NOVEMBER 2011

PARISH MAGAZINE

Tatsfield

THIS ISSUE

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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. Copy date for the Magazine is 16th of the preceding month. Contributions should be sent directly to the Editor at The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN (Fax: 01959 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk) or drop it into Linda’s Stores.
Small Ads These are only accepted from Tatsfield or Titsey residents (No Trade) and are free (Max 10 words plus phone No.) We will include them in the next issue space permitting.
Calendar Dates Our rolling Calendar usually covers 6 weeks from publication so please give us your dates in good time. If you don’t want your event to clash with others why not check with us early.
Ideas/Opinions/Articles We are always looking for items of interest - have a word with the Editor.
Correspondence We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Please state if not for publication.
Advertisements We take no responsibility for the goods and services advertised in the Magazine.
Dear All,

*Travel broadens the mind.* I have always been rather sceptical about this saying, particularly when I recall that Isaac Newton, who went to the furthest reaches of the solar system in his mind, probably never stepped outside of the very thin triangle defined by Grantham, Cambridge and London.

However perhaps I should reconsider. A recent holiday was spent walking along the Kennet and Avon Canal (which is quite a distance away by my standards!). As well as other walkers, cyclists and those on boating holidays, the canal is home to some who choose to live on a moored boat there. To some of these it is even their work place, making craft items for example.

Here is a community with its own ethos and sense of identity: those who have turned their back on conventional housing and ways of life. Some like to make their point to passers by, displaying slogans on their boats. One read “Slow down –it’s only the rats that are racing”. No doubt that here was someone with a refreshingly honest view of the state that many of us can easily fall into as we seek to keep up with all that modern life supposedly has to offer.

Another read “Only dead fish go with the flow”. Presumably the implication is that those who are really alive have the energy and determination to swim across or even against the normal flow of life. Here was someone who had deliberately avoided drifting into the norms of society, was challenging convention and asserting his claim to be alive through living in his chosen esoteric yet simple lifestyle.

I don’t think I fancy moving into a narrow boat – especially with winter on the way – but all this does encourage some reflection on questions such as whether we sometimes race around to little purpose and what it is we take for granted but could usefully challenge.

I suspect every community benefits by having some “unconventional” members and fortunately we have some in Tatsfield (no names here!). They may sometimes make us feel uncomfortable but that probably has to do with our own assumptions and predispositions. If so, their influence can be a useful prompt to us to become more alive and swim in a different direction occasionally.

Such people have sometimes had a significant influence on the course of human history – one who was always swimming against the accepted norms of his society was Jesus of Nazareth.

Gerald South
Dear Editor,

**Falklands War Questions**

The letter from Lieutenant Colonel Roger Williams in the October magazine, in response to my comments the previous month, was of great interest, but has nevertheless caused me much concern.

I may well be mistaken, but I sense that he feels I associate Major General Julian Thompson with the fate which befell the Welsh Guards aboard the Sir Galahad. At no stage have I ever made the connection, as I have long since been aware of the facts given by Colonel Williams in the opening paragraph of his letter. There can be little doubt that he considers I am at fault for not explaining the military composition. To have commented that General Thompson had taken part in the Falklands War without making reference to his role in it would hardly have done him justice. I therefore saw neither the need nor the relevance to detail the command structure as it applied to the Welsh Guards.

It is my wish to make clear that I have the highest regard for General Thompson. Under his leadership 3 Commando brigade fought in every major battle of the Falklands War. By the time this brief conflict had been successfully concluded, his name was well known.

When I sought enlightenment from the General at Oxford four years ago, he was the only representative of the Falklands campaign to lecture on ‘The Nature of War’. It was obviously a unique opportunity for me to try to gain some insight into this disaster.

From time to time a tragedy occurs in war. When it is of a nature especially horrific and costly, and appears to be shrouded in mystery, it leaves a feeling of considerable unease. Would it not be feasible in the future for the Ministry of Defence to issue a statement, however restrained and conservative it might be? As it is, distinguished service officers in their retirement are called upon to undertake public speaking engagements, and are thereby exposed to being asked pertinent questions. They cannot reveal information which, in view of their seniority, they must have acquired, and are naturally bound by loyalty to the valiant fighting force of which they have been a part, together with a loyalty to their peers, which service life strongly imbues.

The very kind offer of Colonel Williams to lend me his book by Martin Middlebrook is much appreciated, and I would like to accept it at some future date, after I have undergone a cataract operation.

Betty Perry, Paynesfield Road
Dear Editor,

**Little Acorns Ladies Night – Oh What a Night!**

As some of you will know, Little Acorns Pre-School recently held their very first Ladies Night fundraising event, at the Village Hall in Tatsfield. This was a very well-organised, light-hearted and fun evening when great fun was had by all!

A brilliant night was had by the ladies, local and otherwise, from their 20s to their 70s, and below are some of the comments made by a few of the mums who attended:

“A rare chance for some of us mums to let our hair down, a brilliant compere having the whole hall in uproar laughing. Everyone had a great time dancing at the disco, and then going home smiling.”

“I haven’t laughed so much in ages.”

“It beats a Quiz Night any day of the week!”

“It was refreshing to be invited to something a little different as it encouraged a wider group of people to get together and to get to know each other. Great fun was had by all and most importantly funds were raised for a very worthwhile cause.”

So well done Little Acorns committee and staff for a night to remember! Thank you to everyone who supported the event and for all those that sadly missed it, let’s hope that Ladies Night will return in 2012!

**From some Biggin Hill and Tatsfield Mums**

---

**COVER**

The photo on the cover is of one of the lovely arrangements at St. Mary’s for Harvest Festival last month. There are more pictures in St.Mary’s Matters.

**QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

How should the village celebrate the Diamond Jubilee next June? Have your say at the public meeting at 8 pm on Wednesday 9 November as advertised on page 47.

**PARROT**

Would you like to help fund the re-equipping of the children’s play area in Westmore Green? Read how you can do this on page 23.
Dear Editor

**Dog Fouling**

I wouldn't want Babs Heffernon to feel singled out as the recipient of dog fouling in her locality! We also suffer in Old Lane where a number of dogs roam freely and frequently leave their calling cards in our gardens, on paths, parking areas and grass verges.

Putting up polite notices have failed to abate this nuisance as dogs can't read! But owners can!

*Phyllis Lawrence, Old Lane*

---

Dear Editor,

**Dog Fouling**

I just thought I would respond to last month’s letter regarding dog fouling. I’m certainly all in favour of people clearing up after their dogs as I do when out walking with Megan. But can we make sure that it is the correct people who are targetted, as when out walking in Paynesfield Road Megan had just stopped to have a sniff and wee when on the other side of the road a lady with 3 young children walked by and at the top of their voices shouted that my dog had just messed and I had left it. In fact, she hadn’t and I always carry bags for such incidents and would always clear up after her, as I get just as annoyed as others that a few people spoil it for the rest of us but can I just say that because our dog has stopped doesn’t automatically mean she is fouling.

*Carol Bell, Vern Place*

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Dear Editor,

**Highway Signs**

I thought that Tatsfield residents might have wondered what was going on with the missing signs around the village. Well, although I am not currently on the Parish Council, I am still on Surrey County Council's back trying to get them replaced.

These are:

1. Titsey Hill/Clarks Lane roundabout direction sign that has been missing adjacent to Titsey Estate fence that was damaged/demolished by a vehicle in the snow of February 2009 (yes no typo - this was 2½ years ago!) SCC Ref: 83009675, reported 9 March 2009. Chased up more times than the pages of this magazine would care to print.

04.10.11 I called SCC who will send in a new report but linking it to the old report numbers to progress this. New Ref: 62486.
2. Tatsfield Village Sign Ricketts Hill Road adjacent to junction with Lusted Hall Lane. Missing since last summer. SCC Ref: 83092822 reported 13.09.10. Chased up several times including a request to see if we could include "Fair Trade Village" on the sign.

04.10.11 I called SCC who will send in a new report but linking it to the old report numbers to progress this. New Ref: 62488.

3. Direction sign opposite Approach Road junction with Clarks Lane on ground, reported on 5.10.10. SCC Ref: 83095103. Chased up several times and by 09.03.11 a new pole had been put in but no "direction finger boards" on it.

04.10.11 I called SCC who will send in a new report but linking it to the old report numbers to progress this. New Ref: 62483.

I can report that my contact at SCC said "off the record" that this is ridiculous - that is an understatement but I now have my fingers crossed that the new SCC contractor will sort them out. If not you can rest assured I will be pursuing SCC until the signs are replaced.

**Sandy Philibert, Paynesfield Road**

*Editor*: You will see from the report on page 20 that the Parish Council has been busy chasing the County Council on the missing signs and also on road repairs in the village which have not been carried out.

**INSERTS**

There is a leaflet coming with this month’s magazine - about North Downs Sinfonia’s concert on Saturday 12 November.

**NEXT ISSUE**

Contributions for the December magazine should be with the editor by 16 November. Deliveries should be from Thursday 1 December onwards.

**MAGAZINE CROSSWORD**

The first correct entry opened for the October crossword was from Terry Cartwright of Paynesfield Road. Terry wins a £5 voucher for use in our village shops. This month we have another cryptic crossword set by Joan Gresham. You will find it on page 53. Going to give it a try?
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Planning: At our October meeting we discussed the latest planning application for the Bassetts site – one detached house and six terraced dwellings with access onto Westmore Green. We noted that the plan is broadly similar to the previous outline application approved in 2008. The issues of roof height, the wayleave for access across the Green and sight lines were again discussed.

The Parish Council approved the response to the government’s Draft National Planning Policy prepared by Ian Mitchell. This can be seen on the website at http://tinyurl.com/63ugkr9.

Finance: The Clerk reported on recent applications for grants from local groups. The Finance Committee has had its first meeting to discuss next year's budget which needs to be agreed in December.

Highways and Rights of Way - Arrangements for Winter Emergencies:

Details of arrangements for road gritting, snow clearing and filling salt bins have been received, but we need clarification on some aspects of the plan. Doug Massey presented his highway report summarising the lack of progress on many repair and maintenance items on our local roads. We agreed to write to Cllr David Hodge expressing our frustration and seeking clarification. Arrangements for winter emergencies were discussed including the ongoing requests for volunteers to come forward to be added to the list of drivers and those with trades and equipment that could be used in an emergency.

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012: We agreed to support this important event and to hold a public information evening at 8.00pm on the 9th November in the W.I. Hall in Paynesfield Road to discuss how the Parish Council might help the community to work together to co-ordinate events.

Parish Council Property and Land:

We discussed the damage to Westmore Green caused by the illegal parking of vehicles. The Parish Council is in contact with Tandridge District Council Legal Department regarding what action they can take against offenders and how the edges of the Green can be protected in future.

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 14 November at 8.00 p.m. after the Police meeting at 7.30 p.m.
Tandridge’s finances next year: Tandridge has begun detailed consideration of its budget for the next financial year beginning in April 2012. From the council’s viewpoint, things don’t look good: the Government has made it clear that local authorities will not be able to increase their Council Tax (it was frozen this year too) and Tandridge’s Government grant for next year has provisionally been cut by nearly 15%. Tandridge has had a recruitment freeze for some time and staff have voluntarily foregone pay increases. Meanwhile, inflation affects Tandridge like everyone else. Something will have to give.

