PARISH MAGAZINE

Tatsfield

THIS ISSUE

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- A GREAT CAROL SINGALONG
- POPPY ORGANISER WANTED
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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial
rights. Copy date for the Magazine is 16th of the preceding month. Contributions should be sent
directly to the Editor at The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN (Fax: 01959 577357
Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk) or drop it into Linda’s Stores.

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

Calendar Dates Our rolling Calendar usually covers 6 weeks from publication so please give us your
dates in good time. If you don’t want your event to clash with others why not check with us early.

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

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Please state if not for publication.

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

Even if, at the turning of the year, you can’t keep awake long enough to ‘see it in’, you may have found yourself, like me, reflecting on the year that has passed and wondering what 2012 will bring. Considering our local community here in Tatsfield and beyond, I have found myself not only looking back and forward but looking inwards and outwards!

Tatsfield, with its record of village appraisals and a wealth of commitment and talent, asks questions of itself and takes a pride in its achievements. There are many in the village who see what is needed and set about getting things done whether it is potholes to be filled or planning in 2012 for a celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

However, just a quick flick through the Parish Magazines for 2011 leaves me in no doubt that Tatsfield people devote at least equal effort and considerable energy and imagination to looking beyond the immediate and the local to outward and beyond. I have not done a calculation but during last year many thousands of pounds have been raised in Tatsfield for charities: Macmillan, Alzheimer’s, Marie Curie and Christian Aid are just a few that have benefited from people’s generosity. Looking further afield is the main focus for some village organisations: the Vern d’Anjou Association, the Fairtrade village group. Even many of the other organisations are open to those outside the village and it was good to see some Biggin Hill and New Addington residents at the Holiday at Home week in August.

Much of the news at the moment is focused on the recession, with warnings of further hard times to come. There has also been some publicity of research results suggesting that hard times lead to hard hearts – that in a difficult economic climate there is a tendency for people to become more critical of others and less aware of their genuine needs.

Tatsfield can take the opposite view. There will be some in our community experiencing times that are difficult for financial or other reasons and this is nothing new, although the extent of it may be. The sources of support may be stretched to the limit and less available. It would be good if this community could be sensitive to the feelings that such situations can promote and seek to support rather than criticise.

However, there are many other communities that are more deeply affected than we are. We may come across them through, for example, work, friends or some of the outward looking Tatsfield activities.

Let’s hope that whatever 2012 will bring, Tatsfield will continue, and even expand, its concern for others both within and beyond our parish boundary.

Jennie South
Dear Editor,

This and That

Firstly, many apologies to all who visited Enid and Mick Garrard’s excellent Craft Fair at the Village Hall on Sunday 20th November hoping to take away some of my chutneys. Unfortunately I had a severe migraine and hadn’t felt so ill for years. Sorry Enid! Hopefully I can rectify this next year.

Martyn and I caught up with some “regulars” at the Tatsfield School Christmas Shopping Evening on the following Friday. I had not been into the School before but can now understand why so many small people go rushing past me, eager to get inside, when I’m watering the Horse Trough. Definitely NOT like Shakespeare’s “creeping like snail unwillingly to school”. What an inspirational place of learning … wish I could wind the clock back! I would like to thank Margaret and Desmond Bishop for their beautiful plums and damsons, and Anne Chapman for donating bags of apples, picked from a neighbour’s tree, that added to our yield. Fingers crossed for a good harvest next year too.

Villagers who have kindly purchased my booklet “The Garden beyond the Tower” about Herbs and the Rye Medieval Garden in particular will be saddened, I am sure, to hear of the death of the artist, Brian Hargreaves whose beautiful illustrations brought the Garden to life. Brian suffered a heart attack a few weeks ago, and was in a coma for some days from which he unfortunately did not recover. He worked with some “greats” in the Gardening world gaining Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medals for his work, so you can imagine I was more than flattered when he offered to work with me on this booklet. I was writing an article for Brian’s own specialist historical (not horticultural) publication when I received the news. I understand the article will be published in 2012. Martyn and I will be planting a “Rosa Mundi”, one of the earliest Roses in cultivation, into the Rye Medieval Garden with a plaque in Brian’s honour in due course. The Victorian “Women’s Tower” within the Garden is currently in a dangerous state with all garden work on hold until the architects working with Rye Castle tell us what they want to do next, so villagers please take note if you are planning a winter/early spring Rye trip – the Rye Medieval Garden may be out of bounds due to Tower conservation work just for the present.

Finally, as a regular Magazine contributor for some years now, I can say this rather unique publication goes from strength to strength. I would like to particularly point out “The Night Sky in Tatsfield” by Brian Mills. We in Tatsfield are fortunate indeed to have such low light-levels to see the constellations (Orion is my particular favourite) unlike many places where intense supermarket and road lighting keeps
our native birds baffled enough to sing through the night and sleep through the dawn chorus! Brian’s astronomical notes are excellent and worth clipping from the Magazine for a yearly reference.

In these uncertain times, I think we are all very fortunate to live in this village just now.

Lin Saines, Paynesfield Road

MAGAZINE MATTERS

Cover: The picture on this month’s cover is of the scene at the Christingle Making session at St. Mary’s Church Hall on 23 December, when great fun was had by all preparing for the two Christingle services on Christmas Eve.

Inserts: There is one insert this month: the Bird Register form for January - June 2012. Nigel Shaw would be grateful if those who have been filling in their forms for July - December 2011 would drop them in at Linda’s or deliver them to him at ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway as soon as possible. He hopes too that even more people will take the time to make a note of the different birds they spot in their gardens for the next 6 months - it’s no trouble at all to do and you might even find it interesting!

This Issue: We are expecting that our very efficient printers, Lonsdale Print Solutions in Wellingborough, will print the January magazine in the short break between the Christmas and New Year holidays and that Pam Jay and her great team of deliverers will then get the magazine to you at the New Year weekend or soon after.

Crossword: Four correct entries for the December Cryptic Crossword were submitted. The first opened on 16 December was Mike Lambert’s, and he will be receiving a £5 voucher for use in the village shops. This month’s crossword on page 43 was compiled by Doug Halters and is an ‘ordinary’ crossword not a cryptic one. You will find that it has many Tatsfield-related clues. Have a go!

Advertisements: We have about 100 advertisers whose adverts appear in the magazine each month (they advertise a year at a time). They bring in the large bulk of our income which enables us to provide every household in the village with a free magazine every month. We have always regarded the advertising pages as an important part of the service we provide you, for these pages tell you about a wide range of goods and services which are available locally. Most people want to support local suppliers, so do have a look at the adverts in the front and back of the magazine. You will find a supplier of almost everything you might want, not only for the more usual services like garages, builders and plumbers but also for some less usual ones like a lady painter and decorator, a Jazz Band, tennis coaching, clock repairs/restorations and much else.
The December meeting began with the traditional wishes for 2012, a glass of wine and some mince pies. We thanked David Bishop and his team of volunteers for arranging the annual Carols on the Green on the 16th December. There were particular thanks also to Ken Thurgood for his donation of additional lights, to his team for putting up the tree and to the volunteers who battled with wet snow and wind to put up the lights and the gazebo to shelter the Lewisham Concert Band.

The Council approved the budget for 2012/13 - rising from £33,000 to £38,000 – and went on to discuss the proposed refurbishment of the Westmore Green playground and the fund-raising activities of the PARROT Group. We noted with concern some of the criticism of the need for and the cost of this project. It was agreed to arrange a meeting soon to discuss progress.

We heard an update on Surrey’s plans for winter emergencies and discussed our own arrangements; it was noted that so far road gritting had been satisfactory.

Peter Kerry led a discussion on our progress with the community web development project and our plans for further work in 2012.

It was agreed to move forward with plans for celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee with a meeting on the 11th January in the W.I Hall at 7.30 pm.

We also agreed to hold a new Village Traffic Census, probably in November, and to have further discussions with a view to having a Village Appraisal in 2012.

A report was received from Phil Clark about Tatsfield Community Responders. There are promises of better communications, training and some new volunteers. The Chairman reminded colleagues that the Parish Council supports this important scheme and we may be receiving requests for funding in 2012.

The Clerk confirmed that the agreed £30,000 contribution from Surrey County Council had now been received and that – as planned – it would be set aside for the maintenance of the car park and new paved surfaces surrounding the Aileen McHugo Building and Village Hall.

Bob David reported progress with the 2012 Britain in Bloom competition. The Organising Committee had agreed that there would be two themes: the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. Fund raising was going well and final designs would be completed in January.

