NOVEMBER 2010

PARISH MAGAZINE

Tatsfield

THIS ISSUE
• DOUBLE GOLD FOR TATSFIELD
• A POETIC LITTER PICKER • TREES - TO BE OR NOT TO BE ?
• ROAD TO MONGOLIA • FOOTBALL - AND HERBS - IN WARTIME

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

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

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

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

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 Please state if not for publication.

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

As I sit down to write this my eyes are still teary with emotion. What have I been doing? Watching the one o’clock news! The amazing scenes of the miners emerging from the mountain. For several days the world had been waiting, anticipating, knowing how close the rescue mission was. Hoping and praying that the miners would be brought safely to the surface.

Anyone who followed this story and watched the remarkable rescue will no doubt have been touched by this truly amazing story. As I sat watching the news coverage I was completely choked by the scenes of the miners emerging before the world’s eyes. The tearful and joyful reunions. The scenes of jubilation across Chile.

This really is a truly remarkable story. In the words of President Pinera it is a story of ‘faith, hope, commitment, teamwork and extraordinary trust’. The teamwork and commitment of so many people who made this rescue possible; the hope of the families who pitched their tents and stayed at Camp Hope for over two months; the extraordinary trust, hope and faith of the thirty-three men trapped for 69 days.

An event such as this perhaps engages and inspires us in part because it raises essential and eternal questions. It may prompt us to wonder how we would have coped for seventeen days with no contact from the outside world, surviving on two teaspoons of tuna and a little milk every forty-eight hours. It may cause us to ponder what kind of faith, hope and trust we have.

In a world where so much of our news coverage is not good news and where God does not always get much good press, it seems that the hearts of many were inspired by a story of good news. “Thank the Lord”, proclaimed the miners’ T-shirts. A sentiment repeated over and over again. When Mario Gomez, the oldest of the miners at 63, reached the surface he fell to his knees and prayed “I have come back to life”. He went on to say “sometimes something has to happen to you before you stop and think and understand that you only have one life, and then you have to think what you have to change.” A sentiment I suspect that rings true for many of us. Another miner, Mario Sepulveda, proclaimed ‘I was with God and with the devil. I fought between the two, I seized the hand of God.’

I believe the hand of God is outstretched to each of us. Inviting all of us to take hold and trust in him and in his Son Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God for the goodness and hope of this story that has touched the hearts of so many and of course for the miraculous rescue of thirty-three men.

With love, faith and hope!

Revd Louise Ellis, Vicar St. Mary’s, Tatsfield
Dear Editor,

Village Issues

I couldn’t help but to LOL (laugh out loud) having read the past two issues of the magazine that have referred to people parking at the top of both Westmore Road and Paynesfield Road, particularly during school drop off and pick up times.

Whilst I understand it does restrict the view when pulling out of Westmore, it should also be noted by the Council that the new road layout is absolutely ridiculous and I do not feel that any discussions had taken place as to how it was going to affect parents, like myself, who walk their children to school.

It is an absolute nightmare (and I am one of the lucky ones who has older children that listen to me when I am explaining how to ‘attempt’ to cross over safely), yet it is still a dreaded everyday experience, let alone for those with younger children. Does any member of the ‘elite’ realise how many times you need to look before you could even consider it safe to cross?

I would ask any member of the Parish or County Council to endure these crossings with a child/children at school pick up time. Maybe then, they could see that whoever designed the layout should be made redundant!

Secondly, we had a terrible incident the other Saturday night for which my neighbours house had an attempted break-in at 9.15pm. Thankfully the whole family was out and no damage done, but rather than my husband putting himself at risk by chasing them off, it would be good to know that the police response time could be less than 1hr 20 mins. Of course, I do not blame the officers who did attend eventually, but when you are on a 999 call explaining that their door is being kicked down by three hoodies, you would hope that it would have been made a little bit more priority than it was. This was the second consecutive night of problems in the village – the Friday had 8 car break ins and a vehicle theft.

Unfortunately, and that brings me to my final issue, we were unable to get a look at these youths because of the lack of street lights down our road. I am aware that the police have put in a request to the Council for this to be rectified, but yet to no avail.

Perhaps the issues above could be dealt with as they are more sinister than many issues brought up in the magazine. After all, our council tax is far from cheap, and what do we get for it.............? In the words of Paul Daniels “Not a lot”.

Louise McRandal, Westmore Road
Dear Editor

Thanks

Martyn and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone in the village who has been so kind in their support of us since my mother, Mary, died in August at the age of 91. She had lived in the village for a time with us, and many people will probably remember her at village Horticultural Shows and the Colliery Choir evening. She had enjoyed a long and busy life, so found old age and incapacity a great burden, particularly over her last few months. She is now at peace in our beautiful churchyard next to my father, just as it should be. We would like to thank both Gerald South for conducting her funeral with grace and respect, and to Louise and all at St. Mary's for the very unexpected gift of a basket of Harvest Festival flowers - that was such a lovely thought at this difficult time.

Mum's earlier life has a part to play in my Herbs article this month on the uses of kitchen herbs during the time between the First and Second World Wars, and the years of '39 - '45 themselves. I am glad to say that I'm still making our family-recipe chutneys and pickles and will be at the November Craft Show as usual, with some new items as well, so perhaps I will see you there.

Lin Saines, Paynesfield Road

Dear Editor

A Short War Time Story

I was very interested to read Ted Bonwick's article in last month's magazine about the plane crash at Titsey Hill during the Second World War. I remember it well, as it happened on my 12th birthday – 12 July 1940. I lived at 17 Lusted Hall Lane then. We heard the crash and, together with Peter Welland, George Standing and other friends, we ran towards the scene but we were not allowed to go near.

I have since discovered from the official records that it was Spitfire P9502 of 610 Squadron, Biggin Hill which crashed at Titsey Hill. The plane lost control in a dive through clouds in a dog fight practice (Tatsfield was known to pilots as “an island in the sky” as it was always surrounded by clouds). The pilot, Sgt S.Ireland, was killed and the plane was a write off. It was excavated later by the London Air Museum, who recovered a Rolls Royce Merlin engine and a 303 Browning machine gun among other things.

There was another crash nearby the next day, 13 July – at Skid House (at the top of Titsey Hill). Spitfire R 6807 of the same Biggin Hill Squadron came down during a routine patrol at 11.30 am. The pilot, Sgt P.I. Watson – Parker, was killed.

Ray Shrub, Attleborough, Norfolk
Dear Editor,

Sightlines

I was interested to read the concerns about the village centre road scheme in last month’s Parish Council report. Surely, the obstruction of the view for drivers from Westmore Road by cars parked outside the bakery is compliant with Surrey County Council policy to restrict the view of drivers at T-junctions as exemplified by the fence at the roundabout at the top of Clarks Lane. I believe visitors from planet Zog have commented on this previously.

Stuart Broughton, Ricketts Hill Road

Dear Editor,

Nightingales

I see from the records of the Tatsfield and Titsey Bird register that no observations of nightingales have been recorded for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Once, our part of the North Downs would have been alive with their singing on spring, summer and autumn nights. Could they be bred and re-introduced? Should Sean O’Connor or Len Haines be asked? They might be interested!

By coincidence, I noted the following, written by Keith Perrin in the August 2010 issue of the BBC retired staff paper ‘Prospero’: ‘On a recent holiday in Provence nightingales serenaded us, much as they had cellist Beatrice Harrison and early radio audiences. Returning home we played three gramophone records, bought by my parents in the 1920s, of the birds singing in Miss Harrison’s garden. Oxted 83 years ago sounded like Provence today and whenever I hear the records I marvel at the technical achievements of the early sound engineers. I don’t know if nightingales still sing around Oxted, but any modern recording would be ruined by the roar of traffic on the M25 and aircraft from Biggin Hill. Another paradise lost!’

Dennis Tapsell, Reading, Berks

Dear Editor,

Is Tatsfield Primary School for Tatsfield Children????

As longstanding Tatsfield residents and prospective parents of a child hoping to start Tatsfield Primary School in September 2011, we attended the ‘Open Afternoon’ that was held at the school on Tuesday 5th October.
What can we say – the school is out of this world and the facilities, staff and current pupils are a real asset to our fantastic village!

During the afternoon however we were shocked to be informed that of the thirty places in the reception class for September 2011, twenty-two could be taken by siblings of current pupils. This means only a possible eight places for non-sibling children.

As siblings take priority in the current allocation of school admissions this could result in siblings from Biggin Hill, Westerham or Oxted taking places from Tatsfield resident children.

We are under the impression that there are more than eight Tatsfield children wanting these places. Allocation will then be made on those living closest to the school gate, thus possibly resulting in some Tatsfield families having to find alternative schools.

Hopefully, all Tatsfield children will be able to attend our fantastic village school but this is by no means guaranteed.

We have written to and are awaiting replies from our local MP, Surrey County Council, and the Head of Tatsfield Primary School to ask how they plan to address the possible problem of Tatsfield resident children not being guaranteed entry into our village school in 2011 and any subsequent years.

James and Karen Longley, Goatsfield Road

Dear Editor,

The School in Tatsfield

There is a rumour presently going around that children living in Tatsfield “cannot be guaranteed a place” at Tatsfield Primary School. I have also heard that siblings of pupils already in the school will also be given preference over other entrants, which means that our Tatsfield children are placed even further down the list. The school catchment area now includes Biggin Hill (London Borough of Bromley), Sanderstead (London Borough of Croydon) and Hurst Green, Oxted. Surely these areas have their own primary schools; why do they need ours?. Much was made of this new school in Tatsfield by both District and Parish Councillors at the time. Our own Parish Council was voted in on the basis of Tatsfield First. Now is the time for our Councillors to show that they meant it.

One more thing - please stop the suburbanisation of my village. Since the building of the school we now have more traffic signs on posts and road surfaces than some of the more congested parts of inner London. Remove and replace them with only
four signs, one at each entrance to the village, saying “YOU ARE NOW ENTERING A COMMON SENSE AREA AND WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS”.

Terry Cartwright, Paynesfield Road

Dear Editor,

Income Tax Payments

I read with some concern Dave Bishop’s letter in last month’s magazine in case it caused unnecessary worries to those who may be receiving a letter from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) about their tax payments. I do appreciate Dave’s feelings about the treatment he has received from HMRC. I had to repay extra tax after I had retired from my job because my employer had made a mistake on the company car allowance. It was repaid over a fairly long period, so I was able to manage that. However, whatever our individual experiences of HMRC have been, I don’t think people should be frightened with the prospect of bailiffs knocking on their doors as being something they can expect in the normal course of events.

As a result of mistakes by HMRC in the collection of tax, about 1½ million people have been found to have underpaid their tax. As it happens, about 4½ million have overpaid their tax and they will be receiving refunds, although that is no consolation to those who have underpaid. Of those who have underpaid, the Government have decided that underpayments of less than £300 are to be written off, so none of such people will have to pay back anything. Those with more than £300 to pay back will be required to do so but my understanding is that HMRC are prepared to negotiate over repayment terms and will consider individuals’ financial circumstances when arriving at a repayment plan.

So, if you receive a repayment demand from HMRC, check that it is correct, seek advice (including from, for example, Citizens Advice Bureau in Oxted) and be ready to explain your financial circumstances to HMRC.

I should add, in defence of any government in this country, that we need to pay tax so that we can enjoy a reasonably organised and civilised place in which to live. This we are fortunate enough to have.

Dawn Forrester Groom, Manor Road

NEXT ISSUE

We’re not sure yet when deliveries of the December magazine will be made - it could be by the weekend of 27/28 November but it might be a few days later.
Dear Editor

Final words on Tax

Those of you that might have read my letter in last month’s Forum would have noted that I am not at all delighted with the “goings on” of HMRC, which has resulted in me paying an awful lot of money to “them”. I have been surprised how many of you people have also had similar problems with them as well.

My troubles began when my accountant and dear friend of over 30 years suddenly died when he fell down the stairs of his house in 2007. It was an eventual letter from the HMRC in October 2009 which informed me that they had calculated that I had been wrongly assessed and consequently I owed them £240 from the year 2002. As I originally said, that amount was subject to compound interest, which by the end of 2009 amounted to £1,240. The news got worse because the years 2003-2004-2005 and so on were also added and consequently the amount I owed them totalled many thousands of pounds.

Now I understand that a lot of very kind and helpful people earn their income by being accountants and they can give many reasons as to why the HMRC are always exceedingly helpful. But think about it for a mo. If “ordinary” people like you and me didn’t go to accountants for them to work out our tax, they wouldn’t have any income.

My final word on the subject is that when we make a mistake in our tax accounts, we pay. When the HMRC make a mistake in their accounts (as some one and a half million people will soon find out) we still pay.

Christymouse Time (again)

Can it be “that” time again? Yup it sure is and this year’s date for the annual Christmas Carol Singalong sponsored by the Parish Council is Friday December 17 from 7–8pm. Already promised is a new and much brighter set of Christmas tree lights (good job too) and we are delighted to have once more the presence of the talented conductor Lesley Lake and the Lewisham Concert Band. It will be welcomed outside the village Ship pub and the hot mulled wine will be on sale along with the (usual) hot mince pies from Carol and Amanda. There will be a speech from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Jon Allbutt, and a blessing from the Revd Louise Ellis. More details of the “not to be missed” event will be included in next month’s magazine.