New affordable housing in the village: Now that planning permission has been given for the 10 affordable homes on a site off Lusted Hall Lane, I hope that the remaining hurdles will soon be cleared and that building can start. Some of the homes will be for rent and some for part purchase. These homes can only go to Tatsfield-connected people but we know that there are many in the village who would like to move into one of them. I expect most people who are interested in the prospect have already registered their interest but if there is anyone who has not they should do so. The essential first step is to get onto Tandridge’s housing register and you can do that by contacting Tandridge’s housing department.

Planning decisions: The latest decisions, both approvals, by Tandridge on Tatsfield planning applications are:

Land adjacent to 85 Paynesfield Road – Demolition of outbuilding. Erection of 2-storey dwelling.

37 Paynesfield Road – Creation of vehicular access onto Paynesfield Road and erection of 1.8 m close-boarded gates to existing access to Crossways.

Bulky rubbish collections: We had our last bulky rubbish collection of the year last month. I myself find them very useful. The last two collections have been made at the new site of the Village Hall car park. My impression has been that this has not been as well used as the old site in Lusted Lane but I may be wrong. If you have any comments on how the use of the Village Hall car park has worked, please let the Parish Council clerk, Ana Hughes, or any Parish Councillor know. I would be interested to hear too.

Review of refuse and recycling services: Tandridge has posted a short questionnaire to 4,000 randomly selected households to find out what residents think about the refuse and recycling services and what improvements they wish to suggest. If you are one of those selected, please take the time to complete the questionnaire. It won’t take long – there are just 9 short questions. If you are not one of those approached, you can still let Tandridge have your views. A copy of
the questionnaire is on the website www.tandridge.gov.uk/recycling or ask for one by calling Amenity Services on 01883 732801.

**Illegal house-to-house clothing collections:** Twice in recent months Surrey Police have arrested people suspected of being illegal clothing collectors – in Godstone and Warlingham. Charitable collectors must either have a permit authorising the collection or hold an exemption issued by the Home Office. These are listed on Tandridge’s website www.tandridge.gov.uk/housetohouse. Charities lose millions of pounds each year through people giving goods or money to organisations they think are charities but which may be commercial companies collecting for profit. If you have any suspicions, have a look at the Tandridge website or phone Tandridge on 01883 722000.

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

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Winter Maintenance:** I am delighted to advise residents that plans have now been completed for the winter. All grit bins should now have been filled with salt and sand mixture for local use only. A briefing pack is to be sent to all Parish Councils on 21 October and the same briefing packs will be issued to District Councils.

I can confirm that this year we now have 17,000 tons of salt in stock - the highest salt stock that the County Council has purchased - and I hope will meet the needs of winter. There will be a County Council trial in Tatsfield to erect signs etc in the event of snow. This trial has been requested by your Parish Council and we at SCC will monitor the success or otherwise of the scheme.

**New Leader at SCC:** On 11 October at the County Council meeting I was elected the new leader of the County Council. I immediately announced that the SCC on-street parking policy finished on 11 October. In future all District Councils working with Local Committees will make those decisions. I believe local people know what is best in their local areas.

**Funding of Allotments:** I am delighted to announce that I secured over £4,000 for works on the Tatsfield Allotments site as a grant from the Local Committee.

**Transport of Tatsfield Year 7 Children to Oxted School:** Following the rejection of the joint appeal by parents against SCC’s refusal of free transport, I am pushing hard - as we go to press - for a review of that decision.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
Dear Residents,

TATSFIELD PLAYGROUND IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE VILLAGE. As you may or may not be aware, the equipment in the children’s playground on Westmore Green is starting to show signs of wear and tear and is becoming unsafe. As this equipment starts to break or become unsafe it will be removed by Tandridge Council never to be replaced. The seesaw is already evidence of this. Consequently, this leaves the children of the village without a playground to go to and forces the parents to go to surrounding areas.

To counteract this problem a fundraising appeal called PARROT has been formed by local residents and Tatsfield School parents. We have set ourselves a target of £25,000 and the reason for this amount is that Tandridge Council have agreed to match anything we raise up to £25,000 by 1 April 2012.

We are starting the ball rolling by having a Halloween Party for the children on Sunday 30 October at 4.30 pm in the Village Hall. In addition to this Joe Greenhill of Park Wood Golf Club gave us £50 from their raffle and Park Wood Golf Club has kindly agreed to donate money to the fund from future raffles held, so thank you Joe and Park Wood Golf Club.

But it’s you the residents of Tatsfield that we are seeking help from. We have worked out that if each household could possibly donate the equivalent of £5 per month for five months (£25) then we would raise over £17,000 towards the £25,000 figure we are trying to achieve.

I know times are very hard at the moment for people so whatever you could spare would be gratefully received and if you can give more then please do. Please remember that we are talking about providing somewhere safe to play for existing children of Tatsfield and future generations.

All donations can be handed into Linda’s Stores. If you donate by cheque please could you make the cheques payable to ‘PARROT’ and any cash donations to be placed in an envelope with PARROT written on the front and given into to Linda’s Stores. You can also hand any donations to any of the fundraising team: Vicky Cooling, Lisa Stokoe, Kevin ‘Arnie’ Arnold, Sarah Turrell and Tara Jones.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this appeal and please, please remember that THIS IS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE.

Kevin (Arnie) Arnold – Chair of Little Acorns Pre-School
Journeying Together!

A group of us set off to Hereford in a minibus at the beginning of October to join with many others to remember and give thanks for the life of Luis de la Torre. A long way to go for a day you may think and so it was but it was a journey all us very much wanted to make. We travelled together, some of us not knowing each other all that well, although friendships were made and deepened during the day.

During the requiem mass we heard Luis’ son Luis (jnr.) read a poem that had been by his father’s bedside during his last illness: it was The Waking by Theodore Roethke which included the recurring line “I learn by going where I have to go”, which seemed to reflect much of Luis’ life.

Afterwards Luis’ wife, Ann, and his three sons, with their wider family welcomed us as we joined over a hundred others for a leisurely tea in the warm sunshine in the grounds of the hotel overlooking the river Wye and we shared wide ranging and special memories of a man whose life had touched ours in a particular way. Such excursions need a bit of thought and planning and for that we have to thank Jan and Peter Maynard, together with Evelyn Dothie who shared the driving with Peter. It was a day we shall all remember.

Jennie South
Thanks

The 3rd of October was a calm, serene, golden autumn day, the sort of day Luis always enjoyed. It was so indicative of the man he was.

The family enjoyed meeting all our Tatsfield friends, who made such a big effort to be with us in Hereford – all still very recognisable in spite of the increase in grey hair! Their presence was much appreciated by me and the family.

We are grateful too to Gerald South and Colin Davis for their memories of Luis in last month’s magazine and to all those who so kindly sent cards, tributes and messages of sympathy. Thank you and God bless.

Ann de la Torre

THE PHOENIX AND THE PARROT

It has been a long time since I was involved in fundraising for the play area on Westmore Green. As the years have passed time has taken its toll on the much used play equipment and as you will have read before here in our Parish Mag funds are needed to replace, repair and update the site.

Sue Smale asked if I had been approached for ideas in fundraising. ‘Are you approaching me now?’ I asked. ‘Yes’ was Sue’s reply.

Well, here we are, this is what I can do instantly. As an independent Phoenix Trader I will offer 10% in cash to PARROT from sales of my greetings cards, charity Christmas cards and gift products, when asked to do so by the purchaser. If you wish to place an order, you can do this online via my website (it comes to me, not to Phoenix), or browse through a brochure (please ask me for one) or have a basket of cards and goodies for a night or 2, invite your friends round for a coffee or something stronger maybe? Collect orders and I will donate 10% from the total sales to PARROT. If you would like to take part in this way, please contact me for further information and ideas on ordering, parties and baskets.

You should know that any Charity Christmas Cards ordered will benefit Cancer Research UK, Children’s Hospice UK and about 200 other nominated good causes.

I am contacting Head Office with our PARROT details, as I think this is a very good cause.

Anne Chapman (Tel: 577596 e-mail: anne-chapman@talktalk.net www.phoenix-trading.eu/web/annechapman)
**ALLOTMENTS NEWS**

Only good news from the Allotments this month! At last the numerous letters, phone calls and meetings with various funders by Teresa Watts, Carol Bowen and Alan have reaped rewards and we have been recognised as a worthy cause deserving financial backing! We have received a grant from the Local Committee of Surrey County Council for £4,100 which will allow us to purchase and erect the roof for the containers. This will make them aesthetically more pleasing to the eye, and also give us the means to harvest rainwater for our consumption, making us self-sufficient and even more environmentally friendly.

We have also received a retrospective grant of £1,150 from Tandridge Council, being 50% of the cost of the water system, the gates and various other expenses already incurred.

But the best news is yet to come, as we have been notified that The Big Lottery is to give us £10,000 (yes, ten grand!) for the erection of our soon-to-be-much-needed perimeter fence. Several contractors have tendered for this job and more detailed discussions will take place with all of them before we decide which quote to accept. The fence will give us security from trespassers, both human and animal – there have been numerous sighting of hungry-looking deer eyeing our vegetables with interest! It’s only a matter of time …… The fence also offers a safe enclosure so that young children on the site cannot wander too far whilst their guardians may be pre-occupied with digging and weeding!

We are also grateful to Waitrose in Oxted who gave us a cheque for £141 from their green token scheme – so keep dropping the discs in the box whenever you see Tatsfield Allotments as a beneficiary – the Biggin Hill branch is naming us this month.

By the time you read this, work will have started on the construction of numerous holding bins in readiness to re-locate the Community Composting Scheme to the Allotment site some time next year. We are grateful to the ‘Borough Road Gang’ for volunteering to manage this project, and without whose expertise and enthusiasm we would be lost.

Liz Armitage

**A BIG THANK YOU ....**

.... to all my neighbours and everyone at St. Mary’s Church for all their kindness, thoughts and prayers during my recent stay in hospital.

Tom Menham
ST MARY’S SWAP SHOP WITH A TWIST!
Tuesday 15 November 7.45 - 10.00 pm
at St Mary’s Millennium Hall

We all hang onto clothes, squashing them into wardrobes in the hope that we might wear them again or they might come back into fashion. St Mary’s Swap Shop with a Twist is a fantastic way to de-clutter your wardrobe and replenish with those secretly coveted garments. Come join in the fun at our Clothes Swap Evening and you could go home with a new outfit or new accessory to update an existing one.

The entry fee is £10 and in addition please bring at least one item of good quality, clean clothing, on a clothes hanger, or an accessory such as a handbag or scarf to “swap” during the evening. Then you can chat over a glass of wine (or soft drink), natter over nibbles or relax with a gentle massage in-between browsing. The money raised will be going to a great cause: St Mary’s supports David and Shelley Stokes who are currently working in Argentina to improve the quality of life for people there. Changing screens will be available and a glass of wine (or soft drink), nibbles and massage are included in the entry price but remember to bring an item of clothing to swap!

For more details or to book a lift from the village centre please contact Sheila Cook on 577443.

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

Another reminder that Tatsfield’s resident symphony orchestra The North Downs Sinfonia will be tuned up and ready to play again on Saturday 12 November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

This concert is not one to be missed – at the last rehearsal many players were commenting on this possibly being our best programme yet. We open the first half with Greig’s Holberg Suite, then we play Mozart’s sensational Symphony No. 40 in G minor, arguably his greatest, and certainly his best known symphony.