Jon Allbutt, Chairman (Tel: 576481; Email: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk)
Post Offices: You may have read reports in the press last month that there are plans to replace about 2,000 rural post offices with limited services in places such as garages and shops (there are about 11,500 post offices in all). The idea is that, instead of having a dedicated counter for post office transactions, post office business would be conducted by, for example, shop assistants at the shop counter and that more complex services would not be provided. We don’t know how firm the plans are and we don’t know which post offices are being lined up. What we do know is that we would not want to have such a downgraded post office in Tatsfield. What we also know is that the best way of ensuring that we maintain our post office services is to demonstrate that we need such a post office by using it. It really is as simple as that. And it really is up to us all – and that includes you and me!

Refuse and recycling services: Several people responded to my report last month about proposals for changing Tandridge’s refuse and recycling services and most were unhappy about the move to a fortnightly collection of refuse and the introduction of food waste collection. I have to say that it looks very likely that the proposals will get the go ahead when the full council meets this month, as I believe they will be supported by the large majority of councillors. I confess I find it difficult to argue in principle against a plan which will increase recycling, reduce landfill and save the council nearly £1 million a year, all of which are essential.

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

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Full Council last month, I announced a new Community Improvement Fund which will allow residents in Surrey to bid for money to help improve their local areas. I said this: “The fund will provide £750,000 to projects that promise to improve local areas, make a real difference to people’s lives and strengthen the ability of residents to independently enhance where they live. It may be a local community group wanting to build a community centre or a parish council wanting to create an allotment site. Whatever the idea, they will now have the opportunity to realise their aspirations. My vision for Surrey is one where we all work together – whether we are a council, a voluntary group or a business. We should see ourselves as One Team working to make a real difference to the lives of people in Surrey.” People can bid for between £10,000 and £50,000.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
The seventh annual Carol Singalong sponsored by the Parish Council took place outside the Ship pub on Friday December 16 from 7pm to 7.50pm and it was a packed crowd job, once again.

The morning started with quite heavy snow falling and so the weather forecast proved correct. Already discussions had taken place between Bob David and I about arranging another venue under cover should it prove to be impossible to run it outside. Very kindly the Badminton Club had offered us the chance to use the Village Hall between 6.30 and 8.30pm as they have a permanent Friday booking for the badminton players. They offered to restrict their playing times to 5 – 6.30 and then back on at 8.30pm with the Singalong re-venued inside the Hall. As the weather improved during the morning and it stopped snowing, it was decided to hold the event outside.

The team of “workers” under the “foreman” Roger Pearce started assembling the large marquee at around midday. After the marquee had been firmly anchored to Roger’s satisfaction, the carpets were laid and engineer Ian “did” the lighting. The whole job looked good and quite warm with a large halogen fire swivelling around on its stand and was quite a welcome site for the Lewisham Concert Band under their leader Leslie Lake, who arrived in time to start playing carols at 7pm. The evening by now turned out to be quite good for the Singalong to be held outside the Ship, with just a slight (cold) breeze occasionally blowing. Starting off the evening,
my Jan was circulating around everyone (complete with an illuminated Christmas hat) with a tray full of the new programmes that I had printed.

The Tatsfield Singers get better and better and under their leader Alex Detterding belted out the 15 carols which made the large crowd join in and sing all the louder. In no time at all it was 7.40 and with the ringing of a bell, Father Christmas (helped by Trevor Smith) arrived along with his two elves, Lucy and Bronte. Presents were given by them to all of the many children and whilst that happened, the Tatsfield Singers sang a very amusing (and entertaining) rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

To round the Singalong off, there was a Christmas message from Revd Gerald South followed by the chairman of the Parish Council Jon Allbutt who thanked everyone for coming and wished them all “A Happy Christmas”.

During the Singalong I had been announcing on my microphone that Carol (the Ship’s landlady) would be circulating the crowd with hot mulled wine and a hot mince pie for just £2! It didn’t happen, and when your scribe went into the place afterwards to have a chat to her, she told me that she couldn’t leave the bar because they were swamped with customers. Apparently many people did buy the wine at the bar.

Summing up then, another very good evening, and may I just mention the Christian names of some of the marvellous people that made the day possible: Jon, Bob, Barry, Rob, Sue and Sue, Doug, Ian and Ian, Nicole, Peter, Ana, Gerald, Carol, Amanda, Lloyd, Les, Alex, Roger, Tom, Babs, Jessica, Eddie, Philip and Philip, Jan Trevor, Lucy, Bronte and everyone else. A huge thank you to everyone. You are all blooming marvellous!

A Very Happy New Year and the eighth Carol Singalong will be held at the same venue on Friday December 14 in 2012.

Dave Bishop
TATSFIELD POPPY APPEAL 2011

The sum collected from boxes in Tatsfield, including the Clacket Motorway Service Station, was £1,187.51p. Special thanks to Sheila Cook and Pam Draper for all their help and support, and to those who had collection boxes. The children and staff of Tatsfield school were again particularly enthusiastic, and generous with their contributions. Thank you all very much.

Lorna Tory (Organiser for Tatsfield)

NEW TATSFIELD POPPY APPEAL ORGANISER WANTED IN 2012

There are so many good causes which deserve support. One that is almost universally supported is the annual Poppy Appeal. You will see from Lorna Tory’s report how worthwhile the effort in Tatsfield is. But we need a new organiser for the appeal next year as, after sterling service, Lorna needs to hand over to someone else. We are all grateful to Lorna. I am sure too that we want to continue the appeal in Tatsfield. Is this something you might be willing to take on?

There have been Poppy Appeal collections in Tatsfield for at least 60 years. Nationally, the first official British Legion Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11th November 1921, inspired by the poem “In Flanders Fields” written by John McCrae. Some of the bloodiest fighting of the First World War took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. John McCrae, who was a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, was deeply moved and inspired by what he saw and he wrote these verses:

In Flanders’ Fields

In Flanders’ fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders’ fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders’ fields.
On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the First World War ended. The collections made by the Poppy Appeal support the work of the British Legion, who help serving and ex-Service personnel and their families.

We know that there were Poppy Appeal collections in Tatsfield in the 1940s, organised by Miss Isobel King, who lived in “High Mead”, Ricketts Hill Road with her brother and two sisters. Pam Draper tells me that her mother, Ada Lugton (who ran the shop Lugtons Stores in Ship Hill), took over in the late 1940s and continued until 1960, when she handed over to Pam herself. Pam was followed by Liza Player, who was organiser for about 30 years, and then by Christine Gascoyne, who did the job for 10 years before passing it on to Lorna Tory (who is Pam’s daughter!) in 2009.

What a marvellous record! So, who is going to take over? It is not as big a job as it used to be, as house-to-house collections are no longer made in Tatsfield. Instead, the job now involves placing collection boxes at eight places in Tatsfield (Linda’s, the Ship, etc), making a collection one day at Clacket Lane Motorway Service Station and accounting for the money collected. Would anyone who is interested please contact me.

Bob David (Tel: 577357)

TEA DANCE SOCIALS

It was a special Christmas Tea Dance Social at the Village Hall last month. One of those who was enjoying the occasion was Sylvia Streets, who is pictured here dancing with her daughter Maureen, who is over from Canada for six months staying with her mother in The Square.

There will be a Tea Dance Social each month at the Village Hall in 2012, with the next one at 2.15 pm on Wednesday, 25th January. There will be some very good music played to dance to and there will be a free quiz and raffle, both with prizes. You can drink as much tea as you wish and there will be a cream tea for everyone. It’s the chance for everyone not only to make some new friends but to get some good exercise as well. The price is still just £6 each. If you have any queries, please ring Dave Bishop on 577550.
Earlier this year, I heard about a clothes shop in Oxted selling Fairtrade products. I was excited to learn that it was getting easier to buy Fairtrade cotton clothes near Tatsfield and so I visited Strawberry Fields (near Sainsbury’s) to have a look for myself. Huyla Irfan, the owner of Strawberry Fields, started by stocking only Fairtrade suppliers including People Tree and Braintree.

She continues to seek out designs that will be popular and, although not all the clothes are now necessarily Fairtrade, they are all made from natural fibres including cotton, hemp and banana fibres. In addition all are produced by ethically sound companies as Huyla is passionate about ensuring that the people who make our clothes, as well as the environment, are protected from harm and exploitation.

I invited Huyla to write about her values and her shop for our Parish Magazine (in which she is one of our regular advertisers - see page 75).

Hilary Harber, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group.

