THIS ISSUE

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TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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Wardens • Jennifer Evans (570190) and Jennie South (577598)

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Village Website www.tatsfield.org.uk

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

Advertising Enquiries should be made to our Advertising Manager Maureen Perrin (Tel: 577679 Email: tatmag@hotmail.co.uk)

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 Please state if not for publication.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,

There was a time when life seemed quite simple. I was naive about the complexities of life. I remember as a child of nearly six being aware of the images of children starving in Ethiopia that hit our screens with ‘Band Aid’. Suddenly life didn’t seem so simple. How could it be? I don’t suppose at six I would have been able to articulate why it seemed so wrong but I certainly knew it wasn’t ‘right’. By the time I joined secondary school the question was clear in my mind – how could there be so much suffering in a world created and held by a loving God?

Throughout life we all encounter complexities, questions and doubts. Some issues that have been there in every generation and some issues arise from our ever increasing and developing technology and scientific study. For a while in my mid teens I thought perhaps it was possible that Christianity could provide all the answers to these questions and doubts. Well, several years on I now know that often there are no easy answers. Life is complex. Issues are seldom clear cut.

The God I believe in is not one that provides clear cut answers to all the questions and ethical issues we encounter. There are many questions I still have, many ethical issues I ponder. Of course my faith influences all my questioning and pondering but it doesn’t always, if ever, provide easy answers. Yet at Easter we are reminded most powerfully of a God who came into the midst of it all…..encountered the joy and the pain of human life and death. And in the Resurrection the sure hope that this life is not the end. For me it is this that grounds me and roots me as I ponder, and often struggle with these complexities.

Whether we are agnostic, atheist, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish or anything else, there are some issues and dilemmas that touch us all. We may well recognize that there are often no easy answers but perhaps we could all try to be better informed, to wrestle with them a bit and see where we stand at least for the moment! For the five Wednesday evenings in May, St Mary’s will be hosting a series of talks on some of the ‘Big issues’ in life eg. assisted dying; suffering; the Middle East peace process…..Each week a specialist in that particular area will talk, then there will be time for questions and discussion (full details can be found later in the magazine). Whilst the evenings won’t provide all the answers, they will give the opportunity to further question and explore some pertinent issues. Whatever your questions, doubts or religious convictions you will be most welcome to join us.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter

Louise Ellis
Dear Editor,

Burglary at The Orchards, Westmore Green on 10th March 2012

We regretfully suffered a burglary on Saturday 10th March between the hours of 11am and 3pm which resulted in the loss of Laptop computer, I-pad etc and some valuables especially some which had no real convertible value but were irreplaceable because of belonging to my wife’s late mother and aunt and also some few pieces of my late mother’s. Apart from the most valuable items there was a box of dress jewellery which obviously took the eye of the intruders - so we should all look out for an extremely charming looking but over-embellished person who could stand out in a crowd.

In dark moments though some good things happen including in this case the real support given to both my wife and me by the police - not only the quick response but also the real care, time and consideration that was shown to us at that extremely distressing moment.

We have continued to receive excellent support from Surrey Police with regards to improving our own security and can only recommend that anyone who has not experienced this awful life-changing intrusion takes action NOW to hopefully prevent future burglaries. We will either both or individually be regular attendees of the Wednesday afternoon neighbourhood Police discussion forum in the Parish Room from 2.30 to 3.30pm.

We blame no one other than the intruders for our loss but as a community I am sure we can do more for all our own sakes.

Those who I would like to thank especially are Attending PC Vivien, Scene Of Crimes Lady Officer, PC Steve Cresswell Neighbourhood Specialist Officer and David Mullins Surrey Police team.

George and Pat Smith, The Orchards, Westmore Green

THIS MONTH’S COVER PICTURE
Pictured on the cover is a scene from the marvellous performance of ‘The Peace Child’ by the children of St. Mary’s Church in the Village Hall last month. You will find more about it in Village News on page 52.

INSERTS
There are two leaflets coming with the magazine, one about North Downs Sinfonia’s Spring Concert on 12 May and the other from Alasdair Gauld about the entertainment he can offer you.
Dear Editor,

**Tatsfield Cubs Supper**

On Tuesday March 15th I was fortunate to be invited to the Tatsfield Cubs supper which was all prepared and served by the cubs and leaders. The hospitality was excellent and I was made to feel very welcome by all.

The wonderful meal of spaghetti bolognese and french bread was followed by fresh fruit salad with cream and finally finished with a choice of tea or coffee and mints. A thoroughly enjoyable occasion. A big thank you to all the Cubs and their leaders and helpers who all worked so hard to provide an excellent evening.

Brian Cook, Greenway

Dear Editor,

**Canine Turdis Encapsulata**

Spring has sprung the grass has ris, I wonder where dem poo bags is? Well I'll tell you exactly where they is. Sadly they remain adorning fence, gate and hedgerow, leaving it to a dedicated village team of litter pickers to sort out, Yuck! There are plenty of poo stations around the village but failing that please do take the offending packages home. At the inaugural meeting of the recently formed action group, Community Revolting Against Pervasive Poo (CRAPP), the Chairman, me, put to the assembled, me, that something more really needed to be done. The motion was passed, bagged and taken to the nearest poo station, the meeting declared closed and I went home.

Despite my occasional moan on this subject I do believe we are winning and I thank all responsible dog owners for their cooperation - keep Tatsfield tidy!

Howard Aylett, Paynesfield Road

Dear Editor

**Verge Destruction**

I am one of a small army of litter pickers, my particular beat being the Approach Road. I do this, not because I am a zealot about litter, but because I like to live in a reasonably tidy village.

This cannot be said of the Allotment keepers. The entrance to this site is a disgrace. Both sides of the entrance have been churned up by 4 x 4s and other vehicles, part of the site fencing has collapsed and a new lay-by appears to have been created just 10 yards or so up from the official one adjacent to the Tatol bed.

Inside the gate the allotments are looking pristine and extremely well kept; it’s a pity about the outside. Should these jolly gardeners of ours need an example of a well kept entrance to an allotment site, look no further than those on the A25, just up from Moorhouse.
The village is about to enter competitions for the South and South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. If we fail, we shall know whom to blame!

**Terry Cartwright, Paynesfield Road**

*Editor: A response from Jon Allbutt to Terry Cartwright’s letter is below.*

Dear Editor,

**The Allotments**

Many thanks to Terry Cartwright for his letter regarding litter and the damage to the verge outside the Tatsfield Allotments and Community Gardens.

He will be very pleased to hear that our contractor has completed the deer fence all around the site and our volunteers have completed the planting of the new hedge and the ‘gapping up’ of the hedge along Approach Road. As part of this we have also removed a lot of litter along the Approach Road hedge and we intend to check this regularly in future.

The damage to the verge outside is a long standing problem. Following discussions with SCC Highways by our Tatsfield in Bloom team some years ago we gained the two lay- bys. Unfortunately vehicles continue to park on the Approach Road verge and this includes some allotmenteers. We actively discourage the use of cars but some folk have to use them due to age or disability or because they live too far away to walk. But all is not lost. We are in discussion again with SCC Highways to see if we can build up the verges in Approach Road, sow them with a wild flower mixture, and perhaps erect some posts. Very soon our contractor will be carrying out improvements to the allotment path that runs parallel to Approach Road that will provide improved access in all weathers.

In the meantime we will continue to discourage allotmenteers from parking in this area of Approach Road.

**Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Allotments Committee**

Dear Editor,

**Surrey County Council**

While thanking Mr Hodge for finally making a meaningful contribution to the village magazine last month, his robust response to my original observation requires further comment. On top of his member’s allowance, Mr Hodge receives a special responsibility payment as council leader, recognising his personal role in matters such as lobbying ministers. It’s not something individual residents can do for him but does need to be effective. However much the council leader protests he cannot dispute the Audit Commission finding that Surrey became one of the worst performing councils in the country while he was a member. With evidence around us it is unlikely residents will be impressed by the county council picking up some cosy awards.

More pertinent is the finding of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy that 85% of English councils managed to freeze council tax for
2012/13. Regrettably Surrey - whose headquarters in the London borough of Kingston make it a London-based authority - is not among them. By choosing to be in a minority Surrey is obliging households with shrinking incomes to pay more for little return. Accountable councils find ways of aligning their priorities with those who fund their existence.

Richard Gibbs, Maesmaur Road

Dear Editor,

Mathematics and Young People

In reply to Betty Perry’s letter last month about mathematics, or rather the lack of, in shops and supermarkets, the same kind of thing has happened to me on many occasions. As Betty so aptly described I too was dumbfounded at the response I received at the checkouts on giving the right money for a few purchases. Also if spending for example nine pounds and fifty two pence, I would give the cashier a ten pound note and the odd two pence saying “that will save you giving me all loose change”. The response is usually half a dozen “do what’s” or “What do you mean?” and a completely vacant expression on their face. Then after a couple more attempts to explain, the penny drops, as you may say - “hooray for small mercies”.

I would like to say to you Betty when I was young I was the exact opposite - I absolutely loved maths, something I think I must have inherited from my mother.

A few examples (please don’t think I’m conceited or big-headed) as I will explain later. Not long after starting junior school the teacher completely covered a large blackboard with roughly fifty fractions and said when you have finished call out, which I duly did. The reply was “You little liar Garrard. I’m a maths teacher and couldn’t do them in that time”. After checking them she apologised to me. When at eleven I started a new school, my class was given a massively long sum and - you’ve guessed it - your’s truly got it right. The next day in assembly, the headmaster said that only one pupil got this sum right so he wanted the whole school to do it. I’m not saying anything Betty but can you guess what happened?

There were several incidents but I won’t bore you with any more examples. When it was time for me to leave school, my teachers advised me not to throw my life away - get a job where I could use my love of mathematics to carve out a career for myself. Did I take any notice? To sum up in one word - No! (excuse the pun). Like an idiot I chose hard graft- that’s life! Now for the explanation as promised Betty, as the old adage goes “Use it or lose it” - I’ve definitely lost it! Enid now calls me a mindless cretin!

Mick Garrard, Johns Road

BIG VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

Are you going to lend a hand for an hour on Saturday 21 April? Find out more on page 41.
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council had its regular meeting on Monday 11th March, preceded by the police forum. We were disappointed to learn that no decision has been made regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit in Approach Road from 60mph to 40mph on the section from the junction with Lusted Hall Lane to Clarks Lane. We will continue discussions with the police and the County Council.

The Highways report from Doug Massey indicated a continuing improvement in the response by Surrey Highways and that our potholes were being attended to more efficiently. However concern remains about some repairs not yet carried out and Doug will continue with his regular site meetings and inspections.

A report on the arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee was received from Sue Smale. A provisional programme is published in this edition of the Magazine.

We continue to discuss the need for an updated Village Appraisal later this year. There will be a further meeting in mid April and a notice of this meeting will be published in the near future. Anyone wishing to assist with this important project is asked to contact any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

We discussed a number of complaints by residents about the misuse of the recycling facility in the Old Ship Car Park. Bob David agreed to discuss this with Tandridge District Council officers and to report at our April meeting.

A report was received on progress with the PARROT project to provide funding for the refurbishment of the Westmore Green Playground was received from Kevin Arnold and Nichola Stokoe.

A report was received on the ongoing discussions with a local business which has expressed an interest in taking a lease on some of the vacant rooms in the Aileen McHugo Building. It is hoped to conclude these discussions shortly.

A report was received from Roger Sawyers on our Speedwatch Project. Monitoring in Ricketts Hill Road will be commencing during April.

A report was received on progress with the Tatsfield Allotments and Community Gardens scheme including applications for grants, the erection of the deer fence, the planting of the boundary hedge using plants donated by the Woodland Trust, the completion of the rainwater harvesting roof, arrangements for the contractors to put in a path and the beginning of the move of the Community Composting facility to the site.

As Easter falls on the second Monday in April it was agreed to postpone our next
Parish Council meeting until Monday 16th April. It was also agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held the next day, Tuesday 17th April in the Village Hall commencing with a glass of wine at 7.30pm. It was confirmed that Jenny Munro, Managing Director of Biggin Hill Airport, would be speaking.