Dave Bishop, The Square

STOP PRESS ! TATSFIELD WINS SURREY VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Another win for Tatsfield! It was announced at Ewhurst on 23 October that Tatsfield had won the 2010 Surrey Village of the Year competition and also the Sustainability Award. The judges made special mention of the our community spirit, the Parish Emergency Plan, the Tatsfield Community Responders Scheme, the Community Composting Scheme and our involvement of young people.
COUNCIL REPORTS

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Aileen McHugo Building: It was reported at the Parish Council meeting on 11 October that meetings had been held with Tandridge DC to clarify our options for leasing and the business rates that will be charged. Expert advice has been received on options for letting all or part of the building. We have decided to apply for a change of use for the first floor area to increase our options for finding a tenant. The problem of providing disabled access to the first floor has also been clarified and we now know that it is possible to provide an improved design of disabled chairlift for the narrow stairs. The information pack to be circulated to potential tenants is completed and is being circulated in response to enquiries.

The Car Park: We have agreed with Surrey County Council that they will replace the two damaged lighting bollards and provide steel protection cages around all of the lighting bollards in the near future. The Parish Council is working with the school to attempt to reduce the occasional congestion in the car parking areas at peak times during poor weather. Drivers are asked not to leave their cars where they are blocking access by others, including emergency vehicles.

Highways and Rights of Way: Surrey County Council has agreed to replace the village sign at the junction of Lusted Hall Lane and Ricketts Hill Road. Sandy Philibert presented her regular report on road repairs. Discussions with SCC continue about the filling of salt bins, the provision of additional bins, and this year’s proposals for treating the village roads during snow and ice. We were disappointed to be told that discussions between SCC and the London Borough of Bromley had failed to reach agreement for Bromley to treat our roads.

Affordable Homes: Surveys on the proposed site in Lusted Hall Lane have been completed and final preparations are being made for a planning application to be submitted by our enabling team in the near future.

Christmas Arrangements: The Parish Council is grateful to Dave Bishop for once again organising our Carol Concert in the village centre. The Parish Council approved the costs and discussed the provision of a Christmas tree and improved lighting and is submitting an application for a road closure.

Playground Refurbishment on Westmore Green: It had previously been reported that Tandridge District Council proposed to refurbish the playground in 2012 but that due to cuts in expenditure this project was now at risk. It was agreed that the Parish Council would seek support from community volunteers for a fund raising appeal to start in the near future. The refurbishment cost could be in excess of £30,000.

Vern d’Anjou Association: The Parish Council is grateful to Guy Tetzner and the Vern Committee for offering to help with a project to construct a boule pitch (pétanque) in the Community Games Area with a view to challenging Vern d’Anjou
to a competition when they visit us at Easter. Brian Ling has generously offered to sponsor this project. When completed, this will become an additional facility for all the community to use.

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

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at the Parish Room at 8 pm on Monday 8 November, after the Police Forum at 7.30.

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Old Lane Dogs: I now understand that the dogs concerned have remained in the hands of the police and that they will not be returning to Old Lane.

Tatsfield Scouts: I recently attended the annual general meeting of 1st Tatsfield Scouts held at the Scout Hut in Approach Road. What was very heartening to see and hear was the enthusiasm of all the leaders – and all who read the magazine each month will know of the huge variety of activities which Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers enjoy throughout the year. But did you know that none of the leaders comes from Tatsfield? And that the troop could really do with help in running what is a very successful group? Anyone who is interested in helping should contact Helen Brand, the Group Scout Leader, on 01883 380742 or 07736 230068. You don’t need to have had any previous experience with the Scout movement.

Affordable Homes: People keep asking me when the planned new affordable homes in the village will be ready. They ask because either they or one of their family are desperate for one of the homes. The answer is that these things take time. Not only have the details of the homes to be settled on the basis of the information from the surveys carried out – how many homes, how many flats and how many houses, how big are they to be, and so on – but all the arrangements for public services have to be agreed too (water, electricity, gas, etc). Most of this has now been done for the Tatsfield project. So next will come the planning application. And then, hopefully when that is approved, the funding will have to be approved, and most important in this respect is the share from central Government. We have all been reading the gloomy reports in the press about the cuts in the Government’s housing budget. Let us hope that there will still be some left for the Tatsfield project, in which case we will be ready to go! Remember, all the homes in this project are for Tatsfield people or people who have connections with the village. And the law requires that to remain the position “for ever”. Finding a way of enabling young people in the south of England to have their own homes is one
of the most important problems we face. I am glad that something is being done about it in our village.

Allotments: “When are the allotments going to be ready?” is something else people keep asking. The answer is “soon”, perhaps with even the first vegetables being sown next spring. The good news for the many people who are wanting an allotment is that the Parish Council and Horticultural Society have made good progress and that they have the help of a cooperative local landowner. As I write this, a public meeting about the allotments is due to be held on 27 October, when the latest news will be given and all concerned can join in the discussion of how the allotments are to be run. If anyone wanting an allotment has not yet registered their interest, they should contact Alan Armitage on 575117.

Planning Decisions: Tandridge has decided to approve the planning application for Oakbank, Ricketts Hill Road for the demolition of a side extension and the erection of a single storey extension.

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

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

SCC has made a further £1m available for winter maintenance this coming winter. We have increased the gritting runs throughout Surrey from 38 to 51 and we have added an additional 21 miles to the old Priority One and Two lists. We have extended the Priority One routes in Warlingham division to allow motorists access to the main A25/A22/M25 roads. We did try to get Bromley Council to undertake the gritting in the Tatsfield area but I regret there is a legal problem in cross-boundary works – yes, I agree it’s another outdated rule that SCC will be asking the Secretary of State for Transport to provide guidance on.

The old saga of grit bins continues – the County Council has been filling all 1,500 grit bins in Surrey during October. I must remind everyone that the salt in the bins is for Highway use only and not for personal use by residents. It was most disappointing that many of the grit bins were emptied by residents for personal use on individual drives etc last year – yes, I agree it is totally out of order and is very unfair on the rest of us who abide by the rules. When the roads are being cleared of snow and ice there is not enough equipment and manpower to refill grit bins as well. It takes three weeks to refill all the grit bins in Surrey.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 2003 Email:david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
TO RESIDENTS OF PAYNESFIELD ROAD AND KEMSLEY ROAD

Since one of the residents in Kemsley Road has decided to make up the unmade section at the bottom of Paynesfield Road without consulting its residents, it has been suggested that some sort of traffic control should be installed to cope with the increased public traffic using this as a short cut to the village centre from Ricketts Hill.

It is, as I am sure you are all aware, illegal for motor vehicles to use the unmade bridleway at the bottom of Paynesfield Road unless expressed in the deeds of the resident properties.

Taking this into account I have consulted with Surrey County Council on the matter. It seems that it would be legal for a collapsible bollard to be erected, providing the correct spacing for horses and dog walkers of 1.5 metres is adhered to. This bollard would have a secure key code which would be given out to residents who can prove they have right of access in their deeds.

The longstanding problem of the general public/delivery drivers/tradesmen using the bridleway illegally as a short cut to the village would then be resolved without removing the rights of access of local residents.

Having researched the type of bollard available, it seems the only fair way for everyone concerned is to have a coded lock.

The residents of Paynesfield Road have been living with the problem of cars driving at excessive speeds for many years now and finally there is a solution.

I realise that there may be one or two residents who have the right to use the road and do so frequently. I can only apologise for the small inconvenience this may cause. Such residents will be provided with a Key Fob giving them remote access. For the sake of saving one more animal's life or even worse the potential of a child being hurt, I think you will all agree it is worth it.

The full costs of the project would result in each household of Paynesfield Road only paying a couple of pounds per head. A cheap price to pay to prevent cars and vans from racing up the road as a short cut, putting all our children and animals at risk!

I know from a recent petition in Paynesfield Road that the majority will be delighted by this news. I would like you all to contact me so that I can co-ordinate with you as to the small costs involved and access codes. All residents of Kemsley Road and Paynesfield Road will be given the code as we know they all have the right of access.
access. I am afraid that any other car owner will no longer be able to use this short cut without proof of access as it is illegal to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you all

Giles Hawkes (Tel: 540088  Email: giles@specology.co.uk)

Editor: The Tatsfield Fairtrade Group discovered a lovely shop in Hayes selling organic and Fair Trade cotton clothes. The article below tells you more about it. The Fairtrade Group intend to have a fashion show with these clothes here in Tatsfield during Fairtrade Fortnight next February.

THE COTTON STORE IN HAYES

We are Linda and Tony Little. For some years we had thought about opening a business selling clothes that other shops did not sell and at the same time trying to make a difference for others. Following Tony’s TIA (similar to a stroke) in 2008, it made us re-evaluate our life and quite by coincidence we met one of the owners of Gossypium in their shop in Brighton whilst visiting our daughter in Hove during convalescence. This led to us taking up the first franchise operation for Gossypium and we chose Hayes village as the, hopefully, ideal location for our shop.

Now, one year on, we still fervently believe in the brand and the concept of Fair Trade. Having visited India and seen the poverty for ourselves, we know that we must be making some difference, however slight, to the lives of the farmers who grow our cotton.

Our shop sells the full Gossypium range and a selected range from another Fair Trade clothing company called Nomad. We also have a small selection of gifts made by artisans in third world countries, sponsored and imported by a Buddhist charity, Windhorse.

If there is anything we can do to promote the concept of Fair Trade within our community, we will endeavour to assist. Tony has already visited a local school and talked to more than 40 Year 1 children about Fair Trade.

Our shop also has a room behind where regular Hatha Yoga is practiced and on Saturdays a busy Belly Dancing class is held. Finally we have a very quiet secluded therapy room where you can experience a relaxing massage from our daughter, Samantha.

Please visit for a browse and a chat – we are at 44 Hayes Street. Or call us on 0208 462 2145. Meanwhile, below is some of the background to Gossypium:

Abigail and Thomas Petit started out in the cotton fields of Kutch in western India
in 1998. Being ideologists, they went in search of cotton that wouldn't harm the environment or exploit Indian farmers. As textile technologists, they were appropriately qualified to pursue their vision and, together with Agrocel (a farmers' service centre), they developed a formula for growing and trading in cotton. They made sure they never lost sight of the Indian farmers' needs in creating a solution that would ensure their economic stability and also protect the environment.

Two years later... Agrocel Pure and Fair cotton was born. It's the only one of its kind and is used to make Gossypium products. All of the cotton is organic and is fully traceable back to the farms from which it came, and the farmers receive a fair price for it (above the market price).

Gossypium started its life on Brighton Beach, via a market stall, and from there Abi and Thomas soon learned what people were looking for in organic cotton and adapted their Gossypium range accordingly. They then went on to open a proper office, and shop to match, in the historic county town of Lewes in 2000, and today, nine years later, Gossypium is a leading brand in Fairtrade certified organic cotton fashion.

Linda and Tony Little

ANGUS MORTON’S NEW CD

Many of you will have been lucky enough to have heard Angus, a former student from the Orpheus Centre, singing at St Mary’s church at the Flower Festival and previously at the carol service last year. Having sung at the House of Commons last week among other venues across the country, Angus has also been invited back to “Sing for his Supper” at St Mary’s Christmas lunch.

He has just released a wonderful CD made in conjunction with his own church and it is available from Sheila Cook on 577443 or Patti TV on 01342 893742 at £10 a copy. Let’s hope it is the first of many. Well done Angus.

Patti TV

HANDEL’S MESSIAH

The English Arts Chorale will perform Handel’s great oratorio, Messiah, on 4th December in St Mary’s Church, Reigate. With conductor, Leslie Olive, the Camerata of London and a fine line-up of soloists this will be a wonderful start to the Christmas season. The church will be candle-lit and the audience will be offered mulled wine and mince pies to round off the evening. Details from the website www.englisharts.org or telephone 01737 762097.
We would like to thank everyone who assisted us in so many ways, including 1st Tatsfield Scouts for help on the day and the loan of equipment and The Bakery, The Old Ship, Helmet City, Tatsfield Aquatics and The Summerhouse for donating prizes. Also Linda’s Stores for selling raffle tickets the week before and a big thank you to Dave Bishop for the brilliant PA all afternoon. Thanks too to Ray Mullen and his football team, the Edenbridge Spitfires, who did the Beat the Goalie (any boys or girls interested in joining the football team should contact Ray on 07903 329 631).

The auction was a great success with Stella Quayle donating some of her fantastic wildlife prints, which were keenly bid for. Thanks to Candy Wheels for organising the amazing stunt rider, and thanks to all the staff at Beaver Water World for all their help. Thanks to Simples Café for keeping us all fed and watered whilst they were run off their feet and thank you to everyone who supported us by turning up on the day.

Jane Abram, Karen Vowles and Pauline

**TATSFIELD CRAFT FAIR**

Sunday 21 November

11 am to 4 pm

Village Hall

Homemade lunches and cakes

Free entry

**TATTY KNITTERS**

As summer leaves us, we’re beginning to think of warm hand-knitted winter woolies in the form of jumpers, scarves, gloves and socks. Yes, socks, the old trend is now the new trend and they are very warm and cosy.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9 November at the WI Hall from 7.30 – 9.30 pm.

There is also a Knit and Natter starting at Biggin Hill Library on Thursday 4th November, from 1.30 – 3.30 pm.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)
ANOTHER GOLD!

