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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

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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@littm@btinternet.com

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

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk • Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG
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 • Adam (07484663391)

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

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

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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 16th of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment in an email to: tatsfieldpm@gmail.com. Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). All loose inserts need to be booked and 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: "A Winning Entry" – thank you to Jason Syrett for the photograph.

THE END OF THE ROAD – IF YOU CAN REACH IT

Life's fine in Tatsfield, no need for fuss
And lucky for us there's a regular bus
to save us trudging up Polesteeples until,
We arrive to shop in Biggin Hill.
We can even go further and ride on the tram
Instead of our car stuck in a traffic jam.
All this is wonderful - that is until
Thames Water decided to close Ship Hill.
Not a problem we were told
Replacing pipes a mere hundred years old!
Not a problem? Well that was a joke,
Considering the trouble it did provoke.
For months on end it's not been much fun
Getting places on time when the bus doesn't run.
It's not the workers' fault, we mustn't pester'em
Doing our daily detour all round Westerham.
The poor school students deserve a mention
For arriving so late they get landed in detention.
Church Hill folks coping with parts narrow as a funnel
But then some light at the end of the tunnel!
Thanks to our MP and some of us
We managed to acquire a connector bus.
Better than nothing I guess but we want more.
We desperately need the return of our 464!

Ann Lovelace

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

PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS

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

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15TH APRIL 2024

Today came the great news that Ship Hill is now open to all traffic again – it has been a long time for our village to be cut in two. I am surely not the only victim of a smashed wing mirror negotiating the narrow lanes? The tidying of the verges will be taking place over the following few days, and I hope by the time you read this it has been finished. Hopefully our water supply has now been brought up to date.

Planning

2024/189/NH 4 Sunnybank this was reported on in March and was for minor amendments which were approved by TDC before our meeting. No comment.

KCC/0495/2018 Covers Farm Quarry, Westerham Kent. Recommendation: Tatsfield Parish Council wishes to reconfirm its previous objections which it made in response to the Covers Farm Quarry application in 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. The Parish council strenuously objects to this application on the basis of the harm such proposals, if approved would have on the Parish, its residents, its roads and also the surrounding areas. Recommendation: Reconfirm our objections.

Finance

The Eucalyptus tree which was overhanging the Village Hall car park has been cut back to boundary during the Easter holidays. This is to deter the bird excrement being deposited on the outside play area occupied by Little Acorns and to prevent branches possibly falling on parked cars.

Two new “No Parking” signs have been erected on the Lusted Hall Lane side of Westmore Green to discourage parking along the verges and stop erosion.

Our project to resurface and tidy the picnic area outside the shops will begin in the next week. We hope this will be ready for the better weather for all to enjoy. This will involve lighting, new waste bins and planting.

Our playground extension garden for our pre-schoolers is starting to settle in after all the rain. This has been a project which received funds from the Beer Festival team and the Roseheath Foundation to which we are very grateful. The grass has been cut and a few more plants added. If you would like to join our working group to help maintain this small area please give me a call (Kim 07951072326) or email.

Full Minutes of all PC meetings are available on our PC website along with full planning decisions.

Kim Jennings, Chair, Tatsfield Parish Council
(kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk)

TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

By the time you read this is in the early couple of days of May we will either be near or would have completed the referendum, so in either case I hope you will have been or will intend to vote on this hugely important matter for the Parish of Tatsfield.



Your vote for this plan will count and will have a positive effect on protecting the Green Belt when Planning Application and design matters are concerned, as Planning Officers will have to give the Plan, if passed *considerable weight* when making decisions on planning matter in the future. After all of the work the volunteers have put into this plan putting it together, we would like to have a positive and resounding Yes vote. Thank you. I will report next month on the outcome but before then please keep a look out on Tatsfield Talk and the websites across the village, including The Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan>. And I will then explain what the next steps will be. All of the paperwork can be seen on the Tandridge District Council website, use the link below:

<https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning-and-building/Planning-strategies-and-policies/Adopted-planning-policies/Neighbourhood-Plans/Tatsfield-Neighbourhood-Plan-and-Examination>

If you only vote for one thing during 2nd May please vote for this plan. It is the one vote you can be sure will count for the future.

Martin Allen (Chair) Email: martin_allen@talk21.com Tel. 577201

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

As Energy Secretary, I know many families in East Surrey and across the country feel that high standing charges are unfair and make it harder for them to cut down their monthly energy bills. Decisions around standing charges rest with Ofgem, so I have written to them setting out my expectation that standing charges are kept low, or reformed if necessary to make them fairer for consumers. You can read my full letter on my website.

In November the Prime Minister announced a massive injection of £8.3 billion into road resurfacing projects across England, funded by cancelling the second phase of HS2. As a condition of this funding, and to make sure money is being spent on pothole repairs, we required local councils to publish a two-year plan detailing exactly which roads will be repaired with the money. I know how frustrating poor road surfaces can be – so if you have a road near you that you would like to see resurfaced, please do report them on the SCC website.

I am a self-confessed community centre superfan. Community spaces can do wonders for our sense of belonging and our wellbeing, and I was thrilled to visit the site of the long-awaited Master Park Pavilion in Oxted recently. Following a mammoth fundraising

effort, including securing £1.86 million from Your Fund Surrey and £250,000 from the Government's Community Ownership Fund, the new community pavilion is well on its way to completion, and it was fantastic to get a sense of how community groups and sports clubs will be able to use the space when it is finished. I look forward to heading back when the Pavilion opens to the community towards the end of the year.

Finally, I'm delighted to share an update on The Friendship Project, the charity that I set up to support local community groups who tackle loneliness. With help from the Tandridge Community Fund, over £10,000 has now been distributed to seven community groups in East Surrey to support them in their crucial work. This includes £2,500 for the Woodhouse Centre in Oxted to help them redecorate their walls and replace carpets and lighting, £3,150 to the Westway Centre to build an outdoor shelter to help with socialising and gardening, and just under £2,000 for East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership to facilitate community outreach events and transport for those in need.