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

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tatsfield Post Office: The Post Office is restructuring its 11,500 branches. Some 4,000 will be branded as ‘Post Office Mains’. Another 2,000, many of them rural, will be turned into ‘Post Office Local’ branches, with the majority being relocated in new premises such as shops and petrol stations, where there will not be a separate post office counter but where all customers will be served at the same counter. The remaining 5,500 will remain as they are, and I am glad to say that this is the case for Tatsfield Post Office and in fact it is the option which our postmistress, Linda Dance, went for. All post offices are vulnerable as a result of the major changes which have taken place in the ways we communicate with each other and, if anything, that vulnerability will increase in the future. We know by now that there is only one way to safeguard our post office’s future – by us, all of us, using it and by using it to such an extent that its viability is not put in question. Our post office doesn’t only sell stamps and pay out pensions. It provides a wide range of services including banking services for those with accounts with the major banks. Next time you are in Linda’s, ask at the post office counter about what is on offer - you may well be surprised!

Tandridge District Council elections: There will be elections in parts of Tandridge in May but not here in Tatsfield and Titsey. I am afraid my four-year term of office lasts until May 2015, which is the next opportunity you will have to vote for your district councillor.

Surrey Police: But you will have another chance to cast your vote in a polling booth this year when, on 15 November, we will all be able to vote for the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner who will, under the new arrangements for the police in England (outside London) and Wales, be replacing the Surrey Police Authority. These new arrangements have not received much coverage in the media and most of us probably don’t know much about the new arrangements or who the candidates in Surrey might be. I will see what I can do in future reports.

Dumping: Because we live in open country and because so many of our roads are relatively quiet and some, especially our many unmade roads, very quiet, we
are an attractive place for people to dump builders’ waste, unwanted furniture and much else. The best we can do is to keep our eyes open and make a note of the relevant details (the date and time, vehicle registration number, description of people involved) whenever we see any dumping taking place or about to happen, and then report it as quickly as possible to Tandridge (phone 0800 783 4843 or email amenityservices@tandridge.gov.uk). Tandridge has an excellent record in investigating dumping. Only last month it succeeded in prosecuting someone from London who dumped a fridge freezer in the woodland on Farleigh Road, Warlingham and who was then fined £500 and ordered to pay costs of £915. Tandridge offers a reward of £500 for information leading to a successful prosecution, and Tatsfield residents have in the past received such awards.

Planning Applications: Tandridge has approved the following Tatsfield planning applications:

The Old Rectory, Clarks Lane: Erection of conservatory.
Land north west of 23 Lusted Hall Lane: 10 affordable dwellings.
Rosefield House, Hillside Road: Erection of dwelling and detached double garage (to replace dwelling on that plot).
Rose Cottage, Goatsfield Road: Certificate of Lawfulness for a detached house and garage.

There has been one refusal: The Chalet, Ninehams Road: detached double garage.

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

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Paynesfield Road, top end, resurfacing: As soon as I am aware of the planned works I will advise Paynesfield Road residents of the programme. I ask all residents to be patient with these works as I suspect there may be a pipe damaged below the surface and if that is the case the works may take a little longer – but it is best that SCC fix the problem even if it takes a little longer.

Tatsfield in Bloom: I was delighted to obtain the sum of £1,000 towards the outstanding work that the village will be undertaking in the bid to win the Britain in Bloom competition this year. Parish Councillor Doug Massey is working with SCC Highways in conjunction with both Bob David and Jon Allbutt to ensure that local highways issues can be attended to in order that we at SCC can play our part in helping Tatsfield to win.

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

The 20+ enthusiastic cutters and stickers representing some of the oldest institutions in the village - the CHURCH, the WI, the SCHOOL, the VILLAGE CLUB, the HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY and the SCOUTS - met for the first time on 3rd March.

My designs were poured over, accepted, rejected, adapted and disputed energetically. Everyone’s creativity flowed freely and by the end of the first session the boards supplied by Mike Teague were drawn on for the first time!

The mosaic tiles in all their multi-coloured splendour were admired, selected/fought over, and laid down without glue. The first session ended on a high with the WI showing us the way, their design set out almost completely. The competitive gauntlet was firmly laid down by Pat Walsh, Eileen Pearce and Angela Sawyers.

Our second session saw the glue come out and the first tiles were stuck to the boards initially with some trepidation, later with panache. All the groups made great progress with only ‘the hortis’ still debating their design. Agreement was reached and harmony reigned by the end of the session.

We aim to complete our mosaics by the end of May. They will be fixed to the outside of the Aileen McHugo Building as part of the village Jubilee celebrations and in time for the South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions. We will then be open for commissions!

My thanks to all the crafters who have agreed to give so generously of their time. We hope that everyone will enjoy the results of our labours. Watch this space and ring me if you have any queries or want to see work in progress.

Carol Gaskell (Tel: 577724)
Greetings everyone. It’s wonderful to get the magazine each month and be able to keep in touch with what's happening in Tatsfield - lots of great things, as ever. I really miss you. However, life has taken another step onward for me since Thursday, 8th March when I was made a novice in the Community of St Francis. When you first join a religious community you start as a postulant - a few months living with the Sisters to have a first taste of the life. If it still feels right after that, you become a novice - usually for about 3 years. That's the time you begin to wear the habit - mercifully Franciscans don't wear veils! It's been a huge change of life, but it still feels like the right thing to be doing, even though I really miss being a parish priest.

I'll be joining the volunteer chaplaincy team at Lincoln Cathedral while I'm living with the Sisters in Lincolnshire this year, so that will be good. While I'm a novice I'll be moving each year; two of the Sisters' houses are in London, so if my next move is to one of those, hopefully I'll be able to visit St Mary's and catch up with some of you.

With love and blessings,

Catherine

Editor: I asked Catherine what was the right way to address her now! Catherine replied:

“I now have two titles (how pompous is that ...). If ever I need to fluff my feathers, I'm Rev. Sister Catherine, but always just Catherine to all of you! When you become a novice you can either change your name, or add one with spiritual significance. I've added the Celtic name Iona, because of all the wealth of Celtic spirituality, environmental care and justice that is associated with the Isle of Iona. I went there with a group from St Mary's shortly after I came to Tatsfield and it was a deeply moving time. Within the Franciscan community, I'll now be known as Sr Catherine Iona officially, but just Catherine mostly.”
VILLAGE NEWS

THE ROYAL FAMILY PICNIC ON WESTMORE GREEN

The Parish Council, who are sponsoring the event, asked me to arrange a family picnic to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee from 3 – 5 pm on Saturday, 2nd June on Westmore Green. With help from village historian Ian Mitchell, I have tried to copy a lot of the programme that happened at the same venue in 1953 and I have set out below what is has been organised so far.

There will be a group of “workers” from 1.30pm onwards putting out chairs, tables, bunting and marking out an arena with ropes and stakes in the middle of the Green. Also Mark Stokoe and his team will be inflating two of his “Bounce Away” castles for the children to enjoy. A Maypole will be erected and John Clarke (of the Scouts) will be erecting a pole that will have a Union flag unfurled at the official opening of the event at 3pm by a local VIP.

The items listed so far for the for the family entertainment in the arena will be: (1) a children’s fancy dress competition for 3 classes - up to 4 years, 5 – 8 years, and 9 – 14 years (2) a royal cake baking competition with the cakes being eaten afterwards at the event, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for that event (3) a marching band (4) children’s Maypole dancing (5) a team of Zumba dancers (6) a choir (7) egg and spoon race (8) a sack race (9) a family tug of war (10) Carol and Amanda (of the Ship pub) say that their licence allows them to dispense drinks at the event (11) a barbeque will be available for hot dogs, burgers and sausages in buns (12) all of the competition winners will receive engraved prizes and (13) all of the children will go home with a gold medallion hung with a red, white and blue ribbon.

Everyone is welcome to come along and bring their own picnic, drinks and glasses. They can also bring their own (Fishermen’s) chairs and folding tables if they wish. There will be a (14) Royal toast to her Majesty the Queen from a local VIP at the end of the event. Any volunteers with extra ideas and help will be welcome. If you can bring along a cake/s, a jelly or anything like that for other people as well as your own family, that would be nice.

So there it is Tatsfielders, please come along and enjoy a nice family party time at this Parish Council sponsored royal event on Westmore Green. If it rains then we will all squeeze into the Village Hall but remember it all starts at 3pm sharp. See you all there!

Dave Bishop (Tel: 577550; email: davebishop_dbsound@yahoo.co.uk)

STOP PRESS!

Dave Bishop has just heard that the Westerham Sea Cadets (Item (3) above – “a marching band”) will not be able to appear on 2 June after all. If anyone knows of a similar group who might be able to take their place, would they please contact Dave.
AN EXTRAVAGANZA WITH A PURPOSE

On Sunday 11th March some ninety Tatsfield residents enjoyed the pleasant glow that comes with the knowledge that you are doing something good. They were helping to ensure that the often poor and untrained people who produce much of our food are fairly treated, and have a chance themselves to lead worthwhile, enjoyable lives. At the same time the residents were having a lovely evening.

They were at a Chocolate Extravaganza in the Village Hall, organised by the Tatsfield Fairtrade Village Group. A Chocolate Extravaganza was something that most people had never heard of before, but as the evening wore on, all was made clear.

First the guests were welcomed by Jennie South, the Chairman of the Group, who thanked the Chairman of Tandridge District Council, Cllr Brian Perkins and his wife, Mrs Sonia Perkins, for coming. She also thanked everyone who had helped to organise the event; they included members of the Fairtrade Group Hilary Harber, Ann Hayes, Carol Jordan, Doug Massey and Bob David, as well as others, including quite a few young people, who assisted in various ways, including clearing and washing up.

After Jennie’s welcome, Hilary encouraged us to connect with growers and producers around the world who supply so much of what we expect to find in our shops but can’t grow here. She invited us to remember that when making our shopping choices we have the power to change lives for the better. When we choose to buy Fairtrade products we have the chance to make a real difference. She also described the ongoing use of what amounts to child-slave labour in parts of the Developing World, illustrating her talk with some rather horrifying slides of its use in some cocoa plantations.

After the guests had recovered their composure, the meal began. A selection of nibbles, cheeses, and fresh bread and butter was set out on the tables, and wine and soft drinks were served. A certain amount of time passed.

Then began the Extravaganza: the chocolate appeared.

It came in numerous forms: there was milk chocolate and plain chocolate, there were chocolate cakes, chocolate brownies, chocolate biscuits and chocolate truffles, mostly made by members of the Fairtrade Group. And crowning all, was the
Chocolate Fountain, from which liquid chocolate dripped lusciously onto fresh strawberries, marshmallows and grapes. I swear that lips could be heard smacking after guests had filled their plates from the Fountain.

It was a great evening. All the ingredients used came, of course, from Fairtrade sources.

**Denis Hayes**

Jennie South adds:

And then we were asked to ‘Take a Step ‘ for Fairtrade!

The Fairtrade target is to collect 1.5 million steps by the end of the year. Many more people could benefit if you join thousands of others across the UK and take a step for Fairtrade in 2012. You will have seen in last month’s magazine that these steps can be small ones but they all count.

Many people made a decision on the evening, took a step and registered it by filling in a postcard which will be entered in a prize draw and could win one of the 20 hampers packed with Fairtrade goods. Steps included buying only Fairtrade chocolate, only Fairtrade tea and sugar, asking for Fairtrade coffee in coffee shops, and making sure Fairtrade products are being used in the workplace.

The evening was a family event and it was encouraging to see so many of our young people really interested and concerned about some of the issues raised. Nine year old Connie Budgen, who was at the evening, subsequently made a point of buying a Fairtrade Kit-Kat for her Mum’s present for Mothering Sunday. What a great example of using one’s shopping choices to good effect!

So if you haven’t already done so, start your journey at www.fairtrade.org.uk/step and see where your steps will lead. Together each step leads to the better deal that millions of farmers and workers so urgently need.

**SCRABBLE GROUP**

The group is going well with a good turnout each month. In the past we haven’t been able to accommodate many people but having been loaned more tables we can now expand! If anyone would like to join in, feel free to just turn up or give me a ring first. We meet on the first Thursday of each month from 2pm – 4pm ish. We play 2 games with a break in between for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. The session costs just £1 and we meet at ‘Scrumdoone’ in Greenway. Do ring me if you would like to know more.

