THIS ISSUE

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Cover 1
Advertisements 2-12
Contents 13
Directory 14
Editorial 15
Forum 16-18
Council Reports 19-20
Village News 21-47
Events Calendar 48-49
St. Mary’s Matters 50-52
Cryptic Crossword 53
Tatsfield People: Our Local Estate Agent - A Profile of Sandy St. John by Sue White 54-55
Nigel’s Nature Notes by Nigel Shaw 56-59
For the Love of Herbs: A Moroccan Herb Fest! Herbs of North Africa by Lin Saines 60-61
Debater by David Bishop 62
The Night Sky in Tatsfield by Brian Mills 63
Club News 64-70
Sports Round Up 71
The Tatsfield Gardener by Jon Allbutt 72
Advertisements 73-96
TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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Tandridge District Councillor • Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield TN16 2AN (577357)

Surrey County Councillor • David Hodge, 30 Harestone Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6HD (01883 337881)

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Village Hall - Bookings Secretary • Margaret Parsons (577665)
W.I. Hall - Bookings • (0772 217 2716)
Parish Room - Bookings • Ana Hughes (701820)
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Tatsfield Helpline - (577524) • Pet Register - Val Moore (574810)
• Village Website www.tatsfield.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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 Please state if not for publication.

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

Time. We can’t stop it, slow it down or speed it up. Sometimes there never seems to be enough of it! The pressures of work, study, family … so many things compete for our time. Yet at other times it seems as if the clock is standing still as each hour drags slowly past; times when we are sad, lonely, afraid or unwell. Times of waiting, perhaps for news of an exam result, hospital test, or for a special occasion to arrive - at these times time passes too slowly.

Whether we are frantically trying to catch enough time to get everything done or readjusting to a pace of life where we have more time and less to occupy it, I am struck by the difference another person’s time can make to our lives. What a difference that phone call from a neighbour can make, just to say hello, to ask how you are, or the unexpected note that comes through the door. So often it is the little things, that don’t take much time, that make such a difference.

For me it might be receiving a text message at an opportune moment that makes me smile, or a chance coffee with a friend, or simply a smile of reassurance at a time of uncertainty. All these things can break through the franticness, or the loneliness, of time and make me smile. Why? Because they are all ways in which we humans show that we care, that we have noticed another’s needs whatever they may be.

In a world where there is so much need it is easy to question what we can do to make a difference. Of course there are national and international issues where we need to have a voice but let’s not forget the everyday differences we can make to our neighbours. Let us never underestimate what a terrific difference even just a little of our time can make.

Louise Ellis

COVER

The picture on this month’s cover is of a scene during the Holiday Club run by St. Mary’s in the first week of August. There is more in the St. Mary’s Matters pages about the enjoyable time had by more than 30 children.

NEXT ISSUE

Contributions for the October magazine would be welcome and should be with the editor by 16 September. Deliveries should commence on Friday 30 September.
Dear Editor,

Where’s Forum?

The explanation for there being no letters to the editor last month is that no one wrote any - simple!

Mick Garrard, Johns Road

Dear Editor,

Peaceful Days in Your Garden? If only!

Do you remember the hottest day this summer, so far, was a Sunday in June? Imagine the delight when a gathering of the Book Group, who had planned this weeks in advance, to have a special lunch for those members who were this year celebrating a special birthday. How lovely that it was going to be possible to have this wonderful lunch in a beautiful garden in Paynesfield Road. The tables were laid and the shade umbrellas carefully arranged so that no-one was going to be sunburnt. The happy gathering of 16 members of the group and their spouses settled down chatting quietly with their cold drinks and various salads provided by all the members.

However, within 10 minutes, a next-door neighbour decided he was going to cut his grass, his borders were to be strimmed and his hedges attacked. He could see that a group of people in the next door garden, not 10 yards from his garden, were obviously trying to relax quietly and enjoy their special birthday. Did he reconsider his plan – perhaps he only has a Sunday to do gardening? Not he. Oh no he did not even give it a passing thought. For about an hour, all through the lunch, he made as much noise as a mower and strimmer and cutter can make. At last he stopped, perhaps to go and have a peaceful lunch in his garden. However, that did not happen, because the neighbour on the other side of our lunch party decided to get his sit-on mower out and do his lawn!

We did have a beautiful lunch and enjoyed the company of friends, but it was sad that the neighbours did not have the courtesy to consider what their neighbours were trying to enjoy in the peace of our beautiful village.

In other parts of Europe there are actually laws about noisy machinery on Sundays at lunchtime and it is forbidden to inflict this on each other. I don't want to see laws
actually introduced here, because we should be mindful enough to be able to do our gardening etc. without being a pain to others. Summer evenings are long and that is possibly a better time to be cutting grass anyway.

Please be thoughtful about your nearest neighbours when you plan any events that will impinge on them in an uncomfortable way. By the time you read this it will be autumn and so we shall be thinking about bonfires and leaf blowers. What a pain they are! Get out a good lightweight rake and use up some energy that does not cost electricity, make yourself a leaf mould compost site if you have room and so then you will have something to feed parts of the garden next year.

We are very fortunate in Tatsfield to be able to take difficult garden greenery to our own Composting Site, run entirely by volunteers. Perhaps the gardener who was inflicting such a lot of noise on us would like to offer his energy to help them occasionally?

Dawn Forrester-Groom, Manor Road

Dear Editor,

Falklands War Questions

I noted with interest the closing paragraph of David Bishop’s Debater titled ‘2012 - One Year to Go’ featured in last month’s double issue of the magazine.

As a reminder of the context, David expressed an eagerness to consult the official papers on the Falklands War when they are released from a 30-year ban in 2012. He hopes to find answers to the two incidents mentioned: namely, the horrific and avoidable tragedy which cost the lives of many Welshmen, and the mysterious disappearance of a submarine’s log book. I was unaware of the latter occurrence, and hereby thank David for the information.

Between 2004 and 2009 I attended an annual venue at Christ Church, Oxford, which consisted of a series of lectures under the general heading of ‘The Conflict Years’. In 2007 the subject was ‘The Nature of War’. One of the lectures was given by major General Julian Thompson, Royal Marines (Retired), who spoke on the Falklands Campaign, at which he commanded 3 Commando Brigade. During the question time which followed I asked him why the Welsh Guards had not been ordered ashore immediately after they had completed their unloading duties on Sir Galahad, rather than remain on board for a long period until the Exocet missile turned the ship into a furnace. The General appeared very uncomfortable while muttering something about difficulties.

Then suddenly a male voice coming from some distance behind me in the hall was heard to say: “I think I can answer the lady’s question. The Captain had received
orders to sail directly to San Carlos.” Before I had the chance to ask how this statement had any bearing on my question since the Sir Galahad remained anchored, General Thompson seized the moment to turn his attention to the next questioner. Although I had spun round instinctively when the unidentified voice was heard, the speaker had remained seated, and my efforts to discover later who he was were of no avail.

Afterwards at lunch I was joined by a retired naval officer whom I had met previously at Christ Church. He told me that in his opinion I would never succeed in finding the answer. Whether any revelation will emerge next year remains to be seen.

Betty Perry, Paynesfield Road

THE MAGAZINE’S DELIVERERS

Each month 860 copies of the magazine are delivered by the printers to Pam Jay, who immediately counts and sorts them so that, through a cascading system, they reach our 56 volunteer deliverers as quickly as possible. The deliverers then get the magazines to you as soon as they can. The system works well, thanks to the commitment of Pam and her team, and we are grateful to all of them. Many have been doing the job for a long time. One, Jean Gibbons, has been delivering the magazine along Paynesfield Road for 17 years. Jean recently decided to call it a day and the magazine committee marked its appreciation with a presentation to Jean of some flowers.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Tony Watson was the winner of the £5 voucher for St. Mary’s Church Teas with the first correct entry for July/August’s crossword opened on 11 July. Some readers commented that they found the crossword a little on the difficult side. So our compiler, “Joan Gresham”, has produced a less difficult one, which you will find on page 53. Going to have a go?

SCOUTS NEED HELPERS

1st Tatsfield Scouts is a marvellous group, with more than 100 youngsters taking part. But they could do with more helpers. Could you help? Have a look at the report on page 65.

INSERTS

We have one leaflet coming with this month’s magazine - the Response Form for commenting on the Parish Council’s proposals on communication in the village as set out in page 41.
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Tatsfield Green and Approach Road Verges: The Parish Council, with help from Tandridge District and Surrey County Councils, has continued its biodiversity policy to manage rural verges and parts of Tatsfield Green in order to develop a greater diversity of flora and an improved habitat for insects and small vertebrates such as voles, field mice etc. The area was left undisturbed until late August when the wild flowers had faded and the seeds dispersed. We will continue with this policy and hope to make a flora/fauna survey next spring.

Tatsfield Community Games Area: Our community games area continues to be very well used by casual groups as well as for organised games. If you want to use it and the tennis nets please contact a councillor or the Parish Clerk.

Highways and Rights of Way: Surrey County Council has agreed that nearly 107 extra miles of road will be gritted regularly in severe weather. Other new measures for this winter include:

- Increasing the amount of salt ordered to 16,800 tonnes from last winter's 13,000, which was 50% more than the previous year.
- Using two quad bikes to treat roads leading to rural communities and in built-up areas that larger grit lorries cannot reach.
- Enlisting the help of an extra 15 farmers with ploughs to clear snow, taking the total to 50 across Surrey.
- Doubling the amount of grit given to borough and district councils to spread in town centres to 40 tonnes.

Affordable Homes: The planning application for ten dwellings opposite The Copse in Lusted Hall Lane should have been discussed by Tandridge's Planning Committee last month, but officials were unable to sort out some details in time. The application will now be considered on 22 September. If planning permission is given, the next stage is securing the finance for the project.

Winter Emergencies: Doug Massey and Ian Mitchell will be reviewing the Parish Council’s standing arrangements for any possible weather emergency in the coming winter. Meanwhile, we need to update the list of those of you good enough to be willing to help in an emergency either with equipment or with special skills. We are keen to hear from you at tatsfieldplan@btinternet.com. If you volunteered last year, please confirm that you are still willing to help out.

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

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building at 8 pm on Monday 12th September, after the Police Forum at 7.30 p.m.
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

I was approached last month by a number of parents of Tatsfield children who will be starting in Year 7 at Oxted School in September and who had been told by the County Council that their children would not be eligible for free transport to and from the school because Charles Darwin School in Biggin Hill is closer to their homes than Oxted School. I asked officers to reconsider but I heard just before I went away on holiday in the middle of the month that the ineligibility decision would not be changed. I was very disappointed at that decision and I advised parents to make a formal appeal. I also asked the County Council Education Service to write to both Oxted and Tatsfield Schools asking them to advise potential parents for the 2012/13 intake that Charles Darwin may be their nearest school and that therefore no parent (not otherwise entitled to free school transport) should assume if their child is offered a place at Oxted in 2012/13 that they will automatically be entitled to free transport.

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

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Transport of Tatsfield Year 7 Children to Oxted School: David Hodge’s report deals with this. Parents asked for my help too and, after David had gone away, I helped parents with their appeals and also made their case to senior County Council officers. We have just heard, as this is being written, that none of this has been of any avail. There remains one higher level of appeal within the County Council and I am supporting parents in following this course. In the circumstances of the history of free transport of Tatsfield children to Oxted School and the complete absence of any advance indication by the County Council to parents that free transport might no longer be on offer, I believe that the intended action of the County Council is wrong and unfair, and I hope that it may yet be reversed.

Tandridge Planning decisions:

Approved - Windrush, Westmore Green: Erection of 2-storey side extension.
7 Whitewood Cottages: Formation of dormer window to rear roof slope.
Storrington, Goatsfield Road: Erection of single storey rear extension and erection of roof lantern to existing rear extension.

Refused - Church Farm, Church Hill: Erection of double detached garage and storage area (Retrospective).

Cllr Bob David (Tel: 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk)
TATSFIELD’S TWO BIGGEST COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE WORLD IN AID OF MacMILLAN CANCER CHARITY

Friday 30 September 9.30 - 12 noon WI Hall
❖ Coffee, cakes, raffles and many stalls all supporting MacMillan
❖ Phoenix Cards will also be supporting Cancer Research UK and Children’s Hospice UK in addition to MacMillan
❖ If you would like to help in any way, maybe by donating cakes or helping on the day, please contact Anne Chapman on 577596

Saturday 1 October 10.30 – 12 noon Village Hall
❖ Coffee, tea, home made cakes and other refreshments
❖ Lots of stalls
❖ Hosted by Margaret Parsons
❖ Anyone wanting a stall should contact Margaret on 577665

THE TATSFIELD PARROT SCHEME

This is all about refurbishing the children’s playground in Westmore Green. What have parrots got to do with that? Read on!

