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COUNCIL CONTACTS
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Parish Council website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield • email tatsfieldpc@talk21.com
Tandridge District Councillor • Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield TN16 2AN (577357)
Surrey County Councillor • David Hodge, 30 Harestone Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6HD (01883 337881)

OTHER CONTACTS
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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Please state if not for publication.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,

Happy New year to you! The turkey has (hopefully) been finished, the presents opened and the decorations will be coming down soon. Family have been and gone and, after all the parties and celebrations, a time of peace and reflection is called for. As we prepare for the New Year ahead, I wanted to think a little about the year that has just been and gone.

It started off very white with heavy snow and very cold temperatures – in typical Tatsfield fashion this brought out the best in people, as indeed has the recent snow. When the thaw finally came, the village once more came to life and here are some of the highlights! We had our new school open with its community games area; a village-wide litter initiative; various sporting successes; an amazing variety of activities by our young people’s organisations supported by their tireless leaders; many fund raising events, for example those in aid of Help for Heroes, Macmillan Cancer Care and the Alfie Say Fun Day on the green; the Art Group exhibition; the visit to Vern D’Anjou; the continued support of Tatsfield Responders; the emergence of the village choir; a variety of concerts in the village hall; the achievement of the village getting its Fairtrade status; floral displays of unprecedented quality both in the village and at the St. Mary’s Flower Festival and to top it all, top prizes in county and national competitions.

It has also been a notable year for the parish church with, for example the arrival of our Vicar, Louise, a highly successful Flower Festival, a new initiative with the Holiday Club and the flourishing Tots on Top and Open The Book services, both of which have growing numbers.

Hopefully, the coming year will bring many further success stories to our village. Along with the regulars, we can also look forward to some new allotments, a Petanque court and further affordable housing to help enable more local people to continue to live within the village.

Of course, not everything was so wonderful for everyone. We have mourned the loss of various well known and well loved people from the village and the state of the economy made things difficult financially for a lot of families, but in all of this, we still see acts of great kindness and generosity amongst us. Jesus called us to ‘treat your neighbour as you would want to be treated yourself’ and we continue to see so many people come together to give their time and energy to so many things and to look after those in need. Hopefully, we can all do our bit for those less fortunate than ourselves.

May 2011 be a wonderful year for all of you and may God bless you in all you do.

Michael Evans
Dear Editor,

**Escape from Tatsfield**

I, and I am sure all the other people who went to Sainsbury’s at Chelsham on Friday 3rd December, would like to thank Jon Allbutt for organising the trip. We would also like to thank the drivers of the 4x4s who enabled us to get the essentials. What a wonderful village we live in. We can’t thank you enough.

**Andy Shrubb, Crossways Court**

Dear Editor,

**Admissions to Tatsfield School**

One can only offer sincerest sympathies to the Longley family and, no doubt, others in Tatsfield who are facing a major problem with regard to their children being admitted to Tatsfield School.

Having spent several years in Kent acting as a Lay Member of Schools Appeal Panels, I know full well what a heartbreaking process it all can be. In simplistic terms, certainly here in Kent, there are far too many applicants for the better schools and, in the short term, no way in which this discrepancy can be rectified. PAN (the Published Admission Number) appears to be sacrosanct although, on more than one occasion, the Appeals Panel of three members has overturned the PAN number of say thirty and allowed one or two ‘extras’ to go into that particular school, without it causing major teaching problems.

Doubtless, your active members of the Parish Council and also your County Councillor will press their case as hard as they can. My suggestion would be to do a ‘Dennis Strange’ in this situation. From earlier experience, I well recall just what an excellent chairman of governors Dennis was and how he absolutely refused to be brow-beaten by bureaucrats. His efforts culminated in more than one visit to the old village school from a big noise from the SCC in Kingston. This belligerence was well rewarded and Tatsfield children continued to enjoy a choice of secondary schooling rather than being ‘posted’ to far-away Hamsey Green!

It does seem totally crass that any children living outside the village are being granted places at the expense of those living within Tatsfield’s curtilage. Certainly in Kent, I do not recall an instance where children living, say, on the Sussex border
have been granted places in Kentish schools, even if, mile-wise, they may have lived marginally closer than children living at the extremes of that school's conurbation.

The Longley family have long been big players in village matters and it seems strangely bizarre that the younger members should now be experiencing such difficulty with their own children's primary education. Don't despair, as you will surely get your wishes answered. Incidentally, they may find some useful information on the internet, by educationalists who have specialised in this over-subscription criterion.

Colin Davis, Woodchurch, Kent

Dear Editor,

Admissions to Tatsfield School

We are very proud of Tatsfield Primary School and particularly pleased with the quality of education and experience offered to the children who attend. The staff work especially hard and through their efforts the school has become a great success. Understandably, it is a very popular choice for parents of local children, and is greatly oversubscribed every year for the small number of places that can be allocated.

We wish to acknowledge the articles previously published over the last couple of editions of the Parish Magazine. Admissions to the school are discussed at length annually, by the governing body.

The school follows the Surrey Admissions Policy, where the criteria are set by Surrey County Council. Likewise, parents make applications for a place at the school to Surrey County Council, who allocate the places on 11th April 2011. The closing date for applications of children starting school in September 2011 is 15th January 2011, and the number of applications will not be known by Surrey County Council until then.

Our fundamental aim is to do the best we can for children who come to the school and to help their families give them a great education.

The Governing Body of Tatsfield Primary School

One leaflet is coming with this magazine - the Bird Register form for January - June 2011. If you don’t already, try noting the birds in your garden and see how you get on.
Dear Editor,

**Oxted Library Closing Temporarily**

May I, through the magazine, inform readers that Oxted Library will be closing on 29th December and will not re-open until 22nd February. This is to allow the fitting of a lift to the upper floor where the Citizens Advice Bureau is located. Unfortunately, library staff are unable to remain on the premises while this work is being carried out. Consequently, no books may be collected or delivered to the building during this time. The good news is that, should you forget to return books, no overdue charges will be made!

Oxted Library has a growing number of loyal users visiting from Tatsfield and it is hoped that they will not be too heavily inconvenienced. Readers are, of course, welcome to use our neighbouring branches at Redhill and Caterham during the closure. The staff at Oxted look forward to welcoming everyone back at the earliest opportunity.

Further details of library services are available on the Surrey County Council website or by telephoning 03456 009009.

Happy New Year and Happy Reading!

**Nigel Shaw (c/o Oxted Library)**

Dear Editor,

**New Company Formed**

If you happened to have been walking up by the “SIP” (SHIP) pub during the Friday daytime on December 17, you might have witnessed a new company that has been formed - TFSAWG (Tatsfield Sing-Along Working Group). In freezing conditions and quite deep snow this strong healthy group of stout men started work at 10 am and immediately under the company directorship, unwrapped new lights that had been supplied by Doug at Lilley’s in Biggin Hill and the team proceeded in a line and wrapped them around the new Christmas tree. Then this group put up a very large gazebo and carpeted it throughout to be ready for the evening's annual Christmas Carol Singalong due to start at 7pm.

Should you feel the need of this new super company just contact any of the personnel: the Managing Director- Jon Allbutt, the Company Logistics Director – Barry Bull, the General Manager – Mike Teague, Foreman – Eddie Leeves and finally the Odd Job Labourer – Dave Bishop.

Thanks team, you were great!
There were others who “worked” during the one hour of Carols that evening: Father Christmas and his two Elves with a lot of help from Trevor and Lucy Smith and Ellie Kilby, also Jon Allbutt, Ian Longley, Gerald South and last but certainly not least, Jan Bishop. The pub ran out of hot mulled wine despite Carol making more than ever this year and the pub was packed to the gunnels with many diners and revellers. Amanda and the team were extremely busy, which is how a pub should be. The Lewisham Concert Band was much reduced in players due to the awful road conditions of snow and ice but they did a super job despite their instruments freezing. But the group who surpassed themselves without a doubt were the Tatsfield Singers under their conductor Alex Deterding. What a wonderful sound they made.

Finally, Father Christmas was almost mobbed by the many excited children as he had parked his sleigh on the roof of the “S-IP” pub and came out through the back door complete with his two Elves. Sorry Santa!

Happy New Year and Stuff

New Year resolutions complete and another year starts for all of us. There are a few mods to be announced and one of them is the 4-weekly Tea Dance Socials which Jan and I will continue running, with the first being held at the Village Hall on Wednesday January 26 from 2.15pm – 4.55pm with the first increase in price at £6 each which is the first ever from when they started over 5 years ago. I shall carry on with writing in the Borderlines column in the Tandridge edition of the Surrey Mirror and report on all the things that are going on in the village and roundabout the area. Remember it’s all about you that I write pieces for weekly, and I have heard from some of you that you like what I write. That’s nice, thanks for that and a happy New Year to you all.

Dave Bishop, The Square
COUNCIL REPORTS

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Christmas Carols: The Parish Council is very grateful to Mr and Mrs Lovelace of Johns Road for donating the Christmas tree; thanks too to Ken Thurgood of Acacia Tree Surgeons for cutting it down and taking it up to the island and to Ian Longley, Mike Teague and Eddie Leeves for ‘planting’ the tree and organising the lights. Following comments about the lights last year, the Parish Council voted to spend another £180 this year to provide a better display. We are very grateful to Paul Tredwen for donating the lighting harness and to Doug Freeze for organising the new bulbs. Despite the snow the gazebo was put up, and we had a good turnout for the carols. Thanks to David and Jan Bishop for organising the event, to Santa, the Tatsfield Choir and members of the Lewisham Concert Band for braving the cold! Thanks again to all the other volunteers for helping in so many ways to make this such a success.

The Winter Snow: We have been in constant contact with SCC Highways and Cllr David Hodge to ensure that Tatsfield received a better service to try to keep the roads open. Despite our efforts the roads were very difficult during the heaviest falls of snow. Ricketts Hill Road and Ship Hill were particularly difficult even though they are Priority 1 routes for gritting. We lost the bus services for a while but we understand that the problems with the 464 were not due only to Tatsfield’s roads. We received a lot of comments from residents regarding the lack of gritting and a snow plough but in fact this time around we did receive a better service with both gritting lorries and a snow plough. On this occasion gritting lorries were noticed working in upper Paynesfield Road, Crossways and Westmore Road, but snow ploughing was not possible in many places due to parked cars. Surrey CC announced earlier in the year that our salt bins would only be filled once but following further discussions we are assured that they will be filled again. Unfortunately, we have received reports that residents are emptying these salt bins to clear their own paths and drives and this has resulted in there being no salt to use on the roads and pavements. We would remind residents that the salt in these bins is to be used only on the highway and pavement for the benefit of all.

