THIS ISSUE

- FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT
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- TED BONWICK PROFILED
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# TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

## MARCH 2012

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

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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS
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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 Please state if not for publication.

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Dear All,

Stuff! Good stuff, difficult stuff. Stuff that makes us smile, laugh, leap for joy and stuff that brings pain, despair and uncertainty. We all face stuff. There’s the stuff we hope for, the stuff we plan and then there is the unexpected stuff that can shake us to the very core of our being. There’s the stuff we can share with friends and the stuff we keep hidden not daring to share with anyone.

Stuff happens – sometimes we understand, often we don’t. Sometimes we rejoice, sometimes we weep. Life is complicated, it can be exciting, joyful, painful, confusing – all this and more. Often there are no easy answers. We can’t always make ‘it’ better, whatever ‘it’ may be. When we encounter a friend or neighbour who is going through something difficult, sometimes there are practical things we can do to help or encouraging things we can say but sometimes it feels like there is nothing we can do. We don’t know what to say. We know we can’t make it better. We doubt we can make any difference. But sometimes the most valuable thing we can do is to simply be there.

Perhaps you know the anecdote about the little girl who arrived home late for tea. When her mother asked why she was late she said she had met her friend on the way home who was crying because she had lost her new doll. “So did you make it all better and cheer her up?” asked the girl’s mother. “No” replied the girl “I sat and cried with her.”

Yes there are often things we can do. Perhaps the girls had searched long and hard for the doll first but sometimes the most valuable thing we can do is be with people, alongside them in their pain, confusion and thankfully sometimes in their joy.

And we are not alone. I believe in a God who is with us in the midst of the stuff – all the stuff. I believe that God is with us in our joy and rejoicing and I believe that God is with us in the midst of the pain, the brokenness of stuff.

Louise Ellis

SNOWY TATSFIELD

The snow which fell at the beginning of last month transformed the scene, as snow always does. The transformation brought out photographers and this month’s magazine has a village centre scene taken by Dave Bishop on the cover and other scenes taken by Dave, Brett Sewell (the youngest of our photographers), Kate Bamber and Richard Budgen on the centre pages. There are also photos by Liz Armitage of the snow-covered allotments on pages 28 and 29. An account of the snowy period is on page 45.
Dear Editor,

It’s a Small World

On 15\textsuperscript{th} December I set off from Tatsfield and headed for the Royal Albert Hall in South Kensington to sing with The London Concert Chorus accompanied by The London Concert Orchestra in the first of a series of 6 Christmas Singalong Concerts plus one at Birmingham Symphony Hall. The concerts were under the direction of Jonathan Cohen (remember him in the children’s TV programme “Playaway”?) and featured guest singer Alison Jieard and have proved very popular over the last 12 years. The Chorus is 120 strong and consists of men and ladies, largely drawn from choral and theatrical societies in the Bromley area. I sing with the West Wickham Operatic Society and, of course, with the Tatsfield Singers.

Imagine my surprise to discover when reading last month’s issue of the Parish Magazine that at that opening concert “Maureen’s Marauders” had been on the “shelf” singing along with us and I was pleased (and relieved) to see Enid’s entirely unsolicited critique labelled all concerned as “excellent”. Thanks Maureen, Enid and the rest of the Marauders and I hope we will have the pleasure of your company again at the Royal Albert Hall in December this year.

In the meantime and a bit nearer home, many of you will know that in 2012 there are a number of events planned to mark a special centenary, namely that of the maiden voyage of the Titanic, including a TV mini-series written by Downton Abbey’s Julian Fellowes. Just before midnight, on April 14\textsuperscript{th} 1912, in the Atlantic Ocean, the Titanic struck the iceberg that was to sink her a few hours later. On April 11\textsuperscript{th} 2012, West Wickham Operatic Society presents ’Titanic the Musical’ at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley with the final performance on April 14\textsuperscript{th}.

As you will guess, a lot of planning was needed to ensure that the performing rights, the theatre, the costumes and the professional set were all secured for the precise centennial week of the sailing. WWOS were delighted to perform the London Premiere in November 2006, to critical acclaim. We have great plans for this year’s very special production honoring the maiden voyage and all those who lost their lives in probably the most famous disaster of all time.

With over 70 people in the cast this is going to be a fantastic show, one which took 5 Tony Awards on Broadway including Best Musical and Best Score and which Sheridan Morley writing in the Spectator described as “the greatest American musical to have been written in 15 years. A triumph. A score which soars. A masterpiece”.

So come on Maureen! What about making the next Marauders’ trip a theatre outing in Bromley, a lot closer and I promise none of you will be left “on the shelf”!? The WWOS Box Office phone number is 020 8658 5117.

John Moore, Greenway
Dear Editor,

The Bedfords Write from Australia

My name is Joan Bedford and I live in Tasmania with my husband Sid. We came to Australia in 1971 and lived in Adelaide, South Australia for 29 years.

Before we left England, we lived in Tatsfield. My friend Ellen Allard surprised us this Christmas by sending us some Tatsfield parish magazines, which we were thrilled with. Ellen also phoned to say that, after visiting Tatsfield, she had been in touch with you and that you said that magazine readers were always interested to hear from people who had lived in the village in the past.

We used to live in Biggin Hill before moving to Tatsfield in the 1960s. Our son Lee went to school in Biggin Hill and we remember the Headmaster, whose name was Mr. Huckle. Our home on Tatsfield was a bungalow called ‘Wareslea’ on the corner of Johns Road and Paynesfield Road.

Reading the magazine over Christmas brought back so many happy memories of the quiet sleepy village it used to be. It’s hard to believe how Tatsfield has changed in 40 years. It still looks like the perfect English village with so many shops and services on hand.

We moved from Adelaide to Tasmania 11 years ago. We came here several times for holidays - it reminded us of England. The climate is lovely, we have a lot of rain (just like England) and we also have four seasons in a year, unlike South Australia, which is very hot and dry (as I write it is 41° there).

I am a keen gardener and grow all the things we used to grow in Tatsfield. Our house is in 1½ acres, so we have room to grow a variety of fruit trees and we try to grow as many vegetables as we can. Unfortunately, we also have possums, rabbits and the odd kangaroo who like to help themselves to our veg.

I hope this tells your readers a little about how some former villagers have made it in the colonies.

Jean, Sid and Lee Bedford, Tasmania

Two leaflets are coming to you with this magazine, one from the Dental Spa in Westerham and the other a request for donations in support of Tatsfield in Bloom.

You should be receiving the March magazine from 1st March onwards.
Dear Editor,

Millennium Wood

The letter in last month’s magazine sent to you by ex Parish Councillor Tony Erbes raised several matters that needed a bit of time to look back through the Parish Council minutes and archives. The Parish Clerk has now completed a search through the minutes from January 1999 to June 2002 and the accounts from January 1999 to 2003. There is no record of a Committee Chaired by the Reverend Colin Corke with members Ken Munday, Tony Erbes and Jon Allbutt, or of the ‘substantial’ funds referred to in Tony’s letter. There are intermittent mentions of tree related projects / programmes between 1999 and Nov 2001. The last entry found was in March 2001 where an inspector from Tandridge District Council was reported to have inspected trees in Tatsfield and Westmore Greens (following activity by J. Allbutt and T. Erbes).

There is no record of a Parish Council endorsed committee or meeting for the Millennium Wood as such, although in July 2000 there was mention in the minutes of representatives on the Millennium Committee (M Boadella, T Erbes, W Maddison and D Reeve) attending a meeting of the Millennium Committee in which the ‘Millennium Wood’ would be discussed. There was no report back to the Parish Council recorded in subsequent minutes.

In November 2000 a letter (contents not reported) was circulated to the Parish Council from the Millennium Committee. The proposal by the Committee was voted not to be endorsed by the Parish Council; this was proposed by the Chairman (T Erbes).

Mentions of grants set aside for the Millennium Wood are in the budgets for 2001/2 and 2002/3 but there is no record in the accounts of monies having been received or paid out by the Parish Council for this project.

My personal recollections are of a long period of time that passed while the Parish Council waited for a decision by TDC whether they would accept responsibility for the trees and whether they would be able to fund a tree safety survey; agreement was eventually reached and a detailed safety survey carried out.

The Surrey Downlands Project carried out a survey and prepared a draft management plan, that includes proposals for paths; substantial funding is needed to push ahead with this.

A public meeting was held to discuss the possibility of continuing a path across Tatsfield Green including a proposal for the path to pass through the Wood. After a lengthy discussion no clear agreement could be reached by those attending.
I have asked the Clerk to ensure this is on the agenda for the next meeting of The Parish Council on Monday 12 March and we look forward to seeing Tony there so we can discuss this further and how he can help us further our plans for managing the Millennium Wood.

Jon Allbutt, Chairman, Tatsfield Parish Council

Dear Editor,

The Policies of Our Councils – County, District and Parish

Cynically, our county councillor, in his position as leader of the London-based authority, imposes a 2.99% hike in council tax knowing that almost anything more would trigger a public referendum. Despite paying his chief executive £250,000 a year, Mr Hodge’s council – rated one of the worst performing in the UK – cannot even repair pot holes or impose sensible speed restrictions. His financial proposal defies Government intentions; the Secretary of State says all councillors have a ‘moral duty’ to keep down the cost of living. He makes no distinction between county, district or parish members.

Regrettably the trend of municipal defiance is growing. Tandridge, on the basis of minimal consultation which did not mention removing weekly refuse collection, has decided to slash the only universal service it provides to so-called customers who have no choice but to pay more and get less. The Government says weekly refuse collection is a basic right. The district council says it isn’t necessary. No wonder the minister regards council leaders as ‘Town Hall Taliban’.

Perhaps our parish council could reverse the trend of waving two fingers in the direction of Westminster and comply with guidance that requires publicly funded bodies to sell under-used assets. There are plenty of overgrown parcels of land apparently owned on our behalf by the council. Selling these – with safeguards to protect the Green Belt – could raise income without increasing council tax. And there would be a good chance that, under caring ownership, the land might actually contribute to the village’s visual amenity.

If Mr Hodge wants to secure better value for money, he could make a start by switching funding from the county’s self-congratulatory publication to Tatsfield’s own independent parish magazine which does such a good job of keeping villagers informed.

Richard Gibbs, Maesmaur Road

Editor: David Hodge’s response is on the next page.
Dear Editor

Thank you for sight of Richard Gibbs letter to your magazine and the opportunity to respond.