I have always had a love of fabrics and fibres…the textures of embroidery, knitting or any handcrafts have always been a passion of mine. There is a wonderful smell from natural yarns, raw wools and cottons, not to mention the soft, silky feeling of natural silks and breathable fabrics that are so kind to our skin and therefore good for our bodies.

There is a huge amount of work that goes into the creation of garments that we take completely for granted. The collection of the raw material that is then made into the fibres, that are in turn woven or knitted into the fabric. That then has to be designed and cut/sewn into the wearable piece that we then see on the shop floor, packaged and ready to wear.

These incredible skills of handcrafting are a treat to watch and support, and in purchasing Fair Trade stock I am finding some unique pieces, at home and abroad. I so enjoy seeing the beautiful crocheted items in local traditional markets.

Supporting Fair Trade means not taking advantage of artisans and ensures I can appreciate the craftsman. It makes me feel I am giving something back to the people and to nature.

I know I feel so much better knowing I am treating people fairly, not harming or taking for granted the beautiful world we have been blessed with. There are so many people less fortunate than we are.

Huyla Irfan, Strawberry Fields, 98 Station Rd East, Oxted.
Well over 20,000 primary school pupils across the country take the Primary Mathematics Challenge every year. It provides some interesting mathematical challenges for those who enjoy something a little tougher to chew on.

Five of Tatsfield’s pupils were bold enough to enter this challenge at the end of last term. They had worked very hard during the term on practice material and learning some tricks, such as how to tell quickly if a number is divisible by 3 or 4 or 9. All of this effort served them very well as they all produced some excellent answers to many of the challenge questions – well done to them.

The photo shows them with their certificates. They are Emily Budgen, William Dalgliesh, Eleanor Evans, Taylor Smith-Chandler and Cristelle Spaulding.

Here are some of the questions they had to grapple with:

- I have a paper rectangle. If I make one fold by putting one corner exactly over its diagonally opposite corner, which of these outline shapes do I get?

- Edina Cloud bought 2 cakes and a doughnut for 80p. She then bought 3 cakes and 2 doughnuts for £1.30. How much is one doughnut?

- And how many adults would get this one? A simple lock on a safe uses two numbers. Each can be from 1 to 6. To enter the safe, any even number and any odd number is needed (in any order). What is the probability that someone choosing numbers at random will open the safe in one go?

Gerald South

PS A challenge for you – the most clearly expressed solution (i.e. with reasoning, not just the answer) to this last problem will be printed in the next magazine. Submit your solution to Linda’s Stores or to me at Clouds, Ricketts Hill by January 15th.
AN APPEAL IN MEMORY OF FRED GILLAM: ROMNEY HOUSE CAT RESCUE

My dad, Fred Gillam, lived in Johns Road for about 40 years. We have started an appeal in his memory for Romney House Cat Rescue, which is a great little charity based in Downe and which desperately needs support to help replace their cat houses with new PVC ones. More information provided by Romney House about the appeal is below, including details about how you can make donations. In addition, my mother, June Gillam, would be happy to receive any donations at Windy Ridge, Johns Road.

Dawn Gillam

THE FRED GILLAM PROJECT

In memory of her father, the late Fred Gillam, Dawn Gillam has very generously donated £3000 in support of our latest project to replace the wooden cat houses at the centre with new PVC purpose built units.

Our cat houses today

Born in November 1931 in Peckham South London, Fred and his brother very quickly became streetwise enjoying their South London upbringing. In order to ensure their safety during the Second World War they were evacuated to the Devon countryside where their love for the great outdoors and animals began. Fred was a keen supporter of many charities and generously supported his daughter Dawn with her fund raising events in support of animal organisations. About 7 years ago Dawn adopted Tooley, a five year tortoishell female cat, from Romney House. Tooley required a great deal of attention and patience as she was a very nervous cat. Despite this Dawn and her husband Barrie persevered and now reap the benefits of having a wonderful homely cat.

In 1959 with housing being scarce Fred founded a self build group. They purchased plots of land and collectively built the homes they needed until all members of the group owned their own home. Three of these still remain in Tatsfield today. This community spirit was the foundation of how Fred lived his life, a quality that has since been passed down to his daughter, Dawn.

Dawn contacted Romney House in August wishing to pledge a donation in memory of her father to support the work carried out at Romney House. She was at that time unaware of the project planned to replace the existing wooden cat houses which badly need replacing with modern, hygienic, PVC ones. What could be a more fitting tribute to Fred than to continue with his self build group legacy through a
donation by Dawn in support of this new project. Once the project is completed the cats will enjoy the benefit of Fred's labours and a plaque in his memory will be displayed in recognition of his charitable spirit.

In addition, Dawn's employers, Scotia Gas Networks, have generously donated a further £500 from their "Into Action" fund. Scotia Gas Networks own and operate two of the largest gas distribution networks in the UK (Southern Gas Networks and Scotland Gas Networks) and yearly donate thousands of pounds in support of their employees' charitable and community projects. We have also been helped by Animal Friends Insurance who recently donated £2000 after Romney House was included in a public vote on their website.

We are extremely grateful for these generous donations which will enable us to initially launch this project. However the total cost will be in the region of £20,000 and we would welcome donations from other well wishers who feel they could support this project.

Donations can be made by cheque payable to Romney House Cat Rescue at Romney House, Luxted Road, Downe, BR6 7JX or by PayPal via the website www.romneyhousecatrescue.org.uk.

SECURITY IN YOUR HOME

In October, I carried out an environmental security review of Tatsfield where I found examples of the following concerns:

- No obvious security measures in place
- It appears no one is at home
- Valuables on show
- Things that are left lying around to help break-ins
- Unlocked windows and doors

Top five effective security measures

The Home Office have identified the following measures as the most effective to reduce the opportunity for crime:

1. Effective security lighting
2. Surveillance
3. Locks/bolts/bars
4. Access control
5. CCTV

Perimeter toppings

When considering hostile toppings you must have consideration of the following legislation: Section 164, Highways Act 1980, Section 5, Occupiers Liability Act 1984 and Town and Country Planning Act.
In general legislation is not in force to prevent the use of hostile toppings but to mitigate any harm or injury.

**Opportunity for crime**

I am often asked what type of criminal, opportunist or professional, who has broken in or may want to break in. Professional criminals make up only about 5% of criminals. They generally commit crime if they know about and want to steal a specific item of property. The vast majority of criminals are opportunist not professional and they can be divided into two groups:

**Casual opportunist** – this group will generally only commit crime if an opportunity jumps out in front of them such as an open door, valuables left on show in a car or unattended property.

**Determined opportunist** – this group will actively look for an opportunity or will create the opportunity to commit crime.

Another area to consider is what factors contribute to criminal activity. These can be grouped together creating criminal triggers or the reason why a specific property is targeted. These can include open access to the rear of the property, an overgrown front garden, lack of lighting, an open door, the impression of an empty home, the perception that it is an older person’s property and so on.

Potential opportunist criminals will in their mind have and maintain a perception of risk. If your home has in place good home security measures and a secure environmental layout, then the perception of risk created will probably exceed their acceptable level of risk. Good home security measures, time delay measures and a sense of risk of being seen, caught or captured will reduce opportunity and therefore prevent crime.

Consider taking the following measures:

- Remove criminal triggers
- Remove open access to the rear of your home
- Open up the front to create good surveillance opportunities
- Ensure you use door and window locks

If I can assist with any enquiry or matter raised following this article please feel free to contact me.

**Mark Howells, Surrey Police,**
**Tandridge Crime Reduction Adviser**
(Tel: 101 ext 37044; email: howells14615@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

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**TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Parish Room on Monday 9 January at 8pm after the Police meeting at 7.30pm.
GARDENING CLUB
8 pm on Tuesday 17 January
WI Hall

‘THE GOOD LIFE’
A great double bill with two of Tatsfield’s own experts

Aslam Akhtar – Keeping Chickens
Did you know that keeping chickens is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the UK? Come and learn how to get started, meet two of the Akhtar flock, have questions or doubts answered and hear about the joy of daily fresh eggs.

Paul Jackson – Keeping Bees
Paul started keeping bees 3 years ago. He will be talking about the ups and downs, the glory of harvesting honey, the particular difficulties bees face, colony collapse syndrome and things to do with honey and beeswax.

DON’T MISS IT! ALL WELCOME

WOULD YOU LIKE A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME FOR YOUR AREA?