Last month’s magazine reported the village’s success in this year’s South and South East in Bloom – a Gold award, Best Large Village and Best in Surrey overall. With this under their belts, the Tatsfield representatives (Barry and Mary Bull, Doug Massey, Angela Sawyers and Bob David) went to Birmingham on 29 September for the Britain in Bloom awards – and came back with another Gold award!

In the keenly contested Large Village category, five of the villages achieved Gold awards, with Comrie in Scotland just edging in front as the winner. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) judges said this of Tatsfield’s entry:

“The impact of the campaign is clearly evident on first entering this delightful village. The Tatsfield in Bloom group are to be congratulated on producing an entry which combines excellent community support and achieves high horticultural standards. The design, execution and maintenance of the Tatol carpet bed is a credit to all concerned. This prominent feature on the main entry into the village creates real impact and sets the scene for the floral delights to come. The “Going to School” feature on the Bakery Green, linking into the 2010 theme of the newly opened village school, was a simple but very effective and eye-catching display of show garden quality.”

The RHS criteria require the following standard for a Gold medal:

“85% points score. An exceptionally high standard demonstrated throughout. A consistent approach that demonstrates best practice, continuing development and sustainable effort. Meets all of the judging criteria and scores very highly in every section of the marking sheet.”

The village has never looked better than it has this summer, with colourful and inventive displays all over the village. We are delighted that this has been recognised and especially that we have achieved the Gold standard in Britain in Bloom when competing against the best villages in the country. This all results from the strong support of the local community – councils, businesses, village organisations and villagers - and this has enabled us to achieve more than we ever have in our 15 years of competing in In Bloom competitions. And we have all been able to enjoy a lovely village all this summer as well! Well done Tatsfield!

So it was a great celebration in a packed WI hall on 13 October, when Peter Holman, chairman of South and South East in Bloom, added his congratulations and presented Certificates of Excellence to the following 10 individuals and groups picked out by the judges: Barry Bull, Mary Bull, the residents of Crossways Court, the Community Composting Scheme, Ian Longley, Doug Massey, Sandy Philibert, St Mary’s Churchyard, Mike Teague and Tatsfield Primary School. And we all enjoyed the lovely cake made by Jan Maynard and pictured at the top of the page!

Jon Allbutt and Bob David
COMPUTER CORNER UPDATE

We have received valuable feedback from the article in last month’s Magazine where efforts were made to help overcome problems created by the rapid improvements in MS Office programs.

Firstly the URL provided to upload a free converter from the MicroSoft website: http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?familyid=941B3470-3AE9-4AEE-8F43-C6BB74CD1466&displaylang=en has now been changed to: http://goo.gl/jeT8 a much improved URL. Thanks for this improvement go to Trevor Sykes of Johns Road. Tim Wendy another villager suggested uploading the free Open Office word processing program from http:www.openoffice.org/. Tim confirms that this programme will enable all Word documents to be accessed with the bonus of providing PDF output if required. Thank you Tim. Perhaps other readers would like to submit any tips they may have come across while using their machines.

Tom Chorley (Tel: 577794)

“COME DANCING”
TEA DANCE SOCIAL
Village Hall 2.15 to 4.55 pm
Wednesday 3 November

• There will be the usual Cream Tea, Free Raffle and Quiz.
• Everyone welcome • Have a good laugh and exercise and make new friends.
  £5 per person
Make a note ! There will also be the special annual
CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE SOCIAL
on Wednesday 8 December

• Same time, same place
• Hot mince pies, Christmas crackers & a glass of sherry
Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550

TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT
7.30pm on Wednesday 8 December
St. Mary’s Church Hall
A double bill !
STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ
and
BOMBON EL PERRO
Suggested donation of £3 (includes a glass of wine)
On Saturday 16th October, we staged the second “Wine Dine and Shine” at the Village Hall. This one was in aid of Amy Fuller and Tessa Deterding taking part in a “World Challenge” trip to India in 2011. They each have to raise £3,000 to cover their costs and to ensure they can devote time to helping out Indian villagers near the Himalayas.

This event was the central theme for both Amy’s and Tessa’s fund-raising efforts. Given the Himalayan destination, it seemed appropriate to round off the evening with a stirring rendition of “Climb Every Mountain” – sung by all – in the style of Last Night at the Proms but wait, I have raced ahead to the end of the evening and as there was so much that came before, let me re-wind…

The evening was staged around a sumptuous meal of beef cooked in designer beer, or three bean casserole. Frantic action in the kitchen saw 130 places set and 130 sets of teeth get to work on the delicious main course. The concert itself was split into two – the first half after the main course, and the second after the sweet – if people managed to choose from the mouth-watering display of puddings.

The show itself was opened by the highly trained operatic voice of Tessa herself, singing the Laughing Song from Die Fledermaus, and this really did set a very high standard for the evening. There was a selection box of quality and variety to follow – including three generations of Harber playing cello, family arrangements from the Fullers and the Mullens, Ben Akhtar demonstrating he has the X Factor, a piece for commuters complete with station announcements and a full rendition of underground stations by the Old Crotchets. The Tatsfield Singers rounded off the first half showing how all that practice has paid off – even getting the audience involved in a stirring three part harmony.

It was definitely not a game of two halves as the second half was equally as entertaining. This included a Mother/Daughter’s competitive rendition of Old Mother Hubbard (you had to be there!), some top quality singing from the young including Jarad Laphone, Lewis Simpson, Sophie Watts, Mattie Deterding, Adam Akhtar and the tireless Sam Fuller. This was interspersed with the not so young rolling back the years with comic poetry and a passable imitation of the Monty Python Dead Parrot sketch.

Everyone left with a smile of their face, feeling they had a genuinely entertaining evening and they certainly played a big part in making it so. The audience were both very appreciative of the acts and quick to join in when required to participate – even managing to don flying goggles for the Dam Busters march, played on bottles by the frighteningly musical Harber family.

Guy Deterding
ROYALLY ENTERTAINED

On Saturday 25 September, an audience of over 100 was entertained in the Village Hall by the Royal Academicals. Slipping into my seat just before the evening began, I knew we were in for a treat. I had been lucky enough to watch the RAs performance last year in snowbound Tatsfield, when many couldn’t make it to the hall due to the appalling weather. Ably arranged by the Village Hall Committee, the evening swung into action with a warm welcome from Bob David, who, like me, had seen the RAs in action before, and had asked them to come back to perform again.

Who are the Royal Academicals? A trio: Stephen Aviss, our homegrown talent who trained as an opera singer in Stockholm and London’s Royal Academy of Music after a degree in English Literature; actor Jo Kloska, a close friend of Stephen’s who trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London after a degree in French and History; and Icelandic pianist Eva Thyri Hilmarsdottir who trained at the Royal Academy of Music. Dressed in black, the trio performed upon a bare stage, with beautiful Eva seated at the piano. Nothing more was required as these three talents created out of thin air their art, and what art it was! Three young artists who sang, acted and played the piano with absolute professionalism. We were all moved by the experience of watching this trio take to the stage.

First up was Stephen singing Some Enchanted Evening from the musical South Pacific with gentle romantic swing and style. Next Jo Kloska brought us to the theme of morning with a lively recitation of Keats’ When I have fears that I may cease to be. So to Eva to play us the first movement of Beethoven’s sonata Quasi Una Fantasia Op. 27, number 2 with supreme fluidity and composure.

The evening was about the power of music and words. It is easy today to feel bombarded by so many voices which may come to us from the media: television, computer screens, cinema, ipods, radio. But there was in the Village Hall that Saturday night a return to the purity of live performance taking place in an intimate surrounding where the audience and performers can physically and spiritually interact. To hear Stephen Aviss sing extracts from Puccini’s Tosca is to be given the privilege of watching someone perform with such passion and professionalism, that one can only assume that the Royal Opera House is next on his career path. Yet there we were, tucked into our Tatsfield seats, five minutes from home, but bearing witness to bursting talent from all three of these performers.
Jo Kloska’s most memorable performance was his rendition of Mozart taken from Peter Shaffer’s *Amadeus*. He caught the composer’s high drama and intellect and quirky movement, and led us into contemplating what is music for and for whom is it written. But all was not highbrow as Jo and Stephen combined talents to sing and act *The Gas Man Cometh* by Flanders and Swann which showed us their wit and comic timing was equal to their stirring vocal and acting abilities.

After the interval, we were mesmerised by Eva’s Chopin piece Fantasia-Impromptu Opus 66, where her fingers flowed like water across the keyboards and we all entered that other realm where music can take us we can linger for a moment in a different world, beyond the ordinary.

Shakespeare came in too, recited by Jo Kloska and reminding of how important it is to hear words spoken out loud, to listen carefully and to allow the mind to dwell on the meaning of each word. Again, in a world dominated by easy, quick-access headlines, it is particularly good to hear sonnets spoken to us, to have to work a bit to understand each line and get the imagination turning.

By the end of the evening, an encore was inevitable and we all sang along with Stephen Aviss as he gave us his best singing *Nessun Dorma* with Jo and Eva’s help in actions and piano-playing. Which one of us could not be moved by this finale? Sometimes, the greatest gifts are found closest to home, amongst our ordinary lives, and on that evening we did not need to travel to Covent Garden or Shaftsbury Avenue to be entertained. We were right royally entertained here in the village.

Look out for these three rising stars. Jo, for one, is in the film *Made in Dagenham*, which has just hit our screens; Eva and Stephen will surely become names we hear about in the world of music. But it is not fame that is important; it is the pursuit of crafting their art, believing it is possible to create a living out of the arts that music and words have the power to transform, even if it is just for an evening – we leave feeling our souls were touched. We were privileged to sit so close to these three Royal Academicals. Thank you to them and to Bob David for arranging the evening.

**Kath Dymoke**

**FOR SALE**
- Breakfast bar with 2 stools, solid beech with terracotta tiled top. £35 ono.
- Round table, single pedestal, varnished pine, 90 cm diameter. £20.
- 4 Chairs with round rattan seats. £30. Phone 577285.

**KC**
After just over 3 weeks of him gradually breathing heavier and heavier from his lung cancer we took him back to the Vets on Saturday 23 October and had him put to sleep. He was so peaceful at last. An end to 9 years of companionship. We and many others will miss him greatly.  

Roger & Angela Sawyers
THE MESSIAH AT REIGATE

The English Arts Chorale, conductor Leslie Olive, with the Camerata of London and a fine line-up of soloists sing Handel’s Messiah on Saturday 6 December in St. Mary’s Church, Reigate. The church will be candle-lit and the audience will be offered mulled wine and mince pies to round off the evening. We hope this will be a wonderful way to get into the Christmas Spirit. Details are on the website www.englisharts.org or by telephone 01737 762097.

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA NOVEMBER CONCERT

On Saturday 13 November at 7.30pm Tatsfield’s own Symphony Orchestra will be performing once again at the Village Hall. For this concert we have scaled back our forces to present some early classical works. Under the baton of Michael Hitchcock we will enjoy playing Rossini’s Tancredi Overture which is light and fun with familiar tunes and effects.

A highlight of the evening will be Beethoven’s 5th Piano Concerto also known as The Emperor. Our soloist, Mariella Cingo, will be playing on the newly restored Peter Warner piano. You may have already enjoyed its rich, warm tone at the concert given by the Royal Academicals in September or at the Wine, Dine and Shine in October. This will be a very special occasion as Peter’s piano takes centre stage with the orchestra which he founded in Tatsfield. Do come along to remember Peter Warner and enjoy a musical treat.

We will complete the programme with Symphony No. 104 by Haydn who is often referred to as the Father of the Symphony. As always, refreshments will be available in the interval. If you have never been to one of our concerts then make this your first!

- Tickets £9 (concessions £7) available:
- By e-mailing mail @northdownssinfonia.com
- By Phone – Jan Maynard on 577659
- At Linda’s Stores
- Online at nds.localboxoffice.com

Hilary Harber

LEAF CLEARING

Responsible 14 year old available for clearing the autumn leaves from your lawns, paths and patios. I have all my own equipment and charge £10 an hour.
Contact Harvey White on 570097, fab@waitrose.com or Hill Cottage Johns Road.
‘THE SCHOOL BOOK’

- Available at the end of November – the definitive history of Tatsfield School from its inception in the 1840s to this year’s move to the centre of the village.

- Produced by the Tatsfield History Project.

- It includes reminiscences from former pupils and staff (memories of time off for potato picking, milk monitors, the extra portacabin classrooms), examples of current school work (learning about Tatsfield’s identity, healthy diet and stage productions) and pupils’ thoughts about their new premises in Ship Hill.

- There are plenty of illustrations and photos – something for everyone and a memento of an important part of village life!

- A great Christmas present for friends and family here and elsewhere.

- Priced at £8.50, the book will be available from Linda’s, the School and members of the History Project – Eileen Pearce, Ian Mitchell, Paul Myers and Bob David.

NEARLY NEW SALE

In aid of the Natural Childbirth Trust (NCT)

Saturday 20 November
10.30 am to 12 noon
St. Marks Church Hall, Biggin Hill

★ Toys, baby equipment, books and lots more. No clothes!
£1 admission (in aid of the NCT)

If you would like a stall, you must register by 12 November.
Please contact Amanda on 572041

96 YEARS OLD!

Congratulations to Lorna Gilmour of Ricketts Hill Road – 96 on 29 September! Best wishes Lorna for many more!
THE OLD SHIP

After closing for a week for refurbishment, the Old Ship’s doors are open again under the joint management of Carol Gandolph and Amanda Sheehy. We wish them good luck.

