FEBRUARY 2011

PARISH MAGAZINE

Tatsfield

THIS ISSUE

• HENRY WILKINSON & MAY O’CONNOR REMEMBERED
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• GARDENING ON TATSFIELD CLAY • MARGARET PARSONS’ 80th

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TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of the Tatsfield Churches

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• Village Website www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. 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 Please state if not for publication.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,

Not surprisingly many recent magazine editorials and other content have emphasised the achievements of groups and organisations, noting how much can be achieved when people cooperate as a team. We have even quoted John Donne: “No man is an island …”.

As in so many areas to do with human beings, there is also another angle. To function well, teams usually need leaders, those who have the skills and commitment to provide vision, to inspire, to encourage and to organise, to mention but a few such characteristics. Fortunately Tatsfield has such people and we have often read about them in the magazine – this month’s edition is certainly no exception, with one outstanding example!

I had just been reading the usual New Year’s Eve content of the newspaper where various celebrities – for example the great and the good from show business, commerce, television - had been asked what they intended to do during the following year. Their dreams seemed to consist of no more than visiting exotic places across the world, drinking better quality wine, sampling famous restaurants, moving to their idyllic house and the like.

Then I found an article entitled “Fifty ways to feel better about yourself in the New Year”. Yes, it also mentioned a few self indulgences although they were on a somewhat more modest scale, but also included were hints on keeping physically fit, ways of reducing one’s damaging environmental impact on the world and ideas for relating better and more constructively with other people, including those less fortunate than ourselves.

This I found much more heartening and likely to promote fulfilment, and I was then even more cheered to read of all those who had been awarded New Year Honours through faithful service to their local communities, those who have not sought fame or riches but have quietly committed themselves to the well being of others.

We all have varied talents, experiences and degrees of confidence but it is up to us how we choose to use them. No one else can tell us what we should do with our time and skills: the responsibility is ours. For a Christian, all these are seen as gifts – gifts to be enjoyed and to be shared, gifts which call for a response of giving something back. Isn’t it inspiring to see those – and not only those from the Christian community – who seem to live out this vision in everyday life.

Gerald South

COVER

This month’s cover picture is of a scene in Tatsfield’s twinned town, Vern d’Anjou in France. Vern has a “Rue de Tatsfield” and Tatsfield has a “Vern Place”. It is the turn this Easter of Tatsfield to host the visitors from our twinned town and there is more about that, and about the opportunity to get involved by acting as hosts, in the article on pages 50 and 51.
Dear Editor,

Thanks

I should like to thank Andy Shrubb for all the help she gave the rest of us in the flats during the long period of snowy conditions in December.

Dot Bruno-Gaston, Crossways Court

Dear Editor,

The Snowy and Icy Spell

In January 1960 my parents moved to Tatsfield. As children, my brothers, sister and I enjoyed an idyllic childhood, even in the bad winters when my brothers would be out clearing neighbours’ paths and roads.

Scroll forward 50 years: my mother is in her 80s, not in the best of health and now on her own. The fact that my parents worked hard to buy their own house now means she is not entitled to live in a flat at Crossways Court.

During the 12 days of snow and ice in December when we could not get to see her, she saw just one person. There were no offers to clear her path or take her shopping in a 4x4. I would just like to ask people to please remember that there are other senior citizens in Tatsfield who do not like to make a fuss but would benefit from a ‘good neighbour’.

Mrs. Susan Gidley, Hildenborough, Kent

P.S. My mother does not know I have put pen to paper.

Editor: We all know that a huge amount was done in the village by families, friends and neighbours as well as by Parish Councillors and volunteers to ‘look after’ those who needed help during the snowy and icy period in December. We all thought and hoped that everyone in need had been covered but it looks as though we should all try harder in future and should try to think of those around us who, even though they haven’t asked, might need help or who might welcome a knock on the door.
Dear Editor,

The Christmas Party in the Village Club

I would like to congratulate the organisers of the Children’s Christmas Party held at the Village Club on 18th December. The snow made it really hard for parents, grandparents and child minders to attend to their charges, but they arrived steadily and Vikki and Paul Cooling took charge assisted by Maria and Sean Sparkes.

Games of all types were organised and these tots threw themselves into them with enthusiasm. I believe all who helped should be congratulated.

Dennis Tapsell, Westerham

Dear Editor,

Crazy, Daft or Just Stupid

I served a 5-year apprenticeship as an electrician at SEEboard at Littlehampton in Sussex with a wage of 7 shillings and sixpence (35 p) a week. During that time I went for 5 years to Brighton Technical College (now a University) and got the start of my qualifications that would eventually get me a job and a career with the BBC. Upon completion of my 5 years I was called to the head office SEEboard and given my “dentures” as they were laughingly called. The bowler hatted man manager (Mr Howkins) on handing me this “cerstifacate” told me “whatever governments come along and tax you up to the eyeballs they can never take away from you your qualifications as an electrician and you will always get a job in that profession, world wide”.

So over 40 years later and after working for the BEEB for 41 years in the best job ever that I loved, I was suddenly asked by a friend, “Could I come and have a look in her airing cupboard?”. She had earlier tried to switch on her immersion heater and heard a loud bang. Consequently, there was no hot water and I soon found out when I went around to her place with my high voltage insulation tester (it’s called a megger), that the heater had gone short circuit to earth and needed replacing. This triggered a memory stick in my brain way back that when we “sparks” fitted such heaters in new houses, we were allowed just 20 minutes to drill the new copper tank, insert the male and female threaded flange, and with a slight smear of Vaseline, screw in the new immersion heater and put a 3 feet long butyl “tail”. Job done and believe it or not, we even had time to spare!

Much to my amazement I now find that since July 2006 I am no longer allowed to help out my neighbour and change her immersion heater. The reason is I don’t have the necessary certificate to say that I have been tested by a person in
authority who can say that I’m well enough qualified to do the job. Oh by the way this is (apparently) a piece of paper that costs some £480 annually to every electrician. To that is added a further £1.50 signed by the electrician for another certificate per household! This first bit of money (apparently) goes to a “body” and that amount has to be added (of course) to each customer on top of their normal bill! But, believe it or not, every electrician has to be checked each and every year for this £480. I’m sure Mr. Howkins would have turned in his grave.

And Another Thing. Moan Moan

The question of sheds along Paynesfield Road having some problems was raised at the last Police Forum meeting at the Parish Room. People do get fed up with these “burgly Bills” trying to help themselves to things which you have worked hard to gather together in past years. One of those who had “received a visit” showed me his shed that had a window smashed in. He had reinforced it with metal mesh behind and this was also pushed through into his shed. I asked him if he had called the Police. He immediately showed his annoyance and explained to me that he had another property in the village, which had a forced entry made by some drug users. He was visited by a lady Police detective who told him that in trying to make it secure, “if he happened to put anything that could cause injury to a prospective burglar, that the perpetrator could possibly prosecute him for causing that injury!”. Unbelievable! It reminds me of when I was in America giving a lecture to an aeroplane-minded audience, where it seems they listen to the English news bulletins. Coincidentally at that time in this country, a farmer Martin had just been put in prison for shooting a “regular” well-known burglar. I was told in no uncertain terms by those Americans “over here we would give him a medal!”.

Dave Bishop, The Square

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**MAGAZINE MATTERS**

**Next Issue:** The March Magazine should be delivered to you from 26 February onwards.

**Donations to the Magazine:** Each year, the Magazine invites its readers to make a donation to its funds. We have always had a generous response, which has helped us to keep producing a free Magazine for every household in the parish every month and has enabled us to achieve a sound financial position and to continue to improve the magazine. Our request this year comes in the slip delivered with this month’s Magazine.

We are grateful meanwhile for the generous donations made by village organisations, the latest of which was from St. Mary’s Church.

**Inserts:** Coming with this Magazine, in addition to the inserts slip, is a leaflet about tennis coaching for 4 to 8 year olds in the Village Hall.
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Tatsfield School Admissions Policy: There is news elsewhere in the magazine about the petition to Surrey County Council calling for measures to ensure that Tatsfield children are always first in the queue to get into our school. There are fears that present County policy will mean siblings from outside Tatsfield getting priority next year. At the January Parish Council meeting I expressed the view that if Tatsfield children are refused admission to the new school after so much effort went into getting it, their parents would be entitled to think that we have been conned. The question therefore was, for whose benefit was six million pounds of public money spent, parish land transferred to Surrey County Council and several acres of sensitive Green Belt lost? If it wasn’t for Tatsfield, perhaps we should have been told in the first place.

The McHugo Building and Car Park: The essential building maintenance work has been taking place and remedial works to the car park, with protective barriers around the lighting bollards now in place. The faulty drainage for the collapsible bollards still needs to be fixed.

Tatsfield Green Footpath Extension: There was an excellent turnout at the public meeting in the Aileen McHugo building to discuss the possible northward extension of the improved footpath on Tatsfield Green. This would either continue along the eastern verge along Ricketts Hill Road or be constructed at the edge of the ‘Millennium Wood’ on the other side of the road. Jon Allbutt explained that all the land was common land owned by the Parish Council and acknowledged the implications for any path where access to houses crosses parish land. At the end of the discussion, those who believed a path was needed were roughly evenly divided over which route to take. Consultation continues.

Emergency Plan: Many thanks to those who have volunteered their services or equipment if needed in a future parish emergency. If you haven’t already yet let us know, but believe you have skills, chainsaws, four-wheel drive vehicles or any other equipment that you are willing to use to help fellow villagers, please email tatsfieldplan@btinternet.com.

Broadband: Suddenly, there are indications that we may soon see faster broadband speeds in Tatsfield. Some of us have had messages from BT saying that 29 June will see a significant improvement!

Ian Mitchell for 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 14 February at 7.30 p.m.
TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tatsfield School Admissions: Readers will be aware from correspondence in the magazine and articles written by Jon Allbutt and me of the possibility of insufficient places being available in any year for all Tatsfield children wanting to gain admission to Tatsfield School. This might arise in the year ahead – the school year beginning in September 2011 - or in any future year. If it did, some Tatsfield children would have to travel – somehow – to a school elsewhere. To most of us who live in Tatsfield, this makes no sense and it is not what we thought the long and hard fight for the new school was for.

If any Tatsfield children failed to gain admission in any year, this would happen not because there were insufficient places to accommodate all Tatsfield children – the annual intake figure of 30 would be more than enough – but because the current rules give priority to siblings (i.e. brothers and sisters) from outside Tatsfield over non-sibling Tatsfield children. So for example, if there were 20 sibling applicants (from within and outside Tatsfield) in any year, there would be room for just 10 non-sibling Tatsfield children and any in excess of that number would not succeed.