Surrey County Council is not a London - based authority if only we were; then we would receive substantial extra funding from Government rather than being the lowest funded County Council in the UK. In fact we are funded 17% below the average County Council in the UK and up to 50% below Hammersmith & Fulham, a London based authority. The County of Surrey contributes a net £6bn to the Treasury annually and over 50% (£250m) of business rates collected in Surrey are used by the Secretary of State for Local Government to fund other authorities.

The 2.99% council tax rise for Surrey is to ensure that we can fund the extra 2000 school places annually that we must fund over the next 5 years which is costing Surrey residents £244m. Mr Gibbs may not be aware that the number of Looked after Children in Surrey has risen from 500+ to over 700+ in the last years. We have a statutory duty as Corporate Parents to ensure they are looked after. In addition SCC is facing the fastest growth of over 85 year olds which I am sure Mr Gibbs will understand places higher costs upon the County Council.

Residents have repeatedly asked SCC to invest more funding in local roads and I am sure Mr Gibbs will be pleased to know that, as Leader of the Council, I have supported this aspiration by increasing the funding for Local Highways by 100% from 1 April.

It is very easy for Government Ministers to say that Councils have a moral duty to keep council tax down - perhaps Mr Gibbs might like to ask those Ministers how much savings their Departments have made in the last 2 years! I can assure him that they lagged well behind Local Government and in particular SCC.

As Leader of SCC I have a moral duty to the residents of Surrey not to accept an offer of £14m as a one off grant which would leave this Council £70m worse off in 5 years. I have advised the Secretary of State that Surrey CC has saved over £130m in the last 2 years through a Public Value Review of every department and every service delivery by SCC and those savings will rise to £330m annually by 2016/17. In fact both the Treasury and Cabinet Office have applauded Surrey CC for this innovate approach to reducing costs. As Leader of SCC, I have a moral responsibility to ensure that every child can find a school place, that every Looked after Child has the support needed to develop, that every adult who needs social care can access that care, and that residents aspiration for better quality of highways and winter maintenance is delivered - despite the lack of funding from Government.

Perhaps Mr Gibbs is also unaware that SCC has been shortlisted for three major Local Government awards over the next 2 months, firstly as the most improved
FORUM

Council in the UK, secondly as the Council with the highest achievement success over the last year and thirdly for the most effective training schemes (for staff and members) in Local Government. In the last 2 years SCC has won many awards in the field of social care, best IT project, best contact centre, Safe Drive (which won national acclaim) and others. That I believe reflects the substantial improvements to services in Surrey over the last 2 years.

What I would also like to say to Mr Gibbs is that I have spent almost 20 years being a Councillor at Tandridge and SCC. I can assure Mr Gibbs and other residents of Tatsfield that Tandridge Council is an efficiently run Council and that my experiences of Parish Councils is that Tatsfield Parish Council would be in the top 5% in the UK. The Parish Magazine and the outstanding work of so many community-minded residents in Tatsfield is an outstanding reflection of the quality of residents in Tatsfield. I am honoured to represent the village and will continue to do all I can to support Tatsfield.

David Hodge

Dear Editor

Mathematics and Young People

I was heartily uplifted by Gerald South’s report in the January magazine concerning the five bright pupils at the primary school who had been awarded certificates for mathematics. By quoting three questions which they had to tackle, in particular the third one, he enabled us to realise the extent of their abilities.

In my experience of shopping in supermarkets, young people employed as cashiers have shown themselves to be incapable of doing simple arithmetic. As we all know, in this technological age, the necessity does not often arise, but when it does, ineptitude appears to be commonplace. In consequence I have long since despaired that it should be so, and concluded that there must be something seriously wrong with modern teaching methods of this subject in state schools. To qualify such a radical assumption I recall two incidents out of many.

When Safeway’s were at Biggin Hill a policy was introduced which was of considerable benefit to the customer. If stocks ran out of a product which was currently on offer, the store would issue a maximum of three I.O.U.s which could be redeemed after the offer had expired. By this time, of course, the bar code would have reverted to the original price, and the cashier would have to calculate the difference. When I handed over the cash for my weekly shopping together with three I.O.U.s the cashier groaned. I quietly pointed out that each of the I.O.U.s represented a discount of 60p and therefore the refund was £1.80. The young man ignored me. He called a girl who was passing by and said: “I hope you are good at maths Debbie”. After some minutes a second colleague was summoned and while three heads were bent over the problem the queue was growing and several children were becoming restive. Finally, Debbie and the second assistant...
withdrew in defeat, and the cashier wearily asked me to tell him again how much he should pay me. It was hardly surprising that the scheme was short lived!

On another occasion I purchased six items at Sainsbury’s in Warlingham. When I handed over the exact money the cashier looked at me in astonishment and asked me how I knew the total. When I told her that I just added up the prices she replied: “I couldn’t do that”. I laughingly disbelieved her, but she was adamant.

These young people are probably quite competent in all other respects, and no doubt they operate computers with a skill which most of my generation can only envy. Nevertheless, the incidents I have related appear consistent with a statement which I read in the Daily Telegraph a few years ago, that a high percentage of children leaving primary school have no basic understanding of numbers. Personally, I feel sure that early use of calculators is largely responsible.

It is certainly very encouraging to know that well over 20,000 primary school pupils undertake the testing challenge Gerald referred to each year. I offer my congratulations to the five ‘budding mathematicians’ of Tatsfield, whom I regard as beacons in the mist.

Betty Perry, Paynesfield Road

MAGAZINE DONATIONS

We are very grateful for the latest donations received from village organisations: from the Parish Council, the Badminton Club and the Bridleways Association. We are also very grateful for the generous response from so many villagers to our annual request in last month’s issue for donations to the magazine’s funds. We are able to produce and deliver a free magazine to everyone each month only because of our income from advertisements and the generous donations each year - and of course because of the fine effort of all those involved in producing and delivering the magazine. Don’t worry if you want to donate but have lost the little slip - please put your donation in an envelope (any cheques payable to Tatsfield Parish Magazine) and drop it into Linda’s Stores or post it to our treasurer, Madie Langford, ‘Triple Trees’, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2NB.

MAGAZINE DELIVERERS

Every month, Pam Jay, assisted by husband Ian, counts and sorts the 850 magazines delivered to her by our printers, Lonsdale Direct Solutions of Wellingborough. These are cascaded down to 56 people who then get the magazines to you as quickly as they can. One, Kim Jennings, who has been delivering the magazines to Hillside Road residents for the last 16 years, has decided to have a rest (Madie Langford has kindly agreed to take over the round). We are all very grateful to Kim and to all our other deliverers.
Following the notice of a vacancy for a Parish Councillor an application was received from Mr Martin Westerman. Martin is a qualified and experienced building surveyor and at our February meeting he was welcomed as a new member of the Parish Council team.

Sue Smale is the Parish representative co-ordinating a community group to discuss and agree a series of events for the Diamond Jubilee weekend. She proposed that some of the money allocated for grants to local community groups be set aside to pay for a live band and the proposed Hog Roast. This was agreed unanimously.

A request has been received from St. Mary’s for permission to hold a service on Westmore Green at 10.00am on Sunday 3rd June. This was agreed.

Sue also reported on the latest meeting of the PARROT project to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Westmore Green play area; it was reported that an application for a grant has been made to the Surrey County Council Community Improvement Fund.

Doug Massey presented his highways report including a discussion about the successful road gritting and snow clearing after recent snow. Feedback from all was that this was a considerable improvement in the service provided to Tatsfield by SCC Highways.

Nichola Stokoe presented her report on the work of the Village Hall Management Committee including a request for our agreement in principle for the committee to pursue enquiries to install solar panels; this was agreed.

We understand that the final arrangements are now in hand to appoint a builder for our new affordable homes project. Work is expected to start in the spring and be completed in time for occupation in the spring of 2013.

The Parish Council was very pleased to hear of the hard work by the Allotments Committee and also to hear that grants have now been approved to erect a deer fence, put in access paths, complete the community area and start the roof water harvesting facility.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building at 8.00 pm on Monday 12th March, following the police liaison meeting which starts at 7.30 pm.

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481 Email: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk)
Next Year’s Council Tax: Tandridge collects our Council Tax on behalf of three other authorities as well as for itself – Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Tatsfield Parish Council. The County Council takes by far the largest share, which is not surprising as it is responsible for education, social services and roads. All four authorities have now decided on the levels of Council Tax they will be charging for the year beginning in April.

The Band D Council Tax for Tatsfield residents next year and a comparison with the current year are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surrey County Council</td>
<td>£1116.36</td>
<td>£1149.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Police</td>
<td>£198.54</td>
<td>£203.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tandridge District Council</td>
<td>£193.62</td>
<td>£193.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatsfield Parish Council</td>
<td>£37.62</td>
<td>£43.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1546.14</strong></td>
<td><strong>£1589.99</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will see that there is a small increase in the total amount, which works out as an increase in the weekly rate of 85p – from £29.73 to £30.58. Band D indicates an “average” Council Tax rate. In fact, the rates vary from Band A to Band H. In Tatsfield a Band A household will be paying £1059.99 a year and a Band H household £3,179.98.

As far as Tandridge’s share of the Council Tax is concerned, the rate and the budget for next year were agreed at a meeting of the full council last month. For those authorities who decided to freeze their Council Tax, the Government was offering a grant equal in value to the income which the authority would have received had it increased its Council Tax by 2.5%.

Tandridge decided to accept the offer and thus its Council Tax is unchanged, although there could be problems in the following and subsequent years as the Government grant is for only one year, which is one of the reasons why the County Council and Surrey Police decided not to accept the Government’s offer but instead to increase their Council Tax.

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

Winter Maintenance/Snow: I would like to express my appreciation to Chairman of Parish Council Jon Allbutt and all the volunteers who supported the County Council arrangements to ensure that real improvements in snow management were in evidence this year.

Council Tax for 2012/13: Having spent many months assessing the benefits or otherwise should SCC accept the one-off Government Grant of £14m or decline it has been the most difficult decision we have faced at County Hall for some years. SCC continues to be the lowest funded by Central Government in the UK – which means that 80% of all Council Tax is funded by residents of Surrey. Some of the reasons for rejecting the one-off grant are:

- SCC funding from the Government has already been reduced by £15m for 2012/13 and every year thereafter
- The one-off grant of £14m would create a £70m black hole over the next five years - as SCC would lose £14m every year thereafter
- Demand for school places in Surrey is rising by over 20% and therefore we must create/build 2000 new school places annually to meet this demand. SCC needs to spend £244m in the next 5 years
- Residents tell us to spend more funding on roads etc
- Surrey has the fastest growing over-85-year-old population in the UK and over the next 10 to 20 years this will double
- We have already made savings of £130m over these last two years and are on course to save £330m by 2016/17

If SCC had the average level of funding of county councils I would have been able to announce a reduction of at least 15% in Council Tax.