Come in. Have a look around. Have a drink. And try the food, midday and evening

TATSFIELD VERN d’ANJOU ASSOCIATION present a NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

Village Hall
31 December 2010
7 pm to 1 am (carriages at 12.30)

★2 course meal ★Disco and Licensed bar

Adults £20  Under 16s £10

Tickets from Rosie and Pete Fuller on 573554 and at Linda’s Stores

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

‘THE 2012 OLYMPIC PARK – A LEGACY’

A talk by PHILIP ASKEW
Deputy Director, Olympic Parklands, Olympic Delivery Authority

Tuesday 9 November at 8 pm
Village Hall

Tickets £3 from Angela Sawyers on 577434 or any other committee member

The talk will be preceded by the Society;s Annual General Meeting starting at 7.30 pm

All welcome
FREE WINE TASTING EVENT!

If you haven’t yet noticed how the quality of Fairtrade wine has improved of late, come and find out for yourself at a free blind tasting event.

“It’s a naïve domestic Burgundy without any breeding but I think you’ll be amused by its presumption.”

FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER
8pm in the WI Hall

ps. It would be helpful if you could give Carol a ring on 577584 or email carol_jordan@hotmail.com to let us know that you’ll be coming so that we have an idea of numbers.

ORPHEUS COMES TO TATSFIELD

Sunday 7 November from 3 – 5 pm
Braeside, Johns Road

Special performance, with tea and cakes
All welcome – but please let Ann Lovelace know if you are coming
Phone: 576212 E-mail: lovelace@clara.co.uk
We are now at the end of our first half term of the year (already!) and the children have been having a lovely time learning all about their **senses**. They have been looking, listening, touching, smelling and tasting lots of different things in the last few weeks. One of our members of staff, Karen, spent her weekend putting together different smells and tastes for the children to try, without being able to see what they were, which was very brave of them! They also all went for a walk over to Tatsfield Green to look at nature and each child had a bag to collect lots of conkers, leaves and anything of interest they could **SEE**. In the role play area that week was an opticians, just to help reinforce the sense for that week. During the final week we will be welcoming back Mike Lambert the music man who the children all love. He will be coming in with various musical instruments that he plays so that the children can **LISTEN** to him; as hearing will be the final sense that we explore.

Also by the end of term, one of our members of staff, Mandy, will have had her final assessment and should have her NVQ Level 2 completed on that date. This is great news so congratulations to Mandy from everyone at Little Acorns.

After half term we will be looking at ‘Celebrations Around the World’ including Christmas, Hanukkah and many others. More details about this will be in the next edition of the Magazine.

On 14 October the Little Acorns committee held their popular Auction Night at The Bakery. About 60 people came to join us for a 4-course meal, which was absolutely delicious. The entertainment was provided by Angie Goode and Kate Welsh, both of whom sung beautifully and were a joy to listen to. We then moved onto the Auction itself; we had over 30 prizes including a tour of Biggin Hill Airport, a signed cricket bat, 2 weeks use of the facilities at the Nutfield Priory and £50 off a meal at Chapter One! All prizes were auctioned off and we raised over £1600 for Little Acorns, which was absolutely fantastic. A big thank you to Ana Rose, Natalie Fraser and Lynda Lowe for the organisation of it, and to Craig Stratton for being an excellent auctioneer!

The Little Acorns committee are looking for a new Treasurer to start in November. Do you have any book keeping or accounting experience and would you be able to help us out? If not do you know anyone that does? If you would like to put your name forward please contact me or speak to Jackie Apps at Little Acorns in the Village Hall.

If you would like to register your children with Little Acorns for either our morning sessions (3 – 4 year olds) or our afternoon sessions (2 – 3 year olds) then please contact Julie Barlow on 01959 541103.

**Helen Hartley, on behalf of Little Acorns Pre-school**
LITTER PICKERS’ PARADISE

We all sally forth on our designated day
To tidy up the rubbish that others throw away.
It really is amazing, when going on our round
Where empty smoking cartons can be found!
They pop up in the hedges, in shrubs and flower beds
And window sills, a handy spot for dumping, as I said!
And, as for empty beer cans, it really is bizarre –
Heaps of full and empty ones, some squashed by passing car.
We owe a lot to wholesalers, they keep the kids supplied
With crisp packets, ice cream wraps and twice wrapped chocolate bars!
And Chewitts have a dozen wraps inside!
Then, there are thanks due to the Wine Bars
When we find such lovely treasure -
A magnum Vodka bottle (found in a hedge) and thrown at someone’s leisure.
We gather up the beer mugs some smart Alec left behind
From an evening of beer swigging (but I mustn’t be unkind)
It gives the eager litter picker something good to do –
Clearing up the jetsam that is left by some of you!

Babs Heffernon

Editor: Babs is a regular litter picker with the In Bloom volunteers. Her poem is written from the heart and is based on her actual experience combing the village green and our village roads!

FIREWORK PARTY
at
TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday at 5 November at 6 pm

Admission on gate: Adults £5, Children £4,
Family (2 adults, 3 children) £18.50, Senior Citizens £4

Advance tickets: Adults £4.50, Children £3.50, Family £16.50
Senior Citizens £3.50
Under 3s Free

On sale: Burgers, Hot Dogs, Homemade Soup, Hot/Cold Drinks
Night Glow Novelties

Organised by Tatsfield School PTA
PÉTANQUE - An exiting new facility for the village!

In France, you’ll frequently come across villagers, adorning berets, throwing small round metal balls towards an even smaller wooden one, working themselves up into frenzy over whose boule is closer and who should throw next. The French game of Pétanque or Boules, for anyone that hasn’t played it, can be a mysterious activity. It’s a very social game. There is a great deal of discussion, confab, chitchat and tactics. It all adds to the delight of playing.

Thanks to Jon Allbut and the Parish Council we will soon be able to play right here in Tatsfield. The Pétanque court is earmarked for an open area up by the MUGA, Brian Ling has kindly offered to help construct it and our aim is to build it in the next few weeks.

The plan is to get a few teams together and come April, we can throw down the gauntlet to our guests from Vern d’Anjou. Of course, competition will be tough; pressure, high. But I’m confident that, with a little practice we, the residents of Tatsfield, can overcome the foreign invaders - I mean, our treasured neighbours from France.

Anyone who can throw a boule can play (I will be able to give some insight to the rules within, say, 30 seconds). If you’d like to play, in competition or otherwise, please let me know by phone or e-mail. Boule sets are welcome. Berets and onions essential!

Guy Tetzner (Tel: 577282 E-mail: Guy.boules@mac.me)

DAVID AND SHELLEY STOKES
MISSION PARTNERS IN ARGENTINA

On Wednesday 13 October a group from St Mary’s gathered together for dinner and to meet David and Shelley Stokes. Each year St Mary’s Church supports a number of charities or missions. David and Shelley are going out to Argentina on the 16 November. St Mary’s have formed a link with them and will support them in prayer and through a percentage of our annual giving. In return they will pray for Tatsfield and St Mary’s and will send us quarterly newsletters.

It was great to meet David and Shelley and to learn so much about the community they will be living in and the work they will be doing. If you would like to receive David and Shelley’s newsletters then please let me know and I will add you to the email distribution list. Below is information about David and Shelley taken from the Church Mission Society (CMS) website.

Louise Ellis (E-mail: Vicar.tatsfield@btinternet.com)
“David and Shelley Stokes are former South American Mission Society (SAMS) mission partners, preparing to return to the Diocese of Northern Argentina with CMS (now incorporating SAMS) in 2010. They will work among the Wichí-speaking congregations, accompanying and helping train leaders at a time of rapid change.

They worked as SAMS mission partners first in Chile from 1988-1992 (where their children Jonathan and Sarah were born), and then in Northern Argentina from 1993-1999. They lived in a Wichí community and learned their language, and David was involved in leadership training across the diocese.

After returning to England, David was accepted for ordination training. He did two years’ further study in Durham, and then undertook a five-year curacy at St Mark’s, Salisbury. During this time Shelley did some work as a peripatetic violin teacher, as well as playing in various orchestras and with early music groups.

Towards the end of David’s curacy, the family made a visit to Argentina in 2006, partly to see old friends and places, and partly to see whether there was scope for further work there. After a long period of praying and searching for God’s way forward for them, they came to the conclusion they should offer to return to serve the church in Northern Argentina. At present, David is working as a part time hospital chaplain, and Shelley is working part time for Alabaré Christian Care Centres at the Salisbury Drop In Centre.

Little by little the way has been opening up for them. They received an invitation to work there again. Their two children are now studying at university: Jonathan reading Civil Engineering at Bristol, Sarah reading medicine at Cardiff. David was also able to have a trip to Argentina in October 2009, timed to include the consecration of Nick Drayson as assistant bishop. This confirmed for him the invitation to return as a couple is right.

They are excited at the prospect of returning to Argentina as soon as possible: it is a time of great challenge and opportunity both in the Diocese and the communities in Northern Argentina. They expect to start by travelling to the many Wichí communities to listen and discover what is happening. David will then be involved in encouraging and training new and existing church leaders. Shelley hopes to work mainly with the women with Bible study and prayer ministry and possibly use her violin for worship alongside the younger Wichí worship leaders.”

LARGE CHRISTMAS TREE WANTED

Does anyone have a large Christmas tree which they would like to donate to the Parish Council to be put up on the green in front of the Ship? If you do, please give Jon Allbutt a call on 576481 and he will have a look to see if it is suitable.
LOCAL POLICE REPORT

This last month has been fairly quiet in and around Tatsfield. Crime has been very low. There were a couple of incidents where cars have been broken into so a reminder for everyone to please keep all valuables out of your car and try not to leave anything at all on show, e.g. clothes, cigarettes and loose change as they can all encourage a break-in. Also do not leave keys in your car at any time.

Halloween and Bonfire Night are fast approaching, as are the darker nights, so a quick note about remembering to keep your houses, sheds and garages secure, both during the day and at night time and remember your personal safety as well, especially parents of children who are going Trick or Treating around this time. Please make sure they have a trusted adult with them.

PCSO Rachel Kettell

BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING IN THE WORLD

This year we had to hold The MacMillan Biggest Coffee Morning in the World inside the WI Hall, as the weather was not at it's best. However, we had a good attendance and were supported by local stall holders and businesses.

Lin Saines held a food tasting of her famous Christmas Chutney, Pickles and infused oils. The ingredients are grown in Lin's own garden and that of her family in Rye. Lin is a herb historian and has also just completed the restoration of the medieval herb garden at Rye Castle. Sue and Tracy had a beautiful display of their Gemstone jewellery True Reflections and have supported this event for a few years now. Finally, crafts of cushions, bunting and blackboards and my Phoenix Charity Christmas Cards and products were also on display too.

We had a raffle and also the grid game from MacMillan. This year we had scratch cards too which worked well. The total is expected to be about £170 after all the scratch card money is collected.

In the foreground of the photo, taken by Dave Bishop, is my friend Sarah who has just completed her Chemotherapy.
and is about to start 4½ weeks of daily trips to St Thomas's for Radiotherapy. This was the first time she had 'come out nude head'. Sarah is talking to Helene Gawel from MacMillan, with whom I have been liaising.

The beautiful butterfly cup cakes were made by Tonia Say and her family. Their donation was so appreciated as it was a very sad time for them having lost Alfie two days before. Thanks also for the lovely Lemon Drizzle cake from Ana Hughes.

Anne Chapman

NOVEMBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)

◆ All your fresh fruit and vegetables – look out for cabbages and cauliflowers ◆ Cut flowers ◆ Frozen food ◆ Tinned food ◆ Wild bird food ◆ Pet and animal food ◆ Free delivery to your home ◆ Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity

Linda's Stores (Tel: 577152)

◆ All your Post Office needs including foreign currency ◆ Christmas wrap 10 mtr roll only 99p ◆ Diaries and Calendars for 2011 ◆ Packs of Christmas cards from £1 ◆ Box 12 luxury Christmas crackers £3.99 ◆ Terrys All Gold half price at £1.99 ◆ Thorntons Milk Chocolates half price at £3.49 ◆ Cadbury's Box Biscuits (chocolate) half price at £2.49 ◆ Terrys Chocolate Orange Segsations/Toblerone Tinys/Milka Minis all half price at £2.65

SURREY POLICE CONSULTATION

A questionnaire from Surrey Police is coming with this magazine. It seeks your views on where you would prefer to see, meet and speak to local officers. It will take only a few minutes to complete. When you have done that, post it back to the police.

Currently in Tatsfield, our Police Community Support Officer can be seen every Wednesday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 in the Parish Room and local police officers attend the Police Forum from 7.30 to 8 pm immediately before alternate Parish Council meetings in the Parish Room (the next such meeting is on Monday 8 November).
BRIDGET HIGGS
14 March 1928 – 13 August 2010

Mrs. Bridget Higgs, known to everyone in Tatsfield as Bridie, died in Mayday Hospital on 13 August aged 82. She was able to remain in her home in Rag Hill until shortly before her death, when sadly she had a fall and broke her hip.