After the interval (free bar – donations welcome) we will play Brahms violin concerto in D. This is an amazing piece and we are fortunate to welcome a fantastic professional soloist Robin Wilson to perform this work under the expert baton of Jem Muharrem.

Tickets for the concert cost £9 for adults and £7 for concessions and are available from Linda’s Stores, from Jan Maynard on 577659 or by email from mail@northdownssinfonia.com. We very much look forward to seeing you at the concert.

Andrew Harber
BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING IN THE WORLD

Friday 30 September was a fabulous day: Mediterranean skies at the end of September and the brilliant sunshine brought a wonderful turnout to support this incredibly worthwhile fundraiser.

Ally Burton and I set to work early putting tables and chairs outside for guests to sit in the sun whilst enjoying refreshments. For those who wished to hide from the heat there were more tables inside. All the stalls looked great. The hall was buzzing and business was brisk.

Jayne Boyce offered mini manicures which left the ladies walking around with their hands in the air, stating that they now could not wash up or do anything for the rest of the day! Lin Saines was busy imparting her knowledge and offering samples of her homemade chutneys and pickles. A sampling of a different kind was being had at the refreshment table, with a lovely array of cakes and clotted cream teas. For those who preferred to have their cakes and cream teas in the afternoon, or to take some home for the family, we once again offered a takeaway service which proved very popular. In fact only biscuits remained!

My thanks go to the following for their help and supporting Macmillan. To Ally for ‘womaning’ the raffle table and welcoming the guests, to Kerry Smith for running my Phoenix stall, to Lin Saines for bringing along her delicious chutneys and pickles for us to sample and buy, to Jayne Boyce for manicures, to Kate Ball and her Mum, Karen, for preparing the refreshments, making the cream teas, serving and washing up, to Carol Barker for taking over and doing the same and to Holly Taylor and Katie Mindham for making and presenting truly beautiful cup cakes.

Thanks too to all the people and businesses who donated prizes for the raffle: The Bakery, The Farm Shop Biggin Hill, Lin Saines, The Summerhouse, Julie Dennis, Kirsty Thurgood, Vicky Cooling, Sarah O’Callaghan and Kate Ball.

The biggest thank you is, of course, to you all for coming along and supporting Macmillan. The total amount so far is £230.43, with about £100 accrued on raffles and about £110 of refreshments, with the balance donated by kind people popping cash through my letterbox!

Did you know

- £25 could pay for a Macmillan nurse for an hour to support patients.
- £70 could help run a large Macmillan Information Centre for an hour.
- £141 could help pay for a Macmillan Grant that buys new clothes for someone experiencing weight loss whilst undergoing cancer treatment.

Anne Chapman
LOCAL POLICE NEWS

Police carried out two warrants within Tatsfield on Thursday 13 October which resulted in four persons being arrested re drugs. The four individuals concerned have been placed out on police bail to allow further investigations to be conducted prior to CPS being consulted re charges being brought. Further updates will be forthcoming.

On the same day a Police pursuit took place through Tatsfield. The occupants of the vehicle concerned abandoned the vehicle and made off across fields. A Police helicopter and Police dogs were used to try and apprehend the individuals.

On another note, burglaries are continuing to happen in Tatsfield and surrounding areas. Please remember to secure your properties. By the time this is published, Surrey Police's Crime Prevention workshop last month would have taken place in Tatsfield so this will be reviewed next month.

PCSO Rachel Gridley

A GOOD MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Margaret Parsons organises a Macmillan Coffee Morning each year in the Village Hall and this year’s event on Saturday 1 October was very successful: lots of stalls, nice refreshments and lots of people. Margaret is very grateful to the stall holders and to the help given by her family: daughters Moira and Anita, granddaughters Karen, Claire and Sarah and great grandson Lewis. As a result £200 has gone to the charity, the largest amount raised on one of Margaret’s mornings.

Quiz Night

to raise money for the PARROT SCHEME
for refurbishing the Westmore Green play area
Saturday 3 December
8 to 10.30 pm
Village Hall

Tickets £5 from Liz on 07846 126565
Bring your own drink (soft drinks will be on sale)

Form a team, support a good village project and have a great evening!
WEST END TICKET OFFERS!

If you are interested in hearing about great ticket offers for West End shows, please email or phone me to register your interest and I will keep you updated with any offers that come up. I am usually able to obtain very good seats reduced from around £62.50 to £28. The most recent shows I have been able to get great deals on are The Railway Children, Wicked, Legally Blonde and Billy Elliott.

Sarah Coop (Tel: 571521 Mobile: 07971 430471 Email: scoop@st-andrews.croydon.sch.uk)

THE BLOOMING VILLAGE

In some ways, autumn is a cruel time horticulturally. All the summer flowers have to be removed to make way for next spring's displays. So, the Tatol bed of vegetables has gone, together with the fine scarecrow made by Sue Smale and Mike Teague. Instead we have a bed of mixed Sweet Williams (not Wallflowers as some have thought). All the hanging baskets and other containers have been emptied. Most will remain empty over the winter but the manger baskets and tubs in front of the Village Hall and the cascading container in front of the Aileen McHugo Building have been planted with the trailing Viola, Avalanche.

Because the display on the Bakery green has continued to look so good, with the Salvias a bright as ever, we have left it in place for the present but it too will have to be taken out soon.

The In Bloom committee has already met a couple of times to review the past year and to start planning for next year. Out of 60 communities which participate in the region, we have been invited by South and South East in Bloom to be one of the region's four representatives in the national Britain in Bloom competition in 2012. It is an honour to be asked and the committee have decided to accept.

So 2012 will be a big year. We will be pitted against the best large villages in the rest of the UK. We did really well in 2010 when we last competed in Britain in Bloom and when we achieved a Gold award but were pipped at the post for top spot. We'll be doing our best again in 2012! We have already decided that we will adopt the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games as our twin themes for next year and we have begun considering how these can be given expression in our displays.

The willow figures on the Bakery green, made by a craftsman (craftswoman actually), have been an outstanding feature for the last two years.
We have all admired them and they have been acclaimed by visitors. In 2010 they took the role of a family walking to the new school and this year they have been a family leaving the Fairtrade shop. The committee have decided, sadly, that we could not realistically incorporate them in another display for a third year. So they are to come out, together with the rest of the material on the Bakery green, and we will start again.

But we have decided against just putting them in storage and instead to give everyone in the village the opportunity to have them for display in their own garden. There are four figures – a mother, a young girl and boy and a dog. They will go to whoever submits the highest bid by 14 November. You can bid for the figures individually or for all four. Bids should be made to Bob David on 577357. You may remember that the very realistic post box made by Doug Maddison for one of our displays a few years ago was won in this way by Abi Collins and still graces her garden.

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

CYCLING SUCCESS!

Just as the magazine was going to press, we heard that Roy Savery of Goatsfield Road had achieved great things at the Manchester Velodrome, which is the National Cycling Centre. Competing in the World Masters Cycling Championships in the 75 and above age group, Roy came third in the Pursuit Championship and fourth in the 500 metres Time Trial. More next month!

TATSFIELD HELPLINE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 pm on Wednesday 16 November at 45 Paynesfield Road

All welcome
Enquiries to Hazel Cartwright (Tel: 577749)
So here we are now approaching our first half term break of the school year, the weather is definitely more autumnal than it was and the children are settling in nicely to their new routines, both mornings and afternoons.

As I said in my last report, this half term our theme is ‘Getting to know you’. Last week the children were looking at photographs of each other and were asked to describe the child in the photo, for example talking about hair and eye colour. We also wanted to know if they knew each other’s names and they were all very good at it! This week we began looking at the children’s' homes. They will all be making models of their homes to go on a map of Biggin Hill/Tatsfield so we can see where they all live. Some enthusiastic parents have started making their models at home already, which is excellent!

After a well-deserved half-term break we will be back and looking to celebrate! The second half term brings some exciting events, and we will be starting with Halloween the day we get back, following by Bonfire Night. For the latter, we will be making a bonfire (pretend of course!) and firework pictures, which are messy and great fun to make! Also for next half term, we are planning a cooking week, celebrating Thanksgiving and Children in Need in November, and then the finishing off with the most exciting event of all – Christmas!

Our AGM was held this year on 22 September. The current committee positions are as follows:

- Arnie Arnold Chair
- Cathy Medhurst Secretary
- Helen Hartley Vice Chair
- Ana Rose/Kirsty Butler Fundraising
- Roy Holditch Treasurer
- Kate Welsh Emergency Cover

It was lovely to meet a few of our parents at the committee meeting and I hope more of you will come forward with any comments or ideas you have for the coming school year.

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

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

**BOOKING THE VILLAGE HALL**

While the Village Hall is almost fully booked during the week by regular users like Little Acorns Pre-School, the Art Group and the Table Tennis Club, it is more readily available at weekends – for children’s parties, birthday and other celebrations and much else. There are special rates for villagers and village organisations. To find out more, phone the Booking Secretary Vicky Cooling on 07983 011028.
LEAF CLEARING

Let me come and clear away your leaves. I have my own blower, rake and barrow. My name is Harvey and I live in Johns Road. You can contact me on 570097 or 07758 839329. My services are £10 per hour.

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET
The Rock ‘n’ Roll musical, based very loosely on the 50s sci-fi film version of Shakespeare’s The Tempest
Presented by the Oxted Operatic Society
7.45 pm Tuesday 22 to Saturday 26 November
Tickets from 01883 723084 or www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk

VETS FOOTBALL

Vets Football is carrying on over the winter in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 6.30 to 7.30 pm, starting on 3 November (non-marking trainers please).

John White (Tel: 570097)

COMMUNICATION SURVEY FOLLOW-UP MEETING

The Parish Council is following up the positive responses to the survey in September’s magazine and is asking volunteers to meet in the Aileen McHugo Building on Tuesday 29 November at 7.30 pm to explore plans for a Tatsfield Facebook page and for the development of the village’s presence on the internet.

The aim will be to bring together a team of enthusiasts willing to help maintain the site and set up a Facebook page to provide the village with up-to-date and regular news and information.

Peter Kerry (Tel: 577053 E-mail: pjkerry@gmail.com)

BANKING AT THE POST OFFICE

People who bank with the Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest and Ulster Bank should note that they can now withdraw cash from the Post Office at Linda’s Stores using their debit card.
BIGGIN HILL AND WESTERHAM
NEARLY NEW SALE

Saturday 19 November
10.15 to 11.45am
St. Mark’s Church Hall, Biggin Hill

Toys and Equipment only

For further information and sellers pack, please contact Amanda on 572041

TATSFIELD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 20 November
10 am to 4 pm
Village Hall

Free entry
Hot and cold refreshments available

HELP TO GET SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Surrey County Council has been awarded more than a million pounds by the government to help improve broadband access in the county. More information is available at: http://tinyurl.com/Superfast-for-Surrey

Surrey needs you to tell it what your broadband access is like now and what you’d like it to be. Is it too slow? Unreliable? Whatever it is, tell Surrey. Surrey can then tell the broadband industry what demand there is in the county for superfast broadband. Surrey has developed two surveys to gather the information:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/superfastbbsurrey resident
www.surveymonkey.com/s/superfastbbsurreyresident

If broadband is important to you personally or for business, please spend a few minutes completing one of the surveys to help bring superfast broadband to Surrey and to Tatsfield.
AN UPDATE ON OUR NEW POND

The refurbished pond on Westmore Green is now at the end of its second season. I have had a lot of comments, not all complimentary. Some of the comments are by folk new to the village who would not have known about all the discussions and the aims of the project. Others who have watched the pond go through its transformation seem disappointed in the result. In the discussions it seems that some residents expected to see a neat garden pond full of ornamental pond plants and goldfish but of course that was never the intention! The Parish Council took advice from the experts, the Surrey Downlands Project, who advised that the pond was leaking and the water quality was very poor. Many pond watchers had already noticed that the frogs seemed to have deserted the area and the edges were a mixture of native and non-native plant species. We were advised that, as a traditional village pond, it should not have fish or ducks; it is considered to be too small and these species will spoil the water quality. We were also advised that to make the best contribution possible to local biodiversity it should be planted up with native species only.