We all feel that life has got busier in recent years, and many of us will feel that we would rather have a bit more time to stop and get to know those around us – that's why I've now installed the first of my 'Happy to Chat' benches. With the money I've raised for my Friendship project, I'm installing these in green spaces in East Surrey to encourage people to spark a conversation with someone they might not have previously thought to say hello to. If you spot one while you're out and about, send me an email to let me know.

Email: claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk / Tel: 0207 219 5972.



ARE YOU READY TO VOTE ON 2 MAY?

Elections take place on Thursday 2 May for Tandridge District Council, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and some parish councils.

Residents in Tatsfield will also be voting on the referendum on the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan, a community-led framework which will guide the future development, regeneration, and conservation of the area.

To be able to vote, you must be included in the Register of Electors. If you're not already registered, please submit an online application by Tuesday 16 April.

More information, including different ways to vote, can be found on the Electoral Commission's website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Don't forget your photo ID If you want to vote in a polling station, you'll need to bring photo ID, such as your photo driving licence or passport, otherwise you won't be able to vote. This is a relatively new requirement.

More information about these elections, including the different ways to vote, can be found on the election webpage at www.tandridge.gov.uk

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR FOR THE TATSFIELD & TITSEY WARD Thursday 2nd MAY 2024

Statement of Persons Nominated Notice is hereby given that: the following people have been or stand nominated for election to Tatsfield & Titsey Ward.

Name	Description
ALLEN, Martin William	Independent
BUDGEN, Kenneth Arthur	The Conservative Party Candidate
STEWART, Sarah Jane	The Green Party

The Tatsfield Parish Magazine has attempted to contact all candidates and invite them to submit their reason for standing for this election. Details from those candidates who have responded are below.



MARTIN WILLIAM ALLEN I am your current Councillor, I have now been in this role for Nine full years and if re-elected will become the fourth senior councillor sitting on the Tandridge District Council. My Independent colleague Jeremy Pursehouse being the most senior, so this bodes well for the experience and knowledge that will be needed to steer the Council through the tough times to come.

I have been living in Tatsfield for over 22 years and have been involved in the Compost site from very early on and the Horticultural Society as a past Chairman and current Treasurer. I have also served on the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee where David Pinchin and I have worked hard with the airport to minimise the number of planes that overfly the village and are currently in the early stages of discussing the movement south of the Noise sensitive area boundary to reduce the noise and overflying even more.

I will continue to represent both parishes to the best of my ability, I will continue to vote against any unnecessary increases in Council tax until the Council gets their financial house in order and becomes more efficient and effective in the way they do things. I will continue to ensure that no breaches of planning and no parking on yellow lines goes unnoticed and will continue to support the Parish Council in their role to protect unsightly and overbearing building with the villages. If re-elected I will continue to serve on the committees and have a say on your behalf in Licensing issues, matters of proper stewardship and will challenge the Audit roles that are undertaken on our behalf to ensure that the council tax you pay is used on good value for money systems and not wasted.

Being part and Group Leader of the four-member Independent Group, the true Independents on the Council I feel that the team works very well together for all of their residents across the district.

So please if you appreciate what I have been doing make your X count and vote for Martin Allen, Independent Councillor for Tatsfield and Titsey to represent you. And whilst doing that please vote for the Neighbourhood Plan.



KENNETH ARTHUR BUDGEN Kenneth Budgen is a local man who has lived in the village for many years. He is a passionate champion for the area and standing as the Conservative candidate. As most of you know, although Tatsfield & Titsey remain a single member ward, there was a proposal from the Boundary Commission to merge it with Limpsfield. This was opposed by many people who live in the Village, the Councillor at the time as well as various Conservative submissions by the County Councillors, East Surrey Conservative Association and the Conservative Group on Tandridge Council arguing for Tatsfield's unique situation and for it to remain a single member ward in keeping with the quaint peaceful nature of the Village. The benefit of keeping this ward as one member, is that the relationship between the Councillor and the residents can become closer and focus on local issues that are brought up by local people.

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.

The
Tatsfield Singers
Summer Concert



‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’

15 June 2024

Tatsfield Village Hall

7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

Adults: £5

Children: free

Tickets available from

Sheree’s Store,

Tatsfield

or on the door

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

We've been very busy last half term at Little Acorns with lots of exciting activities for the children to enjoy!

We held our annual Eastercise event for our families with activities for the children to complete around the hall to raise sponsorship money. The children were all rewarded with a medal, certificate and yummy Easter egg in return for their efforts.



We've been looking at nature and life cycles recently with the children, exploring how animals and plants grow. We've looked at apples, fish, crocodiles and ladybirds!

We were very pleased to use some of our recent fundraising money to buy an assortment of new construction, small world, physical play and outside toys for the children to enjoy; a big thank you to all of our families for contributing towards all these wonderful new facilities!

Our register is now full for the remainder of the school year, but we will be accepting new children from September 2024. If you would like to come along and visit Little Acorns, please get in touch via the email shown below.



Thank you for reading!

The Little Acorns Team Email: office@littlearcornstatsfield.co.uk

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for March 2024:

1 st Prize	Justin Naughton	£49.50
2 nd Prize	David Hines	£33.00
3 rd Prize	Tom Ellis	£16.50

Thank you for supporting sport in Tatsfield. If you know of anyone who wishes to join the 100 Club (for a modest £6 per month), or if you would like additional numbers, then please contact me at leames200@gmail.com. Les Eames

MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



It's official...

Spring has Sprung and here at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield we have been exploring the changes the new season brings including nature, weather, and looking at seasonal animals.



We had an egg-cellent week celebrating Easter and all the fun it brings including egg hunts, sensory trays, egg and carrot counting activities and baking yummy easter biscuits with our chef!



Our pre-schoolers experimented with growing using different media. They entered this into the horticultural show and come **SECOND** place, Well Done Blackbirds!



Our toddlers also made an entry for the horticultural show, creating a sculpture out of recycled materials (toilet roll) and come **FIRST** place, Well Done Robins!

