THIS ISSUE

- TATSFIELD TOP VILLAGE IN SURREY
- ST MARY’S CHRISTMAS SERVICES • DIAMOND TYLERS
- FOCUS ON DOREEN HARPER • TATSFIELD SCHOOL ADMISSIONS
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Parish Council website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield • email tatsfieldpc@talk21.com
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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. Copy date for the Magazine is 16th of the preceding month. Contributions should be sent directly to the Editor at The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN (Fax: 01959 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk) or drop it into Linda’s Stores.

Small Ads These are only accepted from Tatsfield or Titsey residents (No Trade) and are free (Max 10 words plus phone No.) We will include them in the next issue space permitting.

Calendar Dates Our rolling Calendar usually covers 6 weeks 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.

Ideas/Opinions/Articles We are always looking for items of interest - have a word with the Editor.

Correspondence We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Please state if not for publication.

Advertisements We take no responsibility for the goods and services advertised in the Magazine.
Dear All,

The Good News of Christmas

We all know Christmas is fast approaching. It seemed like summer had barely passed when the shops were filling up with their Christmas stock. Many decorations are already up and no doubt many more will be put up over the next few weeks. The radio stations will soon be playing all those Christmas classics again and children everywhere have been writing letters to Father Christmas!

Even if you have never been to church before, you probably know that Christmas has something to do with Jesus, the baby in the manger. Christians believe this is far more than a cute children’s story that we hear once a year. We believe that it was a real event that has forever changed the course of history. For this was not just any baby but God himself. The God of the universe loves us so much that he chose to enter into our world and live among us. He shares in our joy and in our sufferings.

For some, Christmas is a time of great joy and festivity, and yet for others it can be a difficult time of year. Whatever Christmas holds for you this year, will you discover the real wonder of Christmas in your life? Will you know the joy and the peace that comes from trusting in a God who loves you more than you can ever imagine? Will you know the greatest present of all this Christmas, the presence of Christ in your life? God meets with us in a variety of different ways. We may experience his presence through meditating on the words of the Bible or as we marvel at the wonder of creation. We may be touched by the presence of God in the stillness of silence or in the business of life, in the depths of pain or in the joy of celebration. And in my own experience I know I have so often encountered the love of Christ through the love of a fellow human being – whether it be the kindness of a stranger, the support of a colleague or the words of encouragement spoken at a time of despair.

There are a variety of Christmas services at St Mary’s and you are very welcome to join us at any of them. Details are printed in the Christmas card inside this magazine and in the December calendar. If you are unwell or unable to get to church but would like to receive Holy Communion over the Christmas period, or indeed at any other time, do contact us and we can arrange for a visit or a home communion service.

Wishing you all a very joyful Christmas from all at St. Mary’s.

Revd Louise Ellis (Tel: 577289)
Dear Editor,

Is Tatsfield Primary School for Tatsfield children???

Firstly, James and I would like to thank all those people who have shown us their support since reading our letter last month regarding the current school admission procedures.

We have had correspondence with Sam Gyimah (our MP), Kevin Bellinger (Headteacher at Tatsfield School), David Hodge (our Surrey County Councillor) and our own Parish Council.

All parties are in agreement that Surrey County Council are the only ones who can do anything about the situation we are currently facing. David Hodge has shown great support and has been quoted as saying ‘As far as I can see, Tatsfield children should have the highest priority. It is a council decision, not a school decision’.

The Admissions team at Surrey County Council have raised the matter with the Schools Commissioning team and both teams will review the situation once the closing date for applications has passed (15th January 2011). Further analysis can then be done on the number and spread of applicants and the likely impact it will have on Tatsfield children.

David Hodge has also informed us that there is a full County Council Cabinet meeting taking place in March/April 2011 to discuss schools admissions for 2012. We are pushing for them to review how the criteria can be changed so Tatsfield children automatically get priority over siblings from outside the village. This amendment would be too late to help our son getting into the school in September 2011 but may mean that other Tatsfield parents do not have to have the worry WE are currently experiencing.

We now have to wait for the closing date before we can get any idea as to whether or not our children will gain entry to our school!

We understand that the Parish Council and our District Councillor are trying to get their own numbers together of Tatsfield children wanting places in the school not only in September 2011 but also 2012 and 2013, and that there is an article by them elsewhere in this magazine.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Karen and James Longley, Goatsfield Road
Dear Editor,

Birthday Thanks

I would like to thank all my good friends in Tatsfield who joined my family and friends from outside the village to help me have such a memorable 70th birthday on Saturday 23rd October. My thanks also for all the lovely presents I received.

I would also like to thank my band of helpers on the day who set up the hall and the catering. Thank you Michael Garrard for putting up the tables. My helpers were Jean, Enid, Pat, Babs and my daughter Nicky.

Andy Shubb, Crossways Court

Dear Editor,

Vandalisation Of My Name Boards

I've lived in this village for well over 30 years and in that time I have done the groundwork and drives of many properties in the village.

Recently I have been working in Old Lane. I have completed 3 driveways which can be seen from Ricketts Hill Road. I have been warned that a 'rival' company was using my finished drives as an example of 'their' work, so I placed a name board on each drive - securely screwed to the fences.

The signs remained in place for 5 days when they were torn down and broken up! All that was left was half of my phone number. If anyone has seen someone vandalising my boards or if you know where they are, please call me on 07885 559782 or 01959 577412.

So, if you have had a quote for a drive and the new drives in Old Lane have been used as a reference for 'their' quality drives, please call me first, and I'll happily tell you which drives I've done. Don’t get caught out!

As a word of warning, if their work was as professional as mine, then they wouldn’t need to try and pass my work off as theirs.

Paul Monks, Monks Landscapes and Groundwork, Kemsley Road

MAGAZINE COVER

The picture on this month’s cover shows the scene in the Village Hall when the Surrey Village of the Year judges visited the village in July. The judges were obviously impressed with what they saw for they announced at the end of October that Tatsfield had won the competition! A report on the event is in Village News.
Dear Editor,

Some Miscellaneous Thoughts

Leafing through back numbers of the Parish Magazine, I came across the Tatsfield in Bloom trophy ‘The Riotous Rectory Cup’ for the best cared for untamed garden. I suspect my old friend Len Haines of Goatsfield Road did not know a trophy existed for this type of horticulture. Len has won many trophies for darts, but watch out for his riotous garden in 2011!

And another thing (sorry Bish, I could not resist) - please could we have an update on Tatsfield Colts Junior Football Club. I see we have a Burbage in their team - nearly as famous a name in Tatsfield football as the name of Shrubb.

On Page 61 of the November issue was a photograph of the 1951-52 Football Team. I can put names to the unknown Shrubbs in that photo. On the left back row is Ray Shrub (brother of Norman). In the front row, kneeling next to Les Shrub is his brother Doug. Ray Shrub is the same person from Attleborough, Norfolk who wrote the letter on Page 17.

Having moved back to my grassroots in Tatsfield, one thing I had overlooked was my chiropody needs. For most of my requirements I try to shop locally - in Linda’s or Tony Brown’s. Therefore I rang Mandy Gifford who advertises in the magazine - the ‘have scissors, will travel’ lady. What a wonderful service. I believe we nearly covered the known history of Tatsfield during her visit.

On Sunday 10th October I kept my niece Mary Rose company and attended Tatsfield church, St.Mary’s. I know I had vowed never to go to church again, as the last time I went I emerged with a ‘ball and chain’ attached to my ankle. I must have mellowed - there were no ‘shotguns’ this time. I was introduced to charming people - Dr.Gerald South and the Vicar, the Revd. Louise Ellis and many others. I must admit I really enjoyed the service. I also went to church again on the 24th October. Perhaps I may become a regular.

Dennis Tapsell, Paynesfield Road

Dear Editor,

Support the Ship!

Recently we decided to to eat out more often on a Sunday, and to try our local pubs, instead of driving further afield. So we tried The Ship. We booked for 3.0c, we had a choice of Beef, Lamb or Pork with 3 veg and roast potatoes, I'm sure they had a veggie alternative if required. The meal was excellent, the ambiance was great and all for under 8 quid! And a log fire too! We have lived in Tatsfield since 1976, and
seen many changes, but The Ship has always been at the centre. We used to travel from Croydon in the 70s, a big crowd of us, when the Montieths had it, and stayed a good few hours enjoying ourselves. It was one of the reasons we wanted to live here. So come on Tatsfield let’s support our local, let’s not lose it, the girls Carol and Amanda have worked very hard to give it a lovely more modern and welcoming feel. So let’s enjoy it again!

Wendy Collett, Westmore Road

Dear Editor,

Christmas Time

Well I just love Christmas time and what it all means to children because for many years I have “helped out” as Father Christmas at this “special time”. To see their faces as the lead up gets nearer to December 25 is so wonderful that it makes it all worthwhile, even including the misery that some governmental institutions cause by doing their best to take every penny that you have grafted so hard to get.

Now it’s time again to find out which one (or two or three?) of the two strings of lights with 40 bulbs in each, which I want to use again this year on the Christmas tree, has got the usual blown bulb/s. Once again plugging them into the mains plug and switching on, I found that they were not working. In past years I have always prised out the first one (number one) at the plug end and the gadget I made up with two batteries in series has shown that it lights up. Taking each one in turn after that gives the same result, until the final bulb at the end of the string (number forty) is tested and bingo, that is the one that is dud.

So this year I decided to go about it in a different way and I got my “tester” and started from the far end (number forty), tested that one first and this time I worked backwards. Again they all tested fine until I reached the last one to be tested (number one) next to the mains plug. That one was the dud! Murphy’s Law or what!

And Another Thing - The Carol Singalong

Thanks to the kind help of the Parish Council and many others, we are all set and ready to rock for the annual Carol Singalong outside the Ship pub on Friday December 17 from 7pm to 8pm. We are thrilled to say that once again the Lewisham Concert Band will be with us under their conductor Leslie Lake and they will be going into the pub for a Korma curry and chips afterwards. Jon Allbutt and the team will be arranging for the lighted Christmas tree with the new lights being electrified by engineer Iain. Barry, Keith, Derek, Eddie, Ken, Rob and the working group will be putting up the marquee and everything else, and taking it all down. Trish Bloxham and Tandridge Council have again been very helpful to us for this event. All of the people involved know who they are and I do hope that they will
kindly come forward to offer their help once again before the day, so that I can finalise arrangements. If you don’t come forward I will assume that you are too busy.

There’s a lot to be done and we have already been told that Father Christmas and his Elves will be coming along with a present for all of the children, after they have sung “Away in a Manger”. Another nice touch is that the super Tatsfield Singers under their leader Alex Deterding are joining us and another thing will be a blessing from our own Revd Louise Ellis. Now that’s just a taster and it’s not bad is it. Please give me a “ding” to let me know that you are willing to help out and I’ll put you on the list and thanks in advance for your time. Don’t forget to bring your hats, coats, gloves, your lanterns and enjoy the hot mulled wine and warmed up minced pies. From Jan and me, a very happy Christmas and New Year to all of you.

Dave Bishop, The Square

MAGAZINE MATTERS

Inserts
Two leaflets are coming with this magazine - one with all the details of the services at St.Mary’s over Christmas and the other a leaflet from Specology.

Next Issue
Contributions for the January magazine should be with the editor by 16 December. We will begin deliveries by the New Year weekend.

Advertising Manager
Maureen Perrin will be taking over as Advertising Manager in January, which means that Geoff Groom will be able to put his feet up after doing the job for 15 years, during which time the magazine’s advertising pages have more than doubled, from 17 to 35. That’s why we are able to continue to provide a free magazine for everyone in the village each month. Well done Geoff!