The very familiar story of local authority budget cuts has resulted in the planned refurbishment of our village playground being cancelled. Tatsfield is very proud of its community spirit and we are not willing to accept that our aging children’s playground will slowly deteriorate. Tandridge District Council are committed to working with proactive local communities and have undertaken to match – fund in 2012 all the funds we can raise. We are determined to raise half the cost of the refurbishment. This is a very ambitious target but we are determined to achieve it and we have launched our PARROT campaign (Play Area Renewal and Refurbishment is Our Target). Please help us.

It’s your park, so if we want it looking good we need to do something about it and this is our chance! We have held one discussion meeting for anyone interested in getting involved and our next one is on Wednesday 7 September at 9 am in the Parish Room in the old Surgery. Everyone is welcome to come along to find out more and give their views.

We are planning many fundraising events over the next few months and details will be advertised in the village and in the Parish Magazine. These include Ladies Nights, Quiz Nights, Casino Nights, Auctions, Christmas Parties etc etc. To find out more, please speak to Lisa Stokoe, Sarah Turrell, Liz Kelleher, Carol Barker, Arnie Arnold or me.

Vicky Cooling (Tel: 07891 295972)
TATSFIELD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
Open Saturdays 10am - 12noon
The site closes for the winter after 24 September

The composting site will close for the season at the end of the month so, as you start your autumn tidying, please make the most of this time to bring us your green garden waste for recycling the way nature intended!

We have a wonderful team of regular volunteer helpers which, over recent years, has included youngsters working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award. We would be very pleased to hear from any others who might be looking for a worthwhile community project to get involved in next year as part of this award scheme.

At the time of writing, plenty of ‘end product’ is still available for a donation of £1.00 a bag. This makes an excellent mulch and soil conditioner and we have shifted a record number of bags this season – a sure sign that Tatsfield gardeners and allotmenteers recognise what good stuff this is! Further information from Barry Bull 577649 or Jennie South 577598.

QUIZ OF QUIZZES

A large number of quiz minded people gathered in the Village Hall on Saturday 16 July to take part in this event organised by the Village Hall Management Committee to raise funds for the hall. Tables of 6 were drawn from the surrounding area with 2 tables from Westerham Ramblers and the Art Group, and single tables from Westerham WI, Not So Young, Horticultural Society and Badminton Club, and 7 other individual teams. Terry Cartwright was again question master and set 10 questions on 8 varying subjects with an additional 3-section table quiz. There was a break halfway through the evening after 5 rounds for a wonderful shepherds pie, peas and gravy followed by an apple pie and cream masterminded by Lisa and Mark Stokoe and Lloyd Gulley, with a bar run by Sandy and Louis Philibert. There was a raffle with prizes provided by the Bakery and committee members.

Competition was intense and the final outcome was not decided till the last table quiz round as double points jokers could be played at any time but in the end third place went to the Haughty Hortis with 168 points, second were the Bofs with 179 and victorious for the second year in a row were the Rambling On team from Westerham Ramblers with 192. Well done to them. The event raised over £500 for Village Hall funds. Thanks to everyone who helped with the set-up and on the night with a special thank you to our question master. See you all next year.

Roger Sawyers
WINNERS OF THE TATSFIELD IN BLOOM
2011 COMPETITION

We all have the chance each year to enter Tatsfield’s own In Bloom competition, with 9 different categories from front garden to a single specimen plant – and including the Best Cared for Untamed Garden for those who like their gardens that way!

With more than 70 entries this year, competition was keen and a large crowd gathered on the green in front of the shops on Saturday 23 July to see the prizes presented by Denis Hayes. The judges, who had inspected all the entries in the week before, were full of praise. One judge commented: ‘The standard never ceases to amaze me. The features and plants are a credit to everyone. They seem to get better and better. Tatsfield has some excellent gardeners and they should be proud of themselves.’ So, it is congratulations to all of them.

The winners were:

**Front Garden – Tina Fry Trophy**
1. Carol & Roy Fiddimore
2. David Bacon
3. Paul Tredwen

**Vegetable Garden – Longley Trophy**
1. Roger Pearce
2. Sue Warren
3. Philip Brett

Highly Commended all at Crossways Court

**Back Garden – Maddisons Trophy**
1. Ian & Beverley McAffer
2. Sue Saunders
3. Mike Duckworth

**Specimen Plant – Ibbett Mosely Cup**
1. Susan & Mimmo Biancofiore
2. Sue Warren
3. Mary Bull

**Hanging Basket – Old Bakery Trophy**
1. Paul Barlow
2. John & Geraldine Taylor
3. Paul Tredwen

**Best Cared for Untamed Garden - The Riotous Rectory Cup**
1. Brenda Garnham
2. Carol Gaskell

**Tub or Trough – Old Ship Trophy**
1. George Farmer
2. Sue Warren
3. (Angela Sawyers (John & Geraldine Taylor

**Children’s Tub or Trough - Ray Goldsmith Trophy**
1. George Hadden
2. Hugo Abram
3. (Charlotte Gadd

**Water Feature – The Ling Trophy**
1. Dawn & Geoff Groom
2. Ian & Beverley McAffer
3. George Farmer

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481) and Bob David (Tel: 577357)
TREES FOR SHADE
The tree offers shade to all, irrespective of age, sex or religion, nationality or status. (Sri Sathya Sai Baba – Indian Guru)

Tatsfield has always been proud of the achievements of our village school, and now it has been moved to the excellent building in the centre of the village, we are sure it can only go from strength to strength. For those who haven’t seen it, the inside has a calm environment where children seem keen not only to learn the curriculum subjects but also join in all the extra-curricular activities and grow and develop as individuals. The school is also set in lovely surroundings, with views over the fields and areas where the children can play and learn.

However, despite the grey summer, it has become apparent that the vegetation around the school, rather small saplings, does not protect the children during playtimes and lunchtime. The school is hoping to get a second gazebo, but this will not be sufficient to protect all 210 children.

The school governors are therefore launching a “Trees for Shade” project to purchase larger, more mature native trees to plant in the school grounds this autumn. We invite all village organisations, families and individuals who have benefited from Tatsfield School or would like to support both current and future generations to sponsor a tree or to join with others in sponsoring a tree. The cost of a tree is between £100 and £150, but the more we buy the cheaper they become.

The Book Group have already agreed to sponsor a tree and are holding a book sale opposite Linda’s on Saturday 17 September from 9-11am – please come and top up your book shelves if you can.

Please, please support this important project. More information can be obtained from Christine Hicks (577035) or Carol Jordan (577584).

The School Governors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB</th>
<th>Congratulations to the following monthly winners:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Olive £33</td>
<td>Kev Eames £31.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Wiggins £22</td>
<td>Michael Wiggins £21.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kev Eames £11</td>
<td>Nigel Gracie £10.50</td>
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FOR SALE
Small upright ‘Whirlpool’ Freezer. As new. £60. Phone 577488.
HARVEST FESTIVAL
An invitation to come and celebrate harvest at St. Marys' on Sunday October 1st at 10 am followed by a Harvest Breakfast in the hall.

The service will have the flavour of the regular OTB services.
You are invited to bring harvest gifts – for further details see St. Mary’s Matters.

AFTERNOON TEA
(free event)
St. Mary’s Millennium Hall
Sunday 9 October 3 – 5 pm

Please join us in tasting a selection of Fairtrade teas and cakes in the company of the Harber String Trio. This will be an opportunity to compare the range and variety of characteristics such as the full bodied, malty tea from the lowlands of Assam, the floral and fruity leaf from Darjeeling or the strong, citrus flavour of tea from Ceylon.

Exploring different flavours can be fun and if you normally drink a blended tea you might discover that you can add to your drinking pleasure by discovering different teas to suit different moods as well as different palates.

The Millennium Hall can’t quite match the splendour of the Ritz but the Harber String Trio equals the best of musicians and we shall aim to offer you an elegant and civilised tea party.

‘Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea.’

Henry Fielding from Love in Several Masques

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW

BOOK SALE
Saturday 9 September
9 – 11 am

Westmore Green, in front of the shops
By Tatsfield Book Group
Following the 2003 Village Appraisal the Tatsfield Youth Project (TYP) was born in 2006, supported by the Parish Council. The group had the task of continuing consultation within the community to identify and provide recreational activities and facilities for our young people.

For many years the Parish Council had sought to find a recreational use for the ‘L shaped field’ next to the Village Hall and when the new school was planned it was proposed to include it into the site to ensure an appropriate entrance and this gave us the opportunity to investigate a way to provide an all-weather multi-sports facility for the whole community within the development. TYP kicked off the process for Lottery funding and working with the school and Tandridge District Council we can now enjoy the benefits of our Tatsfield Community Games Area.

TYP continued to ask what else they could do for the young people, and went on to organise and fund a variety of events, some of which required applying for grants, but all of which depended on volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise.

Projects
TYP also organised several successful special projects:

- The **Film Workshop** enabled hands-on experience to learn the use of video cameras and film editing suites. Resulting in a DVD of their films.
- The **Music Bus** visited Tatsfield enabling teenagers to use laptops to create their own music CDs.
- The **Website design Workshop** utilised the old school’s IT facilities, to enable everyone to create their own website.
- **Golf** at Park Wood Golf Club when 12 youngsters took up the offer of taster sessions and were then taken around the course for an assisted round by Park Wood’s golf professional team.
- **Easter sports taster weekend** – This Easter, with the generous help of professional sports coaches, TYP organised a whole weekend of free sports sessions for Tatsfield youngsters. Unfortunately despite our best efforts the number of young people who took advantage of this opportunity was disappointingly small.

**Having succeeded in its original objective, TYP now feels that it has achieved all it can at this stage and has decided to dissolve.** To ensure a longer legacy, TYP are making grants to the Netball Group and the Cricket Club nets, with any outstanding funds being used to kick start the PARROT campaign for the renewal of the Westmore Green children’s play area, as this supports our original objective to provide recreational activities and facilities for our young people. We would like to thank the many villagers that have assisted us in making TYP a success.
The Future
Whilst this is formally the end of TYP, it is also a new beginning with the following facilities available to the youth of the village:

- **Tennis**
  Sally continues with her lessons at the Community Games Area on Saturday mornings – contact 577536

- **Netball**
  Gaye welcomes newcomers to the Netballers – contact 577362 or 577143

- **Basketball**
  Michael will let you know your nearest Basketball club – contact 07912 731898

- **Cricket**
  Olly continues to come to Furze Corner, Tatsfield working with both beginners and experienced Cricketers – contact 07801 223229

- **Martial Arts**
  Adam is hoping to start a Tatsfield group for the Yoshin Ryu at Coulsdon Martial Arts at some stage in the future. If you are interested contact him on 577164.

Sue Smale

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**THE BAKERY CHARITY GOLF DAY**

On the 26 July about 50 golfers descended upon Park Wood Golf Club to take part in the second Bakery Golf Day, held again in memory and tribute to Joe Boadella, Alan Cohen and Simon Brindley. Our chosen charity this year was The Huntington’s Disease Association of which one player is a sufferer.

Twelve teams of four were present, with weather warm and overcast. On the tee a photographer set himself up to take both team and individual photos of everyone’s drive. Daunting, to say the least, as there were differing standards of golfers present, from single figure handicaps to the top end of 28.

Many once again commented on the good condition of Park Wood Golf Club and that it was a tough but fair challenge. The winning score was 41 points by Stephen Gurney, owner of the Index Magazine, Tunbridge Wells, with second place going to Park Wood member Pat Thomas netting 38 points.

With dinner and prize giving at The Bakery afterwards, I felt a good day was had by all. The day raised a total of £785.00, including money donated by the photographer from him selling the photos afterwards. Thanks go to everyone who helped in making the day a great success.

Andrew Bond, The Bakery Restaurant
St Mary’s, Tatsfield, our Parish Church

Come as you are!

on Sunday 25th September at 10 am

~ Children catered for during service
~ Coffee and cake in the Hall
~ Transport can be arranged – phone 577598

This is B2C - Back to Church – Sunday. St Mary’s is joining in this national day of making a special invitation to those who may not have been to church recently - or even ever!

LUIS de la TORRE

We have just heard the sad news that Luis, who many will remember with great affection and who had moved to Herefordshire with Anne, died on 22 August. There will be more next month.

GOING FREE

Folding Z bed offered free. Please ring Carol Jordan on 577584.

QUALIFIED NANNY/BABYSITTER

21 years old, Level 3 qualified with experience, references available. Call Lauren on 07545 262295.