The Parish Council is very grateful for our volunteers who have worked hard to keep important road junctions clear, the area in front of the shops, the pavement outside the bus stop and down Ship Hill and the entrance driveway to the school. Our winter Emergency Plan and Check Your Neighbour Scheme is working well with our volunteer drivers doing a great job taking elderly residents shopping, to hospital, doctors’ appointments, collect medicines, and to travel out of the village to families outside of Tatsfield. Thank you all.

We are assured that the Parish Council will be involved in the review of the road treatment programme during the snow and to plan for any further similar events.
David Hodge has confirmed that he has asked for the original decision that the London Borough of Bromley could not treat our roads to be reviewed to see whether such an arrangement could be possible. The Parish Council has also been asked if there is somewhere in Tatsfield where a store of road salt could be held; this is being investigated.

**The Village Hall, The McHugo Building and the Car Park:** Work has started on carrying out essential maintenance work to our buildings. This will require that some areas of the paths and car park may have to be closed off but the work is being carefully organised to minimise disruption. Remedial works have started on the car park to protect the lighting bollards and to rectify the faults in the telescopic bollards. This work has required that the car park be closed but we hope that the works will be completed in a matter of days.

**The New Allotment Site:** After further discussions with Tandridge District Council and Surrey County Council Highways, the Parish Council has been asked to apply for a licence to have a vehicular entrance to the new allotment site off Approach Road. We are hopeful that this application will proceed without further problems and we should have secured a lease on the site by early in February. We will then move on quickly to allocate allotments, apply for grants for a building, a water supply, fencing etc.

**The Parish Council Budget for 2011/2012:** The Finance Committee has completed work to finalise the budget; this was presented to the full Parish Council and agreed.

**Proposed Extension to the Footpath Across Tatsfield Green:** The Parish Council discussed the public information meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 11 January in the Parish Room and agreed that if there was no majority in favour of extending the footpath the Parish Council would defer any actions for now.

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

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Parish Room on Monday 10 January at 8.00 p.m. following the Police Forum at 7.30 p.m.**

---

**Tandridge District Council**

**Snow and ice:** Our lives in the last month have been dominated by snow and ice. There has been a lot of criticism of the state of our roads and the failure to collect our refuse and recycling. I know it is no consolation to villagers but this time Tatsfield was not alone in suffering these
hardships – main and side roads elsewhere in Surrey were as bad and there were times with no refuse or recycling collections anywhere in Tandridge. Should councils have been better prepared? Or did they do as well as could be expected in exceptional circumstances? There will be reviews of how the councils concerned performed.

So, overall, what has it been like? Despite the efforts of the County Council’s gritters, there were periods when snow and ice made it impossible to use any of the village’s roads, unless you had a 4–wheel drive vehicle. Buses couldn’t get into the village either. So, except for those who had 4–wheel drives, we were virtually cut off at times. It was good to see so many people helping others in these circumstances. Many people on their own initiative kept an eye on their more vulnerable friends and neighbours and helped with shopping and prescriptions. Jon Allbutt, chairman of the Parish Council, was occupied for the whole period organising help and doing much himself. With the help of others he cleared the paths around Crossways Court (the flats for elderly people) and took part with other 4–wheel drivers in a shopping expedition to Sainsbury’s in Warlingham. A crowd of parents, staff and other volunteers, greatly helped by Dave Webb and his tractor, cleared the school car park so that the school could re-open after being closed for days. Mike Lambert has kept the path around the Village Hall and the Aileen McHugo Building well gritted. Most suppliers were not able to get into the village to deliver to Linda’s Stores, so Brian Dance went out and collected essentials for the shop’s customers. Tony and Di Brown kept their greengrocers well stocked. So, whatever you might think about the councils’ performances, we can certainly say well done to the whole village!

Government grants and Council Tax: The government announced last month the provisional amount of grant which it will give to Tandridge for 2011/12 – the grant will be reduced by 12 %, just under £500,000. The reduction is higher than expected. When account is taken of other reductions in its income, Tandridge will have to make savings of about £1.3m from its budget of £11.5m. This is bound to result in reductions in what Tandridge does but the aim will be to protect its front line services which directly affect residents.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

I would like to thank all residents in Tatsfield for all your community-minded efforts over the last year. Well done on winning the Surrey Village of the Year and all the In Bloom competitions. I hope that everyone has had a happy Christmas and the New Year has started well.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
FROM 1st FEBRUARY THERE IS A NEW CO-ORDINATOR AND TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE HELPLINE

A community care system, with a base at The Rectory, had existed in the village since 1980. Originally the idea was for volunteers to help local residents without transport to attend medical appointments, collect prescriptions, etc.

Following an extensive Village Appraisal it was felt that more people might make use of the scheme if it was more widely known and more drivers were recruited. The Tatsfield Helpline was subsequently formed by constitution 1995. Officers, a committee and a Co-ordinator were appointed, together with the recruitment of additional drivers.

The Helpline reached a peak of 136 requests for assistance in 2004/05. Currently our 25 volunteer drivers are still providing our village with a valued service, especially to our elderly residents.

Our present Co-ordinator, Barbara Burton, has undertaken these essential duties for the past five years. Many thanks go to Barbara for her diligent and committed services.

As from 1st February our new Co-ordinator will be Sylvia Waters on 577524.

If there is anyone in the village who requires assistance with transport, they need only ring our Co-ordinator. Sylvia will find a driver to match the request. The cost is only the driver’s petrol expenses plus a minimal fee for telephone and administration costs.

If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer driver, please give our Co-ordinator a call. Volunteer drivers are always welcome to spread the load. Commitment is minimal, there is no obligation and most drivers are only requested to carry out one or two journeys a year.

IF YOU NEED A FRIENDLY DRIVER – WE ARE THERE TO HELP YOU

RING SYLVIA ON 577524
I am proud that I was Chairman of the Scouts for the three intense fundraising years, culminating in the building of the superb scout building on the Approach Road. It exhausted every penny available, so with over 100 scouts, guides, cubs, etc. to entertain, a quick cash injection was desperately needed. Paul Howard, knowing my connections, suggested a concert might be possible. I phoned “Mr Bluegrass”, Rick Townend, and he promised the wonderful “Townends Special Bluegrass Service” band, so I knew it was viable. Various other contacts pledged support, a date was set, the hall booked, tickets printed and a team assembled. My daughter, Georgia, was on maternity leave so she undertook the creation and production of a programme. Russell Louder and I cobbled together a PA system, using two amplifiers of different output mounted on modified building trestles. On February 3rd 1996 at 8 pm sharp, the first of the “Scouts Concerts” started to huge applause which continued for every set of the show. The following morning, my neighbour Derek Gibbons said “When’s the next one?”! The first of many compliments. A count-up showed a nice profit of more than £900.

With that precedent and many lessons learned, we organised another for the following year on similar lines but a little more professional and slick, organisation-wise. At this concert, Bluegrass legend, Gary Payne, assembled a scratch band of members from his “Picking Club” at Farnham. Once again, the whole event was very well received and quite profitable. The scouts had also had some other good “fund-raisers”: race nights, fetes and other projects had swelled the coffers nicely. It was also noticed the audiences were, in part, regulars.

Shortly after the 1997 concert, the Village Hall rebuild commenced. We were promised completion by the end of the year – give or take a week or two – so expected to be the first significant event of 1998 in the new hall. No way! Frantic phone calls were made to find a suitable venue for re-location. Luckily, Park Wood Golf Club volunteered the huge clubroom. This meant it could not be a “lights out” event, but could at least go ahead. Top of the bill “A Band Like Alice” (front man – Gary Payne again). Gerry Williams formed a band “Deep River” especially for the event, featuring brilliant multi-instrumentalist Adrian Farmer on banjo. Adrian had been down to play a dobro set in concert one, but badly cut his hand on the Friday. He felt so guilty at letting us down, he donated countless CDs for the raffle! He now resides in Holland but if he’s ever over here when there’s a concert due – we’ll have him! “Deep River”, many personnel changes later, are still going strong.

Just after I’d finalised the 1998 “line-up”, Dave Plane asked “Why haven’t you asked me to play Tatsfield?” I couldn’t believe my luck and promptly booked him for 1999 expecting to “Christen” the rebuilt hall one year later. Not so! Panic stations, once again. Highly regarded “New Essex Bluegrass Band” had agreed to
top the bill and with “Blackjack” (a new band who had just achieved fourth place in Europe championships and had Gary Payne as front man). By now Dave Plane had joined “Monroes Revenge”, so what with “Mr Bluegrass” and Rosie, we had a top class line up. At the eleventh hour, we re-located to the Scout HQ. Gary Payne kindly provided and operated a first class PA system, Pat Francis, “Blackjack’s” dobroist from Hayling Island, drove to Yorkshire, via Liverpool, attended an AGM, drove back to Tatsfield via Liverpool and arrived in time to play!

Altogether, the four concert series raised just over £3,000 for the Scouts and provided good music for the supporters.

Over the years, I had countless queries from both performers and audience regulars about another show. The Village In Bloom team were more adventurous yearly, so requiring ever-more funding and I had my own “pet causes”. In conversation, Jon Allbutt and I were discussing these issues and decided to pool our various abilities to organise a top class concert in February 2009 and split the proceeds between “Crossroads” (my choice) and “Village In Bloom” (Jon’s). We decided two top bands, each playing two sets would work well; and contacted “Monroes Revenge” and “Grass Roots” (who had also played at Park Wood and now had “Mr Bluegrass” on fiddle). Also, front man Terry is outrageously funny. Though it snowed like hell, we elected to go ahead and it worked perfectly. Result, a first class concert that generated £1,340 clear profit (not bad, eh!).