Having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme can make a real difference to dealing with local crime. There is only one scheme in Tatsfield – for the Ricketts Hill Road area – which is fully operative at present. The Parish Council is working with Surrey Police on a project to promote Neighbourhood Watch for all of Tatsfield. Parish Council Chairman, Jon Allbutt, would like to hear from anyone who is interested in helping – phone Jon on 576481 or email him at jon@jon allbutt.co.uk.

There will be an initial discussion at the Police Forum on Monday 9 January in the Parish Room before the Parish Council meeting.
ST MARY’S FLOWER FESTIVAL 2012

Saturday 2 June – Tuesday 5 June
Part of the village celebrations of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

This may seem a long way ahead but as this biennial event relies for its success on the help and support of so many individuals and organisations, we thought it would be helpful for you to know the date well in advance! We have a wonderful team of people who have very kindly agreed to co-ordinate the many and varied aspects of this major village event and more detailed information will be available soon. Jan Maynard and Kay Longley are bringing together the team of flower arrangers and are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to take part and to support anyone who would like to have a go perhaps working alongside a more experienced person. If you would like to know more please phone Jan Maynard (577659) or Kay Longley (577682).

Jennie South

‘DAVID HOCKNEY – THE MODERN TRADITIONALIST’
Wednesday 4 January
7.30 for 8 pm at Westerham Hall

An examination of Hockney’s respect for tradition and how it is evident in his work. ‘He didn't just paint swimming pools!’ Jill Brownhill shares her extensive knowledge and enthusiasm

WESTERHAM FINE ARTS SOCIETY

SALT BINS ARE FOR PUBLIC USE ONLY!

Salt bins are placed in strategic positions in the village by Surrey County Council. They are for use only on public roads and pavements and are there for the benefit of us all. **They are not there for use on our own drives and paths.** The bins are all full at present and the salt in them will be needed for roads and pavements when conditions worsen. Please do not remove the salt for your own personal needs.
CELEBRATING
THE QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE
2-5 June 2012

PUBLIC MEETING IN THE WI HALL
Wednesday 11 January at 7.30 pm

Hear the results of the survey of villagers’ preferences for village celebrations

Share your ideas about how you would like to see the village celebrate the Diamond Jubilee

Village organisations and villagers are urged to come and help decide what we do

Arranged by the Parish Council

JANUARY SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)
★ All your fresh fruit and vegetables ★ Frozen and tinned food
★ Wild bird food ★ Pet food ★ Pot plants ★ Cut flowers ★ 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)
★ All your Post Office needs here
★ Daily deliveries of fresh bread and cakes from Plaxtol Bakers
★ Pick up a leaflet in the shop for current bargains
★ You can now use credit or debit cards to pay for your shopping

VILLAGE SHOPS
NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Greengrocers</th>
<th>Linda’s Stores</th>
<th>Post Office</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 1</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<td>Monday 2</td>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>8.00 – 11.00</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3</td>
<td>8.00 – 5.30</td>
<td>6.00 – 5.30</td>
<td>9.00 – 5.30</td>
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BUS TIMETABLES
Not sure about the times of the 3 Tatsfield bus services – the 464, 540 and 595? Pick up your free pocket timetable from Linda’s.
SOUTHDOWN PSV – OPERATORS OF THE 595 OXTED/TATSFIELD/WESTERHAM BUS SERVICE

We have introduced a “text alert” service for our passengers. The technology of text alerts will allow us to communicate instantly with passengers giving information regarding any delays caused by accidents, road closures, diversions, bad weather etc. We believe this new service will be invaluable especially with winter coming!

To register simply text BUS followed by the route number (e.g. BUS595) to 66777 to receive free updates direct to your mobile. Please note that the initial text to 66777 will be charged at your standard network rate.

LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

By the time you read this, Christmas will all be over and done with for another year! However, as I write this it is the day before our end-of-term Christmas sing-a-long and party, which I hope that everyone enjoyed very much!

We are currently planning a few events for the children and the parents for next year, and we will let you know what these are as soon as possible, so that you can all come along and support your children and your local pre-school. Our last event, the Matchbox Challenge, was won by Keira Welsh, who had 42 items in her matchbox beginning with the letter “T”, so well done Keira! We also raised over £250 for the pre-school, which is fantastic. We are now in the process of sending out Smartie tubes for the children to eat, and hopefully over Christmas and the New Year they will fill them up with any odd coins they can find and bring them back to us!

Our Facebook page is now up and running, and is for Little Acorns parents only, where we can keep you informed of forthcoming events, put up reminders and just generally communicate with you. If you get a chance, have a look and let us know what you think!

We are back to Little Acorns on the 9 January and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year!

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) please contact Julie Barlow on 541103.

Helen Hartley, Vice-Chair, on behalf of Little Acorns Pre-School (Tel: 576871)
LOCAL POLICE NEWS

I hope you all enjoyed the festive period!

I have been your local PCSO for around two months now and have enjoyed meeting many local residents during that time. However, I am yet to meet many of you and I encourage you all to introduce yourself when you see me passing.

Every Wednesday local officers attend the Tatsfield police surgery from 10.30 to 11.30 am in the Parish Room behind the Village Hall. The aim of having this event is to enable a regular means of contact between the police and residents so you can express any concerns you may have. In recent weeks this has been largely unattended, so I will be looking into changing the timing in the hope of generating more interest.

The next police panel meeting will take place in the Parish Room at 7.30 pm on Monday 9 January, immediately before the monthly Parish Council meeting.

PCSO Matthew Nottidge

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the 100 Club winners for November 2011:
1st prize - Dave Eames £37.50. 2nd prize - K. Budgen £25.00. 3rd prize - Margaret Burton - £12.50

TATTY KNITTERS

Happy New Year to you all. Tatty Knitters are on the move. Our January get together will be at The Ship. Carol has kindly agreed to allow us to sit and knit in front of her fire on Tuesday 10 January from 7.30 to 9.30 pm. Buy your own tipple – cakes still provided. Hope to see you crafty people.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

NEW YEAR REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

Collections are back to normal in the New Year. So, in Tatsfield, your refuse and recycling will be collected as usual on Tuesdays from 3 January onwards.
IF YOU NEED A FRIENDLY DRIVER –
WE ARE THERE TO HELP YOU

If there is anyone in the village who requires assistance with transport to attend medical appointments, collect prescriptions, etc., they need only ring the Helpline’s Co-ordinator Sylvia Waters on 577524. Sylvia will find a volunteer driver to match the request. The cost is only the driver’s petrol expenses plus a nominal amount for administrative expenses.

RING SYLVIA ON 577524

VETS FOOTBALL

We are continuing with our Vets Football sessions in the Village Hall. We are there from 6.30 to 7.30 pm on Thursdays. Like to join in? Just come along or give me a ring first if you wish. Non-marking trainers to be worn please.

John White (Tel: 570097)

GOOD HOME WANTED FOR ‘MINI’


MIS-USE OF THE RECYCLING BINS AT THE SHIP

Many people use the bank of recycling bins in the Ship car park for recycling glass bottles, tin cans, paper, cardboard and old clothes. Sad to say, it is often mis-used, with items deposited anywhere and sometimes non-recyclable material is just dumped there. As a result, the place is often a mess. Please only use the bins for recyclable material and please put the items in the right bins. Even worse, in recent weeks it has been targeted by flytippers putting builders-type waste in the recycling bins. Would anyone who sees someone dumping there, please try and note the registration number of the vehicle being used and then let me know.

Bob David (Tel: 577357)

SAGE

Know all about Sage? Want to know more? It’s a member of the Mint family. There are many different varieties, some very hardy. It thrives in Tatsfield. And lots of different uses in cooking. You will find all this and more in Lin Saines’s article on pages 48 and 49.
Find your neighbourhood quirks and perks

Surrey residents can now explore their neighbourhood in depth and see how it rates for health conditions, crime, economic performance, education and more.

Surrey-i provides an easy way to see information about your local area, from countywide level to specific wards.

It’s completely free and you can view data in several formats, from tables, to charts, graphs and even maps.

Surrey-i will allow you to compare the health needs between different areas of Surrey, or find out how your local schools rate in the performance tables.

The free tool also captures all your local crime information from Police.UK, so you only have to visit one website to get in the know.

Whether you’re interested in finding out how the county is addressing health issues, crime rates for your neighbourhood or simply want to locate your nearest public services, visit Surrey-i today.

Your insight into Surrey
www.surreyi.gov.uk
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

Thursday 26 January 7.30
St Mary’s Church Hall

Clue : Jane de Lorfette?