What are our future plans?: I led a team of Cabinet members to the House of Commons on 1 February to meet Surrey MPs. After presenting the case against our unfair funding, it was agreed that SCC would prepare a case for fairer funding and Surrey MPs would arrange meetings with Ministers. We are now working on this matter and will take our case to the appropriate Ministers. Any Tatsfield resident wishing to support the case for fairer funding for Surrey, should please write to our MP, Sam Gyimah, in support of our case.

PARROT: I have received an application from the organisers of PARROT for supportive funding from the Surrey Community Improvement Funding scheme, which I shall support.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)
Easter 2012 Trip to Vern d’Anjou

A coach will be leaving on Good Friday April 6th and returning home on Tuesday April 10th.

The village of Vern d’Anjou near Angers will provide accommodation and over 4 days you will be amazed by the hospitality of our French hosts, be supported by friends and families from Tatsfield and experience the rural delights of French life.

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT PETE FULLER
tel: (01959) 573 554 or
e-mail: peter.fuller@tiscali.co.uk
Welcome to the first of what is intended to be a new irregular series of articles to keep us up-to-date with what is happening on the communications front.

**Telephones.** I hope you all survived the snow okay. Apart from a few flickers, the electricity kept going, but what happens when it fails? Many homes now have telephones that rely on the mains supply to operate, and when it fails how do you make emergency calls etc? Sometimes the mobile can be used as an alternative, but to be sure why not keep a spare basic corded phone in the cupboard with the candles - just in case. Often simple is best and you can still find cheap basic telephones in Tesco, Argos etc.

**Village Groups.** There are over 40 different groups in the village, not quite A to Z, but definitely Art to WI. The Parish Council are currently compiling a list of email contact addresses for each group so that we can pass information of interest more easily. We currently have contact addresses for most groups, but if your group has been inadvertently overlooked; then please let me know. You may not have email, but I am sure somebody in your group will have.

**Broadband.** In many parts of Tatsfield, broadband is at best erratic, and at worse slow to non-existent. BT is seeking to improve things by enabling the Biggin Hill exchange for Superfast Broadband - you may have noticed some new green street cabinets appearing around the village. Whilst this all looks promising it is not certain that there are enough cabinets to provide this service for all. Separately, Broadband Surrey is committed to provide all Surrey residents with Superfast Broadband, and have said that they will reassess the Tatsfield situation in July – i.e. after BT should have completed its work.

**More?** If there is something that you would like to see addressed in a future Communications Corner; then let me know at: pjkerry@gmail.com.

**Peter Kerry**

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**TEA DANCE SOCIAL**

Village Hall
Wednesday 21 March
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
ALLOTMENT NEWS

Another quiet month at the allotments. The inclement weather has prevented most of us from doing any work – but we are smug in the knowledge that the soil is still working quietly without our help at the moment.

To stave off withdrawal symptoms, on Wednesday 8th February we held a “social” evening in the Parish Room. Despite freezing cold temperatures and inches of snow, we had a good turnout – our hardy plot holders braved the weather to come and willingly pay their “subs” and sign their tenancy agreements for another year. We had intended to supply a glass (or 3) of wine, as is the norm on these occasions. Imagine our surprise to receive a knock on our door a few days before this event, to find one of our stalwart plotters on our doorstep with four cases of wine. No amount of protest could persuade her to accept payment for this, nor any public acknowledgement – she simply said it was her way of “doing her bit” and saying thank you for the pleasure she has gained from having her allotment patch. What wonderful people live here in Tatsfield (as if you didn’t know!). The evening was a huge success, conversation buzzed, wine flowed, gardening tips were swapped and more friendships formed. We soon realised that we shall need a bigger room next time - I believe the discussion about this continued in the Village Club until later!

Our Chairman, Jon Allbutt, gave a report on our status and mentioned that we have been “noticed” in high places – apparently, it is unheard of for an allotment site to take shape so quickly and we have stunned many people in the horticultural world who did not believe it was possible. So well done us!

Alan had the exiting news that the Surrey Hills Leader Group has just approved our application for a grant of £11,800 to be used for a hard surface pathway and access to the compost site. We will now be meeting with contractors who quoted for the job and a decision will soon be made - and work given to the successful company.
Work will also soon begin on the perimeter fence and Alan and Joe Wilson spent a very chilly morning marking out the boundary line for guidance for the fence company - we may soon need a grant for frostbite!

All but two of our projects have been given a Certificate of Lawfulness – so planning permission will be needed for our proposed underground storage tanks and a display board at the gate entrance for notices.

This brings our total grants received to almost £25,000 - largely due to the hard work and perseverance of Teresa Watts, Carol Bowen and Alan.

Liz Armitage
WESTERHAM FINE ARTS SOCIETY

The subject of our next meeting on Wednesday March 7th is very appropriate, in this the bicentenary year of the birth of Charles Dickens; given by Frances Hughes, whose speciality is the theatre, the talk is called “Charles Dickens: a Circle of Stage Fire” about his connections to the theatre. The meeting is at 8pm at the Westerham Hall.

March also brings another treat – our long awaited Musical Tour of Westminster Abbey with the Purcell Club. This consists of former Abbey Choristers who sing in various parts of the Abbey during the tour. They give only ten tours each year and raise thousands of pounds for charity – we have waited for over two years for this remarkable opportunity.

Still not too late to join our Society! Come on 7th March as a visitor for a taster session! We are a friendly and enthusiastic crowd and our membership is growing steadily – so we must be doing something right! Or find out more by ringing 569769.

Marril Gibson, Chairman WFAS

MICHAEL HYETT

We are sorry to report that Michael Hyett has died after a period of illness.

LOCAL POLICE REPORT

Within your area over the past weeks have seen a number of thefts from both secure and non-secure vehicles. I would like to ask all car owners to ensure all valuables are removed from your vehicle when leaving it unattended. Try to park in sight of your house or preferably park in a garage if possible.

Your local neighbourhood police team would like to invite you every Wednesday between 2.30pm and 3.30pm to come and discuss any issues or concerns you may have. The drop in surgery for residents of Tatsfield is an ideal time to meet the police on a one-to-one basis and alert us of any issues. The surgery takes place in the Parish Room in the Aileen McHugo Building located opposite the primary school and behind the Village Hall. The drop in surgery used to operate between 10.30am and 11.30am on Wednesdays but due to low attendance we consider the new times to be more convenient for the majority of residents. Please note the new times will start from Wednesday 14 March.

PCSO Matthew Nottidge
Andrew Bond wrote about his plans for redeveloping the Bakery in last month’s magazine. The restaurant will be closed while the building work continues and Andrew plans to re-open on about 20 March. The bar will remain open in the evenings from 6pm on Wednesday to Saturday and also at lunchtime on Saturdays from 11am.

FOR SALE

2004 Renault Kangoo Van, White, 1500cc diesel, 1 year MOT. £1,000. Please contact Jon Allbutt on 576481 or 07712 196406.

TATTY KNITTERS

At the time of writing this we still won’t have got together in February but hopefully when we do it will be as successful as the previous month. We await in anticipation of Kim’s cakes!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 March, 7.30 – 9.30pm in the Ship. Buy your own drink, cakes will be supplied. Everyone welcome.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

PLACE THE LETTERS – WHERE ARE THEY?

Here are the answers to last month’s picture puzzle.

Lots of you got some of the answers but were reluctant to submit them as you didn’t have them all. In fact nobody got all correct but the winner of the competition is Sandy Philibert who receives a £5 token to spend at Linda’s or the Greengrocers.

Gerald South
Do you know what’s new on the Tatsfield Village website?
New links keep appearing.
One of the most recent is to the Tatsfield Fairtrade Village website

Either type www.tatsfield.org.uk into your browser

or google/search for Tatsfield Village for the Home page.

If you click on this logo you’ll be taken straight to the ‘Take a step for Fairtrade Fortnight’ page.

If you look under the list of ORGANISATIONS and use the Fairtrade tab, you’ll reach the home page first then link to ‘Take a step for Fairtrade Fortnight’ page..

It’s worth taking a few moments to find out why people care about fairness.
And have a look at the ‘talking point’ page which invites you to have your say.

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EVERY TUESDAY

Tatsfield Primary School

ZUMBA
(New routines)
7 pm to 8 pm

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
Free event
Chocolate Extravaganza
Sunday 11 March 6.30pm
Village Hall

Families welcome! Join us for an evening celebrating chocolate during Fairtrade Fortnight.

A light Ploughman’s meal and a variety of drinks will be provided as well as a selection of chocolate desserts.

Try some new flavours.....vote for your Favourite!

Learn about how chocolate is made and where is comes from. Browse through a range of Traidcraft Fairtrade Products for sale. What will your next Fairtrade Step be in 2012?

Arranged by the Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
Phone Jennie South on 577598 to book your place
ALL ABOUT PARK WOOD GOLF CLUB

A visit to Park Wood Golf Club really makes you feel like you’ve arrived at the top of the world. To the east and south, the Kent and Sussex countryside spreads out before you, while to the north is London, with suburban Surrey in the foreground and the Millennium Dome, Square Mile and Canary Wharf looming on the hazy horizon.

Opened in 1994 Park Wood Golf Club is located in the leafy village of Tatsfield and within a few miles of the M25 near Westerham. The course design has used the natural topography of this area of outstanding natural beauty, both in the layout of the course and the architecture of the impressive club house.

Despite its elevation, Park Wood is an easy-walking course, as the majority of holes have been laid out on a 120-acre plateau. The course measures 6,835 yards off the back tees, the red tees 5,761 yards, both Par 72. Over 20,000 trees were planted when the course first opened, to shape the fairways.

The practice facilities include a newly installed Driving Range, together with chipping green and bunker; an 18 hole putting green beside the club house, as well as practice nets. Lessons are available from our Professional Nick Terry, a former Kent champion.

Club membership is available across five and seven-day categories with discounts available for the under 30s and those reaching 80, and with no joining fee to pay. Three months Trial membership is available for only £250. There has never been a better time to enjoy the benefits of membership at one of the region’s friendliest clubs. The membership includes Vets, Ladies and Junior sections and Golf Societies are always welcome to book with the office for dates throughout the year. The excellent facilities of the Clubhouse include a restaurant, bars and function rooms as well as conferences and business meetings on ground and first floors. It is a popular venue for hosting social functions and wedding receptions.