Christmas Party
Invitations to the Magazine’s Christmas Party at 8pm in the WI Hall on Wednesday 8 December have gone to all those involved in producing and distributing the magazine each month.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL OUR READERS
FROM THE MAGAZINE TEAM
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Village Centre Traffic Scheme: It was reported at the November Parish Council meeting that a number of complaints had been received from residents about the difficulties seeing to the left when stopped at the top of Westmore Road to turn right into Paynesfield Road. Observations by Parish Councillors have shown local drivers failing to stop at this junction and driving across the road and into the bus-only lane to exit into Ship Hill. We have also received reports of two traffic accidents since the changes were made. We are in touch with both SCC Highways and also the police on these matters.

The McHugo Building and Car Park: The essential building maintenance work is due to start in the near future; the work is being organised to cause minimum disruption to users. Discussions regarding the remedial works to the car park are near a conclusion, with protective barriers to be erected around the lighting bollards and the faulty drainage for the collapsible bollards to be fixed in the near future at no cost to the Parish Council. These works will require that the car park area will be closed but hopefully for only a few days.

The Tatsfield Community Games Area: Following consultation with the school, it has been decided to close the games area during weekday evenings during the winter as it is now dark by 5.00pm. The games area will continue to be open for use during Saturdays and Sundays.

The Tatsfield Village Walks: We are very grateful to David Wood and Alan Armitage for their assistance with revising the Parish Council leaflets on walks in the parish. Eileen Pearce reported that all the walks had now been revised and it was hoped to agree a suitable format and to have these available early in 2011.

Surrey Village of the Year: Tatsfield’s success in this competition was reported, including cheques to the value of £550. Following a discussion, it was agreed that there would be consultation with the community about how best to use the award money.

Emergency Plan: We are revising the Village Emergency Plan that proved so useful during last winter’s snow emergency. If you have not been contacted regarding our updated list of volunteers and have a skill, or equipment, that could be useful in an emergency please email tatsfieldplan@btinternet.com. During the last snow emergency we encouraged all residents to Check Your Neighbour, in particular the elderly or disabled; we would ask you all to bear this in mind if the hard weather returns.

Affordable Homes Project: All site surveys have been completed and we hope a planning application will be submitted before the end of the year, but we don’t know how the financing will be affected by the government’s spending review.
Broadband speeds: BT has told us that the Biggin Hill exchange is scheduled to be upgraded for fibre access by the end of September 2011. However, BT also says it’s too early to say when the fibre network and its higher broadband speeds will reach Tatsfield. A detailed engineering survey has yet to be carried out.

Christmas Carols: The Parish Council has agreed the arrangements and costs for this event to take place outside the Old Ship on Friday 17th December. Application for a road closure has been made and it was agreed that for this year we would have a 12-15 foot high Christmas tree and additional lighting.

Jon Allbutt, Chairman (Tel: 576481 Email: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk)

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Parish Room on Monday 13 December at 7.30 p.m.

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Tax: Like most councils, a large proportion of Tandridge’s funds comes from central government and Council Tax. The government’s settlement with local authorities for the next financial year 2011/2012, won’t be known until February but it is clear that Tandridge’s funds from government will be substantially reduced. As the government will not be allowing any increase in Council Tax, there can only be one consequence for Tandridge – a reduction in what it does. Tandridge’s officers and committees are considering in detail how best to operate in these circumstances, having in the forefront of their minds the need to protect front line services which directly affect residents. Final decisions will not be taken until February, when the terms of the government’s financial settlement are known. So, while there may be satisfaction that residents will not be facing any increase in the District’s Council Tax next year, there will be a lot less satisfaction about the decisions which will have to be made on the services provided by Tandridge and other councils.

Local Elections: There will be elections for one third of Tandridge’s 42 seats next May. The Tatsfield and Titsey ward will be one of them, when my second four year term will come to an end. There will also be elections in May for the seven councillors of Tatsfield Parish Council. I was fortunate to be a parish councillor for eight years before my stint as a district councillor. There is so much that parish councils can do for their local communities and, if you believe the messages coming out from national politicians, the powers pushed down to the parish level are likely to increase. I hope that we will have a good number of community-minded people who will be willing to stand for election to Tatsfield Parish Council next May because there is a very worthwhile job to be done. If anyone is interested in doing so or wants to find out more, I myself would be very happy to talk it over with them as I am sure would any of the current parish councillors. So please don’t
hesitate to get in touch.

Tandridge Magazine: The winter issue of the magazine issued by Tandridge District Council should have been delivered to all households last month. There has been a lot of criticism recently in the national and local press about the money spent by councils on publications which are largely used for propaganda. However, this is not true of the Tandridge magazine and I have long been an admirer of it because it is full of useful information which is clearly and attractively set out. If you haven’t already done so, have a close look and judge for yourself!

Cllr Bob David (Tel: 577357  Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk)

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Congratulations to Tatsfield Village: I was delighted that the true community spirit of residents of Tatsfield was recognised by the judges of the Surrey Village of the Year competition after visiting all the villages throughout Surrey who entered this year’s competition. The judges recognised what a special village and community exist in Tatsfield by awarding the village the title of “Village of the Year” and also an extra award for sustainability work in Tatsfield.

Winter Maintenance: I have now managed to arrange for the Westmore Green area will be included within Priority One for de-icing the route of Clarks Lane, into Approach Road, around the Green, down Ship Hill and on through Ricketts Hill Road. The B269 will also be a Priority One route to Warlingham and to access the A22/A25/M23/M25 it is recommended that drivers use Westhall Road and Hillbury Road. I would strongly advise drivers not to use Narrow Lane/Succombs Hill as this road is not on any priority route for the winter.

SCC has now over 12,340 tons of salt in place (in various depots throughout Surrey) and we have another 800 tons on order due to be delivered to our depots before mid December. This means that SCC will have over 50% more salt than three years ago. All 1,500 grit bins in Surrey have now been filled and these are only for those roads where they are located and are not for residents to use on their own drives. It takes 3 – 4 weeks for all grit bins in Surrey to be filled and SCC will not be refilling the grit bins when the staff are fully deployed on clearing/salting roads. SCC also has access to over 50 farmers and others throughout Surrey to provide support in snow clearing and the farmers and others will take instructions only from the Operational Team at Surrey Highways. If you feel that a road needs clearance, then please register this on the website. Daily updates will be available on the Surrey website and residents are asked to look at this first before calling the SCC Contact Centre.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 0208 541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
Tatsfield Vern D’Anjou Association present a

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATION

BLACK & WHITE dress theme

31st Dec 2010
7 ‘til 1 (carriages at 12.30)
Tatsfield Village Hall

• 2 COURSE MEAL
• LICENSED BAR including “real ale”
• DISCO

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT LINDAS!

Adults £20
Under 16s £10

Tickets available from Rosie and Pete Fuller on 573 554
also on sale at Linda’s Stores

GREAT VALUE FAMILY NIGHT OUT!
Tatsfield is Surrey Village of the Year!

It’s official!

We all knew it anyway. Now everyone else in Surrey knows it too.

When asked if they thought that we should enter the competition, Tatsfield residents responded with enthusiastic approval and everyone co-operated to organise an event which would not only serve as our presentation for the Fuller’s Village of the Year competition but, more importantly, would celebrate and cement our community spirit.

All agreed that, although it would be nice to win the competition, that wasn’t the point for us. Bringing together what makes our village a real community would help us all to recognise its value and would encourage its continuity.

The day back in July, when around 40 village organisations and clubs came together to show off their wares, was a huge success. This hive of activity and co-operation really impressed the judges.

The judges paid tribute to Tatsfield’s community spirit and made special mention of the composting scheme, the parish emergency plan, the community responders and the Tatty knitters! They also remarked upon the contribution made by the young people in the village. However, most of us feel that it’s inappropriate to single out individual activities because everything fits together to complete the jigsaw of a very special place to live.

Several awards were presented at the Awards Ceremony and when we received the one for Sustainability we thought we’d had our share and we were astonished, in view of the strong competition, to find we were the overall winners!!

This success recognises Tatsfield’s unique character and ensures Tatsfield occupies a prominent position on the Surrey map.

Well done, Tatsfield. We deserve our prize and are all very proud of earning it.

Carol Jordan, Eileen Pearce and Sue Smale
ADMISSIONS TO TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Readers will have seen James and Karen Longley’s letter in last month’s magazine in which they tell of their surprise at learning that, because of the rules for deciding on admissions, their children (and others living in Tatsfield) may not be able to attend Tatsfield School. There is another letter from James and Karen in Forum this month, which follows a long discussion at November’s Parish Council meeting and very helpful exchanges with County Councillor David Hodge.

We have a wonderful new school in Tatsfield. We have fought hard for it over many years. Tatsfield residents rightly expect their children to be taught at their village school. We know that just under half the school’s 210 pupils come from outside Tatsfield and that these children are needed for the school to be viable - without these non-Tatsfield children there would be no school in the village. That was the position at the Church Lane site and it continues to be so at the new site.

We – that is, your Parish Council and your District Councillor – recognise the importance of the non-Tatsfield pupils but we believe, as we imagine does everyone else in the village, that Tatsfield children should be able to attend their village school and that, if necessary, they should be given priority over children from outside the village when decisions are made about admissions to the school.

As this is not achieved by the present system, we have in this article set out the current admission rules so that everyone can understand how the present situation has arisen. We are also asking all parents of young children in the village to tell us about their plans for the schooling of their children, which would provide us with information about numbers and enable us to consider with the County Council whether admission problems might arise in future years and, if so, how these might be dealt with.

The arrangements for admission to Tatsfield School in September 2011

- These arrangements apply to the majority of Community schools in Surrey.
- The arrangements are decided and operated by the County Council. The school itself is not involved.
- Eligible children are those born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007.
- The “Published Admission Number” for Tatsfield School is 30.
- Applications for admission have to be made to the County Council by 15 January 2011.
- Parents are informed by the County Council of the outcome of their applications on 11 April 2011 and have until 29 April to lodge an appeal.
Children are admitted in the following priority:

**First priority: looked after children**
Children who are registered as being in the care of a local authority (for example, fostered or living in a children’s home).

**Second priority: exceptional arrangements**
Occasionally there will be a very small number of children for whom exceptional arrangements will apply. Evidence from a consultant doctor will be required for medical cases or documented evidence from any support services involved for other sensitive family circumstances will be required. These exceptional arrangements may override other admissions priorities and the County Council may apply them when they first offer places. The County Council may also ask schools to admit over their Published Admission Number at other times under this category.

**Third priority: brothers and sisters**
After “exceptional arrangements”, places are then offered to siblings. A sibling is a child who will have a brother or sister still at the school at the time of another sibling’s admission. So, a sibling will be given priority for admission only if another sibling will still be at the school in September 2011. A sibling is a brother or sister (that is, another child of the same parents, whether living at the same address or not), or a half-brother or half-sister, living at the same address, or foster children living at the same address.

**Fourth priority: children for whom the school is the nearest to their home**
Currently the nearest school is defined as the school closest to the home address with a Published Admission Number for pupils of the appropriate age-range, as measured by a straight line. The nearest school may be either inside or outside the county boundary.

**Fifth priority: any other applicant**
If there is oversubscription in any of the above criteria priority will be given on the basis of nearness to school measured in a straight line from the address point of the pupil’s house, as set by ordnance survey to the nearest school gate for pupils to use. This is calculated using the County Council’s Admission and Transport team’s Geographical Information System.

**The possible outcome on September 2011 admissions**
The outcome in terms of numbers will not be known until the closing date for applications of 15 January. We don’t know whether there will be any applications for First priority and Second priority children. We understand that it is currently expected that there will be 22 applications of Third priority children i.e. siblings. If it transpired that there was a total of 22 applications for First, Second and Third priority children by 15 January, that would leave up to 8 places for Tatsfield children who are not siblings (siblings would be covered by the Third priority)
We should be grateful if any Tatsfield parents who have already applied for admission to Tatsfield School, including applications for sibling children, or who intend to apply before 15 January, would let Jon Allbutt know as soon as possible, with the name and date of birth of the child (email: jon@allbutt.co.uk address: Seaton, Goatsfield Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2BU). This information will show whether, in fact, there is a problem if there are more that 8 applications for non-sibling Tatsfield children. We know that the rules for admissions in September 2011 cannot now be changed but, in the event of such a problem, we would discuss with the County Council how it might be dealt with.