The admission rules are not set by the school but by the education authority, Surrey County Council. It is the clear wish of the village as a whole that the rules should be changed so that, if the school is over-subscribed, Tatsfield children are given priority over the siblings of children in the school who live outside Tatsfield, which will ensure that all Tatsfield applicants will gain entry in future. So, in the last few weeks parents and other villagers have been busy getting signatories to a petition to the County Council urging this change, and the Parish Council has decided to make a submission to the County Council setting out the case in full.

It is intended that the submission and the petition will be presented to the County Council at a public meeting at the WI Hall on 27 January, which has very helpfully been organised by County Councillor David Hodge.

Planning Decisions: The latest decisions by Tandridge on Tatsfield planning applications are:

**Approved**
2 Pond Cottages: Erection of single storey rear extension
Grey Gables, Ricketts Hill Road: Erection of 2-storey rear extension
3 Grove Villas, Grove Road: Erection of single storey rear extension
Land adjacent 39a Paynesfield Road: Erection of attached 4-bed dwelling
1 Paynesfield Road: Demolition of existing lean-to store and erection of extension to existing garage and enclosure of existing porch
Refused
Land adjacent 39A Paynesfield Road: Erection of 2 x 2-bed dwellings attached to No. 39A
Hawthorns, Greenway: Erection of extension to roof, increase in ridge height and conversion to habitable room.
Land between Pine Lodge and St Elmo, Maesmaur Road: Erection of detached single storey dwelling

In addition, an appeal in respect of the erection of a 2-storey rear extension at Pipersdene, Parkwood Road was dismissed by a Government planning inspector.

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

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council Budget for 2011/12: In June 2009 when Dr Andrew Povey became the new Conservative Leader at Surrey County Council, he invited me to become his Deputy and one of the key roles that he asked me to lead on was a complete review of all services and department costs. We recognised that over a four-year period we needed to reduce all costs by £180m; starting with reducing costs during financial year 2010/11 of £60m. Many of you will also recall that after the General Election in June 2010 the new Government also imposed further reductions of grants to Local Government once they found the true picture of the substantial debt that Labour left the country to find. In Surrey we were asked to absorb a further £6m of cuts this financial year. I am pleased to advise that at this stage of the financial year we are heading in the right direction to make these £66m savings.

There are serious financial pressures on the County Council budget. Some of these are: 8% increase in birth rate which means finding over £145m during the next five years to ensure we have enough school places for our children; we have the highest number of over 85s in the country, which continues to put pressure on adult social care costs; we know that we need over £380m to bring all Surrey roads to a good standard; the cost of children in care is increasing and there are many other demands.

Substantial work has been undertaken during the last 19 months to reduce costs, particularly in major contracts, cutting out unnecessary waste, improving efficiencies and delivering services in different but more imaginative ways. We have conducted 11 Public Value Reviews of services and departments which are contributing to the overall cost reductions for County Council and to date savings of £74m over the next four years have been found; this will also produce annual savings in excess of £27m per year from 2014/15. There are a further 11 Public
Value Reviews ongoing and another five to be completed during 2012/13. In all, these Public Value Reviews will make a major contribution to reducing costs and holding down council tax levels in years to come.

The Government has announced further spending cuts required of all local authorities for the next two financial years. Surrey County Council has lost 14.3% of our grant from Government for 2011/12 and a further 11% for 2012/13. In addition the Government has also announced that it is reviewing how Local Government is funded going forward with a new system to be introduced in 2013/14.

The Leader and I are determined to set the new council tax as a 0% increase on 8 February 2011 for the financial year 2011/12.

**Winter Maintenance:** Some of the lessons from the 2009 winter have seen improvements but there is still work to do to improve further in the future. I am pushing Legal Officers to work at findings ways in order that Bromley Council can be approached to undertake the winter maintenance for the Tatsfield area as it makes logical sense. As I write this article on 15 Jan, I have received confirmation from my Cabinet Colleague for Highways that they are now expecting a further four tons of salt to arrive by end of January. This should be enough salt to see SCC through this winter.

**Paynesfield Road- Top End:** This is now on the Highway list of works to be completed at some date in the future. The Leader and I are working on a Highway Improvement Plan which we will put to the Council for decision on 8 February. The proposed extra investment and better new contract management should allow more work to be completed on the highways in Surrey. In addition the new Highway contract from 1 April ensures that the new contractor is responsible for all potholes and that they are required to fix potholes on a once-only basis – when a pothole reappears they will have to refill that pothole from their own financial resources.

**Lusted Hall Lane:** This is scheduled to be surface dressed during the new financial year thus preserving the life of the road.

**Tatsfield School:** I have a meeting with the Senior Officer at Surrey County Council responsible for School Admissions Policy in early February and I propose to advise the Parish Council at their meeting on 14 February of the latest position. I hope that the public meeting that I am setting up for Thursday 27 January will have helped many residents with their concerns.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
Join us & enjoy fantastic music from 
The Andy Smythe Band, Chris Moreton and  
A Band Like Alice

Performance starts at 7.30 pm
Tickets £10 (concessions £8)
can be obtained from
Tony Watson on 01959 576540 or
Jon Allbutt on 01959 576481

For those of you who wish to make an “evening of it”,
Andrew at the Bakery is going to open sharp and
assures us he can provide a meal in rapid time so that
you can still be in the Village Hall with time to spare.
In order to make this happen logistically, book at the
Bakery on 01959 577605.
At 8.30 am, Tuesday, 1st January, 89 years old, Henry Wilkinson passed quietly away in his cottage in the Approach Road. “Wilky”, as I always knew him, moved to Tatsfield in the 1950s, seeking a quieter, more sedate environment to work as an artist/craftsman/engraver and such was the quality of this work that several years later he became a “living-legend”, when his next door neighbour, Ronnie Ormonde, opened a restaurant in Westerham and in admiration named it “The Henry Wilkinson“.

Henry was born in Bath. The family then moved to Winchester where he was brought up and educated. Young Henry was fascinated by skill and craft, in all its forms, so as a lad he frequently escaped via the bedroom window to watch a local gunsmith at work – his first experience of engraving. He also spent many hours at the local forge, studying the farrier and augmenting his pocket money.

The Second World War loomed and Henry joined the Navy, doing various tasks until, while gas mask testing, he encountered a non-worker, resulting in a medical discharge and a life-long dependence on an inhaler. He completed his education in the Lake District and duly moved south, working at repairing bomb-damaged buildings and artefacts, some direct commissioned art work and started to engrave the printing plates for his illustrations, which until very recently he printed with his 18th/19th century printing presses. The accuracy, detail and colour-consistency of this work was mind blowing.

One of his good friends was Reverend Vivian Symons, who moved a bombed church from London and re-built it at Biggin Hill. Henry was on hand for advice in so many areas, especially the engraved glass windows using a dentist drill!! He was one of the fortunate minority whose work was also his consuming interest and chief hobby. He taught engraving at the City and Guilds of London Art School for many years. He also carved the inscription “Freedom under Law” at Runnymede. All around London are examples of his carving and engraving skills in stone, wood and various metals. He also made the font in the RAF chapel at Biggin Hill and the carved teak bench outside it. He actually refused the offer of the Presidency of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers purely as the time-consuming element of this appointment would infringe on and disrupt his work output.
His passion for the wonders of Mother Nature, whether living or growing wild, meant that most villagers at some time saw him deeply studying the hedgerows, ditches and trees while passing in the Approach Road. His unfailing eye for detail, and amazing dexterity, means that these images and countless others are captured for eternity in his enormous raft of art work – nearly all of rural scenes or country pursuits.

The latter years of his life were plagued by prostate cancer but he “wound-down” very gradually. He continued to produce work of the highest standard, just a little less of it. He was quite blunt and dismissive of people whose self-opinion wasn’t justified but he always had a lot of appreciative things to say about good quality craft in every form, especially local people or “chaps” as he always said.

He married in 1956 and leaves a widow, Peggy, daughter Hannah and grandchildren Edward and Joanna. His legend will be kept alive by his works for a tremendous long time.

Tony Watson

TATTY KNITTERS

Well, I’ve already broken my New Year’s resolution – I’ve got lovely new wool! Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8 February at the WI Hall, 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Just £2 to include tea and cake. Hope to see you.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

ST. MARY’S GOT TALENT
Presented by St. Mary’s Junior School
7.30 pm on Saturday 12 February

BACK TO THE FUTURE – A CELEBRATION OF THE ‘MODERN DAY CROONER’
Presented by the New Foxtrot Serenaders
7.45 pm on Friday 18 February
Tickets from www. barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811

SHOW 2011
Presented by Dynamic Theatre Arts Academy
7 pm on Saturday 19 February
Tickets from 07971 687719
TATSFIELD CHOIR – TOUCHING TINY LIVES

So many of our village activities were thwarted due to the amazingly cold and snowladen conditions in December. However, although the choir was not able to fulfill all our promised performances, nevertheless we have, with the generosity of villagers here and also in Biggin Hill, been able to raise a very gratifying amount of money for our chosen charity.

It seems so long ago now, but on Friday December 17 with the kind assistance of 4x 4 owner, Tara Barry, the choir mistress and I were able to boost the choir numbers outside the Ship for the Carols Singalong. Our trusty band of singers who could walk there and those brave enough to drive there, enjoyed a beautiful evening of singing with the villagers. The pub ran out of mulled wine - we are a thirsty lot - and the band had to be flexible with their music as their instruments kept freezing up. Santa was as generous as always and so was his elf. We managed to collect £79.80 in our bucket collection, in memory of Lesley Irving, our past chairman for Tatsfield's branch of Action Medical Research.

Even though only one brave singer managed to attend Waitrose in Biggin Hill to sing on the appointed evening, Waitrose have told me we collected enough green buttons from all you thoughtful shoppers to earn £538 from the community chest. They will be sending the cheque to our group for Action Medical Research shortly. I know that money will benefit our community because Action Medical Research does such amazing work and this year they have been concentrating particularly on premature babies and how to help them grow up healthy in spite of their early appearance. That focus is called Touching Tiny Lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the choir for being so stalwart, talented, and fun to be with, to say nothing of our wonderfully enthusiastic teacher Alex Deterding and the secretary and treasurer who hold everything together.