The funeral service took place on 2 September in All Saints’ Church, Oxted, where she had worshipped for many years, and was buried in the churchyard at St. Mary’s, Tatsfield, beside her husband Charlie.

Bridie was born in Ireland, but she came to England as a young woman, met and married Charlie Higgs, a Tatsfield man, and lived here for the rest of her life. She was a devoted mother of four children, a private person and with no wish to be the life and soul of the party. But she became very much a part of the village, and made a greater contribution to our society than she probably ever imagined. She demonstrated in her life what it was to be good. Not only hard-working and honest, she possessed another quality that is strangely under-valued today: she was kind. Indeed, she took the teachings of her Catholic faith very seriously, and she tried to live up to all of them.

Bridie and Charlie were not over-endowed with the good things of life, but she never complained, and later worked to augment the family income. She continued to do so after Charlie died, and only stopped when she reached pensionable age.

People in Tatsfield of all faiths and of none will miss Bridie; they will also remember her with respect and great affection.

Denis Hayes

LINE DANCING

It was with great reluctance and regret that I had to finally admit defeat and close the Line Dance class in the Village Hall after 2½ Years.

I was asked to set up a regular Line Dance class in Tatsfield Village Hall following an introduction to Line Dancing event in January 2008.
We had 20 beginners for our first class on 8 March 2008, but numbers slowly dropped to a steady 11/12 until this summer when, after a particularly long break, we just could not get the attendance back. It was not for the lack of trying. I had help from Bob David with regular reminders in the Parish Magazine and Enid Garrard and the small band of regular dancers were constantly trying to persuade people to come. But being irregular Saturday evenings was against us and for the last four months we were not covering our costs. One evening we had an attendance of just 4 – with myself as Instructor, my husband John providing the music and John Hayes and Pat as helpers. How’s that for one-to-one instruction!

I had hoped that we could move to the new School Hall, even reserving a Tuesday evening slot months before the school was even open but unfortunately the floor of the hall proved to be unsuitable for dancing.

In total over 50 people have attended the class, but sometimes for only one or two evenings. Six people have attended almost every class since the beginning – Enid, Andy, Jenny, Betty, Sue and Jackie and, until a knee problem stopped Mike coming, Mike and Linda Lambert. It is because of these dedicated few that I found it so difficult to close the class. They really enjoyed line dancing and despite the sometimes long periods in between classes, had become competent line dancers.

I would like to thank my two helpers John and Pat, who despite being experienced dancers, came along to help the beginners. Also John, for opening up and preparing the hall and putting everything away at the end of the evening – that was such a help. We enjoyed coming to Tatsfield and miss the friends we made there. Everyone we came into contact with made us feel welcome and we hope we shall continue to be invited to quiz nights and other events.

And you never know, maybe one day line dancing will return to Tatsfield.

Jacqui Tingley, Triple J Line Dance Club

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TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 3 December
6 to 8.30 pm
Adults 50p Children and OAPs free
Kath had lived in Tatsfield most of her life.  She and husband Arthur moved into the ‘new houses’ in Westmore Road in 1952, where she remained until she moved to Crossways Court a few months before she died.  I first got to know Kath about 20 years ago, just after she lost her husband Arthur.  I started talking to her when we were both walking up to the shops.  I had become friendly with Sandra, a near neighbour, soon after we moved to Tatsfield, but it was several months after meeting Kath before I realised she was Sandra’s Mum.  Sadly, Sandra also died and about a year after Kath began to suffer with poor health and from this time she was seldom seen walking, smartly dressed, up to the shops or working in her lovely garden, to which she was devoted.  She will be missed by her friends.  But she is now where she wanted to be.

Barbara Burton

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN’S SURVIVAL
CANCER RESEARCH UK FUNDRAISING MORNING

Food tasting with Lin Saines, famous for her home grown Chutney, Pickles and Infused Oils. Fabulous gifts for Christmas.

Christmas Bunting, Christmas Cushions, Stockings, Cushions, Draught excluders, Gingham Door Stops, Peg Bags, Photo cushions, Gingham hearts, Kitchen Blackboards

Charity Christmas Cards, Gifts and more supporting the above and Childrens hospices UK

On Friday 12 November from 9.30 am to 12 noon at 25 Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield

Teas, coffees and cakes
Come along and bring your friends
Tel: 577596
**TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 3 November 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Parish Room.

All residents of Tatsfield are welcome to attend.

The Committee comprises 9 trustees who are appointed by local organisations and up to 4 members of the community who are elected as trustees by the residents of Tatsfield. Up to 4 trustees may be co-opted to the Committee should need arise.

Please consider whether you would be willing to give some time to serving this very important village amenity. Meetings are held at 8 pm on the first Wednesday of each month except August and usually take about 2 hours. The duties of the trustees include supervising the maintenance of the Hall and introducing improvements to its facilities. Members of the Management Committee are normally willing to contribute to fundraising efforts as well.

If you think you would like to serve the village in this way, please get in touch with:

Carol Jordan
107 Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield TN16 2BQ
Tel: 577584
or e-mail: carol_jordan@hotmail.com

**FREE**

St. Mary’s are about to replace the tables in the Millennium Hall. The current ones, of various sizes, are available free. Please contact Mike Lambert on 577790 for further details.

**MAGAZINE ADVERTISING MANAGER WANTED**

Another try for a volunteer to succeed Geoff Groom! The job is not about selling advertising space. We are fortunate to have more than 100 advertisers and to have no problem in filling our advertising pages. The job is more about organising the adverts and handling the collection of the annual fee. Anyone interested should discuss it with the editor, Bob David, on 577357.
NOVEMBER

1 Mon  1pm Microsport - VH  ·  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  
6pm Beavers - SH  ·  7.30pm Art Group - VH  ·  7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

2 Tues  10am Yoga - WIH  ·  5.30pm Cubs - SH  ·  7pm Scouts - SH  
7.45pm WI Meeting - WIH

3 Wed  10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH  
10.30am - 1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR  
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH  
7.30pm VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AGM - PR  
8pm Yoga - VH  ·  8pm Explorers - SH

8pm St.Mary’s Evening Group - Torridon, Westmore Road

4 Thur  2pm WI Darts - WIH  ·  5.30pm Brownies - CH  ·  7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS  ·  8pm Table Tennis - VH

5 Fri  2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH  ·  6pm Badminton Juniors - VH  
6pm FIREWORK PARTY - TPS  ·  8pm Badminton Club - VH

6 Sat  11am-12noon - PC Café

7 Sun  8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM  
10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM  
3-5pm ORPHEUS - Braeside, Johns Road

8 Mon  9.30am Tots on Top - CH  ·  1pm Microsport - VH  ·  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  
6pm Beavers - SH  ·  7.30pm Art Group - VH  ·  7.30pm Police Forum - PR  
8pm Parish Council Meeting - PR  ·  8pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

9 Tues  10am Yoga - WIH  ·  2pm Not So Young Club - WIH  ·  5.30pm Cubs - SH  
7pm Scouts - SH  ·  7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH  
7.30pm HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AGM and OLYMPICS PARK TALK - VH

10 Wed  10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH  
10.30am -1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR

8pm St.Mary’s Evening Group - Torridon, Westmore Road

8pm Explorers - SH  ·  8pm Yoga - VH

11 Thur  2pm WI Darts - WIH  ·  5.30pm Brownies - CH  
7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  ·  7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS  
8pm Table Tennis - VH

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

13 Sat  11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery  
7.30pm NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA CONCERT - VH

14 Sun  10am Sung Eucharist - StM  ·  10.45am Act of Remembrance - StM

11am Ramblers Walk - Chartwell

15 Mon  9.30am Tots on Top - CH  ·  1pm Microsport VH  ·  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  
6pm Beavers - SH  ·  7.30pm Art Group - VH  
7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  ·  8.15pm Bingo - TVC
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<td>10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH</td>
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<td>7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>8pm Badminton Club - VH · 8pm FREE WINE TASTING EVENING - WIH</td>
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<td>11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery</td>
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<td>8am Holy Communion(BCP) -StM</td>
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<td>10am Sung Eucharist - StM</td>
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<td>23 Tues</td>
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<td>10.30am -1130am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR</td>
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<td>7.30pm Food and Wine Society Fish and Chips Evening - McDermotts</td>
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<td>28 Sun</td>
<td>10am Sung Eucharist for Advent - StM</td>
<td>StM - St. Mary’s Church</td>
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<td>10.15am Ramblers Walk - Darenth Valley Golf Club, Shoreham</td>
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<td>7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS</td>
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<td>8.15pm Bingo - TVC</td>
<td>TVC - Tatsfield Village Club</td>
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<td>30 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Whist Drive - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH</td>
<td>VH - Village Hall</td>
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**DECEMBER**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH</td>
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<td>10.30-11.30am PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR</td>
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<td>8pm Yoga - VH · 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
<td>SH - Scout Hut</td>
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<td>2 Thur</td>
<td>2pm WI Darts - WIH · 5.30pm Brownies - CH · 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH</td>
<td>SH - Scout Hut</td>
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<td>7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
<td>VH - Village Hall</td>
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<td>3 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH</td>
<td>VH - Village Hall</td>
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<td>6-8.30pm CHRISTMAS FAIR - TPS</td>
<td>TPS - Tatsfield Primary School</td>
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<td>4 Sat</td>
<td>11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery</td>
<td>VH - Village Hall</td>
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**Venues**

CH - Church Hall · FC - Furze Corner · PR - Parish Room · SH - Scout Hut · StM - St. Mary’s Church
TPS - Tatsfield Primary School · TVC - Tatsfield Village Club · VH - Village Hall · WIH - Women’s Institute Hall
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Margaret Parsons’ coffee morning at the Village Hall on Saturday 25 October raised just over £100 for the MacMillan Cancer Charity. Margaret would like to thank those who helped, especially her daughters, Anita and Moira, and Barbara Burton for making the cakes people enjoyed that morning.

CHRISTMAS SHOW
FOR CHILDREN

Village Hall
Saturday 11 December
4.30 to 6.15 pm
No need to travel far for a special Christmas treat for children aged 3 to 12 years. Here it is in the centre of the village!

★ Punch and Judy  ★ Magician  ★ Tea Party  ★ Santa and Sack of Presents

Children and Adults £5
Tickets from Margaret Parsons on 577665
Arranged by the Village Hall Management Committee

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT
(Mixture of Aerobics and Body Conditioning)

Every Wednesday 8.30 to 9.30 pm
Tatsfield Primary School Hall
£3.50 per person
For further information contact Vicky Cooling on 07970 761642 or victoria.cooling@bt internet.com

AN EVENING OF DANCING

The Village Hall was filled with the sound of music on Saturday 9 October, organised by Jan and Dave Bishop in an event to raise funds for the Village Hall. Jan and Dave’s services were provided free of charge. The dancers had an enjoyable evening and the Village Hall’s funds benefited by £120
BODY SHOP AT HOME

I have just set up as a Body Shop at Home consultant in Tatsfield. The new brochure is now available. If you are interested in having a look, please contact me and I will drop a brochure round to you.

Vicky Cooling (Tel: 07970 761642 or vicrtoria.cooling@btinternet.com)

EVENTS AT TATSFIELD
VILLAGE CLUB

Saturday 30 October   Halloween Disco   8 pm – Late
Saturday 27 November  Rhythmic ‘The Hat Man’ 8 pm – Late
                        (Visual Cabaret Act)
Sunday 18 December    Children’s Christmas Party  2.30 – 5.30 pm
                        (List now up in the club for names to be put down as pre-booking is
                        essential. PARENTS MUST STAY ON THE PREMISES. Children cannot
                        be left at the party unattended.)
Sunday 12 December    Christmas Prize and    2 pm onwards
                        Meat Raffle/Turkey Draw
                        (Tickets now on sale behind the bar at the club)
Saturday 31 December  New Year’s Eve Disco   8 pm – Late
Wednesday 19 January  2011 Seniors’ Christmas Party 3 pm – 6 pm
                        (List now up at the club. Pre-booking essential as we only have limited
                        places.)

Meat Raffle every Friday at 7 pm
Bingo every Monday at 8.15 pm
Next Quiz Night – Tuesday 2 November

FOR SALE

Glass topped, steel framed desk with pull out keyboard shelf and shelves beneath for printer, etc. 100 cm wide, 60 cm deep. £50. Pine single wardrobe with top cupboards, drawers and shelves built in. Approx 100 cm wide. £90. Please phone 572652.

FOR SALE

FOR THE LOVE OF HERBS

“DON’T MENTION THE WAR ...!”

... sorry, I just did. As an historian of much older conflicts, I can see there comes a time when every generation’s thoughts become a history, rather than a living memory, and during the past few years I have tried to squirrel away my mother’s memories of her earlier and perhaps happier time, including some recipes I have used for many years without even thinking of the connection.

Mum’s family had a vegetable, fruit and herb business in London from the early 1900s, so the middle years between the two wars were (hate to say it!) a very fruitful time for all involved. With land near the coast my great-grandmother’s business employed all the family, and mum had keen childhood memories of everyone collecting herbs, veg. and fruit and her then being driven back in her grandmother’s CAR (very unusual for the time!) while a heavily-laden lorry trundled back all the produce for sorting.