TATSFIELD VILLAGE CLUB

Every Monday 8.30 pm Bingo (over 18s only)
Every Friday 7.00 pm Meat Raffle

Everyone welcome!
SEPTEMBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)
★ Fresh fruit and vegetables – try the plums, greengages and other soft fruit
★ New potatoes
★ Lots of different fruit juices
★ Pet and wild bird food
★ Frozen food
★ 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)

Now stocking fresh bread from Plaxtol Bakeries
★ Farmhouse £1.60 Small £1
★ White Sandwich £1.60
★ Bloomer £1.60
★ Wholemeal £1.60 Small £1
★ Granary £1.75 Small £1.05
★ Crusty Rolls 2 for 66p
★ Fruit Scones
★ Also a selection of cakes and pastries

Offers available until 13 September
PM = Price marked
★ Buy one get one free
★ Muller Light 67p
★ Relentless £1.39 pm now £1
★ Hula Hoops 3 for £1
★ Haribo 160 g inc. Smurfs £1.20
★ Pepsi 2 ltr pm £1.59 2 for £2.20
★ Buxton Water 500 ml 3 for £1
★ Oasis pm 99p 2 for £1.50
★ Maynards Wine Gums/Soft Mints/Ex Strong Mints 3 for £1
★ Doritos 127 g pm £1.29 2 for £2
★ Polo Mints/Fruits 3 for £1
★ Sim Cards £1
★ Snickers/Twix/Mars (pack of 3) £1
★ Country Life Butter £1.09
★ Goodfellas Pizza £1.79
★ Carnation Evaporated Milk pm 79p 2 for £1.10
★ Taxi/Club Orange/Penguin pm £1 now 75p
★ Felix as good as it looks (12 pouches) £3
★ Huggies pm £2.99
★ Lucozade/Lucozade Orange 1 ltr pm £1.59
★ Red Bull £1
★ Coke Varieties pm 89p 2 for £1.50
★ Ribena 500 ml inc. sparkling 2 for £1.50
★ Coke/Diet Coke pm £1.79 2 for £2.80
★ Walkers Crisps 18s £1.99
★ Vimto 2 ltr pm £1.59

FOR SALE

Explorer Scout shirt – size small, long sleeve, beige. Excellent condition, worn twice, no badges sewn on. £10 (approx. £20 in the Scout Store on-line). Ring Sue on 570097.
MEMORIES OF MY TIME AS TREASURER TO THE PARISH MAGAZINE
by Ken Munday

It is not my practice to put my head above the parapet and so when asked to write this article about my experience my first thought was what is so interesting about looking after the financial affairs of the magazine for some fifteen years. Nevertheless here goes.

I was one of the few who were in at the birth of the magazine in its present form. Some of the original committee have retired, like me, moved or sadly died. Today there are only two stalwarts of that committee left - Bob David and Pam Jay. The magazine was the product of an appraisal by a committee of villagers under the chairmanship of its then Priest in Charge, Colin Corke, to establish what activities and events were being conducted in the village and what villagers thought was necessary. The village had a church magazine in existence but this had a limited impact on those who were prepared to support it financially. I with others put forward the idea that the magazine ideally should be available to all free of charge. My motive was derived from my experience when being new to the village Colin Corke asked me to join him and Ann Biswas to raise money urgently to repair the Church organ. Such was the response from the village that we raised some £10,500 in a period of three months. I realised quickly how much the village thought of its Church even if they were not all regular attendees. So when it came to the appraisal I felt that everyone should have the opportunity to know what was going on in its Church as well as in the wider village.

This came to pass and Colin approached me again to become the new magazine’s first Treasurer. We retained the title “Tatsfield Parish Magazine” and the new magazine was, and is, run as a full partnership of the church and the rest of the village. The first issue of the new magazine was published in April 1995. From my point of view of course we had no money at our disposal but fortunately the Parish Council came to our assistance and provided a grant of £480 in our first year. It is a fact that under normal financial criteria the magazine was a non starter, but this magazine was far from normal. There is out there a formidable team of volunteers numbering some 100 persons which made it possible. Though there have been changes over time they have never deserted the magazine. Nevertheless, we had to do the job as economically as possible and so I purchased a whole pallet of paper, which I stored in my garage. Colin found the Vicar of Lingfield had a high speed copier which he was happy for us to use. Every month Colin, occasionally supported by us, sped down to Lingfield to spend time making 700 copies of the magazine, which then had to be collated and stapled together by a team of ladies under the supervision of Pam Jay. I established with Geoff Groom, the advertising manager, and the rest of the committee the advertising prices to charge.
Slowly financial progress was made and over a period of three years I felt confident enough to suggest to the committee that we should not ask for the continued financial support of the Parish Council.

Every month since April 1995 I have provided the committee with a monthly set of accounts of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet, Budget and Phased Budget. Budgets for the year ahead are prepared in January together with anticipated out turn for the year which finishes in March. Following the necessity to build a small reserve the policy has been to break even one year with another. However, such has been the tremendous support over the years from our village organisations and from villagers that I have underestimated the level of support. If my memory is correct it has meant that we have only raised the price of adverts three times in fifteen years. The magazine has grown in content and size over many years and dare I say it is possibly the best village magazine in the country today.

I do not take any credit for the success of the magazine but it is in my estimation a wonderful example of the Church and community working together to make something happen and give its wholehearted support. I now leave the financial care of the magazine in the confident hands of Madie Langford, who I know will share my view that if you look after the pennies the pounds will look after themselves. The magazine continues to have a formidable committee and I wish them every success in the future.

**BULKY RUBBISH COLLECTION**

*The next collection will be on Saturday 10 September and will be at a new location – the Village Hall car park.* A Tandridge refuse vehicle will be there from 7.30 to 10.45 am. You can take household rubbish, furniture, garden waste, glass, metal items and up to 2 washing machines **but not** asbestos, car batteries, concrete, fridges, freezers, hardcore, hazardous chemicals, oil, paint and trade waste.

Tandridge have opted for the new location as being a better and safer one and have agreed with the Parish Council to use it on a trial basis. Tandridge and the Parish Council will review the situation after the second bulky rubbish collection, which is due to take place on Saturday 15 October.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIRED**

Administrative support required. 2.5 hours per week for Rev. Louise Ellis, Team Vicar, Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry based in Tatsfield. Good IT and organisational skills essential. For further details please telephone Rev. Louise Ellis on 577289.
NEW BOOKING SECRETARY FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

When people think of the Village Hall, they think of Margaret Parsons, who has served as the hall’s Booking Secretary for as long as anyone can remember. However, Margaret will be handing over the reins this month. From 8 September, Vicky Cooling will be taking over and all enquiries about booking the hall should be made to Vicky from that date – phone 07983 011028 or email: tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk.

BADMINTON MARATHON IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

The Badminton Club is running a 24 hour badminton marathon from 5 pm on Friday 23 to 5 pm on Saturday 24 September to raise funds for the Westmore Green playground and the Alzheimer’s Society. Read on page 71 how you can support it – and participate if you wish.

GARDENING CLUB

Tuesday 20 September
8 pm in the WI Hall

GROWING FRUIT TREES
A talk by Hamid and Sima Habbi of Keepers Nurseries

All Welcome

BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

‘ALBERT HERRING’

Benjamin Britten’s comic masterpiece depicting rural life in a small English village
7.30 pm on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21, Friday 23 and Saturday 24 September
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 0208 657 7909
BARN DANCE
With star caller David Jex
and his recorded music

Saturday 8 October
7.30 pm Village Hall

◆ Supper ◆ Licensed Bar
Tickets £10 (including supper) Under 14s £7
from Bob David on 577357 or Linda’s Stores
or any other committee member

Arranged by Tatsfield Village Hall Management Committee

IN BLOOM JUDGES’ VERDICT AWAITED

The South and South East in Bloom judges visited Tatsfield on 5 July
and spent two hours touring the village, including the new allotments.
It was a lovely warm day and the whole village looked immaculate.
We were early in the judges' schedule, so the floral displays were not yet at their
best, but the judges are professional horticulturalists and will have taken this into
account. We have very different rivals this year – Crawley, Chichester and Coldred – in the ‘Champion of Champions’ category and we will learn the outcome when
we go to Fontwell on 7 September for the awards ceremony.

Meanwhile, we have arranged our annual evening of celebration and thanks for 8
pm on Friday 9 September at the WI Hall. We will certainly be able to celebrate
another year of keeping our village clean and attractive and we have our fingers
crossed that we will also have something in the SEEIB results to cheer us too!

We have begun to think about our plans for 2012, when at national level two of the
big events will be the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. Any ideas
about what you would like us to do? Please let us know.

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

VILLAGE HALL WEBSITE

The Village Hall now has its own website. You can find it at www.
tatsfieldvillagehall.weebly.com or you can go to the Tatsfield Vil-
lage website – www.tatsfield.org.uk – and follow the link there.
YOUR RECYCLING AT THE GREENGROCERS PAYS OFF!

You have been able to leave your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges at Tony and Di’s Greengrocers for some time. Every so often these are sent to specialist recyclers. You may like to know that this has resulted in payments totalling £42.10 in the last few months. Tony and Di have opted for the proceeds to go to the Hillside Animal Sanctuary at Frettenham in Norfolk which provides a home for hundreds of rescued horses, cattle, sheep and other animals. So you can be content that your recycling efforts are being put to good use. Carry on bringing your used cartridges to the Greengrocers and have a look to see whether your old mobile phones have been left, forgotten, in a drawer somewhere. They will be put to a good use!

NURSE LONGLEY 103 NOT OUT!

Many people remember Nurse Longley. Vera was District Nurse and Tatsfield’s answer to the Flying Doctor before retiring forty three years ago. Vera has just celebrated her one hundred and third birthday and is still agile and able to live alone in her house in Grantham with the help of her daughter Elizabeth, who visits every day.

When asked her secrets for living to such a grand age, she replied that a good diet and regular meals were essential. Rumour goes that a glass of Baileys with her evening meal is also a necessity!

Vera receives the Parish Magazine each month, so keeps in touch with Tatsfield’s news. We all send you our very best wishes Vera.

“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.

£ 8.50 from Linda’s Stores

Published by the Tatsfield History Project
GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

It was a special day for a special celebration for Kenny and Jenny Jackson of The Square when they threw a party for family and friends at the Village Hall on 25th June. About 70 guests had gathered to celebrate Kenny and Jenny’s Golden Wedding Anniversary and they all had a very enjoyable evening. Kenny and Jenny were married on 24th June 1961. One of the pictures is of their wedding day in Hurst Green and the other is at the party in the Village Hall. Congratulations!

DAVID AND ELEANOR WOOD (PLUS MEGAN) SAY FAREWELL TO TATSFIELD

We would like, through this excellent Parish Magazine, to say “Farewell” to our many friends in Tatsfield. After some 27 years, we have decided to move into quiet retirement and will be relocating to a beautiful thatched cottage in Devon. We have enjoyed our time here in Tatsfield and through our various activities have made many friends. When we write this, our expectation is to complete the sale of “Sunnyside” on 12th August and move on from there. So, not much time left, as we make what seem to be endless arrangements, plus get round to everybody to say goodbye. We’re going to miss a lot about the village along with many close friends but will return to check up on you all when we can. In the meantime, you can call us on 07826 345696 for address details if you wish.

David and Eleanor Wood (and Megan)
In the two months since our last report, we have continued to make progress and improve. The water storage tanks are now operational - having been cleaned and connected to the metered water supply and placed on stabilising blocks in strategic positions around the site. A working party was organised one Saturday morning to paint them green for camouflage – I wonder if they all went home covered in green paint looking like The Jolly Green Giant as Alan did – more T-shirts in the dustbin! It was much appreciated that most plot holders willingly gave the small amount of extra cash required to enable us to do this - it has made a huge difference to the water supply and everyone now agrees that this was money well-spent.

A grant application has been submitted to The Big Lottery Fund for a deer-fence, but we have assured everyone that this will not spoil the wonderful view we have across the valley, nor the sunsets. Alan has had a very productive meeting with our contact from The Surrey Hills Leader and together they have completed an application for yet another grant towards a hard surface path to assist with buggies, wheelchairs and others with special needs. This will now be put forward for consideration in September.

Alan arrived home one day looking like the Lord Mayor, with an enormous heavy-duty chain round his neck. Huge thanks to Tony Watson for a sterling job soldering the padlock onto the chain for us – we believed it would take the Incredible Hunk to break this one! Unfortunately, vandals entered through the fields and cut the chain with bolt-cutters trying to escape from the field (rather than trying to break-in – we didn’t expect that!). We have now purchased a second padlock and we hope this will thwart any more attempts, although we realise that in this day and age this is always a potential threat. But we are not daunted by these setbacks – someone is always willing to help, another solution is always found.

Security boxes have also been welded onto the containers to protect the padlocks and prevent unauthorised access.