Dawn Forrester-Groom
FEBRUARY SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)

✦ All your fresh fruit and vegetables. Try something different for a change – just ask Tony or Di what they suggest
✦ Cut flowers
✦ Pot plants
✦ Pet and wild bird food
✦ Tinned and frozen food
✦ Free delivery to your home
✦ Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)

PM – price marked items
✦ Coke/Diet Coke 1.5 ltr £1.10
✦ Tango Orange/R. Whites Lemonade PM £1.29 now only 89p
✦ Highland Spring Water 50 cl 2 for 50p
✦ M&Ms/Planets/Minstrels/Malteesers 2 for 80p
✦ Frys Turkish Delight/Orange Cream/Chocolate Cream/Peppermint Cream 2 for £1
✦ Hellmans Mayonnaise PM £1.75 now only £1.25
✦ Kelloggs Special K PM £2.59 and Special K Red Berries PM £2.99 now both £2.09
✦ Kelloggs Fruit Winders 3 for £1
✦ Walkers Cheese & Onion/Ready Salted Crisps 2 for 70p
✦ Tetley Redbush Tea Bags now only £1
✦ Pedigree Chicken Chunks in jelly/Original loaf/Chicken in Gravy 2 for £1
✦ Parazone Bleach 750 ml 57p
✦ Utterly Butterly PM £1.69 now £1
✦ Cathedral City Mature/Extra Mature Cheddar PM £2.49 now £1.49
✦ Sunny Delight 1 ltr now £1
✦ Admirals Pie/Mariners Pie £1

**Half Price Valentine’s and Easter Deals**
✦ Thorntons Premium Collection (Valentine’s) 310g £3.99
✦ Dairy Box 200g/Black Magic 188g both £1.64
✦ Cadburys Creme Egg/Caramel Egg 2 for 85p

**Half Price Deals**
✦ Sharwoods Black Bean and Red Pepper/Sweet Sour Sauce 79p
✦ Hob Nob Cookies 50p
✦ Goodfellas Thin Pizzas £1.39
✦ Head and Shoulders Shampoo £1.30

GARDENING IN TATSFIELD CLAY!

Have you cursed at the heavy, clumpy, unworkable clay in your garden? There may be a way of overcoming this! Read how in Jon Allbutt’s article on page 64.
May and her husband Johnnie moved to Tatsfield in 1965. They came, with their three children and some pigs, to a smallholding in Shaw Road called ‘Thistledown’. The bungalow consisted of two rooms, a lean-to kitchen and a bathroom. Whilst an extension was being built, May, Johnnie and the youngest son lived in the main part and the two older children lived in a caravan.

As the children grew up, the farm had a variety of animals: sheep, turkeys, chickens and the occasional pony. May was very actively involved in the day-to-day care of the animals and the work was hard and never-ending. The swill was cooked up in an old steam boiler and May was a midwife to many a litter of pigs. Christmas was always a very busy time with Johnnie killing the turkeys and May plucking them .... the kitchen table was a macabre sight at this time of year with legs and heads strewn everywhere! Over the years they kept a few sheep and May, as always, rose to the challenge of being a shepherdess. One of the neighbours told us of the time the cows from Lusted Hall Farm had escaped into the field next to May and Johnnie’s house and how May could be seen in her wellies with a big stick ushering them out into the lane.

May and Johnnie’s house was always a happy inviting home. Many a party was held in the back room until the early hours of the morning and always the sound of children could be heard playing in the fields. Every summer May’s sister Bridie would come from Ireland and stay for three months and the vast family members and friends often popped in to see the family.

By the 1980s, the European Community laws had changed and the pig trade for small businesses came to an end. However, despite this, May still kept herself busy running the home, looking after the children and cooking the dinners on the wood burning Rayburn, chopping up the wood and still feeding the other animals. Decorating the house was a job she enjoyed and her garden was a constant joy to her. She was often out cutting the grass, trimming the hedges and sweeping up the leaves. The display of dahlias in the front border was spectacular. May also took a great comfort in the church and would go regularly with Isobel Edwards and Bridie Higgs, her two close friends.

By 1987 Johnnie’s health had deteriorated and over the next 13 years May lovingly cared and looked after him. Sadly, he died before their 50th wedding anniversary, which upset her enormously.
Despite this, May remained a strong force within the family: She looked after the grandchildren at weekends, cooked Sunday dinners and on Saturdays she baked scones and apple pies ready for the many visitors.

In 2005 May had a fall and broke her hip. She was diagnosed with osteoporosis and became increasingly frail. Having been a very active and busy woman, she found this very frustrating and would often recount the many jobs she did around the farm. In 2007 she had another fall and broke her opposite hip and her wrist. After three months in hospital and in a home to recuperate, she returned to ‘Thistledown’. Carers were arranged to come and get her up in the mornings but with her usual determination to remain independent, May was up, dressed and washed by the time they arrived! Needless to say, the carers did not last long ....

May enjoyed a happy marriage and a contented life. She took great pleasure in her home and her family and was a kind, caring person; someone you could always turn to. As a wife, mother, and a grandmother, May was a rock of support and a constant in all our lives. We miss her terribly but she is forever in our thoughts.

Julie O’Connor

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**Tatsfield Art Group Horticultural Society**

**Children’s Easter Workshop**

Village Hall  
Saturday 19 March 10-12 am  
£3  
Come along and produce an entry for the Spring Show  
(Saturday 16 April)  
Ages 5-7  
Decorate an Easter egg  
+ Easter Card  
Ages 8-11  
Easter Basket  
“Junk” Model Scarecrow

Contact Carol Pearson on 577252 to book a place
There was another good turnout for our traditional New Year’s Eve Celebration in the Village Hall. Close to 100 villagers attended the event, with ages ranging from under 10 to over 80! Thank you once again to everyone who attended to support us.

Before the dancing got started there was a lovely two course meal provided by the hard-working Vern Association committee. The was as busy as always with a whole barrel of Westerham SPA being sold in the course of the evening and the bubbly stocks being sold out by 10 pm as people reserved their tipple to toast the onset of 2011.

The Village Hall was once again festively decorated to the highest order which is something that the partygoers really seem to appreciate. This was in addition to the mood lighting from the excellent ‘Hits Disco’ which together provided an atmospheric backdrop for a memorable evening.

Midnight brought in the New Year with the customary balloon drop over the dance floor with Auld Lang Syne and the conga to follow

There were some very complimentary comments received from all who attended – everyone certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. This is a really family friendly event and partygoers really appreciated the ability to bring the whole family along to share in their celebrations. £20 for a two course meal with a disco on New Year’s Eve is superb value.

Thank you to all of the Vern Committee who give up their entire New Year’s Eve (and much of New Year’s Day) to prepare the food, get the hall ready for the evening and then serve food or work on the bar through the night. Thanks go to Jonnie Panther, Althea and Huw Davies, Rosie Fuller, Sean Mooney and John White. It doesn’t seem like hard work when the whole committee with friends and relatives are digging in to help.

Funds raised on the evening will go towards hosting the visit of our French town Vern d’Anjou in Easter 2011. There is more information about that elsewhere in the separate article on pages 50 and 51.

Peter Fuller, Chairman (Tel: 573554)
FREE FAIRTRADE FASHION SHOW

Sunday 27 February at 6.30pm, Village Hall

To mark Fairtrade Fortnight the Tatsfield Fairtrade Group are organising a Fashion Show and Sale on Sunday 27th February at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. FREE food and drinks are being provided too.

There will be clothes for MEN and WOMEN

TEENAGERS

BABIES and TODDLERS

Brands include Gossypium, Nomad and Traidcraft

In addition there will be a wide selection of jewellery, bags, crafts, cards etc. Lots of gift ideas for yourself or friends and family.

We would love to welcome you to the event - to help with catering, please email carol_jordan@hotmail.com or ring Jennie South on 577598 if you are able to join us for what should be a really fun and enjoyable evening for older children and adults alike.

MAGAZINE ADVERTS

Maureen Perrin, our Advertising Manager, has written to all our existing advertisers about advertising in the magazine for the next year beginning in April. There is already a waiting list of businesses wishing to advertise and, if there is anyone who is interested in starting to advertise from April, they should contact Maureen on 577679.

TATSFIELD AND TITSEY BIRD REGISTER

Have you handed in your completed Bird Register form for the second half of 2010? If you haven’t, please drop it into Linda’s or deliver it to Nigel Shaw at “Primrose Ridge”, Greenway. The new form for the first 6 months of this year came with the January magazine. Have you tried filling in a form? It is easy and it makes you more observant of bird life in your garden. In any case, let Nigel know about anything interesting you see of birds and other wildlife.

CONCRETE SECTIONS GOING FREE

9 concrete sections approx 61 cm x 98 cm long. Free of charge. Buyer to collect. Phone 577141
IT’S AN HONOUR …… and an honour

Many readers will have guessed that, in order for this article to be published in our magazine, the Managing Editor had to overrule the wishes of the Editor (i.e. the one who actually edits)!

Just over two years ago David Smith, a resident of Old Lane, took the initiative and acted on his conviction that the contribution being made to village life by Bob David was of such quality and quantity that it warranted recognition by a Queen’s Award. He researched the channels for making such a proposal and meticulously mastered an understanding of the required criteria and the necessary evidence. He then approached some villagers who would be able to provide this evidence and carefully explained to them how they might express their knowledge of Bob’s contributions and their experiences of working with him. Under David’s guidance letters were drafted and finalised.

In January 2009, this resulted in 22 letters of support from villagers being sent to the Cabinet Office, accompanied by one from our then MP, Peter Ainsworth. The wheels do not turn quickly but, as many of you will already know, Bob’s name appeared on January 1st of this year amongst those who had been awarded an MBE, “for services to the community of Tatsfield”. It is so sad that David did not live to see the success of his imaginative initiative.

Here is just a sample of the specific roles undertaken by Bob that were mentioned in the letters: District Councillor, Parish Councillor, Chairman and President of Tatsfield Horticultural Society, Village Hall Committee, School Governor, Appraisal organisation and implementation, Parish Magazine invigorator and editor, South East in Bloom and Tatsfield in Bloom organiser, Badminton coach and organiser, Chair of Victim Support Group, member of Tatsfield Fairtrade Group and Tatsfield History Group, organiser of Tatsfield Garden Tours. People speak of his vision, his organisational skills and his willingness to be active and “get his hands dirty”.

A very strong strand that emerges from the letters is the many examples of Bob enabling village consultation and promoting democracy. He has organised open meetings for villagers to meet people such as their MP, election candidates, district planners and the police. He has ensured widespread village consultation on matters such as the siting of the new school, the village centre road layout, and the provision of affordable housing. One letter notes how great an achievement it was to be voted District Councillor as an independent candidate and the integrity of his campaign, particularly in the light of comments made about him by another candidate. He was also instrumental in ensuring that there were a good number of Parish Council candidates in the election.

However, such lists are just the tip of the iceberg. The letters give a much livelier picture of the ways in which these roles have been undertaken and of many other incidental examples.
Phrases such as these abound: help anyone regardless; a measured approach to mediation in conflict situations; always seems to find a way through difficult situations; not afraid to ask difficult questions; selfless; approachable and never dismissive; unfailingly polite and cheerful; nothing seems to be too much trouble; cares for all young and old and for those across the socio-economic spectrum; whatever village event we attend Bob is there supporting it; how does he find the time.