Genre: Drama  Country: France  Year 1986  Running time: 122 mins
Language: French/subtitled  Rated: PG13

Director: Claude Berri

Cast: Yves Montand, Daniel Auteuil, Gerard Depardieu, Elizabeth Depardieu, Ernestine Mazurowna

A World Cinema favourite from 1986, French director Claude Berri weaves a spell of evil in the guise of a provincial village. The farming community, under the leadership of the wealthiest man and his nephew, do their utmost to see that a newcomer and his family fail at every turn in their attempt to return to nature. This film is only one-half of the tale and stands very well on its own... but the story continues ten years later... we’ll be showing the second part in February. Highly recommended... even for subtitle-haters!

Suggested donation of £3 per head
to include a glass of wine

The Bakery open from 6 for a tasty and great value dish of the day at £7.99 per head
(vegetarian option also available)

Wendy Harvey 01959 562340  wendyharvey@talktalk.net
Elaine Webster 01959 577753  elainez@btinternet.com
ST. MARY’S ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday 5 February
1 pm in the Church Hall

Three course dinner, coffee, mints and raffle
£8.50 for adults and £5 for under 12s
Tickets for this are available from Sheila Cook (577443) or Jennie South (577598)

All proceeds to our Zimbabwe link

ZUMBA CLASSES

Every Tuesday evening from 3rd January
7 pm at Tatsfield Primary School
£5 per person

★ Exhilarating, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness programme
★ New songs!
★ New dance routines!

Hope to see you all back in the New Year!
And all those who are yet to try Zumba!
Just turn up

Enquiries to Vicky Cooling on 07891 295972

REMEMBER ST. LAWRENCE’S HOSPITAL IN CATERHAM?

If so, put Saturday 25 February in your diary for an exhibition of photographs of life there organised by the Caterham and District Local History Centre at the Caterham Valley Library. More details next month.
TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL: 
OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICE

In an emergency outside normal working hours relating to Tandridge Council’s responsibilities call 01883 722000.

The Council’s out of hours service deals with emergencies involving life and limb, serious noise nuisances, including faulty car and burglar alarms, dangerous structures, emergencies in the Council’s housing stock and sewers. Your call will be diverted to the emergency answering service. If it is an emergency, a council officer will be contacted to deal with it. The Council can only deal with emergencies. By ringing with non-urgent requests you will affect the response time to real emergencies.

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
A much loved traditional pantomime
presented by the Oxted Players

Friday 13th January at 7.30 pm, Saturday 14th at 1.30 and 5.30 pm, Sunday 15th at 1.30 and 5.30 pm, Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th at 7.30 pm and Saturday 21st at 2.30 and 7.30 pm

Tickets (£8.00) from 01883 724852 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

St Patrick’s Night

Do please join us on Saturday 17th March 2012 in Tatsfield Village Hall for an evening to remember - featuring live music with a caller, plenty of dancing and a light buffet. Full details in next month’s magazine.

For advance tickets and enquiries call Jane Cannon on 541148.
Easter 2012 Trip to Vern d'Anjou

Our coach leaves early on Good Friday April 6th and returning home on Tuesday April 10th.

Sample the superb hospitality of our twin town in France, Vern d’Anjou in the wonderful Loire Valley. You’ll stay with French families enjoying their warm hospitality and of course wonderful food and wine!

Don't miss this fantastic experience taking in all that rural France has to offer in the company of Tatsfield friends and family.

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT PETE FULLER
tel: (01959) 573 554 or
e-mail: peter.fuller@tiscali.co.uk
## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sun</td>
<td>NEW YEAR’S DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10am Sung Eucharist - StM</strong></td>
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<td>11am Ramblers Walk - The Green, Godstone</td>
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<td>2 Mon</td>
<td>BANK HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH</td>
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<td>3 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 12noon WI Meeting - WIH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TATSFIELD SCHOOL RETURNS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10.30am -1130am PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR</td>
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<td>8pm Yoga - VH</td>
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<td>5 Thur</td>
<td><strong>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM</strong> • 2pm WI Darts - WIH</td>
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<td>6.30pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH</td>
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<td>8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>6 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH</td>
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<td>8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<td>7 Sat</td>
<td>11am - 12noon PC Café - The Bakery</td>
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<td>8 Sun</td>
<td><strong>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM</strong></td>
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<td>9 Mon</td>
<td>9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH</td>
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<td>7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS • 7.30pm Police Forum - AMB</td>
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<td>8pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC</td>
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<td>10 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH</td>
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<td>7pm Scouts - SH • 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - The Ship</td>
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<td>11 Wed</td>
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<td>10.30am -1130am PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR</td>
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<td>7.30pm PUBLIC MEETING RE QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - WIH</td>
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<td>8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
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<td>12 Thur</td>
<td><strong>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM</strong> • 2pm WI Darts - WIH</td>
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<td>7.30pm Food and Wine Society Vegetarian Evening - WIH</td>
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

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### FEBRUARY

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<td><strong>Holy Communion (BCP) - StM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Open the Book - All Age Service - StM</strong></td>
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<td>ST. MARY’S ANNUAL DINNER - CH</td>
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**Venues**

- AMB - Aileen McHugo Building
- 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
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – OLYMPICS 2012

If you are looking to get involved in the excitement of next year’s Olympic events in Surrey, then the ‘Surrey Ambassadors’ scheme could present the perfect opportunity.

Surrey Police, in conjunction with Surrey County Council, is looking for volunteers to support our Olympic programme of events and activities whilst helping to give visiting spectators a really good experience of Surrey. Ambassadors are required to ‘meet and greet’ people, guide them to events and local places of interest and answer questions.

Volunteers will need to have specific local knowledge of locations along the routes of the cycling events and the Torch Relay – key locations are Dorking, Egham, Esher, Godalming, Godstone, Guildford, Leatherhead, Redhill, Reigate, Shere, Weybridge and Woking. They will also need to be available on at least three of the following dates: 20, 28, 29 July and 1 August and for a days training in the weeks leading up to the Olympics.

To take on this important role you must be an excellent communicator, enthusiastic, supportive and reliable. As the friendly face of Surrey, you will need to be approachable, open minded and patient, as well as physically fit and confident. If you are fluent in a second language (particularly French, Dutch/Flemish, Italian, German and Spanish) that would be useful but is not essential.

At the moment we are just looking for expressions of interest. Once you have registered interest you will receive an application form and further information. Applications will be ‘sifted’, and those who meet all the criteria will be invited for a short interview. After training, successful applicants will work alongside other Olympic stewards, and of course Surrey Police officers and staff.

To register your interest, please email volunteer@surrey.pnn.police.uk giving your name, address and phone number. Or drop us a line at Police Support Volunteers, Surrey Police HQ, PO Box 101, Guildford GU1 9PE.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday, 1 February, 2011.

A MATHS CHALLENGE FOR YOU!

What’s your maths like? On page 25, at the end of Gerald South’s account of budding mathematicians at Tatsfield School, you will find a challenge for you! Are you up to it?
CROSSWORD

Some (but not all) the clues require some Tatsfield knowledge

Across
1&19d Seasonal greeting (10,3,4)
6 See 15a
9 Proverbial response to small mercies (2,8)
10 _____ Rabbit (4)
12 Fool (5)
13 Wealth (8)
15&6 At Furze Corner for example (5,2,4)
17 See 25d
18 North Downs Sinfonia produce a good one (7)
21 He will repair your bodywork (7)
23 They decide who gets the prize (8)
24 Such a course at Tatsfield Church recently (5)
26 A bad day for Caesar (4)
27 Increased by one over the eight (5,1,4)
28 Some Beaver Water World residents have floppy ones (4)
29 Your parish church (5,5)

Down
1 The view of us everybody sees (6,4)
2 In the open air (7)
3 The ‘In-bloomers’ often do this (5) ……
4 ….. but they may have to do this to the leaves first (4,3)
5 Not common (7)
7 He’s busy preparing for July (4,3)
8 Used to be “Wedgwood’s _____” (4)
11 What’s left after a sending off at Furze Corner (3,3)
14 Page 59 of the December magazine encourages us to be one of these (10)
16 Drab (6)
19 See 1a
20 I haven’t got ____ foggiest ____ (3,4)
21 Back door (7)
22 More joyful (7)
24 Warning signal (5)
25&17a Find him at Wedgwoods, or the Hall or … (4,7)

Solution to December crossword
26. Basement
Down 1. Presley 2. Easy rider 3. Train
20. Solvent 22. Hyena

Prize of £5 voucher for use in Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers to the first correct entry opened on 16 January. Please drop in your entry to Linda’s Stores or send to Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN.