On the plus side - we had our first community BBQ on Sunday 4th July – and it was a huge success. Being the same day as the Scouts Fete and quite miserable weather-wise, our expectations were low. What a surprise to see 70 people turn up with their tables and chairs, plates and cutlery, some umbrellas “just in case” and gazebos. Out came a wonderful array of food, and the cooking began - what a jolly band they were, everyone milling around
and chatting, wine and conversation flowing - and the weather turned out fine for the evening, as it so often does. You will see from the photos that the area used is a little untidy – but this is earmarked for greater things – watch this space! So a great time was had by all, and there is no doubt that we shall have many more, based on the roaring success of this one.

Like most other plot-holders, we are now eating bumper crops from our plot – runner beans, French beans, courgettes, perpetual spinach and potatoes - all tasting wonderful. Whilst we have all but finished the raspberries and strawberries, the rhubarb continues to flourish and we are awaiting our beetroot and tomatoes, carrots, leeks and onions. As we move towards autumn, we expect parsnips, swedes and brassicas. Many others have harvested even more than us as we have been busy with set-up issues, but next year we hope to be completely self-sufficient. You only have to stop and look across the site to see what wonderful, fertile soil we have been given, and how everyone must have developed green fingers.

The South and South East in Bloom judges visited the site as part of our entry into the competition – let’s hope they were as impressed as we are. Results will be made public in early September.

Liz Armitage

TATSFIELD VILLAGE CLUB

The Tatsfield Village Club – we are behind the pond - is a members' social club with two bars – one of which is the quiet bar – no music but a TV with sound turned off, which can be used on special occasions to view special events, while the other bar can be a venue for lively discussions on matters of important social interest. We also have a pool table and a snooker table in the upstairs room, set aside for this, as well as a pool table downstairs which is available to all, including children. Rowdy behaviour is not tolerated and you may be pleasantly surprised. All are welcome to come to have a look and may be signed in to enable enjoyment of our very fine Guinness, real ales (choice of two) as well as wine, spirits, snacks and soft drinks. Come and see for yourself!

Joe Dolan, Secretary
LOCAL POLICE REPORT

I’d like to introduce our new Neighbourhood Support Officer PC Ady Harvey. He will be replacing Jason Burton as the new Tatsfield officer and is also very experienced so please make him welcome if you see him out and about. I know he has already been very productive within the village and met a lot of locals and I’m sure will continue to do so.

Burglaries are slightly on the up again so once again, please remember to keep all doors and windows locked and please keep items out of view, especially items of value such as laptops, mobile phones and car keys.

PCSO Rachel Kettell

TATSFIELD SCOUT VILLAGE FETE – 3 JULY 2011

The 1st Tatsfield Scout Group Fete took place on Sunday 3 July on a beautiful day. We were extremely fortunate to miss the rain and have such perfect weather.

The afternoon commenced with the Parade to the Green and was followed with the Flag Break and National Anthem. After this Cllr Bob David kindly said a few words and presented the Trophy to the Cubs, having been judged the Best Walkers, after much deliberation – well done! To finish the formalities the Scout Group Leader invested Carol Ivany as an Assistant Cub Leader and welcomed her to the Group.

There was an excellent assortment of new and traditional stalls and attractions for children of all ages and adults to enjoy. During the afternoon as the weather was so lively many visitors appreciated the well-stocked ‘refreshment’ stalls and the music provided by our DJ. It was especially nice this year to welcome the Shirley Cox Dancers, who expertly performed a display for our entertainment.

Congratulations to all our raffle prize winners and our special thanks to our supporters who donated the fabulous prizes and the local businesses who contributed to our programme. It is so very much appreciated.

All in all we had a brilliant day and raised over £6,000, which is a crucial contribution towards the ongoing running costs of the Group for next year. I would like to thank everyone for working so hard on the day and also on behalf of the Group thank everyone who came for their support. Fundraising is important to the survival of our village Group and helps support the young people with their many activities and challenges in a safe and friendly environment.
As this was my last year coordinating the fete, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me over the years and to wish the Group continued success and my very best wishes for the future.

Once again, thank you for coming and helping to make the fete a successful event.

Yours in Scouting

Christine Howard, 1st Tatsfield Scout Group

LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

As I write this, we are currently half way through the summer holidays and I hope that all Little Acorns children are enjoying their break and some occasional sunshine! We finished off the term in July with our summer show and a party which hopefully all the adults and children enjoyed, and we said goodbye to 24 children who are going to “big” school. We also held our Sports Day on 9th July which was a great success, the rain mostly holding off whilst we had a BBQ and listened to the fantastic music from the Ebony Steelband who played to us. Our thanks go to Robin at Furze Corner for hosting this event for us, and running the bar.

The next term at Little Acorns begins on Monday 5th September and we look forward to seeing all our returning and new children then!

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZUMBA - NEW !</th>
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<tr>
<td>Every Tuesday (starting 6th September)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7pm – 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tatsfield Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>£4 per person</td>
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<th>TOTAL BODY WORKOUT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Every Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>8pm – 9 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatsfield Primary School</td>
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<td>£4 per person</td>
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Or if you’re feeling brave why not do both classes on the same night for only £6, a great 2 hour workout!

For more information please contact Vicky on 07891 295972.
TATSFIELD ART GROUP – An exciting term ahead!

Would you like to try pouring with watercolours, painting with oils or drawing with pastels?

Theses are all topics we will be having a go at during our autumn term which begins on Monday 5th September.

We meet on Monday evening’s term-time in the Village Hall and welcome all artists, new and established.

We have spaces available in our friendly village group so why not come along and see what you think and your first two evenings are free!

Sue White        Carol Pearson
Secretary       Chairman
570097           577252
COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

One thing that helps make a village a real community is how it communicates. After all, how can you help a ‘neighbour’ if you are unaware of their needs? Communication happens in many ways: meeting somebody in the street, or indeed just like you - reading the Parish Magazine.

Tatsfield Parish Council has been looking at ways for us to communicate. The traditional ones will continue to play a major part for the foreseeable future, but new opportunities are with us. Yes, I am going to mention the T-word - Technology. With over 80% of the country having access to the internet and even more owning a mobile phone we are well into the digital technology age.

Tatsfield has a Village website, a Parish Council website and a history website, while various other village groups have their own websites.

A recent growth area is the use of social networking – Twitter, Facebook etc. A Tatsfield page on Facebook would allow you to have Tatsfield on your list of friends, enabling the distribution of information very quickly as many have this linked to their mobile phones. It is also noted that this is the preferred means of communication for many ‘younger’ Tatsfielders, so it could improve our coverage across the village. Note the latest Ofcom report says that 27% of adults and 47% of teenagers now have a Smart phone.

Our initial findings are that what we have at the moment is pretty good in many ways, but it is under-used. Not being sure how to find the sites easily does not help. If we are to progress we need to do better, so the Parish Council has come up with some proposals on which we would like your comments.

1. The Parish Council should take over www.tatsfield.org.uk to provide an easily-remembered web address for use in our publicity etc. The Tatsfield address would continue to link directly to the present Village website whose address is not so memorable! We are aiming for a simple click on the icon approach.

2. The Village website would then provide a link to all the other village activities. This could be a link to a group website, or to a group page on the website. Whilst these facilities actually already exist, the Bridge Club is the only one that is regularly updated.

3. We should set up a ‘Friends of Tatsfield’ page on Facebook. This would enable information to be distributed readily - e.g. ‘Approach Road blocked’.

4. For all this to work effectively we need a small team, like that for the Parish Magazine, to ensure that pages are updated regularly etc.

Please fill in the response form which is coming with this magazine to let us know your thoughts on this.

Peter Kerry (Tel: 577053 Email: pjkerry@gmail.com)
Biggin Hill Memorial Library and Pool recently celebrated its 1st birthday in May of this year. Pool and Library staff teamed up together to host a party, which was a huge success. One year into its life the pool and library has a growing customer base and programme of activities.

The pool boasts a 25m, 6 lane training and leisure pool, which is currently used by over 300 members with casual use growing fast. There are various activities taking place throughout the day including; aquafit, family splash, lane swimming and a weekend family fun session. The pool provides excellent facilities for children, and is used well by many in the surrounding areas. Swimming lessons run six days a week and there is even a splash disco on a Saturday evening for children aged 8 – 15 years.

As well as swimming facilities the library holds term time activities for children of all ages and computer clubs and various reading groups provide social and learning activities for adults. With a library full of books, CDs, DVDs and 8 computers you will be able to find everything you need under one roof.

The café located in the library offers a welcoming open plan area for studying and social use. After a recent consultation with customers there has been a change in the hot and cold food menu, which has been welcomed with a great response. There is a selection of ground coffees as well as the usual hot and cold drinks. The staff are friendly and always happy to help and welcome new faces with a smile.

Natalie Waite – customer advisor
www.bromleymytime.org.uk
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OXTED AND DISTRICT

This year is the 400th Anniversary of our Churches’ joint heritage, the King James Bible. Churches Together in Oxted and District celebrated the event a short time ago with a walk in the sunshine from Oxted along the North Downs Way to St Mary’s, Tatsfield. There we had tea in the beautiful churchyard, joined by others, before a service with a full church and lusty singing – then, for some, the walk home!

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday evening, October 20, at Oxted United Reformed Church in Bluehouse Lane, where all will be welcome to hear our plans for joint activities for the coming year.

DEVELOPING YOUR MIND’S HEALING POWERS

Talk by Mhairi Kent (BA hons) at the WI Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17 September

Join us for an interesting evening about our amazing abilities to heal ourselves using our minds.

The evening is free, and probably incoherent (I have been seriously ill with nasties like gangrene). I am a trained spiritual healer and have a degree in cognitive psychology.

In my respectable days I was the archeological curator in charge of the photographic library, public enquiries and an extensive microfilming programme and gave lectures all over Europe whilst with the Royal Commision on the Historical Monuments of England (all very boring!).

I have now retired and live with my poor husband (and neighbours) in Painfilled Road (sorry, forgive the pun!). Hope to meet some more of you locals on 17 September.

Mhairi Kent, The Hartlands Centre, 75 Paynesfield Road (Tel: 577618 Email: mhairi@hartlands.co.uk Website www.hartlands.co.uk)

TATTY KNITTERS

Time to start thinking about scarves, gloves and winter woolies, a knitter’s haven! If you’d like to learn to knit, please come along; we’re willing to help. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13th September 7.30 – 9.30pm at the WI Hall. £2 to include tea and cake.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)
A warm welcome awaits both beginners and experienced golfers at Park Wood Golf Club. “The hidden treasure in Tatsfield” sited in a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is holding an Open Day on Sunday 25th September starting at 11.00am.

This 16 year old golf course enjoys spectacular northerly views of central London and the southerly aspect is a panoramic vista across the valley to the South Downs.

Our Open Day programme starts with coffee, bacon roll and a ‘Goodie bag’ on arrival followed by complimentary golf with on-course advice given by Nick Terry, the Club Professional, who will play a full hole with each group. On completion there will be further refreshments available whilst you discuss your round with your fellow golfers and give us feedback on your Park Wood experience.

Park Wood has active ladies, veterans and junior sections, with regular competitions and a programme of social activities to ensure there is something for everyone all year round. Our brand new driving range will be an additional facility, so committed golfers can practice in an all-weather environment. This is a ‘roll up and play’ golf club - competitions apart, tee times are not booked -maximising convenience for all golfers.

The Club House is spacious with a bar and more formal dining area overlooking panoramic views towards the South Downs. The relaxed and friendly environment offers golfers and visitors the option of both fine dining and bar meals with private dining facilities by arrangement for members.

We understand that excellent golf facilities come at a price but you’ll find our new flexible membership offer hard to beat as it’s designed for golfers who find it difficult to justify a full year’s subscription based on the number of times you play.

We also have a special membership offer of up to 19 months’ golf for the price of 12, so join now with your next renewal due in April 2013!

To reserve your place at our Park Wood Open Day, call the General Office on 01959 577744. Park Wood is to be found peacefully tucked away in Chestnut Avenue.
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

Thursday 29th September at 7.30
St Mary's Church Hall

Clue : Pasture of Reveries?

Genre: Drama   Country: USA   Year: 1989   Running time: 107 mins
Language: English   Rated: PG
Director: Phil Alden Robinson
Cast: Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Ray Liotta

Kevin Costner is Ray Kinsella, a child of the sixties who has settled down as an Iowa corn farmer with his wife and daughter. As he says in the film, he has never before done a crazy thing in his life. That all changes one day when he hears a voice speaking to him in his cornfield: “If you build it, he will come…”

“Too idiosyncratic and witty merely to wallow in sentimentality, this film will surely stand as a classic update of what made Old Hollywood so magical. It's still a wonderful life.” NewYorkTimes

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

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

Wendy Harvey 01959 562340  wendyharvey@talktalk.net
Elaine Webster 01959 577753  elainez@btinternet.com
A new campaign has just been launched to help parents and health professionals spot the signs of brain tumours in children and young people. HeadSmart aims to speed up diagnosis rates and raise awareness of brain tumour symptoms.