To judge by the amount of dragon flies, newts and a healthy population of leeches (all important indicators of a healthy pond) it has been a great success. But it is not a showy colourful display such as one would expect from a garden pond! Some of the plants have grown rather too well so, as part of its ongoing maintenance, we will be cutting back some of the vegetation. Next spring we are hoping to ask the Surrey Downlands Project to return and do a survey of the pond and make recommendations for its future upkeep.

Jon Allbutt

ROSIE’S BAKES

The leaflet for Rosie’s Bakes enclosed with last month’s magazine unfortunately had a small printing error in the web address. Rosie’s website address is www.rosiesbakes.co.uk or you can google Rosie’s Bakes to access the website. Thank you to the eagle-eyed person who spotted this error! Rosie is pleased to report that the printing error hasn’t prevented her receiving several enquiries and thanks Tatsfielders for their interest and support.

TATTY KNITTERS

A few more of us gathered together last month. A number of rows unfortunately had to be unpicked and re-knitted due to lack of concentration as we ‘sorted the world out’. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8 November from 7.30 to 9.30 pm in the WI Hall. All crafts welcome.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)
NOVEMBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)
🔹 Fresh fruit and vegetables – look out not only for greens but try something different for a change – watercress, kiwi fruit, avocados and sweet potatoes  
🔹 Pet and wild bird food – keep your feeders topped up  
🔹 Frozen and tinned food  
🔹 Cut flowers  
🔹 Free delivery to your home – just ask  
🔹 Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)
🔹 Use your local post office here  
🔹 Have you tried the fresh bread and cakes from Plaxtol Bakers now sold here?  
🔹 Look out for this month’s bargains – pick up a leaflet in the shop

PARISH MAGAZINE
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Monday 5 December
8 pm in the WI Hall

Look out for the invitation coming to all who contribute by writing, producing or delivering the magazine

LOTS GOING ON AT ST. MARY’S

You can read about what has happened in the past month and about what is going to happen in the next month in the St. Mary’s Matters section of the magazine on pages 54 to 56. Also something new this month – St. Mary’s Swap Shop with a Twist at the Millennium Hall on Tuesday 15 November at 7.45 pm. Interested? Read about it on page 27.

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 12 November 10 am to 3 pm

Sports Hall, Oxted School

40 stalls packed with Christmas treasures
Refreshments available

Arranged by Oxted School PTA
Children's Fancy Dress
Halloween Disco

(recommended ages 4 - 11 years)

Sunday 30th October 2011
Tatsfield Village Hall
4.30pm – 6.30pm
£6 per ticket
(price includes drink and crisps)

Glow Novelties Available To Purchase

For more information / tickets call: 07811 374848
Raising Funds for Tatsfield Playground

Event Sponsored By
www.hitsdiscos.co.uk
FAREWELL FROM JILL AND GIULIO UGO

We moved from south east London to Tatsfield in July 1977, having drawn up criteria which it didn’t meet. But the village and ‘Home Cottage’ in Old Lane were so appealing that our hearts overruled our heads and for the next 34 years we were glad they did!

The first winter we stuck a sign in the snow inviting everyone for an open house mulled wine party – and it seemed ‘everyone’ turned up! It proved a quick and easy way to meet people and became an annual Christmas event for many years.

Our first 15 years in Tatsfield were full of village activities: fetes, Old Lane dinners, children’s tea parties, endless adult dinner parties, walks down Chestnut Avenue and the Bluebell Woods, buying the weekly veg from the farm up the road, church activities, brownies, bonfire night, village hall events – and of course the legendary Christmas nativity play when we mothers provided kaftans from the swinging 60s - for the wise men. They were happy family days which we now treasure all the more.

Unfortunately the latter 10 years working at home – which had seemed like a good idea at the time – curtailed socialising somewhat. Then as our daughter Julie grew up and neighbours and friends moved - plus our own advancing years – we participated less in village activities and lost touch with many of the good people we had known.

Eventually the need to downsize arrived and we began the slow, agonising decluttering of 34 years of mementos of happier times. As we researched where to move to, the more aware we became of the uniqueness of Tatsfield – a true village with heart - with the wonderful benefits of beautiful countryside and fresh air! How many country villages are within commuting distance of London – and as well as being semi-rural, are within proximity of so many nice Kent and Surrey towns plus the Sussex coast?

And in no small way is Tatsfield enhanced by the good village people whose unstinting, voluntary hard work, time and dedication to the church, school, clubs, Britain in Bloom and numerous events all benefit everyone. We certainly personally
thank them for all they have done/continue to do to make Tatsfield a ‘green and pleasant land’ in which to live. We realise we have been spoiled and nowhere is quite going to match this ‘Best kept secret of Surrey/Kent’.

Nevertheless, health and age dictated that we needed to be somewhere ‘flatter’ and with milder temperatures, but by the time we had sold our beloved ‘Home Cottage’ in the spring we still had not found a suitable place to live. Our leaving was eased by the knowledge that our house was entrusted to a lovely couple, Andy and Michelle Care, who tell us they love being in Tatsfield.

We had planned to ‘go out’ almost as we ‘came in’ – and hold an open house to say ‘cheerio’ and thanks for the friendships. However, the tragic sudden road death of our son in law, Michael, changed our worlds in a blink. Our priority had to be near our daughter, Julie – and her little girl, Marnie – to offer solace and practical support. We have been ‘camping’ on the living room floor here in Herne Hill for the past 3 months whilst we look for a flat near here. To date, no success.

Not having said a proper ‘good-bye’ is sad and although we will hopefully continue to keep in touch with our good friends, this experience has made us appreciate that a good part of the enjoyment of living in a village is not only one’s close friends but also all the acquaintances who add to daily pleasure: the postie, the passers-by who regularly waved, the ritual dog walkers, the mums on the school run and the many other familiar friendly faces whose names we may not have known.

We miss waving to Gary, who was only 6 when he used to play with our dog Samba – and in recent years walked by every evening with his own little boy and their dog. And of course, Jonnie Panther, whose lovely Dad was one of the first people to welcome us to Tatsfield in 1977. We even miss George, the lovely Grey horse, as he sedately clip-clopped by.

So to all the friends and acquaintances that we didn’t manage to say good-bye to, we thank you for your friendship over the years and wish you well. Here in Herne Hill/Dulwich it is very village-like and we have met some nice people, been to street parties, are surrounded by lovely parks and I’m actually walking more!

If anyone wishes to keep in touch, it would be nice to hear from you. Our email is: jill@ugomarketing.co.uk. Address here at Julie’s house is: Jill and Giulio Ugo, 124 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BZ. Our phone number is 0207 733 6212.

Meantime, “Thanks for the memories” and we hope you all continue to thrive in Kent/Surrey’s Best Kept Secret: Tatsfield.

With warmest wishes to you all,

Jill and Giulio Ugo (formerly of Home Cottage, Old Lane)
LATEST GOSSIP FROM YOUR FRIENDLY LOCAL

A year on from our refurbishment we are still making changes at the Old Ship. We recently had the front painted (not before time) and we have just renewed the bar and cellar, bringing us into the 21st century. We are now able to offer a larger selection of real ales and our extra cold lagers now include Stella.

With the help from experts we have an exciting new Wine List offering world wide classics and favourites. Our Furious Boar Zinfandel Rosé is hugely popular with everyone wanting a refreshing glass of wine.

The restaurant is available for private hire and this year we have had a marquee in the garden for those extra guests not wanting to get wet.

We can do very reasonable rates for children’s entertainment like bouncy castles, slides, etc.

A quick reminder of ongoing specials:
Mondays and Tuesdays – lunch and evenings Steak Special £5.95
Fridays - Fish and Chips to take away £5.95

It’s that time of year again – Christmas. Our Christmas menu is available for viewing or phone us and we will pop one in the post. The Christmas menu is available throughout December but booking is recommended.

With our log burner sending out a warm glow we continue to improve your local pub and look forward to seeing old and new faces.

Carol and Amanda (Tel:577315)

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners for September:

1st prize: K. Budgen £28.50
2nd prize: Bob David £19.00
3rd prize: Michael Burbage £9.50
BADMINTON MARATHON SUCCESS!

The Badminton Club - sponsored 24 Hour Marathon to raise funds for two good causes was a success beyond the members’ expectations.

Badminton was played continuously in the Village Hall from 5pm on Friday 23rd to 5pm on Saturday 24th September, with four people on court all that time. About 130 full games were played by members of the two junior sections of the club, senior members, visitors from Caterham and South Croydon, families from the village and various friends who turned up. Altogether, about 60 different players of all abilities and ages from 10 to 75 years took part.

The period from midnight to 6 am left the small group of players who covered that period exhausted and very pleased to see daylight and have breakfast. A special Well Done to them.

The club paid for the Village Hall hire cost and members supplied the refreshments during the 24 hours as an extra contribution. We had a spectator who came from America and our furthest financial sponsor was from Australia! It was an event that was supported by many of our friends and families financially as well as by many in the village and the total raised was the magnificent sum of £2012.

The proceeds will be divided 50/50 between the refurbishment of the Westmore Green play area and the Alzheimer’s Society charity. The gift aid system will result in about another £280 going to the charity. The charity will sort that out and let us know the final figure in the near future.

Everyone involved deserves to be proud of their efforts. The people who took part and those who sponsored the event are responsible for such exceptional results – well done to you all.

Gordon White, Chairman, Tatsfield Badminton Club
Tatsfield Vern D’Anjou Association present a

Quiz Night

Exercise your brain, ears and taste buds with a quiz including music and food tasting rounds!

Saturday 19th November 2011
From 7.30 at Tatsfield Village Hall

TABLES available from Rosie and Pete Fuller on 573 554

It would be great to have the village clubs competing or why not arrange a table with a group of friends!

£9 per person

As tradition dictates, the arrival of Beaujolais Nouveau is celebrated on the third Thursday of November. We will be hot footing it back to Tatsfield so that you can be the first to sample the new wine along with other French fare.
Complimentary food and wine with your ticket.

Beaujolais Nouveau
TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

‘A YEAR AT CHARTWELL’

An illustrated talk by Peter Jones of the National Trust

Tuesday 8 November 8 pm at the Village Hall
Tickets £3.50, including wine and nibbles,
from Angela Sawyers on 577434 or any other committee member
The talk will be preceded by the Society’s Annual General Meeting
starting at 7.30 pm
All Welcome

LOOKING FOR SOME WINTER BASKETS AND POTS?

