

JULY/AUGUST 2024

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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](http://www.lttm.org.uk)

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**Church Correspondence** • c/o The Church Office, High Street, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG or  
email: [stmoffice@littm@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldpc.org.uk) (07483 337461)

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

**Website** • [www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk); 07983011028)

**W.I. Hall Bookings** • Pat Walsh (01959577684)

**Parish Room Bookings** • (07483 337461) email [clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Tatsfield Primary School Head** • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

**Tatsfield Village Club** • (577330)

**Furze Corner Sports Pavilion Bookings** • (07533 033325)

**Doctors** • Stock Hill Surgery (580011) • Westerham Surgery (564949) • Oxted Medical Centre (01883 734000)

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

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment in an email to: [tatsfieldpm@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com). Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

**Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts** should be made to Sarah Tait ([tatsfieldmag@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldmag@gmail.com)). All loose inserts need to be booked 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:** Balloons setting off from Tatsfield, thank you to Neil Jones.

## EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

As we move into another season (although the weather doesn't seem to agree!), I've been thinking a lot about change. Some change of course is good and a cause for celebration whilst other change can be difficult to embrace, and we would prefer to stay with the status quo.

I don't know if there's a good way to measure how fast the world is changing and maybe it's because I'm getting older, but it feels to me that it's changing faster than it ever has before. I look at my mobile phone lying on my desk and think about how fast technology has changed even in the last decade and what about cars, can they really drive themselves!?

We are about to have some change in our ministry team over the next few weeks. As we say goodbye to our Ordinand Vic I'm very aware that she will feel the cost of change which all clergy are called into. As ministers in God's world, we love deeply those whom we are called to minister to and then having felt the pain of goodbyes we are moved into another community and will need learn to love all over again. We will also be warmly welcoming Debra our new curate into our midst, she is already living in the Rectory in Tatsfield and once Ordained as deacon on 29<sup>th</sup> June will begin her new role within our team of churches. If you see her around the village do introduce yourself.

So, life is often full of change but thankfully as Christians we worship an eternal God, who is outside of time. We are told in the Bible that, "God is the same yesterday, today and forever" and I like to think that our churches with all their history reflect that. Although styles of worship might change, God doesn't, he welcomes us and embraces us with the love which he has bestowed upon mankind throughout time. The way we communicate this message changes with time, but the message is always the same – God is and always will be found in love.

I offer my love and assurance of prayers to each of you and if you ever need me, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

**With warmest wishes,  
Rev. Helen, Team Rector**

### **TATSFIELD ONLINE**

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

**Village facebook page:** search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook

**Tatsfield Talk facebook group:** search for 'Tatsfield Talk' on facebook, and ask to join to be able to view and post. **Twitter:** @tatsfieldtweet

### **PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS**

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

# TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

## REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

As you know, the magazine is delivered free each month to all households in Tatsfield and to some in Titsey. We are only able to do this because of the income we receive from advertisers and donations from village organisations and individuals, not to mention the voluntary efforts of nearly 100 villagers who help to write, produce and distribute the magazine each month.

If you would like to contribute to the magazine funds, we would be very grateful as we then have the chance to keep improving the magazine and balancing the books. There is no obligation to donate but we are very grateful for anything received.

The easiest way to make a donation is by a direct bank transfer, and our bank details are as follows: Tatsfield Parish Magazine; Account 84841084; Sort Code 09-01-54.

Alternatively, you can make a cheque out to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine and send it to The Treasurer, Mrs M Langford, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, Westerham TN16 2AU.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Madie Langford**



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## TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

### Planning

**TA/2024/503 Windyridge, Maesmaur Rd** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement. In the Green Belt outside the defined village. Proposal is for a new energy efficient house that broadly follows the footprint of the existing house, extending slightly further to the rear. Good contemporary and sustainable design in line with policies set out in the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan. **No comment.**

**TA/2024/555/NC and TA/2024/554/NC Gorse Down Farm, Ricketts Hill Rd** Conversion of two agricultural buildings into two individual dwelling houses under permitted development rights. Located in the Green Belt outside the defined village. Plans showed each barn can be converted to a 4-bedroom dwelling within the existing volume of each barn. **Comment** – No objection in principle but several points should be addressed to ensure compliance with the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan and relevant TDC policies including design to reflect local distinctiveness, sustainability and energy generation measures, parking and storage provision, and private amenity space.

**TA/2024/590/NH Ashkirk, Maesmaur Rd** First floor upward extension over principal part of existing predominantly single-storey house. In the Green Belt outside of the defined village. Extension will provide two new bedrooms and a bathroom at first floor level. Proposal follows principles set out in General Development Planning Order and does not appear to materially impact on the neighbours. **No comment.**

**Furze Corner** Great news reported that the lease for Furze Corner was completed on 31 May. Discussions had since taken place with the cricket club about preparing and maintaining the ground during the cricket season. The next step was for the working group to be established with defined Terms of Reference and consultation with neighbours and village residents about what they would like to see at Furze Corner in the future. Thanks were expressed to Jason Syrett for his continued hard work on the project.

**Parish Councillor vacancy** As TDC had received no request for a by-election, we can now go ahead with co-opting somebody to fill the existing vacancy. The position will be advertised, and prospective candidates encouraged to attend some Parish Council meetings.

**Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan** As you know, Tatsfield was designated a Neighbourhood Area in 2017 and the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan has recently been approved at referendum. That represents seven years of extreme hard work and dedication on the part of the Steering Group set up by the Parish Council and chaired by Martin Allen. At the recent meeting we expressed our thanks to Martin and his team for such a successful and hugely beneficial project for the future of our village. We have now formally disbanded the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

**Road signs** Several residents have recently complained about the condition of some of the village signposts, the worst of which was the one at the bottom of Ship Hill.

Historically, such an issue fell under the remit of Surrey Highways but for several years now there has apparently been no budget for cleaning signs. So, several councillors offered to help clean up the signs. By the time you read this, many of the very dirty ones will have been cleaned. Particular thanks go to Martin Elmer and Simon Cook.

**Westmore Green** It was agreed that the old bus shelter on Westmore Green was in need of some refurbishment. It was decided to obtain a quote for cleaning and possible repainting work to the roof and exterior prior to the fitting of the new children's games on the back.