Around 500 children and young people a year are diagnosed with a brain tumour (that is nearly 10 a week!) and a quarter of all child cancers occur in the brain. Survival rates have improved over the past 20 years but brain tumours remain the leading cause of cancer deaths in children. The symptoms can often be similar to those of other illnesses; as a result they are frequently mistaken for less serious conditions.

HeadSmart is a new joint campaign by the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre at the University of Nottingham, The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Heath and the Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust it aims to raise awareness of brain tumour symptoms and has launched a range of resources which the M.A.D. (Make Alfie’s Day) team have signed up to promote locally. To find out more visit www.headsmart.org.uk.

Since my last write up various members of the M.A.D. fundraising team have had a ball literally, and a ladies pamper evening, followed by a 10km run, a walk of the 3 highest peaks in Great Britain and a wacky fill a test tube stall at Tatsfield School fete. Thank you everyone for your support. These events have helped this year to raise over £10,000 so far, via our Virgin Money Giving Page for the Samantha Dixon Brain Tumour Trust. On September 16th the Bakery is hosting an Abba night and on 24th a Bootcamp style training session is being held in Hurst Green. In October, 3 of us are off to trek China for 10 days. Yes we are M.A.D! If you wish to pledge your support please do so on http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/makealfiesday.

Tonia Say
VILLAGE NEWS

EXTRA BUSES FOR TATSFIELD

The existing 464 bus to New Addington and the 595 to Oxted and Westerham will continue to run. A modified 595 timetable should be available from Linda’s Stores soon. There will now be at least seven bus journeys a day to and from Oxted as well as four to Westerham.

A free pocket timetable of all Tatsfield’s bus services produced by the Magazine will also be available at Linda’s.
EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

1 Thur  2pm WI Darts - WIH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH · 8pm Table Tennis - VH
2 Fri  2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
3 Sat  10am Churchyard Tidy UP - StM
10-12noon Composting Site open - Borough Road
11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

4 Sun  8am Holy Commmunion(Book of Common Prayer) - StM
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM
10.30am Ramblers Walk - The Green, Godstone
3-5pm Church Teas - CH
5 Mon  9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH
7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS · 7.30pm Art Group - VH
8.30pm Bingo - TVC

TATSFIELD SCHOOL RETURNS

6 Tues  10am Yoga - WIH · 7.45pm WI Meeting - WIH

7 Wed  9am WESTMORE GREEN PLAY AREA FUND RAISING PUBLIC MEETING -AMB
10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - AMB
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH · 8pm Yoga - VH

8 Thur  9.15am Morning Prayer - StM · 2pm WI Darts - WIH
7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH · 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH

9 Fri  2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
8pm TATSFIELD IN BLOOM CELEBRATION EVENING - WIH

10 Sat  7.30-10.45am Bulky Rubbish Collection - Village Hall Car Park
9-11am BOOK SALE - In front of the shops
10-12noon Composting Site open - Borough Road
11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery
1pm SURREY VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARDS - VH

11 Sun  10am Sung Eucharist- StM · 3-5pm Church Teas - CH

12 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
7.30pm Police Forum - AMB · 8pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB
8.30pm Bingo - TVC

13 Tues  10am Yoga - WIH
12noon Not So Young Trip to Brick Lane Theatre - Village Centre
5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH · 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH

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

15 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

16 Fri  2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

17 Sat  10-12noon Composting Site open - Borough Road
11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery
3pm HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW - VH

18 Sun  **8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM**  ·  **10am Sung Eucharist- StM**
10.30am Ramblers Walk - Edenbridge Market Yard Car Park
3-5pm Church Teas - CH

19 Mon  9.30am Tots on Top - CH  ·  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  ·  6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH  ·  7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
8.30pm Bingo - TVC

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

21 Wed  10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - AMB  ·  8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH  ·  8pm Food and Wine Society Members Evening - WIH

22 Thur  **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM**  ·  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH  ·  7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS  ·  8pm Table Tennis - VH

23 Fri  2pm  Short Mat Bowls - VH
5pm Friday 23 to 5pm Saturday 24
BADMINTON CLUB 24 HOUR SPONSORED BADMINTON MARATHON - VH

24 Sat  10-12noon Composting Site open - Borough Road
11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

25 Sun  **8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM**
**10am Back to Church Eucharist - StM**
3-5pm Church Teas - CH

26 Mon  9.30am Tots on Top - CH  ·  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  ·  6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH  ·  7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
8.30pm Bingo - TVC

27 Tues  10am Yoga - WIH  ·  5.30pm Cubs - SH  ·  7pm Scouts - SH

28 Wed  10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Kettell Surgery - AMB
8pm Yoga - VH  ·  8pm Explorers - SH

29 Thur  **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM**  ·  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH  ·  7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Film Night - CH  ·  8pm Table Tennis - VH

30 Fri  2pm  Short Mat Bowls - VH  ·  5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH

**OCTOBER**

1 Sat  10am Churchyard Tidy Up - StM  ·  11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

**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
Welcome to Becca Rolfe
The Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry is delighted to welcome a new member to the staff. Becca has just joined us as our Children’s Ministry Coordinator and below she introduces herself to you:

Hi, I’m Becca and I am very excited to be joining the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry. As I write I am just over a week into my job here and have already met lots of lovely people and been involved in various activities.

I grew up in Croydon, and worshipped at St Mary Magdalene with St Martin, Addiscombe where I was involved in co-ordinating the Junior Church.

Previously I worked as a performance and projects officer for Croydon Music and Arts, supporting schools and children in Croydon in music and arts activities.

In June I graduated with a degree in Children’s and Youth Ministry for which I studied part time at Cliff College.

In my late teens I felt called by God to work with children and young people. I am looking forward to getting stuck into this post and working alongside children, young people and families in Tatsfield and the other villages.

Open The Book

In July the wind blew, the waves roared and the boat was tossed about as we remembered the story of Jesus calming both the storm and the minds of his followers. After the Holiday Club, our August service used the story of David and Goliath as a reminder that physical strength and power are not as important as we sometimes might think – weakness can sometimes be a source of strength.

As always, all ages are especially welcome to this service: the next is at 10am on 4th September. The October OTB service will be for Harvest – please see the item on the Harvest Festival.

Holiday Club

During the first week of August over 30 primary school aged children met together for three mornings in the Millennium Hall at St Mary’s for a Showstoppers themed Holiday Club. Together with adult helpers they played games, sang songs and did craft and cooking activities including making puppets, a freeze for our church altar, lion masks and
rock cakes. We shared stories from the Bible about God’s creation, David defeating Goliath and Daniel’s rescue from a den of lions. The weather was mostly kind to us, meaning we could spend time outdoors and round our week off by families joining their children for a picnic. Everyone had a great time, making new friends and sharing in activities together.

Some other recent services

There were two special evening services in July. The first, in a more informal style, included a variety of contemporary and traditional music from a visiting group together with some thought provoking intercessions accompanied by visual images expertly compiled by Laura and Tom Ellis. The second was held under the auspices of Churches Together in Oxted and District (CTOD) and many of those attending had walked from Oxted. We celebrated the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. A packed church, seemingly full of top class singers, heard something of the history of the Bible as it has been made more accessible over the years to ordinary people through careful and scholarly translations. We gave thanks for all those who have contributed to this work and for those still engaged in such activity today. We were also reminded that our faith is ultimately in a person rather than a set of words – important as they are!

In August St Mary’s responded to the disturbing events taking place in London, Croydon and elsewhere by holding three short evening services of prayer for all those involved and for the future of our communities and those who serve them.

Sunday 25th September 10.00am ‘Back to Church Sunday’ - Come as you are!

In recent years, St Mary’s has joined in this national day of making a special invitation to those who may not have been to church recently - or even ever! We hope you will join us.

Churchyard

Many thanks to all those who helped to ensure that the churchyard was in good shape for the In Bloom judging. Villagers are very welcome to take some of the compost from the refuse area for use on graves or in their own gardens. There will be tidy-up mornings on 3rd September and 1st October starting at 10am.

Sunday Teas at St Mary’s – the season finishes on 29th September

We continue to welcome visitors for home made teas on Sunday afternoons between 3.00 and 5.00pm. With just a few more weeks to go before we ‘shut up shop’ for this year we invite you to drop in and enjoy not only a delicious tea but a friendly welcome, conversation, and that increasingly rare thing, some quiet and stillness either in our beautiful churchyard or in the church, which is always open.
Harvest Festival 2nd October 10.00am followed by a Harvest Breakfast in the hall

Harvest is a time when we thank God for His boundless generosity to us and try to show our generosity to others. Following the service, details of which are in a separate advert, harvest gifts will be delivered locally and to our link church Christchurch, Brixton Road. Children and adults are all invited to bring harvest gifts to this service. What will you bring? It may help you to know that it would be really good to have some small (shoebox size) boxes of goodies that would suit an elderly person living on their own. Also, Christchurch are particularly glad of the following which go to their ‘store cupboard’ and provide the makings of a simple meal for those in immediate need:

- Rice, pasta and tea bags
- Cans of protein foods: baked beans, tuna, sardines, meatballs, meat pie, stewed meat
- Cans of tomatoes, canned vegetables such as carrots and peas
- Canned fruit and fruit salad, packets of custard, jars of jam

**Records**

- 3rd July  Baptism of George Burgess
- 10th July  Baptism of Thomas Ioannou
- 10th July  Confirmation of Richard Budgen
- 19th August  Marriage of James Green and Laura Cogan
- 20th August  Marriage of Matthew Bolton and Helena Thornton

**Church Flowers**

We will be decorating the Church for Harvest Festival on Saturday 1st October at 09.30 hours. If anyone would like to help, they would be most welcome. Do please contact me on the number below if you will be available.

Rota for September

- 4th and 11th September  Jan Maynard
- 18th and 25th September  Tina Boys

Jan Maynard  (Tel: 577659)
Across
1. Detective Stories, “My Street” and “Lake South” (9)
6. Modish elfin ladies hold what they don’t want to be left on (5)
9. Mother writes but depresses (7)
10. Hopin’ to get relief from headache (7)
11. Ely, for example, get it? (3)
12. I reach shire somehow to discover religious pecking orders (11)
14. Accountants love to go round popular gambling establishment (6)
15. This young person has green tea stirred ...... (8)
17. .....or put through this (8)
19. A fraction half-witted (6)
22. Large group of players, French and about to score (11)
23. Thus becomes ill shortly (3)
25. Japanese art is kept in Maori gaming resort (7)
27. Country music composer (7)
28. Order large beer (5)
29. First in God’s universe is less than not more innocent (9)

Down
1. Sad, I’m going back to see wishful king (5)
2. Holidays from June solstice to September equinox every year (7)
3. Huge animal in English capital (11)
4. Results in children (6)
5. Mariner’s going to shortly see a distant queen (8)
6. Petty Officer’s going north to bribe (3)
7. Being taught, doesn’t start bringing in the dosh (7)
8. Windows are seen after replacement (9)
13. Time for giving birth (11)
14. When rock is besieged by wind you need this unpleasant medicine (6,3)
16. Young bird’s settling comfortably (8)
18. Music in G is moving (7)
20. Father’s wise to take this path (7)
21. Thanks to first chart topper it led to a Polynesian island (6)
24. Accepted ways of behaviour amongst Puerto Rico descendants (5)
25. Broadcast song (3)

Solution to Crossword in July/August magazine

Across

Down

Set by Joan Gresham

Prize of £5 voucher for use in Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers to the first correct entry opened on 19 September. Please drop in your entry to Linda’s Stores or to Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN.
‘There’s always something going on around Sandy’ is how Sandy St. John’s partner Jon Allbutt aptly describes her and I think you’ll probably agree! Originally from Chessington and Surbiton she moved to Biggin Hill in 1972 and it was here in 1976 that she met Jon at the badminton club – not a conventional start to their relationship as he ended up in A&E after Sandy smacked him in the eye with her racquet during a doubles match! However this failed to put him off and the couple became an item, eventually moving to Goatsfield Road in Tatsfield in 1994.

As for her career, in 1979 Sandy joined estate agents Baxter Payne and Lepper in Biggin Hill. She remained in that office, now Bairstow Eves, until 1998. Two doors down was to be Sandy’s new workplace after she accepted an offer to manage a new branch of Ibbett Moseley. This has recently been renamed Howard Cundey following the merger of Ibbett Mosely Property Consultants with Howard Cundey. Coincidentally Sandy had already made the decision to retire at 62 whilst she was still ‘young and fit enough’ to make the most of it.