**Delene Kerry (Tel: 577053)**

**MAGAZINE PUZZLE**

Good at solving puzzles? Anyway, have a go at solving one that’s a little different – on page 43.
SIGN A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF AIR AMBULANCES
You probably know someone who has been saved or helped by an Air Ambulance or you may be re-assured by its existence. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance is one of 18 independent air ambulance operators in England and Wales. Its helicopters operate from Marsden in Kent and Dunsfold in Surrey. It is funded by charitable donations.

Well, they need our help. They are faced with meeting ever-increasing fuel prices including VAT. There is an epetition calling on the Government to exempt air ambulance services from VAT on the fuel they use, in the same way as the Lifeboats (RNLI) are exempt. If the petition gains 100,000 signatures, Parliament has to debate the issue. Currently the petition has 92,000 signatures.

You can sign the petition by going to http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions29349.

TATTY KNITTERS
Our numbers are growing, the word is spreading. We now have knitters, crotcheters and sowers – soon we’ll have to change the group name to Tatty Crafters! We meet next on Tuesday April 10th from 7.30 – 9.30 pm in the Ship. Gill’s homemade cakes, buy your drink.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

OXTED LIBRARY CLOSED FOR 4 DAYS
Oxted Library will be closed for 4 days from Tuesday 17 to Friday 20 April inclusive. This will mean that the lift up to the CAB and Tatsfield Voluntary Services Council will not be accessible on those days.

TABLE TOP SALE
10am to 1pm on Sunday 22 April
Village Hall

Refreshments and snacks served
Still a few tables left for sellers - £10 per table (tables provided)
To reserve a table please contact Vicky on 07891 295972
or email Victoria.cooling@btinternet.com
TATSFIELD CHILDREN LEARN FRENCH

As the days lengthen and get warmer, Tatsfield children can look forward to celebrating spring and summer in French!

Every Thursday afternoon, Tatsfield children aged from 4-7 years meet at the WI Hall to chat, sing, rhyme and play in French. The French club has been running since September 2011 and in January this year a new class was added to teach reception aged children. The tremendous support for the group is hardly surprising though – given that Tatsfield is twinned with Vern d’Anjou in France.

Based on the La Jolie Ronde scheme of learning, the children are becoming increasingly confident with their spoken French and many are hoping to try out their new skills when they go abroad this summer.

For further information about joining the club please contact Aisling Armitage on 01883 722040 or email limpsfield@btinternet.com.

TEA DANCE SOCIAL

Village Hall
Wednesday 18 April
2.15 to 4.55 pm

• There will be the usual Cream Tea, Free Raffle and Quiz.
• Everyone welcome • Have a good laugh and exercise and make new friends.

£6 per person
Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550

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

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

RING SYLVIA ON 577524
THE QUEEN’S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN TATSFIELD

We now have some dates for your diary.

St Mary’s Flower Festival this year is entitled ‘Our Diamond Queen’ and boy are you in for a fabulous display on this theme. The church will be packed with floral tributes and you can enjoy delicious refreshments in the Millennium Hall over the entire weekend of 2nd – 5th June. For more information contact Jennie South on 577598.

On Saturday 2nd Westmore Green will be the venue for an afternoon of children and family fun: a picnic, fancy dress competition, Jubilee themed cake competition, music, games, bouncy castles - there may be just too much to fit into one afternoon, but we can try. For more information see page 25 and contact Dave Bishop on 577550.

On Sunday 3rd Revd Louise Ellis will hold an open-air Celebration Service on Westmore Green at 10.00am. For more information contact Jennie South on 577598.

In the afternoon at 3 pm a Jubilee walk will start from the Village Hall car park. For more information contact Eileen Pearce on 577767.

On Monday 4th from 5pm there will be a Hog Roast, based at the Village Hall. Tickets will be a modest £5 a head and will be on sale from Easter at Linda’s or from Sue Smale. We will be entertained by Tatsfield’s very own Portobello Jazz Band and afterwards we will light a Jubilee beacon at dusk. The venue for the beacon lighting is still being negotiated. For more information contact Sue Smale on 577660.

On Tuesday 5th another Jubilee walk is planned with a start time of 3pm from the Village Hall car park. For more information contact Eileen Pearce on 577767.

We plan to organise a presentation/display of ‘Down Jubilee Memory Lane’ – a selection of photos and memories from any residents who have personal stories to tell of the Coronation celebrations in the 1950s. This will probably be displayed in the Aileen McHugo Building over the weekend. For more information and to offer any memories contact Eileen Pearce on 577767 or Ian Mitchell on 577376.

We intend to plant a Jubilee Oak in response to the Woodland Trust initiative which has the aim of planting 6 million oak trees across the UK. For more information contact Jon Allbutt on 576481.

Sue Smale: (Tel: 577660)
THE MAGAZINE IS GOING ELECTRONIC - AS WELL!

The magazine is delivered each month through the letterboxes of every household in Tatsfield (and some others in Titsey and elsewhere too). You now have the option of looking at the magazine online as well and referring to it in that way whenever you wish. Each month, once the magazine is published, it will be available on the village website www.tatsfield.org.uk. You access it by clicking on “Magazine” and you will find at the bottom of the Magazine page the initial letter of each month of the year. By clicking on the appropriate letter eg A for April, you will access the magazine for that month.

In addition, you will now find on the front cover the QR (Quick Response) code for the village website and those with smartphones will be able to access the magazine in this way too.

MAGAZINE CROSSWORD

Sadly, the gremlins got at last month’s cryptic crossword and the mistakes in the published clues made it impossible to complete the crossword. Our apologies to all who tried. However, two game people - Sybil Yates and Tony Watson - submitted excellent entries despite the problems, and £5 vouchers for use in the village shops go to them.

BONFIRES

There have been a number of complaints recently about bonfires lit during the day in the village and making it impossible for neighbours to enjoy the fine weather we have been experiencing. If you must have a bonfire, please don’t do it at a time when other people are out and about – please think about the effect a bonfire would have on your neighbours.

BEECHWOOD RIDING SCHOOL

Beechwood Riding School, one of the magazine’s advertisers, is having a stand at the Blindley Heath Country Show on 6 and 7 May and invites readers to come and see them there.

MESSAGE TO JOHN MOORE OF WEST WICKHAM OPERATIC SOCIETY (AND GREENWAY)

Your letter in the magazine last month has resulted in at least two of Maureen’s Marauders booking tickets for the matinee performance by WWOS on 12 April of “Titanic the Musical” at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley.
ALLOTMENT NEWS

Things started to move at an amazing pace last month and many of you will have noticed this as you drive past.

The pitched roof has gone on the container – and what a huge difference this has made – transforming an ugly metal box into a cute little hut. The roof is made of dark green aluminium and the fascia boards are treated timber but may be stained at a later date to match the roof. Unfortunately, the high winds earlier this month blew over the water containers which had been set up to collect rainwater, and the heavy downfall in early March was wasted! However, this problem will be rectified soon and a 1,000 litre container is to be set up soon to collect rainwater for the future.

We have sent a request to Thames Water for a site survey with the aim of connecting to the water main in Approach Road as we will lose our current water supply when building of the new houses in Lusted Hall Lane begins.

The deer fence is almost completed; we are just awaiting delivery of the pedestrian gate and then they can complete the job. A group of our stalwart helpers worked under pressure to clear the scrub and cut the hedgerow back in order for there to be a space for the fence. The following weekend another party of 10 or so worked tirelessly to plant about 1,000 “whips” (different hedgerow plants) just outside the fence to “soften” the lines. These will take a few years to produce the effect we desire. But there was a heart-stopping moment a few days later when the farmer ploughed the field, very, very close to our line of whips!

The contract for the pathway has now been awarded to David Rutland, a local company. The final meeting to confirm the actual works to be done will be held with them shortly and we expect this work to begin soon after.

Apart from that, plotters are turning out in force, preparing the ground ready for another year of crops. We expect an even bigger, bumper year as everyone has grown in knowledge, confidence and even enthusiasm – which we didn’t think was possible!

Liz Armitage
HERBS AND MORE

Have you had a look recently at the trough on the green in front of the Ship? If you haven’t, it is worth taking a few minutes to do so. You will find that it is planted not only with a selection of labeled herbs but also attractive spring flowers. The trough is looked after all the year round by Lin Saines, who writes the herbs pages in the magazine each month. If you haven’t already met her, you will be able to do so at the Table Top Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 28 April which has been organised to raise funds for Tatsfield’s Britain in Bloom 2012 programme. Lin is taking two tables to display her chutneys and pickles, herbal salts and vinegars for the kitchen, and lots of garden/herb–related items. Lin hopes to see many of you there.

TATSFIELD IN BRITAIN IN BLOOM

Last month’s appeal in the magazine for funds for this year’s programme has brought a huge response from villagers. The whole In Bloom team are very grateful for the generous contributions made by so many.

We hope you are going to like what you see! To those of us closely involved, what has already been done is looking very impressive and the displays depicting the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics are promising to be something special.

The plants for the Jubilee carpet bed and the various Olympic beds are we hope growing nicely in their respective nurseries and pictured with this article are some of those in the team who are creating the figures of the athletes and swimmers which will be featured in the Olympics display.

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481) and Bob David (Tel: 577357)
IT’S TIME FOR TATSFIELD TO ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY!

Facebook was started by computer geeks but quickly spread across the campuses in America and then around the world to almost anyone who has a computer. It is widely used for leaving messages and posting snaps of family holidays!

However, in the last year or so, it has been increasingly adopted by companies and businesses who have discovered the advantages of Facebook over their existing websites. What they have discovered is that a website usually has to be updated by an IT specialist, or at least someone with more than basic IT skills, so it is often out of date and can never be truly inter-active with members of the public. But with Facebook, anyone with a Facebook account can post (“upload”) messages and documents very easily, so it becomes a tool for communicating information as well as ideas.

We are therefore delighted to inform you that the Tatsfield Interweb Group has launched its own Facebook page called “Tatsfield Village”. Just click the “like” button to be part of it.

We hope to use it for keeping everyone up-to-date with what’s going on in the village, be it the Diamond Jubilee celebrations or road closures and, we promise you, there won’t be any holiday snaps!

Looking forward to seeing you there........

Nichola Stokoe and Ana Hughes

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EVEN TUESDAY
Tatsfield Primary School

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT
(New Instructor)
8 pm to 9 pm

Classes are £5 per person

SPECIAL OFFER
Pay for 4 classes up front and get the 5th class free
(Equivalent of £4 per class for every 5 booked)

For further information please contact Vicky on 07891 295972
Victoria.cooling@btinternet.com
HADRIAN’S WALL CHARITY TREK

Firstly it’s important to know that I’m not your usual ‘trekker. In fact, more often than not you will find me snuggled up with a good book and a cup of tea. Yet despite this apparent aversion to exercise I am willing to don my walking boots and get training for Christian Aid, a charity that has long been supported by the generosity of the people of Tatsfield. For me its amazing work is deep rooted in its ability to make us look outward towards the 1.4 billion people who currently live below the poverty line on the equivalent of just £1 per day. So, to continue this support, I am taking part in Christian Aid’s Hadrian’s Wall charity trek this summer. This is a two day trekking challenge through the historic countryside that lines the UNESCO world heritage site. The walk starts at Lanercost Priory in Cumbria and runs 25 miles along the only remaining sections of the wall, camping overnight, whatever the weather!

So it is fair to say that this is going to be testing, but the hard work will all be worthwhile for me if I succeed in raising at least £500 for Christian Aid, a charity intent on eradicating poverty around the world - tackling its root causes as well as its effects from health, gender issues and human rights. I have never had the opportunity to raise money for charity in such a way before so I am really excited about the challenge, getting involved, and hopefully making a real difference. So please help me to support this amazing charity, even a few pounds will make a huge difference and will mean that Christian Aid can continue its work fighting for an end to poverty and injustice.

You can sponsor me by either filling out a paper sponsorship form (which you can complete at Linda’s Stores) or by visiting my fundraising website www.justgiving.com/Eleanor-Vale where you can keep up to date with all my progress. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 577864.

Thank you very much for your support.

Ellie Vale

INTERESTED IN LOCAL BIRD LIFE?