So to 12th March 2011. Hopefully late enough to avoid snow, we plan to bring you “The Andy Smythe Band”, “A Band Like Alice” (front man Gary Payne, no less!), Park Wood 1998 veterans and extra special guest, Chris Moreton, Britain’s foremost acoustic guitar flatpicker. Beneficiaries will be “Village In Bloom” and K.I.C.T., formerly Bobbysfund.Org, a children’s cancer charity. Aged 3, Bobby Wright was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a very aggressive, almost invariably fatal, cancer condition. Dad Kevin refused to accept this, stopped work immediately and laboured up to 20 hours daily at his PC, researching world-wide, every facet, specialist, treatment and lifestyle change needed to beat the cancer. As Bobby’s condition improved, Kevin’s thoughts went to the other unfortunate parents “in the same boat”. He set up a charity in his own grounds to make available his research findings and proven results and to fund their implementation. (He’d spent a six-figure sum of his own money saving Bobby, now totally cured and cancer free.) Every penny raised goes to the victims. K.I.C.T. has no overheads and no “snouts in the trough”. Already it has supported many desperate families. What a worthwhile cause!

All the performers have websites (with sound tasters) as has K.I.C.T. Google: (1) The Andy Smythe Band, (2) Chris Moreton, Guitarist, (3) A Band Like Alice.

Bobbysfund.Org has a DVD of Kevin Wright addressing a worldwide cancer conference in the USA and telling his amazing story. This is compelling watching, whether you intend to support the concert or not.

Tony Watson
LOCAL POLICE NEWS

I thought I would take this opportunity to say goodbye. As some of you may know I am joining up to be a Police Officer with Surrey Police. I would have done my last shift by the time most of you read this and would have patrolled around Tatsfield for the last time. I have been a PCSO in the area for two years 10 months and have enjoyed it very much. This was obviously helped by being so lucky to have such a nice area and community to patrol and I would like to say thank you to Tatsfield as a community, the residents and everyone involved for making me very welcome and feel very much part of the community.

I hope I have contributed to the community in some way and helped tackle some of the issues and help make you feel safe. My last day is Saturday 18 December and my training starts at Mount Browne, Guildford on 4 January 2011. So thank you for all your support and help and you never know I could get Tandridge as my area as a new PC!

PCSO Nick White

When Nick leaves, we do have another PCSO joining on 10 January. Her name is Hermione Pilbrow and she is currently a PCSO for the Leatherhead area, so she is already an experienced PCSO. She will just need to learn the area and will be joining me in the next Tatsfield panel meeting at 7.30 pm on 10 January. Hopefully you will meet her then.

On another note, Tatsfield has been very quiet as of late. Crime still very low, which is excellent news. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!

PCSO Rachel Kettell

GARDENING CLUB
Tuesday 18 January
WI Hall at 8 pm

HOW TO GROW ONIONS, LEEKS AND SHALLOTS IN TATSFIELD
Find out from our own Tatsfield experts –
Gerald South and Philip Brett
All Welcome
To mark Fairtrade Fortnight in Tatsfield the Fairtrade Group is organising a **Fashion Show on Sunday 27 February from 6.30 – 8.30 pm the Village Hall.** We are very excited that The Cotton Store in Hayes will be supplying their wonderful range of Gossypium and Nomad clothing. We will also have the Traidcraft range of clothing and accessories. The clothes will appeal to a wide range of women and men from teens upwards!

- T-shirts
- Trousers
- Tunics
- Leggings
- Yoga Wear
- Towels
- Dresses
- Men’s Shirts
- Nightwear
- Running Wear
- Underwear
- Baby clothes
- Toddler outfits
- Bedding
- Bags
- Jewellery
- Candles
- Knitwear
- Skirts
- Scarves
- Blouses
- Fashion
- Gifts

There will be an opportunity to see the clothes being modelled and then to try them on if you would like to make a purchase. Free food and drinks will be provided from 6.30 pm in the Village Hall. Do make a note in your diary to join us for a fun, sociable and relaxed evening.

You may be pleasantly surprised at the price of most items – for example a long sleeve women’s tee-shirt from the Cotton Store costs £14.95. This ensures that both the cotton farmers and the people who make the clothes are paid a reasonable amount to reward their labour which helps to lift some of the poorest communities out of grinding poverty. It may be more than you would pay in a High Street shop or supermarket, but this way you can be sure that your purchase is not exploiting another person.

**Would you like to be one of our models?** If so please contact me. We are looking for 5 or 6 people to model the clothes during the event which should be a fun and informal evening. If you fancy giving it a whirl do get in touch!

Hilary Harber (Tel: 577949 E-mail: hilaryharber@aol.com)
SURREY VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

It’s your prize.
How would you like to spend it?

As Surrey Village of the Year we have been awarded a prize of £500 and as winner in the Sustainability category, another £50.

Now we have to decide how we’d like to spend our prize money.

Each winner is asked to host the following year’s award presentation and so it would seem sensible to set aside £100 out of our winnings to cover the possible cost of refreshments, leaving £450 for the purchase of something of general benefit to the community.

The cheque has been forwarded to the Parish Council and so the Council now seeks popular suggestions as to how it could best be used.

It has been suggested that a road sign proclaiming Tatsfield to be a Fairtrade Village and Surrey Village of the Year 2010 could be commissioned and set up in a prominent position. The Parish Council is looking for other ideas as well. Please get thinking and either contact Carol Jordan (577584 or carol_jordan@hotmail.com) or call into the Bakery one Saturday between 11 and 12 to have a chat.

Would you like to be one of the judges for the 2011 competition?

We have also been invited to nominate somebody to join the judging team next year.

Judges are committed to attending a strategic planning meeting at in April and a final meeting in August, both at the Surrey Community Action office near Guildford. At the planning meeting it will be decided which three judges will cover which entrants, usually each being allocated between 2 and 5 villages. The location of the villages will depend on the entries. Villages could be situated quite near to the judge’s home but could be some distance across the county. The team of three will meet before visiting each village and will spend some time studying the website and preparing questions. They will then get together for discussion after the visit. Each judge takes a turn to be lead judge, co-ordinating the plans and eventual judgements and then writing a report.

Finally, all judges must attend the presentation ceremony which will be held in Tatsfield on 10th September 2011 at 1pm.

Please think about this and if you might be at all interested, please ring or email Carol Jordan or call in to have a coffee and a chat at the Bakery one Saturday morning.

Don’t forget - an excuse for a free coffee on Saturday morning is never needed
JANUARY SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)

✿ All your fresh fruit and vegetables  ✿ Look out for fresh greens, cabbages, cauliflowers and sprouts.  ✿ Cut flowers  ✿ Pet food  ✿ Tinned and frozen food  ✿ Wild bird 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)

All items on offer from 28 December

✿ Cartons of Ribena 3 for £1  ✿ Poppets 3 for £1
✿ Red Mountain Coffee £1  ✿ Tetley Tea Bags 40s £1
✿ Cross and Blackwell sauce £1  ✿ Heinz Beans 2 for £1
✿ Frey Bentos meatballs in gravy/tomato sauce £1
✿ Batchelors Pasta n Sauce 2 for £1  ✿ Maryland Cookies 2 for £1
✿ Macvities Cake Bars £1  ✿ GoCat £1
✿ Funtime Milk Drinks 200 ml 4 for £1  ✿ Peperami 2 for £1
✿ Rustlers Quarter Pounder/Chicken Sandwich £1
✿ Birdseye Garden Peas 480g £1 ✿ Pack of 4 Milky Bar Buttons £1
✿ Pack of 6 Milky Bars £1 ✿ Pack of 4 Jelly Tots £1
✿ Pack of 4 Wine Gums £1 ✿ Pack of 3 Tremor Ex-strong Mints £1
✿ Twin Pack Andrex £1 ✿ Cadbury’s Crunchie/Caramel Biscuits £1
✿ Green Giant Niblets 340g 2 for £1 ✿ Carex Liquid Soap £1
✿ Bags Fox’s Glacier Mints/Fruits/Dark 2 for £1
✿ Felix Pouches 4 for £1 ✿ Kellogs Cereal Bars 3 for £1
✿ Ryvita Dark Rye/Original 2 for £1 ✿ Colmans Sauce Mix 2 for £1
✿ Drench Fruit Drinks 2 for £1 ✿ Mini Ritz Original 3 for £1

VILLAGE SHOPS
NEW YEAR OPENING TIMES

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<tr>
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TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

Postponed from December
Now showing Thursday 27th January 7.30
St Mary’s Church Hall

STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ

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

Full of energy, humour and enthusiasm this quirky and original production mixes modern and contemporary with classical ballet and is for all ages. Amazing choreography by David Bintley. Combined with the grace of the dancers and the underlying theme of conservation this is quite simply an unforgettable masterpiece.

and

BOMBON EL PERRO

Genre: drama/comedy 2005 Argentina/Spain (subtitled) 98 mins. 15
Director: Carlos Sorin

Cast: Juan Villegas, Walter Donado, Rosa Valsecchi, Mariela Diaz

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

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
SNOW HITS BOOK SALES!

On 3rd December last year “Tatsfield School - Past and Present” was launched. The 104 page tome is the result of two years research by the Tatsfield History Project.

We hoped to have started off well by selling it to pupils, parents and grandparents at the PTA Christmas Fair……. this wasn’t to be!

We then rescheduled sales to the PTA mini fare on Friday 17th December… down came the snow again!

So we still have plenty of stock of this unique book charting the complete history of Tatsfield School, its place in people’s memories and examples of pupils’ work today. Also included is the architect’s analysis of the new school building site and how construction was accomplished.

Don’t miss the chance of keeping up to date with Tatsfield’s history

The “School Book” is available at the price of £8.50 from the School, from Linda’s Stores and from members of the History Project: Eileen Pearce 577767, Bob David 577357, Ian Mitchell 577376 and Paul Myers 07906 254422.
MAGAZINE MATTERS

This month’s cover and centre pages: Last month’s snow brought disruption for many but it also resulted in some beautiful winter scenes in the village. Some of these were captured by two professional photographers, Jeff Bloxham and Ray Collins, in our village. You will find their photographs on the cover and in the centre pages in this month’s magazine (the cover photo is by Jeff). Readers will easily recognise most of the locations but might have difficulty with the locations of the photos at the bottom of pages 43, 44 and 46. The first reader to contact the editor (Tell: 577357) with the correct locations of these 3 photos will receive £10 of vouchers for use in Linda’s and the Greengrocers.

Magazine advertisements: Maureen Perrin takes over as Advertising Manager this month and she will shortly be writing to our existing advertisers about the next advertisements year beginning in April. We already have a waiting list of businesses wishing to advertise and, if there is anyone else who would like to start advertising from April, they should contact Maureen on 577679.