Sandy clearly loved her career and her energy and enthusiasm were no doubt instrumental in the success of Ibbett Mosely in Biggin Hill. She believes that as an independent estate agent, with local staff rather than a corporate company, they are able to retain repeat loyal customers and gain new ones too. Her passion and energy enabled her to have a great influence on a client’s sale or purchase, keeping them informed every step of the way. Generations of families returned to her and it was rare to go to a property or meet a client
that she had not been to before or that she had a connection with in some way. Ibbet Mosely has advertised in the Parish Magazine for many years and thanks largely to Sandy has sponsored Tatsfield’s In Bloom programme.

Certainly the energy and optimism that she has brought to her career is about to spill out into her life in retirement. Following the momentous day on 29th July, Sandy will have no trouble filling her days and Jon intends to join her just as soon as his business is sold. The garden and allotment are two areas that Sandy will now have more time for, which is fortunate as Jon describes her as a ‘good gardener by instinct’ coming from a family of Dutch rose growers. Decorating, playing golf and travelling are all activities that Sandy is looking forward to. She loves Africa with a passion, having been on safari to at least 5 African countries and lists the Zulu Battlefields and Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa as among her favourite places to visit. She has also holidayed in Barbados seven times and is looking forward to visiting the Dordogne in France this summer, another much-loved place.

Together with Jon, Sandy continues to be a member of Tatsfield’s Food and Wine and Horticultural Societies. Her family will also keep her busy - her sons Paul and James live not far away and she intends to see much more of Paul’s children Amy and Emily. Sandy is also awaiting a new grandchild from her son James and his wife Sarah in January. Retirement will also enable her to spend more time with her 87 year old dad, who lives in Hinchley Wood.

Sandy says she feels lucky and priviledged to live in our welcoming community and can’t think of anywhere else she would rather live. Coming from an estate agent with over 30 years experience, that says it all doesn’t it? You may have met Sandy as she walks her dogs Poppy and Lucy around the village or maybe she has been instumental in the buying or selling of your house. Whichever one, expect to see more of this friendly and energetic lady around Tatsfield!
Thanks to our growing band of contributors, we have a bumper set of notes this month. ‘Such fun’ (says Miranda’s mother!).

Correspondence:

Our first letter is from Roger Sawyers of Ricketts Hill Road (26.07.11):

‘On Saturday 23rd July at about 9am, a group of Parakeets arrived in our immediate vicinity. They were particularly interested in our level bird table where I put bread squares each morning (and which go in about five minutes!), but the Magpies kept them off. They stayed on the squirrel-proof nut feeder that hangs from the table but have been unable to get into it so far and are now beginning to leave it alone. They have remained with us since Saturday, constantly flying about and making a racket which is not very pleasant. A group of eight went to the trees on the other side of Ricketts Hill in the last few minutes. Has anyone else reported the nuisance of their screeching?’

Making a screeching racket? Roger, surely you’re not referring to the wondrous calling tones of these flamboyant, exotic, garden visitors, whose melodious notes bring abundant joy to neighbourhoods near and far, dispensing tales of distant travel and adventure? You are? Okay – so you’ve got these noisy, screeching birds that annoy you. I’m sure you’re not the only one. There are many reported local sightings, although all regular sightings are from your side of the village. John Rosenbaum, for example, has reported frequent visits to his garden over the past six months using his recent ‘Bird Survey’ return. My own experience (in Greenway) is of very rare sightings. If your gang of Parakeets wishes to descend upon our feeders they will be most welcome, particularly if they don’t start making a ‘racket’ until 9am. Our visiting Magpies are waking us long before that!

And now a message from ‘Adventurer Jim’ (Yeeles) (21.07.11):

‘I set off this morning without much hope of seeing much as the weather was pretty gloomy and rain was definitely on the way. So glad I persevered, as I was rewarded with really good views of a pair of very large fritillaries, nectaring on Buddleia. I had a FSC guide with me and, combined with a bit of research when I got home, I’m fairly confident they were Silver-washed Fritillaries. A stunning butterfly, I think you’ll agree.’

Stunning indeed, Jim! What a fantastic sighting – definitely a first for these notes. Jim was exploring within Hill Park and further refers to a ‘reptile refugia’ (!) where he occasionally finds Slow Worms and Grass Snakes. You know that strange chap you see now and again – safari jacket, pith helmet, map, compass, survival bag – that’s our Jim. Don’t worry, he’s harmless (and a great local naturalist)!
Liz Armitage is gathering information for her latest crime novel (13.07.11):

‘Help! Today I have found the second dead Blackbird this week on my patio. They don’t seem to be babies, and are too far away from the windows to have flown into the glass. Is Alfred Hitchcock still around?’

Mmm. . . can’t really help you with this one, Liz, although disease has to be a possibility. Perhaps one of our readers can help? (Incidentally, Alfred Hitchcock died of renal failure on 29th April 1980. At 9.17am, to be precise!)

When we consider the amount of wildlife around us, it’s surprising that we don’t see a lot more dead animals. Nature, of course, has its own way of clearing away the debris and the dying – predators, scavengers, decomposition. When we do find corpses it can be distressing, but also offers us a good opportunity to see up-close those creatures we normally only see from afar. I remember loading a Fox, several Pheasants and a Tawny Owl, all found on the wayside, into my boot for the children to see at school. (Not all at once!) It was an urban area, so the birds were completely unknown, and totally wonderful to their eyes. The fox was a known scavenger, but to be able to see one so still, to be able to stroke its fur, count its teeth, feel its claws, gave the children a whole new way of looking at their own urban foxes. (Back then, good education ruled the day, not health and safety rules and regulations. And guess what? Nobody died or became ill. Amazing!) Perhaps next time you see a dead creature, instead of feeling sad or revolted, you could see it as an opportunity to investigate and explore. Incidentally, although a lot of the children were tough nuts, they insisted the animals be properly buried, which they were, in our class garden.

Staying with Liz, you may remember that she wished to know the outcome of her Hedgehog incident (see July’s magazine). Well, here’s a note from Bob Bernard:

‘Thanks for stopping to allow me to rescue our little spikey friend. In answer to your question, I did get the creature to vacate its perilous position by gently moving it with my foot to the shelter of the pavement. But I’m not sure whether it headed on for your rent-free accommodation.’

Obviously, this was the right thing to do. Well done, Bob. Animals in danger need to be rescued whenever possible. There are times, however, when animals look as though they need help, but in fact they don’t. At this time of year this is particularly the case with young birds (fledglings). Paul Howard (Rag Hill) gave me a call a few weeks ago, asking for advice regarding a young woodpecker in his garden. It had been there a long time without an adult bird visiting. Of course, in any caring person, this sets off alarm bells. But, moving or otherwise interfering with these apparent ‘youngsters-in-distress’ is not the advice we are given. In fact, we are told that any form of interference may lead to the young bird being permanently deserted. Paul knew this and was simply calling for a second opinion. Hopefully, the woodpecker survived. It’s tough advice, but it’s good advice: Stay away!
Marjory Broughton of Ricketts Hill Road has bird news, and something rather unexpected to report! Here's her e-mail (23.06.11):

'I reported a pair of Red Kites but my e-mail bounced back. This time I am forwarding my husband's picture which he took after a long wait for Goldfinches. I started putting out Niger seed last year and although the seed went down, we were not lucky enough to see them in the flesh. This time, they come regularly and are bringing their fledglings. The seed needs to be replaced quite regularly now, but it's delightful to see their social 'chattering'.

On Tuesday the Swallows were darting right in front of us as we walked the course (Park Wood). My understanding is that they fly low in times of bad weather – or is it due to the air pressure?

Now for a tale. A Park Wood member told me that a Black Panther had been spotted and had even left footprints in a bunker. Large with big claws! Believe it or not!'

Ah, yes – it may take a while, but wherever Niger seeds are hung, Goldfinches will appear! Your Swallow experience brings back such fond memories; such graceful flight. I'm sure you're right about the weather conditions affecting their behaviour, but the main reason for their low or high flying is the availability of insects. So really, it's the weather affecting their food source that dictates their elevation.

Now then, about this panther ..! I'm holding fire for the moment as I know Marjory is contacting the club member for more information. There have been many sightings of big black cats reported around the country, but in Tatsfield? I think not. Of course, what may now happen is some joker will go out planting 'evidence' in every sand and mud patch s/he can find. What we really need, apart from a reliable first hand report, is evidence in the form of a photograph. So, let's all keep our eyes open and get snapping. (Actually, this sounds like a job for 'Adventurer Jim!')

Next, we have excitement from Linda Church of Parkwood Road (04.08.11):

'I am so excited (that's what we like to hear, Linda) I just had to contact you. Just a few minutes ago, in my drive, was a largish bird, maybe a foot in height, tearing at some sort of recently killed mammal. It looked very scruffy (but that might be the rain), grey coloured with speckled sides and what looked like a pale patch on the back of its head and, possibly, a yellowish hooked beak. It was about 30 feet from the house and, against the gravel of the drive, a bit indistinct. After a while, it flew up the drive and rested on the top of an iron gate with its kill where it stayed for a few moments before flying off. I'm sorry to be so vague, but I would appreciate any suggestion to identify this bird. One more thing; I heard a lot of bird noise at least an hour before I spotted this bird. I assume now that this was a warning of the presence of a bird of prey.'
Vagueness can be a rather pleasant state of mind. Surely, no need to apologise. My suggestion was that, given the descriptive evidence, this may well have been a **Sparrowhawk**. Linda came back with the following reply (10.08.11):

> Looking at the couple of books I’ve got, I also thought a Sparrowhawk was most likely, although it did look like it was eating a small mammal (rabbit). Later, I found a large amount of grey feathers elsewhere in the garden, so it was probably a pigeon.’

Problem solved. Although I do feel a little uncertain. There’s a noticeable lack of precision and sharpness to my thoughts. A haziness develops. This must be vagueness. Or perhaps it’s the combination of lunch, wine and a soft chair!

And finally, when Julie Wood sent her husband, Dave, up the road late one night with the following message . . . :

> ‘Have a first for you. This was in our garden tonight. Took a photo (enclosed). Think it is a **Golden Pheasant**. What do you think?’

. . . I doubt that she expected him to return with the message – ‘He’s already seen it!’ In fact, I hadn’t just seen it, I’d spent an hour or so ‘playing’ with it! Here’s the story. Happily weeding, being gently caressed by the warmth of the afternoon’s sun, a ‘phone call arrives – ‘Quick. Bring your camera round. I’ve got a big yellow bird in my garden!’ This was Ann Howard, who lives round the corner. So, I went rushing round, not knowing what to expect and there, trapped in her sideway, was a beautiful yellow pheasant. It seemed tame, so we decided to ‘phone Beaver Water World to see if it had escaped from there. John rang, and was told that it wasn’t theirs but they’d be happy to have it, if we could catch it! So, for the next hour or so there was Ann, John and myself (with a brief performance by James Longley) diving through bushes and hedges trying to persuade this pheasant to jump into a net and be saved. No chance! Later efforts by Desmond Bishop were also to no avail. Hence the sighting, later on, by Julie and Dave at the bottom of Greenway. Where it is now is anyone’s guess. (Incidentally, this very yellow form of pheasant is known as **Ghigi’s Golden Pheasant**, named after the Italian professor who bred and developed this particular strain.) Who said village life is boring? None of us!

**Next month** we will be publishing the first of this year’s Bird Surveys, together with any notes from the contributors. In the meantime I would like to offer my thanks to all of those who contributed to this edition of our Nature Notes. In the words of another classic comic character . . . . . . . ‘You’ve all done very well!’

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

A MOROCCAN HERB-FEST! HERBS OF NORTH AFRICA

It is an easy step from Southern Spain to North Africa, where my “Virtual” Tour of World Herbs has now led me. With Africa such a huge land-mass I have decided to concentrate upon the hot, Moroccan heartland away from the Mediterranean Sea, and will be discussing the herbs and food of Southern Africa next spring.

I’m so delighted to be researching the herbs and spices of this land. Even the name “Morocco” conjures up exotic gardens, desert landscapes and towns where highly-decorated mosques and towering minarets jostle amongst the maze of ever-so slightly menacing narrow back streets. A land heaving with luxurious fruits, spices, strange “witches hat” shaped tagine cooking pots and highly-coloured food which seems to be reflected in the fabulously patterned tiles to be seen at every corner. Years back as a quilt designer, an old, well-thumbed book on Moroccan architecture was all I needed for inspiration - tile patterns for patchwork and architectural motifs for quilting.

