to use techniques that help them



to mitigate the impact of Climate Change on their crops. But does this mean that British consumers will end up paying much more for their products when they choose Fairtrade?

It is interesting to have a look at the price of tea bags. Here is a comparison **per 100g** of boxes of 80 tea bags:

Tea Bag Brand	Sainsbury's	Со-ор	Tesco	Waitrose
PG Tips	£1.29	£1.50	£1.29	£1.36
Yorkshire Tea	£1.32	£1.48	£1.32	£1.38
Tetley's	£1.18	£1.24	£1.14	£1.26
Clipper Fairtrade	£1.51		£1.51	£1.30
Own brand budget		£0.40		£0.46
Fairtrade				
Own brand English	£0.88			£1.10
Breakfast				
Fairtrade				
Twinings	£2.40	£2.54	£2.37	£2.50

The results might surprise you. Fairtrade tea is NOT always more expensive to buy – often it is cheaper! Indeed, Fairtrade supermarket own brand options always offer strong value for money. Clipper Fairtrade is competitive in terms of price too and are significantly cheaper that Twining's English Breakfast tea.

Clearly when it comes to choosing tea, taste matters and we all have our favourites. If you are keen to take a step to help the planet and the people who grow and pick your tea, perhaps you might consider picking up a Fairtrade pack of tea and giving it a try? Choosing Fairtrade doesn't always have to mean paying more. You will find that with bananas too.

Remember the power of the pound in your pocket – together we can all make a positive difference in the world when we signal to the market that we want to buy ethically produced food. More information also at: tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com Facebook: facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade Email: <u>tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com</u>

The Tatsfield Fairtrade Group wish you an enjoyable time over Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thank you for choosing Fairtrade whenever you can.



#### **Hilary Harber**



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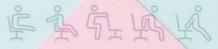
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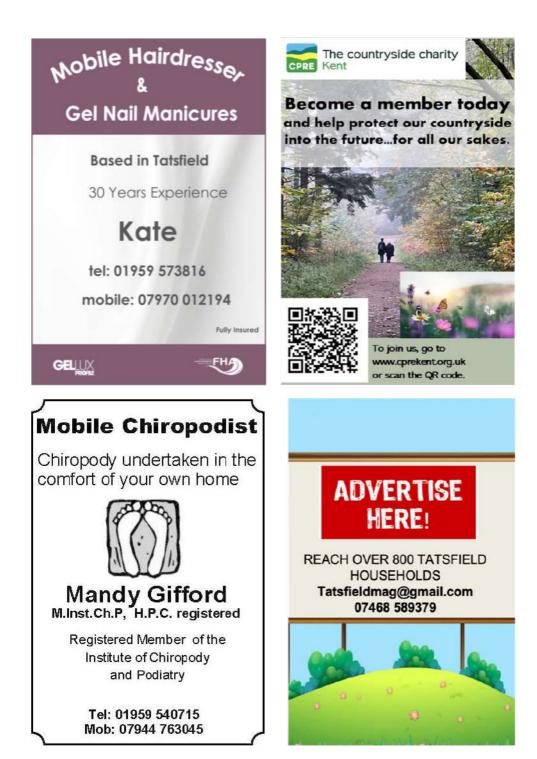
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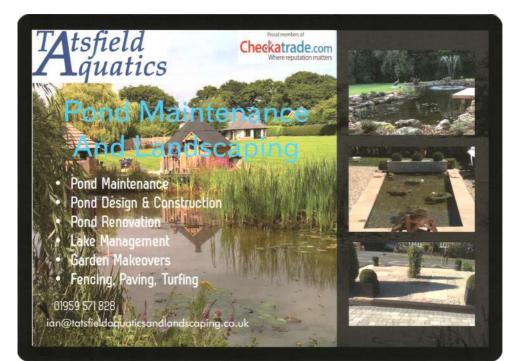
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Exhausts	Insurance Estimates		





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