Donations from village organisations: We are very grateful for the latest generous donations received from the following village organisations: Bridge Club, Food and Wine Society, Horticultural Society, Not So Young Club, Parish Council, Short Mat Bowls Club, 1st Tatsfield Scouts, Tatsfield School, Tatsfield School PTA, Vern Association, Village Hall Management Committee and the WI.

Magazine Christmas Party: About 40 of the people who help produce and distribute the magazine each month braved the snow and ice for an enjoyable evening at the WI Hall on 8 December. Delicious mince pies were provided by Gladys Riley (Pam Jay’s mother) and tasty herby snacks by Lin Saines. Gerald South, Chairman of the Magazine Committee, congratulated all concerned for another successful year and thanked everyone for their efforts.

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

CINDERELLA

Presented by the Oxted Players

In January – Friday 7th (7.30), Saturday 8th (1.30 and 5.30)
Sunday 9th (1.30 and 5.30), Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th (7.30)
and Saturday 15th (2.30 and 7.30)

Tickets from 01883 724852 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
ADMISSIONS TO TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We wrote last month about the rules for admission to Tatsfield School and about the possible problems which could arise if there were insufficient places available in any year for children living in Tatsfield.

We have had some responses to our request to parents for information about Tatsfield children who are likely to be applying for admission in the next 3 years, but we think it likely that there are others who have not yet done so. So, we are repeating our request:

1) We should be grateful if any Tatsfield parents who have already applied for admission to Tatsfield School in September 2011, including applications for sibling children, or who intend applying before the closing date of 15 January 2011, would let us know, with the name and date of birth of the child.

2) We should be grateful if any Tatsfield parents of children, aged as below, who intend to apply for admission to Tatsfield School in subsequent years would let us know, again with the name and date of birth of the child (and again including any sibling children):

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

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

We need this information as soon as possible so that we can consider with Surrey County Council whether admission problems might arise in these years and, if so, how these might be dealt with. Our contact details are below:

Jon Allbutt  (Tel: 576481)  E-mail: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk
Bob David  (Tel: 577357)  E-mail: bob@bobdavid.co.uk

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TATSFIELD GREEN FOOTPATH

Tuesday 11 January
7.30 pm in the Parish Room

A public meeting arranged by the Parish Council to consider the feasibility of continuing the path across Tatsfield Green to provide safer access along Ricketts Hill Road from Old Lane to Manor Road
Ron acquired so many roles and skills and characteris-tics during his lifetime – first and foremost his family, also his work in the printing trade, his prowess at do-it yourself jobs around the house, his interest in sport, dancing and gardening and his contributions to village life through bowls and as an In Bloom volunteer, to name but a few; he combined these with such a modest, thoughtful and caring personality. All of this and much more has led so many people in recent weeks to com-ment that in Ron they have known a true gentleman. Below are some memories of Ron's wife, Doreen, and their three children.

From Doreen: 62 Years of Happiness
The first time Ron walked me home from the Methodist Youth club we both belonged to, I realised he was someone special. We were only 16 and 17, we shared the same birth month, all but one day, and I only caught up with him one day in the year. By the time he went to do his National Service we were together. We courted for 5 years before we married, so there were never any doubts. Our love went from strength to strength even though we had sadness, we had much happiness in our homes and lovely children. We worked together for 13½ years and I still smile about those times. In our retirement we became even closer, joining the Bowls Clubs at Westerham, Keston and of course Tatsfield. Ron so enjoyed the company as well as the bowling. For years we spent many happy holidays in our caravan, first with our family and then our dogs.

Ron was my life and I was his. In our later years our joy was being together, gardening and visiting garden centres, where we always bought some plants to take home, but always having a coffee first.

From Stephen:
How do I remember my father? Simply: gentle, kind, selfless and above all a real gentleman. He always put everyone else first, even if it meant him going without. He never changed, even in his last few days in hospital he still put us first!

Without exception he always tried to do his very best, whether it was at work, improving his home or playing bowls. This is one of the many reasons why he was so well liked and greatly respected. He amazed me with his willingness to help me. Whether he was taxiing me to the airport at 4 in the morning, or carrying out various
building jobs for me, tasks that a much younger man would have struggled with, and unlike me he never complained.

From Clive:

On Friday the 26 November, I said farewell to my father for the last time, my dear dad lost his fight to be with us; I lost the most fantastic gentle person that I would ever have the chance to know. Dad was a great sports fan, really enjoyed his bowls in later life. He would always be reading and talking about, such sports like cricket and football. We would often have a good discussion about the Ashes, and Kent. Unfortunately I was never able to get him to have a keen interest in Chelsea. I think, maybe, he was too much of a South London boy at heart.

From Clare:

Dad’s RAF release document, dated 1950, spoke of a loyal, honest and extremely conscientious man. There have been numerous tributes about dad over the past few days. He has been described as a gentleman, a gentle and kind man; people I don’t even know loved him.

Ron Heywood is my dad; I wouldn’t change that for the world. He didn’t get cross often but I did get the ‘In late argument’ in my late teens. I also remember him shaking with nerves when he had to give a speech at my wedding, I had to put a reassuring hand on his leg to stop him shaking. Public speaking and public display didn’t come easy to him. He remained a quiet and gentle support to me and to my family and I hope we made him proud.

29,000 OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARNING EXTRA MONEY

Do you know of anyone looking to earn a bit of extra cash in the New Year? A range of temporary full and part time roles are available to help make the 2011 Census a success.

There are over 29,000 Census Collector roles available in over 2,000 locations across England and Wales, so there is a great chance of finding work close to home.

The census will take place on 27 March 2011 – it takes place once every 10 years and provides a snapshot of the nation, so it’s a fantastic opportunity to be part of something special.

Census Collectors contact householders to collect completed census questionnaires and assist where required. There is the choice of hours - 15, 25 or 37 hours a week, depending on availability, and work will last from 6 to 8 weeks.

Help us spread the word - please tell your friends, families and colleagues and direct people to apply at www.censusjobs.co.uk.
Many new puppy owners believe that Puppy Socialisation is purely introducing their puppy to other dogs. Certainly it is an important part which needs to be handled correctly, but it is just a small part of the socialisation period.

Once a puppy becomes adult it will have to deal with a wide variety of experiences. Puppy socialisation is just this – introducing the pup, as young as possible, to as many of these experiences as possible, but in a positive, rewarding and controlled way. This will then help the pup to take life in its stride!

Puppy socialisation takes place between 6-12 weeks. In fact, research in the USA has shown that it actually takes place between 3-12 weeks, which means that this stage in the pup’s life should begin with the breeder. This is an interesting concept when you consider puppies that come from Pet Shops and Puppy Farms, who obviously don’t have the opportunity to experience appropriate socialisation. It is therefore crucial that puppies are purchased through reputable breeders and rescue centres and not bought from pet shops as many of these dogs are supplied through puppy farms.

Ideally pups should spend the first few weeks of their lives in a very stimulating environment and not kept in a kennel environment where the only contact it has is with the litter siblings and the mother. 6 – 12 weeks provides just a small window of opportunity to expose the pup to life’s experiences in the right way. Once this has passed the pup’s ability to deal with new experiences is greatly reduced.

The socialisation period should include all experiences the pup is likely to encounter as an adult:

- People of all shapes and sizes
- Babies and young children
- Other dogs with sound temperaments
- Other animals
- Household equipment (washing machine, vacuum cleaners, TV, radio etc)
- Traffic of all sorts
- Bicycles
- Umbrellas
- Car travel

The list seems endless! But it should be the whole package – everything to help the pup become bombproof! However, it is important that the pup is not flooded with everything in a couple of days – all of these experiences need to be spread throughout the whole socialisation period, which will help to produce a well balanced, well rounded, happy puppy!

Right Start Dog Training currently holds regular Basic Training Classes at Tatsfield Village Hall. From January 2011 a new four week Puppy Socialisation Course will be held in the hall on Monday afternoons from 4pm - 4.45pm. If you would like further information or to book your new puppy in to the classes, please contact me or visit the Right Start website at www.rightstartdogs.co.uk. Puppies must be 12 weeks or under at the start of the course and can be taken after they have had one vaccination.

Kaye Scott, MAPDT (Tel: 575129)
CAROL SERVICE AT ST MARY’S CHURCH

We were very reluctant to make the decision not to go ahead with the Carol Service due to be held at St Mary's on 19th December. When the snow started to fall heavily on the day before we looked into re-locating to the Village Hall or to the school but for various reasons neither of these was an option. We were very sorry to disappoint all those who were looking forward to this traditional part of the Christmas celebrations.

Jennie South

TATSFIELD POPPY COLLECTION

A successful year for the Tatsfield Poppy collection. The total from school, church, clubs and businesses was £501.10p – an increase on last year. Collection at Clackets Service Station yielded £328.79p, making the final total for Tatsfield of £829.89p. Particular thanks to Sheila Cook, Sylvia Waters and Pam Draper for all their help and support and to everyone who so kindly had poppy boxes.

Lorna Tory

SUNDAY FARMERS MARKET AT WESTERHAM

1st and 3rd Sunday each month
9am to 12.30pm
Next markets – 16th January, 6 and 20 February

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

“COME DANCING”

TEA DANCE SOCIAL

Village Hall 2.15 to 4.55 pm

Wednesday 26 January

• 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
SCRABBLE
Some time ago I had an idea of starting a Scrabble group. It is an enjoyable game and helps to keep the grey matter working! Through word of mouth I found there was quite a bit of interest, so a date was set in September.

With the loan of a couple of tables and scrabble boards we got off to a good start. There were 9 of us and we played 2 games with a short break in between. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and wanted to meet again the following month. We have been meeting monthly since then and a few more have been added to our numbers.

When the snow came last month I wondered if anyone would come, but 6 people put on their wellies and trudged round to my house. We had tea and mince pies around the log fire and prizes were given to the people with the highest scores over 2 games. All very Christmassy!

I think I can safely say “The word is out and Scrabble has scored”!

Delene Kerry

SPEEDWATCH
Several members of the Speedwatch team recently met with the Casualty Reduction Police Officer for our area. The discussion centered on the speed limits within our village and whether it was desirable and realistic to consider amending any of them. One of the roads particularly mentioned was Approach Road, which currently has no restriction beyond the Lusted Hall Lane junction. It is intended to carry out some monitoring of the nature, timing and speed of traffic using this road.