Compiler:
Doug Halters
Rev Canon Penny Brown to be leaving Limpsfield

Our Team Rector, Penny, who is also priest in charge of St Peter’s Limpsfield, has recently written the following announcement.

*When I began my ministry here just over 2 years ago both Peter and I thought we would be with you for at least 5 years. Shortly after our arrival though, Peter was diagnosed with a rare form of neuropathy which, although not life threatening, has no cure and leads to a gradual loss of mobility. It is not possible to predict with any accuracy the progression of the disease and the affects, hardly noticeable in the first 12 months or so, have become much more apparent in recent months. Because of this it is with great regret that I am announcing today my decision to resign as Team Rector and therefore as Rector of St Peter’s. I am sure you will understand what a difficult decision this has been for us to make, how happy we are here and how much I love the work I do and the people I serve in this community but you will no doubt also understand how important it is for us now to spend time together.*

*We haven’t finalised a leaving date but it will be some time in April after Easter so we do have time together to prepare for the future.*

Our thoughts and prayers go with Penny and Peter at this difficult time. Tatsfield residents may be assured that our Team Vicar, Louise, will continue to be priest in charge of St Mary’s.

Mary and Joseph complete their journey

Mary and Joseph have travelled round 27 Tatsfield homes, the School and Tots on Top on their journey which ended at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to all those who acted as hosts and taxi drivers.

Services at the beginning of January

The 8 am service will be on 8th January not on the first Sunday of the month as is usual. There will be a Sung Eucharist at 10am on 1st January.

Annual Dinner,
1 pm on Sunday 5th February in Church Hall

Please phone Sheila Cook (577443) or Jennie South (577598) if you would like to come. Further details elsewhere in the magazine.
Once again Sauro Gabelli and helpers have produced an amazing tableau of the nativity in the church entrance area. The fine detail and innovative touches have been enjoyed and admired by many. It will remain there for a few days into January, so if you have not yet paid it a visit do go and have a look in the near future – and perhaps make a donation to the Children’s Society in recognition of all the hard work that has gone into producing this superb scene.

**Open the Book – on 8th January – not the 1st!**
December saw a full church for our Advent themed Open the Book service. It is lovely to see so many children joining in. Some of the children who were recently admitted to Communion used their new prayer books to read an Advent reflection and lead the prayers. There was also a very enthusiastic percussion accompaniment to one of our songs by many children from 1 years upwards!

On 8th January we will celebrate the visit of the ‘wise men’ with their gifts. Our service on February 5th will feature candles – those who still have their baptism candles are encouraged to bring them along and light them as we recall our baptisms. These services start at 10am, last about 45 minutes and are designed for everybody, including the youngest.

**Parish Records**

10th December Interment of ashes of Alan Halfpenny

**Flower Rota for January**

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th - Jan Maynard
Introduction:
This, as we know, is the season for hibernation, when all the little village people cuddle up in their cosy nests awaiting the arrival of spring. But wait – what’s this? The unusually warm winter sunshine has woken a couple of the village folk. It’s Uncle Bob and Adventurer Jim! Something has alarmed them. They’re running over to their computers and firing off emails. What’s the matter Bob and Jim? Has someone been raiding your store of nuts? Ah, no, they’re still all there, well preserved in their little plastic sacks. They have a crafty nibble before resuming their wintry sleep. I hope they didn’t eat too many; they might regret it when the nasty snow and ice arrives. And now they’re fast asleep once more, all snuggled up by the fire. Everything’s well in Tatyland. Goodnight, Bob. Goodnight, Jim.

And so, I hear you ask, what was it that drove the boys to take email action? Ah, yes, of course; they knew it was getting near the deadline for this month’s Nature Notes! Let’s see what they had to say:-

Uncle Bob’s correspondence (Bob David):

“When we first came to live in the village many years ago, we used to be visited every day by dozens of Sparrows and every night hundreds of Starlings used to settle in the woods immediately behind our house at the end of Ninehams Road. However, they all disappeared 15 or more years ago and we haven't seen a single sparrow or starling here in all that time. We get visited by lots of other birds but never Sparrows or Starlings. Do you have an explanation please?’

The simple answer, Bob, is no, I don’t. But we can’t leave things like that, so, here’s an ‘off the cuff’ attempt to answer your query.

Like ourselves, birds need food, water, shelter and the opportunity to reproduce, and will change their circumstances through various means in order to achieve a feeling of safety and well-being. Consequently, at this time of year (and indeed throughout the year) some species migrate in order to find the ideal environment. This behaviour is generally due to food availability, but may also be something to do with species populations, learned/instinctive behaviour or habitat loss. Where I live, we have a fairly healthy population of House Sparrows that enjoy feeding on nuts, seeds and manufactured foods (bread, pastry, etc.). They reside most of the time in a prickly pyracantha hedge that offers year-round protection from the elements and predators. They are a local community. Their needs are met locally and they have no need to wander. Nevertheless, at times the entire population of Sparrows disappears for weeks on end, suddenly re-appearing and carrying on as usual. There is no apparent reason for this behaviour. I’ve often thought about it but remain puzzled. Starlings behave differently: At this time of year we are visited by a flock of 30 or 40 individuals, some of which remain all year, others just appearing during the winter season. Their numbers increase during the autumn when the resident population is swelled by visiting migrants. In your case, Bob, the once present Sparrow and Starling
populations have simply disappeared. So, let’s see – a suitable food source is present (nuts, seeds, kitchen scraps, a worm-rich lawn area – if not frozen), the habitat seems ideal (woodland, hedges, garden shrubs) and there is no obvious threat to their safety (no more than other gardens). Let’s think about populations and communities. You are fairly isolated at the end of Ninehams Road. Perhaps too isolated for sociable birds like the House Sparrow? There is the old expression, ‘Birds of a feather flock together’: perhaps your earlier residents preferred the company of other Sparrows and decided to move closer to other established communities? As for the Starlings, well, to be honest, as I said at the beginning of this response, I really have no explanation. They are gregarious, but seem quite happy to search a wide area in search of food. Why not your garden?

I have purposely not gone delving into books or carried out an internet search on this occasion. It’s sometimes a good idea to use an unpolluted, fresh-eyed approach to problems. The opportunity is, therefore, wide open for our birding friends to propose their own theories. I await their responses with reckless anticipation!

**Adventurer Jim’s correspondence** (Jim Yeeles):

‘I've a feeling I've mentioned this before but couldn't find anything when searching my mail. Please ignore if I'm repeating myself. (Don’t worry, Jim. The average age of our readership is such that your failing memory is well understood and tolerated. Who am I? Where am I? What day is it? Where should I be? Does it matter? Probably not.)

I've managed to spot **Marsh/Willow Tits** on several occasions in the Chestnut Avenue area, but have never really been confident on the identification. I've always assumed it was a Marsh Tit, just because the Willow is now considered quite scarce in the South-East - but I could be totally wrong. What a stroke of luck then that the BTO have recently uploaded a video to youtube to help with the ID. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUrMrXbJIQk&feature=relmfu

*Marsh Tit (or is it?)*

The only sure way to tell them apart is by the songs and calls but, unfortunately, when I last saw my mystery bird it wasn't playing ball and remained silent! Better luck next time, I hope. It's worth checking out the BTO's video channel on youtube. Lots of useful information for experts and casual punters like me.’

Thanks, Jim. I took a look and it is indeed an excellent addition to our arsenal of identification aids.

It’s the New Year! I hope you have a **WONDERFUL** 2012!! If you haven’t contributed to Nature Notes yet, make it one of your resolutions. Why not? It’s fun! And there’s still time to send me your collective nouns for next month’s magazine!

Any news, views or observational reports? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com or leave a note in Linda’s.
FOR THE LOVE OF HERBS

SAGE – A WINTER STALWART

The winter Herb Garden has a brooding, mysterious quality. Skeletal old roses lurk beside intriguing mounds of soil secretly enclosing chives, woodruff and ancient peonies, all sulkily waiting for warmer weather. Box hedging frames the scene, behind which fragrant-leaved myrtle, rosemary, bay, thyme and sage provide interest in their many shades of green, while only hellebores and witch hazel are generous with winter flowers.