The outlook beyond September 2011

Whatever happens about September 2011 admissions, we need to discuss with the County Council what might happen in subsequent years, including whether the admission rules for Tatsfield School might be changed so that Tatsfield children have priority over siblings from outside the village. We will be better able to do this if we have details of the likely demand for places by Tatsfield children in future years. We appreciate that these figures will change as families move in and out of the village but we should like to be armed with the best information currently available. So we should be grateful if parents of children aged as below who intend to apply for admission to Tatsfield School would let Jon Allbutt know as soon as possible, again with the name and date of birth of the child (and again including any sibling children):

For admission in September 2012
Children born between 1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008

For admission in September 2013
Children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481) and Bob David (Tel: 577357)

‘OPEN-HOUSE’ AT THE RECTORY
Sunday 12 December 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Louise, Nick, Jessica and James warmly invite you to the Rectory for mince pies and mulled wine on Sunday 12 December. Just pop in any time between 2 and 5 pm.

CHRISTMAS WITH HERBS
Try some of Lin Saines’ ideas in page 51 for adding a different taste to your Christmas and post-Christmas meals.
MAKING THE SHORT LIST

Last month a dinner took place at the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall. The occasion was the presentation of the Maritime Media Awards 2010 and my husband David’s book “Voices From The Bridge” had been short-listed for the Mountbatten Award for literature.

From the age of sixteen David had served for ten years in the Merchant Navy and, in retirement, had come full circle in his interest in all things maritime by becoming involved with the Honourable Company of Master Mariners on board their floating livery ship, moored on the Thames, the Wellington.

At various functions on the ship David heard many stories from other Master Mariners about their experiences at sea and decided to collect them, as a record for posterity, to show what life had been like in the Merchant Navy before the era of containerisation.

At about the same time he came across another ex-Master, John Johnson-Allen, who was studying for an MSc degree on one aspect of the Merchant Fleet. And so a two-man team was formed and for the next couple of years they criss-crossed the British Isles recording seamen’s accounts of their lives from training days to retirement from the sea – “swallowing the anchor” as it was called.

Finally a publisher was found in Seafarer Books and earlier this year “Voices From The Bridge” was launched. As the reviews came in it was obvious the book was being very well received and this culminated in its being short-listed for the Mountbatten Award.

The dinner, in the presence of Countess Mountbatten of Burma, was an elegant affair. However, the book didn’t win the award but I know that David, who died just before it was published, would have been so very pleased that it had made the short-list.

Mary Smith

Editor: “Voices from the Bridge” is available from booksellers, price £14.95, or from Seafarer Books, 102 Redwald Road, Rendlesham, Woodbridge, IP12 2TE. All royalties from the book are being given at the author’s request to the Wellington Trust.

GOING FREE

Chest of drawers (4) 30”h x 30”w x 18”d white. Bedside cupboard 21”h x 21”w x 13”d primrose. Bedside cupboard 28”h x 15”w x 12”d blue. Ring 577583.
Berthold Auerbach, a nineteenth century poet said “music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life” which is perhaps why a packed hall of people left the Village Hall on Saturday 13 November with joy in their hearts and smiles on their faces. We had been treated to an evening of late classical early romantic music by the talented North Downs Sinfonia (NDS).

Michael Hitchcock, the conductor, began the proceedings with a laugh out loud (or ‘lol’ as my children would say) introduction to the complicated life and loves of Tancredi only to reveal at the end that Rossini’s Tancredi Overture was part of an entirely different opera! Michael was a joy to watch. Had there been deaf people in the audience they would still have known when the music was big and bold, light and lyrical, bright and bouncy, purely through the exuberance with which Michael throws his whole body into leading his orchestra.

NDS’s performance of Rossini’s Tancredi Overture captured well the many shades of the piece – a dramatic opening interspersed with delicate passages, woodwind and brass on tune with a light pizzicato of violins and violas beneath. The closing bars revealed a strong cello section playing with precision and enthusiasm. The dynamics changes were often and wide ranging and very well executed, an essential skill which keeps the audience entranced.

From a slightly early time in music history we moved to the transition between the classical and romantic periods with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 5 with the Albanian soloist Mariela Cingo. Unusually this begins with a single chord from the orchestra followed immediately by the pianist going straight into a virtuostic solo which was brilliantly performed. Mariela beautifully captured the shades of light and dark so important in bringing Beethoven’s music to life and the many sections of a single melody played in multiple octaves (notoriously difficult and unforgiving for a pianist) were perfect. There was a seamless transition from the slow second movement into the faster pace of the Rondo culminating in a typical Beethoven dramatic big finish. A wonderful performance with the orchestra displaying excellent timing and sensitivity in supporting their soloist throughout.

After some light refreshments, the final item took us back into the classical era with Symphony No. 104 in D major, the last of Haydn’s so-called “London Symphonies”.
The adagio opening of the first movement was regal and imperious and the third minuet movement transported us straight into an eighteenth century ballroom full of silks and cravats. The final folk-inspired trio gave the strings their chance to display some phenomenally fast-paced fingering which left one particular bow in tatters! Throughout the piece there were also moments when the woodwind and brass sections shone with solos, most noticeably the oboes and bassoons.

There were many moments which stood out in this wonderful evening of music. The two French horns were a delight, a moment of just timpani and piano, the looks of fierce concentration of all the musicians and their obvious enjoyment of every bar. Perhaps one of the most important aspects for an orchestra is not the solos but their ability to blend as one – many layers but unified – which NDS certainly delivered. The staging in the Village Hall also worked extremely well; with the strings at floor level and the remaining sections on the stage, the audience were able to watch and admire the skills of each performer. A most enjoyable evening and to those of you who have yet to sample the delights of the North Downs Sinfonia, I highly recommend you to take a look at www.northdownssinfonia.com and put their next concert date in your diary.

One last thing ... I noticed in the programme that one of Michael Hitchcock’s hobbies is to “take over the world” ... I wish him luck!

Alex Deterding

YOU WANNA SING SING SING???

Then please join the TATSFIELD SINGERS. We meet every Thursday evening at 7.45 pm in the school hall to enjoy singing the familiar and the challenging songs of yesterday and today. We number about 30 and have a fantastic male section as well as female altos and sopranos.

At the moment we are preparing for our next ‘appearances’ at the Waitrose charity evening on 8 December, the Carol Singalong outside The Ship on 17 December and the St. Mary’s Carol Service on Sunday 19 December.

Since taking part in the recent ‘Wine Dine and Shine’ event we have added to our numbers and would welcome more of you. There are no scary auditions; just come along and Alex Deterding, our enthusiastic and ever encouraging teacher, will help you find your voice.

INTERESTED? Call me if you want to find out more or just come along and join in.

Carol Gaskell (Tel: 577724  E-mail: carol.gaskell1@btinternet.com)
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT
Friday 10th December at 7.30
St Mary's Church Hall

IT'S A DOUBLE BILL FOR THE LAST FILM SESSION
OF THE SEASON . . . MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE
WHO'VE SUPPORTED US THROUGH THE YEAR

STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ

Genre: dance 1991 UK 30 mins. unrated
Directors: Keith Beckett and David Bintley
Cast: The Royal Ballet

Full of energy, humour and enthusiasm this quirky and original production mixes modern and contemporary with classical ballet and is for all ages.

Amazing choreography by David Bintley. Combined with the grace of the dancers and the underlying theme of conservation this is quite simply an unforgettable masterpiece.

BOMBON EL PERRO

Genre: drama/comedy 2005 Argentina/Spain (subtitled) 98 mins. 15
Director: Carlos Sorin
Cast: Juan Villegas, Walter Donado, Rosa Valsecchi, Mariela Diaz

It's a dog's life for Coco, a middle aged out-of-work mechanic who gets by flogging handmade knives in Argentina's parched Patagonia region. But a new door opens when he's given Bombon, a hulking game hound of noble breeding ... this dog definitely takes the biscuit.

Suggested donation: £3.00 (includes mulled wine)
The Bakery open from 6 for a delicious dish of the day at £7.99

Wendy Harvey 562340 wendyharvey@talktalk.net
Elaine Webster 577753 elainez@btinernet.com
Buy Our Book!

Tatsfield School
“Past and Present”

Full of drawings and photographs of pupils past and present, as well as the full history of the school and accounts of the design and construction of the new school building.

Another publication of Tatsfield’s History Project.

Available £8.50
From 3rd December
ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR
Tatsfield Village Hall
11am to 3pm on Sunday 19 December

Excellent Christmas gifts. Come along and browse our quality stalls with homemade arts and crafts, cakes, flowers, hampers, decorations, refreshments and lots more.

To book a stall or to find out more, please call 07956 362986 or 07940 583756.

CHRISTMAS SHOW
FOR CHILDREN

Village Hall
Saturday 11 December
4.30 to 6.15 pm

*No need to travel far for a special Christmas treat
for children aged 3 to 12 years.*

Here it is in the centre of the village!

★Punch and Judy ★Magician ★Tea Party
★Santa and Sack of Presents

Children and Adults £5
Tickets from Margaret Parsons on 577665
Arranged by the Village Hall Management Committee

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT
(Mixture of Aerobics and Body Conditioning)

Every Wednesday 8.30 to 9.30 pm
Tatsfield Primary School Hall
£3.50 per person

Special offer on Wednesday 1st December - only £2.50!
Give it a go and bring a friend!

For further information contact Vicky Cooling on 07970 761642 or victoria.cooling@btinternet.com
Editor: Jeff Bloxham, who lives in Crossways and is one of the world’s top motorsport photographers, bumped into Colin Corke at the Classic Car Show at the NEC in Birmingham last month and took this photo of Colin and his Allegro. I asked Colin, who many will remember from his term as Tatsfield’s car-mad vicar for ten years, from 1991 to 2001, when he moved to Longbridge, to write us a few lines and these are below.

The sad truth is that when I moved to Birmingham in 2001 the Motor Show moved south and then ceased, so all we have left now is the NEC Classic Car Show.

This year I had two Longbridge-built cars on show – a Metro and the Allegro in the picture. It was painted by Jonny Panther in Tatsfield to a fantastic show standard, and there was another Tatsfield connection on show. On display was a Crayford convertible conversion of a mark two Ford Cortina Lotus looking very stylish – the Crayford company was latterly based in Westerham but as many would know had started in Tatsfield. MG UK also had some cars on display that we can hope will be assembled here in Longbridge though less people will be employed than in the past. Our real future is the redevelopment of the majority of the former factory site into a new heart for Longbridge though supermarket, further education college, technology park and the like. Unfortunately the present economic realities make some of these projects for the longer term rather than ones immediately ahead. And of course we had the Pope here recently!

I often miss Tatsfield here in Brummieland ... I hope people never take the place for granted with all its ease of communication and hard working community supporters. I’d like to thank people for the memory of ten happy years in Surrey. I enjoy reading the magazine regularly, and reading between the lines as it were!

Colin Corke
BRIAN DANCE’S HALF MARATHON

On 26th September, Brian Dance competed in the New Forest Half Marathon, starting and finishing at New Milton. A half marathon is a distance of 13.1 miles. Brian found it hard going and was a little disappointed with his time – 2 hours 37 minutes. However, very pleased were the Henry Tyndale School in Farnborough, Hampshire, a school for children with special educational needs, for Brian was able to donate £400 to them, the proceeds of his sponsorship (this will be going towards the cost of a new minibus). Brian would like to thank the many people who sponsored him. He intends to have another go next year and will be training hard to see if he can improve on his time. He has in front of him the target of the current world record for the half marathon – 58 minutes 23 seconds!