Further detail of this will be published in the magazine in due course. Meanwhile, it would be useful to know of any accidents or very near misses along Approach Road that villagers have experienced over the past year, together with some indication of the cause. Please send these to one of us, preferably by email.

Roger Sawyers (acresroger@aol.com; 577434)
and Gerald South (gp.south@btopenworld.com; 577598)

TATTY KNITTERS
I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy new year. Our next get together is on January 11th at the WI Hall, 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

My new year’s resolution is to finish all my incomplete knits. Yours could be to learn to knit!

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)
GETTING TATSFIELD ON THE MOVE IN 2011

The Tatsfield Youth Project is still around although last year there was so much community involvement in moving to the new school and setting up the Tatsfield Community Games Area that we did not plan any new activities.

However it is now 2011 and to help us plan something for this year we would like your suggestions and comments on the idea of some Taster sessions some time around Easter this year – end of April, beginning of May - followed by a Summer Sports and Activities week at the end of July.

We aim to get some sports coaches on board for football, cricket, tennis, basketball and maybe a lot more.

Tatsfield is very lucky, we have the new Community Games Area, a Village Hall for indoor sports or activities, a fantastic school playing field and Furze Corner Sports field and we want you to make the most of these facilities.

So what do you think?
- What sports would you like us to investigate? Whole families, parents and kids, all ages could get moving this year.
- Are there any coaches or more experienced players out there who could help us?
- Maybe you are interested in other activities: drama, music, art, photography - just let us know and we will see what we can do.
- Is there anyone who might join us in developing and organising this idea?
- If you are part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, or something similar, this may be a suitable project for you.
- If your talent lies in grant application or sourcing funding streams, you could help us to be more ambitious in our plans.

Please contact us:
Susan Smale  577660, susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk
Jon Allbutt  576481, jon@jonallbutt.co.uk
Alizon Mooney  576366, ali@homeopathysurrey.co.uk

THANKS
We would like to thank everyone for their gifts, cards and kind thoughts during Liz’s illness – and for the offers of help in the snowy conditions while Liz was in hospital. We are very grateful.

The Vowles Family
LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

As I write this, the term is now over, we've had a LOT of snow, which the children have loved, and Christmas is only a week away! The children really got into the Christmas spirit during the last week of term, making cards and decorations. We ended the week with two Christmas parties, one for our afternoon children and one for our morning children. We also had a very special visitor come to see us on Friday 17 December, bringing presents and Christmas cheer! The children sang some lovely carols to him and he promised to come and see them again on Christmas Day!

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our popular Crazy Crafty Christmas morning planned for the 18 December. However, we are intending to do this again in the spring, so watch out for details at Little Acorns in this magazine.

The new term will begin on Tuesday 4 January 2011. I hope you all have had a lovely Christmas and I send best wishes for 2011!

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

WI HALL HIRING PROCEDURE

IMPORTANT CHANGES AS FROM 1st JANUARY 2011

FUTURE BOOKINGS SHOULD ALWAYS BE MADE THROUGH OUR MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

0772 217 2716

As from January 1st the WI Hall lettings will be handled on a rota basis, it is therefore important that anyone wishing to enquire or book the hall should use this number. In the event of the phone being unanswered please leave a message and the appropriate person will return your call.

We thank you for your assistance in helping us to make this new system work!
TALKING TO YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council acts on your behalf on all local matters. It meets in the Parish Room on the second Monday of each month - the next meeting is at 8pm on Monday 10 January. These are public meetings when anyone attending has the opportunity to comment or question. Parish councillors are also available at the Bakery from 11 am to 12 noon every Saturday, when you are able to discuss any matter over a cup of coffee. And you are able to contact them individually at any time. Their contact details are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jon Allbutt</td>
<td>576481</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon@jonallbutt.co.uk">jon@jonallbutt.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giles Hawkes</td>
<td>540088</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giles@specs2you.com">giles@specs2you.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Jordan</td>
<td>577584</td>
<td><a href="mailto:carol_jordan@hotmail.com">carol_jordan@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Mitchell</td>
<td>577376</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lanmitchell@talk21.com">lanmitchell@talk21.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Pearce</td>
<td>577767</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwpearce@btinternet.com">rwpearce@btinternet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Philibert</td>
<td>577473</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandy@philibert.co.uk">sandy@philibert.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Smale</td>
<td>577660</td>
<td><a href="mailto:susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk">susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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COFFEE ‘N’ CARDS
and other stalls
25 Paynesfield Road
Tuesday 25 January
10 am – 12.30 pm

To celebrate the release of the New 2011 Collection of Phoenix cards, I am holding an open house coffee morning with a difference. I would like you to nominate your favourite charity, which will go into a draw, and I will make a donation to the winning charity.

If you cannot make it on the day but would like to nominate your charity or place an order, please contact me.

Anne Chapman

You can order on line via my website
www.phoenix-trading.eu/web/annechapman or e-mail me
anne-chapman@talktalk.net Tel: 577596
WHAT COULD YOU DO WITH AN EXTRA £50 A MONTH IN 2011?

The Surrey Waste Partnership has been running Surrey’s own Love Food Hate Waste campaign since May 2010, aiming to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste in the county.

£12 billion worth of food and drink goes to waste in the UK every year, so the Love Food Surrey campaign aims to show families how they could save up to £50 a month on their food shopping bill, simply by cutting down on throwing away food.

We could all enjoy an extra bit of cash after the mad spending at Christmas and reduce the amount of good food being thrown away. This doesn’t mean cutting down on indulgence and fun. If anything, having a well-planned year will leave us with more money in our purses and more time to enjoy ourselves.

Check out our top tips for a greener 2011:

Get healthier
1. Increase your vegetables in your meal planning e.g. by adding some peas into your pasta sauce it will be healthier and more fulfilling.
2. Cut down on saturated fat like butter, lard or margarine and use alternatives like olive oil.
3. Buy less biscuits and cakes and make your own - this way you can control the amount of sugar in your diet and it will be easier on the waistline!

Shop smart
1. Plan and shop with menus in mind as this will be cheaper and prevent impulse buying.
2. Be ruthless with ‘BOGOF offers; only buy them if you will use them that week.
3. Buy seasonal - it will taste better and generally be cheaper.

Cook less
1. Try not to buy ready meals, instead cook extra, and have some homemade sauces in the freezer for those days when you are pressed for time to cook.

Storage tips
1. Incorporate leftovers in your menus for the week, e.g. tomato sauce with pasta one day and the rest of the sauce can be drizzled over fish the next day.

Remember the most important point of all is to enjoy, respect and appreciate the food that you have spent your time and money on, in doing this you will have achieved at least one New Year’s resolution!

For more tasty tips on cutting the cost of your food bill and making the most of your leftovers, visit www.lovefoodsurrey.com.
TATSFIELD IN THE SNOW

Photos by Jeff Bloxham
TATSFIELD IN THE SNOW

Photos by Ray Collins
TATSFIELD IN THE SNOW

Photos by Ray Collins
Photos by Jeff Bloxham
I’m setting off on an exciting twelve-month “Virtual World Tour” of herbs and food from every Continent, including easy recipes we can all use in Tatsfield - but returning to look after the herbal horse trough just by “The Ship”- so keep an eye out! First port of call is Southern Ireland. A Gatwick - to - Dublin flight with a hire-car ready at the airport is the quickest route, but negotiating January rush-hour Dublin City one-way traffic in an unfamiliar car is not to be recommended ... in the wrong lane Martyn and I were pushed over the River Liffey a few times in a total Irish Stew, before safely negotiating our way past the University on the right, the huge Guinness Brewery on the left, and finally out to the very welcome countryside.

Leopardstown Racecourse on Champion Hurdle Day showed us the Best of Ireland – on Course and off! The Restaurant menu included grilled scallops and mussels in a hot chive butter sauce, foil-baked salmon parcels with white wine, lemon thyme and lemon wedges, “T” Bone Irish Beef Steaks with new potatoes and of course Irish herbal seaweed “Carrageen” in a deliciously sweet lemon and vanilla dessert.

Motoring down to the port of Waterford, the coast road through Wicklow and Arklow afforded amazing scenery, “The Emerald Isle” certainly earning its name. Wexford is a pretty county with Friesian Cattle grazing lush pasture to produce a famously creamy cheese. I used this in savoury tray bakes for the Parish Magazine party last month. Puff pastry to fill a tray was spread with tomato puree, then layered with chopped bacon, thinly sliced red onion and tomatoes, Wexford Cheese, dried oregano, basil and olive oil. Baked until sizzling; the vegetarian option excluded bacon. Delicious!

On reaching Waterford, world famous for its wonderful crystal glassware and a picturesque port in its own right, we savoured local January fare – oxtail and steak casserole in Guinness, washed down with the real stuff. Brown all the meat in a casserole, add carrot, onion, celery and lots of parsley, Guinness to cover, then slow cook for 3 hours till the oxtail meat falls off the bones. Serve with Champ – mashed potato with scallions (spring onions) or chives added with more parsley to garnish. Taking local advice we took the M9 Motorway to the airport, thus avoiding the Dublin one-way mayhem, and arrived early to browse “A Taste of Ireland” in the airport shopping Mall.

So, an easy start to the Tour – but next ... New Zealand!