**David Pinchin, Vice-Chair, Tatsfield Parish Council**

## **TATSFIELD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - we finally made it**

*This will be the last message, all future enquires please to the Tatsfield Parish Clerk. As per the official announcement below - Tandridge District Council - Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan Adoption Statement – June 2024*



In accordance with Regulation 20 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) regulations 2012 (as amended) this statement hereby gives notice that on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Tandridge District Council made (i.e. Adopted) the Tatsfield neighbourhood Plan for the designated neighbourhood area. The Tatsfield neighbourhood Area was formally designated on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This statement confirms that the Tatsfield neighbourhood Plan has legal effect as part of Tandridge's statutory Development Plan for the designated area. Development proposals located within the designated area will therefore be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In accordance with the Regulations (1) the following documents have been made available: *The "Made" Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan*. The documents can be viewed on the Council website at:

<https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning-and-building/Planning-strategies-and-policies/Adopted-planning-policies/Adopted-development-plan>

- (1) Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012: Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
- (2) Regulation 2004: Town and country planning act 1990 (as amended)

I want to repeat the huge thanks on behalf of myself and the Parish Council to everyone that helped put the plan together and for the time and diligence that you have all put in both as past and as present members of the Steering Group and Parish Council.

You can still view the documents on the Neighbourhood Plan website:  
<https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan>

**Martin Allen (Now Ex Chair) -Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan**

## TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Before I start this report, I first wanted to wish everyone a Happy Summer as the weather is beginning to look good in the long term and I hope we can all take advantage of all that Tatsfield has to offer.

Do you remember around this time last year the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had just released their draft recommendations to join us with Limsfield? Our response showed just how strong we can be as a community in persuading them to change their mind, and I believe the results in the recent elections proved that also.

At the Annual Council meeting on 23rd May, I was not offered the opportunity to retain my Vice Chair of the Audit & Scrutiny committee. Last year's Chairman Ian Booth (RA) will have Mike Crane (RA) as his Vice Chair. I hope they continue to take the outstanding audits forward and get them to closure as soon as possible, as there is a likelihood that there will be three audits running at the same time with two different auditors.

As a result of the elections the Independent Group is now a group of five councillors with an allocation of ten seats across the range of committees, so I took the decision to allow the other four independent members to take the major seats on Audit & Scrutiny, Community Services, Housing Planning and Planning Policy. I can still attend these committees to comment, which I have already done and will continue to do so, but not to vote.

I have accepted seats on the lesser known but just as important committees - Standards, Licensing, and the Investment Subcommittee, and first reserve on Audit & Scrutiny and Strategy & Resources. I will still have to undertake training for the Investment committee, and I will refresh for the Planning committee so that I can still defend the applications in Tatsfield that do not meet the NPPF and Neighbourhood Plan rules.

As I said during my response to the Leaders speech, I will be asking for a paper to come to the Community Services committee regarding our policy and actions around fly tipping, which seemed to have gone quiet for a while but is just beginning to creep back.

I attended the Planning Policy meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June to speak to the item that came forward regarding the Council's adoption of the plan. See my last report on the Neighbourhood Plan elsewhere.

On 25<sup>th</sup> June I and other members of the Independent group met with the Chief Executive after the announcement that the Chief Planning Officer had resigned her post putting us back in the black hole that we were in before her appointment.

At the Planning Policy meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June figures were presented that showed that the Planning Department and Officers are doing much better over the last twelve running months than we did during the previous year. So that is a positive sign and to further compliment the staff we are winning a good majority of the appeals against refusal.

The Local Plan as amended has been started but there is a long road ahead with many bumps yet to come. The expectation is completion at the end of the 2025/2026 financial year. You can keep up to date with the progress on the Tandridge District Council website.

TDC had to stop accepting Household Support Fund applications. We have received over 450 applications, if these are all successful, then all the funding will be allocated. The team is now processing the applications, this will take some time before we know whether we can open the fund up again or close it.

We have placed a notice on the Household Support Fund webpage and removed all scheduled social media posts to this effect.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July a General Election took place in the East Surrey constituency to elect a member of parliament. The timing of this magazine run does not allow any coverage of the candidates, but I hope that did not stop you from going out and voting, and I hope in large numbers. I look forward to working with any candidate that wins the seat for East Surrey.

Having been re-elected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May I have been contacted over a few matters that having been causing residents concern and as per my pledge I will continue to do the best that I can to resolve them.

On your part I would ask that you consider the things that make this village what it is and why you choose to live here. There are many societies and clubs that operate across the range most of whom could use a little more volunteer help from you.

The list is endless, and the details can be seen in this magazine, so please do consider volunteering or at least supporting these clubs and societies by purchasing Tandridge Lottery tickets.

You can buy tickets for the Tandridge Together Lottery at [www.tandridgelottery.co.uk](http://www.tandridgelottery.co.uk). Tickets cost £1 and all profits will go to good causes in the Tandridge district. Anyone buying a ticket can select the local good cause they want to support from those registered on the website and have a chance of winning £25,000.

**Cllr Martin Allen**

**Tel: 01959 577201 or 07484 185363**

**Email: [cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk) or [martin\\_allen@talk21.com](mailto:martin_allen@talk21.com)**

## LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL



**Graduation** July sees the end of the school year at Little Acorns preschool and we say goodbye to eighteen wonderful children as they go off to start their new journeys. To mark this event, we will be holding our very special Graduation Celebration on the last day of term. Our leavers, in their graduation gowns will be presented with a certificate in front of their



*Some of our Graduates*

families. The last day is always tinged with sadness as we will miss each and every one of these little people. We will

also hold an end of term party for all our children, with dancing, games and party food. An afternoon enjoyed by children and staff alike.

**Fathers Day Stay and Play** Our children invited their special men for a stay and play session at preschool and the sun shone for us! It was lovely to meet so



many dads, granddads, uncles and significant men from the children's lives who came along to play in our outside 'builders area' and enjoyed tea and biscuits.

**Night at the Races** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June saw our fundraising evening of Horse Racing. The evening was hosted by Tatsfield Village Club and great fun with plenty of winners and losers! Huge thanks to the club for allowing us to use their premises, to our race sponsors- Surrey Hills Livery, R Thorpe Heating, Tatsfield Aquatics, Colin's keys & shoe repairs and Boom Arts Academy- and to all who attended. We raised over £500 for the preschool which will be used towards new outside storage and equipment.

**Family Disco** Our next event will be a family disco which is being held at the village hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October – with dancing and games all local families are welcome. Tickets will be on sale in September.

**Gardening Club** On Thursday mornings the children are able to enjoy our very own little gardening club, and we are very proud to soon be planting a tree in the village play area. The children will also be entering into the Horticultural Autumn Show and will be spending the next few weeks perfecting their entries.

**New starters** Little Acorns will be welcoming some new children and their families in September, who we are very much looking forward to enrolling and getting to know. If you would like to register your child for September 2024, please contact us for more information.

**Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!**

**The Little Acorns Team** Email: [office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk)

## MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



We have had a very busy month here at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield. We have welcomed the summer season in officially and it's safe to say we are all embracing it!



We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating 'Healthy Eating Week' tasting different fruit and vegetables, making yummy dishes with our chef, getting creative with

creating healthy food plates and still life paintings of a fruit bowl.