A family atmosphere pervades throughout with active social events ranging from quiz nights to Sunday carvery, with non-members always welcome to join in. So if you haven’t yet visited us to see all we have to offer, make it your goal to join us for a party, have lunch, play golf or just have a coffee and say hello to our friendly staff.

We will be celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee over the bank holiday weekend in June including a BBQ, fireworks and plenty of entertainment! For further information on any of the above contact John or Kirsty on 577744 or visit our website at www.parkwoodgolf.co.uk.
MARCH SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)

★ Fresh fruit and vegetables ★ Pet and wild bird food ★ Frozen and tinned food ★ Pot plants and cut flowers ★ Free delivery to your home – just ask ★ Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Specials in Fairtrade Fortnight (27 February – 11 March) Look out for Fairtrade fruit and vegetables

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)

All your Post Office needs here
Fresh bread and cakes from Plaxtol Bakeries delivered daily
You can use credit or debit cards to pay for your shopping

Bargains available throughout March

😊 Buy 1 get 1 free pm = price mark
★ Jars Quality Street/Celebrations 700g £3.99
★ Coke/Coca Cola 2 ltr pm £1.99 any 2 for £3
★ KitKat/Toffee Crisp/Fruit Pastilles 3 pack only £1
★ Walkers Crisps 6 pack only £1
★ Cadbury’s Dairy Milk Caramel Egg medium £2 large £3
★ Cocoa Eggs 353/380 g £5 ★ Powerade 500 ml 69p
★ Robinsons Fruit Juices 1 ltr £1 ★ Maltesers/M&Ms any 2 for 90p
★ McVities Hobnobs/Dark Digestives 300g any 2 for £2.50
★ Lucozade/Ribena 500 ml any 2 for £1.50
★ Kettle Chips 40g any 3 for £1 😊 Haribo 160 g
😊 Mr. Kipling Angel/Lemon Slices 6s 😊 Chicken tonight 500/525g
😊 McVities Jamaica Ginger/Syrup Cake 😊 Ragu Sauces 500g
★ Tetley Tea 80s pm £2.29 £1.89 ★ Bisto 170g £1
★ Pot Noodles 90g pm 99p/£1.09 only 75p
★ Whiskas pm 70p any 2 for £1.20
★ Sim Cards £1

Fairtrade goods available while stocks last.
★ Lots of chocolates – Green & Black’s Organic Dark Chocolate, Cadbury’s Dairy Milk and Dairy Milk Bubbly, Nestle KitKat, Cadbury’s Drinking Chocolate and Cocoa, Flapjacks
TATSFIELD PET REGISTER

Since my last article written a year ago we will have had some new families moving into the village and this is to let them know of the Pet Register’s existence and also a reminder to all pet owners to update the details that I have of your pets on the register. It is very simple to register: you just telephone me on 574810 or e-mail valmoore@talktalk.net and I will let you have a registration form for completion and return. That is all you have to do – I do the rest.

The Pet Register works like this. When a pet is found, a phone call to me will mean that I check the description of the animals/birds on my data base to try and find a match. I then call all the owners who I think are a possible match and if I am successful I will then give the details to them to contact the person who has given me the information. Obviously this cannot work if the pet is not registered.

The system can also work the other way round – if you have lost a pet, you call me and I take the details whether you have registered or not. I would hope very soon to get a call saying that the animal is found or sighted. Please make the system runs smoothly by registering your pet. I am sure you will agree that the quicker we can reunite owners and pets the better.

I have had some feedback on the system with regard to micro-chipping. Some people think this is sufficient and that therefore they have no need to register their pets. All I would say is that if a pet is sighted and the person spotting it is for any reason reluctant to approach the animal and take it to a vet where the microchip can be identified, then a pet could be lost for quite some time, causing unnecessary stress for both animal and owner.

Val Moore (Tel: 574810)

CATALYTIC CONVERTER – FREE MARKING BY SURREY POLICE

✗ At Caterham Tyre Company, 407 Croydon Road, Caterham CR3 6PP
✗ 10.30 am to 3.30 pm on Tuesday 6 March
✗ Each appointment takes about 15 minutes. Book your appointment with the Tandridge Neighbourhood Team Co-ordinator on 01483 630220 by 5 pm on Friday 2 March. First come first served

SWITCHING TO DIGITAL TV

Have you switched yet? If you haven’t by the time of the switchover in April, your screen will go blank. You can get advice about switching to digital by contacting the Digital UK advice line: phone 08456 505050 or visit www.digitaluk.co.uk. The BBC’s Switchover Help Scheme, which is for older and disabled people, can be reached by phoning 0800 40 85 900 or visiting www.helpscheme.co.uk. You can also visit the Digital UK Roadshow when it appears at Morrisons in Oxted on 9 March.
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 St Mary’s Matters page for some info on this.
Gerald South – 01959 577598

**TAKE A STEP WITH US IN FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**
27 February – 11 March

In recent years the support for Fairtrade in the village has been amazing. In 2009 you registered your swaps to Fairtrade products helping to reach the grand total nationally of over a million swaps to Fairtrade. In 2010 you decorated Fairtrade cotton bunting to help create the world record for the longest piece of handmade bunting at 3427.94 m and in so doing help to raise awareness of the problems faced by cotton farmers. This year we are asked to take a step for Fairtrade and the 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 could ask a shop to stock a Fairtrade product, switch to regularly buying a Fairtrade product encourage your workplace to purchase and serve Fairtrade tea and coffee - the list is endless. You can register your step on line or fill in a postcard at the event advertised below. Send off your postcard and your step will be registered and you will be entered in a prize draw and could win one of the 20 hampers packed with Fairtrade goods.

Together each step leads to the better deal that millions of farmers and workers so urgently need. Join us at our Chocolate Extravaganza, find out more and help the Fairtrade Foundation meet its target of 1.5 million steps by the end of 2012. Start your journey at www.fairtrade.org.uk/step and see where your steps will lead.

Take a Step with us at a Chocolate Extravaganza on Sunday 11 March 6.30 pm at the Village Hall. Further details on page 33.
SOMETHING FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Did you know that on a Wednesday morning Kestrels Children's Centre offers a drop in and play service in the Aileen McHugo Building next to the school?

This is a special morning of play where parents, grandparents and under 4 year olds meet and get to know each other. Little ones learn to share, play with new toys and have fun with others, whilst the grownups never need an excuse to have a coffee and a good chat. All families are welcome and if you have any questions about local services or other family issues there is an expert there to help. We are very lucky to have this resource on our doorstep and unless we use it we will lose it.

The service will be available until at least the end of March and the staff are happy to make changes in the delivery to meet the needs of our local community. Call and in share your ideas with them because unless we can prove that this service is a welcome addition to the facilities for under 4s in the area, we will indeed lose it.

Kestrels at Tatsfield is open every Wednesday from 9.15 - 11.30 am.

Sue Smale

ST MARY’S JUBILEE FLOWER FESTIVAL
2 – 5 June with preview evening on Friday June 1st
Part of the village celebrations of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

Thank you to all the village organisations that have already offered sponsorship of a flower arrangement as part of this festival. If you would still like to be involved in this way please return the form if you have one or contact Maureen Perrin on 577679 for more information.

The festival draws on a large team of flower arrangers coordinated this time by Jan Maynard and Kay Longley. The first planning meeting with them will be on Monday 5 March, 7.30 pm in the church hall. Anyone who thinks they would like to help with the flower arranging side of the festival is warmly invited to come along on this evening. Some of our regular team started off as ‘beginners’ at previous flower festivals: help and friendly encouragement are there for everyone! Do phone Jan (577659) or Kay (577682) if you would like to know more.

Jennie South

BRIEND THE BEE
Grow nectar rich flowers this summer! If not sure which these are ask at the Garden Centre.
NEWS FOR PATIENTS OF STOCK HILL SURGERY

Stock Hill Doctors Surgery has become the first doctors’ surgery in the area to form a Patient Participation Group (PPG). This group is made up of 2 doctors from the surgery, the office manager and 11 volunteer patients. The committee have an agenda to work with the surgery staff and the patients to provide better facilities, plus information and communication for the benefit of all. This will include fund raising for the provision of equipment not provided by the NHS. A quarterly newsletter will be issued to give up to date information on the activities of the PPG. They will be a voice between the patients and the surgery staff with surveys which will provide information from the patients as to what they would like done to improve their concept of the surgery and its provisions. The results of the surveys will be analysed and acted upon where possible and practical.

The first task that the PPG have set about is to provide the funding for an up-to-date defibrillator for the surgery which has now been achieved. If you would like any further information about the PPG and its activities please contact the surgery on 0844 477 3130, visit the surgery website – www.stockhillsurgery.nhs.uk or leave a message on ppgsh@gmail.com.

TATSFIELD-VERN D'ANJOU TWINNING ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Elsewhere in this month's magazine you'll see a full page advert for our next trip to Vern d'Anjou, Tatsfield's twin town in the Loire Valley.

This will be the 37th year of such exchanges and they are as popular as ever. We'll be setting off on early Good Friday and returning in the evening of the Tuesday after Easter. The trip is great fun. You'll be in the company of about 40 Tatsfield residents for the weekend and will stay with a French family, usually chosen for their similarity to your own family circumstances.

The French-based weekends are traditionally a little more laid back than those that we put on here so there should be some relaxation time available - however, with a few day trips out enjoying the local attractions and parties on most evenings the overriding impression is of a very full weekend!

Prices are £120 per adult and £60 per child (or less if we can fill the coach). I'd happily talk through any questions or concerns you may have about the weekend. All are welcome whether you be single, a couple, a group of friends or a family group. I can guarantee you'll have a never to be forgotten experience.

Peter Fuller (Tel: 573554)
LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL
The New Year has got off to a lovely start and the children have been carrying on with their topic ‘People who Help Us’. Last week our subject was ‘Vets’, with lots of talk about pets and caring for them. We even had a visit from a couple of animals!

During our last week of half term we looked at the topic of the Police force, and their job within our community and outside of it, and the good work that they do. Also one of our mums, Tina Arnold, visited us and showed the children some sports activities. She is currently promoting a fundraising venture that she is doing on behalf of Harris Hospice Care which will be called ‘Hollywood Hustle’ and held at The Warren in Coney Hall. Hopefully we will see some of you there!