Lin Saines
EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

1 Sat NEW YEAR’S DAY
11am-12noon - PC Cafe - The Bakery

2 Sun 8am Holy Communion(Book of Common Prayer) - StM
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM

3 Mon BANK HOLIDAY
1pm Bridge Club - PR

4 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 12noon WI Meeting - WIH · 8pm Quiz Night - TVC
TATSFIELD SCHOOL NEW TERM BEGINS

5 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR · 8pm Yoga - VH

6 Thur 2pm WI Darts - WIH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
8pm Table Tennis - VH

7 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH

8 Sat 11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery

9 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM · 11am Ramblers Walk - Godstone Green

10 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 Police Forum - PR · 8pm Parish Council Meeting - PR
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

11 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH · 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH
7.30pm PUBLIC MEETING: PROPOSED TATSFIELD GREEN FOOTPATH EXTENSION - PR

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

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

14 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH

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

16 Sun 8am Holy Communion (BCP) - StM
10am Sung Eucharist - StM

17 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

18 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
8pm Gardening Club - WIH

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
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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| 19 Wed | 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH  
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR  
8pm Explorers - SH  
8pm Yoga - VH |
| 20 Thur| 2pm WI Darts - WIH  
5.30pm Brownies - CH  
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS  
8pm Table Tennis - VH |
| 21 Fri | 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH  
6pm Badminton Juniors - VH  
8pm Badminton Club - VH |
| 22 Sat | 11am - 12noon PC Cafe- The Bakery  
1pm Food and Wine Society Rustic Lunch - WIH |
| 23 Sun | 10am Sung Eucharist - StM  
Ramblers Walk - See noticeboards for details |
| 24 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 |
| 25 Tues| 10am Yoga - WIH  
2pm Whist Drive - WIH  
5.30pm Cubs - SH  
7pm Scouts - SH |
| 26 Wed | 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH  
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - PR  
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH  
8pm Yoga - VH  
8pm Explorers - SH |
| 27 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 |
| 28 Fri | 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH  
6pm Badminton Juniors - VH  
8pm Badminton Club - VH |
| 29 Sat | 11am-12noon - PC Café |
| 30 Sun | 10am Sung Eucharist- StM |
| 31 Mon | 9.30am Tots on Top - CH  
1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  
6pm Beavers - SH  
7.30pm Art Group - VH  
8pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  
8.15pm Bingo - TVC |

**FEBRUARY**

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<th>Date</th>
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| 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  
6pm Badminton Juniors - VH  
8pm Badminton Club - VH |
| 5 Sat  | 11am-12noon - PC Café |
| 6 Sun  | 8am Holy Communion (BCP) - StM  
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM  
1pm St. Mary’s Annual Dinner - CH |
Mary and Joseph defy the elements

Despite knee deep snow and arctic conditions the Posada figures of Mary and Joseph kept to time as they travelled round 30 Tatsfield homes and the School on their journey which ended at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to all those who acted as hosts and taxi drivers.

Christmas Nativity Tableau

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

For our December service, heroic efforts by snow clearers enabled easy access to the church itself once Church Hill had been negotiated, on foot for many, or in four wheel drives for others. In fact the snowy weather did, if anything, increase our numbers and, after some hearty singing and hearing about John the Baptist, the sharing of ‘snow stories’ continued in the hall over coffee and for the children a special treat of gingerbread men!

On 2nd January we will celebrate the visit of the ‘wise men’ with their gifts. Our service on February 6th 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.

Tatsfield Beavers visit St Mary’s

On a Monday evening in November the Church was visited by 29 Beavers eager to explore the Church and ask a whole variety of questions. They seemed to particularly enjoy trying on some of the vestments, especially the different coloured Stoles (scarves) and watching the chandeliers move up and down at the press of a button! It was a fun evening and a pleasure to host.
ST MARY’S MATTERS

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was postponed from December because of the weather and it will now take place at 1.00pm on Sunday 6th February. Nearly all those who already had tickets have been able to re-book but there are some tickets still available so please phone Jennie South (577598) if you would like to come.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th - 25th January

Events to mark this important week are organised by Churches Together in Oxted and District and will include weekday lunchtime prayers at King’s Church, Oxted and a service at 6.30pm on Sunday 23rd at All Saints, Oxted.

Parish Records

7th December  Funeral and burial of Gloria Jones

Flower Rota

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th January - Jan Maynard

St Mary’s in the Snow
Bob David and I were privileged recently to meet 90 year old Stan Steer who was born and lived in Tatsfield many years ago and who was very happy to draw on, and share, his memories of a village life, the type of which is now long gone. Stan was born on 3rd August 1920 at the now demolished Rosefield House in Cudham Road and sister Barbara followed three years later. The house was shared with a family named Stainers, who owned the property, and it was quite basic. Water and electricity? Forget it!

In 1924 Herbert and Emily Steer moved their young family to Green Street Green but returned to Rosefield House in 1925. The other residents at that time were two ladies, one, a Miss Watts, had been a missionary in China. The family then moved to Coolinge (now demolished) in Ricketts Hill Road, followed by Lilac Cottage in Old Lane, then Downalong in Kemsley Road and finally Boundary View in Hillside Road (incidentally, later home to the Sarlls, who now live in Goatsfield Road).

In 1925 Stan began his education at Tatsfield School. There were four teachers: Miss Payne (infants), Miss Mackenzie (classes 1 and 2) and Mrs Skinner (classes 3 and 4). Stan cannot bring to mind the name of the other teacher but remembers the head teacher was Mr Bertie Hammond. At that time, there were between 100 and 120 pupils, with some children walking from Beddlestead and Paygate Cottage. The boys had a garden at the school where they grew vegetables which were then entered in the village show, possibly held then on August Bank Holiday. Most children went home to lunch but half a dozen or so brought their lunch to school. The caretaker was Mrs Tapsell (a good Tatsfield name) who lived in the cottage next to the school. If a child had a pie she would heat it up and she also provided hot cocoa for ½d. On Empire (now Commonwealth) Day an essay was written in the morning but the afternoon was free and the children sometimes went to Alan Cobham’s Flying Circus at Biggin Hill airfield.

At eleven years old girls went to Warlingham for cookery lessons and boys went to Oxted for woodwork. All the children received their fare and the boys walked along Rag Hill and Tatsfield Lane to Hawley Corner. If the boys were early for the bus
they would run to the bottom of Westerham Hill. From there the fare to Oxted was less and the money left over was used to buy Woodbine cigarettes!

Stan’s paid working life started (very part-time) when he was 10 years old and entered the employment of a Mr Pratt of Lusted Hall Lane. Stan’s job consisted of knocking on doors and obtaining orders for the fruit and vegetables sold by his employer. For this he was paid 6d (2½p) a day plus a bag of not-so-good fruit and veg. When 12 he mowed the grass for a Captain Kerrison at Coolinge in Ricketts Hill Road; for this he was paid 2 shillings (10p!) for 1½ days’ work on Fridays and Saturdays. Also resident on Ricketts Hill at that time were the Bannisters, who occupied the Manor House. Both were doctors, he being a Harley Street surgeon. The couple both drove cars. The lady of the house drove a yellow soft top coupe and her husband drove (believe it or not) a YELLOW Rolls Royce! Dr (Mrs) Bannister was also a school governor. Also living on Ricketts Hill at that time was a gentleman named Johnson who resided at “Woodlands”. He bred rabbits, keeping 700 at any one time. The rabbits were bred for white Angora fur and their meat, which probably went to the restaurant Mr Johnson owned in Croydon. Stan remembers Dick Watson and a Cutbush working there.

Like all country children, Stan and his friends spent a lot of time in the open air. They liked to go bird nesting, often in an area towards Cudham where there was also a children’s play area. The youngsters were very disciplined and took only one egg from each nest.

Stan also joined the Scouts, walking from Kemsley Road to the Scout Hut which is still on the same site and they produced a show every year to perform in the Village Hall. They also camped at Clacket Lane and Balcombe. Then, as now, football was very popular and Stan was a staunch supporter of the local Tatsfield club who played on the green in Paynesfield Road, opposite the garage. Opponents included Limpsfield Blues, Hurst Green, Lingfield Colony (now St Piers?) and Thorneville. Billy Whitehead of Biggin Hill provided the transport to away fixtures and Stan had no problem recalling the names of several players; there was Donald Street, Jack Skinner, Lawrie Shrubb, Will Shrubb, two Tapsells and a Pearson, names still here in the village today.

During this period, the incumbent at St Mary’s was Revd Popham, who lived in the Old Vicarage on the corner of Clarks Lane and Rectory Lane and drove a grey bull-nosed Morris with a soft top. On Sundays the church was always full and Stan pumped the organ three times in the day: morning and evening services and afternoon Sunday School. For this he received the princely sum of 6d per week.

Milk was delivered to the village by two farmers, Mr Robinson and Mr Miles of Gorsey Down, and Tatsfield was well served by shops and businesses. There was a sweet shop in made-up Old Lane next to Hitchcock’s builder’s yard and Lugton’s Stores was on Ship Hill. Incidentally, the house behind this area called Colegates
was owned by the Gorringe family, owners of the famous old department store of that name.

In Westmore Green, Mr Kent had a coal yard on the land where Bassetts now stands. An employee, Charlie Wedgwood (father of Enid Garrard), bought the business and re-located to the site upon which Wedgwoods estate now stands. Mr Matthews butcher’s shop became the premises of the Working Men’s Club and Mr Harris ran a grocery store cum Post Office. In Westmore Road on the left were Mr Watson (shoe repairs), Mrs Watson (drapers), Mr Gillatt (sweet shop) and Mr Clark (men’s outfitters). On the other side were the Longleys (butchers), Mr Hayes (newsagent) who sold out to Leslie Longley and Mr Thorpe “the tally man” who sold domestic items door to door and who also had a shop. In Paynesfield Road, Mr Fielding had a sweet shop near the WI Hall. There was also a Mission Hall where magic lantern shows were held but it is not clear whether it became the WI hall or the United Reformed Church. Sid Watson worked in the bakery when bread was still baked there and Mr Burbage had a shop in Redhouse Road. Frank Watson’s father ran the garage which was in the same place then as now. In the Old Ship’s car park there was a wooden shed which was used as a men’s barbers. Mine host at the Old Ship was a Mr Taylor who was succeeded by the Monteiths. Tatsfield also had its own slaughter house which was in Greenway on the spot where Kayani’s garage is today. It was owned by the Longleys, who ran it with the assistance of a Mr Stammers, known as Tammy. The village policeman until 1931 was one PC Peace who lived in the Police House and was regularly on patrol. He had a daughter with whom Stan “had to” dance around the Maypole one year.

Stan’s uncle and grandfather helped to build Biggin Hill Airfield in 1927/28. Before that (since 1917), it had been a wireless station. Cold snowy winters were as bad, if not worse, than those of today. In 1927 the snow at the bottom of Ship Hill was 16 feet deep and it was possible to walk to Biggin Hill on top of hedges. The snow was eventually dug out and taken away in horse carts. As the airfield became more important, a searchlight was sited on the bend at Rag Hill Road. There was another in the Cudham area and they were used for practices in the event of enemy planes arriving.

Besides the names already mentioned, Stan recalls some other villagers. There were Streets, Brown, Honey, Bakers, Standing, Stevens and Bolton.

Stan and his family finally left Tatsfield for Farnborough in 1933. After a long and varied career, including service with the RAF, the Metropolitan Police and Bromley Council, Stan retired in 1985, after which he was a volunteer with Age Concern for 13 years. In 1998 Stan suffered a great tragedy when his wife was killed in an accident in a car park. Stan’s legs were badly damaged and it still affects his walking. He now lives in Green Street Green.