Bob’s commitment to the village extends to its businesses and shops: he has done much to support these, including the continued existence of our Post Office, and to encourage us all to use them. He has been concerned to ensure that the village is well served in areas such as public transport, road maintenance, drainage and many others.

Others speak movingly of: how Bob has inspired them and given them confidence; how his badminton coaching to some youngsters (not always easy ones) has been a formative experience for them; his empathetic support to a villager whose husband was seriously ill.

Saying thank you to others is always near the top of Bob’s agenda: he organises gatherings to thank magazine helpers and In Bloom workers. It was he who ensured that there was a presentation to our retiring postman. It is we who should be thanking him.

Countless villagers have told me how delighted they are that Bob has received this Award and how richly it has been deserved. It is an Honour for Bob and it is an honour for us to know him.

Gerald South

LOCAL POLICE NEWS

I’d like to start by thanking people for attending last month’s panel meeting. As always, it was good to see you all.

There have been a couple of shed burglaries recently, two of which were in Paynesfield Road in the same night, so a reminder to keep your property as secure as possible. The same can be said for motor crime. There have been recent thefts of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles in the area. Please remember to keep vehicles locked and leave nothing on show in your vehicle.

Our new PCSO, Hermione (Henry) Pilbrow, has now been with us for a couple of weeks and is settling in well. If you see her out and about feel free to say hello!

PCSO Rachel Kettell
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

Thursday 24th February at 7.30
St Mary’s Church Hall

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND

Genre: drama/thriller  2007  USA 123mins rated 15+
Director: Kevin Macdonald
Writer: Jeremy Brock, Peter Morgan
Cast: Forest Whitaker, James McAvoy, Gillian Anderson,
      Kerry Washington, David Oyelowo

Forest Whitaker’s chilling, charismatic take on Uganda’s Idi Amin,
together with James McAvoy holding his own as the Scottish
medic who dangerously ventures into Amin’s circle of trust, makes
for two first class performances and a ferociously intelligent take
on the lure of power and politics.

Delicious pre-film supper at the Bakery £7.99

Suggested donation: £3.00 (includes mulled wine)

Wendy Harvey  562340  wendyharvey@talktalk.net
Elaine Webster  577753  elainez@btinternet.com
WELCOME TO GLOBEE... THE WORLD ON YOUR TATSFIELD DOORSTEP

We set up our company globee limited in October 2008 after a flash of midnight inspiration and so began a two year brand and business building exercise which was not even interrupted (despite her best efforts!) by the birth of our daughter Madeleine on Boxing Day 2009. Our home has more often than not resembled a warehouse but we have always had a box for any visitor to sit on!

Globee Ltd designs and manufactures beautiful globes of cities which are both fun and educational, an ideal souvenir or gift, for adults and children alike. Each globee comes with a 16 page booklet packed with interesting facts about the city’s icons, its landmarks and tourist sites.

Our globees have attracted interest from some of the UK’s leading retailers including The Royal Collection, The House of Commons, John Lewis, WH Smith, Oxford University, The British Museum and Fenwick, as well as many independent retailers, some locally such as Occasions in Biggin Hill and Push the Boat Out in Oxted.

With Valentine’s Day not far away, why not buy a globee for your loved one? A reminder of that romantic trip to Paris, Rome or Venice or the non-stop break in New York? Or as a reminder of their University days? Please have a look at our website www.globee.co.uk to see our full range of products and make the most of our special offers available until 10 February. You can also place an order by phoning us on 01959 577214.

10% off for all Tatsfield residents – just quote TATS1 on your order

David and Harriot Sinclair (& Sons and Daughters!)

CHILDREN’S BOOK FESTIVAL

19 February – 12 March

Exciting events in libraries across Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge.

Author talks, Horrible Science drawing workshops, storytellers, magicians, creative writing workshops, special appearances ... and much more!

For details go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/childrensbookfestival, visit your local library or call 01483 543599.
There was much to celebrate for Margaret Parsons at the end of 2010 – she reached her 80th birthday on Christmas Eve and celebrated with a party on December 29th, surrounded by sixty of her family and friends, both from Tatsfield and afar.

Cherry Lodge Golf Club in Biggin Hill was the venue where Margaret and her guests were wined, dined and entertained. For once Margaret was not in the kitchen sorting out the catering, but relaxing and enjoying herself. Did I hear you say ‘about time too!’?

I wonder, when Margaret arrived in Tatsfield in 1952, whether she imagined she would still be here in the village celebrating her 80th birthday in 2010. Originally from Yorkshire, Margaret joined the RAF in 1948, meeting her husband when they were both posted to Odiham, Hampshire.

Remarkably, her first sight of Tatsfield was on the eve of her wedding. Travelling with her fiancé, she caught the bus from Croydon, laden with suitcases, arriving in Tatsfield to be greeted at the bus stop by her soon to be mother-in-law and a bicycle. The suitcases were strapped to the bike and the trio made their way to the top of Ham Hill (now Johns Road), where the bike slipped and along with the suitcases, tore down the road (or farm track as it was then) landing at the bottom outside Firsdale! This was to become Margaret’s home until the expanding family moved to Lusted Hall Lane.

Margaret remembers pushing her Silver Cross pram, containing her first daughter Sandra, along Ninehams Road and up Ship Hill on many a foggy Tatsfield day. One such day on the way home, the pram slipped on Ham Hill (and no, baby and pram didn’t hurtle down the hill!). Margaret managed to cling on and prop the pram sideways, where she waited and waited until Mrs Cox and Mrs Kahn came to feed their pigs at the bottom of the road. Her cries for help were then heard and she could be rescued!

Four of Margaret’s children still live in Tatsfield or close by, along with eight of her grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. However, her son Brian gets the prize for the furthest distance travelled to reach Margaret’s party. He emigrated to Melbourne, Australia with his wife thirty years ago and she sees him every other year when they fly over to visit with their son Ross. Her daughters Moira and Anita remain in Tatsfield with their families, Sandra is in Biggin Hill and Vicky in Oxted.

Margaret in RAF uniform
Many of you will have got to know Margaret over the years, through Tatsfield newsagents ‘Fitzgerald’s’, as a home help when new babies were born, working for the Johnsons in the Bakery, through Beavers, Tatsfield School PTA, the Village Hall Committee and the Vern D’Anjou Association. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing Margaret a very happy 80th birthday.

Sue White

THANKS

Margaret Parsons would like to thank her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, her brother and sisters, and all her friends in Tatsfield who together made it the best Christmas and birthday of her life.

TEA DANCE SOCIAL

Village Hall  2.15 to 4.55 pm

Wednesday 23 February

• There will be the usual Cream Tea, Free Raffle and Quiz.
• Everyone welcome • Have a good laugh and exercise and make new friends.

£6 per person

Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550
FAIRTRADE EVENTS IN TATSFIELD SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Show Off Your Label  The great Cotton Stitch up  Say Pants to Poverty

Free Fairtrade Food and Fashion Evening  6.30pm  
Sunday 27th February Village Hall (for details see elsewhere in Village News)

THE WORLD’S LONGEST STRING OF HAND-DESIGNED, BESPOKE COTTON BUNTING!

Join in and help Tatsfield to contribute to the world record currently standing at 2,696 metres of individual, hand-made, bunting triangles. We want to break this record! Help us and show your support for Fairtrade.

Who can do this? Everyone!  💐💐💐💐💐💐💐
We are asking the school, Little Acorns, St Mary’s, youth organisations, brownies, cubs etc and individuals in Tatsfield to join in.

What do you do?
Decorate a piece of plain bunting 22 triangles long. What does Fairtrade look like to you – paint, draw, hand print, stick stickers or sew a pattern on your bunting. Add a message of support for Fairtrade.
If you want, you can have your name or the name of your school, class, organisation etc in the middle
What do you need?
A Fairtrade cotton bunting kit – order yours free of charge at www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight or to obtain an order form locally and any other information please contact Jennie South on 577598 or any member of the Fairtrade steering group.
What do you do when it is finished?
Please do not join the triangles together yet! Await detailed instructions in next month’s magazine! but.........
It will be assembled and displayed locally and then sent to the Fairtrade Foundation where all the other contributions from around the country will be brought together to create the longest line of lovingly crafted bunting to show off support for the small scale cotton farmers in developing countries.
Then watch out for bunting!
From Parliament to the World Trade Organisation meeting in November 2011, the world’s longest line of Fairtrade bunting will carry your message and show off support for Fairtrade and trade justice for the farmers behind the label.
VILLAGE NEWS

Fairtrade branded ice cream van handing out free samples!
On Thursday 10th March between 11.30 and 12.30 this van sponsored by the Co-op, will be in the village with small samples of a range of Fairtrade products such as cookie pieces, orange juice, chocolate and ice-cream to hand out. Do time your shopping and visit to the village centre so that you can come and see just what is available. Details of exact location of the van in next month’s magazine.

Jennie South

WANT A HANDYMAN/GARDENER?

Could you use the services of a strong, hardworking and reliable handyman/gardener on a regular or occasional basis? If so, please call 577597 for details.

YOGALATS

Yogalats has started again at the School Hall – every Monday evening from 7.30 to 8.45. It is suitable for all types of people and all levels of fitness. Interested? Want to find out more? Then phone Margaret Cooper on 540434 or 07778 566503 for particulars and fees. All you need when you come is a blanket and a mat.

TATSFIELD SCHOOL HISTORY BOOK

Were you a pupil at Tatsfield School? Or were your children pupils? Perhaps your children now are? You can find out all about the history of the school, which goes back to the 1840s, in a new book “Tatsfield School – Past and Present”. It has been researched and written by the Tatsfield History Project and brings the story right up to date with accounts and pictures of the last days at the old site, the building of the new school and what the pupils think of the new school. The book costs £8.50 and is available from Linda’s, the School Office or by phoning 577357, 577767 or 577376.

SNOWY PHOTOS: NO-ONE KNOWS!

Readers were asked if they could identify the locations of the 3 pictures at the bottom of pages 43, 44 and 46 in the January magazine. No-one has yet got all 3 right! Can you do better? Have another look and ring the editor on 577357. The first with the correct answers wins £10 of vouchers for use in Linda’s and the Greengrocers.
EVENTS AT TATSFIELD VILLAGE CLUB

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valentine’s Disco</td>
<td>Saturday 12 February at 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat Raffle</td>
<td>Every Friday at 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo</td>
<td>Every Monday at 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Night</td>
<td>1st Tuesday of the month at 8pm</td>
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</table>

PROPOSED CHANGED HOURS FOR BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT DURING THE OLYMPICS

Biggin Hill Airport has proposed to Bromley Council, who own the airport, that the opening hours of the airport be extended during the Olympics next year.