SOME IMPRESSIVE PUMPKINS!

These seven pumpkins were carved by Ali and Dan of 7 Crossways for Halloween. It took them all day to do the carving, which is not surprising as the shapes are so intricate. They are truly impressive!
DECEMBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)

- Christmas Wreaths, Mistletoe, Figs, Dates, Nuts, Chestnuts
- Christmas fruit and vegetables – sprouts, parsnips, satsumas, clementines, lemons and much more
- Pot Plants
- Cut flowers
- Free delivery to your home, including Christmas orders
- Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)

- Lots of Christmas cards in stock, Christmas wrap 10 m rolls 99p
- Advent Calendars (Chocolate) 99p
- Tins of Quality Street £5.49
- Tins of Victoria Biscuits £5.50
- Cadbury’s Chocolate Biscuit Selection £2.49
- Thornton’s Milk Chocolates £3.49
- Terrys Choc Orange Segsations £2.65
- Black Magic/Milk Tray/Dairy Box/Celebrations/Heroes/After 8s - any 2 for £4
- Schweppes Lemonade 2 for £1.50
- Winalot Classic Tins 1.2 kg £1.15
- Haribo Tubes £1
- Terrys Chocolate Orange £2.96 (buy one get one free)
- Boxes Maynards Wine Gums/Bassetts/Jelly Babies/Cadbury’s Choc Eclairs £1.99

### VILLAGE SHOPS
### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR
### OPENING TIMES

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THE TATSFIELD ALLOTMENTS PROJECT – LATEST NEWS

We have received a preliminary opinion from Surrey Highways about the entrances to our new site by Approach Road. We are having further discussions over the next few weeks on this and also to form our committee and to have discussions with the landowner, the Horticultural Society and the Parish Council about the Lease and Agreements.

We believe that we have enough names on our list to take all the allotments, but we will not know for sure until we send out the application forms, probably early in the New Year. If you are thinking you would like to join us please give one of us a call and we will add you to the list.

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481) and Alan Armitage (Tel: 575117)

EXTENSION OF TATSFIELD GREEN PATH?

The Parish Council is holding a public meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11 January in the Parish Room to consult the community on the feasibility of continuing the path across Tatsfield Green to provide safer access along Ricketts Hill Road from Old Lane to Manor Road.

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

BUDDY HOLLY AND THE CRICKETERS
7.30 pm Saturday 4 December
Tickets from www.bamtheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811

GLOW THEATRE GROUP – FLAPPER!
The roaring twenties madcap musical comedy
7.30 pm on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December
Tickets from www.bamtheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 720167

KENNY BALL AND HIS JAZZMEN
7.30 pm on Saturday 11 December
Tickets from www.bamtheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811
TATTY KNITTERS

I was asked at the end of October, as one of those who helped with the village's entry, to go to Ewhurst for the results of the Surrey Village of the Year competition. Tatsfield won, of course! Among the judges’ comments was that they were pleased to see we had a knitting club. I was very proud to be noticed!

So, we meet for a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine on Tuesday 14 December from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the WI Hall. Don't forget your needles and wool!

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

VILLAGE IN BLOOM AND THE BLUE GRASS CONCERTS

Yet again the amazing team of volunteers have trounced the opposition for the umpteenth time in the South East in Bloom competition and, although ‘only’ second, got Gold Medal standard in the Britain in Bloom. How they manage this on the ‘blank canvas’ that is our village against all those picture-postcard villages – with no stream or river, no quarry stone houses, no village pump, the church far away from the hub and all the other features most villages have on which to arrange their floral displays – defies the imagination. Well done! However, this level of floral activity has to be financed and does not come cheap.

Since our last concert in the Village Hall, both Jon Allbutt and I have had a lot of enquiries as to when the next one can be expected. We have decided to move away from the cold January/February dates of the past and attempt to put on something very special in early March. So, provisionally we are aiming for Saturday 12 March next year and I am 90% certain we can bring ‘A Band Like Alice’ and a super trio called the Andy Smythe Band to Tatsfield.

So, please support our efforts as half the profit will go to the Village in Bloom Flower Fund and half to a children’s cancer charity. Both are excellent causes and are dear to our hearts in Tatsfield.

Tony Watson

LEAF CLEARING

Responsible 14 year old available for clearing leaves and possible snow from your paths/drives/lawns. I have all my own equipment and charge £10 an hour.

Contact Harvey White on 570097, fab@waitrose.com or Hill Cottage, Johns Road.
SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET WESTERHAM
1st and 3rd Sunday each month
– in December, on the 5th and 19th
9.00 - 12.30
Rediscover delicious fish, cheese, game, eggs, bread,
nuts, fruit, vegetables, plants and gifts from local suppliers

LOCAL POLICE REPORT

Crime, once again, has been very low in the Tatsfield area this past month. Several incidents have been called in with regard to youths committing anti-social behaviour in and around the village, coming from the surrounding Biggin Hill and New Addington areas. Police have attended on these occasions and have spoken to the youths in question but as always, please keep ringing in so we can carry on acting quickly.

As Christmas is around the corner, please remember your security. Keep your house and sheds/garages secure at all times. Keep valuables, including Christmas presents, away from show and always remember your personal safety.

PCSO Rachel Kettell

COULDN’T GOD HAVE USED EVOLUTION?

Got questions? Come and get some answers! What does God’s Word say on this and other burning topics? Join the discussion on questions such as “Where did Cain get his wife?”, “Did God really create everything in 6 days?”, “How did Noah fit all the animals on the ark?”, “Where did all the races come from?”, “What about carbon dating?”, “Has science not disproved the Bible anyway?”, “Can the Bible explain dinosaurs and fossils?”, “Why is there so much death and suffering in the world?”

Talks will be held at the WI Hall, Paynesfield Road on Mondays 29 November and 6 and 13 December from 8 to 9.30pm. Admission is free and all are welcome! Answer books will be on sale.

For more information please contact: Sandré Harmse on 571766 or 07909 615353 or email: sandrafourie@yahoo.co.uk.

TATFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR
Friday 3 December
6 to 8.30pm
Adults 50p Children and OAPs Free
VERN TWINNING VISITORS COMING TO TATSFIELD NEXT EASTER

A quick reminder that next Easter weekend we will be once again hosting visitors from our twin town of Vern d’Anjou. We are still looking to fill the last few host places so if anyone is interested then please ring me for more details. It’s a fun and rewarding experience and don’t worry if you cannot ‘parlez Français’ Very few hosts do and we all seem to get by ok!

Also to note that once again the Vern Association will be hosting our famous New Year’s Eve party in the Village Hall – it’s a great family night out, tickets sell quickly so reserve yours now! See our main advert for details.

Peter Fuller (Tel: 573554)

DOG WALKER AVAILABLE

Do you need a dog walker? Does your dog never get a walk? If the answer to these questions is yes, then you need me. I am 15 years old and have 2 dogs myself. I am a mature and friendly boy. I love any dog and will be happy to walk them. I will walk your dog for £5.

Please phone 577667 or 577603 or email me at uktonybrown@aol.com.

Charlie Brown

NORHEADS LANE SURGERY

There have been some changes made to the evening surgery times at our surgery at 14a Norheads Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3XS. The surgery is open on Monday evenings from 5pm – 7.45pm with appointments to see the doctor between 5.30pm and 7.20pm. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evenings the surgery is open from 5pm – 7pm with appointment availability between 5pm and 6pm. The surgery is closed on Thursday evenings.

We still offer a walk-in surgery every morning along with an appointment surgery. Please call 574488 for an appointment. The practice has also launched a new website where you can find practice information and order repeat prescriptions. The address is www.norheads.gpsurgery.net.

For more information on how to register, please come in to surgery, telephone or see our practice website.
VOTE FOR THE TATSFIELD ALLOTMENTS PROJECT

The new village allotments project has been shortlisted by the Sevenoaks Chronicle (which is published in the area as the Westerham Chronicle) for one of the big prizes in their Heart of the Community competition. The top prizes will be won by the projects with the most votes! Voting coupons will be in the Sevenoaks/Westerham Chronicle on 25 November and 2 and 9 December. **So please buy the paper, fill in the coupon with your vote for the Tatsfield allotments project and send it off!**

EVENTS AT TATSFIELD VILLAGE CLUB

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 18 December</td>
<td><strong>Children’s Christmas Party</strong> 2.30 – 5.30 pm</td>
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<td><em>List now up at the club. Pre-booking is essential. Parents must stay on the premises – children cannot be left at the party unattended</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 12 December</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Prize and Meat Raffle/Turkey Draw</strong> 2 pm onwards</td>
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<td><em>Tickets now on sale behind the bar</em></td>
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<td>Saturday 31 December</td>
<td><strong>New Year’s Eve Disco</strong> 8 pm – Late</td>
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<td><strong>Meat Raffle every Friday at 7 pm</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bingo every Monday at 8.15 pm</strong></td>
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<td>Next Quiz Night – Tuesday 7 December</td>
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DONATIONS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Every year we ask village organisations if they would like to make a donation to help the Magazine balance its books and every year we receive a very generous response. The donations to this year’s request have started coming in and we are very grateful for the contributions received so far from Tatsfield Art Group and the Tatsfield Village Club.

BIRDS GALORE

Not so many birds around this autumn? Don’t you believe it! Read about the remarkable number and variety seen in his Ricketts Hill Road garden by John Rosenbaum – in pages 60 and 61. Don’t forget – let Nigel Shaw, and the rest of us, know about the birds and other wildlife you see in your garden.
MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The mobile library stops at the village once a week at the Old Ship car park, from 3.30 to 4 pm on Fridays. As from the middle of last month, this has been temporarily changed to a fortnightly stop, as has happened with other mobile libraries in Surrey. The reason for the change is the retirement of a mobile library manager and non – filling of other vacancies within the service. The change is expected to last until the end of March 2011. So, in December the mobile library will stop at the Old Ship car park on the 3rd and 17th (but not the 31st).

RECYCLING AT BROWN’S GREENGROCERS

The last collection of mobile phones and printer cartridges from Tony and Di’s shop in September produced £35.47, which has been sent to the Hillside Animal Sanctuary at Frettenham, Norwich. Unwanted and abused animals are given much needed sanctuary there – at present it is home to more than 800 rescued farm animals.

Another worthy charity will be chosen for the proceeds of the next collection. So keep taking your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges to the shop (all makes except Epson). Not only will you be enabling the re-use of mobile phones and cartridges but the proceeds will go to a good cause.

A BUSY DECEMBER FOR THE TATSFIELD SINGERS!

You will have the chance to hear the Tatsfield Singers on several occasions this month – at the Tatsfield School PTA’s Christmas Fair in the evening of Friday 3rd, at Waitrose in Biggin Hill on Wednesday 8th at their Christmas Shopping Evening, at the Carol Singing outside the Old Ship on Friday 17th and at St Mary’s Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday 19th.

The singing at Waitrose will be from 7.30 to 8 pm and from 8.30 to 9 pm on Wednesday 8th. For the whole of December, the Tatsfield Singers are one of the three voluntary groups for whom you can show your support by putting Waitrose green buttons in their box each time you shop there. The more buttons which go in the Tatsfield Singers box, the larger is the amount which Waitrose will donate to the Singers. And you will be able to support the Singers even more directly by contributing to the collection which will be made at the Carol Singing outside the Old Ship.

The Singers are performing at these events in memory of Lesley Irving, the founder chairman of the Action for Medical Research Tatsfield Branch. Her constant service raised many thousands of pounds for this deserving charity and the Singers would like to remember her work through their singing at these events.