Jane Abram of Rag Hill Road has been planting up hanging baskets and patio pots for Stella to sell at Beaver Water World. You will find some lovely winter hanging baskets and patio pots on sale there at £6.50 each. All proceeds go to the Beaver Water World Animal and Reptile Rescue Charity. Pop in and have a look!

LONGLEYS REACH FOR THE SKY

Winner of the tallest sunflower in the 8 years old category in this year’s competition was Lewis Longley with a plant 2.8 metres high (over 9 feet). The picture shows Lewis and his younger brother Ben next to the winning sunflower - even with the help of a ladder they are a long way from matching its height!
TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

FIREWORK PARTY

FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Gates open 6pm

Admission on gate
Adult £5.00  Child £4.00  Family* £18.50
Senior Citizen £4.00

Advance tickets
Adult £4.50  Child £3.50  Family* £16.50
Senior Citizen £3.50
(* 2 adults and 3 children)
Under 3’s FREE

On sale: burgers, sausages, homemade soup, mulled wine, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, plus nightglow novelties.

Registered Charity Number 1102052
Tatsfield Vern D’Anjou Association present a

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

31st December 2011
7 ‘til 1 (carriages at 12.30)
Tatsfield Village Hall

2 COURSE MEAL • LICENSED BAR
• DISCO •

Adults £20
Under 16s £10

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

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING

Take the stress out of Christmas and get your shopping all wrapped up under one roof at our exclusive Christmas Shopping Evening.

Friday 25 November 2011, 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Tatsfield Primary School Hall

Come and join us for mince pies, refreshments, raffles and great shopping:

❤ Handmade jewellery
❤ Art and sculptures
❤ Homemade cards, tags, stationery and decorations
❤ Home and kitchen ware
❤ Jamie at Home and Pampered Chef gifts
❤ Skincare, cosmetics and pampering treats
❤ Handbags, scarves and ponchos
❤ Delicious Christmas Plum puddings and chocolates
❤ Handmade Chutneys and Pickles
❤ Seasonal Floral Design and Table Decorations
❤ Fresh Christmas Trees (order on the night)
❤ Copies available of the first-ever Tatsfield School Cookery Book!
❤ Enter our Christmas Hamper and exclusive shopping evening raffles
THE QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS EVENTS IN TATSFIELD

8 pm on Wednesday 9 November

To mark 60 years of the Queen’s reign the Diamond Jubilee will take place in 2012. The celebrations nationally will centre around an extended weekend on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June.

What are village organisations in Tatsfield planning to do? Would they like a village-wide event? If so, what kind of event? Representatives of organisations – please come to this meeting and join in the discussion.

Individual villagers – Would you like there to be a village-wide event? For children only or for the whole family? Would you join in? Would you be willing to help?

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THE DISCUSSION. EVERYONE WELCOME.

Arranged by the Parish Council

Enquiries to Parish Council chairman Jon Allbutt on 576481 or to any other parish councillor.

HAVE YOU SWITCHED TO E-ON?

An E-ON agent was calling on households in the village in the middle of October seeking new customers for the supply of gas and electricity. One household switched to E-ON, had second thoughts and cancelled the switch. If you decided to switch too, it might be worth you double checking the figures with E-ON and your previous supplier.

TEA DANCE SOCIAL

Village Hall 2.15 to 4.55 pm
Wednesday 2 November and then
a special Christmas Tea Dance Social on Wednesday 7 December

• 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH 7.30pm WI Meeting - WIH</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH 10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB 2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH • 8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Thur</td>
<td>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH 5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vet’s Football - VH 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH 6pm FIREWORKS PARTY - TPS • 8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sat</td>
<td>11-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Sun</td>
<td>8am Holy Communion(Book of Common Prayer) - StM 10am Open the Book All Age Service - StM</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Mon</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH 7pm Scouts - SH • 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH 7.30pm HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CHARTWELL TALK and AGM - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH 10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB 8pm PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS - WIH 8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
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<td>10 Thur</td>
<td>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH 5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vet’s Football - VH 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>11 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH 8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<td>12 Sat</td>
<td>11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery 7.30pm NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA CONCERT - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Sun</td>
<td>10am Sung Eucharist - StM 10.45 Remembrance Service - StM</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Mon</td>
<td>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 - AMB • 8pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB 8.15pm Bingo - TVC</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH 7.45pm ST. MARY’S SWAP SHOP WITH A TWIST - CH</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH 10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB 8pm TATSFIELD HELPLINE AGM - 45 Paynesfield Road 8pm Yoga - WIH • 8pm Explorers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vet’s Football - VH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH
18 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
19 Sat 11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery • 7.30pm QUIZ NIGHT - VH

20 Sun **8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM • 10am Sung Eucharist- StM**
11am-4pm TATSFIELD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR - VH
21 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
8pm Bingo - TVC
22 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
23 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB • 8pm Yoga - WIH
8pm Explorers - SH

24 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vet’s Football - VH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Film Night - CH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
25 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
6.30pm CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING - TPS • 8pm Badminton Club - VH
26 Sat 11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

27 Sun **10am Advent Sung Eucharist - StM**
10.30am Ramblers Walk - Hosey Common
28 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS • 7.30pm Art Group - VH
8.15pm Bingo - TVC
29 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 2pm Whist Drive - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY FOLLOW UP PUBLIC MEETING - AMB
30 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB
8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH

**DECEMBER**

1 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH • 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
2 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
3 Sat 11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery • 8pm QUIZ NIGHT - VH

Venues

AMB - Aileen McHugo Building  
CH - Church Hall  
FC - Furze Corner  
SH - Scout Hut
StM - St. Mary’s Church  
TPS - Tatsfield Primary School  
TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
VH - Village Hall  
WIH - Women’s Institute Hall
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT
Thursday 24th November at 7.45
St Mary’s Church Hall
Clue (sounds like): Bender Be lily?

Documentary   Republic of Congo / France (subtitled)   2010
   85 mins   PG
Starring: Roger Landu, Coco Ngambali, Leon Likabu,
        Montana, Theo Nsituviudi
Directors: Renaud Barret, Florent de La Tullaye

To round off our film season for this year ... from the lawless streets of
Kinshasa, Congo and 5 years in the making ... comes a remarkable true
story. A group of Congolese buskers gather beneath the acacia trees in
Kinshasa zoo, where they dream of stardom and a mattress to call their
own. This film shows how they get there, trailing a ramshackle alliance of
middle-aged paraplegics and street kids as they wend their way from
African slum to European concert hall. Hailed as the new Buena Vista
Social Club and brimming with humour, this is an inspirational and
infectious story of a dream that becomes reality.

Recommended donation: £3
   inc wine/coffee
   (all proceeds go to the upkeep of our ancient church)

THE BAKERY OPEN FROM 6 FOR A
DELICIOUS PRE-FILM SUPPER AT £7.99

Elaine Webster 577753 elainez@btinternet.com
Wendy Harvey 562340 wendyharvey@talktalk.net
FAIRTRADE TEA TASTING

Jennie South and her inspired and hard working team in the Tatsfield Fairtrade Group laid on a wonderful afternoon tea in the Millennium Hall on Sunday 9th October.

We sat at tastefully laid tables with elegant cake stands and chose from a dazzling display of cakes – I think I counted at least 10 different flavours to chose from, such as chocolate, coffee, lemon, fruit and many others. I shared with friends cutting some in half so we could try as many as possible. All the ingredients were from Fairtrade products as were the teas and coffees we could try at our leisure. From the array of different goods on display at a separate table it seems that the Fairtrade range is growing all the time.

It was a lovely afternoon and as we sat overlooking the churchyard to the south, the Harber family entertained us with a selection of gentle music which added to our relaxation on the very enjoyable afternoon.

Ann Jupp

Tea Tasting Footnote

You can buy Fairtrade tea, and other Fairtrade products, almost anywhere these days (including sometimes at out two village shops). Twenty different Fairtrade teas were on offer at the Tea Tasting and you can see from the list below that they are all readily available:

*Waitrose Biggin Hill:*
- Clipper green
- Jacksons Sencha green
- Duchy organic Earl Grey
- Duchy organic Earl Grey
- Waitrose own brand - just 'tea'
- Waitrose 'Gold'
- Waitrose Ceylon
- Waitrose Darjeeling
- Waitrose Kenya
- Duchy Assam
- Waitrose Breakfast
- Waitrose decaffeinated
- Clipper - just 'tea'
- Café Direct – just ‘tea’

*Sainsbury’s Chelsham/Warlingham:*
- Jacksons - just 'tea'
- Clipper breakfast
- Sainsbury’s own brand Kenya
- Sainsbury’s own brand Darjeeling

*M&S Victoria Station:*
- M&S own 'Gold'
- M&S Earl Grey

There were requests for the recipe of one of the popular eats, the Fairtrade Banana Bread. Anyone who would like one should phone Ann Hayes on 577593.
A New Challenge for Autumn?

Children back to school......the summer holidays becoming a distant memory.....evenings drawing in......maybe you are looking for a new challenge this autumn?

Why not consider becoming a Volunteer Befriender? Tandridge Voluntary Service runs a 'Befriending Scheme' which provides volunteers to visit and offer companionship to lonely people in the local area. Many people in Tandridge, especially the elderly, feel isolated. They may have health problems, mobility issues or few local friends or family. We provide a friend who will visit them regularly and be a 'good neighbour'. These visits are very much appreciated and our befrienders themselves find the volunteering very rewarding.

We always need to recruit new volunteers so if you have an hour or so a week to spare and would like to make a difference to someone’s life, please contact us.

Similarly if you know of anyone who would benefit from a befriender visiting them please let us know.

Kay Singleton
Tandridge Befriending Scheme
07796 307286
befriending@tvsc.org.uk
or contact the Tandridge Voluntary Service Volunteer Centre, The Community Hub, First Floor Library Building, 14 Gresham Road, Oxted (01883 715785).
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across
1 Unrefined soup, perhaps, we hear (6)
5 School that’s highly thought of. Or is it? (8)
9 Direct persuasion (8)
10 Game with directions to reheat. First, a kind of bean (6)
11 Starts to honour American President, perhaps everyone needs to take place (6)
12 Ageing cricketer, first pair from Cheshire out, takes this after the match (4,4)
14 Save a road cop various fruit (7,5)
17 Comforted with little one coming back in, strengthened (12)
20 Cheryl imbibes drink and has to fall down (8)
22 Half time before comedian gets to come off (6)
23 Taller rabbis hold back beer supplier (6)
25 It’s commonplace for topless politician to pocket foreign currency (8)
26 Quandary – do we have accommodation to go round (4,4)
27 City starts to end regular delivery (6)

Down
2 Not in west coast city with Clyde, for example (6)
3 Alps air contaminated after Harvest. Think again (11)
4 I go to Lennie about car fuel (6,3)
5 Italian noted instruction for two cats. Play with a decisive action! (7)
6 Danger in Blackpool. Damper illuminations (5)
7 Possess topless dress (3)
8 Point to Hannibal’s voters (8)
9 Family supporter of old sitcom employing old film director (5,6)
15 On the surface it’s not in the hospital room on the outskirts of Llandovery (9)
16 Storyteller on order to reverse along single railway (8)
18 George to start with leaves chaotic wedding for love to come in and abate (3,4)
19 Burn, say, back payment (6)
21 Growth in Monopoly players (5)
24 Decay in roost oddly (3)

Solution to Crossword
In October magazine

Prize of £5 voucher for use in Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers to the first correct entry opened on 17 November. Please drop in your entry to Linda’s Stores or send to Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN.
Back to Church Sunday
Everybody is always welcome at St Mary’s but on 25th September we made a particular effort to invite others to our service. We were delighted to see them and hope they will want to come again. Many left with a copy of a small book entitled “What am I doing here?” by Hilary Brand – a light-hearted but useful book about what is going on during a church service. If anyone else would like a copy, we have a few copies left. Our next Open the Book service is at 10 am on Sunday 6th November.