We also hosted a Father's Day breakfast for our lovely parents, inviting them in to join in with a range of activities, sharing fun and laughter over breakfast with their children and other families.



This Month's Learning Focus – 0-10 Numbers, Primary Colours & 2D Shapes.



We are pleased to announce for anyone that missed our previous post, that our First Aid Training has been rearranged for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and we have spaces available for any parents within the community to attend free of charge!

If you are interested in booking a place to come along and take part in the training, please contact us using the details below.

Phone – 01959 928427 Email - [manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk](mailto:manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk)

**Lucy Wollington, Deputy Nursery Manager**

# TATSFIELD SCHOOL

Year 3 have been brushing up on their detective and policing skills in English lessons. The children were shown a police report from a frog invasion that took place in Tatsfield. The report included an eye-witness account, specific details about the event and an orientation sentence to draw the reader in. After practising these writing tools, the children then had a go at writing their own reports about a pig invasion. A selection of the reports are published here, and the full class reports are on our school website. I am sure we have a few future police officers in our midst. **Miss Ward (Class Teacher)**

on Sunday 6th

On Sunday the middle puzzling calls to the detectives from police around New York City about following pigs.

Molly Wilkins called the detectives at 10:45 about the pig. (middle school case)

Police called why why of the following pigs they risk my witness with a lot of something? one and one is one!

The detective meeting the witness later. The detective are asking where about New York City if they are with the pigs and if they are they are asked to describe the detective.

By: Ally

Thursday 6th June

The area was searched with a 'rule' about not touching the police. There were several witnesses who said 'no' about the case.

Mrs. More asked the police about the case. She said she had a little thing about so I looked at the case and there was a 'rule' that said 'no' about the case. She said she had a little thing about the case. It was a 'rule' that said 'no' about the case. It was a 'rule' that said 'no' about the case.

The area was searched with a 'rule' about not touching the police. There were several witnesses who said 'no' about the case.

Please read news to take in and edit an area. Please call the police. They are searching for the case. They are searching for the case.

BT Ics

Thursday report: piggy pigs!

On Thursday 6th of June, the police were over the hill. Call regarding messages of death and dying at Gordon Farm. Although with and person called the police about the situation.

One of the things we had said to the police 'I don't know what to say!' Was taking out to the pig. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car.

When asked she said she heard a case of 'Phony' of 'Splate and Screams'

The next morning there were more reports of 'Splate and Screams'. Detectives found pig dung and read over 1000 top found at windows.

Cops and detective are speaking to the police and officers in the next interview my 'Splate and Screams'.

By: Pipp

Thursday report: piggy pigs!

On Thursday 6th June, the police were over the hill. Call regarding messages of death and dying at Gordon Farm. Although with and person called the police about the situation.

Two hours later Farmer Bradford got depressed and phoned the police. 'These are my pigs!' Farmer Bradford said. 'I don't know what to say!' Was taking out to the pig. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car. My little friend was in the car.

The next day the police were surrounded with more reports of 'Splate and Screams'. Detectives found pig dung and read over 1000 top found at windows.

Cops and detective are speaking to the police and officers in the next interview my 'Splate and Screams'.

By: Ally



# Reading at



Reading opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, have an insight into the world around them and the views of others.

At Tatsfield, children begin to read as soon as they join our Reception Class, our phonics programme starts straight away, helping children to learn the relationship between the sounds of spoken language and written spelling patterns that represent them. Children are also taught other skills required for reading, from page turning and orientation of books to developing retrieval and inference skills. All children visit our library each week to choose their own books for enjoyment and every class enjoys daily story time. Children get to broaden their horizons by experiencing a range of reading themed activities, including participating in World Book Day, meeting real-life authors and taking part in imaginative book activities.

We hope reading at Tatsfield helps enhance children's appreciation of books and the opportunity to develop their knowledge, imagination and creativity.



# IS THERE A FUTURE FOR TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (THS) IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY?



THS share the same challenges with many of our other local groups:

- We have been around for a long time.
- We are run by a small group of elderly volunteers, many of whom are now stepping down after many years of active involvement.
- Our member numbers and committee members have been slowly dwindling to the point where we are considering whether we can keep going.
- We have already reduced the levels of our community activities due to insufficient numbers of volunteers.
- We have appealed locally for folk to join our organising committees with little success.

THS is over 100 years old, and we are showing our age, maybe we are out of time and out of place in our modern 21<sup>st</sup> century Tatsfield society? We are now faced with a very difficult decision; if we cannot find new committee members, we will have no choice but

to close down, become another footnote in the history of Tatsfield.

In 1979, 1997, 2003, and 2013 Village Appraisals were carried out, these detailed sociological surveys produced some very interesting statistics about our life and our needs in our community. This resulted in a number of startups of new local groups; some soon fell by the wayside but others flourished. Now twelve years on it seems we are reaching another crossroads.

Why is this important? Maybe it is not important at all. Our lives have changed in a radical way in the last ten years. There is evidence all round us that family life has also changed due, in part, to the huge increase in access to social media, the huge increase in choices to streaming services, the pressure of life and work,

## Tatsfield Horticultural Society Autumn Show 2024

**Saturday 7 September, 3-4:45PM, Tatsfield Village Hall**



**Vegetables – Flowers – Pot Plants  
Fruit – Flower Arrangements  
Photography – Art – Crafts  
Domestic Produce Junior Section**

Free to exhibit + you can enter multiple categories  
Non-residents welcome to exhibit. Just £1 and 50p entry

Please visit our website for Rules, Guidance and Entry forms:

<https://ths.tatsfieldvillage.uk/>

Entry forms are available in the new THS 2024-25 Yearbook

**\*\*\* Entry deadline Thursday 5 September 6pm \*\*\***

all, it seems, leaving families with no time for community and outdoor life. Those looking forward to 'retirement' find themselves involved in this huge choice, not to mention also becoming 'working grandparents'.

The THS committee is determined to start a conversation within our community this year on whether we should just let THS go or if there are folk out there who would like to become involved – you do not need any gardening knowledge! Help us organise our annual events and benefit from our many years of gardening in Tatsfield. Join us in this conversation about our future; contact Jon Allbutt (Chairman), or our committee members, and let us know what you think, and even more important if you can help. We will be highlighting this at our Autumn Show, possibly our last, please come and help us develop this discussion.

**Jon Allbutt, Chairman (01959 577100 / 07712 196406 / [jon@jonallbutt.co.uk](mailto:jon@jonallbutt.co.uk))**

## TATSFIELD IN BLOOM



The summer plants and perennials are now planted and the watering rota is up and running for the summer. The mangers ended up with yellow and red Begonias, white Bacopa and green Cordyline. The containers and tubs around the Village Hall have Gazanias in mixed colours and white Scaevola to add to the shrubs previously planted. The cascade planter by the AMB has Scaevola in pink, white and blue.