You’ll find lots of reports of sightings in Nigel’s Nature Notes on pages 60 and 61. And let Nigel Shaw know if you yourself see something unusual.
Supermarkets

- expect growers to sell produce at below the cost of production
- avoid signing contracts so that the prices can be reduced retrospectively
- require suppliers to pay for the cost of ‘specials’ such as 3 for 2
- reject ordered and delivered goods
- reject whole crops in retaliation against complaint and
- de-list a supplier who sells to a competitor.

Not surprising really that dairy, pig, poultry, sheep, beef, fruit and vegetable farmers are all being driven out of business while supermarket profits soar.

“I got a letter saying ‘This week your egg price is going down’. No discussion. And I knew the price of my eggs in the shop was up. I tried talking to them but they’d almost laugh at you – they knew there was nothing I could do. I’m at the end of the road.”

Michael Thompson, a Devon chicken farmer

A code does exist to oblige large retailers to deal fairly and lawfully with their suppliers but it is normally ignored. A bill has now been drafted which will enable the appointment of an adjudicator to enforce the code. This bill is ready to go and has cross-party and public support. However, 9 out of the 10 affected retailers (with a turnover of over a billion pounds) are opposing it and there has been no commitment to its inclusion in the Queen’s Speech this Spring.

If you care at all about the decline of the British farming industry, please take a few minutes to write or email to our MP asking him to write to the minister responsible, Vince Cable, calling on him:

- to press for the Groceries Code Adjudicator Bill to be included in the Queen’s Speech,
- to ensure that the Adjudicator will have the power to carry out an investigation of suspected breach of the Code by a retailer and
- to introduce financial penalties against retailers who breach the Code.

Letters should be sent to: Mr Sam Gyimah MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA emails to: sam@samgyimah.com.

Think of the sad loss of our Kent orchards and ten minutes spent writing a letter doesn’t seem such a lot of trouble to try to help save further losses to British farming.

“If a relative or neighbour were treated so unfairly, we’d be incensed. Because it’s a stranger and happening all the time we just accept that such injustice happens.”

More information at www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage@weebly.com

Carol Jordan, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
As briefly reported in last month’s magazine, Michael, a resident of Ricketts Hill for over 10 years, died in February. Despite the debilitating nature of his final months Michael remained cheerful throughout and never lost that endearing smile that had been with him throughout his long and remarkable life.

As the war was coming to an end Michael was keen to make his contribution, even to the extent of trying to get into the RAF when he was still too young. However, a year later he succeeded and trained to fly Spitfires.

As allied ground forces made progress against staunch resistance in Italy there was a need for support from the air. Michael joined 601 Squadron providing dawn to dusk raids around the River Po. Michael’s Spitfire was hit by enemy fire and as he tried to land it in a field, it somersaulted and he was found seriously wounded inside it. He was unconscious for eight weeks and recovery was very slow, indeed his injuries had a significant impact for the rest of his life, although he always made very light of it.

His first wife died in 1992 and he later met and married Sylvia. Since moving to Tatsfield they have both been involved in village life and are known to many who have valued their delightful company.

Michael’s funeral took place at St Mary’s on 19 March and was attended by over 150 people from many areas of his life. Both the church and the hall were packed as we celebrated and gave thanks for his life. Standards were carried by representatives of the RAF Association and Squadron 601. As we finally commended Michael into God’s care a Spitfire flew overhead – a very fitting tribute.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have known Michael will remember his cheerful and modest manner – and that smile.

Gerald South

Journey Through Holy Week
Please see details in the St Mary’s Matters pages. Your beautiful and peaceful parish church is there for you – feel free to take advantage of it.
APRIL SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)
★ Fresh fruit and vegetables ★ Pet and wild bird food ★ Frozen and tinned food ★ Check our selection of plants and cut flowers ★ Try a new fruit juice – lots to choose from ★ Free delivery to your home – just ask ★ Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)
All your Post Office needs here
You can use credit or debit cards to pay for your shopping
Pm = price mark
★ Persil Washing Powder pm £2.99 now £2.00
★ Heinz Beans/Spaghetti Hoops/Spaghetti 2 for £1.00
★ Aero Milk/Peppermint 2 for 80p
★ Monster Munch 2 for £1.00 ★ Hoola Hoops 3 for £1.00
★ Philadelphia half price 87p ★ Oven Chips pm £1.99 only £1.29
★ Lucozade pm 95p 2 for £1.40 ★ Cheerios pm £2.49 only £1.49
★ Pampers pm £4.49 now £3.49 ★ Andrex 4 roll pm £1.99 now £1.79
★ Kinder Surprise 72p each 2 for £1.00
★ Rocky Caramel/Choc Biscuits pm £1.00 2 for £1.50
★ Jaffa Cakes pm £1.39 now £1.00 ★ Sure pm £2.19 now £1.50
★ Winalot Classics 1.2 kg can pm £1.59 now £1.09
★ Easter Eggs Medium £2.00 Large £3.00
★ 2 ltr Diet Coke/Coke pm £1.99 2 for £3.00
★ Walkers Crisps 12 pack £1.79
★ Pack of 3 KitKat Chunky/Toffee Crisp/Fruit Pastilles £1.00
★ Back in Stock Doggy Bags £1.00

PLANT SALE

Saturday 12 May
at 9.45 am Westmore Green

★ Good quality bedding and basket plants ★ Good prices
★ Be there at 9.45 sharp as plants go quickly!
★ Donations of surplus plants welcome on the morning

Organised by Tatsfield Horticultural Society
NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

A reminder that Tatsfield’s very own symphony orchestra The North Downs Sinfonia will be performing again on **Saturday 12 May at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall. Last November’s concert was a great sell-out success and this next outing for the orchestra promises to be the best yet.

This spring concert has 3 wonderful pieces that show off the full range of the NDS and our guest soloist. We open with Weber’s overture Euryanthe, an exciting romp to get the evening going. Then we play Grieg’s iconic piano concerto in A minor, one of the greatest and best known piano works which starts with the familiar dramatic fortissimo descending octave chords. We are delighted to welcome back a fabulous soloist to perform this work, Mariela Cingo, who will once again be showing off the recently refurbished piano, bequeathed to the village by Peter Warner’s family.

After the interval (free bar – donations welcome) we will perform the ever popular **Beethoven Symphony no2 in D**. This is another wonderful work from arguably the greatest of all symphonists and will be expertly directed by our conductor for this concert, Edward Lewis.

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

Andrew Harber

TATSFIELD-VERN D'ANJOU TWINNING ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Early on Good Friday a coach full of Tatsfield residents will be on their way to Vern d'Anjou, our twin town in the Loire Valley. We still have spaces on the coach so if you have Easter free and fancy a great short break and something completely different then why not come and join us? Prices are £120 per adult and £60 per child or less. Families, couples or singles are all welcome.

Knowledge of French is not important. You'll have a great time enjoying the French cuisine and wine and the superb hospitality of our hosts from this lovely little French town. I'd happily talk through any questions or concerns you may have about the weekend.

I can guarantee you'll have a never to be forgotten experience.

Peter Fuller, Chairman (Tel: 573554)
The theme for this year’s Flower Festival is ‘Our Diamond Queen’. The biennial Flower Festival is always a truly village event and this year particularly it is planned as part of Tatsfield’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations. St. Mary’s Church would like to record their thanks for the following sponsorship received so far:

Art Group, Bridge Club, Badminton Club, Tatsfield W.I, Alex Jones, Waitrose, The Village Club, Short Mat Bowls Club, Tots on Top, Tatsfield Parish Council, Tatsfield Scouts, Food and Wine Society, Tatsfield Primary School, Not so Young Club, Roman Catholic Congregation, Tatsfield Parish Magazine, Uden and Sons, North Downs Sinfonia, Park Wood Golf Club, The Summerhouse, Tatsfield Horticultural Society, Little Acorns Pre-school.

If you would like to sponsor a display there is still time as we anticipate about twenty five different arrangements. Without this generous sponsorship it would be difficult to have such a Flower Festival and our village church lends itself so well to the displays. As usual we will also be serving morning coffee, lunches and afternoon teas with homemade cakes. If you can help with this endeavour either by making cakes or helping to serve the refreshments please contact one of the organisers.

Finally there is an invitation for anyone doing an arrangement to meet in the church at 7.30 pm on Monday 23 April to finalise details, share ideas and get any help or advice if it is needed.

**Outline Programme for the Festival**

**Friday 1st June**

7.30 pm - 9.30 pm Festival Pre-view Evening *(admission by ticket only)*

**Saturday 2nd to Tuesday 5th June**

Church open to view the flowers, refreshments available,

**Sunday 3rd June**

10.00 am Celebration Service on the Green

Please put these dates in your diary. We look forward to welcoming you and your friends some time over this weekend.

Kay Longley 577682   Jan Maynard 577659   Jennie South 577598
BIG VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN

On Saturday 21 April we will be organising a big litter pick-up in and around the village. All the In Bloom volunteers will be there and we should like to see as many people as possible join in. The more there are, the more clearing up we will be able to do. If you would like to join us in giving Tatsfield that extra sparkle, please be up at the village centre at 10:00 am. We hope to finish by 12 noon but any time that you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

If you possess a litter-picker please bring it along - there will be spares available to those who do not have one - likewise with Hi-Viz jackets (recommended if working on the faster roads). Refuse bags will be provided.

We intend to cover local footpaths, so boots would probably be advisable if you would like to help out there.

Hope to see you on the day.

Philip Brett

GARDENING FOR CHILDREN

Tatsfield Horticultural Society invites all children (aged 3 +) to a gardening session at the WI Hall in Paynesfield Road on Saturday 26 May from 10.00 am to 12 noon

Come and have some fun while getting your hands dirty!

Activities include:

- Planting vegetable and flower seeds
- Making bird feeders
- Learning about the environment

To book a place phone Teresa Watts on 577232.

Contribution towards costs of £2 per child.
TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW
Saturday 14 April
3 pm in the Village Hall

★ Make sure you submit your entry form in good time
(enquiries to Angela Sawyers on 577434)
★ Come and see what will be a marvellous display
of spring flowers and other exhibits
★ Refreshments served
★ Auction at the end of the show

DON’T MISS IT!

MAGAZINE MATTERS

Next issue: Any contributions should be with the editor by 16 April please. Comments and views welcome – if it is not libelous it will be printed!

Donations: The magazine team is very grateful for the many generous donations from villagers which have been flowing in to the magazine’s funds. These will help us to provide you with good quality magazines each month.

Advertisements: The magazine’s new advertising year begins this month and the changeover has been overseen by our Advertising Manager, Maureen Perrin. We now have 94 advertisers, of whom the following are new ones:

Acacia Tree Surgeons, Broadham Garden Care, Bunting Chimney Sweeps, Digital Vision, Helping Hands, JCG Builders, PMJ Fencing, Rosie’s Bakes, Dave Smith – General Builder, Specology, Swimming Lesson at Biggin Hill, David Waite – Property Management, Yogalats Classes.

You will find all the adverts in the front and back of the magazine. We are very grateful for the support of our advertisers. We could not produce a free magazine each month without them. Do have a look at the adverts – you really will find a local source for almost anything you need. Our thanks also go to Maureen Perrin for her hard work and to Tom Chorley, who has designed the advertising pages.
TABLE TOP SALE

Saturday 28 April 10 am – 2 pm
Village Hall
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR TATSFIELD’S
BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2012 PROGRAMME

Lots of stalls already booked. Some still available - £10 a table.
Enquiries to Mary Bull on 577649

Refreshments served

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE!

The Tatsfield History Project and the WI are combining to mark the Diamond Jubilee with a trip down memory lane. We need your help!

Do you have any photos or have you kept any newspaper cuttings or notes of meetings which will give us some idea of how the village celebrated the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II? We know that there were parties and fancy dress parades, that the Working Men’s Club entertained 60 older residents, that the WI organised transport and gave other assistance and that there was a committee under the chairmanship of the Rector – but we lack the VISUALS!

Can you please rack your brains and search your cupboards for material for an exhibition which we hope to mount in the Aileen McHugo Building over the Jubilee weekend. Please get in touch with one of us if you find or remember anything.

Eileen Pearce (Tel: 577767) Ian Mitchell (Tel: 577376) Bob David (Tel: 577357)

THIS MONTH’S MAGAZINE PUZZLE

Phil Brett offers us this little conundrum to consider over the Easter holiday.