Harvest Festival
Many thanks to all those who contributed to the marvellous display of flowers, fruit and other goods. The flower arrangers produced some stunning arrangements. At the 10am Sunday service the church was also packed with people, including some Scouts and Brownies: we saw some of the vegetables that had been grown on the new allotments and some from the Rectory garden – some were better than others!

Informal Evening Service
Many thanks to Tessa Deterding for leading the music at this service on 9th October. We were only sorry that Mattie was not well and unable to be there with her guitar. Let’s hope they can make it another time.

Remembrance Sunday, November 13th
Our annual act of remembrance for those who have fallen in war will follow after the 10 am service on 13th November. We especially remember by name those from Tatsfield. As for all services at St Mary’s, all will be welcome, either to come at 10 am or to join us at 10.45 am for the act of remembrance, which lasts about 30 minutes.

Advent Sunday, 27th November
Advent is a period of quiet reflection, leading up to the great celebration on Christmas Eve. You might say it is the antidote to the frantic preparations that so often accompany this time of year. Our Sunday services reflect this approach, especially on Advent Sunday itself – perhaps you would like to come along. There will also be an Advent Carol Service at 6.30 pm at St Peter’s Limpsfield on this day.

Posada
The figures of Mary and Joseph will make their way around the village during Advent. They stay at different houses for a short period of up to a day and then end their journey on Christmas Eve by arriving at the church during the Christingle service. If you would like your home to be included in their journey please phone Gerald on 577598 by 13th November.
St Mary’s Annual Dinner
In recent years this has been held at the beginning of December. Last year the snow meant that we postponed it until February. In the event this worked out really well and cheered up a quieter time of year for many of us. So we have decided to repeat the February date deliberately this time. I know we could still have snow in February! So the date for your next year’s diary is St Mary’s Annual Dinner, Sunday 5th February 2012 at 1 pm in Church Hall.

Churchyard
Many thanks to all those who have helped to maintain the churchyard this year. With the rather unusual pattern of weather it has not always been easy to keep to the plan but we are now nearly up to date. There remain some winter jobs to be done – from weeding the long bed just inside the gate to strimming and hedging – fortunately there are several villagers who help but anyone else who might feel able to volunteer with any such tasks should phone Gerald on 577598.

Records
5th October  Funeral of Elaine Clark
16th October  Children admitted to Holy Communion before Confirmation.
Constance and Madeline Budgen, Jessica Ellis, Emma Lucas, and Sofia Sinclair

The children being admitted to Communion before Confirmation …….

………… and relaxing afterwards
Church Flowers

Once again, our very grateful thanks go to Mr. David Innes and his Head Gardener, Mr. Steve Tett and his team, for providing us with such a wonderful array of flowers and produce with which we decorated the Church for Harvest Festival. The photos here and on the magazine cover show some of the lovely arrangements. A big ‘thank you’ also to all those who helped to do the decorating: Tina Boys, Pam Draper, Lorna Tory, Sylvia Hyett, Kay Longley, Wendy Maddison, Shirley Murtroyd, Barbara Piggott, Christine Rosenbaum and Bob Fairclough (who did a wonderful job as always, with the clearing up). Thanks also go to Mary and Barry Bull for letting us have some super greenery from their garden.

The Flower Rota for November is:

6th - Kay Longley
13th and 20th - Sue Saunders
27th - No flowers (first Sunday in Advent).

Jan Maynard
YEAR 5’s HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Friday 30th September we celebrated Harvest Festival in school and our Year 5 children led the assembly. Below are some recounts of the assembly as told by the children:

Owl Class’ assembly took place on Friday 30th September. We did a dance to the first chapter of the book of Genesis. I read the first part and Erin read the second part. Harry Fisher was the sun and he had to stand with his arms outstretched for the whole thing. “My arms ache” he complained after! After the dance we talked about where our favourite food came from.

By Thomas Cribbens

To begin with we did a dance to represent the creation story (Book of Genesis, first Chapter of the Bible). I was a fish with two others. It was quite embarrassing because I was right up at the front and the movements we did to try and make us look like fish were quite strange. After that, some of us explained about pizzas. Where the toppings came from, how far it was to get to the supermarket and how far the toppings travelled altogether, which was 23,000 miles. That is a very long way, no matter how close the pizza place is.

By Caitlin Barry

Thomas Cribbens read the first part of Genesis so introduced me, the light. I was quite nervous that I might put my arms down and ruin the whole assembly, but luckily I didn’t. My arms really ached at the end though, but I still had more to do! I had to stand up after Archie Mindham and say “Pineapples grown and harvested in Kenya, 4500 miles”. After it had finished the vicar said a few words about all the Harvest food being transported to St. Mary’s link church in Brixton. Miss Bainbridge had lots of good reports.

By Harry Fisher

I was a bird. I had to fly around with Katy and Ellie who were also birds. After the dance Reverend South talked to everyone about harvest and how it is so important. He also said that the food that we brought in would be going to Brixton in South London.

By Elouise Yeo

Owl Class’ harvest assembly took place on Friday 30th September. We performed in the school hall in front of our mums and dads, Reverend South and the whole school. I was a planet with my friend Matthew. The harvest food went to St. Mary’s link church in Brixton.

By Joshua Regan
Margaret Cooper will be a familiar face to many villagers who enjoy her yoga classes and to others who know her from walking her golden retriever Harley, both of which she is passionate about. Most of Margaret’s life has been spent in Scotland, until the arrival of 2 grandchildren brought her down to the south east, where she has lived, firstly in Keston and then Tatsfield, for the last 6 years.

Several towns and cities in Scotland have been graced with Margaret’s presence, from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire to Edinburgh to Dundee. She has also enjoyed living in the highlands, where she was once employed to help with the census, driving high into remote mountain areas, finding herself and Harley in her car, completely surrounded by highland cattle! She also recalls phoning the RSPCA one day to report seeing ponies with icicles hanging from their coats, only to be chastised with ‘They ARE Shetland ponies after all, they’re used to it!’ Margaret could also be found wearing her kilt as steward of Castle Urquhart overlooking Loch Ness, where one of her duties was to climb the stairs in the pitch black of night to take down the flag of the ruinous castle.

After Margaret’s daughter Jackie met and married her English husband Steve and settled down in the south east, she found herself flying back and forth. Six years ago when her granddaughter Morgan was 2 and her grandson Oliver was about to arrive, Margaret finally decided to swap the Scottish mountains for life in this corner of England. She was surprised by how much warmer and better the weather was (although some of you might not agree) and found herself giving away her sheepskin coat and ski jackets! Luckily she was able to transfer from her job as a kitchen designer in B&Q Inverness to Sidcup B&Q and she now works part time in the Sutton branch. Margaret does however continue to fly home to Scotland to visit her mum and 3 sisters and their families.
Enjoying her job is important to Margaret but her second job is more like a lifestyle to her. She first practised yoga at the age of 17 and found that whereas she ‘didn’t get aerobics at all’, yoga made her feel better and much more positive about life in general. She said to herself ‘one day I’ll be a yoga teacher’ and this eventually became a reality at the age of 52. Margaret has led classes ever since and for the last 3 years she has studied for a diploma in hypnosis, an area close to her heart, as she specialises in Hatha yoga, a visualisation and meditation style of yoga, concentrating on the mind, body and breathing. For many, yoga begins as a form of exercise but then ‘takes you on a journey’. This is borne out by the success of Margaret’s classes both in Tatsfield and Biggin Hill.

Not only has yoga taken Margaret on a journey but so has her family, swapping the mountains of Scotland for the hills of Surrey, for which Margaret has no regrets. I’m sure Harley has none too, swapping swimming in Loch Ness for running in the green fields of Tatsfield! He has also been known to copy Margaret by trying to stand on his head beside her as she begins her morning yoga routine!

If you would like more information about Margaret’s yoga classes in Tatsfield on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, take a look at her website www.yogalats.com or phone her on 540434.

“TATSFIELD SCHOOL PAST AND PRESENT”

This new book is full of drawings and photos of pupils past and present, as well as being a full history of the school since the 1840s.

Something to buy for yourself or as a Christmas present for someone else in the family.

£ 8.50 from Linda’s Stores

Published by the Tatsfield History Project
Correspondence:

Just the one item of correspondence this month, from Babs Heffernon in Paynesfield Road (05.10.11):

‘A quick question, you might be able to answer. My son had a pigeon fly into the window and, while he was stunned, a cat mauled him and he lost his wing and tail feathers. He was still alive so Paul took him in and revived him and he is now nesting in the ‘Wendy House’ in the garden because he can't fly. I thought he would die of shock to be honest, but no, he has been in the ‘Wendy House’ for a few weeks now and calls for his food. Paul asked me when he is likely to re-grow his feathers so that he can fly again and I don’t know! Do you?’

Unfortunately not, Babs, but perhaps one of our readers does? Whatever the answer, I’m guessing Paul's going to be dishing out some long-term care - good luck, and well done!

Okay, so you think I’ve been having it easy lately with all your correspondence, and as a little reminder of how things used to be you’ve decided not to write to me this month, even though you’re bursting to spread the news of some new insight, wondrous discovery or observation. Well, I’ve appreciated the joke, so now you can kindly get back to your usual, helpful selves and send me your news, your opinions, your something! In the meantime (and perhaps for inspiration):

Gardeners are pigs (!):

‘Robins, confident hoppers around our feet as we dig up our back garden potatoes, are much shyer creatures on the Continent. Why should this be? The thinking is that the bird became used in centuries past to the British abundance of Wild Boar in the ancient woodland, and would follow the huge pigs around for pickings after they’d snuffled up the ground. Once the boar became extinct, the Robin simply turned its attention to the efforts of another large grunting mammal, the ubiquitous British gardener.’

(‘The Birdwatcher’s Companion’, ed. Malcolm Tait)

Ways to save our planet:

‘You can support the many organisations that are trying to halt the decline in our species. You can pay a bit more for your food, support fair-trading organisations, write to MP’s about farming practices. You can stop using plastic bags, be careful about your rubbish, stop using the car so much, pressure the authorities to provide better public transport. You can do all sorts of things, but most of you won’t.’

The joy of words (please read slowly):

‘The larks were everywhere. No individual bird could be disentangled. The song of one knitted into the rolling pattern of its neighbour to form a seamless web of music – one glorious anthem that rose upwards in great vaults to roof the heaven with an indeterminate architecture of sound.’