Looking at the land as a whole I think the Moroccan way of life leans heavily upon ancient Arabian culture, with their clever use of underground wells that tapped into the subterranean water table, or “aquifers” in use in the 1100s in places such as Marrakech, which allowed large towns and cities to form over the years while highly-productive orchards and date farms outside town areas were easily sustainable. Water, still tunnelled under houses today, provides both a cooling device and private water source, a truly modern idea but used in Arab lands for many centuries! Moroccan town houses are most typically hidden behind high walls and uninspiring doors throughout those narrow back streets previously mentioned. Once inside, and according to the wealth of the owner, each “Riyad” opens into a courtyard brimming perhaps with orange trees, highly coloured flowers and fragrant herbs. Four pillars or trees set this courtyard-style design and the cooling sight and sound of a water fountain at its centre brings a welcome relief from outside heat. Tables and chairs give an ideal opportunity to sit in sun or shade within a totally private space.

The first connection with herbs for any visitor is the ubiquitous “Mint Tea” drunk all over the country. Proudly served in silver teapots and poured from an amazing height (good steady hand required here!) this frothy and most refreshing drink combines with any sweet or savoury food. Moroccan Mint is such a good herb and I am never without it. Even after last winter my large pot is still providing highly fragrant leaves for an endless number of dishes. Just a word of caution though – whatever type of Mint you grow, always keep it confined in a (large) pot and do not allow any escapee stalks or you will have it rampaging through your garden.
So what other herbs and spices can a visitor expect to see here? Just a few of the very wide and brightly-coloured selection seen in marketplaces in Fez and Marrakech for example include fragrant verbena (mainly for use in teas), rosebuds and petals (an important part of the amazingly complex spice mix known as “Ras al-Hanout”), coriander seeds and leaves, baskets of olives in shades of green, pink and mauve, lavender, thyme, bay, fennel, turmeric and that most important spice flavouring here – cumin. Cumin seed or powdered “ground” cumin has been used in North African cuisine for centuries and is a must for the store cupboard if you wish to incorporate some exotic Moroccan dishes into your repertoire. It is interesting to see that herbs planted in Riyads, or town houses, are cultivated either in intriguingly-shaped plain terracotta or highly glazed coloured pots, while those outside the town areas are mainly grown as simple ground cover, used as under-planting for the many forms of fruit trees, or seen sheltering from extreme sunshine by the roughly-built low walls used to define growers’ boundaries.

I love incorporating Moroccan fruits - figs, apricots and dates - with home-grown apples and tomatoes in a spicy Christmas chutney that adds real zing to Boxing Day cold meats. Apricots and dates also blend particularly well with lamb, and a tagine is a lovely way of slow-cooking cheaper cuts in a spicy sauce. There are so many recipes available today in magazines, books and television programmes, but one that works for me is simply to incorporate browned cubed lamb (or pork) into a sauce of softened white onions, some “ras al hanout” mix (you’ll have to buy that ready done!), ginger, turmeric and a couple of tins of tomatoes with water to cover. Add fresh coriander leaves and season well. Cook in a slow oven or a tagine if you’re lucky enough to have one, then throw in a few peeled potatoes about half-an-hour before serving. Last-minute toasted pine nuts or almonds are a good addition with a handful more of that coriander (or you could change the flavour completely and replace this herb with mint).

A good basic sauce using cumin incorporates softened chopped onion with tinned tomatoes, a clove or two of garlic, paprika and ground cumin with seasoning. Once you have this to your taste it is a setting-off point for lots of Moroccan dishes; meat tagines or meatballs (this one includes eggs broken onto the surface and cooked lightly before serving), chicken tagine with potatoes and lots of preserved lemon and turmeric, or a simple prawn tagine where the prawns are grilled first, then added a few minutes before serving with lots of coriander and/or fennel.

Everywhere in North Africa people are serving dishes such as these every day, so well worth trying them out. Following on from this, we take a fascinating look at India and the Spice Trade in October.

Lin Saines
A Weird Experience

A place I enjoy visiting is Orpington. I don't know why but there's something about the place that somehow turns me on. The drive is a simple one of 20 minutes from the village to the Sainsbury's car park and then “oft you jolly well go”.

And yet it was a visit with a difference the other day when the country-wide riots were taking place and people were seen on the TV news in their uniforms (hoods and balaclavas) simply walking in and helping themselves to new flat screen TVs and that sort of stuff from PC World and Curry’s et al.

So there was Jan and me in the market square in Orpington when suddenly 4 Police ladies come on the scene and start whispering to all of the stallholders. Me, with my BBC nose, asked what was up and I was told that the Police had given instructions for them to pack up their wares and get the heck out of the place, like sharpish, as “they” were heading towards the market.

In a few minutes the place was all emptied and shutters were pulled down from the many shops in the precinct. It was an odd kind of creepy feeling of expectation of something that was about to happen and we didn’t know what to really expect. So we went back to get our car at Sainsburys car park to discover that they too had been ordered to close. And all of the staff were standing outside. All of the lifts were isolated and we had to gain access to our car via climbing many stairs. It was all a bit like (I imagine) Doomsday would be, very scary.

And Another Thing - The Surrey Mirror

I have been writing about the “goings on” in and around the village for some seven years now and some of you might have noticed that I am always carrying (and taking pictures with) my camera. My pieces to the Borderlines columns of that newspaper came about when I wrote to the editor Mark Davison and asked why did “they” bother to send that particular newspaper here when there wasn’t one word mentioned about Tatsfield in it. His answer was “why not write about it then”.

What I do write is all about you people and also all of the local news and happenings. I know that many of you have been pleased with seeing what you are going to do, and what has happened, in print. Some of you have actually said a thank you, which is nice. Just to make sure that I get things right I always digitally record my conversations for accuracy and reference later.

Dave Bishop
The phrase “As one door closes another opens” is as true for Astronomy as it is for anything else.

Saturn has sadly just been lost to the evening twilight as it moves (apparently) closer to the Sun ahead of its conjunction on October 13th. A conjunction, when talking about planets beyond the orbit of the Earth, refers to the moment when the three bodies (Saturn in this instance, the Sun and Earth) are all lined up with the Sun in the middle. If you look at the diagram (not to scale), it appears that when a conjunction occurs, Saturn will always be behind the Sun. Whilst this is true in simple terms it doesn’t tell the whole story.

If we drew the orbits of all the planets on a sheet of paper and then looked at it edge-on, it wouldn’t be far from the truth as the orbits are almost all in the same plane …. but not quite. Their paths around the Sun are inclined to each others by just a few degrees with the result that instead of being directly behind the Sun at conjunction, they appear to pass either just above or just below it. In practical terms of course this makes no difference to observers as any planet will be invisible at this time. It does however have a rather unfortunate effect as far as the inner planets (Mercury and Venus) are concerned, which we’ll look at another time.

If Saturn is the door that’s closing, then Jupiter is the door that’s opening. By the middle of September it will rise in the east at 20.45 BST (quarter to nine) into an already darkening sky and on the nights of the 15th and 16th it lies a little below the waning Moon. If you can mount your binoculars on a tripod or rest them on something sturdy, you should be able to see the four largest satellites (there were 63 at the last count) - Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto. These are known as the Galilean moons because they were first observed by Galileo in 1609. Their discovery caused some controversy as until then it was accepted that the Earth was at the centre of the universe and everything else revolved around it. This was the theory put forward by Ptolemy in the second century A.D. and for more than a thousand years after that you could be in serious trouble for suggesting anything that was seen to contradict this point of view.

Brian Mills
TATSFIELD ART GROUP SUMMER EXHIBITION

Tatsfield Art Group’s Exhibition in the Village Hall on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July was another successful weekend with a steady flow of visitors. There were many appreciative comments from the amateur art critics among them and 18 paintings were sold happy customers. A display of art from pupils of Tatsfield Primary school also drew several admiring comments.

Visitors were able to vote for their favourite painting and Christine Stainer won with ‘A Quiet Corner’, a wonderful oil painting. The raffle prize, an encaustic wax painting by Linda Lambert, was won by villager Ken Budgen. A tempting array of tea and cakes were available from the servery. Thanks to Sheila Alexander for her fabulous scones and to all who made a scrumptious cake!

Finally a huge thank you to those members who gave up their Friday evening and Saturday morning to set the exhibition up, and also to those who helped over the weekend – it looked fabulous.

If you were unable to drop in over the weekend, you can find out what you missed by visiting our website at www.tatsfield-art-group.co.uk where many of the exhibits are shown.

We have spaces available in our friendly village group, so if you would like to know more please contact us.

Sue White, Secretary (Tel: 570097) and Carol Pearson, Chairman (Tel: 577252)
With autumn fast approaching, it can only mean one thing – all sections will be returning this month with their new programmes set and ready. All sections will be returning the week commencing Monday 12th September.

Over the summer break we took 20 of the Scouts away on our week-long camp to Gradbach Scout camp, part of the White Peak Area of Derbyshire. The weather was fantastic, which allowed us to follow the packed programme we had planned. We took the Scouts’ bikes with us and took advantage of some of the local cycle trails available, having a day cycle on part of the Manifold Trail, with a stop for lunch at a fantastic river spot just below Thors cavern. We had a day spent at the Heights of Abraham which is reached by a spectacular cable car ride, trips to both Speedwell Caverns, which are explored by a boat ride and the Devils Arse Caverns, which of course gave the Scouts carte blanche to say ‘arse’ all day!

An afternoon was spent on site making dams in the river and all getting thoroughly wet; there was even a handy bucket on a rope for soaking both Scouts and Leaders alike. We also managed a trip into Buxton for some souvenir shopping and a trip to Peveril Castle. Despite the climb to the castle being extremely daunting, Scouts still managed to lug a massive picnic up to the top for 25 people, no mean feat! Once there we invested 3 new members into the Troop, which was a spectacular setting and drew a small crowd.

This is just a taster of the whole week’s programme that also included our traditional cooking competition, won by Southpeak Patrol with a truly great American-themed evening. John and I took the Patrol leaders out one evening for a coke or two as an extra treat and the week was finished off with the traditional Banquet night with the Scouts being presented with 65 badges and awards that they had all achieved between them as well as an overall prize for the ‘Scout of the Week’. All who attended, including the adult leaders, had fun and I would like to take this opportunity to thank, once again, all those who gave up their time. Your help and input was much appreciated.

I am looking forward to welcoming a new intake of Beaver Scouts as we ‘wave goodbye’ to many as we have Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all changing sections this term and keeping you all informed about what I know will be full fun packed and exciting programmes. Working with children and young adults in Scouting can be fun and hugely rewarding. Why not give it a try and come and join our Group as a helper? We are looking still looking for adult help particularly for the Cub Pack and the commitment can be as little as just 1½ hours a week.

Helen Brand, Group Scout Leader (Tel: 01883 380742; Mobile: 07736 230068; Email: tatsfield.gsl@gmail.com)
Calling all allotmenteers, gardeners, chefs, photographers, artists, craft-folk and flower arrangers: it’s time to show off your skills and hard work at the Horticultural Society’s annual Autumn Show which is on Saturday 17th September at 3pm at the Village Hall. Entry is £1 for adults and 50p for children and there will be refreshments and cakes on offer and an auction of fresh produce at the end, so do stay and grab a bargain.

With the first summer season of the new allotments under our belts, we are hoping to see the fruits (and vegetables) of your labours! Anything from carrots, peas, runner beans shallots, leeks, marrow, cabbages and swedes to salad vegetables and rhubarb; there is a class for everyone and there’s a section for juniors too (anyone under 17) so even if you don’t want to enter, perhaps your children could submit their entries?

The junior section has a variety of classes from a fruit and vegetable picture or playdough vegetables for 2-4 year olds, creating a fireworks night glitter picture or decorating a jam jar for 5-7 year olds, a 3D picture depicting autumn or painting a small clay flowerpot for 8-11s and a miniature garden or a 3D picture of a member of your family for 12-16s. Or maybe you could encourage them to enter the ‘A Book at Bedtime’ flower arrangement class (see Schedule for specific details)?

For the adult flower arrangers amongst you see what inspires you from the following titles: ‘Birthday Party’, ‘Harvest Festival’, ‘Summer Holiday’ or ‘An Unusual Container’ and if you’re a novice then an arrangement called ‘Autumn Colours’ might get your creative juices flowing.

In the Art section we have ‘A Village Affair’, ‘Harvest’, ‘Fascinating Face(s)’ and ‘Fur or Feathers’ as titles. On the craft side why not make a piece of jewellery from buttons or a knitted item for a child (0-5 years). Get your Christmas preparations done well in advance and make a table centre called ‘Candle Magic’ using up to 6 candles or make a Tatsfield Christmas Card Design.