You are given two lengths of rope and a box of matches. You are told that each length takes exactly one hour to burn from one end to the other but that they each burn at irregular rates along their lengths. How can you time exactly 45 minutes using your ropes and matches?

Please submit your method either to Linda’s Stores or to Phil at 6 Grove Road by 14 April. The answer deemed to be the best will win a £5 voucher to spend at either Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers.
'Big Issues'
An invitation to engage with some of them

*Wednesdays in May at 8.00 pm in St Mary’s Millennium Hall*

Refreshments served from 7.45 pm

You are warmly invited to come to hear about a range of challenging contemporary topics - an opportunity, on your doorstep, to learn a bit more about them, to ask questions and to explore what we think with some experts in their field.

2nd May

*Some ethical dilemmas in human reproductive technology*

Rvd Professor Mary Seller, Professor of Developmental Genetics, King’s College London. For many years Inspector for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and member of the CoE Board for Social Responsibility.

9th May

*The Middle East Peace Process: A British Diplomat’s perspective.*

Dr Christian Turner CMG, Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

16th May

*A suffering world – why doesn’t God do something about it?*

Venerable Chris Skilton, Archdeacon of Lambeth.

23rd May

*To be, or not to be, that is the question - end of life issues and assisted dying*

Rvd Hilary Johnson, Chaplain at St George’s NHS Trust, a director of St Christopher’s Hospice, and honorary curate in Chessington.

30th May

*‘New’ Atheism v. ‘Old’ Faith – Has Dawkins demolished Christianity?*

Rvd Dr Gerald South, retired physicist and teacher, honorary curate in Tatsfield and Limpsfield.

There is no charge for these evenings. You can come to all of them or just to those that particularly interest you. You can just come along on the night but it would help us with planning if you could register by phoning 577598.
TATSFIELD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
Open Saturdays 10 am – 12 noon

The composting season will start again on the first Saturday in April, the 7th, and you are reminded there is a 2-site system this year as we all prepare for a fresh start at Approach Road for 2013.

From the 7th you will need to take your Garden Waste to the Approach Road site where you will be directed/required to deliver the waste to the separate, signed receiving bins.

You will find all the information you need on Page 33 of the Tatsfield Horticultural Society 2012 Yearbook regarding what to bring and what not to bring to the site. If you have not got one contact your nearest committee member to purchase the Yearbook and your THS membership, or phone Roger Pearce on 577767.

The collection of the compost will continue at Borough Road until it runs out, same opening times as Approach Road. Due to the limited amount this year there will be a 5 bag maximum to ensure that we cover as many people as need it. We have had to increase the donation this year to £1.20 a bag to cover the cost of the move and rebuilding as well as the increase in petrol and replacement costs for the shredding and sieving machines. This still represents excellent value and I hope we can continue with your usual support.

The compost makes an excellent mulch and soil conditioner and continues to aid many gardeners throughout the village, I am told even to award winners at the shows, so be sure not to miss out and collect your composting early this year.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in helping out at the site over the next months whether on a one off or regular basis. If you need further information on anything about the composting site for this year contact Martin Allen on 577201 or Barry Bull on 577649.

Martin Allen

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB
The 100 Club winners for February were:

1st Prize: Stuart Hendry £40.50
2nd Prize Peter Harrison £27.00
3rd Prize Tom Ellis £13.50
The children have been very busy the last few weeks looking at People Who Help Us. We have had visits from a vet, our local policeman, one of our parents who is a teacher and the Biggin Hill Firemen, complete with their fire engine. There was also a short trip over to the 464 bus stop to talk to the bus driver, who very kindly let the children on the bus and took them around the island a couple of times. Many thanks to all our visitors, and the bus driver, for giving up their time and thanks to the passengers on the 464 who were very patient with 20 three and four year olds clambering about on the bus. The children enjoyed all the activities and these visits and trips help so much to increase their Knowledge and Understanding of the World, one of the six areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage, together with their numbers, vocabulary and many other aspects of the curriculum.

We have just finished making a lovely keepsake for our mums to celebrate mother’s day and, by the time you read this, we will have learned about Easter and had our fund-raising Eastercise Olympics, where the children are sponsored to see how many times they can complete a series of ‘Olympic’ event stations, watched by their parents.

After the Easter Holidays we will be looking at the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and, of course, the Olympics, working towards our ‘Olympic’ sports day in July.

If you would like more information of Little Acorns Pre-School or to register your interest please contact Julie Barlow, Deputy Supervisor on 540775 or 541103.

Jackie Apps, Supervisor

CHURCH TEAS AT ST MARY’S 2012
Open on Sundays from April 8th
3.00-5.00pm

Once again we look forward to welcoming you to St Mary’s for tea and homemade cakes during the summer. If you would like to come some time, but need a lift, please phone and we can arrange one.

Many thanks to all those who have already booked a time to come and help or have offered to bake cakes. We could not manage without you! As usual at this stage, more offers of help are still needed. Please let Madie Langford on 577114 know if you could spare a couple of hours on one Sunday afternoon during the season, or if you would like to know a bit more about what is involved before committing yourself!

Jennie South (Tel: 577598)
CONGRATULATIONS TO DENIS REEVES!
Denis, who lives in Wedgwoods, celebrates his 95th birthday on 31 March. We wish him many more.

Are you taking GCSE Maths or AS/A level Maths this summer?

Would you like to sort out any hazy areas?
Come to St Mary’s Church Hall on Monday 2 April and/or Wednesday 11 April
5 pm for GCSE 6 pm for AS/A level
and I will try to help.

If possible give me a ring beforehand to let me know what areas you might like to look at.
No charge – donations may be made to Bishop of Southwark’s Lent Appeal – see page 54 of the March magazine for some info on this.
Gerald South – 01959 577598

TATSFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 17 April at 8 pm
Village Hall

Guest speaker – Jenny Munro, Managing Director, Biggin Hill Airport

* Hear the Parish Council’s report for the past year and about future years
* Your chance to comment and ask questions
* Light refreshments served from 7.30 pm

CATHERINE MALONE

We are sorry to report that Catherine Malone died at Godstone on 4 March after a long illness. Catherine was 83 years old. Many will remember Catherine for her long period as chairman of the Horticultural Society in the 1980s and especially for her part in the popular children’s workshops organised by the Society in the Village Hall.
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**APRIL**

1 Sun **10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM**
2 Mon **11.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM**

**TATSFIELD SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAY 2-15 APRIL**

2 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC

3 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm WI Meeting - WIH

4 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR
8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH

5 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH**
2pm Scrabble Group - Scrumdoone, Greenway
5.30pm Brownies - CH
7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 8pm Table Tennis - VH

**8pm Eucharist for Maundy Thursday - StM**
TWINNING VISIT TO VERN D’ANJOU 6-10 APRIL

6 Fri **GOOD FRIDAY**

10.30am Good Friday Service - StM
5pm Badminton Juniors - VH • 8pm Badminton Club - VH

7 Sat 10am Churchyard Tidy Up - StM
10am -12noon Composting Site Open - Allotments, Approach Road
10am-12noon Compost Collection, Borough Road
11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery

**8pm Easter Vigil and Service of Light - StM**

8 Sun **EASTER DAY**

10am Sung Eucharist for Easter - StM
11.15am Ramblers Walk - Andrews Wood car park, Badgers Mount
3-5pm Church Teas - CH

9 Mon **BANK HOLIDAY**

10 Tues 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH • 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - Old Ship
11 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR • 8pm Yoga - VH

12 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM**
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 8pm Table Tennis - VH

13 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH

14 Sat 10am -12noon Composting Site Open - Allotments, Approach Road
10am-12noon Compost Collection, Borough Road
11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery
3pm SPRING SHOW - VH

15 Sun **8am Holy Communion(BCP) - StM • 10am Sung Eucharist - StM**
3-5pm Church Teas - CH

TATSFIELD SCHOOL RETURNS

16 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS
7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
EVENTS CALENDAR

17 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - VH
18 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH
2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR • 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
19 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
20 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH • 8pm Badminton Club - VH
21 Sat 10am BIG VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN - Westmore Green
10am - 12noon Composting Site Open - Allotments, Approach Road
10am-12noon Compost Collection, Borough Road
11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery
22 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM
10.45am Ramblers Walk - Chart lane, Brasted • 3-5pm Church Teas - CH
23 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 7.30pm Art Group - VH • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
24 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 2pm Whist - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
25 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR • 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
26 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
6.30pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
27 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
28 Sat 10am-2pm TABLE TOP SALE - VH
10am - 12noon Composting Site Open - Allotments, Approach Road
10am-12noon Compost Collection, Borough Road
11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery
29 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM • 3-5pm Church Teas - CH
30 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC

MAY

1 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH
2 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
2.30-3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR • 8pm ‘Big Issues’ - CH
8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Explorers - SH
3 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM • 2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies -CH • 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
4 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH

Venues
AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CH - Church Hall • FC - Furze Corner • PR - Parish Room • SH - Scout Hut
StM - St. Mary’s Church • TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women’s Institute Hall
LOCAL POLICE NEWS

I would like to draw your attention to recent shed and garage thefts around the Tatsfield area. Building tools, gardening equipment and scrap metals have been among the items stolen from outbuildings. Please ensure you secure and lock any doors and hide items of any value, ensuring they are not visible through any windows.

The panel meeting held on the 12 March before the Parish Council meeting saw 12 people in attendance. During this meeting recent crimes and crime trends were discussed along with other points raised concerning policing in your area. I thank all those who attended.

Unfortunately, we are still frequently seeing instances of fly tipping while out on patrol, most recently in the Beddlestead Lane area. Please report any activity you witness which you feel is linked to such crimes.

The Copse Neighbourhood Watch has been set up. I am always happy to publicise the new set up of such schemes and thank those who have contributed to starting it and volunteering to co-ordinate such projects.

PCS0 Matthew Nottidge

ALLOTMENT PLOTS AVAILABLE

There are two vacant allotment plots on the allotment site in Approach Road, one small and one large. Anyone interested should contact Alan Armitage on 575117 or e-mail thearmitages@talktalk.net

MEMBERSHIP IN BOWLS CLUB AVAILABLE

Westerham Bowls Club are looking for new members. There will be Taster Days throughout May on every Tuesday from 2,30pm to 5pm. Give this relaxing and enjoyable sport a try. Instructors available to help and introduce the game. Just turn up at the green at George V Playing Field, Costells Meadow, Westerham. We are also holding an Open Day on 2 June. More details from Tom on 577794, or the website at www.westerhambowlsclub2.talktalk.net.

JON ALLBUTT RETIRING FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Jon, currently chairman, announced at the end of the Parish Council meeting last month that he would be retiring from the Parish Council at the end of April. That’s not good news for the village! Jon has served two terms on the council and is into his third. He will be telling us more later.
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OXTED AND DISTRICT
GOOD FRIDAY WALK

On Good Friday each year in Oxted, for the past several years, Station Road East has seen a procession of about seventy people walk quietly up the road: they follow behind one of their number carrying a large rough wooden cross on their shoulders. Starting at the Council Offices, the mixed group of Christians from our 12 local churches, constituting Churches Together in Oxted and District, wend their way through the town, eventually reaching the War Memorial at Master Park on the other side. En route they stop at various points to hear a Bible reading remembering the events of Good Friday, to pray and sing a hymn, before someone else picks up the cross for the next leg of the journey. Hot Cross Buns are given out to the passers by to involve them in our interdenominational show of Christian witness, with our blue banner bringing up the rear.

The more people that are able to come and join in this outreach to the community, the greater our witness – come rain or shine! It is a very moving occasion and many people come regularly each year. Good Friday falls on April 6 and the time of the start of the walk is midday: it lasts about an hour. Hope to see you there! If you would like to read at one of the stops, please ring 01883 713883.

David Cotton

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 13-19 MAY

Christian Aid Week is Britain/Ireland’s longest-running fundraising week and has been a firm fixture in the calendar of many thousands of people each year since 1957. It is famous for the distinctive envelope that drops through the letterboxes of millions of homes each May – and for the massive impact that the week has made in the fight to end the scandal of poverty around the world.

Last year in Tatsfield, we raised £1188, due to the generosity of volunteers who delivered and collected the red envelopes. I will soon be ringing people to see if they are willing to do this again. If you are interested in helping with this and have never done it before, do give me a ring to see what is involved. The theme this year is “let’s give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty”. This goes very well with our Fairtrade Village status of giving people a hand up not a hand out. Please consider saying yes when I ring you up to ask for your help.