Back home, beetroots were boiled in large copper cauldrons in the “back yard” of the business, while celery (not cut until the first frost) would be “scrubbed and stumped” (roots removed) in cold water baths even when a frost was on the ground – a very unpopular occupation. Cleaned, white celery is something never seen in a supermarket today, and even in her wheelchair mum had her own opinion on the presentation of the green-coloured usurper in its plastic supermarket wrapping. As a child, her own job was to present “faggots of herbs” for sale – so Bay, Rosemary, Parsley if available (if not, the inner heart of celery leaves), Thyme and the always-present Sage would be picked, tied with string, and laid in baskets for sale. The family did not grow leeks, but if any were available at market the outer skins would be taken off and added to the herb bundle. Today the term “fresh bouquet garni” would tease many non-gardeners to part with their pounds at a Farmers Market, and the Christmas season sales of those “faggots of herbs” were my mother’s Christmas gift from her very business-astute grandmother.

With the onset of war mum left for Slough Trading Estate, helping to build Wellington and Lancaster Bombers, while the men were drafted into the army or Home Guard. My grandmother now took charge of the business, but always provided preserves such as our old Mustard Pickle recipe for the market and family as a “taste of home”. They did not seem to suffer from lack of food during the war, as I suppose they were in the right place in London for off-trading at the right time, so gammons, rabbit pies and stews, eggs, locally-caught river or south-east coastal
fish and wild herbs were normal fare, although chicken was a real delicacy. And of course, there were also people throughout the war and during the rationing period who did not have to suffer from a real food shortage because they had a wild larder quietly at their disposal and were out of the immediate worry of being near the Thames "bombing alley", unlike my mother's immediate family. I wonder how we would all get on today in such times? Perhaps local butchers, fishmongers, vegetable growers and country foragers would become "best friends" in pubs all around the nation in dire times, rather than overlooked in favour of Mr. Sainsbury et al as they are today.

"Woolton Pie" was then a firm favourite. A mixture of vegetables such as leek, onion, carrot, celery and parsnips were sliced and "sweated" in a little margarine, then flour and a half-milk, half-water mix added to thicken. Chopped sage and rosemary with Marmite to flavour were stirred into the mix, then all turned into a bowl and a rather heavy pastry rolled out as a topping before baking as a pie. I thought this sounded awful until I saw Delia Smith's "Vegetable Pot Pie" recipe a few years ago, and realised hers was simply an updated version – so perhaps her family was cooking the same sort of thing in the winter wartime months. Delia's recipe adds cheese and grated nutmeg to the vegetable mix and a topping of parmesan pastry (but I have tried ready-bought puff pastry and it works a treat) and still includes sage leaves as the herb flavouring - all served with some salad leaves from the garden – unless the rabbits got there first of course!

Eventually the German bombers destroyed the family business; the old lorry, I was told, took the blast from a bomb and ended up two streets away on its roof, and many of the family who built up the business did not survive from either war service or inner-city destruction.

However... I served a "Nettle and Herb Quiche" to my soon-to-be father in law some thirty-odd years back, who really thought this "make-do-and mend" recipe was a lovely Spinach Flan. I've even served a Woolton Pie to my meat-loving husband but omitted to tell him it was Marmite in the flavouring. And I'm still making those old recipe preserves, thankfully with nothing German in their title.

Sometimes it's good to mention the War.

Lin Saines
Harvest Festival

A large and lively congregation celebrated Harvest, thanking God for His many gifts to ourselves and to others. We also remembered those who are not so fortunate and thought about some of the things we might do to help. We are immensely grateful to all those who provided goods for this service, whether directly or through the school: we are also indebted to the Titsey Estate who provided many flowers and vegetables. Many of these were subsequently delivered locally and the non-perishable items have been taken to our link church, Christchurch, Brixton Road, where they will by now have reached people who are in great need of them.

All Souls’ Service. Sunday 31st October, 3.30 pm

If this magazine reaches you in time may we remind you about this service, details of which are in the October magazine.

Wednesday Evenings at Torridon

This sequence of five evenings at 8pm at Torridon, Westmore Road started in October when we greeted our CMS Link Partners, David and Shelley Stokes – further details of this are in Village News. The final two of this sequence are on 3rd and 10th November when we shall continue to look at some bible extracts. You are very welcome even if you have not managed to get to the earlier ones.

Open The Book

Our November service is on the 7th at 10am when we especially welcome you to a service which is fairly short and very friendly for those of all ages.

Act of Remembrance 7th November at 10.45am.

Our annual act of remembrance for those who have fallen in war will follow after the 10 am service on 7th November. We especially remember by name those from Tatsfield. As for all services at St Mary’s, all will be welcome, either to come at 10 am or to join us at 10.45 am for the act of remembrance, which lasts about 30 minutes.
Advent Sunday, 28th November

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

Posada

The figures of Mary and Joseph will make their way around the village during Advent. They stay at different houses for a short period of up to a day and then end their journey on Christmas Eve by arriving at the church during the Christingle service. If you would like your home to be included in their journey please phone Gerald South on 577598.

Annual Dinner. Sunday 5th December at 1 pm in Church Hall

Tickets for this are available from Jennie South [577598] or Mike Lambert [577790]. £8.50 for adults and £5 for under 12s, with special rates for families. All are welcome.

Parish Records

27th September    Funeral of John Cooper
30th September    Funeral of Kath Batchelor
6th October        Interment of Ashes of Mary Jones

Flower Rota

Our grateful thanks go to Mr David Innes from the Titsey Estate and his head Gardener Steve Pett for providing us with such a wonderful selection of flowers and produce to decorate the Church for the Harvest Festival. Many thanks also go to those who helped to decorate the Church with the flowers and produce: Tina Boys, Pam Draper, Lorna Tory, Sylvia Hyett, Christine Rosenbaum, Tricia Arnell and her husband James, Wendy Maddison, Sue Warren and Pat Walsh.

Flower Rota for November

7th Tina Boys      14th Sue Saunders/Jan Maynard      21st Sue Saunders
28th First Sunday in Advent – No flowers in the Church

Jan Maynard     (Tel: 577659)
On July 24\textsuperscript{th} this year, I, my brother John and our mutual friend Charles Lister, under the team name “The Yeti Hunters”, set off for Mongolia… by car. Not just any car, but a 10 year old, 1.2 litre Vauxhall Agila; a most unsuitable vehicle for such a trip. “Why?” I hear you cry. Well, that’s a good question and one I’m still trying to answer for myself.

For the uninitiated, the Mongol Rally is a 10,000 mile trip from Glorious Goodwood to the capital of Mongolia, Ulaan Baatar in which people take part to raise money for various charities. There are no rules save the fact that you are encouraged to complete the journey in an appropriate vehicle – the spirit of the rally is all about overcoming adversity, and so to ensure that adversity comes a knockin’, silly cars, no satnav, no GPS but plenty of British pluck, is the order of the day.

I would like to describe to you how we completed an inspiring lap of Goodwood race track on the 24\textsuperscript{th} along with the other 200 cars taking part, but unfortunately our dear Aggy (a diminutive of Agila) had broken down the night before and we were stranded at our parents’ house in Ricketts Hill Road. Instead of spending our first day in the Sussex countryside, we were chasing around South London trying to find various bits for the car. Fortunately we stumbled across www.thecarmechanic.co.uk and met Ales, a wonderful man who got the car running. Knowing we were doing the rally for charity he offered to do the work pro bono, which was the first of several random acts of generosity and kindness that were to sustain us on our expedition. Having got the car working, we realised that we wouldn’t make our 16:30 Channel crossing, but thanks to Eurotunnel, they allowed us to delay our booking till later that night at no extra cost on what is their busiest day of the year.

Feeling confident after our Channel crossing, we saluted this small victory by declaring the trip a success already: “Well, if we do break down again and have to return home, at least we can say we made it out of the UK!” On day 2, just outside Hamburg, we were already regretting our words as Aggy (now a term of abuse, truncated from “aggravation”) was steadfastly refusing to start. It is at this point I should perhaps point out that John is a plumber, Charles is a P.E. teacher and I am an opera singer. Between the three of us we can just about identify a steering wheel, gear stick and windscreen wipers. So, day 2, stuck in Germany, it looked like our rally was already over.

After a night in a motorway motel, however, it was time for British pluck and American credit cards to come together and work their magic. We managed to explain on the phone that our car was broken down and needed to be collected and
fixed. This was achieved mainly due to the telephonist’s English rather than my German. In fact, the only German spoken was “Hallo, sprechen sie englisch”, but I think she appreciated the gesture…

On that very same day, about 4 hours later, we were back on the road in what amounts to a confirmation of a German stereotypes – “efficient” just doesn’t do justice to our experience. We were now heading for Sweden as I had lived there for a few years and knew that we were guaranteed a friendly welcome. This would give us an opportunity to stock up on supplies before the real unknown aspect of the journey started. From Stockholm, we took a car ferry to Turku in Finland and thence to Russia - the adventure really had begun.

I foolishly had volunteered to be the registered keeper of our car, not knowing at the time that this would mean that I would have to complete all the administration at border crossings. Now, for most of us, going abroad is normally a trip in Europe, usually France or Spain – everyone speaks English and quite frankly most of our Continental cousins aren’t really bothered about looking at our passports. Not so in Russia. Along with passports, we also had to present visas, vehicle registration documents (endearingly referred to by border guards as our “car passport”), insurance documents and fill in forms about exporting the car to Mongolia. About two hours later and after a few doubtful looks when we managed to convey what we were up to, we were through the border and into Russia proper.

Our first destination was St. Petersburg and en route we witnessed the most dangerous driving of the entire trip. Russia is an enormous country and, as such, most of the roads are single lanes. This however does not discourage some rather courageous overtaking manoeuvres; we looked on in horror as a heavy goods vehicle came pummelling down the opposite lane into the path of an overtaking Cherokee jeep. And an articulated lorry. And a cement truck. Yes, all three trying to overtake another lorry. Somehow they made it.

You can well imagine our relief on arriving at the outskirts of St. Petersburg. Although we had camping gear with us, we were going to treat ourselves to a night in a hostel. That is, if we could find a place to stay and that depended on us finding the centre of town. Without satnav or GPS, we were relying on our map reading skills, which were shaky to say the least, but we were fairly confident, especially as we had made our way across Europe without any navigational errors. We had, however, overlooked one minor detail. Our Russian map, and unsurprisingly the Russian signposts, were in the Cyrillic alphabet. Sitting in a moving car, being hooted at by understandably impatient Russian drivers, as you tried to decipher a street name is not easy. From arriving at St. Petersburg, it took us four hours to find the centre; choosing to uphold the “spirit of the rally” by not having a GPS was beginning to feel like a bad decision, and what’s more, we weren’t even half way…..

Editor: The second half comes next month.
Salve Mother and Father
Over here in Britain it is very cold and soggy. Our barracks are very wet from all the rain that came in from the gaps in the roof. It is very uncomfortable and means that we have to sleep on wet blankets. We have to train two hours a day with sticks so we don’t hurt the other men. We Romans like having baths to rest. Every night I have to guard Hadrian’s Wall so no one can get in. Oh I forgot can you send me some new socks.
Vale Ellie (Carlile)

Salve Mother and Father
It’s really boring here. Please can you send me some clean underpants. What have you been doing at home? I have been doing a lot of work. I have been cleaning the toilets. I have been training for 2 hours every day. Every night I have to guard Hadrian’s Wall. When it rains I get soaking wet from head to toe. I miss you.
Vale Blake (Miles-Cushing)

Salve Mummy and Daddy
I am having a hard time in Britain. I have to clean the toilets. I have to eat cold porridge every morning. I have to sleep in a bed full of bugs. I go through intensive training. I tell them stories every night. However what I do like is the baths. I run 26 miles. Hope to see you soon.
Vale Marissa (Wimpress)

Salve Leibeion
Things here are terrible, well, except for the baths and board games. We tell stories and jokes but the training for 2 hours is just unbearable but running for 26 miles is even worse. I wish I was at home with you.
Vale Imogen (Barry)

Salve Mother
It is cold and damp here. I can’t even get to sleep because the other soldiers snore. I have to clean the toilets and I’m sick of it, but I do like some things – gambling, board games, telling stories and baths. Can I have swords because I left them at home. I live near Hadrian’s Wall with 8 people in a barrack. We have to train for 2 whole hours. Sometimes we have to run 26 miles. We were attacked last night and one of my friends died. I miss you.
Vale Cameron (Bond)

Kevin Bellinger, Head Teacher
FOOTBALL IN TATSFIELD IN THE WARTIME 1940s
by Dennis Tapsell (as remembered together with Ted Bonwick)

As a new school and world football are in vogue this year, we thought this article may be of interest.

When Ted and I joined Tatsfield School in the autumn term of 1937 (coronation year), our teacher was Miss Gambold. We played football, cricket, ran races, etc in the infants. Then two years later, war. No village football, no sports coach but Mr Bertie Hammond, the Head Teacher, did his best. We learnt from watching the senior boys. The senior boys picked two teams, sometimes fifteen a side. If not picked you either had to watch or play on the side with the sissies, no-hopers and infants.

Those who wanted to improve watched, admired and learnt the skills of “dribbling” by Norman and Les Shrubb. What wizards they were! How to trap and cross a ball like Doug Shrubb and head a ball like Ray Shrubb. Any Shrubb could play football, even the daughters!