In the photography section get snapping to capture ‘Buildings – a nod to perspective’ and for our novice photographers take a picture of colour, shapes and patterns in nature. Calling all dads and granddads: what about a picture from a car lover’s viewpoint – interiors or exteriors? For the juniors (16 and under) why not enter one of your holiday snaps for ‘You’ve been framed showing funny holiday scenes? Don’t forget, there is a £5 prize for the winning junior.

For the budding chefs amongst you how about conjuring up a special jar of jam or chutney or maybe you have a special recipe for a dip? Perhaps you prefer baking bread so why not make a basket of bread rolls or an apple pie or a plate of Brandy snaps? There is always the set recipe to try which is coco-berry-nut cake or for the men a spinach, leek and gruyere tart?
If you would like to enter, do take time to look at the hints and tips and show regulations in the Schedule. Also, a reminder to complete the entry form in your Schedule and pass to any committee member by **6pm on Thursday 15th September latest**. If you have quite a few entries, do try and get the form in early as it can take some time completing show cards for each one.

On the day, please can you bring your exhibits to the Village Hall **between 8.30am and 10.30am**. Last minute entries will not be accepted. Please can you collect your exhibits after the show or better still consider putting them in the auction to raise funds for the society. Just let a member of the committee know.

**Dates for your diary**

**Tuesday 20th September 8pm WI Hall** – Gardening Club: ‘Growing Fruit Trees with Keepers Nursery’

**Tuesday 18th October 8pm WI Hall** – Gardening Club: Jon Allbutt giving a talk on the garden/allotment in winter.

**Tuesday 8th November AGM and Big Talk 7.30pm Village Hall** - Speaker from the National Trust speaking on “A Year at Chartwell House and Gardens” Tickets £3.50 per person to include a glass of wine and nibbles. Contact Angela Sawyers on 577434.

**Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)**

**W.I. July Meeting**

For our Annual Garden Party in July we were asked to wear a decorated hat. Some members’ imagination ran riot; one hat had a parrot set amongst greenery and another a donkey atop a bed of straw. A very ornate hat fit for a Pearly Queen! Another member made a fetching hat from a paper plate adorned with paper garlands. Our Vicar, Revd Louise Ellis, presented a rose bowl to the overall winner, Jo Standing, for her lavishly adorned straw hat with flowers and ribbons.
Committee members made a wonderful array of sandwiches, vol-au-vents, devils and angels on horseback nibbles, a dip with all English crudités, followed by individual strawberry meringues, fruit skewers, strawberries dipped in chocolate and cup cakes.

Margaret Bishop

August Meeting

Puppets, Piers and Pantomime was the intriguing subject for the August 2nd meeting and we were whisked back to our younger days, if not to our actual childhoods. Alan Stockwell seemed a most unassuming man before he started and there were no props or film slides. However, once he started to speak he held our attention. He has led a most fascinating life. He had been a puppeteer for over 40 years and appeared in clubs, music halls, pier shows and pantomimes – you name it.

We wondered how one would actually get started in this line and he said that when he was about 14 he used to go to the Bradford Alhambra Theatre and pay one shilling to sit up in the gods. He was most fascinated by the acrobats, jugglers and magicians not by the headliners who sang, danced or acted. He especially loved one of the trampoline acts who performed dressed as the Marx Brothers. Alan decided that he wanted to perform when he left school and join the acrobats, jugglers, balancing acts etc. However, he ended up working for the Yorkshire Electricity Board, but it was a different story in the evenings, when he taught himself magic tricks. He started touring Working Mens’ Clubs and began to earn a little bit of money. Someone invited him to do a turn after dinner at a hotel one night and he earned the princely sum of three half crowns (7/6p). He was delighted.

He met a young lady soon afterwards whom he quickly married and decided to leave his job in order to form a double act, working free-lance. Alan and Brenda both had experience of magic shows working at clubs and parties so decided to broaden their horizons to encompass puppets, a memory act, shooting (catching bullets in teeth) etc. They began to tour and used an old caravan to cover the country rather than live in digs and began working more with puppets. At one time they were giving 300 performances a year with Stockwell Glove Puppets, touring around primary schools teaching vital bits of information such as cleaning teeth properly and how to cross the road. However, he considers the work with Pavlov’s Puppets to be their main career. These were harder to operate but more enjoyable and they performed at various holiday camps in Great Yarmouth, the Isle of Wight and on the South East coast. They did the same circuit for years and they were also used to advertise Kensitas Cigarettes.

Later they got bookings for winter pantomimes and summer shows in places like the Winter Gardens in Margate, Skegness, Scarborough etc. where they worked with some of the big name stars such as Danny La Rue, Tommy Cooper, Ronnie
Corbett, Dick Emery, Norman Wisdom, Cilla Black, John Inman, Charlie Drake, Rolf Harris, Freddie Starr and many more. Everyone was very apprehensive when Freddie was on the bill. One night he rode into the theatre on a motor bike and let off a fire extinguisher. Once their backing tape didn’t operate properly and kept slowing down then speeding up which made it very awkward for his puppet act. Everyone blamed Freddie but in fact it was the sound man’s fault – just a technical hitch! Alan says they got through it – just. Alan and Brenda also worked with the Krankies, who were a very nice married couple and shared the same agent. There were stories of things going wrong behind the scenes, especially when working with animals and tales about the fans, some of whom sounded very odd, following their favourite stars around the country and even attending every performance. Alan said that there were some very good years but later on the interest dwindled.

He started in show business in 1963 in the days of big name summer seasons and pantos, later noticing how things began to be cut back as interest dwindled first the backing acts, then the big name stars and the number of dancers; there were less singers and fewer musicians, all in the name of economy and quality was compromised. Alan said that he and Brenda were not too worried then because they were approaching retirement age anyway but at that point they were asked to appear for three years running at a pantomime in Leamington Spa. He noted that the run was much shorter and there were no big names on the bill and that the whole thing was run on a shoestring budget. However, it was a nice family atmosphere and they were happy to do it.

They are now fully retired and enjoying life together. Most of the puppets have been sold but they have kept some of the ones they used for their school visits and have written a couple of little books about – guess what? Puppets! Alan was an engaging speaker and we had a thoroughly good evening.

Afterwards, Sue Smale reported back to us about the W.I. Conference in Liverpool and on some of the campaigns such as Country of Origin for Food Labelling, the Milk Debate, Fast Fashion/Recycling, SOS Honey Bees, Fund Raising for our W.I.College, Mega Farms etc. There were speakers on Care in Custody, Climate Change and Subsistence Farming. Sir Steve Redgrave spoke about Fair Trade Cotton - he became interested through his sportswear business. Sue said that it had been a very dynamic and inspiring conference and the best news was that the W.I. is growing, with 102 new clubs formed and we are on target for the number of new members set for 2015.

There is a District Conference in Westerham in September and we have been invited to attend a Westerham club meeting. All the usual things are going on here of course and DO try to Pop-In and see us on Wednesday mornings for a cuppa and a chat.

The next meeting is on 6th September at 7.45pm when Dr John Ray will talk about The Queen and the 50s.

Toni Holley
RAMBLERS

The Ramblers’ walk on 7th August was a 6.5 mile walk starting and finishing in Tatsfield which was led by Roger. There were 20 walkers including five from Tatsfield, plus a couple of dogs. We all enjoyed the trip to the Fox and Hounds at the top of Westerham Hill and luckily made it back home before the rain arrived. Details of the next three walks are below. Everyone welcome, including dogs and their owners. Just turn up or contact us if you would like to know more.

Date       Sunday, 4th September
Meet       10.30 am at The Green, Godstone (Map ref: TQ350515)
Walk       6 miles, 3.5 hours, one hill, pub stop at the Barley Mow, Tandridge (very dog friendly)
Leader     Carol Vening

Date       Sunday, 18th September
Meet       10.30 am at Edenbridge Market Yard car park (Map ref: TQ445463)
Walk       5 miles, 3 hours, no hills but steps up and over railway embankment, very muddy in places if wet, pub stop at the Wheatsheaf, Marsh Green.
Leader     Dudley Turner

Date       Sunday, 2nd October
Meet       10.45 am at Penshurst Station (south side) (Map ref: TQ519464)
Walk       5.5 miles, 3 hours
Leader     Jean Turner and Carol Vening

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The garden party on the 12th July was a very pleasant event and we enjoyed the afternoon in Amy Burbage’s garden. We are all very grateful to both Amy and her daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Ron, for all the work involved in setting everything up. The weather was fairly kind this year thank goodness. The 9th August meeting was a quieter afternoon and we had tea, as usual, and enjoyed a few games of Bingo, with several winners.

When I write this, we are due to go on a coach trip to Broadstairs on 23rd August, which we hope will have good weather. There will be no meeting on 13th September as the club are going to the theatre in Brick Lane. Those members not joining us please note – NO MEETING ON THE 13TH SEPTEMBER. Those going please be in the village by 12 noon.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)
TATSFIELD BADMINTON CLUB

24 hour Sponsored Badminton Marathon

The club are holding a 24 hour sponsored badminton marathon in the Village Hall this month to raise funds for two good causes, one local and one national. It will start at 5 pm on Friday 23rd and finish at 5 pm Saturday 24th.

The aim will be have 4 people – sometimes it might by just 2 – on court continuously for the 24 hours. All club members, juniors and adults, who are available will be taking part. How long anyone plays will be up to them. We can’t recall when something like this was last attempted in this part of the world and it will be a great achievement to pull it off successfully.

We would welcome people from outside the club taking part and we have already had some volunteers as the word has got around. If you would like to participate – you don’t need to be a good player – please contact Nigel White on 0208 657 2346 or 07974 690427 for details and to sort out times.

The first of the good causes is the refurbishment of the play area on Westmore Green, for which Tandridge District Council will match all the funds raised by the village (there is more about this in the Village News section of the magazine). The national charity is the Alzheimer’s Society, which helps people suffering from this condition (as does one of our most prominent past members).

We hope you will want to support our efforts by sponsoring individuals or the event. Sponsorship forms will be at Linda’s Stores and elsewhere. You will also be welcome to come and watch and give your support.

Bob David (Tel: 577357)

SHORT MATS BOWLS CLUB

Tatsfield Short Mat Bowls Club meet every Friday afternoon all through the year and on Wednesdays when there is no Tea Dance. We meet at 1.40 and play until 4.00. New members and visitors are always welcome. You can come simply to observe and see if you would like to join us, or you can have a go. We have plenty of bowls for you to use; all we ask is that you wear smooth soled shoes or thick socks, as ordinary shoes ruin our expensive mats. Our annual fee is still only £5. We pay £2 each session to cover hire of hall and a cup of tea. Age range is from 9 to 93. For further information please ring Catherine Gulley on 577305 or Pam Cawley on 564254.
SEPTEMBER NOTES

Our strange summer continues with low night and on or below average temperatures by day. One local farmer has struggled to harvest the cereals and rape, and yields are uncertain after the spring and early summer droughts.

Our new allotment project is going very well with some big crops of potatoes, peas, beans, onions and salads but it has proved to be a bit too windy and cool for tomatoes, aubergines and chilli peppers this year. We have been very lucky with only minor vandalism but not so successful in resisting attack by pigeons! ‘King’ George Farmer has a wonderful allotment and those who are able to be there during the daytime would have enjoyed watching George fly his Buzzard to hunt the pigeons! Our application to the Big Lottery for a grant to erect a deer-proof fence has been successful and we look forward to some more security by autumn.

Despite the strange summer we have had some very good growth on shrubs and trees, particularly our hedgerows with excellent crops of damsons, cherry plum, blackberries and the sloes will be very good at the end of this month. If you are going to pick some of nature’s bounty, please respect the owner of the hedge and leave some for the birds!

We are near the time when we will have to remove the village flower baskets as they fade. If you are wondering what to do with your own baskets and containers, the end of this month is the time to think about autumn, winter and spring colour. There is no real need to remove the old compost from your containers. Carefully take out the old summer bedding plants, mix some fertiliser into the old compost and replant with Violas, Pansies, Myosotis (Forget Me Not), Bellis (Daisy) and Ivy. Don’t forget to add some spring bulbs like Hyacinth, Crocus and some of the many types of Narcissus (Daffodils) and many other hardy plants on offer at one of our local garden centres. When you have finished planting, make sure to water thoroughly and keep an eye out so as not to let them dry out. The growth they make during October is very important to carry them through the winter with some flower and ready for a lovely display in the spring.

A final thought. If you are planning to plant fruit trees this autumn/winter make sure you are at the first Gardening Club meeting of the winter season in the WI Hall on Tuesday 20th September at 8pm to hear a talk by the very well known and expert local fruit tree growers Hamid and Sima Habibi of Keepers Nurseries. I hope they will be bringing a box of ‘samples’ from the stock trees in their orchard. You can have a look at their catalogue on line by going to www.keepers-nursery.co.uk.

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