Dawn Forresters Groom
By the time this magazine reaches you, the school history book should be back from the printers. Entitled “Tatsfield School Past and Present”, the Tatsfield History Project have spent the last 2 years putting it together, with the help of many others, including past and present pupils. It will go on sale on Friday 3 December at the Tatsfield School PTA Christmas Fair from 6 to 8.30 pm, price £8.50.

It is the definitive history of Tatsfield School from its start in the 1840s to this year’s move to the centre of the village. It includes reminiscences from pupils and staff, examples of current school work and pupils’ thoughts about their new premises in Ship Hill.

There are plenty of illustrations and photos – a memento of an important part of village life. A great Christmas present for friends and family here and elsewhere.

After the Christmas Fair, it will be available from Linda’s and from members of the History Project – Eileen Pearce (Tel: 577767), Bob David (Tel: 577357), Ian Mitchell (Tel: 577376) and Paul Myers (Tel: 07906 254422).

FOCUS ON THE CROCUS

Last month, Tatsfield School children planted 400 crocus bulbs as part of a national Rotary Clubs campaign to end polio in the world. All over the country, schools and other organisations have been planting crocus bulbs – all purple – which should make eye-catching displays in February.

The Tatsfield School bulbs were planted by the school entrance in the shape of 3 ships (the school’s address is 3 Ship Hill) with the help of two of the In Bloom team, Doug Massey and Bob David. All 200 pupils took part and the picture shows Doug helping one.

The funds raised by the Rotary Club’s campaign will help immunise children in the four countries where polio is still to be found – India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.
There were many people in the WI hall on November 19th who felt it was important to support the Fairtrade initiative in Tatsfield. We spent an enjoyable evening blind tasting different wines, started by the festive sound of corks popping; sparkling white and rosé, a white, a rosé and two reds. There was a varied reaction to the different wines and much lively discussion. The sparkling wines proved popular, as well as the red ‘Running Duck’ without sulphates, allegedly the compound that causes headaches. There was also a quiz about wines and a call-my-bluff question where we had to guess the correct definition. We also had an unexpected challenge: to guess different smells and match to a list. Christine Hicks correctly identified all the aromas given to our group. Ann Hayes had made her delicious cheesy biscuits to nibble between tastings.

There was also a selection of Fairtrade products to buy. Buying Fairtrade products can make such a difference to people’s lives. The purchase of Fairtrade wine in England has doubled in the past 3 years. It is good to think that we can help farmers and workers improve the quality of their lives and take more control over their futures, whilst enjoying ourselves at the same time.

A big thank you to Carol Jordan, Hilary Harber, Jennie South and Bob David for organising the evening.

Tina Rhoda
DECEMBER

1 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH · 10.30-11.30am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR
8pm Yoga - VH · 8pm Explorers - SH

8pm Bible Study - Torridon, Westmore Road

2 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH

3 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH
6-8.30pm CHRISTMAS FAIR - TPS
8pm Badminton Club - VH

4 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery

5 Sun 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM
10.45am Ramblers Walk - Ightham Mote Car Park
1pm St. Mary’s Annual Dinner - CH

6 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

7 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
7.45pm WI Meeting - WIH

8 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR
2.15pm Christmas Tea Dance Social - VH
7.30pm TATSFIELD SINGERS AT WAITROSE, BIGGIN HILL
8pm Explorers - SH · 8pm Yoga - VH

8pm Bible Study - Torridon, Westmore Road
8pm PARISH MAGAZINE CHRISTMAS PARTY - WIH

9 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH

10 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH
7.30pm Film Night - CH · 8pm Badminton Club - VH
8pm Food and Wine Society Christmas Party - Postacre

11 Sat 11am - 12noon PC Cafe- The Bakery
1.30pm Not So Young Club Lunch - WIH
4.30pm CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SHOW - VH

12 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM
2-5pm OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY

13 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - PR · 8.15pm Bingo - TVC

14 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH

15 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH · 10.30-11.30am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR
8pm Yoga - VH · 8pm Explorers - SH

8pm Bible Study - Torridon, Westmore Road
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

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<td>16 Thur</td>
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<td>WI Darts - WIH - 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH</td>
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<td>7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS - 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>17 Fri</td>
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<td>Short Mat Bowls - VH - 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH</td>
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<td>7-8pm CAROLS SINGALONG - Outside the Ship</td>
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<td>8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<td>18 Sat</td>
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<td>Little Acorns Crazy Crafting Christmas - VH</td>
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<td>11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery</td>
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<td>19 Sun</td>
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<td><strong>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10am Sung Eucharist - StM - 4pm Carols by Candlelight</strong></td>
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<td>20 Mon</td>
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<td>9.30am Tots on Top - CH - 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH</td>
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<td>8pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS - 8.15pm Bingo - TVC</td>
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<td><strong>TATSFIELD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY - 22 DECEMBER - 4 JANUARY</strong></td>
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<td>22 Wed</td>
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<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH</td>
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<td>10.30am -1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR - 8pm Yoga - VH</td>
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<td><strong>8pm Bible Study, Torridon, Westmore Road</strong></td>
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<td>23 Thur</td>
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<td>2pm WI Darts - WIH - 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH</td>
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<td>8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td><strong>11.30pm Midnight Eucharist - StM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHRISTMAS DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10am All Age Eucharist - St M</strong></td>
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<td>26 Sun</td>
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<td><strong>BOXING DAY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10am Sung Eucharist - StM</strong></td>
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<td>11am Ramblers Walk The Green, Godstone</td>
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<td>27 Mon</td>
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<td>BANK HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>29 Wed</td>
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<td>30 Thur 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - PR - 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>31 Fri</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>VERN NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION - VH</td>
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**JANUARY**

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<tr>
<td>1 Sat</td>
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<td>NEW YEAR’S DAY</td>
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<td>11am-12noon</td>
<td>PC Café - The Bakery</td>
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<td><strong>8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM</strong></td>
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<td>BANK HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>10am Yoga - WIH</td>
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<td>5 Wed</td>
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<td>WI Pop In - WIH</td>
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<td>10.30am -1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR - 8pm Yoga - VH</td>
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**Venues**

- CH - Church Hall
- FC - Furze Corner
- PR - Parish Room
- SH - Scout Hut
- StM - St. Mary’s Church
- TPS - Tatsfield Primary School
- TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
- VH - Village Hall
- WIH - Women’s Institute Hall
This half term we are learning all about **Countries and Celebrations**, which will take us up to Christmas (!). The first week our country was Great Britain and we celebrated Guy Fawkes Night by making lovely, messy splatter pictures which involved the children splattering paint onto black paper! Last week they looked at India and Diwali, and the children made feathers for a beautiful picture of a peacock, which is the national bird of India. This week they are looking at the United States of America, and Thanksgiving. They are making a tree using their handprints as leaves and they are also making Native Indian headbands. The High School Musical CD is playing throughout the week whilst the children learn how to shoot basketballs and play “Pin the Hat on the Turkey”! In the following weeks, they will be celebrating St Andrew’s Day, followed by Hanukkah and then Christmas!

This week is **Children in Need Day**, on Friday 19 November. The children will have baked cakes during the morning, and we hope you were able to join us in eating these afterwards! The children will have spent the morning in their pyjamas, having stories and some face painting! All donations from this will be forwarded to Children in Need.

On Saturday 18 December we will be holding our popular **Crazy Crafty Christmas** at Tatsfield Village Hall from 10 am until 12 midday. Tickets will cost £5 per child, for children aged between 2 and 7 years. We will be having tables of craft activities, plus a Lucky Dip, a sweet stall, nail varnishing and tattoos and refreshments! Please come along with your children for a lovely craft-y morning and support your local pre-school! Tickets will be on sale from Ana Rose at Little Acorns.

If you would like to register your children with Little Acorns for either our morning sessions (3 – 4 year olds) or our afternoon sessions (2 – 3 year olds) then please contact Julie Barlow on 541103.

Helen Hartley, on behalf of Little Acorns Pre-school

**FOR SALE**

Set of 6 modern dining chairs, high backed. Going for £12 donation to NSPCC. Please ring Sue Smale on 577660.

**GOING FREE**

ORPHEUS TEA PARTY IN TATSFIELD

While motorheads were anticipating an exciting Grand Prix at Sao Paulo, Brazil on Sunday, 7th November, Tatsfield people were looking forward to hearing the very special performances from two of the Orpheus students at a Tea Party event (forget American connotations), held at Braeside, Johns Road. This was a new initiative by Orpheus fund-raising volunteers to raise the awareness of this charity whose objective is to support young disabled adults in their transition to independent living. Founded by Richard Stilgoe in his former Godstone home, the Orpheus Centre, through the performing arts, enables students to gain confidence and self-esteem and learn essential skills for life.

The two Tea Party performers were Jo Langstone and Angus Morton. For Jo, being blind was no barrier to her singing and her rapport with the audience. She amused them with her witty ditties and had them joining in with the chorus of a song she had written about Polhill Garden Centre. Angus, familiar to some in the village from his previous performances at St Mary's Church, sang songs from shows, reaching notes that many of us dream about. It was a great afternoon which lasted longer than the Grand Prix and where there were two winners. They raised the roof and nearly £200 into the bargain!

Whether you were there to enjoy it or missed it, why not come and enjoy the Orpheus pantomime, Jack and The Beanstalk, at the Orpheus Centre Barn Theatre, Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th December. Tickets £8/£6 concessions. Box Office 01883 741414.

To find out more about the wonderful world of Orpheus, look them up on their website: www.orpheus.org.uk or contact me, your local representative.

Ann Lovelace, Braeside, Johns Road (Tel: 576212)
CALLING ALL NPPOWER GAS CUSTOMERS!

Peter Kerry recently received a long boring letter from npower, his gas supplier. Peter stuck to it and read the letter to the end and found that he was able to claim a refund of £40 if he took the letter and some identification to the Post Office, which he duly did!

So, if you are an npower gas customer and if you did not bother to read a recent long boring letter from them, see if you can find it – you could be £40 better off! It will be headed “Your npower gas charges”, which is a perhaps misleading heading – “Refund for you” would have been better and would have made it more likely that you would read it!

VERN 100 CLUB

The latest winners, each with £7.50, were:

September   Carol Jordan and Sue Saunders
October    Geraldine Smallwood and John White
November   Rosie Fuller and Peter Fuller

The big December draw is coming up, with the top prize of £135! If you would like to know how you can take part in the monthly draws, please phone Huw Davies on 541060.

COMPUTER CORNER

A reader recently asked where the photo is saved when using the webcam in Skype and taking a snapshot.

Video snapshots are always saved to your computer's hard drive. You can find them by completing these steps:

1. Click the Start menu and select Run
2. Type into box %appdata% which opens the hidden applications folder
3. You can then locate your Skype snapshot in the following location:
   Skype folder\Pictures

From here it is possible to save any snapshot to another folder of choice, or to save it as your profile picture, click on the snapshot, click Apply and then click Save. Your snapshot will now be displayed as your profile picture on Skype.

To take a snapshot of a contact, simply click Take snapshot during a video call. You are then given the option of sending your contact the snapshot. When you have taken the snapshot, the picture folder will open automatically. To send the snapshot, click Share > Send to. The snapshot will then be sent when your contact accepts the file transfer.

Tom Chorley (Tel: 577794)
In the frantic run-up to Christmas don’t forget to add a few herb plants to your planning lists, to bring scent, colour and good cheer to greet your guests and provide interest in many Festive meals.

My old favourite, salad burnet, has frondy leaves that taste of cucumber – good for adding to a punchbowl with slices of lemon and orange, and will keep its leaves all winter when many plants have given up for the season. Try planting up pots in varying heights of prettily coloured violas and winter-flowering pansies and place them beside your front door to give a brightly floral welcome, then scatter the flowers over a large bowl of salad leaves for an unusual (and very Elizabethan!) twist on Boxing Day to accompany your cold meats. Violas can also be potted in tiny terracotta pots or in a selection of pretty china cups to make name-place decorations for your Christmas table. Prop a name-card in amongst the flowers, and each guest then has an additional small gift to take home with them.