Three sisters - Annie Standing, Dulcie Cutbush and “Punch” Shrubb’s wife - begat about thirty five cousins. So with the cousins from the male line, half of Tatsfield were related!

Back to football. Every season, Tatsfield played Chelsham at football and cricket. We always won! But when the war came, there was no football to watch, no coaching, no competition (and of course no television at that time). Then in the season 1943-1944, a miracle: a league was formed with the schools in Caterham Hill, Caterham Valley, Selsdon, Warlingham, Chelsham and Tatsfield. We do not know how, but to us boys the miracle man was the driver who delivered the pre-cooked meals in large containers to Tatsfield School. He also delivered to Warlingham and Chelsham Schools. Whether he organised this on his own or with another driver who delivered to Selsdon and the Caterham schools, who knows. He may have been an ex-player, coach or sports master, but he must have had the blessing of the educational authorities.

To cut travelling, Tatsfield, Warlingham and Chelsham played their home and away matches normally but when we played Selsdon and Caterham Valley, we played our home matches at “The Bull” common, Chelsham and our away matches at Warlingham Sports Ground. The delivery driver refereed all matches we played. I do not know why, but for our away match with Caterham Hill, we had to travel all the way to Caterham. We don’t know why. We lost 3-1. We also lost our away match 1-0 against Caterham Valley. We won all our other matches but the home fixture against Caterham Hill was never played. We were told they were coming by lorry. They never arrived! The delivery driver told us we had to beat them to win the league, but it was not to be – these things happened in war time.
Mr Bertie Hammond was very kind. He checked each boy’s pocket money for the bus fares. If any boy was short he would make it up out of his own pocket.

A knockout competition was also organised, with the two Caterham Schools and Selsdon in one half, and Warlingham, Chelsham and Tatsfield in the other.

We were lucky, we drew a bye in the first round. Warlingham drew Chelsham and beat them 18-0. We then played Warlingham at Tatsfield and won 4-2 after going a goal behind. Caterham Valley emerged as winners of the other half to play us in the final of the competition.

So, one beautiful late spring Wednesday evening in 1944, we set off for the final, walking up the Approach Road, being passed by well-wishers coming home from work who had got off at the bus stop. When the 403 double decker arrived it was full up and by this time there was quite a crowd waiting for get on. I remember one boy and his two sisters had walked from Pilgrims Farm. Not to be deterred, we all started walking to Warlingham and, somewhere between Cheveralls and Beech Farm, a fleet of boys on bicycles arrived. They had been awaiting the arrival of the bus in Warlingham where the final was to be played, had heard of our plight and decided to transport us by “cross-bar”, the team first then the rest of the supporters. Many of the boys made three or four trips.

On arrival, the teams were quickly organised and kick-off signalled. We were immediately under pressure and our forwards of Buddy May, Basil Baker and Tony Pearless not given a chance to shoot. Our half back line was Harry Streets, John “Porkie” Robinson and the tenacious tackler, George Edwards, with defender Tipper Shrubb brilliant behind them.

Our goal keeper, Brian Standing, did not have to make a serious save. The match was hard fought, mainly in mid-field and was goalless at half time.

At the re-start, the match continued with Caterham Valley urged on by their very vocal head master. We were encouraged by our supporters and friendly partisan Warlingham pupils. Halfway through the second half, our right wing man, Buddy May, hit a terrific shot from near the half-way line. The unfortunate Caterham Valley goal-keeper, who was standing out, was left stranded when it hit a divot and cleared his head by at least six feet, rocketing into the net.

We managed to defend our one goal lead from a series of hard attacks to full time. We had won! Basil Baker, our captain, received a shield, the trophy. Peter Edwards, Dennis Tapsell and possibly Fred Tull, made up the playing eleven. Ted Bonwick was the reserve.

Dick Watson bought us all a small shandy from Bill Goodwin, licensee at “The Horseshoe”.
Very proudly, we bore our trophy back to Tatsfield. Little did we know it would never be competed for again, all the spaces for the winners would remain blank, except ours. It would hang on the school wall with other mementoes, gathering dust and forgotten.

In a few months the V1 and V2 menace split the team and family life - Ted, Tipper and Harry went to Newton Abbott as evacuees, the rest to other destinations. We left as youths and returned as wiser teenagers but Tatsfield was not the same. Team spirit was never the same again.

Apart from those who played in the final, Les Shrubb played in the league but left school Christmas 1943, 14 years of age. Michael Skinner left around this time (he was grandson of Mrs Skinner, the school teacher); his mother, a widow, moved to Oxted and remarried. He changed his name to Wood.

Editor: Below is a picture of Tatsfield Football Club a few years later, in 1951 - 1952. Some of the boys named in the article had graduated to the village team.

Front row: John Burbage, Harry Streets, Norman Shrubb, Les Shrubb, A Shrubb
The tree planting proposal:

Well, as you know, the proposed tree-planting project was rejected by the majority of our Parish Councillors at their September meeting. As a conclusion to the matter I am presenting a variety of documents, as sent and received.

Letter of Proposal (01.09.10):

‘Dear Chairman,

As I’m sure you are aware, in recent months I have presented the idea (through the Parish Magazine) of planting trees along (the) Approach Road, specifically between Beacon Shaw and Clarks Lane. The idea is actually quite an old one, so to ensure some form of continuity, all of my correspondence with Surrey County Council (SCC) regarding the proposed project is attached. As an individual I am not permitted to put the plan into action. Consequently, I am passing the project on to the Parish Council with the hope that you will feel interested and able to develop the project as one of your own.

Following the inclusion of the proposal within the Parish Magazine’s ‘Nature Notes’, a number of parishioners have written to me to express their own views and opinions. I can summarise these as follows:

- It’s widely seen to be a worthwhile project from aesthetic, conservation and celebratory (opening of our new school) viewpoints.
- The preference is for a variety of species to be planted rather than one, as originally proposed. It is felt that the chosen species need to be native, suited to our locality and able to withstand our inclement winter weather.
- The view across the Downs needs to be maintained.

My personal preference (having initially been in favour of a row of native Oaks) is for a series of small groupings to be planted using a variety of native species, thereby creating a resource of some educational value. (The whole project could then be seen as a form of communal celebration following the opening of our new village school.) Grouping would give a natural appearance, create a series of long viewing ‘windows’ and make planning around the two farm entrances and the gas pipeline relatively easy.

Obviously, there are other issues such as cost, liaison with SCC and Titsey Parish representatives (Approach Road crosses the parish border), ongoing maintenance, etc., which will perhaps make the project seem laborious. I feel confident, however, that the Council can overcome these challenges in order to create a further improvement to our village environment; one, which will benefit wildlife as much as creating human interest. Perhaps there is a charity or local business that would
be willing to help financially? Perhaps villagers or local organisations would be happy to donate the cost of a tree? Perhaps some of our more robust parishioners (of all ages) would be willing to offer their labour? Perhaps, as the project would be partly of Titsey interest, the Titsey Estate would be willing to offer assistance? Perhaps the ‘In Bloom’ committee would consider adopting the project? All of these ‘perhaps’s’ I’m merrily passing on to you, with the hope that your enthusiasm and organisational skill will create a positive outcome.’

Yours Faithfully, Nigel Shaw.

Minutes from the Meeting (13.09.10):

‘Tree planting proposal: The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that a proposal for tree-planting along Approach Road had been circulated with the original proposal by N Shaw having already been altered due to public opinion. A discussion was held at the end of which it was agreed by a majority that the Parish Council did not wish to become involved with this particular initiative. However, there was strong support for the general premise of tree-planting and the Parish Council welcomed alternative schemes, with a possible focus on the woods in Tatsfield. The Clerk to contact N Shaw.’

(A letter of response from the Clerk was received on 27.09.10.)

An informal e-mail from the PC Chairman (14.09.10):

Good morning Nigel.

‘The PC had a thorough discussion about your ideas and unfortunately colleagues did not feel that they would want to support your idea of planting an avenue, or groups, of trees along Approach Road. However there was much praise for your thoughts and a definite enthusiasm for tree planting. We have agreed to discuss tree planting again in more detail () at our October meeting, some colleagues wish to look at planting more trees on Westmore Green.

Many thanks and please continue to keep us informed of your ideas. Jon.’

So there we are. Naturally, many of us will be disappointed at the outcome, but the whole point of a Council is that it is elected by, represents, and makes decisions on behalf of all parishioners, so if their thinking is that the village is best served without the project being carried through – so be it. At least we have the satisfaction of knowing that alternative tree-planting proposals are to be discussed at October’s PC meeting.
Experiencing a dearth of bird life ourselves, I was pleased to hear from Linda Bennett of John’s Road who is proclaiming, ‘The birds are back!’ (02.09.10):

‘Having had a scarcity of birds over the past few weeks, they now seem to be back with a vengeance. I came into my kitchen first thing to see on my four pronged hanging bird feeder and adjacent shrub – 7 Blue Tits, 4 Great Tits, 1 Nuthatch, 1 Robin, 2 Coal Tits and 1 Marsh/Willow Tit!

Also seen this morning for the first time, a Chiff Chaff, a rather insignificant beige little bird that wouldn’t keep still, but having heard the call, I realised what it must be. Also a first, a Grass Snake basking on the pebbles around the pond. Quite taken aback as I thought it was a bit of rope and nearly trod on it!

Not seen at all this summer are Dragonflies emerging from the pond. Maybe the pond has become too dry on a couple of occasions?

We have five Buddleias in the garden – white, lilac, Black Knight, variegated cerise and yellow, and each attracts different creatures. The small round clusters of yellow flowers attract every kind of bee, whereas the cone shaped flower clusters attract the butterflies.’

You’re very fortunate, Linda. Not so long ago, we were also enjoying a good variety of bird life on a daily basis feeding in our Greenway garden. But now, to be honest, I can’t remember when I last saw more than two or three birds at any one time. (More Sparrowhawk victims?) Hopefully, this situation will improve as the colder weather draws them back in. Has anyone else noticed a large fluctuation in the numbers of birds visiting their garden? Or perhaps you have your own theory as to why the number of resident visitors (ie. not migrants) fluctuates so wildly throughout the year? If so, why not share your thoughts with us all – send a note!

Veronica Neal (Westmore Road) sent this report of an alien body found in her birdbath (22.09.10):

‘Yesterday morning I found something floundering in a birdbath on the ground. I hooked it out and found it was a magnificent Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillar. I thought it was dead but with a spell in a seed propagator, lid on, vents open, it recovered. I put Fuchsia leaves in and it had a feed. Later in the afternoon, I popped it on a large Fuchsia plant near my back door. This morning it is still there, happily chewing away and looking at me with those ‘evil’ eyes. What a lovely creature and what luck to find it!’

Well done, Veronica. I’m sure those Fuchsia plants can spare a leaf or two, and thanks to your report we now know where to take our injured and displaced caterpillars for a little ‘tlc’!
Mike Lambert has sent timely advice on how to make a bug box. Timely, of course, because this is the time of year when all manner of ‘bugs’ are looking for somewhere to hibernate during the winter months. Bug boxes are readily available to purchase, but why not spend the money on some basic materials and build two or three for the same cost? A great Christmas gift idea? I think so!

(These instructions were written for children but, as we all know, children won’t be reading it. I have therefore adapted them slightly, making them suitable for all ages. Come on, Granny and Grandad – get that tool box out!)

‘Following a visit to Cooling’s Garden Centre and their nature walk (which we thoroughly recommend), and having seen their bug-boxes, we decided to make our own out of easily found scraps of wood and bits of old flowerpots. The finished article looks really cosy, and we have already had several species of insect viewing the property with the idea of moving in for the winter. If you would like to make a bug-box it is easy, and you can have lots of fun over the winter looking to see who has come to live in it. To make it you will need:

2 x pieces of plywood measuring 9 x 5 inches
1 x piece of plywood measuring 6 x 5 inches
3 x pieces of square wood 5 inches long
12 x short screws to make the frame
A selection of old bamboo canes (different sizes) cut into 5 inch lengths
2 x old, very small plastic flowerpots
Some twigs tied into a little bundle with strong thread
A couple of bits of old flowerpot (crock)

To make the frame, form the three pieces of plywood into a triangle, put a piece of the square wood at each junction inside, and attach with screws (ask an adult or child how to do it). You will now have a three-sided empty box. You can now fill the frame with the cut pieces of bamboo, the small plastic flowerpots with the base with the holes in facing the front, bits of flowerpot, and little bundles of twigs. See if you can think of anything else to put inside to make it more interesting for the insects. Once you have filled the frame up, your bug-box is ready to attach to a fence or shed wall. Ask an adult or child to help you with the fixing (I have used a couple of metal brackets). As an extra I have thatched the roof of my bug box. I bought some straw from the pet shop, tied it in little bundles with strong thread, and tied it to the roof. It looks good and provides an extra habitat for the bugs. You could also use a piece of turf.

I am looking forward to seeing who comes to live in our bug-box. Have fun!’

I’m sure we’ll all have fun making these, Mike. Thanks for the idea.