(Mark Cocker)

A response to Polly Devlin’s letter (see above):

‘Right, let’s see what wonderful ideas Polly Devlin’s got to offer. Oh, yes, this is a very promising start - let’s all go and join the hippy gangs, hugging trees and cuddling bunnies. You know, when I was a student I got involved in all that, ‘let’s save the world’, nonsense. Never did any good. Even now, 40 years on, I get raffle tickets to sell and begging letters. They’re a bunch of leeches. Radicals the lot of them. Lock ‘em up and throw away the key, that’s what I say. And what’s all this? Pay more for your food, support fair-trade, something about farm practices? What’s that got to do with me? What do I know about farming? I love cheap food. How else can I afford my new plasma TV, our annual trip to sunny Spain, my quarterly subscription to ‘Women’s Weekly’? Stop using plastic bags? Are you mad? Have you ever tried carrying armfuls of groceries across a busy supermarket car park? I tried it and believe me it’s an experience not to be repeated – oranges rolling under car wheels, juggling with loaves, milk splattered over passers-by ... no, no, no – take my advice, use as many plastic bags as you can lay your hands on. And as for all this recycling nonsense, well, I’ve yet to hear of a bottle or can shortage. And what about all those poor people in the mining and manufacturing industries? Am I really prepared to put them out of work? No I’m not! Those bottles and cans will keep going where they belong – in the bin!. Stop using my car so much? What? Do you know how long it takes me to walk up the road for my Sunday morning paper? Valuable minutes that I can ill afford. I’ve missed the beginning of the Hollyoaks omnibus more than once by being a goody-goody walker. No more, I say! And as for public transport ... you must be joking. Waiting at a bus stop in all weathers, having to adjust my timetable to suit others, sitting with persons unknown ... can this be healthy? I think not. Give me my gas guzzler any day. Ah, the freedom of the road. And thanks to all that cheap supermarket food, I can drive all day without a care in the world. Long live Western democracy! Long live our consumerist society!!’

(A. Pratt, ‘Western Consumer Weekly’)

Do you have news, an opinion or observational report you’d like to share? Wonderful! Here’s what to do -

Contact : nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com or . . . . . . . . leave a note in Linda’s.
FOR THE LOVE OF HERBS

ALMOST JOURNEY’S END

We’re nearly there! A whole year “virtually” journeying around the world looking at Herbs and Spices, including history, recipes and anecdotes from each place visited. It’s been a long haul, starting in January in Southern Ireland if you remember, a memorable herb-filled meal at Leopardstown Racecourse and that awful Dublin one-way system, then travelling right to the edge of the world sampling the Pacific-rim cookery from New Zealand to Japan, returning home for a short visit and re-planting the Horse Trough with World Herbs ready for the summer season and the Judging Day! After that a long-awaited re-visit to much-loved Norway with a surprise of a New-Zealand “Hangi”- style meal cooked on stones in a Viking pit, then travelling down through the searing heat of Spain, which was a really good excuse to take the short journey to Morocco with lots of tagines, herbs in beautifully-shaped pots and many spices, all enclosed in a blue-hued vision of paradise. A heady mixture of India, the Spice Trade and a Cornish Tall Ship followed, but unfortunately my visit to Russia is on hold until next year – however, if you would like to see Russian Sage (Perovskia), take yourself up to the Parish Room and look at the plants in the shrub bed on the right where Perovskia have been blooming away with their lavender-like blue flower stalks all summer (I have marked these unusual herbs with a label).

Our “World Tour” will end appropriately during the Christmas season in the Holy Land, the “navel” and centre of the world, but for now I would like to take you on a very short tour of the herbs seen in the horse trough this summer. It’s a small space, but has held many unusual varieties and when I have spoken to villagers about them while watering the trough by hand, every second day from early spring, people have been fascinated by them. My two ancient and battered watering cans have become well known to many, carrying water from the tap round by the Village Hall!

Welsh Onion looks very like spring onion, indeed Welsh meant “foreign” when this plant was first named so am glad, in this foreign land where the last of our Welsh Princes lived, our little onion is growing very well. The leaves have a strong taste and are particularly good chopped and sprinkled over salads and (dare I bring in a Norman connection here) the dreaded cheese omelette. I’ve been surprised with the far-Eastern herbs planted this summer; they have grown away well even though our weather has not been the best. A rare one – Vietnamese Coriander – has done exceptionally well. It needs heat and will not survive a Tatsfield winter outside but I am taking cuttings for next year’s Horticultural Society plant sale, hopefully. With long, pointed and very hot-tasting leaves that can be added to Thai curries and stir-fries, it is an interesting plant that does not look like a frail coriander at all. Well-travelled chef Rick Stein calls it Vietnamese Mint, and indeed it looks far more like that, and has the same spreading habit. It has been a “thug” in
the trough, quickly taking over the space of other plants I have had to remove, and only kept its position because it is so unusual! But you won’t see it back there again!

**Lemon Grass**, that great Thai-flavoured herb, has also grown very well this season. On the same theme, **Lemon Verbena**, originally hailing from South Africa, has intensely lemon-scented pointed leaves used in cakes and ice creams, and when dried is an excellent component of pot-pourri. This is another plant that will have to be heated through the winter and will be removed for safety. On the whole, this “World Tour” planting experiment has been really successful. I have been very pleased with most of these foreign plants growing up here in the Alps. However, **Purple Basil** did not flourish at all, despite two or three attempts. I have often found this variety not as strong as others and will not be growing it again. I recommend the Italian large-leaved **Basil “Napolitana”** as an alternative. **Purple Sage** luckily provided lots of colour instead and its flowers are particularly attractive.

We have shown many Mediterranean herbs giving good form and colour, including variegated broad-leaved **Oregano “Country Cream,”** a white-flowering tiny-leaved “**Minimus**” Thyme and **Prostrate Rosemary** with its deep blue flowers. **French Tarragon** and **French Lavender** are usual additions, the latter being an exceptional bee-plant. Something interesting, pointed out by many villagers who have stopped to chat while I’ve been watering, is how many ladybirds have been attracted to the plants this season. Sometimes over twenty little red dots could be counted at any one time! We’ll be looking at **Hyssop** and **Marjoram** in the Christmas article, but both have grown well this season. Hyssop particularly gives a lovely splash of bright blue when in full flower, tumbling over the side and softening what can look a rather austere rectangle of concrete, and this beautifully mature plant shall stay in the trough through the winter.

Attractively-gold-splashed **Ginger Mint** has been successfully confined in a terracotta pot all season. It has an interesting flavour that can be used with lemon grass and the Vietnamese thug to give added depth of flavour to Thai curries and stir-fries. At the other end of the flavour scale, **Fennel** always grows well here, and is an excellent herb for fish cookery, giving an aniseed taste that does not overpower. Finally, **Bay** is a versatile winter flavouring, widely used in stocks, soups and casseroles.

As can be seen from the photographs, herbs are an excellent, eye-level planting in this awkward space that hopefully provide much interest at the Village Crossing Point.

**Lin Saines**
Homes with Electrical Heating

If you happen to have “pots of money,” then don’t bother to read any further.

Walk around our village and take a good look at the many trees and hedges and you soon realise that most of them are laden down with berries and fruit. Nature has a funny way of forecasting that there is going to be a very cold winter. If the weather does happen to get “that” cold, all of us will soon be switching on our electrical heaters to get our houses more bearable to live in or at least take the chill off. That way we can enjoy some TV (or whatever) in some sort of comfort.

Many years ago in my first year of studying electronics at Brighton Technical College (now called a University) I found out that “all” heating we generate to keep ourselves warm when it’s cold comes under three headings. The three are Convection, Conductance and Radiation (C.C.R.). So it would seem that the way to make the most of the high costs of the electrical units that we pay for (from the many expensive outlets that are offered to us on a daily basis), the most efficient heating system has to contain all three of those items.

Going recently to the store Pound Stretcher in Croydon, my Jan spotted a neat Halogen heater that had two “elements” which are rated at just 400 watts each. The good thing about a Halogen heater is that it contains all three of those C.C.R. items I mentioned, for efficient heating. Also that 800 watts total is the lowest rating I have seen to date and the running costs of owning such a heater will be much cheaper than any other similar heaters. It is neatly shaped with a carry handle at the top so it is easy to move around the room for best results.

We brought ours home and as it was quite chilly during the evening we tried it out by just switching a single 400 watts bar and the result was quite amazing. There was a bright warm glow and the whole room looked pleasant and relaxing. Also, if the heater is accidentally knocked over, it automatically switches itself off.

If you, like most people, are interested in getting the best value for your cash and you don’t have a lot of money to throw about, the cost of buying (and running) these heaters with a model number 249340 is £8.99 each. It’s a “gotta get job”.

And Another Thing - How’s your Diary?

Well it’s almost “that time” again and by that I mean that the annual events seem to come around much quicker at the end of each year. So, it’s November already and the first Wednesday afternoon November 2 brings our Tea Dance Social at the Village Hall, followed by the Fireworks Night at the new village school on Friday November 4 and then it’s the Festival of Remembrance Service at St Peter’s Church Limpfield on Sunday November 13. After that we are coasting towards our final Christmas Tea Dance Special on December 7 again at the Village Hall and then Friday December 16 we have the 7th annual Christmas Carol Singalong outside the Ship pub from 7pm. How does that compare with your diary then?

Dave Bishop
If you look south east in the early evening you can’t fail to spot the brilliant object around 30° above the horizon that is much brighter than anything else you can see in the sky at that time with the exception of the Moon. This isn’t a star but is in fact the planet Jupiter putting on an excellent winter show for us.

At the end of October it reached opposition, which means that the planet was exactly opposite the Sun in the sky as shown in the diagram. Around the period of opposition is always the best time for observing because Jupiter will be at its closest to us and also will be visible all night (as the Sun sets, Jupiter rises).

To see the four largest moons you will need a pair of binoculars or small telescope although, regardless of what you use, it will need to be either mounted on a tripod or supported by something sturdy to prevent it from moving. As an example of what you can see, the diagram shows the position of the moons on the 15th of this month.

The four largest moons - Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto - are known as the Galilean moons after their discoverer, Galileo, who first observed them in 1609, although since then another sixty have been identified. Ganymede is easily the largest of them and is in fact the biggest natural satellite anywhere in the Solar System - it is even larger than the planet Mercury. As the moons revolve around their parent planet, it is possible, with a large enough telescope, to observe them and their shadows transiting across the disk of Jupiter.

Whilst looking for the moons it may also be possible to see a hint of some “bands” on the planet which are belts of clouds in constant motion in Jupiter’s upper atmosphere. One of the best known features that appears in this cloud layer is an anti-cyclonic storm known as “The Great Red Spot”, which has certainly lasted for 180 years.

Brian Mills FRAS
John Clarke, who has been with Tatsfield Scout Group for almost 20 years, has been formally announced by the new District Commissioner for East Surrey, Phil Hands, as his Deputy District Commissioner. Over the years, John has held the positions of Beaver Helper, Assistant Cub Leader, Akela, Assistant Scout Leader, Scout Leader, International Adviser – you would have thought that would have been quite enough, but John is both delighted and proud of his new appointment and all in the Tatsfield Group wish him the very best. Don’t worry; he will still be in charge on a Tuesday with the Scout Troop!

The group will again be represented at St. Mary’s Church for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th where we will parade into the Church at the beginning of the service. The Scout section has a busy month with a Patrol Leader camp at Broadstone Warren Scout Centre on the 18th – 20th. They will also be competing in the District Swimming Gala at Edenbridge Leisure Centre on the 26th along with the Cubs. This will be the first time we have entered Scout teams in some years and hope to do as well as the Cubs have done in the past. The Group once again will be supporting the Link Romania Family Shoebox Appeal for Christmas. This organisation distributes parcels across Romania, Moldova, Albania, Bulgaria and the Ukraine; this is a fantastic opportunity for the group to help make a difference to those children less fortunate than themselves at a very special time of year.