We are currently putting together a list of events that we hope to hold over the coming two terms. Our next event will be held on Saturday 10 March at the Village Hall, the subject of which is yet to be decided! Other events will then be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>Sponsored Eastercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
<td>Race Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 June</td>
<td>Diamond Jubilee Celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>Sports Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

So make sure you all put the above dates in your diary, and we will keep you informed of any other information you might need. We are always on the look-out for parents and carers to give us a hand running these events, so if you feel you could help us out please speak to Jackie or a member of the committee.

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

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

PREPARING FOR THE SPRING SHOW
What are the judges looking for?
8 pm Tuesday 20 March
WI Hall

◆ Richard Abbott (our regular show judge) will give some tips on presenting daffodils, tulips and all the other horticultural classes
◆ Kay Longley will give a flower arranging demonstration for 2 of the classes
◆ Slide show of Great Dixter to whet our appetite for the visit there on 27 May

All welcome
Arranged by Tatsfield Horticultural Society
Coffee Morning

Braving the snow on Wednesday 8 February, many people were kind enough to call in for a coffee and buy items from the stalls supporting Marie Curie. Alison from the Farm Shop in Biggin Hill had made beautiful cup cakes with a Valentine theme and lovely sponge cakes. These were for sale and for every cake sold Alison donated cash. Other items included a selection of products from her shop. I had my new 2012 range of Phoenix cards and a Valentine card display. Lin Saines brought along her pickles and chutneys for sampling and a lot of historical information too. The raffle, donations for refreshments and donations from the stall holders gave us a grand total of £55. Many thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Anne Chapman

Valentine Sweet Sale

Mum and I set up our stall at 8.45 am on Saturday 11 February for the Valentine love heart sweet sale. Dad drove the table to the parade of shops in the village as we couldn't carry it and it was still very icy. We also took a cup cake stand to display the bags of sweets and decorated the stall with bunting. We pinned posters from Marie Curie on the tablecloth and were ready to go.

It was very cold, but we had fun talking to the early people buying their papers. Dad brought us bacon sandwiches and a flask of coffee to keep us warm. The sale went very well and we sold all 56 bags at 75p each and took £42. Some people didn't want a bag but made a donation. Some people paid twice as much for the bag and most people didn't want change so we took an extra £20 which was really good. We were there for two and a half hours, but it felt like two days in the cold. The last customer bought all 3 bags and then we could go home for a warm. In fact we could have sold more.

My class at school is fundraising for Marie Curie and we aim to raise £500 by July.

My friends Cecily, Jess, Maisie, Megan and I put together the bags at school. During the lunch break we were selling the bags and delivering them anonymously to the sweetheart whose name and class were written on the tag. We sold 94 bags at school and we sold a further 56 bags from the stall. All the monies from Mum's coffee morning, the sales at school and from the stall are going to Marie Curie. A huge thank you to all who supported these events.

Molly Chapman Hayes
BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

SAMMY, FRANK & DEAN
Presented by the New Foxtrot Serenaders
A celebration of the music of ‘Rat Pack’ (with a little help from Bing)
7.45 pm Friday 2 March
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811

WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS
Presented by the Young Oxted Players
7.30 pm on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 March
2.30 pm matinee on Saturday
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 724852

GROOVY
Presented by the Glow Theatre Group
7.30 pm Friday 23 and Saturday 24 March
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 720167

CRAFT FAIR
Sunday 25 March
11am to 3 pm in the Village Hall
◆ Home made products  ◆ Gifts  ◆ Cards  ◆ Knitting
◆ Jewellery  ◆ And much more!

Refreshments
FREE ENTRY

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB
The 100 Club winners for January were:
1st prize: David Eames £37.50
2nd prize: Dave King £25.00
3rd prize: Mary Wiggins £12.50

REMEMBER!
YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD AT LINDA’S STORES
JUBILEE WALKS

We intend to walk the walks in Tatsfield’s Wallet of Walks (available from Linda’s at £2.50)

If you would like to register for these walks please write your name, telephone number and the walk you would like to undertake on a piece of paper and let me have it by the end of April (or leave it at Linda’s if more convenient). We can then plan which walks we will be covering.

If you have any ideas for different routes let us know and we will see if we can incorporate them.

Walks are planned to take place on Sunday 3rd and Tuesday 5th June at 3 pm from the Village Hall car park and will take 1 to 2 hours

Contact Eileen Pearce, Postacre, Ship Hill, Tel: 577767

GOING FREE

Some print cartridges - a selection of colours (TO487 multipack) for an Epson Inkjet R200. Please contact Sandy St. John on 576481.

DAN AND IRINA LEAVE THE BAKERY AND SAY GOODBYE

We loved Tatsfield when we first came here and we still do. Everybody was so friendly and welcoming, it made us feel like we were at home. We found a lovely and hardworking community, which we think brings a lot of serenity to the village.

It was very impressive to see the new school being built. The allotments idea was fantastic, bringing people out of their routine. Entering the Britain in Bloom competition gets people together and has been very successful. These are great things for a small village ‘in the middle of nowhere’, as we say.

It’s sad that we have to leave but we have to make our move and do something for ourselves back in Romania. Unfortunately, we have not been able to say goodbye to everyone personally but writing this in the magazine is a good opportunity to make up for that.

It has been nice to meet all of you. Thank you for being there for us, and we promise we will keep in touch. Hugs and kisses. Take care and keep on doing all the great things that you do!

Dan and Irina
TATSFIELD IN BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2012

All the regions in the UK have now decided who are to be their representatives in this year’s Britain in Bloom. Tatsfield is classified as a Large Village (population of 1,001 – 2,500) and will be competing against Hillsborough (Northern Ireland), Hutton Crosswick (Yorkshire), Market Bosworth (East Midlands), Melrose (Scotland) and Warkworth (Northumbria).

We have more or less completed the plans for our summer displays celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. The plants have been ordered and village artists and craftsmen are busy completing their parts of the displays. One exciting and novel project is the creation of a mosaic on the Aileen McHugo Building which is involving 6 of the oldest organisations in the village and is masterminded by Carol Gaskell.

We are very glad to be supported by the sponsorship of major local businesses - Whelan Homes, Howard Cundey, Park Wood Golf Club and Knights Garden Centres at Woldingham and Chelsham. We are of course very fortunate to have a great team of volunteers who do all the work. We hope that villagers generally will want to contribute with donations to help meet the cost of our programme, and a leaflet about this is enclosed with this magazine.

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

THINKING OF ARRANGING A JUBILEE STREET PARTY?

As you will have seen from last month’s magazine, the Parish Council and others concerned are organising village-wide celebrations of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee during the extended weekend of 2nd – 5th June. In addition, some people may be thinking about arranging a street party for a more local celebration with friends and neighbours living nearby.

If so, help and advice is available from Tandridge District Council. You may need to apply for a road closure order and you will need to think about public liability insurance. For more information, you should call Tandridge’s Customer Services on 01883 722000 or email customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk or visit the website www.tandridge.gov.uk/streetparty.

REMOVAL OF DARTFORD CROSSING M25 TOLLS

Many villagers use the Dartford Crossing regularly. They may be interested to know that people are being asked to support the following e-petition to the Government: “We call on the Government to keep the promises of previous administrations and remove the toll charges imposed on road traffic using the Dartford Crossing.
Not only will this finally fulfil the previous commitments but also clear a choke point on a critical transport route. We don't believe that the argument used that charges reduce congestion are correct due to continued problems with traffic at the Crossing.

You can sign up by visiting http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/1878.

TATSFIELD’S FEBRUARY SNOW

The forecasters were right: it snowed heavily during the night of Saturday 4 February and the village woke up the next day to find everywhere covered in a layer of 6 inches or more of snow. But we coped, probably better than we have in the past, thanks largely to a great voluntary effort organised by Parish Council Chairman Jon Allbutt. Well done Tatsfield!

Surrey County Council and their contractors had done a good job and all the main roads were clear on Sunday morning. The 464 bus service was running and had no problem negotiating Ricketts Hill Road and Ship Hill. Even parts of Westmore Road, Crossways and Paynesfield Road were cleared, thanks to Dave Webb (who is contracted by the County Council). Dave was also able to help with the clearing of the school and Village Hall car parks, so that the work of the 50 or so parents (who had been alerted by School Bursar Jill Hancock) and village volunteers on Sunday morning was made easier (and as a result of which the school was able to open on the Monday). Even so, the car parks took 2 hours of hard work to clear.

The volunteers continued by clearing the area around the shops (where Brian Dance again did a good job), the Bakery, the Old Ship and the bus stop before going on to Crossways Court to clear the paths there so that residents could get out.

It remained very cold in the following week and we then had about another inch of snow late on Thursday 9 February. Very low temperatures were recorded, including one of minus 11 degrees C by Mark Stokoe in Ninehams Road. By now, the path from Lusted Hall Lane across Westmore Green was covered by packed ice, so the volunteers spent the Saturday morning spreading salt over it.

After that, temperatures rose, so much so that in just another week the whole of the village was basking in warm sunshine.

Bob David
The children in Year 4 have been creating stories which are set in the past. We have used our work on the Ancient Egyptians and the story of the Prince of Egypt to help our writing. We have been working particularly hard on including interesting adjectives and using time connectives to move our stories along. Here are a few examples:

A long, long time ago in Egypt, a woman gave birth to her first child, Nefertarie. When Nefertarie was 10 her mother allowed her to leave the house for she had built a house of her own. Soon Nefertarie started attracting admiring glances. Women were not surprised at this because Nefertarie was beautiful. She had long, black hair and deep blue eyes. Her movements were graceful. Normally Egyptian people did not glide but Nefertarie did. One day, Nefertarie was sent for by the Pharaoh, King Snerefu. Wondering why, she set off to the palace …..