Providing the weather is not too frosty or snowbound (!), plants such as sage and rosemary can be cut well back over the festive season and used in handfuls for dressing Christmas poultry, hams and pork roasts, as well as improving the ubiquitous stock-pot with great depth of flavour. Don’t forget to add parsley, celery leaves and lots of thyme – doesn’t matter which variety, it is the all-important flavour that you need to capture in these dark winter months to give lots of interest. And remember you can freeze stock into small quantities for adding to risotto dishes, casseroles and gravies - it doesn’t all have to be turned into turkey soup!

Many people think tarragon cannot be kept over winter, but if you have removed your plant to a frost-free area, although it will die right down now and look ready for the compost heap, you will find tiny young shoots appearing in early spring, when it can be potted into a larger container ready for the new season. Mint is a lovely plant to consider growing indoors through the cold months - just pot up a few roots and bring them into the warmth of your kitchen. Combine a handful of mint leaves with minced pork, chopped onions, breadcrumbs, beaten egg, cinnamon and lots of black pepper, then shape into rounds and shallow fry until golden. Served with feta cheese, Greek yoghurt and a crisp salad these tasty meatballs are such a welcome change after all that rich Christmas fare!

Lin Saines
“Open-House” at the Rectory. Sunday 12th December 2:00pm-5:00pm

Louise, Nick, Jessica and James warmly invite you to the Rectory for mince pies and mulled wine on Sunday 12th December. Just pop in any time between 2:00pm and 5:00pm.

Wednesday Evenings at Torridon.

In October and November, as Louise led us through some parts of St Paul’s letter to the Christians of Ephesus, we realised how relevant they were to our modern lives and understandings. It was a great opportunity to meet with others in a relaxed and comfortable setting, chew over what life is all about, recognise that we don’t have all the answers, but that it really helps to share our ideas and experiences.

There will be another series of gatherings on the Wednesday evenings of Advent, starting on 1st December at 8 pm. You will be very welcome to come along and listen or speak, just as you wish.

All Soul’s Service

This quiet service of thanksgiving and prayer was greatly appreciated by the fifty or so people who came, including some young children. A letter from one of those who attended read: “It meant so much being able to remember my sister at this special service, together with two close friends who had died this year. The act of writing out cards and lighting a candle gave special meaning and was such a help.”

Tatsfield Remembered Them

There was a full church for our annual act of remembrance during which the names of the Tatsfield fallen were read by Ted Bonwick. Ted grew up in Tatsfield before and during the Second World War and the names he read included his relatives and friends. It was also good to see the Tatsfield Scouts with us and we thank them for their contribution to the service. By tuning in to the broadcast from the Cenotaph we were able feel that our act of remembrance was a part of the national time of remembering.

Open the Book

The November service was attended by over 60 people as we looked at the theme of “remembering”. We were joined by some of the family of Bethany Kilgour, who was baptised immediately after the service. We were also pleased to meet 2-week old Magnus Malcolmson and to give thanks for the birth of Phoebe, a great granddaughter for Barbara Piggott.

Our next two of these special services for all ages span the Christmas period. On 5th December we will be giving some thought to preparing for Christmas, in a different way from the popular image and you will be able to take away a Children’s Society ‘candle box’ to put any spare pennies in during Advent. On 2nd January we will celebrate the visit of the three ‘wise men’ with their gifts. These services start at 10am, last about 35 minutes and are designed for everybody, including the youngest.
Christmas services
These are listed on the Christmas card accompanying this magazine and we hope to see you at one or more of them. If you would like an antidote to the hectic ‘secular’ lead up to Christmas, then the Advent Wednesday evening gatherings will offer some quiet reflective time. The candlelit carol service (19th) will include some carols sung by the Tatsfield Singers, our community choir, and there will be readings by representatives of some village organisations. Mince pies and mulled wine will follow. This Christmas Eve Christingle service has proved so popular that we now have two of them (3.30 and 5 pm) to avoid having to turn people away! Please come to whichever is more convenient for you. Children are invited to come dressed as shepherds, angels or wise men - a simple approximation will do! The crib figures of Mary and Joseph are welcomed back into church at the end of their journey round homes in the village. These services mark the real start of our celebration of Christmas and are always enjoyed by all, from the eldest to the very youngest. There will also be our traditional ‘midnight’ celebration of Holy Communion (at 11.30 pm!) and a service for all the family on Christmas morning. As usual, collections taken at all services over the Christmas period will go to the Children’s Society: this organisation does so much across the country to support children who have been very badly treated by adults and by society, and to turn their lives around.

Christmas Tableau
Many of you will remember the magnificent nativity scenes that have been created in the church entrance area over recent years. We are delighted that once again Sauro Gabelli will, with some help from family and friends, be constructing another tableau for us this Advent and Christmas. Do come along and have a look – he always incorporates some new features each year. Sauro will have worked very hard on this magnificent spectacle in the expectation of raising lots of money for the Children’s Society. Please try to include a donation in your visit – this may be put in the wall safe beside the oak cupboard not far from the tableau.

Annual Dinner. Sunday 5th December at 1 pm in Church Hall
Tickets for this are available from Jennie South (577598) or Mike Lambert (577790). £8.50 for adults and £5 for under 12s, with special rates for families. All are welcome.

Parish Records
7th November Baptism of Bethany Rose Kilgour

Flower Rota for December
There will be no flowers in the Church during Advent:
5th December - 2nd Sunday in Advent 12th December - 3rd Sunday in Advent
19th December - 4th Sunday in Advent

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Tuesday 21st December starting at 9.30am. If you would like to help with the floral arrangements you will be most welcome. Please contact me.

Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)
Leaving St. Petersburg was almost as complex as getting in and this was to become a recurring problem. Poor maps on our part and near non-existent signposts were not a happy combination - it took us two hours to find our way out of the city and onto the right road to Moscow. Once out of the big smoke, it was back into the er... big smoke. Unbeknownst to us, Russia was suffering from the biggest forest fires for a generation, and we were driving through the middle of them. It was one of the most disconcerting moments of the journey; thick, acrid smoke seeped into the car as the temperature rose – visibility was restricted to about 10 feet, but still other cars and lorries kept on driving, and so did we.

Despite having a tyre blow out whilst driving at 60mph, we did arrive in Moscow three days later; it was surreal to visit the church of St. Basil’s on Red Square, the coloured domes of which were both so familiar and so foreign. We treated ourselves to a good meal at a local restaurant away from the tourist traps. However, the following day, a case of what you may call the Trotskys blighted the team, the first of many I'm afraid to say. Without wanting to go into detail, suffice to say the Stalinist purges became a fact of life for the next few weeks.

From Moscow, we were bound for the Kazakh border at Astrakhan, a journey of 1500 miles. It was on this stretch we had our first encounter with the Russian police, not far from Volograd; we were pulled over for speeding. Chaz was driving and therefore he was the one taken to see “The Captain” who sat in the police car, hidden in a ditch away from the roadside. “You wan protocol?” he asked. “No”. This it turned out was the right answer to avoid lots of paperwork – in the end it only came down to one piece of paper; a nice crisp $20 bill. My brother and I thought this was a bargain, but not Chaz who it turns out had actually made a counter offer of 130 roubles, which equates to £2.60. It’s at this point I should point out that Chaz is half Scottish...

Having been camping by the roadside for several days, it was with delight that we arrived at Astrakhan, ready to treat ourselves to a hotel bed, food that wasn’t super noodles and a nice hot shower. You can imagine our consternation when we were told by the hotel receptionist, and then the manager, that they would not be able to take our booking, nor would any other hotel, because “our documents are not in order”. I suddenly thought for one moment we had drifted into a Cold War film. Yet as it turned out we had not got our immigration papers registered when we had
stayed in Moscow and therefore we fell upon the mercy of a local taxi driver. After the exchange of some roubles, he took us to a “hotel” where I imagine most of the guests didn’t require a room for the whole night. Out of there early next morning it was straight to the Kazakh border.

Kazakhstan is the 9th largest country in the world and we were to drive across it. Now, despite having grown up using Manor Road and Ninehams Road, the roads were still a shock! For much of the time, we could drive no faster than 20 mph as otherwise the vibrations were unbearable. Our shock absorbers actually snapped during this part of the rally, although we managed to have new ones fitted which were about double the size. Although the infrastructure may have been terrible, our experiences in Kazakhstan were perhaps the most positive. Wherever we went, people were excited to see us, keen to know what we were doing, always ready to assist in giving directions or advice, despite often not being able to speak a word of English. On more than one occasion, when we were lost trying to get out of a city, people actually got into their cars and drove us to the right road. The landscape was either barren desert or industrial jungle, void of friendliness, but its people more than made up for that.

From the Kazakh border city of Semey it was briefly back into Russia before arriving at the Mongolian border where we were held for two days. Here we met other rally teams, and despite the severe weather (it was now snowing) there were several communal games of cricket and football that managed to keep spirits up. Once the delays at the border crossing were resolved we were into Mongolia. The landscape was breathtakingly beautiful. Vast plains of verdant grass, ensconced by craggy mountains, it was how I imagine Narnia would be. Driving along, we would suddenly come across herds of wild horses, then camels, goats and sheep.

The roads were terrible in Kazakhstan, but at least they had them. In Mongolia, most of the time we followed dirt tracks or simply drove our own way across the landscape. It was this freedom that actually saved us in the Gobi Desert. The day before we had expected to arrive in Ulaan Baatar we were demob happy and had began to relax. This error meant that we had spent the whole day driving 200 km across very challenging terrain, in the wrong direction. Low on fuel, water and food (we hadn’t bothered to restock as we thought we were so close), morale plummeted. We spent a very stressful night in the desert, wondering how we were going to get out. No GPS, no mobile phone coverage and no people. We finally hit upon a plan to simply drive due north and by doing so, 7 hours later, we hit a road. From there, it was actually very easy going and we arrived in Ulaan Baatar a day later.

Driving across the finish line, we were reluctant at first to say it, but actually, our arrival was an anticlimax. It just goes to show that it’s the journey and not the destination that is important.

The finish line
This month’s profile is of Doreen Harper who has been a Tatsfield resident for 28 years. She was born in Coney Hall, West Wickham and has always lived in the local area including West Kingsdown, Orpington and Biggin Hill. She is fortunate to have her 3 children and their families close by too; Ian who is at Badgers Mount, Jackie at Sidcup and Colin at Bexleyheath. This allows her to see her 7 grandchildren (aged between 13 and 27) quite regularly. Sadly the same cannot be said of her older sister who lives in Canada but a cheap phone tariff ensures she keeps in touch along with the occasional visit.

Following the break up of her marriage in 1975, she wanted to become more involved and worked for a small Air Taxi company in Biggin Hill arranging flights and occasionally travelling to places like Le Touquet, Brussels and UK cities.

Her first husband’s involvement with Biggin Hill Round Table connected her to the Ladies Circle, which organised fundraising events and this led her to a job with the PDSA (People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals). She joined as a Regional Appeals Assistant and went on to become manager arranging fundraising events, flag days and recruiting volunteers. Following structural changes she was made redundant.

With her skills and previous experience in charity work she gained a position at the RSPCA as a branch co-ordinator. Her role was to act as a link between the branches in the South East and Headquarters, and ensure branches acted within the policies of the Society. There were times when this became rather difficult when visiting volunteer’s homes to discover, rather ironically, that perhaps their animals weren’t kept in the best of conditions! Then there was another occasion when, invited to tea, she found ferrets wandering around the worktops in the kitchen! Needless to say, she refused the cake!