Here are some photos of the containers and mangers – with careful care they will continue to thrive during the summer.

In the School pencil bed, we have planted mixed Heucheras. This is continuing our efforts to provide sustainable planting for the village – the heucheras should provide a variety of colour the whole year round.



Thank you to all those who have volunteered to join the watering rota which will take us through the summer. Who knows what weather we will have this summer, but whatever comes we will be ready!

Please come and join us on a Saturday morning at 10.00am when we can guarantee meeting up with a lively group of volunteers and a cup of coffee afterwards.

Thank you to all those who put donations into our yellow pots in Sheree's, The Old Ship and The Village Club. We have reduced our costs by introducing more sustainable plants but we are very grateful for any contributions in our efforts to keep Tatsfield looking attractive. **Jill Hancock (577622) ([jillhancock12@gmail.com](mailto:jillhancock12@gmail.com))**



## SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW - TATSFIELD SINGERS

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, The Tatsfield Singers performed their concert 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' in the Village Hall. The concert opened with an arrangement of Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's beautiful song, *Over the Rainbow* followed by a selection of pieces, all with a rainbow colour in the title. The audience enjoyed the super singing and, joined by the Singers Ukulele group, gave a hearty rendition of Yellow Submarine!



The Caterham U3A recorder group ended the first half by playing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Yellow Bird* and accompanied the Tatsfield Singers with *Lovely Rainbow*.

The second half focused on seasons and weather, and the men serenaded the audience with a song

written by Rupert Eales-White about Tatsfield weather. It was a very enjoyable evening closing with an exciting finale entitled *Lightning*. Tatsfield Singers were accompanied on the piano by the very talented Nick Drewe.

The Tatsfield Singers rehearse every Thursday at 7:45pm during term time at Tatsfield Primary School. All singers are welcome - please come along and join us.

**Sarah Fryer**



## FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY - NDCO



*Part of the string section. With Sara Young.*

*Photo, Robert Hall*

The North Downs Community Orchestra's summer concert was a resounding triumph with all 530 seats sold for the remarkable repertoire. However, For One Night Only was a bittersweet performance too, for it was the last to be led by Music Director, Sara Young, who is stepping down after five years.

From lively popular tunes to haunting melodies, the event at the Millenium

Theatre, Woldingham School, on Sunday 26 May, thrilled and moved the audience in equal measure.

The rousing renditions included music from the James Bond and Pirates of the Caribbean films, as well as a whimsical and poignant tune from Forrest Gump where falling scales passed between different sections of the orchestra. Stravinsky's Finale from Firebird Suite and Tchaikovsky's Symphony 5, Finale were among the classical orchestral arrangements, while the iconic Smooth from Santana and The Who's Pinball Wizard featuring the fabulous guest drummer Marc Fraser, turned the performance to classic rock. The haunting Theme from Schindler's List featured a solo from violinist Charlotte Pearse while Fantasia on Greensleeves showcased the orchestra's harpist, Margaret Watson, and woodwind section.



*View from the audience. Photo, Robert Hall*

Pam Deverill, chair and double bass player, said: "Sara has been an inspiration and it has been a privilege to have her at our helm, leading our wonderful, enthusiastic musicians to a 530-seat, sell-out theatre concert, a far cry from our humble beginnings in a Scout hall. NDCO is going through a change now, but Sara has given us the tools to face the future with confidence and belief in ourselves, and one thing we can safely say is that we will always be the fun orchestra."

When founded in 2016, NDCO had just twelve members, there are now 60. Sara was appointed Musical Director in July 2019. She began playing the violin aged six, and has had a fine career playing, teaching and directing music at several schools, colleges and orchestras. Sara said: "It has been a pleasure to support each and every one of our orchestral members on their own personal musical journey and to see them flourish and evolve. I have immensely enjoyed my five years here with these fun and friendly musicians, and I wish them every success for the future."

NDCO is open all adult, amateur musicians who play an orchestral instrument in the North Downs region of Surrey, Kent, East & West Sussex, and South London. Visit [www.thefunorchestra.co.uk](http://www.thefunorchestra.co.uk). **Jolene Hill**

## TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS

**CLUB COMPETITION UPDATE** On 9<sup>th</sup> June we held our annual U16's judo competition in the village hall. In total we had 93 children taking part, 39 of whom were from TMA. The rest came from clubs I have close links with: Croydon JC / Nutfield JC / Coulsdon Martial Arts / Kensho JC (Redhill) / Addiscombe JC.

The aim of our competition is to give children who don't normally compete outside of the club

a chance to gain some value competitive experience, but within a more relaxed environment which we control. The children are put into small pools based on age, weight and grade, typically four or five in each pool. They then compete against each other, with the person winning the most contests taking the gold medal, the second most the silver medal and so on. We changed the format this year, splitting the day into three booking-in periods, to limit everyone's waiting around time and to reduce the number of people in the hall at any one time across the day. Feedback from parents has been very positive and we will stick to this model going forward.

There were some great contests during the day, with the TMA judoka doing both themselves and the club proud! Lots of happy faces at the end when they received their medals, but also some disappointed ones who perhaps didn't get the results they thought they would – Judo is a very unforgiving sport, one little mistake can cost you the contest - but this is part of the learning process.

**ANOTHER NEW BLACK BELT!** On 28<sup>th</sup> April, Aaron Mumford entered a competitive black belt grading at the Budokwai JC in London. Aaron won his first two contests, meaning he would face a lineup of three opponents. A lineup is when you fight one opponent immediately after the other, with no rest. If you win all three contests (so five wins in one day), you get promoted to black belt (a black belt is gained through either collection of 100 points at gradings and competitions or by successful completing a line up at a grading). Those in your line up will gain points towards their black belt if they beat you, so they are not taking it easy – far from it! But I'm delighted to say that Aaron defeated all his opponents to complete the line up successfully. Aaron is only 16 years old, so typically up against older and stronger players, so a remarkable achievement at such a young age. And to achieve this at the Budokwai is extra special, the Budokwai was the birthplace of British Judo and is the oldest judo club in Europe.

**Adam Plinston**



## ST MARY'S MATTERS

**Ordination of Debra Elsdon** Our new assistant Curate, Debra Elsdon was Ordained as a Deacon at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 29th June. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July following our 10am Holy Communion there will be a 'Welcome Reception' for Debra in the Millennium Hall. All are welcome.

**Sunday Services at St Mary's** Whilst Debra undertakes her training our main Sunday service with music, led by visiting clergy and/or lay people continues at 10am. 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](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)

**St Mary's Sunday Teas** Our popular Sunday Teas season is now underway from 3-5pm in the Millennium Hall. Why not join us for cake and a 'cuppa' and enjoy the stunning views across the Downs. Visitors old and new are all very welcome.