By Imogen Barry

…… He slowly leant back and Danny and Matt fell into the big pyramid. When Danny got up he could hardly see anything and he was feeling quite sick. The fall made him crazy and he ran half way round the pyramid! 50 minutes later he ran straight into 3 mummies. Then the mummy got hold of Matt and tried to bite him …

By Harry Gostt

Thousands of years ago in Ancient Egypt there was a young girl called Cleocarmoon. She was 25 years old. Cleocarmoon was very popular and she loved living in Egypt and wanted to become a pharaoh one day, but Cleocarmoon only lived in a sand hut. She had quite a lot of money, but Cleocarmoon lied to everyone. She wanted to get married but all the men said “No way!! I’d rather die!” . She thought, if I don’t get asked to be pharaoh by the end of the week then I will have to leave Egypt …

By Amelia Hills
SNOWY TATSFIELD

Looking down Westmore Road
Below: Reaching the top of The Square  Photos by Dave Bishop
The southern part of Westmore Green looking towards the village centre
Below: Along the Approach Road  Photos by Brett Sewell
SNOWY TATSFIELD

“The cowfield” at the end of Goatsfield Road
Below: At the junction of Approach Road and Clarks Lane  Photos by Kate Bamber
SNOWY TATSFIELD

Two scenes of parents and village volunteers clearing the school entrance and car park  Photos by Richard Budgen
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Across
1 Writer’s point is made – by this (6,9)
4 Remove from office as bribe is found back in river (6)
9 For two army units to respond first is more unusual (5)
10 Kola limit’s broken – objective, to destroy (3,2,4)
12 Short person living abroad (5)
13 Public vehicle seen in East Ramsgate (4)
14 P.5. without carte blanche, meaningless words (10)
18 People in play daily behave,er, shamelessly to start with (10)
20 Supporter’s smile (4)
23 18 did (5)
24 Dance backwards around Diamond Street in town (9)
25 University teacher favours barmen (9)
26 Short handle for drink (1,3,1)
27 Don’s university spymaster is surrounded by fools (9)
28 Frenchman goes to British school (6)

Down
1 I get spasm after soldiers act like leeches (9)
2 Heavenly old pop group (7)
3 Heads back to the palace under repair. Ronnie initiates break in (6)
5 Attribute to house e.g. (8)
6 Economised but went on the piste around summits of Mount Parnassus (7)
7 Israeli port starts to employ Irish labour and taxis (5)
8 Female relative left to acquire round glove (8)
15 Soldier’s dogs (8)
16 Put good in front of this and he’ll help you (9)
17 Old actress (west) going west by road to fish ends up in a nightmare (3,5)
19 Book without charge in court proceedings (7)
21 Divorcée can get caught and put out (7)
22 Church Official from over Gerona way (6)
23 Male who gets A in Latin (5)
24 Though regularly blooms he is defeated (5)

Prize of £5 voucher for use in Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers to the first correct entry opened on 16 March. Please drop in your entry to Linda’s Stores or send to Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN.

Set by
Joan Gresham

Clues
MARCH FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

1 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies -CH  •  6.30pm Vets Football - VH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  •  7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH

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

3 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery  •  12noon - 1.30pm Lent Lunch - CH
3.30pm "THE PEACE CHILD" - VH

4 Sun 10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM
11.15am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM

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

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

7 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR
8pm Yoga - VH  •  8pm Explorers - SH

8 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM  •  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH
6.30pm Vets Football - VH  •  7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS  •  8pm Table Tennis - VH

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

10 Sat 11am - 12noon PC Café - The Bakery  •  12noon - 1.30pm Lent Lunch - CH

11 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist - StM
10.15am Ramblers Walk - Ashmore Lane Car Park, Leaves Green
6.30pm FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA - VH

12 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH  •  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  •  6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Yoga - TPS  •  7.30pm Art Group - VH
7.30pm Police Forum - AMB  •  8pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

13 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH  •  2pm Not So Young Club - WIH  •  5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH  •  7.30pm Tatty Knitters - The Old Ship

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

15 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM  •  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH  •  6.30pm Vets Football - VH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  •  7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH

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

17 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery  •  12noon - 1.30pm Lent Lunch - CH

18 Sun 8am Holy Communion (BCP) - StM  •  10am Sung Eucharist - StM
19 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
## EVENTS CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH 8pm Gardening Club - WIH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Wed</td>
<td>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 Expl;orers - SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Thur</td>
<td><strong>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM</strong> • 2pm WI Darts - WIH 5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vets Football - VH 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH 8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Sat</td>
<td>11am - 12noon PC Cafe- The Bakery • 12noon - 1.30pm Lent Lunch - CH</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sun</td>
<td><strong>10am Sung Eucharist - StM</strong> 11.15am Ramblers Walk - Ightham Mote Car Park</td>
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<td>26 Mon</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 2pm Whist - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Wed</td>
<td>10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH 2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR • 8pm Yoga - VH 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
</tr>
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<td>29 Thur</td>
<td><strong>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM</strong> • 2pm WI Darts - WIH 5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vets Football - VH 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH 8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Sat</td>
<td>11am - 12noon PC Cafe- The Bakery • 12noon - 1.30pm Lent Lunch - CH</td>
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### APRIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sun</td>
<td><strong>10am Open the Book - All Age Service - StM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11.15am Holy Communion (BCP) - StM</strong> TATSFIELD SCHOOL EASTER HOLIDAY 2-15 APRIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mon</td>
<td>9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tues</td>
<td>10am Yoga - WIH • 5.30pm Cubs - SH • 7pm Scouts - SH 4 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH 2.30 - 3.30pm PCSO Matthew Nottidge Surgery - PR 8pm Yoga - VH • 8pm Expl;orers - SH</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Thur</td>
<td><strong>9.15am Morning Prayer - StM</strong> • 2pm WI Darts - WIH 5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.30pm Vets Football - VH 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS 8pm Table Tennis - VH • <strong>8pm Eucharist for Maundy Thursday - StM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Fri</td>
<td><strong>GOOD FRIDAY</strong>                     10.30am Good Friday Service - StM</td>
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**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
Lent Lunches in St Mary’s Millennium Hall 12noon til 1.30pm
Enjoy delicious home made soup and, bread, cheese, drink and accompaniments, all for £4.00. Lent lunches continue on each Saturday up to and including 31st March, and are served between noon and 1.30 pm. All proceeds go to ........

...... The Bishop of Southwark’s Lent Appeal
This will support four specific needs in Zimbabwe: irrigation (many people travel miles to get water but new wells can be dug), education (enabling the nation to develop itself internally), health (many common illnesses may be prevented by vaccinations) and ministry (the clergy provide a vital dimension to people’s lives there). In addition, there are four local projects all of which help to build communities and enhance social cohesion: Slade Gardens Adventure Playground (a place for young people to meet away from the pressures of the built environment), Esther Community Enterprise (serving homeless and other socially excluded people in the Croydon area), the Camberwell Choir School (using singing as a healthy outlet for teenagers who would otherwise have little opportunity for such activity) and Neutral Ground Contact Centre (providing an environment of trust and care for young children who have been deprived of such a basic need). Much more information on all these very worthwhile causes may be seen at: the following site http://www.southwark.anglican.org/what/lentcall.

Open the Book
Well done to the brave souls who ventured out through the “deep and crisp and even” to get to our February service. We gave thanks for the light of God that can illuminate our lives if we give it a chance and we recalled our baptism which symbolises how we are united together into God’s family.

The next OTB service will be on 4th March. This service starts at 10am, lasts no more than 45 minutes and is designed for everybody, including the youngest.

Holy Week and Easter
In St Mary’s from Monday to Saturday the church will be open for prayer each day from 9 am to 8 pm.

  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 Easter egg hunt in the churchyard
For many years this has been an important part of the summer season in Tatsfield. Organised by the church and supported by a large number of wonderful ‘Tatsfielders’, who help by baking and serving teas, it raises much needed funds for the upkeep and maintenance of this ancient village church. It provides a place of welcome, rest and relaxation for hundreds of very appreciative visitors. Madie Langford will be organising the rota again this year. The start of the season will soon be here and Madie will be ringing round this month to start to fill all the slots. If you have helped in the past please check your diary and be ready when she gives you a call! If you have not been involved before but would like to know a bit more about what is involved or think you could help occasionally by serving behind the counter, washing up or making a cake then please phone Madie on 577114.

We look forward to another successful teas season and thank all our helpers and customers for their continued support and encouragement.

**Church Flowers**


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

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 7th April at 09.30am. If you would like to help with the floral arrangements, you will be most welcome. Please contact me.

**Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)**
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.

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
The vernal, or spring, equinox occurs on March 20\textsuperscript{th} and denotes the time when day and night are of approximately equal length. Don’t forget that clocks go forward to British Summer Time at 1.00 am (GMT) on Sunday March 25\textsuperscript{th}.

For planetary observers Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Mars are all on show in the evening skies this month. Mercury is closest to the Sun and rather difficult to observe because it is never far from the solar glare. This means it is only possible to see it either in the east at sunrise or in the west at sunset, as is the situation currently. It is visible to the naked eye during the early part of the month, and is best around the 5\textsuperscript{th} because on this date it is at greatest eastern elongation. This means that as seen from Earth it appears as far east of the Sun as it can get. Around 6.30 pm would be a good time to look but never use optical aid to find Mercury until after the Sun has set.

A little higher in the sky are the brilliant planets Venus and Jupiter whose positions are shown on map 1 for the 5\textsuperscript{th} March. The position of Jupiter relative to the stars changes very slowly but the movement of Venus, on the other hand, can be seen from night to night. By the 13\textsuperscript{th}, Venus will have “caught up” with Jupiter after which the two planets continue to move apart. Perhaps I ought to stress that this is purely a line of sight effect and the planets are not really close together at all.

If we turn our attention away from the western sky and towards the east, we will see that the “red” planet Mars is visible in the constellation of Leo (map 2). On the night of the 5\textsuperscript{th} it rises before the Sun has set, and by 7.30pm it is more than twenty degrees above the horizon. Mars stays in Leo until late June moving slowly eastwards until it crosses the border into neighbouring Virgo. The Plough can be used to locate Leo as shown on the map by the dotted line.

Brian Mills, FRAS
Ted Bonwick was born in Tatsfield 80 years ago this July, which makes him quite an authority on the history of our village. Although now living in Sanderstead his heart still remains firmly in Tatsfield. It all began when Ted’s mother arrived from London to work ‘in service’ at Clarks Farm, Clarks Lane. She met his father and they set up home in ‘The Cottage’ near the end of Maesmaur Road (it has since been re-named ‘Stable Cottage’). It was here that Ted was born in 1932. The couple had 7 children; Ted was the youngest of 5 brothers and also has 2 younger sisters.

In 1936 he remembers upping sticks and moving across the village, which seemed a great distance on foot at the time, to a brand new council house in Lusted Hall Lane. He went to Tatsfield School the following year, remaining there until he went off to work at 14. One of Ted’s first memories is of a Hill Climb for motorcycles and sidecars that took place along Ninehams Road and up the field beside his first home to Maesmaur Road – that must have been quite a sight!