The proposals are:

- Temporary changes to the opening hours. The proposed weekday operating hours would be from 06.30 to 23.00, changed from the existing 06.30 to 22.00 hours. The proposed weekend operating hours would be from 06.30 to 23.00, changed from the existing 09.00 to 20.00 hours.
- Temporary change to the ban on fare paying passengers, for air taxi users (not scheduled).
- A passenger tax of £3 per passenger, payable to the Council as the landlord.

The proposals are for Friday 13 July to Sunday 23 September 2012, which encompasses both the Olympics and Paralympics. The volume of flights proposed would be within the existing agreement between the airport and Bromley Council.

Any comments should be emailed to airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk or made by writing to Bromley Council, Renewal and Recreation Department, Airport Consultation, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH by 18 February.

THE GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER ON FRIDAY 20 MAY

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, whilst raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 20th May whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting the Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.
The SIA will provide a fund raising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5 means you will raise at least £35 from your supper but we will also give you additional fund raising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year the SIA had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000.

The money raised from the suppers will help the SIA offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

For more information or to request a fund raising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk.

RECYCLING AT TONY AND DI BROWN’S GREENGROCERS HELPS RESCUED ANIMALS

In November, £36 was sent to Hillside Animal Sanctuary, the sum raised from printer cartridges and mobile phones handed in to the Greengrocers for recycling.

Readers may be interested to know that Hillside is home to about 1,000 animals, mostly unwanted or abused animals. As well as caring for the animals already in their care, they receive calls every day asking them to take in others in need and they always do the best they can to help. In a recent period of a few days, Hillside has given sanctuary to two deer that have been hit by cars (which with treatment, have survived), two pregnant mares and a foal that had been abandoned (which a council was going to destroy), a stray sheep with an eye injury, five micro pigs due to be slaughtered, twelve stray dogs, fifteen turkeys and a stray hen – and every day brings another request for help.

Another worthy charity (or maybe Hillside again) will be chosen for the proceeds of the next collection. So keep taking your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges to the shop – you will be enabling good equipment to be re-used and at the same time helping a good cause.

THANKS

Jean and Tom Chorley wish to thank our friends in Tatsfield for the prayers, support and cards of condolence received during the great loss of our dear son Stuart. Your concern was of great help to us at a time of despair.
We are now in our first term of the new year and the children are having a lot of fun studying ‘Space’, which is our theme for this half term. On the first week back, the children decorated a large piece of black material with stars, moons and planets which is now up in the hall during our sessions for everyone to see. They also built their own space rocket out of cardboard boxes, and then painted it, which proved very messy but great fun! It is now in our role play area and some lovely games have been played in and around it. They have also made moon pizzas with space rocket-shaped toppings and made model moons to take home. The staff have laminated pictures of rockets, labelled them 1 to 10 and pegged them, in the wrong order, onto a washing line. The children can then try and put them in the correct order, to help with their counting skills. This week they will be painting pictures of what they think aliens look like by using butterfly painting. This means that they can paint one half of their alien on one side of a sheet of paper and then fold the paper over on top of it, so that it is duplicated on the other half of the paper. It will be very interesting to see what they come up with!

Activities for the rest of the half term include making space movies and space ships out of paper plates. The theme for the next half term is ‘The Four Seasons’, which I will write more about next time.

The Little Acorns committee are proposing to hold two fundraising events over the next few months. The first one of these will be our popular Quiz Night, which we intend to hold on the 10 March at the Millennium Hall. Tickets for this will be on sale soon so please contact Ana Rose on 07891 964207 for further information on this. After this we intend to hold our Race Night at the end of May 2011, date to be confirmed. Again, please contact Ana Rose if you are interested in coming along to this and supporting your local pre-school.

The Little Acorns committee are looking for a secretary! If you are a parent, grandparent or carer of any child at Little Acorns, or you would just like to be part of our committee, please contact Helen Hartley on 07762 573321 for further information.

Finally, if any of you have any toys for younger children that you don’t need any more or any clothes that your children have grown out of, particularly girls, please can you drop these into Little Acorns any weekday morning. We will be very grateful!

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, Vice-Chair, on behalf of Little Acorns Pre-school
TATSFIELD ART GROUP

Do you enjoy sketching and painting?  
Or perhaps you’ve always wanted to try!

We have spaces available in our friendly village group.

We meet on Monday evenings term-time in the Village Hall and welcome all artists, new and established.
Your first two evenings are free, so if you want to come along, give one of us a call.

Sue White             Carol Pearson  
Secretary             Chairman
570097                577252

SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET  
AT WESTERHAM

1st and 3rd Sunday each month  
9 am to 12.30 pm
Next markets – 6 and 20 February

Rediscover delicious fish, cheese, game, eggs, bread, nuts, fruit, vegetables, plants and gifts from local suppliers.

REMEMBER THE 1920s AND 1930s?

In last month’s magazine, Stan Steer wrote about his time in Tatsfield as a young boy between 1920 and 1933. Stan would like to meet anyone who remembers those times. If you do, please ring Stan on 01689 858873. He would be happy to drive to the village to meet you.
EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

1 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
7.45pm WI Meeting - WIH · 8pm Quiz Night - TVC
2 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR · 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
3 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH
4 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
5 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery

6 Sun 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM
11am Ramblers Walk - The Green, Godstone
1pm St. Mary’s Annual Dinner - CH
7 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS · 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
8 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH · 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH
9 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR · 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
10 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies -CH · 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH
11 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
12 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery

13 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM
14 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
15 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
8pm Gardening Club - WIH
16 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR · 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
17 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH
18 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
19 Sat 11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery

20 Sun 8am Holy Communion (BCP)- StM
10am Sung Eucharist - StM
10.45am Ramblers Walk - Westerham Green
TATSFIELD SCHOOL HALF TERM 21-25 FEBRUARY

21 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
22 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Whist Drive - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH
23 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH
7.30pm Food and Wine Society Dinner - Gurkha Kitchen, Oxted
8pm Yoga - VH · 8pm Explorers - SH
24 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Film Night - CH · 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH
25 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
26 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery
27 Sun **10am Sung Eucharist - StM**
6.30pm FAIRTRADE FASHION SHOW - VH
28 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

MARCH

1 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
7.45pm WI Meeting - WIH · 8pm Quiz Night - TVC
2 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR
8pm Explorers - SH · 8pm Yoga - VH
3 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH
4 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
5 Sat 11am - 12noon PC Cafe- The Bakery
6 Sun **8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM**
**10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM**
7 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
8 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH

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
ST. MARY’S MATTERS

Tatsfield gives to the Childrens’ Society

All the collections from the Christmas services have been sent to the Childrens’ Society, a charity that does so much to rescue youngsters who have experienced a dreadful start to their lives. Added to this money were the donations from the wall safe given in response to the marvellous tableau. Children (and some adults) who took away ‘collecting candles’ from the Open The Book service at the start of December filled them with great enthusiasm since they contributed over £27! Well done to them. As a result of all these donations we have been able to send over £680 to the Childrens’ Society, who will be able to reclaim a further £50 from the Inland Revenue, thanks to those of you who gift aided your donation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this excellent result.

Parish Records

28th December Dedication of marriage of Mark and Pearly Otton

Christmas Services

This was a busy time for many of us as we prepared for and undertook duties for the many Christmas services. The very variable weather conditions made this all the more demanding. Many thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas worship which was attended by many villagers and visitors who gave some very encouraging feedback:

Once again the Christingle services proved very popular with young and old and the church was full again on Christmas morning. The flower arrangers had a particularly difficult time in freezing conditions and we are very grateful to the Titsey Estate for providing greenery and delivering it in the snowy conditions.

Open the Book

Our January service kept the momentum of the Christmas season going with a look at those who visited the infant Jesus, the “wise men”: they were very different people and brought very different gifts. The wise men reminded us that the message of Jesus is meant for people of all nations and backgrounds and that it is very often people’s presence that is to be valued rather than their presents.

The next OTB service will be on 6th February. If you or your children still have your Baptism candle, please bring it with you: we will light it and remember our Baptisms – don’t worry if you have not got one, there will be plenty extra candles and you will be just as welcome! This service starts at 10am, lasts no more than 45 minutes and is designed for everybody, including the youngest.

Lent Courses

Lent groups will be taking place at a variety of venues and times. These give an opportunity to meet with others, to study and discuss some biblical passages and to appreciate their relevance for us. There will be a form in church to sign up with your preferred time, or contact Gerald South on 577598.
Church Flowers: Our grateful thanks go to Mr David Innes from the Titsey Estate and his head gardener, Steve Pett, for not only providing such a lovely selection of holly, but for delivering it directly to the Church for us, as the road conditions were so bad due to the snowy conditions. Many thanks also go to all those who braved the wintry weather and helped with the floral decorations: Pauline Conlon, Brenda Fairclough (and husband Bob, who did a sterling job with the tidying up as always), Kay Longley, Wendy Maddison, Christine Rosenbaum, Veronica Geary, Terri Macdonald, Kay Roberts, Sue Warren, Pam Draper and Lorna Tory. Also, I would like to thank Brenda for providing the delicious mince pies and Jennie South and Louise Ellis for the most welcome tea and coffee.

The Flower Rota for February is:

6th and 13th Christine Rosenbaum
20th and 27th Terri Macdonald

Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)

Christmas Tableau

Once again Sauro Gabelli, his family and helpers produced an amazing tableau of the Nativity in the church entrance area. The fine detail and innovative touches have been admired by many and encouraged much valued donations to the Childrens’ Society.
Guy Deterding grew up in Norfolk on his father’s farm, so early life involved shooting, hunting and fishing, all of which remain his passion today. Animals were a big part of his life and in particular ferrets, two of which he was allowed to take to boarding school. On one occasion, the ferrets escaped in the car on the way to school, and with the terrier tethered to the door and a ferret under the accelerator at one point, it was amazing they arrived at school in one piece!

In order to buy the ferret’s food from the butcher, Guy would shoot rabbits and sell them to the masters at school for 70p each. One master failed to pay, so the next rabbit he received had myxomatosis – they all look the same when they’re skinned! Fortunately he suffered no discernible side effects. Ferrets are notorious escape artists, so it was no coincidence that the arrival of the ferrets in the Vivarium (the building where pupils kept their animals) meant the decline of the other boarders’ guinea pigs!

Guy recalls an occasion at Cromer Zoo when he persuaded a friend called Danny to climb over the barriers and stand right next to the bars of the lion’s cage. To his horror, the lion approached and opened his mouth but then promptly threw up all over this lad! It was little wonder that such antics got him expelled from the convent school. The Mother Superior did a jig down the corridor when the master of another local school agreed to take him on early!