Stan is the grandfather of Sarah Sutherland, who lives in Paynesfield Road, and it was through Sarah and her husband Craig that Bob and I met and talked to Stan. He is a very charming and erudite person and is one of life’s real gentlemen.
In 1948, when I was 16 years old, I began working for Seeboard at Electric House, West Hill, Oxted. After a few weeks, I was attached to Fred Shaw, who was a veteran electrician. He had worked for the Sevenoaks Electric Company pre-war and was resident electrician for Winston Churchill at Chartwell. He had worked for the Churchills pre-war. He knew where every switch, fuse and isolator was located. Not only that but he knew all the staff - Miss Hamblyn, the Secretary, Mrs Churchill and of course the great man himself.

Sir Alexander Korda, the famous film producer, had given Churchill a full-sized double film projection equipment. This had been installed on the ground floor in a room overlooking the lakes. Fred, being the resident electrician, was in on the installation of this cinema and became the projectionist; Mrs Shaw became Fred’s assistant when a film was required to be seen on a Sunday evening in winter.

Sir Alexander Korda’s empire would ensure which film would be seen and that the film was delivered on the Friday before the showing on the next Sunday evening. Fred would wind and splice the film and place it into the numbered cans on the Saturday morning. Mrs Shaw would then bring them in order to the projection box where Fred would load them to the projection machines and then change from machine to machine when the “cue” appeared on the film. Fred would unload the spent film and Mrs Shaw would take it back to the winding and splicing room. Mrs Shaw would also ensure the carbon arcs did not burn out of “gap” and keep the “gaps” within the limits for the arcs.

On Monday mornings, Fred would be occupied rewinding the film back in the order it had arrived from Sir Alexander Korda’s department (and rewinding Gaumont British News which came, too). Whilst Fred was occupied with the film I, as electrician’s mate, could be taking in time sheets and requesting electrical needs from the stores at Electric House in Oxted for whatever job we were working on at that time.

The Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, had given Winston Churchill about thirty black swans for the large lakes. Unfortunately, the local foxes had taken a fancy to them. Not to be deterred, Fred and another electrician named Eric Meopham came up with a “Heath Robinson” solution - “Fox Light” as it was named. This contraption was made up of the slowest turning electric motor that could be found. This drove on to a bicycle tyre, a 28 inch inflated tyre, the wheel having a three-speed hub with top gear selected and on to this concoction of gearing a mini floodlight was fixed. This was activated by a “Simmerstat” switch, which was normally used for controlling hot plates on electric cookers.
The “Simmerstat” switch had a “bi-metal” strip that was slightly bent and would tend to “straighten-out”, thereby breaking the contacts attached to the strip, as the rotation drive was continuous. The light would turn so many revolutions on, and then would turn unknown revolutions off, and then suddenly a beam of light would shoot out like a mini lighthouse. This “fox light” was sited on a causeway between the lakes. It appeared to be very successful initially. Losses of black swans ceased but one morning in the winter after it had snowed, foxes paw prints were noticed by the “fox light” and the losses started again.

Fred and I would also carry out electrical work at Chartwell Farm. This was occupied at that time by Christopher Soames, who was married to Winston Churchill’s youngest daughter Mary. Mary Soames’ old “nanny” was still living between Chartwell House and Chartwell Farm on a footpath between the two. “Nanny” later moved to a house at Farley, Westerham. Fred and I went to check out and alter the position of several electrical points. It was rather funny to hear the three of them sharing old tales and jokes. They referred to each other as Mrs Soames, Mr Shaw and Nanny - three great old friends.

Fred and Winston Churchill had a sort of uneasy friendship. Winston always addressed him as Shaw but to anyone else he was called and known as Mr Shaw. Winston knew Fred was a lifelong socialist. He introduced him to Jan Smuts, the South African leader at the time, as “This is Shaw, my electrician, leader of the local Communist Party”.

Fred also told me he was once called upstairs to Winston’s bedroom where the great man was in bed. The bedroom floor was covered with pages from that morning’s newspapers. Fred bent down to pick one up. The great man said “Oh, leave them Shaw. I always throw them aside when I have finished with them.” Fred, not to be outdone, picked up the Daily Mirror and said “I suppose this is the first one you threw aside”. “No”, said Winston “as a matter of fact it is this one”, referring to the “Daily Herald”, the leading socialist newspaper of the time.

Fred was into socialist politics and putting the world to rights, the socialist way. His champions were Ernie Bevin, “Nye” Bevan, Bessie Braddock, Clement Atlee, Herbert Morrison and Labour heavyweights of that ilk. Perhaps Winston had heard Fred when he was on his soap-box. If so, I could imagine him shuddering. Fred and Bert Harrison, a gardener in Winston’s employ, would take morning tea with us and also tea at lunch time. They would be in deep agreement on the world story of the day; also the socialist cure, even if that meant declaring war or putting certain people against a wall and liquidating them. Harsh measures (but necessary, according to Fred and Bert).

Fred’s mode of transport was an ancient 98cc Norman autocycle. This “poor creature” carried Fred, a very heavy toolbox on a carrier behind Fred, an ex-WWII respirator bag, full of wood screws, nails, cable clips and other unknown accoutrement, slung around the toolbox. Fred would be “clobbered up” against the
elements, complete with beret, goggles, leggings, etc. He looked like some
latterday spaceman.

His poor old autocycle coughed into life. It managed to crawl up most hills followed
by a pall of smoke, even if Fred had to turn around and charge the hill a few times.
Fred also carried a large bag strapped around his shoulders. This carried his lunch
box, large desk diary and flexible leads for carrying a light into a roof space or
under a floor. The large diary also carried wiring diagrams of different cooker
switches and electric starter motor connections. His lunch bag carried a small
bottle of milk, screw of tea and some sugar.

I had a large carrier on the back of my bicycle. This carried a large old holdall-type
tool bag, many times repaired and altered. With this transport and our combined
tools, Fred and I were ready to tackle any electrical repair or wire any property in
the south east in any weather. I do not know what the European safety laws of
today would make of it.

Fred and Mrs Shaw lived at 8 Marjorie Pease Cottages, Limpsfield Chart. They had
a daughter called Susan. Mrs Shaw was a leading member of the Limpsfield Chart
Women’s Institute. They were both regular church goers. Fred was a keen
gardener and liked to grow a display of sweet peas. Fred and Mrs Shaw went to
several of Arsenal football club’s home matches with tickets made available to
Chartwell employees by Winston Churchill from the supply he was given.

I left Chartwell and Fred when I was called up for my National Service. But one day
before I left, as Fred and I were leaving Chartwell, Winston and his chauffeur were
leaving by the main entrance. The great man looked up and shouted “Shaw”. Fred
set off to see what he wanted. Fred came back and said Winston wanted to see
me. My backside did a loop-the-loop. Fred told me to watch what I said. I set off
with trepidation but when I approached I saw Winston was smiling. He said “Mr
Shaw tells me you are his new electrician’s mate”. I replied “Yes sir”. He continued
“Mr Shaw is a very wise man, take heed of what he tells you”. I replied “Yes sir”.
I suddenly realised he had held out his hand and I shook it. He finished “Best of
luck in life, Dennis”.

It did not end there. When I was demobilised from the Air Force in 1955 my uncle
Dick Watson, future brother-in-law- David Brown and I dressed up as “Vikings” for
the Whit Monday festival at Westerham. We won a prize and were presented with
a diploma, and again the great man shook my hand.

Later in life, I was in Tatsfield’s Working Men’s Club enjoying a pint, when in walked
Fred. We exchanged pleasantries. Fred was there to check the wiring with his
meters for earthing and safety. I assisted him. Much later in life, I met a man in
the Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart. He told me he had assisted Fred with the
films at Chartwell after Mrs Shaw had passed on.

So Fred and Sir Winston carried on their relationship right to the end.
Well, with our recent spell of heavy snow I was hoping for a few reports of rare or unusual migrants, but that hasn’t happened. In fact, as far as I’m aware, we haven’t even had the usual flocks of Fieldfare descending upon us. We have, however, had an exotic neighbour making a flying visit.

Correspondence:

I received this message from Paul Tredwen (Paynesfield Road) on 1\textsuperscript{st} December:

‘Just seen a \textbf{Little Egret} drop into the woods behind (my house). \textit{The seven local Magpies quickly moved in and it disappeared further into the woods before I could photograph it. This severe weather certainly brings the birds in, looking for shelter and food. I have seen the Egrets at Brasted before, but never up here! (Also), interesting piece in your article () about Willow Tits. I looked hard at what I thought were \textbf{Coal Tits}, and the odd one or two turned out not to have the white nape of Coal Tits. The problem is, there doesn’t appear to be much difference between a \textit{Willow Tit} and a \textit{Marsh Tit}!}

So, we have the first recorded Little Egret sighted within our parish. Well spotted, Paul! Mind you, I can’t think of any reason why it would stay – there’s not a lot of water within the local landscape. It could, however, make for an interesting news headline: ‘\textbf{Little Egret nests on village pond!}’ We wish!

As for the Tit problem – well, yes, this is a problem for many of us. You really need to move in as close as possible for a good look. This is where a reliable pair of binoculars becomes essential. I keep a pair by the window at home in preparedness and anticipation of any such opportunities. The old Scouting motto, ‘Be Prepared’, has paid dividends on many occasions.

In terms of identification, the following observation tips may be of help. The Marsh Tit has a sheen to the surface of its black crown, whereas the Willow Tit has a matt black crown. There is also a small difference on the wing feathers: the Willow Tit has a light patch on the lower secondary wing feathers. Experts acknowledge the difficulty when attempting to identify this pair of Tits and recommend trying to distinguish them by their calls and songs:

‘\textit{The call of the Marsh Tit ranges from a distinctive ‘pitchew’ to a scolding ‘chikabee–bee–bee–bee’. The Willow Tit has a loud ‘tchay and a high pitched ‘zee–zee–zee’. The Marsh Tit’s song varies from a single note repeated over and over again, to a phrase such as ‘pitchaweeoo’. One of the songs of the Willow Tit – ‘chu–chu–chu’ – is more melodious and warbling.’} (Reader’s Digest, ‘Field Guide to the Birds of Britain’.)