The Scouts have just completed a St. Johns First Aid Course at Redhill along with 2 Leaders. This gained the Scouts their Emergency Aid Stage 3 Badge along with a certificate and badge from St. John which is valid for 3 years. This was a very useful and enjoyable day with the Scouts learning some life saving techniques.

As the evenings are now dark and colder, please remember safety first when delivering your child to the Scout HQ. Please use the Beaver Water World car park, where Les Vowles, as always, will be there to see you all safely across the road. I would like to thank, once again, Beaver Water World for the continued use of their car park facilities. It has made a great difference to the safety of all.

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

**CALL 101**

Don’t forget – the new non-emergency number for the police is 101. This connects people phoning from a Tatsfield phone number to the Metropolitan Police but before that happens you will be asked if you want to be connected to a different police force and you should of course opt to speak to Surrey Police. Remember too that in an emergency you should dial 999.
1ST TATSFIELD BROWNIES

At the start of the autumn term we said goodbye to a lot of our faithful longstanding Brownies, but hello to a further 8, and 4 more to be enrolled, which has boosted our numbers back up to capacity.

So a big welcome to Francesca, Emmy, Isobella and Chloe and here is a picture of their moment, which was on Harvest Festival. We had lots of parents up to the meeting to join us in home made soup and bread and it was the last day warm enough for us to sit outside for the enrollment too. This also allowed our 8 new Brownies to join us at the Harvest Festival church parade in uniform where we had a really good turnout. Thanks to all the mums who made that possible.

The Brownies are all working on badges at present as so many are new. So lots of mums are testing on Homeskills, Hostess and Cooks badges. Brownies and parents - keep up the good work.

One of the Brownies is working on her writers badge and wrote this poem about her favourite animal:

Giraffe

A giraffe lives in Africa,
It has a very, very long neck
    It eats all day
And then hits the deck.

A giraffe has long ears,
Its yellow and brown,
    It has big eyes
and a massive frown.

A baby giraffe is called a calf
It loves to drink and play
    It likes to run around
To waste the day away.

By Chloe Barnard age 10

Patti Thomas-Verweij, Brown Owl (Tel: 07860 938839)
And now for something completely different.......Well, it all happened by accident as we were scheduled to have a Harvest Supper. For a variety of reasons things changed. Then it was to be a Games Evening with Nibbles. Who’s Nibbles anyway? Well, we didn’t do that but what we had instead was a very friendly “sit down and chat”. Doesn’t sound much fun really, but let me tell you it was SO nice to just sit and natter instead of having to behave ourselves and listen to a speaker. Not that we really get up to high jinks, but it made a pleasant change. We had our nibbles accompanied by a glass or two of wine. Then we took turns to tell each other two things we have done and one thing we would like to do- but not to say which was which, leaving the others to guess. What an interesting lot we have in W.I. - no-one realised. Who would have thought that one of our number has climbed a sheer rock face or met the Dalai Lama? How about canoeing on the Wye; swimming with whale sharks; ballooning; climbing Snowdon (the hard route); taking tea with group Captain Peter Townsend; meeting the Queen in Dubai and sitting next to Prince Philip; taken tea with Sherpa Tensing; piloted a light aircraft; flown a glider; met Lorne Green (of Bonanza fame) and lots more that I didn’t make a note of.

Of course we had some serious stuff as well but we kept that to a minimum. The most important was that we are changing our meeting times. We will aim to get to the hall by 7.15 to get settled before the start at 7.30 prompt. Sometimes our meetings haven’t finished till well after ten o’clock and some of our ladies were unhappy with that, especially the ones who have had to clear up afterwards as it made it late getting home. Enid, who is the Craft Rep, told us what the Craft Group have been getting up to and “the never ending tale of the never ending card”. This is a card they experimented with which has so many folds that it seemed to go on forever. They very obviously have a lot of fun in that group which just goes to show you what the W.I. is all about. There are two theatre visits planned to The Stag and The Barn theatres and there will be an autumn walk with a break for pub refreshments – well you have to don’t you?

The next meeting will be on 1st November and the speaker’s subject will be “FRENCH AND ENGLISH GARDENS (vive le difference) by Mr Hilary Newman Should be interesting. Don’t forget the earlier time of 7.15.

Toni Holley

**THE HERB TROUGH**

Herbs can make all the difference to the taste of the food we eat. Have you had a look at the herbs which our village expert, Lin Saines, is growing in the trough in front of the Ship? You can read more about all of them in Lin’s article on pages 62 and 63 – and you may be tempted into trying some of them yourself.
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

We had a very interesting afternoon on the 11th October, when Enid Garrard’s friend Ian, an expert on antiques, came to value some of the members’ possessions and let us know if we were storing some hidden treasures. There were items from small ornaments to pictures and even a huge family bible, which was very interesting, with picture inserts and quite valuable. The afternoon was much enjoyed by everyone.

This month we are having a quiz (an EASY ONE!). Members – that is on 8th November.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

One of our walks last month was from Penshurst to Chiddingstone, where we filled the Tea Shop and the pub – there were 33 of us plus 5 dogs. It was very hot but the slight wind helped. Details of our two walks this month are below. One of the walks starts from Chartwell, which as it happens, is the subject of a talk at the Village Hall by a National Trust spokesman just a few days before (see the advert in Village News). Everyone welcome, including dogs and their owners. Just turn up or contact one of us if you would like to know more.

Date       Sunday, 13 November
Meet       11 am at Chartwell (Map ref: TQ454518)
Walk       4½ miles, 3 hours, to the Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart
Leader     Jean Turner and Carol Vening

Date       Sunday, 27 November
Meet       10.30 am at Hosey Common (Map ref: TQ453530)
Walk       5 miles, 3 hours, French Street, Toys Hill, Puddledock, Chartwell and Hosey Common
Leader     Dudley Turner

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)

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Do you know that you can conveniently get from the village to Oxted and Westerham, and further afield, by bus? A new service, the 540, now operates and there is a modified timetable for the 595. And there is the 464, which takes you to Biggin Hill and the Tramlink at New Addington. Help yourself to a free pocket timetable of these services (produced by the Magazine) at Linda’s.
GARDENING CLUB

Last month's speaker was Jon Albutt, our resident expert on anything that grows! His theme this month was **work in the garden or allotment during the winter months**, and his main message was that winter work will pay dividends the next year.

It is worth reflecting on the past year now that the growing season has come to an end. Jon suggested that we should review what had been a success and start a journal or diary to record which particular varieties of flowers, fruits and vegetables produced the best outcome, when and where they had been planted, how long they took to mature and which varieties had been the most disease resistant. For those of us with allotments, he suggested a simple plan of crop rotation, the message being, don’t plant the same crops in the same soil the following year.

Jon keeps a photographic record of his successful hanging baskets and flower beds to enable him to refer back over previous years should he ever lack inspiration in the future!

Jon suggested some tasks that we should be considering over the coming months:

- Sort your grass, aerate to improve drainage, top dress if you have an un-even surface, rake out any dead moss etc.
- Prune your shrubs.
- Repair and stain / preserve the fence.
- Dig up old borders and hedges and re-place with younger plants.
- Consider the birds. Carefully clean the bird feeders to avoid the risk of spreading disease from old contaminated bird food. Jon suggests scrubbing and baking the baskets in the oven to kill off any pests!
- Don't tidy the garden too thoroughly: think of the wild animals that rely on piles of dead leaves and vegetation to enable them to hibernate.
- Clean mould off the decking and patio to avoid them being slippery in the winter. Fill any cracks between the slabs to avoid water getting in-between and allowing ice to break up the surface.
- Prepare the beds by introducing compost and roughly forking them over, allowing the frost to break up the clods.
- Plant bare rooted roses, soft fruits (raspberries, black, red and white currants) and fruit trees.

Next year, enter your flowers and vegetables in the Horticultural shows!

Thanks Jon.

Mike Sarll
TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Have you ever played Table Tennis and found it fun? Would you like to keep fit during the long winter months? Our friendly welcoming club, where we regularly get twenty players of all standards, meet at the Village Hall at 8 pm on Thursday evenings. There are several accomplished players who could offer you a challenging game or two (we have 5 top quality tables!). Bats are provided and coaching is available if desired, as are refreshments too of course. Come along and have a try, or see us in the Bakery afterwards. If you would like more information, please contact Jonnie Panther on 577518.

Cathy Glover

BADMINTON CLUB

Five members of the club attended a Badminton Masterclass last month at the Coulsdon and Purley club hosted by Olympic Silver Medallists Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms together with Great Britain Badminton Strength and Fitness Coach Andy Allford. It was noted by Gail how well the group looked in their Tatsfield Badminton Club shirts!

The session started with a group warm up led by Andy Allford which exercised the mind as well as the body and then three 25 minute rotations of group work led by each of the masterclass coaches on the four main components of badminton: mental, technical, tactical and physical. The session lasted two hours and at the end it was good to see Gail and Nathan drinking tea and eating crisps!

Nigel White
NOVEMBER NOTES

I was very amused to read and hear all the stories about **heavy snow in October and a hard winter to come**. Yes the hedges have been full of fruit including lots of berries on the Hollies down Goatsfield Road and around the fields, but does that really indicate a hard winter? The latest long term forecast does show a trend for high pressure in the north for November and December with average to below average temperatures expected, but as for snow, well it is far too early to say with any accuracy. Tatsfield does tend to have frost and some snow before the end of the year, but we will see how it turns out!

Last week I brought in all my **bird feeders** and gave them a good wash followed by 100°C in the oven for fifteen minutes just to make sure there are no nasties that could harm the birds. I always half fill the feeders first time around as it takes a week or so for the local birds to turn up. It is always a Blue Tit or two, closely followed by the Robin; they then spread the word and the finches and all the gang arrive for the usual feeding frenzy!

I left in my **large flowered bedding Begonias and Geraniums** until the end of October this year as they looked superb even though we had a couple of ground frosts in the third week, nearly four weeks later than usual.

The autumn **Raspberries** are still cropping and my **Conference Pear** has the heaviest crop yet. Overall it has been a great year for fruit in the garden with the exception of the Redcurrants, which flowered really well but then failed to produce any fruit, just lots of growth; I wonder why especially as the Whitecurrants nearby cropped heavily.

My first year on the new **allotment** site brought nearly 40 kilos of onions and a huge crop of Majestic potatoes, with two large bags still to use. I grew the biggest crop of Peas ever, Hurst Green Shaft loves Tatsfield soil! Despite a lot of strong cold winds at a critical point in the growth cycle for the runner beans, there were some big crops, but, some folk need more practice in putting up the canes so they won’t blow over! If you have saved any of the old beans, make sure to dry them thoroughly before taking next year’s seeds out of the pods. To keep well over the winter the bean seed must have hard dry shiny coats. Keep them in paper bags in a dry cool place so that they keep in very good condition.

I have been asked by several folk whether they should **mow the grass during the winter** – the answer is yes, as often as conditions will allow. But don’t mow if the grass is frozen or very wet; set the mower much higher so that it is left fairly long but tidy with the coarse longer grasses cut back to stop them dominating the sward. Most important of all make sure to gather up any autumn leaves from the lawn as often as you can otherwise the grass will weaken and may die off without the light and air.

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