We are hosting an 🌞 **Open Day on Saturday 11th May between 10am-1pm** 🌞 here at Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery Tatsfield, we invite you to explore our beautiful nursery and meet our wonderful team!

Please call 01959 928427 or email manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk, to book your slot!

Lucy Wollington, Deputy Nursery Manager

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD MUSIC SOCIETY



On Saturday 11th May at 19.30, the Society is excited to be hosting the **Leonore Piano Trio**. Three internationally acclaimed artists, Benjamin Nabarro (violin), Gemma Rosefield (cello) and Tim Horton (piano) will perform:

Franz Joseph Haydn: Piano Trio no. 34 in B flat major, Hob.XV:20

Antonin Dvorak: Piano Trio no. 2 in G minor, Op. 26

Bedrich Smetana: Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15

Venue: Bawtree Hall at Hazelwood School, Wolfs Hill, Oxted RH8 OQU. There is a lift at and free parking. The concert starts at 7.30 pm and tickets are £30 each, with free entry for under-25s. Concert tickets available on the Society's website www.olms.org.uk or on the door.

Giles Maberly

NORTH DOWNS COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA



The NDCO invites you to a fabulous night of the music you love at Woldingham School at 5.30pm on Sunday 26th May. The orchestra's 80 players are looking forward to performing musical delights from James Bond and Pirates of the Caribbean, the musical My Fair Lady, plus Pinball Wizard, Smooth and great pieces by Tchaikowsky, Stravinsky and Vaughan Williams.

This will be Musical Director Sara Young's final concert with the NDCO having built the orchestra and more than doubled its number of regular members over the last five years. Sara says, 'Our loyal audience ensured our last concert sold out with a waiting list – amazing! That's why we're going to Woldingham School's 630-seater auditorium, a treat in itself! So too will be this fabulous night of engaging music which we hope to present to you. This final programme has been deliberately crafted to appeal to all ages but is also a really great way to introduce children to orchestral music, with pieces they know supported by free child entry and the friendly start time of 5.30pm.'

Tickets are just £10, free for under 18s at: <https://www.thefunorchestra.co.uk/concerts>

Lin Larmer

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB



In April we headed off in our super minibus provided by Practical Car and Van Hire (01959541511) to 'Herons Bonsai' in Lingfield where Peter Chang, an expert in Bonsai trees, welcomed us to his lovely purpose-built community hall. Members enjoyed a delicious cream tea whilst taking in the view across his beautifully landscaped gardens. Afterwards, they were able to have an exclusive perusal around the specialist garden centre. Everyone had a super time before heading back to the village.

We are so lucky to benefit from the generosity of Practical Car and Van Hire and Peter at Herons Bonsai who provided the hall free of charge. Also, for our drivers Neil and Graham who were our very gracious chauffeurs.

In March some of our members enjoyed a trip to Curzon Cinema and look forward to attending this month. We are so fortunate to have this in the village and it is a real shame we risk losing it due to low attendance.

In April we will be visiting the Churchill Theatre to see 'That'll be the Day' - a show celebrating music from the 50's, 60's and 70's.

Our May meeting will be our AGM and will be held in the WI hall at 1pm on 14th May.

Don't forget if you know anyone who may like to join us or would like to come along yourself to try out our friendly club, please give me a call.

Keep safe, Sue Dowse notsoyoung100@gmail.com 0781611092

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

NDS is looking forwards to our next concert, on Saturday, May 11th, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall as usual. Liz Worth, who last conducted the orchestra in the Young Soloist concert 2023, will be conducting, and the programme will start with Eric Coates 'Countryside Suite', which is just as tuneful as his better-known works like the 'Dambusters March'. This will be followed by Hummel's Trumpet Concerto, where the soloist will be Joanne Claeys. He was a prolific composer of the 19th century but is (these days) only really known for his Trumpet Concerto.

After the interval the orchestra will be playing Beethoven's 8th Symphony. He was very fond of it, calling it 'my little Symphony in F', to distinguish it from his massive Pastoral Symphony, which is also in F. It is nevertheless a substantial work in four movements. Unusually, the last movement is the weightiest, but, being by Beethoven, all four are melodic.

Tickets are available by emailing northdownssinfonia@gmail.com, or by phoning **01959 577659**. They can then be picked up and paid for on the door. They will also be available in Sheree's Stores in due course. Adult tickets are still only £10, and concessions are £8. There may well also be some tickets available on the night, if you decide at the last moment that you would like an evening out! **Peter Maynard**



TITSEY BREWERY CO. "BEER 'N' RIDE"
A GRAVEL CYCLING ADVENTURE BECKONS



JOIN US ON SATURDAY 11TH MAY

Get ready to saddle up and explore our stunning countryside on two wheels! We're thrilled to announce a new Gravel Cycle Event, set to take place on 11th May. With an array of amenities and a choice of two picturesque routes, this promises to be an unforgettable day for cycling enthusiasts of all levels.

Starting from Titsey Brewery on Clarks Lane, where there will be facilities and mechanical support for a tune up before the ride. Event photography and pick-up wagon also available if required. Let's not forget the all-important refreshment stop en-route to keep your energy levels high as you pedal through the countryside.

Participants can choose between two exhilarating routes tailored to suit varying preferences and abilities. Opt for the epic 65km journey boasting 1000m of ascent or a slightly more leisurely pace with the 46km ascent route. Whichever you choose, you'll be treated to breath taking views as you traverse the rolling hills of Surrey and the scenic landscapes of the Garden of England.

Our carefully crafted course features a mix of bridleways, byways, singletrack, cycle paths, forest tracks, and quiet lanes. With diverse surfaces to challenge and delight riders. Bikes with larger width tyres and clearances, such as gravel, mountain, or e-bikes, are recommended for optimal performance.

After conquering the ride, return to the Brewery for a well-deserved Titsey beer and refreshments awaiting your arrival. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and celebrate your accomplishments with fellow cyclists.

So, mark your calendars and dust off your bikes for a day of adventure and camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a newcomer to gravel cycling, there's something for everyone at our Beer'N'Ride.