Sage is an important member of this garden. It is a strangely neglected herb that is familiar to many and should be included in every Tatsfield garden. It is long-lived, even tempered and very easy to grow either on a sunny border or within a pot, tub or trough. Look out for the “Salvia officinalis” forms; these withstand our Tatsfield winters with ease, and can be pruned back directly after flowering in late summer to encourage a well-shaped, bushy plant thick with leaves. All varieties carry attractive deep blue flowers which importantly are a magnet for the local bee population, and being a member of the Mint family, Sage is an easy plant to propagate preferably in spring by taking softwood cuttings, or older stems can be propagated by layering. Just bend a low-growing, strong stem to ground level and keep it gently weighted until new roots form, which may take some weeks. When fully rooted, water the day before you wish to pot the new plant up, then use a sharp knife to detach from the mother plant, pot up into good compost (not garden soil) and grow on in a sheltered spot until fully hardy. Organic seaweed feed works well with Sage and all herbs as this promotes slow, strong growth over the season, and of course the mineral elements contained in seaweed are good for any herb used in the kitchen.

There are many forms of Sage, all attractive, but the hardiest of all and the one I have grown most successfully over the years is the purple-leaved form. Planted at the feet of dusky Old Rose varieties such as “Cardinal de Richelieu” or “Reine des Violettess”, both bearing deep purple velvet-like blooms, this herb is an absolute delight right through the year, and one I shall be introducing as a border into my own Potager, due to be completely replanted this year – very much overdue, I regret to say. Variegated alternatives include sage “Icterina” which has a bright leaf splashed with lime, and “tricolour”, a pale sage-grey, white and pinky-mauve combination. This one is very difficult to keep through the winters here, even in a heated greenhouse. Best kept on the dry side, I find.

Other varieties of Sage have exotically-scented leaves that are aromatic but not the best for culinary use, such as “Pineapple”, “Blackcurrant” and “Lavender”, and these definitely have to be treated as sub-tropical tender plants, pot grown and moved indoors throughout the colder months here. They are good to have in a
potted herb garden as their leaves are so aromatic that even sunshine on their leaves will produce a beautiful scent; therefore good plants to consider for wall-mounted summer mangers and troughs perhaps, kept pruned to an attractive shape.

Throughout history Sage has been considered a healing plant, hence its name “Salvia” - to save. Over the centuries it has been widely used for anything from a gargle, a tonic drink or a poultice for broken bones combined with comfrey! One of the most important “strewing” herbs in medieval times, its strongly-antiseptic qualities have long been used as a moth and flea repellent, and can be used tucked into animal bedding for the same purpose today. A popular use since Roman times and probably before is a tooth whitener and breath freshener, young sage leaves combined with older mint leaves, rolled into a ball and rubbed on the teeth. I have tried this and found it to be very refreshing, although a bit “squeaky” to use! A cheaper and more natural alternative to Colgate and such-like though!

When cooking with Sage add just before serving, as the flavour can easily spoil, leaving only the taste of camphor. It has a very strident flavour, so be careful with quantities! There are many kitchen uses for this herb; for instance try freshly chopped young leaves in salads and tomato-based dishes such as Pizza. Add dried or freshly-chopped larger leaves (stronger in flavour) to lamb hotpots, stews and rich pasta sauces such as boar or venison ragu. Finely-chopped herb crusts combining seasoned breadcrumbs with sage, thyme and rosemary can be applied to roasting joints of pork, lamb legs, lamb racks or venison to give a real touch of professionalism. In Norway, sage is used extensively in fish cookery to counteract the oiliness of certain fish, and this herb crust with the addition of grated lemon rind used with strongly-flavoured mackerel is a real winner! To enhance the flavour even more, I tuck lemon wedges and a couple of sage leaves into the cavity and part-cook in the oven before placing under a hot grill for a final flourish. Serve with a red onion, balsamic vinegar and tomato salad, which in summer can be zinged up with some pretty blue sage and orange nasturtium flowers (not forgetting the hot, almost rocket flavoured nasturtium leaves finely chopped over all). What a lovely thought, standing in the winter garden, looking at that good old Tatsfield stalwart – SAGE.

Next time we look at essential herbs for ground cover, including Chamomile, Woodruff and the Thyme family.

Lin Saines
January 2012 sees two of the brighter planets putting on a display for us in the evening skies.

If you look towards the south west soon after sunset, you will see the planet Venus shining brilliantly in the constellation of Aquarius. Venus exhibits phases in the same way as the Moon and for the same reason - the amount of the illuminated hemisphere turned towards the Earth varies depending on the positions of the bodies involved. Its phase at the moment is gibbous - part way between first quarter and full. The apparent distance between Venus and the Sun will continue to increase, making it easier to observe, until March 27th, when it will appear as far from the Sun as it can get. At this time it is said to have reached its greatest elongation. After that it appears to grow closer to the Sun until on June 5th - 6th a rare astronomical event occurs - Venus transits across the face of the Sun. We'll look more at this phenomenon later in the year.

The variation in distance that I've described above is merely an effect of our viewpoint from here on Earth. If we were to view the passage of Venus around the Sun from above, it's orbit would be an ellipse with the planet's distance varying from 66½ to 67½ million miles.

One reason for Venus appearing so bright (only the Moon is brighter in the night sky) is that it has an atmosphere that is highly reflective, although it is an uninviting mix of carbon dioxide and nitrogen with clouds of sulphur dioxide.

Much higher in the sky and almost due south lies the bright planet Jupiter, whose four largest moons can be seen with binoculars. A small telescope will show what appear to be markings and belts around the planet which are in fact bands of clouds in constant motion in the upper atmosphere. One of the best known features is the Great Red Spot, a massive anti-cyclonic storm which has existed for at least 180 years.

The map shows the positions of both planets in an area of sky that we looked at in detail last month, so you may already be familiar with it. It is drawn for around 18.00 hrs (6pm) in the middle of the month.

Brian Mills  FRAS
I came to this super village in the early fifties as a young BBC engineer working shifts at the Receiving Station, which was at the top of the Approach Road. It was where the large aerial pylon now is, which is all that is left of many acres of different types of receiving aerials that were there. After starting work, the first thing I did was to find myself a bank, because the BBC only paid their engineering staffs through a monthly cheque paid into a bank of your choice. Like most of my colleagues, I opted for Barclays Bank at Westerham. It was the start of many years of a very friendly affair and when I had a query or needed help, I dialled their telephone number and more often than not, the person answering the call would recognise my voice by saying “Hullo Mr Bishop”. How clever is that? Over many years I have used the helpful services of “my” bank at Westerham for buying cars, my house, and goodness knows what else. It’s been super having that personal backing service from Mandee Osborne and Sharon Ford.

Sadly, from out of the blue we have received a bombshell from them. Barclays Bank is closing its Westerham branch on February 3. Yep they are closing and “we” are told that we can (should we keep to Barclays) go to the Biggin Hill branch. But (apparently) if anyone wants to send his or her opinions to the Area Director, you can write to a Mr Wayne Robinson, c/o the Westerham branch. Let us see if that will make “them” change their minds about closing our Barclays Bank at Westerham. But (as Hughie Green used to say) don’t hold your breath!

And Another Thing

I was surprised to find that on a recent service my Fiat car needed a replacement part called an “injector”. It’s a “thing” that shoots a jet of petrol into one of the cylinders. My engine has 4 of them and I was staggered to find that the cost of this little bit of two inches long engineering cost £200 each. I am a modeller and have quite a few engines that run at 10,000 revs per minute for endless hours. One in particular I have had since 1948. Some of my engines are made in China, with the cost around £50 each.

Once upon a time the word was “don’t buy a Chinese copy because it’s rubbish!” Not so nowadays because they are excellent engineers and produce top quality items that work hard, last long and are much cheaper for us to buy. I’ll betcha that if they were given the chance to make those injectors they would not only work superbly but would be a quarter (or even more) of the cost of what we pay at the moment. So, “come on my old China, let’s see you shine!”

Dave Bishop
1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

A Happy New Year to all.

I hope that the festivities went well and you all had a pleasant, peaceful and relaxing time. The Beavers will be returning on Monday 9th with the Cub and Scout sections returning on Tuesday 10th. I look forward to seeing all the sections back and hopefully some new faces; several faces will be moving sections this term too. Leading up to the Christmas break we held Christmas parties for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the HQ with music, food and games whilst Explorers opted for a night out. The Beavers and Cubs are again all going to the Barn Theatre, Oxted to see this year’s Pantomime performance, which is Jack and the Beanstalk – always a great fun time for all and a great start back for the new term and year.

Looking forward in the Scouting diary for this year at some of the events, it looks as if we will be busy. There is a County fun day for Beavers at the Cranleigh showground which is a great day out with hundreds of things to make and do in June. Before that in February and March Scouts and Explorers will be running round the countryside for the annual escape and evasion exercise ‘Colditz’, always hotly contested. We will be planning days out and camps for all the sections too.