Got a report? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s
GARDENING CLUB

A keen bunch of more than 30 wine connoisseurs gathered in the WI hall last week, to meet and hear about John Warde's latest venture, his own vineyard at Squerryes. He began planting about 4 years ago having quizzed some French vineyard owners as to the most suitable types of vines to grow as far north as Westerham. He went off to Plumpton agricultural college to glean any useful tips he could from there. First the land had to be well prepared to enable the vines to grow successfully. Their roots go down a long way and feeding them in later years is quite difficult, so prior preparation is crucial. Vines can live for up to 50 years, so they need a good birth to help their longevity.

Mr. Warde has about 30 acres in all, some of which we can see flourishing now along the Pilgrims Way. It is all very labour intensive, from pruning the vines in winter, to spraying carefully in spring and keeping rabbits out, and trying to keep badgers out too. He did not mention deer, but I guess they may like grapes too. So far, wasps have not been a problem. Once the grapes are ready to pick he imports Eastern bloc pickers to pick rain or shine, sun or hail etc. He told me they work uncomplainingly and are tough enough to pick with very sharp scissors and don't cut themselves as often as they might with less experience. He has about 30 workers in the picking season.

Once the grapes are picked they are sent straight to Tenterden, on a daily basis, to be prepared for pressing and turning into wine. The winery at Tenterden takes the bulk of Squerryes grapes, but this year he is keeping about 10 tons back for another smaller winery to try. This has been a good year so far for healthy vines.

At the end of the talk, there were quite a few questions from the audience, as some of us have been growing grapes in our own gardens and have found this year has been pretty good fruiting. We then all tried a white English wine, not yet Squerryes' own, a rosé, a red and finally a sparkling white wine, which I liked the best. We look forward to seeing Squerryes wine for sale in a year or so. Patience is a necessary virtue when it comes to starting a vineyard. I think Roger Pearce, who organised this interesting meeting, had a very valid quotation “It requires a large fortune to make a small fortune” should you be thinking of starting your own vineyard.

Dawn Forrester Groom

W.I.

We've been having a great time. Our speaker for October was Mr Peter Durrant, who told us all about the history of Fleet Street, and his experiences there. He had us spell bound. He was witty, friendly
and a true gentleman. We had a trip to Canine Partners which was extremely interesting and we enjoyed ourselves in Chichester. We were going to visit Sheffield Park to enjoy the autumn colours but they put the price up as it is so popular so we went to Emmetts Garden instead! The Games Afternoon at the end of September was great fun topped off with a delicious cream tea – such a treat. We have the Darts Tournament kicking off in November and the first match is against Westerham. Wish us luck!

Mr Durrant wore an immaculate pinstripe suit (his card reads “A Gentleman of Fleet Street” and he really is). He held our attention for a full hour, mixing history with anecdotes of his life and people he has met. He started work when he was 14 as a copy boy for the London Evening News two weeks before the Hiroshima bomb. For his interview he borrowed his brother’s shoes, which were very uncomfortable, was asked to read something, then to spell and asked a question on current affairs. He had a break for military service returning to the press afterwards and although in his late seventies now, he has never retired. He became a journalist and still writes, mainly humour, and is a Freeman of the City of London. He is the Secretary of the Press Club and has been made a Life Member. He goes everywhere representing the Press Club to meet and interview many people including all the Prime Ministers and the Queen (who, incidentally, he adores and says she is a born comedienne). He told us that her favourite Prime Minister was Harold Wilson. He was a friend of Lord Lucan, Bernard Braden and Barbara Kelly as well as Sir Hugh Casson, who incidentally worked tirelessly for charity. As he said, “not bad for a boy born into poverty as one of six children”. He also represents the Press Club at funerals of famous people and read us some tribute poems he had collected from these occasions, in particular a couple from Spike Milligan’s funeral. He admired Spike as a great writer.

We were told that Fleet Street is the most historic third of a mile in the City of London and named after the River Fleet which was truly filthy but now is underground. Henry 8th’s Bridewell Palace and the Fleet Prison were on its banks. Mr Durrant told us that the prisoners were living in disgusting conditions and set fire to the place, escaped, then went after the solicitors and judges up the road who had worked against them. St Bride’s (the Press Church) is near and one of the loveliest in London, friendly, warm and well attended with the added attraction of a renowned professional choir. There were a lot of photographs on display showing famous buildings but the inside of St Bride’s looked beautiful.

From buildings we turned to famous people. Wynkyn de Worde is known as the Father of Fleet Street started off as apprentice to Caxton; Sir Christopher Wren lived in the area and built 52 churches after the Great Fire as well as many other structures; Samuel Pepys the diarist was born in Fleet Street and became Master of Trinity; Daniel Defoe lived there and was known as The Father of Journalism; Dr Samuel Johnson lived nearby and frequented The Cheshire Cheese hostelry built in 1667. He created the Literary Society with Boswell.
The first newspaper from Fleet Street introduced in 1702, was a single sheet and sold for one penny – which was quite expensive in those days and was followed by the Spectator and The Tap. In 2002 the press celebrated the three hundredth anniversary with a huge party. The newspapers left Fleet Street in the 1980s and moved to Docklands where the big machinery was replaced with modern equipment and computers and the whole atmosphere changed. Now it seems that the companies and people are beginning to come to the Fleet Street area again.

Mr Durrant had many anecdotes concerning various eating and drinking places particularly The Wig and Pen (now a restaurant but listed, so cannot be altered) and El Vino. He did say that when the press moved from Fleet Street in the 80s it caused a big slump in their business. It used to be the rule that no woman could buy a drink or stand at the bar in El Vino. This had upset quite a lot of ladies so in 1970 a group of 21 women gate-crashed the establishment, managing to change the rule. However, the dress code was very strict – men should wear ties and jackets, ladies should not wear trousers. In the 90s a lady wore culottes there and was turned away. Then later on three barristers, all in black, stood at the bar, the woman wore trousers. Someone reported her and she was asked to leave. Instead she took off her trousers and stood at the bar in her knickers and black tights. That rule got changed!

Mr Durrant had brought along a bottle of El Vino wine and we were puzzling over that until he asked if anyone had a birthday. Someone did, and was duly awarded the wine. Just goes to show what a nice man he is. He told us so much, made us laugh and made us sad, but was always interesting and I am sure Fleet Street would be a great place to explore.

The speaker for our meeting on 2nd November is Mr Peter Shearan who will talk about the life and works of Rudyard Kipling.

Toni Holley

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society’s last event of the year is a talk by Philip Askew, who is a senior officer of the Olympic Delivery Authority, about “The 2012 Olympic Park – A legacy” at the Village Hall on Tuesday 9th November. All the details are in the notice in Village News. The talk will follow the Society’s AGM, which starts at 7.30pm. Don’t miss it.
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

We had a good attendance for the October meeting. The members opted for games of Beetle Drive - great fun! The worthy winners will have to wait for their prize until next month, as we forgot to get one! The tea was our usual - bread and butter, scones with jam and cream, cake and, of course, tea. This month, in addition, there was a glass of port and sweets, provided by Pat and Bill Tyler, who are celebrating their Diamond wedding! Very many good wishes and congratulations go to them, with many more happy years together. At the meeting on the 9th of November there is to be a musical quiz.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

We had as many as 39 (plus 10 dogs) out for our Penshurst walk on 17th October in ideal weather. We have two more walks in the Kent countryside this month and then another early in December. All the details are below. All welcome. Just turn up or give us a ring if you would like to know more.

Date Meet Walk Leader
Sunday 14th November 11am at Chartwell (please buy a parking ticket if you are not a NT member showing your car badge) (Map ref: TQ454518) 4½ miles, 3 hours, to the Carpenters Arms, Limpsfield Chart and back Jean Turner and Carol Vening

Date Meet Walk Leader
Sunday 28th November 10.15am at Darenth Valley Golf Club, Shoreham (Map ref: TQ524614) 6 miles, 3½ hours, some hills, to Lullingstone Park Golf Club for refreshments via the Roman Villa, then to Shoreham Cross and back Carol Vening

Date Meet Walk Leader
Sunday 5th December 10.45am at Ightham Mote car park (Map ref: TQ584535) 5 miles, 3 hours, to Godden Green and Stone Street (note: this walk has been moved from 12th December as that is the day of our Christmas lunch). Peter King

Roger and Angela Sawyers (Tel: 577434)
1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

Our big ‘Group Event’ this month is our Fireworks night which we are holding on Tuesday 9th. This is for all the sections, plus their families. We are holding it on the Tatsfield playing field at Furze Corner where we will be having fireworks, of course, a large bonfire, soup and hotdogs plus the licensed bar will be open thanks to Robin the Steward of Tatsfield Playing Field Association.

Beavers as part of their Promise Challenge badge work are having a visit to St Mary’s Church where Revd Louise Ellis will be talking about the church and her role within the community. They will also be having a day trip to Downe Activity Centre where they are taking part in grass sledging, pedal go-karts and the adventure course. Our Scouts, who are camping there for the weekend, will be cooking them their lunch (could be interesting!). The day will give the Beavers a taste of their scouting to come as they progress through the sections as well as achieving their Adventure Activity badge.

Cubs will be defending their Swimming Gala title, Akela has put together a team that Rebecca Adlington would be proud of and I hadn’t realised how many great swimmers we had in the Pack, here’s wishing them good luck on the day.

Cubs are also visiting a local fire station, which is always a popular trip and having an evening where they address personal safety. Scouts are having a patrol challenge night, which are always keenly contested plus the weekend at Downe where they have a packed programme arranged – Zip Wire, Aerial Runway, Crate Stacking, Archery and Rifle shooting as well as cooking on open fires and acres of woodland to explore.

Both the Scout and Explorer sections will be involved with a service for Remembrance Sunday both here at Tatsfield and in Oxted. All in all packed programmes for all the sections despite the dark evenings and winter weather approaching. Before we know it Christmas will be upon us!

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

FOOD AND WINE SOCIETY

The last two events of the year are:

- 7.30pm on Wednesday 24th November – Fish and Chips at McDermotts
- 8pm on Friday 10th December – Christmas Party at Postacre, Ship Hill.
1ST TATSFIELD BROWNIES

We have now had a good start to the new autumn term with three new recruits. A big welcome to Jessica Ellis, Holly Griffin and Morgan Dawson. For this term we have moved our meetings to a later time of 5.30 – 7.00 because of work commitments and this seems to be working well although the evenings are drawing in.

We kicked off this term with a treasure trail of photographic evidence and making sock puppets while devising a play for them to be in. We had church parade on Harvest Festival and took lots of fruit and veg but so did everyone and the church was full, almost standing room only. As I write this, we are due to have our Finale Centenary Party at the Oxted Community hall to round off the 100 years. We then have two weeks of the communications badge and we have 3 gentlemen from the local Warlingham Radio club to erect aerials and show us how to do transmitting and Morse code, so it will be a fun evening.

After half term we plan to have Christmas craft nights with eating and parties for our friends, so if you want to come and join us for some girly evenings give me a call. Anyone 7 or over can join us now.

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NOVEMBER NOTES

With the help of my two assistants little (grandchildren) Emily and Amy, I have just finished harvesting my apples so that I can sort them out for storage in the garage in the cool and dark airy conditions they need so that they last until Christmas with luck. If you’re doing this job, make sure to avoid storing anything that is bruised or has a cut; even the slightest blemish can be an entry point for the rotting diseases. Do not remove the woody bit of stalk that joined the apple to the tree, let it fall off naturally. Use a slightly damp cloth and wipe each apple to remove dirt and bits of debris - be careful not to rub hard! Carefully place the apples in a box, larger ones at the bottom, making sure there is plenty of space for air to circulate. Don’t seal them up or they will ‘sweat’ and rot more quickly.

If you are reading this and are thinking ‘I wish I had some apple trees’ well now is the time to choose and plant them while the soil is warm enough to start a good root system before they become dormant for the winter. The usual rules apply: make a hole a little bit larger than the root system, mix in some good quality compost or well rotted manure with the soil. Plant no deeper than just below the point where the apple variety was grafted – you can identify this by the slightly uneven part of the stem, usually just about 10” or so above the root system. Unless you have a very large garden, choose a dwarfing or semi-dwarfing stock to keep the adult tree small. This size of tree comes into fruiting sooner (usually three years of growth) but will not produce huge crops that would be expected of a larger tree. But what varieties should you grow? I suggest you avoid the Cox apple as it is not an easy tree to grow, often weak in our clay soils and very prone to canker. You could choose a dual use apple (dessert and a cooker) like Blenheim Orange or Charles Ross, or a dessert variety like Discovery or Ellisons Orange (a bit like a Cox but I think it is better). The traditional Bramley seedling grows very well locally but make sure it is grafted on a semi-dwarfing stock otherwise it will take over the garden.

Whatever you decide to buy there two important matters to decide:

Some fruit trees are self-fertile and will produce a good crop on their own. Most however, require or will benefit from a pollination partner. The pollination partner must be a different variety of the same fruit species which flowers at about the same time and is compatible in other respects. So you have to do a bit of thinking and planning, better still contact a local fruit tree producer who knows about our local soils and climate. One of the best is Keepers Nurseries near Maidstone; they have an excellent website www.keepers-nursery.co.uk and they deliver in our area.

Fruit trees are available to be trained in a wide variety of shapes. Cordons for example are planted on a sloping angle and grown almost like poles; this allows for many different varieties to be grown in a small space, perhaps by a fence? Fan and espalier shapes are very decorative but need more work; then there are dwarf bushes, semi-standards and finally the traditional standard tree that needs a good deal of space.

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