If you can't make the ride, then you're welcome to come and cheer everyone on. We'll have a selection of Titsey Beers and food available in our outside bar.

See you at the starting line!

**To book tickets & for more information please check out our website
www.titseybrewingco.com or Facebook.**

HORTICULTURAL SPRING SHOW REPORT 2024

Thank you to each and every one of you who entered the Horticultural spring show. Sadly there were only 30 who entered the show. However, we are extremely grateful for your efforts and the hall looked full of colour and amongst the spring flowers - you were welcomed by the scent of the daffodils and various blossoms. We had over 150 entries.

The Committee and helpers work tirelessly for an hour to set up the Village Hall for the shows on the Friday evening prior to the show, and remain in the hall for most of the duration on Saturday, and then dismantle again at the end of the afternoon. Why do we do it? Yes, I question this myself sometimes. Lots of you enjoy coming along to see all the colourful and interesting exhibits that give you lots of pleasure and happiness. Maybe the beautiful spring flowers be it daffodils, tulips, blossoms or colourful and interesting pot plants to name but a few. We have our talented artistic artists, many of whom belong to a village Art Group, and a few of the handicrafters amongst you. Keen photographers looking for inspiration, Masterchef cooks looking for tasty ideas or our flower arrangers, most of who decorate our Tatsfield Church on a regular basis. We also had a good turnout of juniors this time; so massive thanks to the parents who supervised their efforts which were richly rewarded and the local nursery groups.

The afternoon teas are always popular, and we try to set out the tables in a cafe format. A mug of tea at £1 and a big slice of homemade cake for £1.50 is a bargain to sit and chat to your friends or someone you haven't seen recently.

We also hold a raffle and an auction of goodies at the end of the afternoon after Prize Giving.

Thank you to those who supported the Society, and of course all the Committee and helpers.

We really do need more of you on the committee. If the society is going to continue in its present format we definitely need more help, especially a Treasurer. Please speak to a committee member or someone you might know on the committee if you are interested. However, you will not be thrown in at the deep end! Without more volunteers we will struggle to continue. There is something about volunteering - it gives everyone of us a different and very kind perspective on life. Why not give it a try?

Our next events are the Plant Sale on May 4th at 9.30am on the Westmore Green. Please bring any donated plants beforehand. I will have some home-grown Sweet Williams for sale.

Our Annual Wisley Visit is Saturday May 18th at 10am. Meet at the entrance on or before 10am.

Sue Warren

SPRING 2024 SHOW TROPHIES

CUP	SECTION	WINNER	POINTS
Colgate Challenge	Horticulture	Susan Saunders	27
Sue Warren Trophy	Flower Arrangement	Sue Warren	9
Theobald Cup	Crafts	Carol Pearson	9
Lambert Art Trophy	Art	Linda Lambert	7
Ray Collins Trophy	Photography	Nigel Shaw	9
Tom Rushen Cup	Domestic	Stuart Payne	7
Peter Hallam Trophy	Juniors	Nikita Badura Jnr	9
Derek Weller Cup	Best Daffodils	Sue Warren	
Emily Streets Cup	Best Flower	Sue Warren	
TATOL Prize	Best Art in Show	Christine Stainer	



A SELECTION OF THE FABULOUS ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO THE SPRING SHOW FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES





VERN D'ANJOU EASTER VISIT

Our friends from Vern D'Anjou arrive in Tatsfield for Easter - this year was our 49th year of being twinned with Vern. It was our turn to welcome our French friends to Tatsfield. We had 21 visitors who stayed in ten homes in Tatsfield, with one couple being hosted in Westerham.

We had a great weekend... We started with a short reception in The Ship and then our guests went home with the families they were staying with, and then we got together in small groups to host dinner in the evening. The following day, Easter Saturday, the sun shone, and we went to Leeds Castle where we had a really good tour of the castle and a delicious English cream tea and time to wander in the gardens. It was an English spring day at its best - lots of flowers and the trees out in blossom. We rounded off the day with a delicious meal at The Bakery followed by a live singer and dancing.



On Sunday we had our traditional reception in the village hall where our youngest president ever, Hollie Panther made a wonderful bi-lingual speech, followed by the appreciation and speech by the French president Hervé. We then popped down to Westerham Brewery for a guided tour and tasting. We ended the weekend in the Village Hall with Diane the *Creative Curry Girl* who cooked the most delicious curry for 53 of us, and the tables were beautifully laid with Indian tablecloths and English spring flowers.

As we always say there is such a warm friendly feeling between the two groups, and we look forward to our 50th anniversary next year.

Alizon Mooney

Ed: 50th Anniversary next year? Amazing work – and that will definitely be a year to get involved and celebrate. Tatsfield! Do get in touch with Alizon if you'd like to know more.

ST MARY'S MATTERS

Services at St Mary's Tatsfield As announced last month, Priest in Training, Debra Elsdon, will be Ordained as a Deacon at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 29th June. Debra will be living in The Rectory in Tatsfield with her husband, Ashley, as she begins her vocational training journey.

In the meantime, our main 10am Sunday service with music, led by visiting clergy and/or lay people continues. All are welcome. Further information is in our Notice Sheet which can be accessed via the link on the home page of our website: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys.

10am Sunday 5th May Please note the previously advertised Rogation Service at Titsey Tap on Sunday 5th May will not now go ahead. Instead, there will be a 10am Holy Communion service with hymns at St Mary's Tatsfield, led by Bishop Chris Goldsmith.

6am Thursday 9th May Our annual Ascension Day Service will be led by Revd Helen Cook outside the Millennium Hall. If you plan to join us for the breakfast that follows, please email stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com for catering purposes.

10am Sunday 19th May Our 10am Holy Communion for the Day of Pentecost will be led by Revd David Butlin. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of the Christian Church.