As he went to school in Rugby, he had to travel via London and whilst on the tube, Guy would relish the response of other passengers when the ferrets made an appearance between stops. Needless to say, the carriage would empty rapidly at the next stop! And yes, they did used to put them down their trousers!

On a year out and through a connection of his father’s, he went to the States with a friend to work for the Doughnut Corporation of America in California. With his driving test under his belt the day before he left, and a car provided by the company, he had a whale of a time.

Guy adopted a rather unorthodox approach to choosing his degree subject. He didn’t get past ‘A’ in the prospectus: having discounted ‘Accountancy’, the next was ‘Agriculture’, and with his farming background settled on this at Exeter University. The fact that he’d heard they were a bunch of alcoholics may have also influenced his choice! And so his time at Exeter was spent drinking Stella at 70p a pint until his grant ran out, after which it was West Country Scrumpy at 14p a pint! With the
luck of the devil, a bout of glandular fever made him exempt from end of year exams. His final year revision was also ‘efficient’ to say the least: with microscopic writing he managed to cram a whole degree course on two sides of A4 including graphs!

After his degree he went to work in Lloyd’s market as an Aviation Insurance Broker. With the markets closed between 12.30 and 3pm and again at 4.30pm, long lunches were par for the course. Having realised his work colleagues’ noses were growing progressively large and red supping claret, and with one choosing to burp ‘Rule Britannia’ having eaten boiled eggs for lunch, Guy decided to take off round the world. He stopped to work in New Zealand before returning to do a career change course and landed a job in IT. It was here that he met his future wife. He recalls her bringing avocado prawn sandwiches into the induction session. There blossomed a relationship which was kept under wraps from work colleagues.

After three weeks of clandestine ‘walking out’, Guy proposed to Alex, after discovering she was due to return to her home in Australia. They married in 1988 and honeymooned in India and Nepal before settling in Australia where they became the first two employees of a software company. This took them to New Zealand but unfortunately they were stationed at either end of the island.

After developing a bank-based product and with a company sponsoring them to sell it in the UK, they decided to settle back in England and so obtained a mortgage for their first house in Clapham. That was in the morning and by the afternoon, the company had pulled the plug on the project! This was the catalyst for 10 years of contracting.

One project was for St Ivel in Wootton Bassett and when the contract ended, Guy signed up with an oil company ‘Enterprise’. St Ivel tried to woo him back by offering him a life-time supply of yoghurt! Much as he likes yoghurt he stuck with Enterprise, with his job becoming permanent and based in Trafalgar Square. After 8 years he became IT Director and then went to work with a recruitment company in a similar role.

There followed the birth of their first daughter Tessa in 1994 whose arrival into the world was watched by a passing window cleaner, who almost fell off his platform! In a similar vein, the operating theatre was crammed with students for the birth of twins Mattie and Ruth.

In May 1997, having seen Heath House in the paper, they dropped by and discovered a tumble down house (with no running water in the kitchen which they only realised after moving in) which had the most beautiful garden, and so they arrived in Tatsfield. The Deterdings have contributed much to the village with Alex’s talents (massage therapist, choir leader, Fun Run organiser and poet to name but a few) and Guy chairing the Horticultural Society. One thing is for sure and that is, whatever they do, they do with a great sense of fun.
Tatsfield has been twinned with Vern d’Anjou in the wonderful Loire Valley in France for the last 36 years. Great friendships have been made over the years as the strength of the relationship between the villages has grown.

This Easter, once again it’s the turn of Tatsfield to host the visitors from our twin town. We are expecting approximately 40-45 villagers from Vern to make the 450 mile trip to Tatsfield. We’re expecting the usual range of ages from under 10s to over 80s to make the 5 day trip over the Easter weekend.

We’ll publish the full itinerary soon but at present we have plans for a day trip to Brighton, party evenings including a live band and a barn dance, a trip around the new school (a return favour as experienced the same in Vern last year), a sporting afternoon at the MUGA, the usual official village reception and hopefully a visit to Bluewater and the Olympic Village construction site in Stratford.

It’s a busy weekend and everyone leaves exhausted but it is great fun! Our visitors arrive on Good Friday and depart early on Tuesday morning.

We still have a few spaces for host families. You don’t have to get involved in all the weekend events. All you need is a bit of spare space
at home and be able to provide a few breakfasts and pack lunches. Of course if you do chose to throw yourself into the twinning spirit then you’ll be richly rewarded.

If you want to get involved and try hosting a French family or couple then please contact Peter Fuller on 573554 for more details – don’t delay as we are almost at the full quota required. Don’t worry if you don’t speak too much French, it’s not necessary and we all seem to get by somehow!

Vern facts and figures

Population wise, Vern d’Anjou is a similar sized village to Tatsfield and it also possesses a great community spirit and a hard working local council. However the similarity ends there. Vern is a little more geographically isolated than Tatsfield and added to the French preference to shop locally makes the make-up of the two villages very different. Vern feels much larger but is more compact and less ‘rambling’ than Tatsfield.

- Located in the Loire Valley
- 30kms from Angers
- Region : Pays de la Loire
- Department : Maine-et-Loire
- Population : 1750 and growing fast
- Elevation : 100-300ft
- 20 various shops and bars e.g 2 bakers, 2 butchers, 2 florists, 2 hairdressers, 2 banks etc
- 35 other local businesses
- Excellent sports and leisure facilities based around the local secondary school

Peter Fuller, Chairman (Tel: 573554)
Correspondence:

Towards the end of last year I received a series of messages from Liz Armitage relating the suspicious behaviour of, and malicious damage caused by, a visiting woodpecker!

(26.09.10) ‘About 9.20 this morning we had a woodpecker visit our garden. Not sure if it was Great Spotted, Middle Spotted, White-backed or Syrian (unlikely, but it is cold today!). It spent ages hopping from branch to branch in our apple tree, pecking all the fruit - now we know who the culprit is! Is this unusual? I don’t think we have seen one here before … we were so excited, a stunning sight, but, as usual whenever you need it, the camera batteries were low, so by the time we had changed them, the moment had passed, but I think I may have got one good shot.’

(02.10.10) ‘Following my e-mail about our woodpecker – got up this morning, and the apple tree is no more! It toppled over in the night, apparently – although it didn’t seem to be too windy, just rain. So, was it the woodpecker unbalancing it last week? Or maybe he pecked the trunk just a wee bit too hard! The tree was very old but nevertheless, we are both surprised and disappointed. But then, on the plus side, we don’t have to go up a ladder to pick the apples – they have all bounced around the lawn. And we shall now have plenty of logs for the winter. But there is too much sky. I shall miss it profusely.’

(05.10.10) ‘Even more cross and disappointed now because we have discovered some Mistletoe growing at the top of the tree. Have been trying to graft Mistletoe onto a tree for about 30 years and never succeeded – damn! Have decided not to log the trunk. I think it can be fashioned into an arch somewhere, although Health and Safety might have something to say about that!’

‘Blame the dog’, ‘Blame the cat’, ‘Blame the husband’, ‘Blame the kids’, all common enough but, ‘Blame the woodpecker’! That’s a new one to me!

I’m sure that if your one, possible photo was indeed successful you’ll see that the bird you had visiting was the Great Spotted Woodpecker. They are quite common around the village and, although only a few hundred yards from your garden, we ourselves see them on our nut feeder fairly regularly. The good news is that the excitement remains no matter how often they are observed due to their fascinating behaviour and striking plumage. Thanks for your news, Liz – ‘Such Fun!’

Bird Register:

Your Bird Register form is now well overdue! Whether we see an increase on our record of 28 returns or not could depend on you! Forms can be left at ‘Linda’s Stores’, or at ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway. It’s not too late to participate!
The bigger issue:

Since a March 2009 coup, the government of Madagascar has been unwilling or unable to stop the logging and selling of the ‘nearly extinct’ Rosewood tree. 100,000 Rosewood trees were cut down in Madagascar’s forests during 2009 alone. 90% of native forests in Madagascar have already been eradicated. Much of this timber is exported to the USA, via China. The US imports 3.5 billion dollars worth of illegal timber from various sources each year (Fortune, August 2010).

The situation in Madagascar is simply an extreme example of a far broader ecological disaster - deforestation. By 2024, around half of the Amazon rainforests will have been destroyed. Why does this matter? Well, these forests contain an astonishing 50% of planet Earth’s plant and animal species. They also store water, regulate rainfall and absorb about 20% of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions. Deforestation, on the other hand, creates more greenhouse gas emissions than all of the cars, ships, trucks and planes on the planet! (Camilla Cavendish, The Times)

But, amidst all this doom and gloom a tiny flicker of light appears. Although it’s never easy to reverse a trend, Norway has made some progress. (Yes, Norway.) Two years ago, it offered Brazil $1 billion over 13 years if it met targets for slowing deforestation and has recently made a similar offer to Indonesia. Brazil, as we know, has become an economic powerhouse, so we may well ask why they need to be subsidised by Norway. No matter. I’m not an economist, but I’m sure they have good reason, economic as well as altruistic. Lord Stern (who is an economist) has calculated that at a cost of around $5 per tonne, saving the rainforest is the cheapest, quickest way of reducing carbon emissions (Moneyweek). Perhaps unsurprisingly, it seems that economic reasoning will be the major factor in determining the future of our planet’s rainforests. Whether or not for financial gain, since 2005 Brazil has protected an area the size of France. Nevertheless, this does very little to redress the balance and, let’s not forget, the rainforest ecosystem is irreplaceable. Once it’s gone, that’s it – it will never return. Or at least, not while humans rule the planet.

Reduced carbon emissions, species protection, climate regulation, commercial benefits (tourism, pharmacological developments, controlled logging) … taking practical steps towards immediate conservation sounds like a no-brainer. But then I recall thinking this as a young ‘Green’, many years ago. Forty years on and there has been little change. The question I currently have in mind is, if a tiny nation such as Norway can take practical steps towards rainforest conservation, why don’t others do likewise? I fear the answer may simply be that they (we) don’t see sufficient benefit, or quite simply don’t care. Consequently, in just 13 years time we, as ‘caretakers’ of the planet, will have allowed half of the Amazon rainforests to have been destroyed. Try justifying that to your grandchildren.

Got a report? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s.
After a late afternoon flight arrival at Auckland we were glad to drive out of the city to the refreshing air of the Bay of Plenty coast, eventually making our way to the Maori heartland of Rotorua. Recently it has become a tourist trap but this and many quieter places associated with the first New Zealanders, the Maori, have traditions of centuries at their core. Herbs have played a vital role in Maori culture and this steaming, sulphurous mass of hot freshwater springs was an ideal place to learn more about some indigenous plants and the people who use them even today.