One of her big achievements was to successfully negotiate the purchase of land at Snodland including gaining access rights and planning permission in order to build a new animal home.

To say Doreen is retired is a contradiction in terms as she is certainly a busy lady: she took over the organisation of a disabled club in Oxted where a team of
physiotherapists gave exercises every Wednesday, and she also organised transport and other volunteers to help. Sadly, the club had to close when the number of physios declined, but she still meets up with ex-members once a month.

In 1999 she joined Tatsfield WI and attempted to sit on the side-lines trying to avoid the committee work which she had been involved in during her working life. However, five years ago, with a declining committee, she joined the WI committee and found herself fast tracked to President! The survival of the WI is imperative if Tatsfield is to keep its much loved WI hall. The reason lies in its history. The hall was originally a Tabernacle Chapel in 1908 and in 1934 it was bought by two sisters. When they moved away, they offered the hall to the WI on the condition that it was only to be used for WI purposes and if not, the site would be closed and sold off to Headquarters.

Much work has been done to raise money to update the hall by decorating, putting in new heating and lighting and clearing the clutter! This has encouraged new hirers to the hall. The WI meet once a month and there are many activities arranged including craft club, darts, exercise, speakers, whist and the Wednesday morning ‘pop in’. One of the latest ventures is that each Institute is making a pennant which will be presented to every competitor during the 2012 Olympics. Having been President for some time, she would welcome a volunteer to take over the reins, so if anyone reading this would like the opportunity of safeguarding the future of the WI and the Hall, she would love to hear from you!

Her husband, Andrew, is very involved in the Horley Lions Club and she enjoys many of the social events organised by the Club, so much mileage is done between Tatsfield and Horley. In her spare time(!) she enjoys reading and a little bit of sewing and embroidery and, although she didn’t mention this, I bet she enjoys putting her feet up as well....and so she deserves to!

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**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE SOCIAL**

**Village Hall**

2.15 to 4.55 pm on Wednesday 8 December

- Glass of sherry
- Sweets and nibbles on each table with a lighted candle
- Tea and Coffee
- Free Raffle
- Hot mince pies and cream
- Christmas Crackers
- Free Quiz with prizes

Bring your own wine if you wish

£5 per person

Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550
Congratulations are in order for a Tatsfield couple who celebrated sixty years of marriage on October 21st. Bill and Pat Tyler enjoyed eight days holiday in Newquay, Cornwall, one of their favourite places in Britain.

It had been a long journey for Bill and Pat before finally reaching Tatsfield in December 1991. For Bill, the route began in Wandsworth, followed by Tooting, then Bournemouth, via many foreign lands during the Second World War.

Pat began hers in Somerset and then Parkstone, near Bournemouth. It was in Bournemouth where Pat was working in the Haven Hotel, Sandbanks that she met Bill, whose mother had a guest house in Boscombe.

In 1942 Bill’s mum signed on the dotted line; lying about Bill’s age of course (as he was only 17½) and Bill joined the Navy as a stoker, leaving Liverpool on the troop ship ‘Edinburgh’. He was eventually demobbed in 1946, having continued his journey via Malta, Gibraltar, Port Said (Suez Canal), Mombasa, Durban and Ceylon, thankfully avoiding injury along the way and returning to England on the cruise ship ‘Berwick’.

1950 was of course the year that Bill and Pat tied the knot. Having met in Bournemouth, they were now living with Bill’s brother in Streatham having married in Brixton Registry Office. Bill’s family (he was the youngest of six siblings) took Pat in as one of their own, as her mother and sister had by now emigrated to New Zealand, where her brother already lived. With their knot tightly tied, they continued to move themselves around the south east of England; from East Sheen to Averley, Essex, and back to Wimbledon.

Having worked as a chauffeur before and after the war, in 1969 Bill landed the sought-after position of caretaker at De Stafford School in Caterham. With the position came a brand new bungalow built in Caterham on the Hill for the new caretaker and his wife. Bill and Pat spent the following 22 years here until Bill retired and they reluctantly gave up the bungalow and moved to a flat in Godstone Road in 1991.

During this time Pat had worked in Westminster Hospital, the NAAFI in Kennington Lane and eventually for NatWest bank in the city and then Redhill.

Their journey finally ended on a snowy December day in 1991, when they came to Crossways Court. Bill and Pat have since become an integral part of Crossways. The famous hedge around the flats is something they waited a long time for and are also very grateful for. Each flat contributed £10, as did many other villagers and Tandridge District Council also helped. It was then down to Bob David, Jon Allbutt and other kind Tatsfield in Bloom volunteers to plant the hedge. At certain times of
the year Bill, Pat and other residents can be seen following behind Jon as he trims the hedge, picking up the debris!

You may also know Bill and Pat from walking their dogs around Tatsfield, but sadly Shep, their last dog, died three years ago. As for village activities, Pat enjoys Short Mat Bowls on Fridays and they are both members of the Not So Young Club.

Surprisingly, this ‘Diamond’ couple considered moving a while ago, but sensibly decided against it and now say they never want to leave their cosy flat in friendly Crossways Court!

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL SERVICES

HANDYPERSON SCHEME

Tandridge’s Handyperson undertakes essential and maintenance jobs that are too small for general contractors to price but are difficult for older and disabled people to tackle on their own e.g. install smoke detectors, small carpentry work, minor plumbing and electrical work. There is a charge.

To find out more contact the council on 01883 722000 or email customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk.

COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE

This gives elderly, ill or disabled people a 24 hour emergency alarm system in their own home, 365 days a year. The alarm is easily installed. The current charge is £3.70 a week. Demonstrations are free.

You can find out more by phoning 01883 716636 or email communityalarms@tandridge.gov.uk.
Correspondence:

Now, those of us that are waiting patiently for the return of visiting birds to our trees, lawns and feeders will be truly amazed by the following report, sent in by John Rosenbaum (Ricketts Hill Road):

‘Following on from the reported number of birds that seem to have disappeared during the late summer from our gardens (mainly due to the eclipse phase of their life), I wonder if you would be interested in my October observations:

In early October, around the 4\textsuperscript{th} & 5\textsuperscript{th}, very large flocks of \textbf{House Martins} and \textbf{Swallows} were flying down the valley at the back of our house. Some of the groups were well in excess of 50 birds. On the Monday, a fine day, I estimated well in excess of 2,000 birds during 1 hour of watching in mid afternoon.

During the following week, on Wednesday 13\textsuperscript{th}, flocks of \textbf{Redwings}, \textbf{Blackbirds} and \textbf{Mistle Thrushes} arrived from Scandinavia. At one time I counted 58 Redwing flying into the Yew Tree to feast on the berries. There were also groups of up to 20 Finches drifting through the Beech trees, feasting on the musk nuts & pinecones. \textbf{Blue, Great, Long Tailed, Coal and Willow Tits} also came in large numbers, fattening up for the coming winter after hiding away during their eclipse period.

Small numbers of \textbf{Starling} are also around, arriving from the near continent, and on 23\textsuperscript{rd} (October) a flock of 30+ \textbf{Lapwings} flew over the house heading west to east. There also seems to be a large number of raptors around, \textbf{Buzzards} drifting high above and around the open fields in the valley below Ricketts Hill Road, off Cudham Road. A young Male and Female \textbf{Sparrow Hawk} are regular visitors to our bird feeders, trying for an easy meal and on the 26\textsuperscript{th} a male \textbf{Peregrine} tried for a \textbf{Pigeon} in the garden, staying for a few moments on top of the feeder post.

On Saturday 30\textsuperscript{th} from 08:40 to 09:00 I observed in the garden and on the feeders:

\begin{itemize}
  \item 2 Collar Doves
  \item 6 Stock Doves
  \item 3 Woodpigeons
  \item 2 R.N. Parakeets
  \item 4 Coal Tits
  \item 3 Blue Tits
  \item 2 Great Tits
  \item 4 Nuthatches
  \item 2 Greenfinches
  \item 2 Chaffinches
  \item 2 Robins
  \item 1 Dunnocks
  \item 2 Starlings
  \item 2 Jays
\end{itemize}

And in the Trees:-

\begin{itemize}
  \item 5 Redwing
  \item 20+ Greenfinches and Chaffinches.
\end{itemize}
Then along came a Female Sparrow Hawk - exit all the above! She landed in a tree alongside two Wood Pigeons, stayed a few minutes then silently flew off. The first bird back on the nuts was a female Great Spotted Woodpecker.

So the birds have now returned to our gardens.'

Yes, indeed. But perhaps to some more than others, John! Thanks for a great report.

John sends magnificent observation reports. We have a copy of his, ‘Bird Observations, 1998-2008’, on file if anyone would like to see it. With this great interest comes knowledge, so I asked John to explain what he meant when he wrote that birds hide away during their ‘eclipse period’:

‘The ‘eclipse period’ of a bird happens each year, when the birds lose a large number of feathers and grow new ones. In other words, they moult. This happens after they have bred and before they migrate. Some birds, mainly ducks, geese and swans, lose all their feathers at one time and for a period are flightless.’

Linda Bennett also wrote in on this theme, with a link to a website:

‘Just thought you might be interested to read about the birds and their autumn moult. That might account for some birds disappearing for a while. They are probably all hiding in the woods eating berries!’

Thanks for this, Linda. Presumably, whilst incapacitated, they’re also staying well away from those furry hazards lurking in so many of our gardens. The website Linda recommends is that of ‘Vine House Farm’ (www.vinehousefarm.co.uk). As producers and suppliers of wild bird food, they not only give advice about how, what and when to feed wild birds, but also (as part of a fascinating range of articles) include postings such as, ‘Farm News’ and ‘Wildlife on the Farm’, which offer an interesting view of seasonal change from a truly rural perspective.

Bird Register:

Please remember that your Bird Register returns are due at the end of the month. I know there’s a lot going on at this time of the year, but your participation will be very much appreciated. Forms can be left at Linda’s or delivered to ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway. Will we see an increase on 28 returns? That depends on you!

I hope you all have a joyous Christmas and a Wondrous New Year!

Got a report? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s.
During the week beginning 11th October, Year 6 went to PGL Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. Here are some extracts from their diaries:

Monday - When we first arrived at Little Canada, I found out I was in a cabin with Olivia Browne and Daisy Buckle. I felt a tingling sensation of excitement. The cabins are really cosy. I can’t wait until bedtime. My first activity was Dragon’s Quest. When I first arrived there it looked really easy. When you actually go on it, it’s hard. My favourite part was going on the see-saw. The dinner we had was huge and I could only manage half of it but it was delicious.

By Francesca Bell

Tuesday - I woke up, had my breakfast and we went to our first activity. Mine was quad bikes. I was not extremely good, in fact I was rubbish but it was so much fun. Our next activity was Survivor. We had to build a tent. The instructor poured water over it to test to see if it was waterproof. Let’s just say I got soaked! Next we had inside rock climbing. I was not looking forward to this. I hate rock climbing because (1) I’m terrified; (2) I always go to about half way and can’t go any further. However, this time I got to the top! Hurray!

By Olivia Browne

Wednesday - Today we went to do Improving the Environment. It was fun because we went on a bug find. I found a slug. After that I was excited because we had Catwalk. I went all the way to the top. It was so high I forgot to be scared. Then, when I got down I was shivering because I was scared but it was fun.

By Amy Nairne

Thursday - After lunch we had Soils and Plants. It was cool. My favourite bit was drilling into the soil. But first we went to the meadow where we had to identify some of the plants. One was called wild carrot (it smelt a lot like carrot). Then we went to the woods and found a plant called stinking iris (it smelt like ravioli). Then we went to the salt marsh where there were loads of cacti-like plants. The mud was so bendy. That was because it was clay soil.