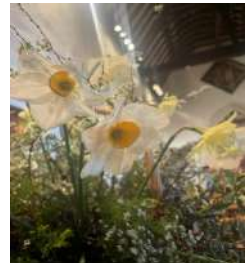
Easter at St Mary's



Bishop Chris Goldsmith prepares to greet a full congregation following our 10am Service on Easter Day



The Easter Garden



One of the lovely floral decorations from Ann, Jan & the Flower Ladies

St Mary's Church Tatsfield Annual Meeting 2024 At 11.30am on Sunday 12th May in the Millennium Hall we have our 2024 Annual Meeting of Parishioners followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Anyone resident in the Parish whose name is entered on a register of local government electors, as well as anyone whose name is on the electoral roll, is entitled to attend the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which the Churchwardens are elected.

All Lay persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and take part.

Friendship Lunches Over 50 people attended in total, enjoying a delicious lunch and raising £300 for the Bishop of Southwark's 'Lent Call', in support of local community projects and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem. Thank you to Maryrose and her team and everyone for coming together to share lunch in friendship and fellowship.

Flower Ladies Many thanks to Tina Boys, Pauline Conlon, Kay Longley, Ann Lovelace, Kay Roberts, Christine Rosenbaum, Sue Saunders, Pat Walsh and Sue Warren, for the beautiful flower arrangements and for making the Church look so Springlike for the Easter celebrations. Also our thanks to Marjorie Broughton for tea/coffee and delicious cake.

All ladies will be contacted soon regarding the flower rota. We need more members for our merry group. Anyone interested in joining in would be very welcome. Please contact: Jan Maynard (577659) or Ann Vatcher (577207)

Churchyard Team The volunteers met in force on 6th April to continue getting the churchyard in good order after the winter months. Despite the forecast sun not appearing it was a dry day, at last, enabling mowing and strimming to take place and the flower beds around the church to be tended. The old cremation plot was also tidied along with some remedial work. Maintenance also took place in the compost area repairing the bins and transferring compost as it matures. There are a few bags of compost available which may be freely collected, but more will be available in the months to come.

Thanks go to Chris Hancock, Dickon Poole, Hedy Gulley, Kay and Keith Roberts, Mary Smith and Peter Maynard for their hard work. Also pleased to welcome Mike and Fiona Pendleton to our group of volunteers. They were unable to be with us on the 6th but they have already begun tidying the graves below the old cremation plot. Our next work party will be on Saturday May 4th at 10am. **David Gulley**

St Mary's 100 Club results

Feb 2024 draw

58 S. Jackaman £22 95 N. Ellis £12 18 P. & J. Pinder £8 St Mary's £42

March 2024 draw

61 K. Moffat £22 4 P. Stokoe £12 11 K. Moffat £8 St Mary's £42

St Mary's Sunday Teas 2024 Our popular Summer Teas commences Sunday 26th May this year from 3pm to 5pm in the Millennium Hall. Visitors old and new are all very welcome to join us.

Supporting Westerham Foodbank We continue to support our local community at Westerham Foodbank which faces a significant rise in the number of households needing help and a reduction in donations received. Currently they support 75 adults and 62 children referred from a variety of agencies who require short, intermittent and longer-term assistance. We delivered on Thursday 18th April and will deliver again on Thursday

23rd May. Please help by donating if you can. Items currently needed include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish, meat and long-life or powdered milk, custard and rice pudding. Non-perishable food donations can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's church on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday from 9am to 3.30pm approx. If you would like to make a monetary donation this will be used to purchase food. Thank you for your support. **Hilary Vale (01959) 577864**

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 or email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Personal Prayer Requests For those wishing to have prayers said on their behalf please note there is prayer request book near the Baptism Font. If you are unable to visit St Mary's personally you can email your prayer request to: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Life Events We welcome enquiries for baptisms, weddings, funerals and interment of ashes. Further information and qualifying criteria is on the 'Our Services' section of our website www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys or email 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**

Church opening times St Mary's is currently open for viewing, prayer or personal reflection from 9am – 3.30pm approx. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

St Mary's Tatsfield Church Office Please note the Church Office is currently based at 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: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys

Email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01883 712512 (via St Peter's Church Parish Office)

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	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
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	10.00 am	Chair Yoga with Mel - WIH
	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 st 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
	2-4 pm	Composting Site open
	6.30 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH
	6.00pm	Over 8s Jujitsu, SH
	7.30pm	Adults Jujitsu, SH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	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 nd Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 st Thursday of the month)
	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
	6.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Junior Street Dance – VH
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
Sat	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00 am	Composting Site open
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH

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

UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

MAY

2 nd Thu	7.00am	Elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, VH
4 th Sat	9.30am	THS Plant Sale and Fairtrade Tea Tent, Westmore Green
4 th Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
4 th Sat	2.30/7.30pm	Strictly Youthful concert, Orpheus Centre
11 th Sat	7.30pm	The Leonore Piano Trio, OLMS Concert, Hazelwood School
12 th Sun	11.30am	St Mary's Annual Meeting, MH
14 th Tues	1.00pm	NSY AGM and Meeting, WIH
14 th -17 th	7.30pm	September Tide, the Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
18 th Sat	10.00am	THS Wisley Visit, Wisley Gardens
18 th Sat	2.30pm	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition and Sale, VH
18 th Sat	2.30/7.30pm	September Tide, the Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
19 th Sun	11.00am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition and Sale, VH
21 st Tue	7.15pm	Centenary Festival Gala Dinner, Barn Theatre
25 th Sat	5.00pm	Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society Concert, URC in Oxted
26 th Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
26 th Sun	2.00/6.30pm	All-England Theatre Festival Eastern Area Final, Barn Theatre
26 th Sun	5.30pm	For One Night Only, NDCO, Woldingham School
27 th May	7.00am	Chartwell Cancer Trust Brands Hatch Charity Day, Brands Hatch
29 th Wed	7.30pm	Sorolla: The Master of Light, Lecture, Limpsfield Church Hall
29 th Wed	7.30pm	Centenary Festival Quiz Night, Barn Theatre
30 th Thu	7.30pm	Jukebox, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
31 st Fri	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Centenary Show, Barn Theatre