Ted was of course too young to be called up for the Second World War, but recalls Tatsfield with its closeness to Biggin Hill airfield, as an exciting place for a young boy and his friends to be. Almost every day they heard of a plane down or a bomb or shells causing havoc. After school Ted and his friend Dennis would be off to explore. He also remembers walking across the green wrapped in a blanket to take cover in the communal air raid shelter, which could hold fifty or sixty people. Eventually Ted was evacuated to the safety of Newton Abbot in Devon, where he still returns to visit.

On leaving school Ted worked for the next 2 years on Cheveralls Farm (off Croydon Road near Botley Hill Farm) alongside Land Girls and German prisoners of war. Indeed he can claim to have worked in nearly every field around Tatsfield one way or another, as during school holidays, evenings and weekends he worked at Lusted Hall Farm. He also worked on a milk round with Mr Dick Higgs.

Ted’s brothers were older and thus eventually called up for the war. The oldest, Jimmy was a painter and decorator at Biggin Hill airfield at the onset of the war and when the Spitfires returned to the airfield would run out and turn them round by hand to ready them for take-off. He then joined the 50th Royal Tank Regiment and was sent to North Africa under General Alexander, where he was decorated with the 1939/45 Star and the Africa Star.

Leslie was an apprentice gardener at Colegates on Edgar Road and went on to serve in the Royal Navy on HMS Limbourne, a destroyer which was torpedoed in
October 1943. Leslie sadly lost his life and was never found, although many bodies were washed up on Guernsey. He was one of fourteen Tatsfield men to lose their lives in World War Two.

Third son Jonny was in the Tatsfield Home Guard and once old enough he joined the Merchant Navy, sailing all over the world until the end of the war. He kept pigeons and at the outbreak of war the War Ministry came and destroyed them as they posed a risk to the defence of Britain. After the war he took up his hobby once again. Fourth son George did not see active service as the war was almost over when he reached eighteen. He became an MT Driver Mechanic stationed in England. George is now in a nursing home in Sevenoaks.

Two years went by working on the farm and Ted decided to find a ‘warmer job’ and went to work for Spark and Co, a garage in Oxted where Waitrose now resides. In 1950 he was called up for National Service and shipped off to Malaya with the Battalion of the Queens Own Royal West Kents, who successfully contained the Communist guerrilla uprising in Malaya. The going was tough, with jungle patrols and laying ambushes. Following National Service Ted continued with the reserves for three and a half years.

On his return to England, Ted ran another Spark and Co garage which was where Lorimers now stands in Oxted. In 1974 he rented Sunnybank Garage at the corner of Barnfield Road and Old Lane with Bryan Everest for the next 15 years, renaming it E & B Motors. It is to here that Ted recalls walking down from ‘The Cottage’ as a child to collect paraffin.

Ted has continued to work whether as a driver, mechanic or gardener. The latter involves strimming at St Mary’s churchyard in Tatsfield, where his father, brother Jonny and brother-in-law Alf Reeves-Eastwood are buried. Sadly Ted reflects how he now knows more people buried in the graveyard at St Mary’s than he does in Tatsfield.

Ted continues to visit Tatsfield two or three times a week to see his sister Jocelyn. Sister Evelyn lives not far away in Old Oxted. His son and four grandchildren live in Fareham near Portsmouth and his daughter from his second marriage to Shelia lives opposite them in Sanderstead. Sheila and Ted have been together for 40 years. They visit Malaysia every two or three years, where Ted catches up with old friends and visits the graveyard where many old comrades are buried. They have just returned from their fourth cruise, this time on the Arcadia, sailing from Southampton to Dubai via Port Said and the Suez Canal.

As you can see there is no stopping Ted, despite falling ill from a heart attack last year and he vows to return with his strimmer to the churchyard following his recuperation! Ted is a delightful man with a fountain of knowledge about life in Tatsfield over the past 80 years. I hope to join up with him again soon to record more memories. In the meantime if you would like to read more, Ted’s booklet ‘Return to Tatsfield’ is on sale at Linda’s.
“ROBBO” – AN OLD TIME COPPER by Mick Garrard (the “old fogey”)

To everyone in Tatsfield and the surrounding areas in the 1950s and early 1960s he was simply known as ‘Robbo’ unless of course one of the local herberts was getting a ticking off, then it was ‘Yes! Mr Robinson, No! Mr Robinson, I promise not to do it again Mr. Robinson’. Whenever a group of us were larking about on the green or in the bus shelter, Enid (now my other half) was usually the main instigator and the one with all the ‘rabbit’. A shout would ring out ‘look out – Robbo’s about’. What a transformation took place! Suddenly we were the most well behaved youngsters imaginable – butter wouldn’t melt! Now the kids are playing a game called spot the copper – the trouble is no one ever wins. If we never saw him coming, we certainly never heard him. We only knew when, as he rode past on his bike, he would clip as many as possible round the ear with his rolled up cape. As I have said, Enid was the ring leader and a right little hooligan so consequently got her fair share – that’s why she sports a cauliflower ear!

I must point out most strongly for the politically correct or ‘elf ‘n safety’ pundits who may be reading this, Robbo never did it in a nasty or vicious way, but just to show us he was boss of his patch. We nicknamed him the ‘Cape Crusader’. He had just left the Palestine police force, so could be a hard man if the occasion arose. It wasn’t just the hoi polloi that fell foul of Robbo, even that demure young lady Anne Dothie (now married to my friend Denis Hayes) was shouted at regularly for riding her horse where it wasn’t permitted. She was a bit of a rebel on the quiet!

Sixteen was a magic age then, being that we could ride a motor bike which nearly every young lad in the village did. I remember one day standing talking to Robbo at Beacon Shaw when from the direction of the village came a heck of a din and up round the corner came Tony Watson going like a bat out of hell. I can still see the look on Robbo’s face – it was a joy to behold. He turned to me and said ‘Young Sugar if you ever get a motor bike promise me you won’t ride it like him’ (‘Sugar’ was the name by which my dad was known). Tony became a jolly good grass track racer.

While on the subject of motor bikes here’s a couple of examples of why it’s beneficial to have a village bobby who knows the locals. Sgt. Spears, Warlingham’s local policemen, every month would pick Robbo up and take him to Warlingham police station to sort out paperwork, etc. On one occasion he said he’d noticed a motor bike down a ditch across Worms Heath (which incidentally I’d left the night before having run out of petrol and no, I didn’t swear!). They stopped to investigate. Robbo said ‘Oh! It belongs to one of Sugar’s lads’. The sergeant told him to get it removed in case anyone reported it, otherwise they would get
lumbered with the paperwork. Sgt. Spears was to Warlingham what Robbo was to Tatsfield, two really good coppers. They were the Starsky and Hutch of their day; there wasn’t much they missed.

The other incident that springs to mind was when a friend of mine from Croydon was staying at our farm (Pitchers Copse Farm, Beddlestead Lane) and said he was just going to pop up to Tatsfield. Unbeknown to me he took my motorbike. Robbo, noticing a stranger, pulled him over and asked his name to which he replied ‘Mick Garrard’. He was very quickly told ‘No you’re not, I know him’. With that my mate jumped off and did a runner across the field. We never did see him again. When Robbo confronted me about it I didn’t drop him in it, I just said I didn’t know who he was. Nowadays if you’re stopped by a police officer out of the district, he has the means to check out your details on the computer; everything would be in order and you would be sent on your way. He would have no way of knowing that you were not the rightful owner.

Can you image for one moment the field day that the health ‘n’ safety brigade would have now – a policeman on his own in the dead of night patrolling the area from the village up to Woldingham, down to Slines Oak, back across the heath and then round by the church back to the village? And he was required to stand for a period at certain points on his beat. Remember all this was done on a push bike armed with nothing more than a small truncheon, a massive torch (which I’m sure doubled up as a large truncheon) and most importantly his whistle! Many a time when walking home late at night he would jump out of the dark shining his torch, really frightening me.

Part of Robbo’s duty was to visit our farm to sign a stock book concerning animal movements. I’m sorry to say more often than not I met him coming up Beddlestead Lane, sometimes balancing a tray of eggs on his handlebars and on other occasions a plucked chicken, a bag of cabbages or cauliflowers. You name it and as sure as God made little green apples, at one time or another it would be dangling from his bike. When arriving home I would be told ‘You owe me’ for one of the aforementioned items. For the life of me I couldn’t remember what misdemeanours I’d committed – honest! I think my devious old man may have been using me to keep Robbo sweet.

Great days, I wouldn’t have missed them for the world. Later on, Robbo’s bicycle was replaced by a motorbike, commonly known as a ‘noddy bike’. He thought he was the bee’s knees. I know one thing: he was a great copper. I wonder how many youngsters he kept on the straight and narrow during his career. If only we had one like him now. What a monumental mistake the government made getting rid of the Village Bobby.
Introduction:

Ah, yes – spring is in the air; plants are emerging from the warming soil, birds are beginning to territorialise and nest and you, our readers, have responded magnificently to the cry for input. So much so that, with the inclusion of the ‘Bird Register’ results, I am having to hold some of your notes over to next month’s magazine. But for now I’ll concentrate on a common theme:

Redpoll sightings:

Of course, with the arrival of ‘real’ winter weather last month, there were inevitably going to be one or two interesting sightings of unusual birds visiting our garden feeders. Redpolls were reported by three of our regular contributors:

Firstly, a double alert from Sandy and Louis Philibert:

(16.01.12) ‘Just to report we have a Redpoll (Lesser Redpoll, we think) on the bird table this morning.’
(17.01.12) ‘Update – five Lesser Redpoll on the bird table as I write this. They are feeding from the bottom of the bird table which has a softbill seed mix, but also some sunflower hearts, peanuts and niger seeds that have dropped off the higher feeders.’

Secondly, two messages from Brenda Allen:

(26.01.12) ‘We had a rather sad looking Redpoll on the bird feeder today, but it didn’t seem to want to eat anything’.
(02.02.12) ‘I have seen some more Redpolls!!!! We had two on the feeder on Sunday and then on Tuesday we had five munching away at the niger seeds.’

And finally from Martin and Julie Allen (with photos):

(30.01.12) ‘We had friends staying and they tried to explain to us an ‘unusual’ sparrow they had seen in our garden, with a red head. Turned out to be a Redpoll as it appeared again in the garden this afternoon.’
(06.02.12) ‘Has become very interesting since the frost and snow has come. Redpolls and now a Siskin have appeared, and just this afternoon, the Nuthatch on the peanut feeder.’

Many thanks to this month’s contributors. These reports clearly demonstrate how having a variety of feeders and foodstuffs on display increases our chances of attracting a greater range of unusual and interesting birds into our gardens. Unfortunately, our own niger feeder has been out of operation for a while so I have missed out on the Redpoll excitement. Memo to self: ‘Repair feeder asap!’