Jennifer Evans (Tel: 570190)
THE PEACE CHILD

Well, some of you missed a treat on Saturday 3 March in the Village Hall!

The children of St Mary’s Church had been hard at work for weeks learning the words and songs and they gave a most entertaining performance. They sang and danced with enthusiasm and confidence as with humour and vitality told the story of The Peace Child, bringing peace to two warring tribes.

The scenery was spectacular, particularly the bridge, the music lively and enjoyable and the secret of the production’s success is simple: the children thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing and so did the audience. Congratulations to the children and to all those who gave so much time and effort to make The Peace Child such a resounding success.

Peggy Wilkinson

The money raised from this performance was earmarked by St. Mary’s children as their contribution to the PARROT fund raising initiative for the refurbishment of the play equipment on the Green. So apart from being good fun for all those involved they have been able to add £200 to this fund. Many thanks to them and to all those who came to support them.
MOTHERING SUNDAY MESSAGES FROM ROBIN CLASS

Our Year 1 children in Robin Class have been writing Mothering Sunday messages. Below are some examples:

My Mum takes me to Chessington and she loves me. I love my Mum.
By Oliver Dawson

I love my Mum. She is special. She is fantastic. She is pretty.
By Lara Smith

My Mum gives me lots of food and I love the food she cooks. My Mum gives me cuddles and Mummy gives me a kiss. Thank you Mum for helping me.
By Rheanna Yung-Hoi

My Mummy is as lovely as a flower. She takes care of me. I love my Mummy.
By Pippa Mitchell-Maddison

My Mum is a Super Star and a great cook and special. My Mum makes money.
By Cormac Mountain

My Mum makes me dinner, lunch and breakfast. My Mum is the best.
By Isaac Holden
Holy Week and Easter

The journey through Holy Week to Easter is seen by many as the most moving part of the Christian year. In St Mary’s from Monday to Saturday the church will be open for prayer each day from 9 am to 8 pm and there will be focal points set out in different parts of the church that will give prompts to help us recognise the depth of meaning in this journey. You are welcome to come to the church at any time during these periods. That this place has been prayed in for over 900 years may well add to the experience of some quiet time shared between you and God.

Palm Sunday  10.00 am Open The Book All Age Service
             11.15 am Said Eucharist

Thursday    9.15 am Morning Prayer
             8.00pm Eucharist for Maundy Thursday

Friday      10.30 am Good Friday Service
             Noon Walk of Witness in Oxted

Saturday   8 pm  Easter Eve Service with readings, Service of Light and Eucharist. This is one of the most distinctive services of the year at St Mary’s and, all are welcome.

Sunday     10 am Easter Morning Eucharist (All Age) followed by Easter egg hunt in the churchyard

Open the Book – first Sunday of the month at 10 am

Our March service was centred on the theme of education as a gift from God that enables us to grow and become the sort of people He would wish us to be. Our next service on 1st April will be on Palm Sunday when we will remember the journey of Jesus and his followers into Jerusalem. Everyone is always welcome at all St Mary’s services, but Open The Book is especially designed to be accessible to families with young children.

Mothering Sunday

Our church was packed with villagers of all ages, shapes and sizes for this much loved day of the year. The uniformed organisations, particularly the Brownies, were well represented. We were reminded of the complicated, and sometimes stressful, relationship between Jesus and his mother Mary which led to his loving words to her as he was dying on the cross. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have known loving mothers gave thanks, and we prayed for all mothers and for those who do not receive a mother’s love. There was another opportunity to hear again the catchy title song from The Peace Child performed in
the village recently by our young people. Posies of daffodils were distributed by the children. They had been made by Brown Owl, Patti Thomas Verweij, using daffodils many of which had come from Brenda Softley’s garden – thank you Brenda. And Dads weren’t forgotten either!

Churchyard

Our first churchyard tidy-up morning of the year will be on April 7th and then on the first Saturday of each month. There will be a variety of jobs which will help to maintain the look of our magnificent site. Please come along and lend a hand, from 10 am. If you would like to offer some help, even an hour, at some other time please phone 577598.

Wednesday evenings in May - “Big Issues”

Please see the advert elsewhere in this magazine about this exciting initiative from your parish church.

Records

19th March  Funeral of Michael Hyett

Church Flowers

April 1st  Palm Sunday  April 8th  Easter Day
April 15th  Jan Maynard  April 22nd  Wedding
April 29th  Tina Boys

There will be no flowers in the Church during the period of Lent. Lilies will be used in the Church at Easter in memory of loved ones who have died. Easter Sunday is on 8th April. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the lilies, please send or give your donations to:

Jan Maynard  Jennie South  Mike Lambert
Sylvan Bank  Clouds  11 Wedgwoods
Ship Hill  Ricketts Hill  Tatsfield
Tatsfield  Tatsfield

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 7th April at 9.30am. If you would like to help with the floral arrangements, you will be most welcome. Please contact me.

Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)
St Mary’s Church Electoral Roll 2012-13

The Church Electoral Roll is your parish church’s register of electors - it is the list of those qualified to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where the elections take place for:

(a) the parochial church council;
(b) the parish representatives on the deanery synod.

Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

Revision of the Electoral Roll takes place from Sunday 25th March to Saturday 7th April 2012.

What difference does it make?

By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the synodical councils of the Church – the parochial church council, the deanery synod, the diocesan synod and the General Synod – are fully representative of its members. Synodical government gives an opportunity for partnership between bishops, clergy and laity in the life of the Church:

First, the system is intended to enable church people at every level to be in touch with the Church as a whole and to play their part in decision-making. Secondly, the system is intended to ensure that the laity have their place in every aspect of church life, including its doctrine and services.

To qualify for membership of the Church Electoral Roll the following is required:

- You are baptised
- You are aged 16 or over
- You reside in the parish
- You are a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England
- You live outside the parish but you have regularly attended services at St Mary’s Tatsfield during the six months prior to application.

If you wish to be considered for the Electoral Roll, please obtain a form from Chris Hancock (01959 577622) or from the Church Narthex.

Please return completed forms by Saturday 7th April 2012 to:

Chris Hancock, Electoral Roll Officer
12 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, Westerham TN16 2AU
People occasionally comment that Astronomy has no relevance to their everyday lives and therefore it does not affect them. They are wrong if they think that’s the case, as one very obvious influence that it does have is the action of the Sun upon the Earth and how it varies not only over the course of a year but over much longer periods. We all know that the weather is colder in winter, but many may not realise that this is as a result of the Earth’s rotational axis not being at right angles to the plane of its orbit, causing a seasonal variation in the position of what astronomers call the “ecliptic”. This is the apparent path of the Sun as it makes its yearly journey against the stellar background, although it can equally and quite correctly be described as the plane of the Earth’s orbit (and the other planets) around the Sun.

This means that the Sun and planets can always be found on, or very close to, this imaginary line. The position of the ecliptic, and therefore the Sun, varies throughout the year because of the tilt of the Earth’s axis of rotation as I said above. During northern hemisphere summers the north pole of the Earth is tilted towards the Sun, meaning solar rays fall more directly onto the surface. In the winters the pole is tilted away and so sunlight strikes us at a much shallower angle and provides less of a heating effect.

In the night sky Venus is still on show in the west around 30° above the horizon and is so bright it is impossible to confuse it with anything else. Mars is high up and almost due south by mid-month whilst Saturn rises before 8pm (BST). Both are shown on the map with dotted lines to indicate two ways of finding the constellation of Virgo and hence Saturn by starting with Ursa Major (the Plough).

Brian Mills, FRAS
Since becoming a Parish Councillor Doug Massey has been impressed with the ethos of Tatsfield’s Parish Council. He admires how the team work together on real issues for the best interests of Tatsfield and not for their own individual agendas. Working in a team is certainly something Doug’s career in the London Fire Brigade has revolved around.

As well as being new to the Parish Council, Doug is relatively new to Tatsfield, having moved here from West Wickham in 2007. His parents moved from South London to ‘new town’ Stevenage in the mid 1950s where Doug was born and from there to West Kensington, where his family ran a general store, living above the shop. In 1968 Doug’s childhood changed quite dramatically when his family moved back to Dublin. For the next two years he attended a small village school in Ireland which contrasted greatly with the London schools he was used to. From there it was back to South East London, this time Thamesmead.

On leaving school Doug began an apprenticeship as a mechanic but soon decided on a new direction. Somewhere in the back of his mind was a memory of the careers team from the London Fire Brigade visiting his school and in 1979 Doug’s thirty year career with the Brigade began, taking him to stations in the London Boroughs of Southwark, Greenwich and Lewisham.

After fourteen years working in London’s fire stations, Doug’s first-hand experience was put to good use when he joined the training team at the Brigade’s Training Centre in Southwark, where new entrants to the Brigade received their initial training before being posted to a fire station. Doug also spent 3 years attending incidents all over London to assess the Brigade’s operational performance. Following the terrorist attacks in America in 2001, Doug was seconded to the London Resilience Team, a multi-agency team brought together by the Government to assist with the capital’s contingency plans to deal with major incidents, not only terrorism but also amongst others flu pandemics and extreme weather. Doug worked on developing the regional arrangements for multi-agency command and control.

Finally after completing thirty years of service Doug made the decision to leave the London Fire Brigade in August 2009. Doug and his wife Jane had by now been living in Tatsfield for two years. Like many of us, his family were unfamiliar with Tatsfield before moving here. Indeed Doug recalls viewing a house in Chestnut Avenue and turning the other way down Tatsfield Lane and finding themselves at the crossroads of Ship Hill and Ricketts Hill. Thinking that to be the village they turned back, completely missing the heart of Tatsfield by not continuing up Ship Hill. In fact, they chose their new house on Ricketts Hill first and only later found the centre of the village.
Finding himself at home in fairly new surroundings, a chat with Roger Sawyers led to Doug joining the Tatsfield in Bloom volunteers and his first task was helping with planting out the rejuvenated village pond. Through his involvement Doug has got to know a lot of Tatsfield people including our editor Bob David and Parish Council Chairman Jon Allbutt, whom he aptly describes as ‘dynamos’. Doug enjoyed meeting this group of people who were able to discuss matters, make decisions and then get on with the task in hand. He is looking forward to being involved with the ‘impressive’ Tatsfield in Bloom plans to transform Tatsfield for the coming Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics.

It is this ‘can do’ attitude that Doug appreciates whilst sitting with colleagues on the Parish Council. His ‘special’ responsibility is for highways and Doug enjoys building good relationships and partnerships with the people he comes into contact with to enable repairs and changes to be made. Doug also continues to use his expertise gained in the London Fire Brigade to carry out project work within fire related industries. He describes himself as a hands-on practical person enjoying DIY and gardening and when time allows he enjoys a round of golf.

Along with Jane, Doug shares their home with daughter Emma, a post-graduate student of psychology, son Sean, a Surrey fire-fighter, and niece Ruth, who having completed her degree is pursuing a career in the probation service.

All in all a busy household and after many years of being out of the house at all times of the night and day, Doug enjoys being around for when his family need him. It also means we have a new Parish Councillor with a lot to offer our village community and I know Doug is enjoying playing his part in making Tatsfield a unique and special place to live.
Spring is in the air so it’s high time we caught up with your (mostly winter) -

Correspondence:

Firstly, an enquiry from Brenda Allen (26.01.12):

‘When I took the dog out this morning I actually saw five Robins and could hear others singing around! Have you noticed an abundance of Robins? Also, when the weather got a bit warmer last week with the ice melting, two Robins had a splashy bath together in my bird bath. I thought they were enemies?’

I hadn’t noticed anything unusual, Brenda, but others had. I’m guessing that during the winter months, when foodstuffs are less widely available, they are more tolerant of each other; after all, it’s the survival of the species that counts. Of course, come the springtime they regress to their usual territorial selves and we are generally able to witness a good punch-up or two! Now, let me think – what’s the collective noun for Robins? Well, interestingly, there isn’t one, at least, not officially. It turns out (I do love the internet!) that the BTO and the Sunday Express got together last year to find one. They had 241 suggestions, the most popular three being: ‘round’, ‘breast’ and ‘blush’. Mmm … not bad … but could we do better?