By Jak Smith

Friday - Today I had Giant Swing. We first had to pick a partner and I was with Ryan. We went right to the top. When the man says “Pull the cord”, you head towards the ground. I lost my tummy. It was really scary. I screamed so much the man said “You’ll frighten away all the wildlife!”

By Lewis Miller

We all met outside the activity zone, got our suitcases and put them on the coach. I was sad when we left Little Canada but at least I have done all of those amazing activities and I’m looking forward to seeing my family.

By Madison Monteith

Kevin Bellinger, Head Teacher
A big welcome to Holly Griffin who has just been enrolled. Also a big thank you to Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society who assisted us in taking the communications badge. We had great fun testing the different types of communication. Using all the Brownie senses of sight, sound, smell and taste, we tried out sign language, braille, the phonetic alphabet over a field radio, played games with walkie talkies and interacted with morse code equipment and even tried acting and miming to get the point over and out.

If you are aged 7 years, come and have some fun with us! If you are younger, you can go on our waiting list. In either case, please ring me.

Brown Owl (Tel: 01342 893742 /07860 938839)
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The meeting this month went very well, considering the committee was three members short. Even our worthy chairwoman was unavailable! However, we had a quiz (not the musical one, as promised, but a general knowledge, which seemed to be acceptable). The usual trip to Eastbourne for Christmas shopping had to be cancelled, as there was not enough interest, but we shall try to arrange a different outing after Christmas. So, members, give that a little thought and we will see what the general feeling is at the next meeting. The Christmas lunch on the 11th December will, as usual, be 1.30 p.m. for 2 o’clock. We all wish Enid and Michael Garrard much happiness in their new home (I think they have moved now?!!)

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

Below are details of the two December walks. All are welcome to this and the other walks, including dogs and their owners. Look out for details on the village noticeboards or contact Roger or Angela Sawyers on 577434.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday 5th December</th>
<th>Meet</th>
<th>10.45am on Ightham Mote car park (Map ref: TQ584535)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>5 miles, 3 hours, to Godden Green, one very steep hill and undulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Peter King</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday 26th December</th>
<th>Meet</th>
<th>11am at The Green, Godstone (Map ref: TQ350515)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk</td>
<td>5 miles, 3 hours, one short hill, pub stop at the Barley Mow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Dudley Turner</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Creating a Legacy from the Olympic Park

On Tuesday 9th November, the Horticultural Society staged its AGM at the Village Hall followed, as is customary, by the “Big Talk”. As we approach the 2012 Olympics, it was somewhat apt that this year’s topic was the Olympic Park development project, and many thanks to Phil Askew, Deputy Director at the Olympic Delivery Authority, for lighting up the evening with such an entertaining talk. The conversation over food
and drink afterwards was all about how soon we could get to see progress in the park for ourselves.

You may wonder about the connection between the THS and the Olympics? As it turns out, the development of the Olympic Park, a few sporting facilities aside, is a massive horticultural and landscaping project! There was me thinking it was just a question of designing a stadium and putting it up – but not a bit of it. The challenge has been huge, made clear from Phil's talk how much planning and attention to detail has been involved.

The most interesting aspect for me (and for Phil) is the amount of thought and effort that have gone into developing a legacy for the South East. I have seen the pictures of the Athens Olympic facilities whose cracks and weeds tell the story of disrepair and neglect. £9bn is a huge sum to spend, but those of us at the Village Hall started to appreciate why this project has cost so much. 32 bridges have been built on the park, one of which is big enough to house the Festival Hall. Many of the structures are temporary or will need to be reduced in size after the Games, so the design work has been an extreme challenge technically.

The Olympic Village, temporary home to 16,000 athletes, will become housing – half of it "affordable". The 80,000 seater stadium has a removable top tier – turning it into a 25,000 capacity venue – much more useful in the long run. Five miles of tunnels have been built below the site to house the power cables that criss-crossed the location before work started to allow the numerous cranes easy access.

The site, which straddles the River Lea near Stratford, has been something of a dumping ground for the less salubrious by-products of London town over the last 100 years. In preparing the site they discovered a Victorian street buried under 30 feet of accumulated waste. Amazingly they only found 2 bodies – I am not sure how recently they were left!

Even more surprisingly perhaps, an immense amount of work has been put into biodiversity – including reviving the river, building frog ponds, annual meadows, otter holts and creating rare habitats, such as tidal woodland. Much of the topsoil was contaminated and has been cleaned, mainly on site to avoid unnecessary journeys and occupying landfill. The park is the biggest to be built in Europe in over 150 years, and includes a half mile long herbaceous border. All the trees have been grown in England and are mainly native species, including London Plane trees 2 storeys high and weighing 4.5 tonnes.

In the words of the Baron de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics, “The important thing in life is not to triumph but to compete”. That would serve as the perfect by-line for the entrants in the Horticultural Society shows!

For further information about visiting the site, go to www.viewtube.co.uk.
As for the Horticultural Society’s AGM, the business was rattled through in quick time. I reported the busy year of activities carried out by the Society and thanked the committee for all their hard work. Alan Armitage presented the accounts, which showed the Society to be in a satisfactory position. After two years as chairman, a job I have very much enjoyed, I handed over to Teresa Watts, who, I am sure, will lead the Society with great enthusiasm. Two of our committee stood down – Julie Scott and Lynseyanne Shaw – but we hope they will return before long. So, the committee for the next year will be: President: Bob David, Chairman: Teresa Watts, Secretary: Sue Warren, Treasurer: Alan Armitage, Members: Jon Allbutt, Martin Allen, Philip Brett, Guy Deterding, Rosie Fuller, Carol Gaskell, Roger Pearce, Angela Sawyers and Gerald South.

Guy Deterding

W.I.

At our November meeting Peter Shearnan, ably assisted by his wife, gave an exceedingly interesting talk on The Life and Works of Rudyard Kipling. He began by playing “On the Road to Mandalay”, one of Kipling’s poems set to music and explained how Kipling’s background shaped his writings.

(Joseph) Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay (Mumbai), India. His father, John, was an artist/sculptor and writer who worked in the Bombay School of Art. Rudyard was born there in 1865. The Raj custom was to send children to school in England – good for discipline as they were often spoiled by their ayahs – so at the age of 6 he was packed off to England. He wasn’t happy; he hated sport – he had poor eyesight and his greatest pleasure was when the headmaster put him in charge of the school magazine, for which he wrote stories and did drawings.

At the age of 16½ his father found him a job on a newspaper in Lahore. He wrote poems and sent articles back to the UK and published books of verse. He undertook to write novels for the Raj to take up to the Hill Stations when on vacation. His satirical verses and short stories, such as ‘Plain Tales from the Hills’ (1888) and ‘Soldiers Three’ (1982) won him a reputation in England. He crossed the world writing articles about his travels which he sent back to newspapers – rather like Alistair Cook. He disliked American language but approved of Mark Twain as “a man with eyes”. He wrote Barrack room ballads – some became well known songs such as “On the Road to Mandalay”. In 1889 he settled in London and married an American woman in 1891. They then lived in Vermont for 4 years. He gave lectures and readings in the USA rather as Charles Dickens had done before. In one case he has an everlasting memorial to his name, a town named Kipling on the north shore of Lake Michigan and another named Rudyard. His first Jungle Book was illustrated by his father and was followed by Jungle Book 2.
Back in England with 2 daughters born in 1893 and 1896, the family lived in Rottingdene, near Brighton. Son John was born in 1897. They loved Sussex – Kipling wrote the song “Sussex by the Sea”. He refused an invitation to become a Poet Laureate and also refused a knighthood. Rottingdene was getting busy so in 1903 they bought Batemans near Burwash and were very happy there. In 1907 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1908 he met Baden Powell and wrote a Boy Scout song for him.

The Great War took his son, John, who joined the army in 1915 – only to be killed in September 1915. Kipling was heartbroken. He died in January 1915 aged 72. His widow Carrie said “He died at 12 noon, our wedding day - we had been married for 45 years”.

Our next meeting is the Christmas Party on 7th December, followed by the district Carol Service at Brasted Church on 12th December.

Margaret Bishop

1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

With Christmas rapidly approaching, all the sections are gearing up for their own particular outings or parties arranged by the section leaders. Beavers and Cubs are having parties as well as completing very busy programmes, whilst the Scouts have chosen to go bowling followed by pizza with the Explorers going up to London for a meal. To end the term the Beavers will be making festive door hangers and trying their hand at candle dipping. Four of the Beavers will be presented with the Chief Scout Bronze Award before they return in January as Cub Scouts. Cubs are also getting crafty making both Christmas cards and gifts to take home, with 5 of them preparing to join the Scout Troop next year. Not to be left out, the Scouts will also be candle dipping and trying their hand at some Christmas crafts.

After a well earned Christmas break all sections return the week commencing Monday 10th January 2011, but before that the Beavers and Cubs will be going to see the pantomime at the Barn Theatre Oxted, always a very popular visit, which this time is Cinderella, so we will all be booing and hissing the baddies and cheering on the good guys. A fabulously fun night if not a little noisy!

I can’t believe that another year is almost over and how many activities and badges all the sections have undertaken and achieved. The programmes are the work of all the leaders and helpers who continue to provide fantastic opportunities for the young people and I would like to thank them all for their continued support and commitment. I would also like to take this opportunity in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I will be letting you know what all the sections have in store for 2011 as the group goes from strength to strength.

Helen Brand, Group Scout Leader
(Tel: 01883 380742/07736 230068 - Email: tatsfield.gsl@googlemail.com)
DECEMBER NOTES

Throughout the year following last winter there has been a lot of discussion about the damage caused to plants by the hard frosts and cold wind. Many writers are having to re-think their previously overly enthusiastic recommendations to try growing plants in the south that wise old heads considered to be half hardy. Garden centre labelling of plants is giving us the impression that climate change is here and we are already in a Mediterranean climate – not so apparently! So what is a hardy plant? On the basis of our experiences of plants growing in defined climatic regions, we are able to say that a particular plant is known to be hardy, half hardy or tender. A hardy plant is one that can tolerate air and ground frosts up to, or down to, a certain level, perhaps more than -10C. But whilst foliage might be affected, the roots may not; age, site and situation are also important factors. A plant in a sheltered west or south facing aspect is more likely to tolerate very low temperatures than the same plant in a more exposed situation. What we do know is that many plants died this year, including many evergreens that suffered severe damage to the foliage as a result of the strong easterly winds.

A further factor in the loss or survival of garden plants is whether they are in a pot or other container as this makes their roots much more vulnerable to frost damage. Many containers are also left standing in water over winter and this causes roots to rot but also to develop potentially fatal lesions in the root and lower stem. You can see these on the stem near to soil level; they look a bit like a burst pipe, which is exactly what happened! The tiny water-conducting vessels in the stem froze and burst; this is what killed my Callistemon (Bottle Brush) that I was training into a round-headed standard. So move your container-grown plants nearer the house, take them out of the pot, cover or remove the tray, and put them up on bricks.

This year we have had an early leaf fall for once, although our Oak trees continue to hang on stubbornly until we have some ‘proper’ air frosts. Composting them is a very slow process because winter temperatures are lower and the leaves are full of substances like tannin, lignin and cellulose that make it very difficult to break them down quickly. Some leaves, like those of the Plane, will not rot at all even if they are shredded! A good way to speed up the process is to mix them up with layers of fresh grass, vegetable waste and twiggy material - give the mixture a good drink with rainwater and leave for several months before turning. Turning is essential to ensure air levels, and moisture, are maintained. In the spring mix again with more fresh green waste and continue the process until it is all broken down into a crumbly dark brown odourless material ready to put on the garden. Although not rich in nutrients, garden compost is a vital ingredient in a healthy soil as it is broken down by soil microorganisms and this process indirectly releases nutrients essential for plant growth. Having a healthy amount of organic matter in your soil is very important to maintain balance and good growth.

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