JUNE

1 st Sat	7.00pm	Little Acorns Race Night, TVC
1 st Sat	7.45pm	Randy and the Rockets, Barn Theatre
2 nd Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
7 th Fri	7.45pm	The Big Country Music Show, Barn Theatre
8 th Sat	7.30pm	Last Night of the Proms & Puccini Gianni Schicchi, Barn Theatre
9 th Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
13 th Thu	7.30pm	Little Grimley comes to life with a Double Bill, Barn Theatre
14 th Fri	7.30pm	New Foxtrot Serenaders, Swinging the 60's, Barn Theatre
15 th Sat	7.30pm	Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Tatsfield Singers, VH
15 th sat	7.45pm	Old Time Music Hall, Barn Theatre
16 th Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
22 nd Sat	7.00pm	Surrey Dance & Drama School – Showtime, Barn Theatre
23 rd Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
26 th Wed	7.30pm	Casablanca: Making of a Legend, Lecture, Limpsfield Church Hall
28 th – 29 th	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Peter Pan the Musical, Barn Theatre
30 th Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM



ETHICAL SALES INCREASE

A recent report by the Fairtrade Foundation has shown that despite the cost-of-living crisis, concerns over the environment and the treatment of farmers in poorer countries has fuelled a steady increase in ethical shopping in the UK.



Michael Gidney is CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation. He has reported “the Covid pandemic and disruption to the production and transport of products around the world served to highlight how global supply chains could be reliant on the wellbeing of workers in remote places who produce the goods we rely on. The climate crisis is also heightening concern about the future of farming of commodities including coffee and cocoa with the UN estimating half of the world’s land under coffee could be lost by 2050 because of the changing weather patterns.”

In 2022, UK shoppers spent nearly 16% more on Fairtrade products. There was a big increase in sales of some newer commodities such as gold and rice, according to the Ethical Markets report by the Co-operative Bank and Ethical Consumer magazine. (Guardian, April 2024) “If you take the long view, I think we are winning the argument that trade can be sustainable and fair for people and planet,” said Gidney. “The penny has dropped, that investment starts with primary producers.”

Thank you for choosing the Fairtrade mark on products. Every time you include a Fairtrade banana, packet of tea, coffee or sugar, you are sending a signal around the world that you value ethical practices that prioritise the workers and the planet. The Climate Crisis is adding even more urgency to this situation. The Fairtrade Foundation is assisting farmers to tackle the challenges they face so that they can continue to make a living and we can continue to enjoy cocoa, coffee and tea at affordable prices. The changing climate is threatening yields of West African Cocoa. 90% of the beans are grown there on small farms. Choosing an ethical brand not only secures an income now for those families, the money also helps to ensure a more secure future. Here are some ethical labels to look out for:



We are delighted that Sheree continues to stock Fairtrade Products in our Village Store. These include Zaytoun Olive Oil, Cafedirect Coffee and Clipper Teas. All the supermarkets carry an increasingly wide range of products and Oxfam has a good range. Indeed there are now more than 6000 products available in the UK.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 4th May from 9.30am at our Tea Tent by the village shops.

Fairtrade Group Tatsfield Email: tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com

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NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Let's begin with this message from Peter (Maynard) who has been adopted by a colourful and rather demanding new friend (02.04.24):

*'I thought that you might be interested in this picture of our tame **Pheasant**. We have had a different pheasant in our garden each year for many years. They start off very nervously but after a few weeks become very tame, coming running whenever I go outside, waiting for food. Generally, in March, they bring along a wife or more – we had nine one year – who also become tame. Each male looks quite different to his predecessor. This one is particularly handsome, having a very dark breast with a bright blue metallic sheen, and very pronounced ear tufts. What will next year bring, I wonder?'*



Thank you for your email, Peter. Who needs pets when you have a friendly Pheasant? I didn't realise that their plumage was so varied. As you say, the one you photographed is particularly handsome. I feel sure

that he must have an extensive harem and that before long your garden will be overrun by a multitude of newly-fledged youngsters gobbling up your seed!

Sarah (Andrews) also reports a new friend. Perhaps to some not so handsome, but beauty, as they say, is in the eye of the beholder (01.04.24):

'Just thought I'd share a pic of a little surprise we found in the

woodpile over in the goat's field. [Along Goatsfield Road - rather appropriately!] We've tucked it back where we found him/her.'



A **Common toad** - how wonderful, Sarah! I come across the occasional frog whilst gardening, usually sheltering within the long, damp grass, but I've never seen a toad in Tatsfield. I wonder if other people have come across one. (If so, let us know.)

Normally, I only include notes about what's **been seen**. However, I thought it might be worthwhile considering a bird that **may be seen** in the near future. I'm talking about the

Hoopoe (see photo). This may seem in the realm of fantasy, but who would have thought we would be seeing Red Kites on a daily basis soaring above the village, say, five years ago? John (Andrews) kindly gave me a recent newspaper article that stated: '(The Hoopoe) could be on its way to Britain thanks to climate change.' 'Scientists believe the Hoopoe may set up home on British shores, with scores of sightings being reported every year.' With the prediction of hotter summer months in coming years, the possibility of this southern European migrant taking up residence here is not unreasonable. In fact, looking back to my 1981 field guide, it was already being reported that a few pairs of Hoopoes were breeding annually in southern and



eastern England. And what of its earlier history? My 1900 copy of 'The Birds of Surrey' contains four pages of sightings, beginning in 1783. A little later, in 1810, a flock of fourteen were seen on Blackheath, near Godalming. We then see numerous entries of sightings (and shootings) up to the year of publication. Of particular interest to us are the sightings in Tandridge (August 16th 1876) and Oxted (June 26th 1892). Switching to a later copy of 'Birds in Surrey' (1972) we find another reference to Oxted when four were seen in April 1949. During the years 1950 to 1970, sightings in Surrey were reported almost annually, the majority occurring during May, a good number in April and a few as early as March. In fact, there are a few records for every month from March to October. Until the 1950's the Hoopoe was regarded as a 'scarce visitor'. Nowadays, it is an 'irregular, summer visitor'. So, let's all be alert; there could be a Hoopoe or two coming your way, quite soon!