There is one plant long associated with “kai” (cooking) and healing, and as usual this important plant looks like a simple weed! It is known as “Puha”, or “Sow Thistle” (Sonchus Oleraceus). If you can keep standing on one hot spot of Rotorua soil long enough you will hear the Maori women speak about this herb as a good friend. The flowers look like yellow dandelion heads (a healing essence is made from these), the leaves are large and very prickly, and it seems to be used similarly to spinach or indeed nettles - I’d love to try a cheese and nettle quiche or salmon and broccoli flan with these leaves! Later, we found an award-winning Wellington restaurant that replaces cabbage with Puha in its Irish “Colcannon”. To me, the Irish connection didn’t end there. The intricate, mystical circles of Maori art seemed very familiar, recalling the prehistoric burial chambers of Newgrange in Southern Ireland, covered in very similar artforms. But back to the cooking pot, and the Maori women who over centuries have bathed, washed clothes and cooked food in this “al fresco” watery lifestyle where the sulphurous smell of bad egg pervades. The “Hangi” or “pit” is a traditional way of cooking food down in the earth, a natural oven using steaming stones, and can easily be recreated back here by digging a deep square pit, using wood and coals, lots of clean stones, then food cooked directly “on the rocks” covered with a roof of seaweed or conifer to keep the steam in. Undiluted and straight from the earth everything tastes more intense and probably just how it should be.

Wellington is the capital city on the coast, where many people take the ferry to work – more enjoyable than linear parking along the snail trail of our M25! Our great friends Mary and Mike Malone and their respective partners John and Mary have given me two meatless recipes using European herbs which they grow in their own gardens, using “Kumara,” a tasty sweet potato available here. 1. KUMARA SALAD – To cooked and cubed kumara add thinly-sliced red onion rings, orange slices and lots of chopped parsley. Make a vinaigrette with olive oil, wine vinegar, juice of the orange, sea salt and black pepper, pour over the salad and serve chilled. 2. KUMARA STEW WITH HERBS AND VEGETABLES – sweat onion, leek, carrot
and celery in butter and olive oil, stir in raw cubed Kumara, thyme, bay leaves and parsley. Just cover with water, simmer for 20 minutes and add a handful of thyme, parsley, sea-salt and pepper to taste and serve.

Leaving the North Island behind we headed for Christchurch, a city ravaged by earthquakes in 2010, with many aftershocks not reported by our media. It is so sad that this very English-style city will have to lose many of its oldest buildings due to instability, together with many homes. To touch the vast landscape beyond we will now have to travel south through the Canterbury Plains to visit an old colleague.

John Acland is a direct descendent of an original 1800s settler family. A well-loved tree near his Mount Peel home bears a plaque “Born Devon 1857, Planted New Zealand 1859”. Like most “Kiwis” John’s family prefers the taste of hogget to lamb, but try this recipe using a boned-out or “butterflied” lamb leg. Marinade the meat overnight in a bag of olive oil, garlic, rosemary and mint sprigs before cooking on a hot barbeque for just 20 minutes each side. Fish is also a popular barbecue dish; Snapper is available in the UK, but try fillets of white-fleshed Hoki -“en papillotte”. Put each Hoki serving on a square of baking parchment with foil underneath of similar size. Sprinkle over chilli flakes, lemon thyme, coriander, spring onion and lime slices with a dash of white wine, wrap up tightly and cook for just 6 - 8 minutes. And for a herby N.Z. beef treat lasting the weekend try cooking a double amount of battered-out beef fillet with slices of pre-roasted red pepper and herb pesto spread over the inside, roll up and foil-cook for 10-15 minutes according to taste. Serve all above with the Kumara Salad. Next day boil some “Penne” pasta, cool and add yesterday’s barbequed beef fillets, thinly sliced, with tomatoes, torn basil leaves, black pepper and more of that herb pesto drizzled over.

I’m sad to leave N.Z. behind, but Japan is now on the horizon with more herb recipes to discover. See you there!

Lin Saines
SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORM AT THE O2 ARENA

On Tuesday 11th January the choir, accompanied by Mrs. Akhtar, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Deverill and myself took part in the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. Many parents joined us on the night to support the children. As you can see from some of the accounts below, it was a wonderful experience.

Kevin Bellinger
Head Teacher

Going to the O2 was an amazing experience that I will never forget. I thought it was really fun and exciting! At first I was nervous in case I forgot my lines, but I soon got used to the bright lights and how high up we were sitting! I thought singing in the Young Voices choir was brilliant and I would definitely go again.

By Olivia Browne

Our choir went to the O2 to sing for Young Voices. In the practice everyone’s voices filled the arena. We were taught some funky actions by some street dancers called Urban Strides. At about 6.40pm the audience were arriving and we were all trying to find our parents in the huge crowd. The show was incredible! Every child sang their best. It was amazing and I will never forget it.

By Stephanie Fisher

Tatsfield School went to the O2. We sang with lots of other schools and there were around 8000 children there. I really enjoyed it and I would definitely go there again. I especially liked the bit where everyone brought glow sticks and torches that had no beam and it lit up the room – it looked stunning. When we sang the whole room echoed like when you’re in a tunnel.

By Mo Mindham

Our school choir went to the O2 to sing. When we arrived by coach I was amazed by how big the O2 was. First we had a rehearsal which was 2 and a half hours long but I enjoyed every minute of it! After that it was the concert. I was so excited – the light was brilliant and so were the special guests. I really enjoyed that evening and it definitely was a night to remember.

By Deana Rose

The choir went to the O2 on 11th January. It was an amazing experience. We spent a whole afternoon getting to the O2 and rehearsing, but it was all worthwhile. The evening performance was magical. We were all sitting so high up that it was sort of scary but you soon got used to it. The night’s performance was as if I was in a dream – all of the main singers were phenomenal. Josh Osho was brilliant, All Angels were amazing, but Deon Bronfield was the best. Her voice was so strong but she is only 14. I was speechless when Mrs. Akhtar told me.

By Francesca Bell
CLUB NEWS

GARDENING CLUB

What a treat was in store for those of us who ventured to the Gardening Club on Tuesday evening 18 January. Gerald South and Philip Brett provided us with an entertaining and informative account of how to grow onions, shallots and leeks with lots of top tips about growing them and preparing them for entry in the Horticultural Shows … there were even tips on how to eat them, with a delicious leek and potato soup and French onion tart served up at the end of the evening.

According to the experts, leeks, shallots and onions, which are all members of the allium family, are the easiest of vegetables to grow! You can either purchase onion/shallot sets for planting in the ground in March or, for those of us itching to get in the potting shed at this time of year, you can sow onion/shallot seed indoors in January or even in February for planting out in late March/early April. They will be ready to harvest when the leaves start to shrivel; lift the onions/shallots and leave to dry in a sunny spot for a couple of weeks. Onions and shallots keep well and, if stored properly, will keep you “in onions” throughout the year. Popular varieties of onion include Ailsa Craig, which stores well, and Kelsae, which is a larger variety; both varieties are perfect for entering in the Autumn Show, when the tops need to be tied and the roots trimmed. One of the varieties of shallot which has met with success in the Tatsfield climate is Piccante.

Leeks, which are high in vitamin C, potassium and folic acid, can be grown from seed in January and planted out in April. Make a hole about 6 inches deep using a dibber and drop one plant into each planting hole. Do not fill the hole with soil but simply water in and allow the leek to fill the hole as it grows. For those who like their leeks to have white stems, they can be “blanched” by covering the stem with cut down pipe or paper rolls. Many varieties of leek like Atlanta and Musselburgh will survive the winter months in the ground and can be harvested and enjoyed right through the winter. For entering in the show, remove any damaged external leaves and clean (but do not trim) the roots. Turn over and tie the leaves.

There is nothing more disappointing to a gardener than spending hours lovingly tending your little seedlings only to find that the slugs and snails have decimated them! Rest assured, onions, shallots and leeks are not usually affected by disease or attacked by pests. They are easy to grow and, once in the ground, need little attention except regular watering and the occasional feed - seems like the perfect vegetables to grow!

Thank you to Gerald and Philip for a most enjoyable evening.

Teresa Watts
1st TATFIELD SCOUTS

The programmes for all the sections are now in full swing with all those who moved sections at the beginning of the year having been invested into their new Lodges, Packs or Patrols. Beavers will be concentrating on achieving their Animal Friend Badge, which includes keeping a log book of how they are helping to look after a family pet and they will be compiling a wall display of pictures of their pets or a pet that they would like to have. Beavers will also be celebrating Founders Day; it has particular significance this year as it is the 25th Anniversary of the Beaver section within the Scouting movement.

Cubs have a very ‘International’ feel to February, with their belated Christmas party having an International theme and a couple of International Pack nights too; they will also be having a local evening hike, so I hope the weather stays dry for them. Scouts are keeping it very traditional this month with trangia cooking, an evening of knots and woggle making as well as a pioneering challenge night.

All sections are in the throes of planning weekends away and camps for the hopefully impending better weather with Cubs having a weekend camp at Downe Activity Centre in April and a District camp at Broadstone Warren in May. Scouts have Scoutabout to look forward to in June as well as a weekend camp at Downe in May and summer camp in July in Derbyshire booked. So it looks as if there will be plenty to interest all the sections over the coming weeks.

Helen Brand, Group Scout Leader (Tel: 01883 380742
E-mail: tatsfield.gsl@googlemail.com)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Gardening Club
An enjoyable and successful meeting on ‘Onions, Leeks and Shallots’ was held last month. This month, at 8 pm on Tuesday 15 February in the WI Hall, Jon Allbutt will be talking about growing vegetables on allotments. With the exciting news that Tatsfield is getting its own allotments, why not come along and find out how to best manage one?

Membership of the Horticultural Society
The Society’s annual Schedule has come back from the printers and committee members are calling round to collect your annual subscription, which is £5 per family and is free to OAPs. If you have been missed, please contact Roger Pearce on 577767. The main aim of the Society is to promote knowledge and interest in gardening and kindred subjects but there are also social aspects too.
Each year we run Spring and Autumn shows, which are popular events for both adults and children alike. Even if you are not a keen vegetable or flower grower, there are classes in photography, arts and crafts, flower arranging and a domestic section too.

Other annual events over the spring and summer include the Plant Sale, Children’s Gardening session, the Sweet Pea and Rose Show and the Summer Luncheon. Also every summer there is the opportunity to visit some of Tatsfield’s own Village Gardens when several residents kindly open their gardens for viewing. In addition, a visit to Wisley is usually arranged along with visits to other gardens such as the Titsey Estate or Chart’s Edge.