**Important Notice for St Mary's Flower Festival 2024** I am sorry to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances **our Flower Festival and Organ recital will not be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend 2024**. The Flower Festival will now take place over the 2025 August Bank Holiday. We are exploring the option of an Organ Recital in October 2024, so watch this space.

**St Mary's Tatsfield Annual Golf Day – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024** Please come and join us for a great day of golf at the North Downs Club, Woldingham CR3 7AA. A fine course with wonderful views over the Downs. A £10.00 deposit will secure a place followed by a final payment of £42.00 which includes a meal and a contribution for prizes to be awarded at lunch. 1<sup>st</sup> tee is at 10.30am. Bookings via Marjory Broughton at [marjorybroughton@gmail.com](mailto:marjorybroughton@gmail.com). If you require a buggy, please contact North Downs directly to arrange this on 01883 652057.

**Supporting Westerham Foodbank** We continue to support our local community at Westerham Foodbank which faces an increase in those needing help as a result of the cost of the ongoing living crisis. They currently support 75 adults and 62 children referred from a variety of agencies. Our next deliveries will be 4<sup>th</sup> July and 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Please help by donating if you can. Items currently needed include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish, meat, 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 4.30pm. Monetary donations made will be used to purchase food. Thank you for your support. **Hilary Vale 57786**

**Churchyard Team** Our maintenance session on June 1<sup>st</sup> was preceded by a short meeting where plans and ideas were discussed for churchyard maintenance and development in the coming months. Ideas are being explored for developing specific areas within the churchyard to encourage wildflowers and wildlife, whilst at the same time enabling the overall characteristic of the churchyard to be a well maintained and respected environment. Our next maintenance sessions will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 10am. **David Gulley**

## St Mary's Tatsfield 100 Club Results June 2024 Draw

100 H. Garcia £22      43 M. & L. Lambert £12      69 P. Wilkinson £8      St Mary's £42.

**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

**Life Events** We welcome enquires for baptisms, weddings, funerals and interment of ashes. Further information and qualifying criteria is on the 'Our Services' section of our website or via email.

**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 – 4.30pm approx. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

**Church Office** The Church Office is currently based at the Parish Office, St Peter's Church, High Street Limpsfield RH8 0DG (01883 712512). Our Parish Administrator will be available 9.30am to 1.30pm each Thursday in Limpsfield, by phone as above and by email at [stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com). Emails are checked regularly during the week for any urgent matters. **St Mary's Church Website:** [www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)



## REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

<b>Sun</b>	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
<b>Mon</b>	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone 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
<b>Tue</b>	10.00 am	Chair Yoga with Mel - WIH
	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
<b>Wed</b>	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
<b>Thu</b>	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 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 <sup>st</sup> 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	
<b>Fri</b>	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
<b>Sat</b>	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

### JULY

2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	2.30pm	WI Garden Party, WIH
4 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Legally Blonde the Musical, Barn Theatre
5 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Legally Blonde the Musical, Barn Theatre
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30/7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Legally Blonde the Musical, Barn Theatre
7 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
12 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Fame Jr, Barn Theatre
13 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30/7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group, Fame Jr, Barn Theatre
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	1.00pm	Family Colour Run, TS
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
21 <sup>st</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	A Show About Tomorrow, Barn Theatre
28 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM

### AUGUST

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
6 <sup>th</sup> Tues	2.30pm	"It's Your Duty to be Beautiful WW2", Jennie Randell, WIH
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
14 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	Kenley Holiday Workshop, Barn Theatre, Oxted
15 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Kenley Holiday Workshop, Barn Theatre, Oxted
16 <sup>th</sup> Fr	7.30pm	Kenley Holiday Workshop, Barn Theatre, Oxted
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30/7.30pm	Kenley Holiday Workshop, Barn Theatre, Oxted
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM

### SEPTEMBER

1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	10.30am	St Mary's Annual Golf Day, North Downs Golf Club, Woldingham
6 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Matt Daniel-Baker is The Mind Reader, Barn Theatre
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	3.00pm	THS Autumn Show, VH
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night, Barn Theatre
8 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
13 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Logicaltramp – The Spirit of Supertramp, Barn Theatre, Oxted
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
19 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Radio Days Events, Christian Plowman Undercover, Barn Theatre
20 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	GH Management - Classic Rock Revival, Barn Theatre, Oxted
21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	tbc	Curzon Cinema, film tbc, VH
21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Eric & The Claptones, Barn Theatre, Oxted
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	2.15pm	Blondes Have More Fun, Art Lecture, Limpsfield Church Hall
29 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM

## FAIRTRADE AT 30

It's 30 years since the first Fairtrade certified products hit supermarket shelves. Since then, Fairtrade has not only pioneered a unique, more equitable way of doing trade – and shown how it makes a tangible difference – it has become the world's most recognised and trusted ethical label.



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3. Ask shops and cafes for Fairtrade tea/coffee/sugar/chocolate options.
4. Sign up for an email from The Fairtrade Foundation at [Fairtrade.org.uk](http://Fairtrade.org.uk)
5. Join our Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
6. Fundraise to help us to raise awareness
7. Be a Fairtrade advocate and encourage friends and family to choose Fairtrade
8. **Come along to Tatsfield's Fairtrade Breakfast on Saturday 28th September in the Village Hall**

Thanks to everyone for all your support in buying Fairtrade tea, coffee, oil and chocolate at Sheree's Stores. Check out the Fairtrade sugar when you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee too. Remember the power of every pound you spend - join the community of people around the world who want to ensure farmers get a fair deal and the environment too.

More info also at: **Email: [tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com)**  
**[tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com](http://tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com), [facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade](https://facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade)**





## TATSFIELD ART EXHIBITION 2024

Once again, the Tatsfield Art Group have produced a wonderful exhibition, with amazing artwork. The overwhelming impression was that of colour. Many of the artists have exhibited before and the standard of the exhibits gets better every year. **Fay Hart** who produced a range of colourful paintings, works mainly in acrylics and mixed media. I particularly liked her peacock, where she had used real peacock feathers to produce a vibrant painting.



**Christine Stainer** gave us a selection of pastel, acrylic paintings, and cards. She is particularly known for her animal and pet portraits which are painted in amazing detail. I love the way she captures eyes. **Maggie Garstang's** work proved popular. She produced a variety of original work in oils and acrylics which often

includes gold leaf. Her work is very decorative with intricate detail and many of her pictures hold a hidden meaning. A strong use of portraits with abstract backgrounds to produce some super colourful paintings, though I particularly liked her painting of fruit. **Hannah Franklin** describes her works as naive, whimsical, colourful, abstracted and fun. She creates colourful and modern paintings using animals and nature in her own quirky style. I particularly liked her cats sitting looking out of a window.