All sections will be providing packed and varied programmes and I look forward to telling you all about it over the course of the coming year. We will also be organising a variety of fund raising evenings in the coming months. This helps to boost group funds as there is always much needed kit and equipment that needs repairing or replacing. Your support at such events is always greatly appreciated and without it, it would be impossible to function so watch this space.

It just leaves me wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous 2012.

Helen Clarke, Group Scout Leader (Tel: 01883 380742 Mobile: 07736 230068 Email: tatsfield.gsl@gmail.com)

DONATIONS TO THE MAGAZINE

Each year, village organisations are asked if they would like to make a donation to the magazine’s funds and every year there is a generous response. It is such donations which, together with our advertising income and the huge voluntary effort in producing and delivering the magazine each month, which enables us to provide a free magazine to every household in Tatsfield each month. We are very grateful for the donations which have come in so far in response to our latest request from the Art Group, Bridge Club, Food and Wine Society, Primary School, Scouts, Village Club, Village Hall Management Committee and WI.
Date for your diary:
Tuesday 17th January, 8pm WI Hall – Gardening Club: “The Good Life”. Aslam Akhtar will be giving a talk on keeping chickens and Paul Jackson will talk about keeping bees. All welcome.

Membership of the Tatsfield Horticultural Society
The Society’s annual Schedule will be ready for distribution in the New Year, so committee members will be calling round to collect your annual subscription, which is £5 per family and is free to senior citizens. The main aim of the Society is to promote knowledge and interest in gardening and kindred subjects but there are also social aspects too.

We have given the Schedule a bit of a facelift this year and hope you find it easier to use. Each year we run Spring and Autumn Shows which are popular events for both adults and children alike and this year we intend to hold our first summer show in conjunction with the Scout Fete on 1st July. Even if you are not a keen vegetable grower, there are classes in photography, arts and crafts, flower arranging and a domestic section too. We have included a section in the Schedule on how to enter the shows and there are going to be 3 new trophies for 2012: a new Art Trophy at the Spring Show, donated by Carol Gaskell; an Art Trophy for the autumn show donated by Bob David in memory of Peter Warner, and Jon Allbutt has donated the Allotment Trophy which will be awarded at the Autumn Show for the best basket of six fruit/vegetables grown on the allotment site.

Other annual events over the spring and summer include the Plant Sale, Children’s Gardening session and the Summer Lunch plus visits to Great Dixter House and Garden and a trip to Buckingham Palace and Garden. 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.

During the winter months on a Tuesday there is Gardening Club with talks from speakers on a range of subjects to help you get the best from your garden or allotment. Another benefit of being a member of the Society is use of the Community Composting Scheme which runs throughout the summer months and will be moving to the allotment site in Approach Road in the forthcoming year; from April 2012, garden waste can be deposited at the Approach Road site and “black gold” compost, a perfect soil improver and mulch, can be collected from the Borough Road site.

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

Rosie Fuller
W.I.

WI members joined together for their meeting on the 6\textsuperscript{th} December to celebrate Christmas.

The committee had been busy in the afternoon decorating the hall and when members arrived it looked very festive. We were greeted with a glass of Mulled Wine to set us in the party mood. Each member brought along a dish, either Salad, Savoury or Sweet, and as usual when we do this we had a lovely variety of food to sit down to and enjoy.

Each member had been asked to bring a present costing not more than £1 – it was amazing the ingenious presents that were purchased for only £1 – the Pound Shop has a lot to answer for. All the presents are placed in a basket and we then have a ‘lucky dip’. The reason for limiting the sum to £1 is because we have a charity collection and this year we nominated MacMillan Nurses as they have been so helpful to one of our members who has heavily relied on them over the past few months.

It was a lovely evening and we all enjoyed having the time to chat with our fellow members over a good meal.

Our January meeting is on Tuesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} January. As it is so early in the New Year we are starting the meeting at 12 noon with the business – which will include discussion and selection of the resolution we would like to go forward to the National AGM in June. If passed, the resolution will form the basis of campaigning and awareness-raising in the years ahead. The subjects up for consideration are:

1. Field Study centres and outdoor education
2. Airborne litter
3. Reducing fuel poverty
4. Employment of more midwives
5. Achieving legal status for British Sign Language
6. Helmets for cyclists.

Following the meeting we will join together for a lunch of soup and bread followed by a sweet and we will then enjoy an afternoon of table games.

If you would like to know more about the WI then why not give our Secretary Angela a ring on 577434 or myself on 01883 713106. You will receive a warm welcome if you would like to join us.

Doreen Harper

BULKY RUBBISH

You don’t have to wait too long - the next Bulky Rubbish collection by Tandridge will be on Saturday 25 February.
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The Club had a very good response to our Christmas Raffle at the Craft Fair held by Enid Garrard at the end of November and we made enough money to pay for the members’ Christmas lunch.

On the 10th December the Christmas lunch went ahead this year, with no cancellation due to snow! As usual, it was the full festive lunch with all the trimmings. The wine was donated by Thelma Keeble, the port wine donated by Andy Shrubb and me, and there was a lovely surprise of a Knights calendar and chocolate bell each from Pam Miriam – many thanks to those people. A vote of thanks was given to our general dogsbody Michael Garrard, for the enormous amount of running round with the car he does and also to Enid, who seems to have boundless energy. A good time was had by all.

Our next club meeting is on the 10th January, which will be a social event.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

Because we are linked with the Westerham Ramblers, most of our walks are across the border in Kent but we are starting the new year with two walks in Surrey. Both the walks start in Godstone but they are very different. Details are below. Have you thought of giving the Ramblers a try? You would be very welcome. Just turn up or give one of us a ring if you would like to know more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Walk</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 1st January</td>
<td>11 am at The Green, Godstone (Map ref: TQ350515)</td>
<td>5 miles, 3 hours, one short hill as we are going by the direct route, refreshments stop at the Barley Mow, Tandridge</td>
<td>Dudley Turner</td>
<td>Sunday, 15th January</td>
<td>11 am at The Green, Godstone (Map ref: TQ350515)</td>
<td>6 miles, 3½ hours, via Garston Park to Bletchingley</td>
<td>Carol Vening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, 29th January</td>
<td>11 am at Hosey Common (Map ref: TQ 453530)</td>
<td>5 miles, 3 hours, to the Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart via Goodley Stock Woods and back via Tower Wood</td>
<td>Carol Vening</td>
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Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)
JANUARY NOTES

To fertilise or not to fertilise? Is that the question? Gardening books, radio and television gardening programmes provide us with conflicting advice on this interesting subject. There are those who enthusiastically recommend ‘a good handful of a general purpose fertiliser’ - for everything. Others talk about conditioning the soil, or indirectly feeding the plant by good cultivation and the use of well composted organic material, or use organic fertilisers like bonemeal, dried blood and other odd sounding materials.

So which is best? Let’s step back a bit and think about the plant and why it might be necessary to feed it like a small hungry child! We talk about making sure that a plant grows steadily with good balanced growth whether it is a shrub, bedding plant, fruit or vegetable. We also need to ensure that the plant does not grow too fast and produce lots of soft growth that is vulnerable to attack by pests and diseases. We know that a plant that grows too fast may not produce that crop of flowers or fruit because of an excessive amount of foliage and stem. In fact a plant that is growing in well prepared soil should be able to take in the nutrients it needs, when it needs them, rather than being ‘force fed’ by a soil that was heavily dosed with unnecessary fertiliser.

It is also true that intensively managed soil, such as an allotment, will over time start to lose its natural balance of nutrients and this requires a programme of replacement according to the crop being grown. This is one of the principles of crop rotation that ensures the right sort of nutrients are available for particular types of crops. A good example of this will be the family of legumes (peas and beans) that need a ready supply of Nitrogen as they need to grow quickly and make a lot of stem and foliage to support the flowers and fruit we like to eat. Confused? You will be unless you have a plan that starts with understanding the needs of the plant or crop you are planning to grow.

Our Tatsfield soil is clay and flint (Tatsfield Diamonds as we call them). It is tough soil to work and at times it might seem that it will never be fit to plant. But given patience and good timing, it is in fact a rich soil and yielded some very fine crops of vegetables last year much to the surprise of our new allotmenteers!

So, think carefully before you load up your soil with fertiliser. My advice is to aim for an indirect feeding strategy using plenty of properly composted organic material and organic-based fertilisers used with care.

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

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