Next we hear from Martin and Julie Allen (27/30.01.12):

‘Suprising, in view of the good January weather, how few birds we have seen in our garden, the exception being the pair of Nuthatches we had a week or so ago, one of which seems to be coming back now and again. Also, we seem to have acquired a little mouse who runs about the garden picking up the bird seed. Also, well into the night, a friend who was staying was woken by, and saw, two Foxes rooting around in the ivy. Otherwise, as I said, very quiet here at the moment.

We were out on Saturday looking at the Red Kite population around Stokenchurch (Bucks.) and are pleased to say that they look like they are going well and spreading to areas further south than I have seen them before. On the way there, we popped in to Dorney and were amazed to see a flock of about 100 Fieldfares. Only other time we have seen them in this number was in the field on the left of the Botley Hill pub, and that flock was made up of Redwings also. Something is happening somewhere.’

I was rather hoping for a few Fieldfare/Redwing reports. Apart from this one, I had one other, from a charming lady who telephoned me from Biggin Hill to say she’d had them feeding on Hawthorn trees. Unfortunately (and I apologise profusely, should she be reading this!), phone calls, pieces of notepaper and my disorganised self don’t make an ideal combination! Anyway, thanks to you and her for letting me know that they were indeed around. With that cold air flowing from Siberia someone was bound to make a sighting.
Carol Fiddimore may have discovered a new species! (13.02.12):

‘This ‘greater-spotted’ Blackbird has been feeding in our garden for several weeks now – have you seen him about? I know they often do have white bits on them but this one is actually more white than black, especially his back and tail feathers. I think there is only one of them, but sometimes I’m not too sure.’

Now, Carol, I want you to walk along this white line, then tell me how many fingers I’m holding up. Two? Oh, dear. Time to hit the detox! Luckily for you I was accosted by someone else who also saw your (one) pied Blackbird. It is, without doubt, a freak of nature; probably a semi-albino. What interested me in particular was that the photo you sent me showed it feeding from a seed feeder. I’ve never seen a Blackbird doing that before.

News from the Reeves Family ‘Nature Reserve’ (14.02.12):

‘On Saturday we had a record 12 hen Pheasants in the frozen back garden all looking for food, so we put out some bird seed and they seemed very grateful. Today, at lunchtime, we had several Long-tailed Tits feeding off bread left out in the garden, plus some Blue Tits. When the Pheasants arrived we were also visited by a Wren who seemed extremely tiny compared to the Pheasants! At the end of Beddlestead Lane, junction with Clark’s Lane, this afternoon we saw three Buzzards being mobbed by a very brave, lone Carrion Crow!’

I’m guessing the Pheasants heard that ‘The Reeves’ Reserve’ is the place to be! Good to hear that the Buzzards are still around.

An observational report now from a young person – yes, that’s right – a young person. Alleluia! (04.03.12):

‘My name is Jessica. My brother Jack and I were staying at our Nanny and Martin’s house for the weekend. We had only been in for a little while when Jack spotted a big bird at the bottom of the garden among a load of feathers. As we looked out of the door we saw a Sparrowhawk eating a Dove. After a while it flew over the house carrying the half-eaten body and disappeared. It started at 5.45 and ended at 6.00.’

Jessica, your report sounds like a horror story – a bird eating hawk, a half-eaten body – yuk! But I suppose that’s what ‘nature’ is about. It’s not all pretty butterflies and fluffy bunnies! Thank goodness us humans are at the top of the food chain, otherwise we might be the hawk’s next meal!

Many thanks to this month’s multitude of contributors. You’re all STARS!!

Any news, views or observational reports? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com or drop in a note at Linda’s Stores.
How appropriate that spring flowers have such bright, attractive colours, so welcome after the winter gloom. Herbs play a large part in welcoming spring to the garden, and some of these are plants you may not have even considered to be included under the herbal banner!

**Primroses** and **Cowslips** are ancient herbs and worthy of discussion at this special time of year. The “primus rose” or “first rose of spring” has long been the hedgerow herb to lift the spirits, with **primrose banks** on hill and roadside verge alike having that ability to bring a smile. But more than that, Primroses have much deeper healing properties. Take Primrose Tea, for instance - the root when brewed, strained and used as a tea aids arthritis and migraine. In some counties washing your face in the dew of Mayday, May 1st, then drinking Primrose Tea was said to help cleanse and purify the blood from all those winter agues! In the 1700s Primroses were sold in huge baskets in London streets, and many an Easter **Simnel Cake** has been decorated with the flowers, sometimes crystallised.

**Cowslips** with their tall flowering stems are still under threat in the wild. I do recommend if you have the opportunity to plant a clump of these even in a pot or a trough for the immediate season, then plant in a semi-shaded position. You will be doing our native plants a favour. Bees love the nectar from both of these herbs, and if you grow from seed (a long process including “vernalisation”, which means your “other” or “better” half doesn’t mind seed mixed with a little bit of soil living in the fridge to chill it down before sowing!) a whole bank of plants can be a real showstopper for little outlay. I love the country names for Cowslips – “St. Peter’s Keys”, “Keys of Heaven”, “Golden Drops” and so on, alluding to the shape of the flower fall. Centuries ago herbalists named Cowslip root “radix arthritica” because of its similar healing properties to near-cousin, the **Primrose**.

Making a similarly welcome appearance now is the **Sweet Violet**, well named as its flowers are very fragrant. I like to grow these in pots so they can be placed on a table, indoors or outside, where both the attractive flowers and their scent can be easily enjoyed. Once flowering has finished they can be planted out in clumps, where they spread readily, and are very attractive mixed in with primroses on a bank or when under - planting trees and rose bushes that are not yet in leaf. After a couple of years clumps of violets can be split or propagated by runners, the new young plants potted up in a good compost and kept in a sheltered spot for a season.
If growing from seed I have found better results are obtained by keeping the seed cold beforehand in a similar method previously described for primroses and cowslips.

**Sweet Violet flowers** are not only attractive but useful. They can be added to potpourri and perfumed violet water – a very Victorian scent and widely used at that time. They crystallise very well for use in decorating cakes or can just be picked and added to a salad. The roots meanwhile have long been used in cough and cold tinctures and have also been helpful in the treatment of bronchitis and whooping cough. So as you can see, **Violets** are a very important herb with many uses, even though they are so tiny. Well worth growing.

**Violas and Pansies** are of the same family, again little plants but with a long history and many uses. The present problem with leaf spot disease was discussed in detail by Jon Allbutt last month, and is certainly giving cause for concern. This is such a pity, as the flowers certainly do give a real shot of brightness to any bedding display. I have found the original, centuries-old **Viola Tricolor “Heartsease”** is the hardiest of the lot; perhaps breeding so many colour variations into this herb has weakened its defences over the years. Heartsease is the one with purple, white and yellow colouring, representing memories, souvenirs and thoughts (from the French “Pensee” which is how Pansies got their name). Little “heartsease” was, interestingly, Henry VIII’s favourite flower. It has been used for treating gout and rheumatism, while ointments made from the flowers treat eczema and acne.

A wonderful kitchen herb of spring is **Wild Garlic**. The star-like white flowers contrast beautifully with the lush, glossy dark green leaves, the whole plant being pungently garlic in taste. I am never too quick to cut off all the flower heads, as I am a great fan of plants for free and the seed heads provide many little plantlets annually with no need for sowing or tending. The clumps just increase each year, easily divided and potted up as a very welcome gift for a “Foodie” friend!

A lovely way to incorporate all of these flowering spring delights is to make a salad of wild rocket, little fresh Hawthorn leaves, some finely chopped wild garlic leaves and some thyme and rosemary sprigs. Make a simple Vinaigrette dressing using a good Olive Oil, then simply scatter some white wild garlic florets, primrose, cowslip and heartsease flowers, finishing with a handful of sparkly Hawthorn blossom over all. Served with a simply cooked salmon fillet and new potatoes, this is a lovely way to welcome in the new growing season in style!

Next month we celebrate May Day in blossom, and look at fragrant-leaved Scented Geraniums.

**Lin Saines**
Taken for Granted

My best pal is 67 years old and he has recently suffered a massive heart attack. He (apparently) died for some minutes and it was only for the brilliance of some Paramedics that he is alive today. The snag is that some top surgeons have told him that he is only partially “working” properly and his body is permanently damaged. He looks “different” and I can tell that despite his bravado; his eyes tell me that he is a very frightened person. And yet when I saw him today, he did something that I have never seen him do before. He kissed his wife. In all of the years I’ve known him, he has always referred to her as “her indoors” and I have never seen him thank her for the umpteen things she has done for him all of their married life.

Many years ago I remember expressing my thanks to my new mother in law for a delicious meal. She suddenly burst out “David has just said thank you” and then turning to her husband asked “Why don’t you ever say the same thing?”. His reply has always stayed in my mind: “Look here, if it ever comes to the day that I don’t like what you have made for dinner, don’t worry, I shan’t mess about, I’ll tell you!”

Some years later, I went into a Working Men’s Club where the men were propping up the bar all of the evening whilst their ladies were sat down in a corner. There was a good smallish band playing dance music. Near the end of the evening, the man on the “mike” announced, “The last dance is next”. The men stood up and almost to a man said “I suppose I’d better go and do my duty” and proceeded to grab their ladies for a wobble around the dance floor for a few minutes.

A close relation one day was spouting off about his wife and what she didn’t do when he was at work. He stated “When she ‘finally’ woke up in the mornings, all she did was drink coffee all day long and smoke fags with her mates”. One day I said to him, “You’ve got a nice clean ironed shirt on, who did that?” He said, “Well I suppose she does do something”. I asked a further question “What about your dinner, at the end of the day?” His grudging reply was “Well yeah, she does that!”

Another pal told me that one day when he was at a petrol station, he suddenly remembered that he should have bought his wife a birthday card for that day. Inside the kiosk of the shop, all they had on sale were a few cards with “Happy Anniversary” written on them so he crossed out the word “Anniversary” and wrote “Birthday” instead. He thought that what he did was very funny.

My point is that sadly my own sex are dreadful at saying “thank you” to their closest and it’s such a pity that you ladies (in so many cases) are totally taken for granted.

And Another Thing - Bye JA

For many years I have attended the Parish Council’s monthly meetings and at most the one and only Jon Allbutt has been present, being Chairman for the last two terms. At the end of the meeting in March, he announced he would be resigning from the Parish Council in May. He has always had a wonderful charismatic way that made everyone feel that they were part of the evening, and we in turn felt involved. Ten million thanks JA. We shall miss you.

Dave Bishop
1ST TATSFIELD BROWNIES

A big welcome to two new Duke of Edinburgh girls, Amy and Xavia.

Lots of activities again this term all on an Olympic theme. As you can see from our pictures we had costumes from France, Russia and the USA, all with medals. We have also been painting Easter eggs with Olympic designs.

We had an exciting evening of Taekwon-Do with Vicky from St Marks Church Biggin Hill. She will continue to come at intervals so the girls can do a badge. They all seemed to enjoy the evening and some Brownies will join her on a Friday evening between 6 and 7pm.

Thanks to all the mothers on Mother's Day who enabled us to have a good turnout for Church Parade where we gave out small posies to all the congregation. Easter cooking is still to come and then a break for Easter from the 26th March returning on the 3rd May.

Patti Thomas-Verweij, Brown Owl (Tel: 01342 893742 / 07860 938839)
Preparing Exhibits for the Horticultural Shows - what are the judges looking for?

Richard Abbott, a former Head Gardener at Titsey Place and a regular judge at our shows, started the evening at the WI Hall on 20th March with some useful tips for anyone thinking of entering the shows. He pointed out that most people grow things for pleasure rather than for exhibiting and go round the garden at the last minute to see what might be entered. This approach makes the whole experience more fun.

Generally, harvesting should be left to the last moment. If this is not possible, most fruit and vegetables will keep fairly well for a couple of days wrapped in a damp cloth. Runner beans should be firm, not floppy, and the beans in the pods should not be big enough to cause prominent bulges. Potatoes should have shallow eyes and all root vegetables should be washed and free of mud and dirt. In classes which require a number of items to be exhibited, always go for uniformity in size and shape even if it means leaving your biggest and best specimen at home. Often, there is little to choose between the exhibits so the judge’s decision may come down to some tiny detail like a brown mark on fruit and vegetables or a greenfly on a flower.