**Simon Cook** had an impressive body of work using a range of media including acrylics and Indian ink on canvas. His style shows Japanese and mythological influences, with incredible detail in his drawings. His paintings of soldiers were inspired by his time in the army. My favourite piece was a portrait of a Geisha, which

had real feeling to it. **Brian Ling** is a prolific painter of works in oils, producing a huge volume of colourful animals, people and landscapes. Who could believe that he is colour blind! Brian donates all proceeds to The Hospice in the Weald in memory of Wendy Maddison and to date has donated over £1,800 and will soon have enough to reach £2,000. I was particularly taken with 'Daisy', the cow of course. **Gill Manners** works in a range of media from needle felt and prints to acrylics. Her needle felt work was very colourful and distinctive and I really liked the way she portrayed landscapes – 'Coastal Calm' in particular. **Barbara Forrest** displayed a collection of framed watercolours and oils. Her



colourful beach scene showed her grandchildren building sandcastles on holiday in Cornwall.



**Sandra Shury's** paintings are a riot of colour and fun mostly painted in acrylics. There is a strong emphasis on impressionist flowers in her work, lovely bright colours. I also liked two smaller paintings of red poppies which were delightful. **Alison Cole's** portraits were

very stunning. She works in mixed media and her paintings show some incredibly detailed work. I particularly liked her portrait 'Serenity' and the way she had painted the roses on the headdress. **Mike Moore** used some lovely colours in his two paintings, 'Freeek out' being what it says, and the more realistic 'Fruit Bowl'. **Sheila Alexander** works in a wide range of media. It is the colours in her work that stand out, whether it is from acrylics, collage, or embroidery. I really liked her 'Flower head' in bright oranges and yellow and was also impressed by the way she uses collage and by the embroidered cow parsley.

**Sandra Vivian** works in a variety of medium with vibrant colours, getting lovely movement in her painting of the Spanish Dancer. Her flowers were also vibrant, and I really liked the colours and backlight in her small snowdrop watercolour painting.



**Carol Gaskell** had a wonderful display on the stage to show a wide range of subjects in a variety of mediums, from portraits and flowers to trees and landscapes. I liked 'Birch Snow Field', her painting in acrylic of birch trees.

**Molly Chapman** specialises in her own original Manga designs, initially her 'Destiny Heart' series but she has now expanded on this. She runs a business, Molly Manga Designs, creating merchandise for Manga lovers and her colourful stall included books, cards, bookmarks, mugs, colouring books as well as prints. **Steve Gaskell** again displayed his huge, shiny butterflies created from old CDs and DVDs. They certainly create a lot of colours with the way he puts the CDs together to reflect the light. He uses donated CDs mostly from friends in the area.



**Linda Lambert** is a master of mixed media particularly pouring, creating designs with liquid charcoal. A complete mixture of subjects, some colourful and some black and white. The lighthouse and the seagull picture stood out for me as I love anything to do



with the sea. **Millenium Hall Art Group** are consummate oil painters painting subjects as broad as people and animals to colourful buildings and landscapes. This year they had displays by Jackie Flaherty, Jenny Heather and Alistair Briggs. I very much liked Jenny's children walking together, Jackie's horse portrait, and the colour in the two church scenes by Alistair.

**Kristine Spendlove** works in all mediums and specialises in portraiture, particular life sketching and painting. She uses a lot of gold together with strong colours to produce very colourful and spectacular modern paintings. **Jackie Copeman** is an extremely good botanical artist. She has used vellum for some of her watercolours as well as painting in oils. Jackie has a wonderful selection of Giclee



prints and cards. **Jill Green's** works mostly in oils there was one lovely painting of Brad Troy I admired. **Jane O'Keefe** produced a very colourful display in mixed media also a range of animals in pastels. Her needle felting, where a serrated needle is used on sheep wool to join the fibres together, produced some really good effects and colours. This was Particularly effective in her 'Red Colobus' picture.

Finally, the super self-portrait by **Adie Parker**. This was displayed on the stage and is a piece in Adie's own style using collage and inks. Lots of vibrant colour. It was initially done as a submission for Sky Arts Portrait of the Year which Adie had been asked to enter. Many people know Adie from the very popular courses she runs locally, and I certainly have learnt lots from her.



Thank you to all the members of the Tatsfield Art Group who work so hard to put this exhibition together. And, for the excellent cakes and refreshments provided. I know there is a lot of time and effort involved in running an event like this and its success is down to the commitment from the team.

**Barbara Forrest**

## TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Michael Wiggins	£49.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Keith Woolfrey	£33.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Margaret Burton	£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](mailto:leames200@gmail.com). **Les Eames**

## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES



Following the die-back of the spring flowers in my small area of natural lawn, the intense yellow of the **buttercup** has been triumphant for the past few weeks. For a more extensive view of buttercup-yellow, however, I visited the field adjacent to School Corner. As my photograph shows, the display was (and probably still is) a joy to behold.



As a keen but very amateur gardener, my attitude towards wild plants in the garden has changed dramatically over the past couple of years. I now find it perfectly acceptable to allow them to fill vacant spaces and have come to truly appreciate not only their simple beauty but also their determined spirit to survive. I will use as an example, **Herb-Robert**. This is a common plant that grows freely around the garden, but one specimen has captured my attention. It has managed to take root

between the concrete sidewalk and the side wall of the house, right next to a downpipe and drain. Normally I would have simply pulled it up and thrown it out but, having displayed such spirited effort to grow and thrive in such an inhospitable environment, I felt a strong reluctance to act out the role of exterminator. With its delicate pink flowers and beautifully formed foliage, turning fiery

red during the autumn months, it has become a welcome guest in the garden. Even more incredible, perhaps, is the flourishing of **Aaron's rod**. This tall plant with its hairy leaves and spike of yellow flowers grows happily through the gaps of the upper patio (used as a plant nursery). I know for a fact that the cement slabs are laid on a concrete base with a flint foundation. There is no layer of sand or soil. And yet, up pop these joyous leafy towers. How they manage to survive is beyond me, but what I do know is that they surely deserve a place on the patio as much as any of the potted plants.



Going back to last summer, some of you may remember that I reported a Spiny-leaved sow-thistle that suddenly appeared in my front garden. It was tall (almost six feet) but narrow. Well, this year I have an actual thistle growing in the back garden. This is roughly the same height but has a much greater spread of around five feet. It's massive! Identification is proving to be problematic. To my uneducated eye, it seems most likely to be a **Spear Thistle**. Just look at those leaves. They certainly have a very spear-like appearance to me. But, as I say, this is not my area of expertise, so I am asking those of you with greater knowledge to look closely at the photograph and let me know whether you agree with my identification. Surely there's someone in our village who knows more about thistles than me?