Fortunately, other Tits seen around the parish and within our gardens (Blue, Great, Long-tailed and Coal) are far more obliging in terms of identification.
Buzzards are still being spotted locally, the most recent by Paul Watson:

‘Just to let you know I saw a Buzzard circling above Clarks Lane, not far from the end of the approach road, about lunchtime on Friday 19th November.’

Thanks, Paul. These magnificent birds are able to soar on the rising air thermals with motionless wings for hours at a time. They mainly feed on small mammals, carrion and even insects, being particularly fond of beetles. Feeding on open farmland, they pose no threat to domestic animals and pets.

Finishing correspondence from 2010, Mike Lambert (Wedgwoods) sent this garden observation dated 30th August:

‘Sitting one day looking out of the French windows, we saw a mouse run across the patio and disappear behind some flowerpots. It had big ears and we identified it as a Field Mouse. We saw it several times after that on the patio. Then, one day, Linda said, ‘That’s a funny bird on our peanut feeder’. A closer look and we realised that it was the Field Mouse. It had climbed the bush where the feeder hangs, gone along the branch and down the side of the feeder where it was happily picking out bits of peanut and having a really good feast. We saw it again, shortly after, doing exactly the same. Looks like it has found a nice, convenient take-away and is using it to build up its fat ready for the winter. It seems to be quite happy sharing with the Sparrows and Tits that usually inhabit the feeder. I wonder if any of your other readers have seen a mouse doing the same thing on their feeders?’

Active during the day and agile – I think you have a House Mouse, Mike!

Soon after, Linda Lambert added these notes (02.09.10):

‘I wondered, this year, why I hadn’t done too well with my Runner Beans in the back garden. Friends also complained, saying that they had seen Sparrows stripping the plants of their tiny beans. Then I remembered seeing Sparrows flying from our numerous bird feeders into the runners. Maybe they like a bite of greens to follow down the nuts?! Has anybody else had the same problem? (By the way, the Hedgehog home is now complete and up for let.)’


Bird Register:

Your Bird Register form for July - December is now overdue. I would appreciate receiving your return as soon as possible, and by January 10th at the latest. Forms can be left at ‘Linda’s Stores’, or delivered to ‘Primrose Ridge’, Greenway. Will we see an increase on our record of 28 returns? That could depend on you!

Got a report? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s.
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

As with so many local organisations, we decided it was best to postpone our Christmas lunch until the weather was more settled and we will advise when a new date has been set. Of course, that sent all the Christmas card deliveries haywire and we have been chasing our own tails, trying to get them all to their rightful recipients!

The Christmas Bazaar raffle was, once again, a huge success and enabled us to make a profit for the club. Our next meeting is on the 11th January and it will be a social afternoon.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

There were 32 people and 7 dogs on the Shoreham – Darenth Valley walk on 28th November. When the Ramblers held their seasonal lunch at Shoreham Golf Club 70 people attended. There will be a full programme of walks in 2011, usually every other Sunday. The year begins with the walk starting at Godstone on 9th January. Details are below. All welcome, just turn up or give us a ring if you would like to know more. There will be another walk on 23rd January; have a look at village noticeboards for details. Seasonal greetings to all walkers and their dogs.

Date   Sunday 9th January
Meet   11am at the Green, Godstone (Map ref: TQ350516)
Walk   6 miles, 3½ hours, via Garston Park to Bletchingley
Leader Carol Vening

Roger and Angela Sawyers (Tel: 577434)

TATSFIELD AND TITSEY BIRD REGISTER

Don’t forget to hand in your completed Bird Register form for the last 6 months of 2010. If you don’t already take part in this survey, you will find a new form for the first 6 months of 2011 coming with this magazine. Don’t forget too to let Nigel Shaw know about any interesting bird sightings – or any other wildlife tales which might be of general interest.
CLUB NEWS

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 18th January, 8pm WI Hall – Gardening Club: ‘Onions, Leeks and Shallots’ by Gerald South and Phil Brett. Why not use this early opportunity to get the best out of your onions, leeks and shallots in readiness for showing them at the Spring Show on Saturday 16th April?

Tuesday 15th February 2011, 8pm WI Hall – Gardening Club: ‘Allotments’ by Jon Allbutt. 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 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 OAPs. 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 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 Roses Show and the Summer Luncheon. Also every summer there is the opportunity to visit some of Tatsfield’s own Village Gardens, where several residents kindly open their gardens for viewing. In addition, a visit to Wisley is usually arranged along with other gardens such as the Titsey Estate or Chart’s Edge.

During the winter months on a Tuesday evening there is Gardening Club with talks from speakers on a range of subjects from pruning to flower arranging and from how to grow and use herbs to crop circles. Another benefit of being a member of the Society is the availability of the Community Composting Scheme which runs throughout the summer months.

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

Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)
Happy New Year to all – I do hope that Santa brought you everything on your lists and that you had a Christmas time that brought you joy and happiness. Santa probably got on much better with all the snow that we saw in December than we all did, with it unfortunately disrupting the programmes for all the sections. The Cubs missed out on their Christmas end of term party and the Scouts on their trip out, although we plan to take the Scouts out for a post-Christmas trip very soon. Beavers missed the candle dipping evening, although we did manage it with the Scouts and it was so well received that we will have an evening soon when the Beavers can have a go too.

All the sections return the week commencing Monday 10th starting with the Beaver section, but before that both the Beavers and the Cubs will be seeing the pantomime at the Barn Theatre along with the rest of the District. Let’s hope the snow does not disrupt the trip as it did last year. This year’s show is Cinderella and no doubt will prove to be as noisy and excitable as previous years – we always return from this trip a little hoarse!

There is much planned in the calendar already for all of the sections. 2011 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Beaver Scout section’s affirmation as an official part of The Scout Association. Having begun in Northern Ireland in the 1960s, it slowly spread across the UK and the section was introduced with a uniform in 1982. To complete the process, a simple Promise was established in 1986 and there will be a commemorative badge available for all Beaver Scouts to wear throughout 2011. Both Explorers and Scouts will again be taking part along with the rest of the District in the annual escape and evasion exercise ‘Operation Colditz’ in February and March respectively. Scouts also have ‘Scoutabout’ in June to look forward to. This event only happens once every 4 years and is a huge gathering of both Scouts and Leaders at Ardingly Showground, where no fewer than 5000 Scouts are able to sample some of the 200 activities available run by about 500 Leaders and helpers. So there is much to look forward to.

As part of my GSL duties I have to complete the annual census by the end of this month and I am pleased to see that numbers at Tatsfield remain high and the group is going from strength to strength, which is very encouraging. All the Leaders have been busy over the festive period putting together the new terms’ programmes and I look forward to letting you know what they are all up to over the coming months.

I would just like to wish you all a happy and prosperous 2011.

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

Due to the bad weather we experienced during December there was no WI party. We had all been looking forward to the games and puzzles we usually have to say nothing of the lovely selection of food everyone brings along. However, we hope to be able to meet on the first Tuesday in January - weather permitting. We have been promised a hot lunch and we will be meeting at 12 o'clock for a change, for two hours. Planned for that meeting is the annual discussion on the new WI Resolutions. This is always an interesting session as some of our officers have done a lot of research by the time we meet and invariably put forward some very persuasive arguments. If there is time we will have a quiz as well.

There will be whist at 2pm on the 4th and a Craft Afternoon on Tuesday 18th at 1.45.

Toni Holley

FOOD AND WINE SOCIETY

Thirty five members celebrated our December event in style with a champagne party at Postacre, the home of Roger and Eileen Pearce.

Eileen is a founder member of the Food and Wine and after very successfully running the Society for sixteen years she has reluctantly handed the job to me. Her inspirational ideas and attention to detail will be a hard act to follow. Well done Eileen and a very big thank you from us. We look forward to seeing you relaxing at the next event.

All members should now have received their 2011 programme. If you have lost yours, details of monthly events will appear in the Parish Magazine events calendar.

Kay Longley

MAGAZINE ADVERTS

Do you think it a good policy to support local businesses? If so, have a look at the adverts at the front and back of the magazine – you will find adverts for a huge range of goods and services from over 100 local businesses. It’s worth having a quick look through anyway, as some businesses change their adverts each month. This month you will find new adverts by the Bakery and Park Wood Golf Club.
Well, it seems that my December gardening notes might come in useful after the early winter in November and December! As I write these notes we still have a lot of snow around with no prospect of a change to milder weather in the near future and there is no doubt that there could be more damage to plants. The prolonged period of cold weather has also meant that ponds have been frozen over for months and oxygen levels will have fallen to a dangerously low level; in these conditions all living organisms both animals and plants are at risk.

The prolonged covering of snow may also cause damage to soft plants such as pansies and primulas. On the one hand the snow provides protection from the cold winds that can burn the foliage especially when the roots are frozen, but then the weight of the snow and the lack of light can also cause damage, a no win situation! Removing the snow may cause even more physical damage especially where the foliage is stuck to the snow, so be very careful if you decide to give them some air and light!

I have noticed that there are a lot of shrubs and hedges, especially the evergreens, twisted into some strange shapes by the weight of snow. I doubt that they will recover now unless you have shaken the snow off very soon after it fell. You may have to re-shape these plants by cutting out the damaged branches, but not yet! I suggest you wait until the milder weather arrives and they have had a chance to recover.

January is a good month to plant trees and shrubs but only if the ground has thawed out. If you are looking for jobs to do in the garden why not turn out that heap of leaves or the compost bin and spread it on beds and borders as a mulch. Not only will this give you a very good start to the new growing season but it will provide a rich source of food for foraging birds. But be careful you don’t disturb hedgehogs, slow worms or grass snakes; work carefully and if you do uncover one of these, cover them up again quickly.

I was recently asked a question about the best way to approach levelling an uneven lawn. Take a long piece of straight wood, at least 2 metres (6’) long and place it over the low areas. If you can very easily slide your hand between the wood and the grass, then the area of turf needs lifting and relaying. If you struggle to push your hand underneath the wood, then the low area can be levelled by dressing it with a sandy mixture. Push a garden fork into the low area as far as you can, wriggle the tines around and pull it straight out; repeat this all over the low area until the area is full of holes about 5cm (2”) apart. Now apply the sandy mixture in thin layers and brush it in thoroughly until the blades of grass are just poking out of the top. Firm it gently with a flat piece of wood and leave it to settle and grow out. Check it with the flat piece of wood in a month or so and repeat again until the area is firm and level.

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