During the winter months there is Gardening Club with talks on Tuesday evenings from speakers on a range of subjects from pruning to flower arranging, how to grow and use herbs to crop circles. The other benefit of being a member of the Society is the Community Composting Scheme which runs throughout the summer months and enables you to recycle your garden material.

We look forward to your continued support or perhaps to welcoming you as a new member.

**Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)**

**RAMBLERS**

One of the walks last month was from Godstone Green to the White Hart at Bletchingley and back. Forty people (5 from Tatsfield) and 8 dogs enjoyed the exercise and fresh air. Details of this month’s two walks – one again from Godstone and the other from Westerham. All welcome, including dogs and their owners. Just turn up or ring us if you want to know more.

**Date** Sunday 6 February  
**Meet** 11 am at The Green, Godstone (Map ref. TQ 350515) 
**Walk** 5 miles, 3 hours, one short hill stop for refreshments at the Barley Mow, Tandridge. 
**Leader** Dudley Turner

**Date** Sunday 20 February  
**Meet** 10.45 am at Westerham Green (Map ref. TQ446540)  
**or** 11 am at Mill Lane (Map ref. TQ 444536)  
**Walk** To the Carpenters Arms and back, 6 miles, 3.5 hours from the Green  
**Leader** Carol Vening

**Roger and Angela Sawyers (Tel: 577434)**
TATSFIELD WI

Our January meeting was in a different format. As we could not celebrate Christmas in our usual way due to the weather, we had a lunchtime get-together, which made a very pleasant change. We started by discussing the W.I. Resolutions and voting on which each member thought the W.I. Federation should adopt. As usual Sue Smale did a magnificent job in explaining them to us. She had waded through a lot of papers in order to explain the relevant details. We each voted on which Resolution each personally favoured and the slips were duly sent off to be counted. The Resolutions were:

1. **Proposed Mega farms**
   The practice of factory farming particularly large animals such as pigs and cows is in question. We are requested to urge HM Government to ensure planning permission is not granted for such projects. There is concern about the development of ‘mega farms’ and in particular the welfare of cows, ‘deprived of a natural way of life’ in large scale intensive dairy units. There are ethical and animal welfare issues as well as environmental impact, health risks and long term food security. There are already plans under consideration. The Farm Animal Welfare Council advises that provided strong veterinary care, appropriate resources, good management and stockmanship are in place, even cows with little or no access to grazing can have a satisfactory standard of welfare.

2. **Save our trees**
   It is requested that we urge the Government to review their planning requirements so that there is better public consultation about the demise/cutting of trees, whether in public or private ownership. This would build on existing environmental campaigns at a local level. There is much concern that urban trees are being felled to make way for new buildings, which degrades the eco-system, affecting wild-life as well as humans. There are regulations in place governing trees in an area of more than five cubic metres as well as in conservation areas. The Government has committed to reforming the planning system to give local communities more power and has promised to remove back gardens from the brown field site classification, making it more difficult to build on them. This could indirectly help protect trees. There is concern that even more regulations would create a bigger administrative burden on local authorities.

3. **Cost-effective production of natural galantamine used for the relief of sufferers of alzheimer’s type dementia**
   This proposal is to urge the Government to support the funding for this research. The proposer is concerned about the high costs of galantamine and the barrier this created in preventing access to the drug. However, there has been a recent decision by NICE to look into this very question.
4. **Helmets for cyclists**
   This Resolution is to urge the Government to make the wearing of helmets when cycling a legal requirement. At the moment this is voluntary, though the aim is to cut down the number of cyclists killed on the roads or suffering serious head injury. There is the staggering statistic from 2008 that 115 pedal cyclists were killed and 2,450 reported as seriously injured, accounting for 9% of all killed or seriously injured road casualties.
   However, the subject of legal requirement is controversial. There is a question over whether cycle helmets reduce injuries and if so, the type of injuries they reduce. Compulsory cycle helmet legislation could discourage cycling altogether or distract from the need to increase training. In countries that have introduced these rules there has been little long-term improvement in the rate of injury to cyclists. It is also felt that a helmet could give the wearer a false sense of security.

5. **Controlled use of mobility scooters**
   This Resolution wishes to encourage the expansion of proper training, assessment and monitoring of mobility scooters as there is concern about increasing numbers of larger and more powerful scooters and the threat to the safety of both users and pedestrians. Some of our members related experiences connected with these scooters, either suffering some sort of accident or near miss. There is no central record of these incidents and most go unreported. Owners are not legally required to undergo training at the moment.
   Mobility scooters are of great value to the elderly and those with mobility difficulties, helping to maintain independence and are likely to become more important given our aging population.
   However, following the request that the W.I. adopt this proposal the Government has recently announced that it is reviewing the law on mobility scooters.

6. **Closure of local libraries**
   Government support for libraries is urged as there is concern that libraries are under threat of closure and privatisation as local councils seek to cut public spending.
   Such interventions are rare and the closure of one or even several branches is not necessarily a breach of the 1964 Act. Sometimes a branch is closed to ensure a more efficient service across the whole area.
   Some ideas being trialled include libraries being run by community groups or relocating to pubs and shops.

7. **Expansion of the Admiral Nurses network to provide dementia care on a national basis**
   The NHS and social care authorities could be urged to provide for the extension of this service so that dementia care in all areas of the country is covered in the same way that Macmillan nurses give cancer care to sufferers and support for their families. Admirable as this proposal is, the WI have been advised that this is not a suitable one for campaigning, though clubs and districts are free to debate and publicise.
Following the discussion and voting, members of the committee served us Cottage Pie; then out came some magnificent fruit crumbles with custard…..stuff that dreams are made of!! I really should name Pat Walsh here for doing such a magnificent job, ably assisted by the rest of the committee. I must say that we have been very lucky with our committee for the last few years and they have put in a great deal of effort. Their reward is a happy and vibrant club.

We were then given papers and settled down to a quiz in teams of four. Some of the questions were diabolical – nothing unusual there then! The winning table won a box of chocolates which they kindly shared with everyone. It was a lovely start to the New Year among friends.

We are starting the Darts sessions again in January as well as Keep Fit, Craft, Whist and the Pop-ins on Wednesday mornings. We have a District get-together at Westerham which is a good opportunity to meet members of other WIs. It is always a very friendly affair. I am sure everyone has read about the new arrangements for booking the WI Hall in the January magazine. Three people will share the responsibility but it is still easy to book by calling the one mobile number listed in the front of the magazine.

The February meeting is on the 1st at 7.45 and we will hear all about “William Morris, a gentle genius, poet, designer and manufacturer”. Should be good!

Toni Holley

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Once again, the Club had a quiet meeting, which is usual in January. Just afternoon tea and a chat, which I think most of the members prefer actually! The decision on the re-scheduling of the Christmas Lunch and an outing (possibly the theatre) will be decided upon at the next committee meeting, which is at the end of the month, and members will be advised on any decisions of course. We just want to make sure that the weather is not going to fold again!

I would like to take this opportunity of letting our members and committee know how much the congenial atmosphere is appreciated. A great club!

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

The Helpline has a new co-ordinator from 1st February – Sylvia Waters. If you need a friendly driver to take you to a hospital appointment, etc. ring Sylvia on 577524
Last month the club held its annual Drawn Pairs tournament at the Village Hall – mixed doubles, with each pair handicapped. It’s “Drawn Pairs” because the pairings are drawn out of a hat – one lady and one gentleman. Two sessions were played, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with 5 pairs competing in each. The morning session was won by Sue Brown and Peter Agnew and the afternoon session by Ellie Agnew (daughter of Peter) and James Longley.

The final was played in the late afternoon, when some first class badminton was seen, with Sue and Peter coming out on top by 25 – 16. The four finalists are pictured below with club chairman Gordon White.

The club is now in the middle of the winter season, with its 4 teams in the Edenbridge and Croydon leagues having completed about half their fixtures, with mixed fortunes so far. Club nights at the Village Hall are on Fridays starting at 8 and the club welcomes new members with some playing experience. Anyone interested should contact me.

The club also has a popular junior section for under 16s, playing on Fridays at the Village Hall before the adults start. The juniors are organised and coached by Gordon White, Ollie Carr and Ellie Agnew. The club is full at present and has a waiting list. Anyone interested should contact me.

Bob David (Tel: 577357)
MANAGING TATSFIELD CLAY!

I have been discussing with some of our more ‘experienced’ gardeners the great benefit of those hard frosts on our clay ground that wise Tatsfield gardeners dug over and left in big clods before the onset of our early winter. Let me explain! Clay soil is a mass of tiny particles that gather together in big lumps that are impossible to work when wet and can become rock hard when dry. The gardener on clay must be patient and wait until conditions are just right to prepare the ground for planting and seeding. Recent winters have not given us very much by way of consistently cold hard frosts that can make our life much easier. If we dig over the ground and leave it rough, that is we make no attempt to bash it down into a finer state, the freezing and thawing effect of a good cold winter gets right into the big clods of clay and breaks them down into a much finer, more easily workable, state. The trick is to wait until the clay is drying out, which it will do if it was dug up rough and left to weather, and then gently work it to a level tilth ready for seeding and planting.

We can cheat of course - all gardeners do! - and do other things that will help this process. Add lime after digging; it helps to break clay down and ‘sweeten’ the soil – that is to reduce the acidity levels. At the point when we think it is dry enough to work the soil to a tilth, we can add some washed (to remove the shell) sharp sand and work it into the top layers. If the clay is very heavy and not been dug for a long time - or ever! - then add more sand over several years to make it more workable and also to improve surface drainage. There are a good number of different designs of low tunnel or cloche that are inexpensive and some are made of recycled materials. By putting them over freshly dug, frosted, ground we can enhance the drying effect and make the soil workable earlier in the season.

Remember, a wet clay soil is a cold, late soil that will be slow to support germination and with some seeds could result in them rotting down and the complete or partial loss of the crop. So, sowing too early in our local clay could result in disaster! If you are a new gardener you may like to read what the ideal soil temperature should be for germinating a particular crop and use a soil thermometer to gauge when the time is right to sow the seeds.

A final point on our local soil – clay is a rich soil and it will also give very good support for the roots of big vegetables such as cabbage, brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Roses love clay as do many other large shrubs. If you are wondering what grows best in Tatsfield remember the gardeners’ trick: have a look over the fence at your neighbours’ gardens and take note of what is growing well; or if you see an ‘experienced’ weathered face in the village why not ask the question; but be warned, you will need a notebook and pencil!

If you are planning to grow tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, potatoes, legumes (peas, beans etc.) or salads, then add as much compost or manure as possible to a clay soil to help ‘open it up’ and provide additional nutrients. Root vegetables and brassicas (cabbages etc.) can be then grown in this patch of soil the following year with very good results.

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