As I am finding, this is a great time to be discovering the variety of wild plants growing in the garden and beyond. With school holidays on the way, this could prove to be the perfect family activity. Plants are easy to find, and unlike birds and insects, they don't move around! Why not make it a summer project? And if you send in a report, photograph or observational note, **our readers will be delighted!**

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

## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JULY AND AUGUST

We are very lucky to have such wide variety of grassland in and around Tatsfield. We have our own gardens; two areas of common land (Tatsfield and Westmore Greens); the lovely area of chalk downland, Hill Park; plenty of highway verges; private land and several farms many of which are accessed by our network of public footpaths. The mild, wet winter and spring has produced much more growth than normal this year, have you noticed how tall the grasses are, and how many more wild flowers there are locally?

The No Mow May initiative has proved to be very popular, but it only tells part of the story. The lovely untouched growth must now be left to flower in June and early July, and the final part of the cycle is to leave the flowers to make seed that is then scattered by mowing, wind, rain and grazing wildlife in July and August. The seeds germinate and grow unseen for several years before emerging to flower in ever increasing numbers.

While all that is going on, the thick growth is explored by a huge range of insects and tiny mammals; moths and butterflies will be seen feeding on the abundance of flower.

Grass that is managed in this way will become richer and more diverse in its population of flower and fauna and make a huge contribution to the biodiversity of the area. Each patch of meadow, however small, connects to each other becoming part of a huge diverse community.

To help us to be more aware of how these important areas are developing there are several 'citizen science' projects being run throughout the UK. One that is particularly interesting is the Big Meadow Search ([www.bigmeadowsearch.co.uk](http://www.bigmeadowsearch.co.uk)). This is an ideal project for families of all ages and involves selecting an area of grassland near you and making a record of what you find using the tools and guidance on the website. This is also a great opportunity for us to have a survey of our Tatsfield flora; maybe you might like to get involved and help us form a small group? Contact me on [jon@jonallbutt.co.uk](mailto:jon@jonallbutt.co.uk).

Another organisation, Plantlife ([www.plantlife.co.uk](http://www.plantlife.co.uk)) has a lot of information and guidance on managing meadows, in particular after 'No Mow May'. Have a look, I am sure you might be inspired to create a small patch of meadow and include a survey of an area of grassland near you.

The advances in the development of mobile phone cameras makes it possible to take high quality pics, so make sure to take plenty of pics and maybe we can share them and keep a local pictorial record. If you are not sure of the identity of a flower, then send them to me and will do my best to give them a name!

**Jon Allbutt**

## WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

**A TALE OF TWO RODENTS** Firstly, it was fantastic to see so many people getting in to the spirit of No Mow May. Some of those lawns and verges looked like living works of art! A veritable smorgasbord of seeds and flowers for our mini-beast neighbours.

On to July, which is when gardens will be teeming with baby animals; frogs, toads and newts will be leaving ponds in search of shelter. There are fledgeling birds everywhere, and some exhausted feathered parents may even be on their second brood. And then there is the cutest critter of them all, the Hazel Dormouse.



Not only are they cute, they are also sadly on the red-list of endangered species. The youngsters will start leaving the nest in July, and although they live in trees, they do come down to munch on flowers and other goodies. They also have a reckless habit of sleeping on the ground if they can't find a suitable spot, which is pretty daft if you're a bite-sized creature in a land of cats, dogs and foxes.

For this reason, you may well see nesting boxes and tubes around a lot of our countryside – they are put up by well-meaning souls for the protection of these endangered little rodents. Fortunately, Kent and Surrey are strongholds for Hazel Dormice, so they are very likely to be around us. So please do be very careful when lawn mowing and strimming, etc.

**INTERESTING FACT OF THE MONTH** Hazel Dormice are the only UK rodent with a furry tail, which definitely adds to the cute factor. They are also the only UK rodent to hibernate, and I guess the clue is in the name – Dor as in dormant. And despite the hazel in their name they mostly feed on flowers, pollen, fruit, nuts and insects.

Rats are obviously nowhere near as appealing as dormice, and they can be a pest if they're in the wrong place but there have been cases in the village of poison being used to control them. But PLEASE never be tempted into doing this as it can have very unpleasant unintended consequences. Poison might be fine in an industrial setting but in a rural environment the first problem is that it might get eaten by something else such as a dormouse, squirrel, magpie or robin. But whatever does get killed, it is a certainty that the poison will have entered the local food chain because the toxic remains will be found and eaten. Maybe a red kite will spot it, or a kestrel or owl, fox or badger, magpie or crow, though in a village setting it may as easily be a cat or a dog. The collateral damage of rat poison can be awful.

There are many humane ways of dealing with rats including some very effective traps that will either catch them alive, or quickly electrocute them. So, if you find you have a rat problem, please do checkout those humane solutions.

**Jim Kenney**

## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JULY AND AUGUST 2024

Ask anyone which is their favourite planet, and most will plump for Saturn. That's understandable because when seen with a modest amateur telescope or more so as a double page spread in so called coffee table books it is a beautiful sight. Its ring system is certainly its stand-out feature although it isn't the only planet to have a ring system. We know that both the "gas giants", Jupiter and Saturn, as well as the "ice giants", Uranus and Neptune, all have rings although none are as striking as Saturn's. Indeed, the rings around the other planets are not visible with amateur instruments.

So, having told you what a glorious sight the rings are, what would you think if I told you that next year Saturn's rings will disappear altogether? I hasten to add that this is a temporary absence and one that is comparatively brief.

As you may know the Earth's axis of rotation is tilted by  $23.4^\circ$  whilst that of Saturn is not much different at  $26.7^\circ$ . This means that as both planets orbit the Sun, the tilt of Saturn's axis with respect to the Earth is constantly, but gradually, changing. Over a period of around 30 years, we go from having Saturn's north pole tilted towards us, followed by the south pole and back to the north pole again. However, in between those two extremes, a change from one to the other must take place and that's when the rings are edge on as seen from Earth and seem to disappear.

In 2017, Saturn's north pole was tilted towards us by the maximum possible, so we have had good views of the northern surface of the rings. The more that either of Saturn's pole are tilted towards Earth, the better the view of the rings.

At the moment Saturn is in that transition phase between being a morning object and an evening one. When it moves far enough to the west of the Sun, it rises so far ahead of it that the planet becomes visible before midnight and is classed as an evening object. In the middle of July, Saturn rises at 11:15 pm and by midnight is  $7^\circ$  high in the ESE. By mid-August things have improved and it rises at 9:15 pm and is  $23^\circ$  high in the southeast at midnight.