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

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MAY

I am sure the Tatsfield weather watchers have been keeping a sharp eye out to see which tree came into leaf first, the Ash or the Oak? The old countryman's saying "***If the Ash be before the Oak, then we will have a soak, but if the Oak be before the Ash then we will have just a splash***" Sometimes it is a close run thing, but this year there is no doubt, the Oak has it comfortably! So will we be having a dry summer, who knows! It does seem certain that we are entering a drier spell, as is often the case in late April and into May, but this can bring colder winds from the East and maybe a few chilly nights as well.

The mild weather has produced lot of growth and I have been putting tender seedlings outside, even leaving the out overnight. This is a sensible strategy as it ensures more sturdy, healthier growth, but it is also risky; watch the daily forecast carefully and be ready to bring these delicate plants indoors as even a light frost can do a lot of damage.

What a wonderful sight it was to see no less than seven entries in the Rhubarb section at the Spring Show, congratulations Helen on winning this section! The mild winter and high rainfall resulted in a bumper crop this year, Rhubarb is one of the most reliable crops in any weather. Did you know that it will grow very well in a container? Ideally a big one such as a wooden tub filled with a rich mix of compost and well-rotted manure is all you need. If you want a very early crop, get hold of a large (24") diameter pot and invert it over the clump in January/February and wait for the stems and leaves to emerge, this is called forcing. Forced Rhubarb has a more delicate flavour and cooks more easily, just add a little honey as it cooks. As soon as you have 'pulled' (not cut) the stems, uncover the plant so that it makes new stems and leaves.

The spring displays of wildflowers this year has been exceptional, particularly Primroses, Cowslips and Bluebells, I can also see clumps of Foxgloves just waiting to produce those tall spikes of purple, pink and white flowers. Please remember to leave the flower heads on the plant to allow them to produce seed; the seed capsules will turn brown, split open, and distribute the seed all around the area, when that is done you can remove the old flower heads – usually in June. It will take a couple of years for the tiny seedlings to grow large enough to flower so be careful when weeding around the plants!

Jon Allbutt

WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS

WILD THING

Hi all. I hope you're all enjoying No Mow May as much as those daisies, buttercups and buzzy little pollinators are. In May last year I got persuaded by my yoga buddy George to try out something that turned out to be the most rewarding bit of gardening I've ever done, which was to dig up a modest section of lawn and turn it into a wildflower patch. There was a slow start while the seeds germinated but they quickly grew, and the flowers started to bloom in late June and carried on in a crescendo of colour right up to Christmas. There are more than 200 species of bee in the UK and many of them seemed to be queuing up at our wildflower patch along with some magnificent dragonflies that I'd never seen before. And I'm reliably informed that dragonflies are a sign of a truly healthy garden. That little patch of flowers seemed to attract more wildlife than the rest of the garden put together; the flowers brought the butterflies, bees and bugs, and the bugs brought the birds – there was quite an air show going on.

Digging up part of a lawn isn't the only way to grow wildflowers; they'll happily grow in tubs and borders. And there are many different seed mixes; there are bee friendly mixes with native and non-native seeds for an extended flowering season, and there are butterfly friendly blends that only have UK species because butterflies prefer plants, they are familiar with. There are even bat friendly mixes intended to attract night flying moths. This year we're going for a bee and butterfly blend though I wish we had space for the bat ones too. One last thing; wildflower seeds can be sown anytime from April to late June, so to really make the most of it I'm sowing some early and more later in June to stretch out the flowering season.

A quick word about Asian Hornets. You have probably seen or heard how these invasive predators are in Kent & Surrey and that they prey on bees, especially honeybees that have no defence against them other than us. This is very bad news for beekeepers and honey munchers alike, but it doesn't stop there, especially for gardeners and bird lovers. Hornets will strip an area of pollinators and other insects which, in turn, devastates entire eco-systems including our farms, woodlands and gardens. There is plenty of info online about their appearance and what to do about them. And if you feel like pitching in there are traps and lures you can use to help deal with them.

INTERESTING FACT OF THE MONTH Badgers are very houseproud and keep their setts well maintained. There is one well-known sett that has been occupied for over 450 years since Tudor times. One way in which they keep things hygienic is by regularly changing their bedding. Indeed, they seem to do better than us because changing bedding is a job for the youngsters while Mum is out foraging, and this time of year, their favourite bedding material is bluebells. Wouldn't it be nice if, while mums were out at work, more teenagers were home preparing a bed of bluebells?

Jim Kenney

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MAY 2024

May this year will be a frustrating time if you happen to be a planetary observer. Venus, Mercury, Mars and Saturn are all morning objects but are too close to the Sun early in the month to be found or studied with any ease. However, by month's end Saturn, and to a lesser degree Mars, are just beginning to emerge from the solar glow although neither are particularly bright. Saturn will be the easiest to find partly because it appears further from the Sun but also because a Moon just past third quarter is a few degrees to the west (right) on 31st May. The bad news, as always, is that you will need to look in the early morning, and in this case around 4am. Jupiter has also moved into the morning sky, though it is presently lost in twilight, which means that, rather unusually, on the morning of 31st all seven planets are strung out in a line between the Sun and Moon.

As the nights draw out, the period of real darkness (with no light intrusion from the Sun) becomes less and less. It is astronomically dark when the centre of the Sun has reached 18° below the horizon. By the time we get to May 25th, the Sun will not reach that far below the horizon which means that, if you ignore *civil* and *nautical* twilight in the morning and evening, we will spend the night in a state of permanent *astronomical* twilight. This flavour of twilight is in operation when the centre of the Sun lies between 12° and 18° below the horizon.

I mentioned recently that light pollution (**Artificial Light at Night** or ALAN for short) not only robs us of views of the night sky and Milky Way but also has seriously detrimental effects on many forms of wildlife. After all, life on Earth developed and evolved over millions of years to be the way it is thanks to the day/night cycle. Sadly, it is us humans who are disrupting this pattern with what appears to be little regard for other life forms.