Lastly, always read the class description carefully and comply with specified numbers or other requirements, otherwise your entry will be marked “NAS” (not as specified) i.e. disqualified. Richard’s informative talk was peppered with amusing anecdotes from his past judging experiences, for which there is, unfortunately, insufficient space here to share with you.

Following the interval for tea and coffee, which included a delicious “Chocolate Banana Cake” (the Spring Show recipe) made by Teresa Watts, Kay Longley gave a practical demonstration of flower arranging. Drawing on her years of experience as a florist, Kay focused on two of the classes coming up in this year’s Spring Show. Uniquely, to flower arranging categories, it is quite legitimate to use shop-bought flowers and foliage. If you are using material from your garden it is advisable to “condition” it by trimming the stems with a diagonal cut and standing them in water for at least a few hours and preferably overnight. Again, read the class description carefully, try to “interpret” the title and only use anything artificial if it specifically says that you can. If accessories are used, make sure they don’t over-power the natural material.

The “Arrangement in a Teacup” has a 10-inch size restriction. It is very easy to exceed a size such as this, so Kay stood the arrangement on a 10-inch diameter paper circle to act as a guide. The oasis should stand a fraction above the top of the container so that material can be inserted to hang over the edge a little. Start with the foliage and cover as much of the oasis as possible, then add the flowers. Recess some of the flowers to give depth to the display – a “3-D” look rather than
a flat one. Using a good variety of different shaped flowers and foliage means you won’t have to worry so much about shaping the arrangement yourself.

The “Arrangement of Spring Flowers” contained daffodils. A useful tip here is to make holes in the oasis first with a skewer to avoid damage to the stems. Kay prefers “monochromatic” colour schemes, so the flowers were all shades of yellow together with light foliage, which is best for spring arrangements.

Both these arrangements are “open table” which means they are made to be viewed from all sides. Stems should radiate from the centre and not cross over. “Niche” arrangements are made to be viewed from the front only, but it is important that they “fill” the niche both in height and width. In all arrangements, always try to hide the oasis as much as possible but try to avoid overcrowding – “always leave room for the butterfly!”

These beautiful arrangements were taken home by the lucky holders of the winning tickets!

Philip Brett

RAMBLERS

There were 27 ramblers (and 13 dogs) on the Ashdown Forest walk in February. We have two walks this month, each just a few miles away. Details are below. Spring is a great time for walking, with the countryside looking at its best, some might say. Everyone is welcome to join in (including your dogs). Just turn up or ring us to find out more.

**Date** Sunday, 8th April  
**Meet** 11.15 am at Andrews Wood car park, Shacklands Road, Badgers Mount (Map ref: TQ502616)  
**Walk** 5 miles, 3 hours, on the North Downs, some hills (including one long one), stop for refreshments at the Kings Arms, Shoreham  
**Leader** Carol Vening

**Date** Sunday, 22nd April  
**Meet** 10.45 am off Chart Lane, Brasted. Drive up Chart Lane. About 300 yards after “Badgers”, between the bends, turn left towards Chartfield Farm, right into the first entrance (“Little Cacketts”) then right again into the field to park (Map ref: TQ471544)  
**Walk** 5 miles, 3 hours, to Ide Hill, stopping at the Cock Inn, uphill on the way and downhill on the way back, some woodland walking and some scenic views  
**Leader** Anne Kerr

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The fish and chip lunch we had on the 13th March was very successful and there was a good attendance.

Mrs Watson has, once again, given us a very generous donation, which is very welcome and allows the Club to give more treats for the members.

The Club presented Norah Skinner with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of many years service and we will miss her cheery smile at committee meetings. We wish you all the very best of health and happiness Norah and hope we will still see you at Club meetings for many years to come!

We welcome Jean Chorley onto the committee and hope she will enjoy the experience - we’re a good team Jean and no one is expected to do more than they can cope with.

At the next meeting on the 10th April, we hope to have a quiz on antique items, arranged by Ian, the antiques expert, which should be fun.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 14th April 3pm Village Hall – Spring Show

Can we tempt you out of your winter hibernation to enter a class in our Spring Show? Perhaps you were able to go along to the Gardening Club session on 20th March and learn all about how to present your exhibits or maybe Kay Longley gave you some inspiration to have a go at flower arranging? Whatever your preference there are SO many different classes to enter and a vast collection of trophies wanting new owners…maybe you could win one of them? Aside from the usual daffodil and tulip classes, we have house plants, alpines, bonsais and the vase of mixed garden flowers class has a £10 Knights voucher up for grabs.

With the Olympics and Queen’s Jubilee at the forefront of our minds, the flower arranging, craft and junior sections have classes featuring these themes (take a look at the yearbook for details). How about entering the photography section and enter a snap of ‘Changing Seasons’, ‘Success’ or ‘Wheels’ or maybe you are good at cooking….calling all men, there’s a class for chocolate brownies and it’s an open recipe so have you got the winning combination?

Have I convinced you to enter yet? You will find your entry form in the centre of the yearbook. If you haven’t yet got your yearbook, please contact Roger Pearce on 577767. Please complete and hand the form to a committee member before
6pm on Thursday 12\textsuperscript{th} April. On the day, bring your exhibits to the Village Hall from 8.30am up until 10.30am and then come along at 3pm to see the results of your efforts.

\textbf{Saturday 12\textsuperscript{th} May 9.45am – Village Green – Plant Sale} Come along and buy your bedding and hanging basket plants at reasonable prices. Also on sale will be a variety of vegetables and fruit for our keen gardeners and allotmenteers.

\textbf{Saturday 26\textsuperscript{th} May 10.00am - W.I. Hall – Children’s gardening session} including making bird feeders, planting vegetable and flower seeds and learning about the environment. £2 per child. This is a popular event so book early to avoid disappointment. Below are pictures of previous events. Contact Teresa Watts on 577232.

\textbf{Sunday 27\textsuperscript{th} May} – Trip to Great Dixter at Northiam, near Rye. Contact Sue Warren on 542892.

\textbf{Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)}

\textbf{1\textsuperscript{ST} TATSFIELD SCOUTS}

Easter is now upon us so for a couple of weeks this month there will be no regular meeting of the sections. This is not to say that the leaders are not busy putting together the new programmes for our return for the summer term. Leading up to our break the Beavers will be doing some festive baking with Easter nests on the menu, Cubs will be having an Easter Egg Hunt out and about and not to be outdone I am sure that the Scouts can get chocolate into the programme’s cooking somewhere!

Scouts start the month on camp at Downe where we will be having a weekend away to kick off the Easter holidays. They will be taking part in the Aerial Trek, Archery and Rifle Shooting as well as cooking meals on open fires; we will also be investing a new Scout around the camp fire, so there will be lots going on.

On the 22\textsuperscript{nd} of this month will be our District St. George’s Day Parade which this year is being held at a different venue with a very different approach to the
celebrations. St. Catherine’s School in Bletchingley will be hosting the event and Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will all be completing their own challenges to work together at the end to defeat the dragon! All sounds very intriguing. After all this mayhem we will have a march past with the flags, and then a short sermon followed by everyone renewing their promises. A great afternoon – let’s just hope the weather is kind to us. Near to the end of the Easter break some of the Cubs will be having a camp at Broadstone Warren, where they will be staying in one of our favourite places - the Log Cabin. They too have a packed programme which is a mix of the fabulous onsite activities available as well as open fire cooking, wide games and much, much more. So as I said earlier just because you don’t see us meeting at the HQ doesn’t mean there isn’t anything happening!

Helen Clarke, Group Scout Leader
(Tel: 01883 380742; email: tatsfield.gsl@gmail.com)

W.I.

For our March meeting our speaker, Ian Currie, gave a fascinating talk about Frost, Freezes and Fairs on the River Thames and other rivers in England. Possessing an encyclopaedic memory, he reeled off the lowest temperatures and most snowfalls through the ages. From 1400 into the 19th century, there were 24 winters in which the Thames froze.

King Henry VIII travelled from central London to Greenwich by sleigh along the river in the winter of 1536. Queen Elizabeth I took to the ice in 1564 to “shoot at marks”.

During the Great Frost of 1683-84, the Thames was completely frozen for two months. There were horse and coach races, bull baiting, puppet plays and jugglers, high rope walkers and fairground booths. A great street from the Temple to Southwark was built with shops. An ox was roasted and King Charles II and the Queen ate part of it. The last Frost Fair in 1814 began on 1st February and lasted four days. An elephant was led across the icy river below Blackfriars Bridge.

In 1831, the old London Bridge was demolished. This bridge, which had carried rows of shops and houses on its roadway, was supported by many closely spaced piers which concentrated the water into torrents. In winter, large pieces of ice would block the arches. The new bridge with wider arches allowed the tide to flow more freely. Additionally, the river was embanked in stages in the 19th century which also made the river less likely to freeze and the climate was growing milder.

People, industry and power stations added warm water to the Thames and our climate has warmed up considerably – last year had the second warmest summer on record.

Our next meeting is on 3rd April – the talk will be “The Tiller Girls”. Do join us at 7.30 pm.

Margaret Bishop
SPORTS ROUND UP

BADMINTON CLUB

The club has two tournaments for mixed pairs each year. In May, we have the Match Pairs tournament, when the pairings are of men and women who usually play together in matches (although in a small club like ours, it gets a little complicated because the players play with different partners in different teams).

Our other annual tournament is the one for Drawn Pairs (which is so called because the pairings are drawn from a hat – two hats really). This was held at the end of January when ten pairs competed in the Village Hall, five in the morning and five in the afternoon. All the pairs were handicapped, the strongest quite severely, not that that held them back for the two pairs who reached the finals both had the severest handicap – minus 12.

Oliver Carr and Julie Barlow were the morning winners and James Longley and Sue Simmons came out on top in the afternoon. Both pairs won all their games. As expected, the finals saw a very close game, with Oliver and Julie edging through 21-16 to win the trophies.

Meanwhile, the club is continuing its programme of league matches in local leagues and its regular Friday evening club nights at the Village Hall. We would welcome new members with some playing experience – sadly, with only one court, we are unable to take on beginners. We also have a thriving junior section for under 16s, who play from 5 pm on Fridays. Adults and juniors who are interested in joining the club should contact me.

Bob David (Tel: 577357)
APRIL NOTES

The question on everyone’s mind it seems is just **what kind of spring** are we going to have this year? Will April be hot and sunny like it was last year? Will we have a hosepipe ban this early in the year? It is hardly surprising that we are being warned about restrictions on the use of water this year after such a long period of dry weather. There are some similarities in the recent weather patterns with 1976; that year the drought was so severe that a lot of damage was done to shallow rooting trees like Beech.

**To avoid drought damage** make sure you give your plants the best chance of survival by getting the roots to grow deep with good cultivation using plenty of compost with a mulch of at least 4” deep. Even bedding plants need help to establish deeper roots; remember you might not be able to water them this summer.

I think it is very unlikely that we will have a repeat of last year’s hot, dry April weather. I also think it is very important to remember that we are quite likely to have night frosts until the end of the month, so beware of sowing seed and putting in tender plants too early!

**Buying tiny plant plugs** and growing them on for your summer displays is great fun and a very good way of keeping your costs down. For hanging baskets plant your plugs directly into the compost and keep them in a frost free but sunny spot; if there is a risk of frost, then cover them with a towel. The key to making sure your plugs grow quickly is to make sure there is the correct balance between water and air in the compost. Water the plants thoroughly to settle them in and then do not water again until the compost has almost dried out. You will know by the weight of the container if it is dry, but if necessary push your finger gently into the soil to test it and don’t be fooled because the surface of the compost has dried out! If you allow these young plants to become waterlogged they will almost certainly get stem and root rot.

If you have a **Horse Chestnut tree** in your garden and it is suffering from the dreaded leaf miner you might be interested to know that recent research reveals that removing and burning all the leaves in the autumn greatly reduces the infection. Sadly there is no cure for the weeping canker disease that is slowly killing our chestnut trees; you can tell if your tree is diseased by looking for the weeping wounds in the bark. The trees deteriorate over a period of years and have to be cut down when the crown of the tree dies out. When this happens the wood should not be moved from the site as it can spread the infection to other trees in the area.

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

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