Mars and Jupiter currently rise after midnight but if you must be up early then a casual look to the east will show you both planets moving in for a very close pass in mid-August. On the last day of July, the two bodies are joined by a slim crescent Moon that lies slightly east of Jupiter. They are best seen around 4:30 am when all lie about  $30^\circ$  above the horizon. Whilst Mercury was at its best for 2024 back in late March, there is another chance to see it in the evenings in July but it will always be close to the north western horizon when care must be taken to ensure the Sun has set if using optical aid to search for it.

Don't forget the Perseid meteor shower reaches maximum activity on 12<sup>th</sup> August when you might expect to see a meteor every two or three minutes. The Moon will set at 10:45 pm so will be out of the way to leave an astronomically dark sky with the Sun  $18^\circ$  below the horizon. **Brian Mills FRAS**

## TATSFIELD WI



Our talk this month was about the life of Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III. What most people would not have known was how influential as Queen Consort she was to become. She was married to George when they were both seventeen, and though they hadn't met until their wedding day it proved a very loving relationship. Charlotte had fifteen children in a long marriage of 57 years. She was very fashion forward and also took a great interest in the education of both her sons and daughters - the girls being educated the same as the boys. They resided mainly at St James' Palace.

She supported Wedgewood and Worcester China makers, and also financed the Queen Charlotte hospital for pregnancy which of course still exists today. Her interests were very varied and supported the 'Blue Stocking Society' for the future of educating women.

When George had his bouts of madness she was by his side and took control of day-to-day matters of state when he was unable to. She became ill with 'dropsy' - swelling of her legs and body - and died aged 74 years; she was buried at Windsor.

Our next meeting will be our annual garden party which will, weather permitting, be held in Hazel Cartwright's garden. Our theme being the Olympics.

Our pop-in is held every Wednesday morning 10am-12pm; everyone is welcome to come and have a cup of tea and chat; there are always biscuits and sometimes cake.

A blue poster with a decorative border. The text is centered and reads: 'TATSFIELD WI HALL', 'SPECIAL SUMMER OFFER FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2024', 'BOOK THE HALL ON A SATURDAY OR SUNDAY', '9AM UNTIL 6PM FOR ONLY £45', 'All rates inclusive of heating and lighting', 'To book or view ring 01959 573338 or 577684', and '29 Paynesfield Road TN16 2AJ'.

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## TATSFIELD'S HISTORY

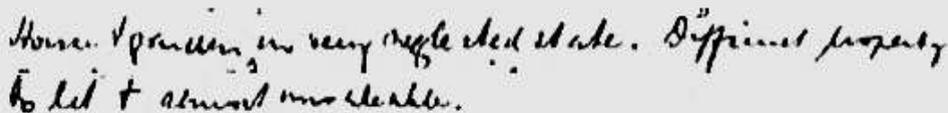


**The history of your house:** Over the past months I have been examining *Inland Revenue 1910 Rate Assessment Books* stored at the National Archives in Kew. These books set out the values of land on which local government taxes were raised under the *Finance (1909-10) Act 1910*. For the last thirty years, the job has been done by the Council Tax, which is based on the price the property would have sold for on the open market in 1991.

At first sight, I thought the nine books covering Tatsfield would be just a list of properties and their rateable value but as can often happen, a seemingly banal document can open the window on so much more than just how much tax the property-owner had to pay.

The entries normally contain the names of occupiers and owners of land and the dates when any buildings went up. For some entries we are told about tenure, sales history, or actual sale prices as well as other plots owned by the proprietor. There can be indications of the existence of long-lost rights of way and, on a rare occasion, a rudimentary indication of the layout of an individual property is included.

In many ways the books are an enhanced census return providing today's residents with a little more background about their homes than what they can usually find on modern documentation that comes with changes of ownership. The assessors who suggested the rateable values were able to fill in '*Particulars, description, and notes made on inspection*'. This is where things can get interesting. Many of the entries read like an estate agent's description of the nature of the construction, the internal layout and how the property is used. On many occasions, the state of repair gets a mention and that's where the similarity with what an estate agent's wording can end. Occasionally we read assessments such as an '*unsellable house in a very neglected state*':



As you can see, for legibility we are at the mercy of the quality of the handwriting of the individual assessor and the condition of the page. The aim is eventually to scan all these records for deposit in the archives. As progress is made it becomes more likely that we will be able to locate the record of your property from all those decades ago, especially if there was already a house on the land at the time. I hope to have the records on display at a future '*History Weekend*'. Meanwhile, an email request to the address below will at least trigger a search on your behalf.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - [Tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:Tatsfield.history@talk21.com) Tel: 577376**

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

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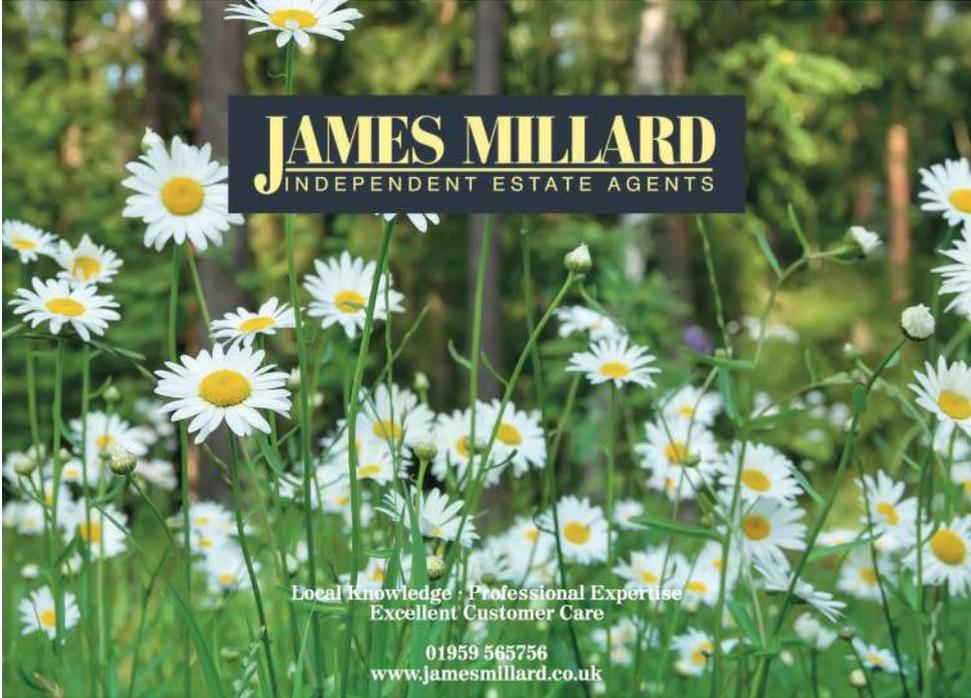


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