Something like 97% of animals are invertebrates and of these around two thirds are either entirely or partially nocturnal, so we are unlikely to see most of them and therefore be unaware of how our actions impact them. More than half of insects are nocturnal with estimates suggesting that of all those that get attracted to artificial lights, around a third are killed as a result. This can be due to exhaustion, predation, and a degraded ability to correctly navigate. The wholly vain and unnecessary fashion for floodlighting of gardens impacts those species that are pollinating, pest controlling and indeed providing food for other animals at night. A 2019 report titled *Light Pollution is a Driver of Insect Declines* brings together some 200 independent studies and provides evidence of what the journal *Biological Conservation* calls an "Insect Apocalypse". However, it has to be said, some predators benefit from increased night-time lighting whilst those that rely on darkness for their survival can be negatively affected.

The way that some species of birds and mammals, that are active during daylight hours, behave in artificially lit areas can cause them to become stressed which, in turn, leads to reduced breeding success. Trials on a variety of birds found that those who experienced artificial light gained body mass more slowly and reached their first mating later than those who were kept in dark conditions through the night. It was found that in some

areas bat roosts either reduced or disappeared when nearby buildings were floodlit. It was noted that they tended to emerge to feed later because the day had artificially increased.

Further afield, some turtles that require moonless nights to hatch and make their way to the relative safety of the sea are turning inland towards bright artificial lights becoming easy prey for predators.

In future issues I'll look at some other impacts on us and our environment and ecosystem.

Brian Mills FRAS

TATSFIELD WI



In April our speaker, in full costume, told us the story of his grandfather, Harry Kaye "The Kilted Tommy" who like many boys of his age volunteered for the army early in the First World War. Believing that it would all be over by Christmas he thought it a great adventure despite being a Manchester lad put into a highland regiment complete with kilt. A combination of family stories, detailed research and contemporary diary entries meant that he could take us through the horrors and black humour of life in the trenches. Opposing armies fought over, won and lost ground at the cost of thousands of young lives to constant bombardment, machine gun fire and choking chlorine gas clouds. A very thought provoking afternoon. We rounded off the meeting with hot cross buns as it was Easter.

The month of May will be our AGM and we will have the programme for the 2024/25 season. This includes varied talks, demonstration, craft workshop and a fair sprinkling of food and drink events. We also have serious discussion of local and national subjects of interest.

If you would like to come along as a guest at any time to see what we get up to please just give me a call, you will be very welcome.

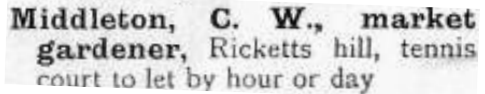
As I always remind you, everyone is invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly chat every Wednesday morning between 10am and 12pm in the WI Hall in Paynesfield Road. A great way to meet other village residents – all ages welcome. So, if you are passing, just pop In.

Susan Smale 01959 577660



Property sale puzzle – In the middle of May 1924, the Westerham Herald carried an advertisement for the auction of two acres of ‘Freehold Garden Ground and Building Land’ at Hawthorndene on Ricketts Hill road. Various buildings on the land included ‘a large shed with two rooms and loft over’ with a full-sized tennis lawn alongside. The sale was by order of the executrix of the late Charles Wiley Middleton. This seemingly routine item has turned out to be one of these ‘one thing leads to another’ stories you can come across when delving into local history, for there’s no mention of Hawthorndene in the 1921 census.

The Middleton family was however recorded in 1921 as living at Hazeldene (next to the present-day Hawthorndene), but Charles Wiley was not amongst them. Also in 1921, a retired farmer, Charles Middleton, was boarding at Normandale in Paynesfield Road. The following year a C.W.Middleton is listed in a directory published by a local printing firm as a market gardener linked to tennis court lettings on Ricketts Hill road. Is he one and the same? He certainly seems to be one of the family, since the Westerham Herald had reported in 1909 that he was the donor of a set of carvers on the occasion of the wedding of Emma, daughter of William Clarence Middleton of Hawthorndene.



Middleton, C. W., market
gardener, Ricketts hill, tennis
court to let by hour or day

An angry parish council – At May’s parish council meeting, the state of Tatsfield’s roads was once again on the agenda. This time it was damage allegedly caused by extra traffic arising from an auction at a property on Ricketts Hill Road. The auctioneers’ response was blunt. They thought their clients could not be blamed. *“The estate was a very poor one, and the fact of the roadway being so narrow might have suited pony traps in the past but was certainly impossible with present-day traffic.”*

The general mood of the meeting was grumpy. The Post Office had laid cables across Westmore green without asking permission, there was disagreement with the district council over improving visibility at Church Hill corner and there was discontent over the county council increasing the rates while proposing to spend £18,000 on a ‘by-pass road from Woldingham to Limpsfield’. The parish council agreed to send a strong protest against the proposal.

Tatsfield looks for staff in Yorkshire – At the end of the month there was a vacancy at The Grange – later to become Beacons Shaw. Miss K. Pritchard decided to advertise in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph for a ‘house-parlour maid’ who was capable and willing to serve a family of three in a ‘comfortable, regular situation’.

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

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

Sorolla: The Master of Light by Arantxa Sardina.

Date: Wednesday 29 May. Lecture starts at 7.30pm at Limpsfield Church Hall, refreshments from 6.45pm. Note: there will not be an afternoon lecture.

In this lecture we will look at Sorolla's life and art. Claude Monet said that "painting in general needed more light in it", while Sorolla believed that he could only "approach the truth of it". He captured the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved and the energy of Spanish life. Quickly painting what he saw, he captured the moment in brightly lit, colourful works.



Casablanca: the Making of a Legend by Colin Shindler.

Date: Wednesday 26 June. Lecture starts at 7.30pm at Limpsfield Church Hall, refreshments from 6.45pm. Note: there will not be an afternoon lecture.

One of the greatest romantic films ever made, Casablanca's original casting was not Humphrey Bogart but Ronald Reagan, not Ingrid Bergman but contract actress Ann Sheridan. Bogart had no confidence in himself as a romantic hero while the film's composer, Max Steiner, hated "You must remember this". The film won the Oscar for the Best Picture of 1943.

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