Any news, views or observational reports? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Tatsfield and Titsey Bird Register Results: July to December, 2011.

Observations made at various locations in and around our two neighbouring parishes.


As they have not been sighted during this period within the past three years, the following species have been removed from the 'July to December' register results: Canada Goose, Cuckoo, Greylag Goose, Linnet, Redpoll, Redstart, Tree Pipit, Wheatear, White-fronted Goose and Woodcock.

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There are some herbs that constantly seem to be underused and are rarely seen in English Herb Gardens today. Two of these are Sorrel and Chervil, good kitchen pot herbs that have been in use for centuries flavouring soups, casseroles and stews, in the main foraged from woodland or farming boundaries, quietly becoming unsung heroes of the country kitchen.

Taking Sorrel first, if you look at the illustration it will probably not surprise you to learn this is a member of the “Dock” family – that plant we seek out to heal a nettle sting. Known as “Surelle” or “the sour herb” in France, it has long been used on both sides of the Channel in soups and sauces. That French name was well given, as the leaves are extremely acidic, and if you suffer from arthritis is one herb to be used very sparingly. However it does give an excellent flavour to sauces for serving with fish or chicken, and sorrel soup is a well-known French favourite.

If you wish to grow sorrel, either buy a potted plant or grow some from seed, though you will probably not require many plants during a season and once established this herb is a hardy perennial. By summer the “common” sorrel produces long red flowering stalks. Removing these encourages vigorous leaf production for kitchen use, so well worth doing. By visiting a herb nursery you will find other varieties of this plant, my own personal favourite being “Buckler Sorrel”, which has a more attractive shield-shaped leaf, a greener flower stalk and a lemony-fresh taste for use in salads.

I enjoy experimenting with recipes, incorporating herbs to subtly change the usual flavourings, and can really recommend this plant for the more adventurous cooks who dare to push the boundaries! So if you have some oily fish such as mackerel, herrings or the now hugely popular pilchards re-branded as “Cornish sardines”, try a basic sorrel sauce as an accompaniment to cut through the oiliness of the fish. Soften red onions or shallots in a little butter, always with the addition of a splash of olive oil which stops butter from burning when in a sauté pan. Add some wholegrain mustard, double cream and when bubbling throw in some finely-sliced Sorrel leaves and some lemon juice, then season to taste. Serve over simply-grilled fish with new potatoes, a thinly sliced red onion, caper and tomato salad, with a good handful of Chervil to finish, finely chopped over all.

Which leads us very neatly onto Chervil itself! This again is a very under-used plant usually substituted by Parsley in this country. But Parsley does not have the gentle aniseed taste of Chervil so I do recommend, if you like Fennel and Dill, you give this pretty, frondy herb a try. I’m sorry to keep going back to French cuisine here, but Sorrel and Chervil have long been included in those French Country Kitchen Gardens called “Potagers” that are attractively planted with a mixture of
fruit, vegetables and herbs, often set out in
different patterns and colour-grouped in the grander walled gardens, and edged with Box.
Chervil along with chives and parsley is one of the most-documented of the “Fines Herbes” grown, and with good reason. It is of best use in salad dressings, scattered over casseroles and winter stews, or made into a creamy summer soup. The leaves are full of Vitamin C so are very helpful for winter use particularly, and can be planted in a sheltered corner of the Vegetable Garden or even near to the house in a pot in a semi-shaded location. I find potted Mint and Chervil grow quite happily near to each other, both having the need for shade during some of the day. But do not try growing them both in the same pot, as the thug-like Mint will easily outgrow any other companion.

Growing Chervil could not be easier – a pack of seeds sown thinly and lightly covered will give a whole row of plants that, if grown on the non-shaded allotment areas of the village would benefit from being covered with a cloche during midday sun and also should be given winter protection to keep growing on in the colder months. French “Potagers” normally have this plant grouped with broad-leaved and curly-leaved parsley and chives, the main reason obviously being that these are often gathered together when the cook is making omelettes, sauces and soups.

My favourite way of using Sorrel and Chervil is an old French recipe that combines pan-fried Trout, prawns and mushrooms using the Sorrel-sauce recipe above. Roll the trout in seasoned flour and gently fry, adding the mushrooms and prawns. Remove from the pan, pour in a good slug of Pernod to de-glaze the cooking pan and add the sorrel sauce. Heat and pour over the trout with more Chervil at the point of serving, to emphasise the aniseed taste.

Cream of Chervil, Potato and Sorrel Soup is another classic, where leeks and potatoes are sautéed in a little butter and olive oil, then chicken stock, a little double cream, seasoning and a handful each of sorrel, chervil and parsley leaves added. When cooked, blitz until smooth, add more finely sliced sorrel and chervil leaves and top with some crème fraiche and a drizzle of olive oil. I have found that this soup needs a lot of seasoning to work well.

So perhaps after reading this, these two unsung herbs may find their way into your own garden in due course. Next time we look at attractive springtime herbs that combine pretty, edible flowers with a fascinating history... primrose, viola and pansy.

Lin Saines
What a Waste

During the course of many years of speaking into a microphone, I am reminded that I used to get a lot of enjoyment recording Talking Books for the Blind and one of the tapes went under the title “The Evil Drink”. One time a person I was interviewing told me that in her previous job she had just qualified as a Policewoman and was on her first day’s duty at Nottingham. She had been told to patrol around the town and not return back to the police station until she had “nicked” someone. The opportunity eventually arrived when she saw a Roll Royce motorcar draw up outside the front of the local theatre at 5 minutes to 6pm. The driver was 5 minutes too early for free parking at that particular place and so she knocked on the window to inform the male driver that he was in error. The driver lowered the window and looked at her with bleary eyes that were almost asleep. She reeled back with the smell of drink and she then realised that the first person she was “booking” was Matt Monro, the world famous singer.

Back at the station this new Police lady triumphantly returned with mission complete and was surprised to find that everyone knew that this man with the gifted voice was almost always the worse for wear with booze. His reputation went further downhill when she learnt that apparently he always went on stage reinforced with alcohol. Spool forward some years and picture a young female singer with a wonderfully gifted voice that held a super guaranteed future of giving pleasure to millions. Take a look through the overly made up face and you find that her name was Amy Winehouse and the length of her life didn’t even reach three score years. And recently there’s yet another one to add who has left this earth and thrown away a voice that was a God given gift. Her name was Whitney Houston. How many others can you list with a self inflicted, similar problem? What a waste!

And Another Thing - Brainstorm

After I had written a piece for an aeroplane magazine, the editor e-mailed me asking “Would you like to correct the name of the first astronaut to set foot on the moon?” On checking it out (again) I discovered that I had written the name “Neil Armitage”. “For goodness sake” I thought and upon reading my second e-mail from Jon Allbutt I made a second discovery. I had reported a story in the Surrey Mirror of his pal who worked hard on behalf of the local allotmenteers as “Alan Armstrong”.

Sorry gentlemen. But be honest with me now, have any of you magazine readers, ever gone upstairs and forgotten what you were going up there for? Brainstorm or what?

Note: Alan Armitage is one of the present day “top men” at the Allotments and Neil Armstrong was the first man to step on the moon’s surface on July 19 1969.

Dave Bishop
The new Tatsfield Horticultural Society Yearbook is available to anyone wishing to join the Society. Annual subscription is £5 per household and is free to Senior Citizens. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact me. This gives you the programme of events for the year, hints and tips for exhibiting in our Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows along with entry forms, information about the Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden and details of our community composting scheme including when it is open and some do’s and don’ts.

Tuesday 20th March 8pm – WI Hall – Richard Abbott (our regular show judge) together with our very own horticultural expert Jon Allbutt are going to give some top tips on how to grow winning entries for the horticultural section of the Spring Show and will give you an idea of what the judges are looking for. After a tea break, Kay Longley will give a flower arranging demonstration for two of the classes in the Spring Show. So if you need some inspiration and pointers in the right direction, do come along to the March Garden Club. During the tea break, Jon Allbutt will be whetting our appetites with some slides on Great Dixter in advance of the visit on 27th May.

Saturday 14th April 3pm – Village Hall – Spring Show If you’veess amongst you, the Tom Rushen Cup for those domestic gods and goddesses and the Peter Hallam Trophy for our youngsters. This is in addition to all the awards for flower arranging, vegetable section, Dahlias, and for our merry band of allotmenteers, there’s the Allotment trophy for the best basket of six fruit and/or vegetables grown on the Tatsfield allotments.

More dates for your diary

Saturday 12th May 9.45am – Village Green – Plant Sale
Saturday 26th May 10am – WI Hall – Children’s Gardening Workshop
Sunday 27th May – trip to Great Dixter Contact Sue Warren on 542892

Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)

WOULD YOU LIKE A TREE?

Brenda Allen would like to find good homes for 2 Scots Pines and an Oak, each about 3 years old, which she has grown. Interested? Please phone Brenda on 577312.
RAMBLERS

It’s spring! A great time for a guided walk. Lots of friendly people (some with friendly dogs). Lovely countryside. Details of the two Sunday walks this month are below. You will see one of them is in nearby Charles Darwin territory. All welcome, including dogs and their owners. Just turn up or give one of us a ring if you would like to know more.

**Date**  
Sunday, 11\(^{th}\) March

**Meet**  
10.15 am at Ashmore Lane car park, Leaves Green (Map ref: TQ415618)

**Walk**  
A 5½ mile walk to Downe and back, round the perimeter of Biggin airfield, with two short hills, stopping in Downe for refreshments

**Leader**  
Caron Vening and Jean Turner

**Date**  
Sunday, 25\(^{th}\) March

**Meet**  
11 am at Ightham Mote car park Map ref: TQ584535)

**Walk**  
5 miles, 3 hours, to Godden Green via Stone Street, returning via Fawke Common, very muddy in places, one long medium hill and several “undulations”.

**Leader**  
Mike Evans

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The celebration on the 14th of February was not for Valentine’s Day but for the Not so Young’s 61st birthday. The event was marked with a special tea and the afternoon was finished with Stilton cheese and biscuits, with port and lemonade, then birthday cake and a Ferrero Roche chocolate each, very kindly donated by Jo Standing. Many thanks Jo. We played a few games of Bingo, with a small cash prize for the winners.

Appeals were made for a few new members to join the committee, as so many of us now are getting older and less able. We wait for some offers, but Mike Lambert has very kindly offered to clear the tables and chairs at the end of each meeting and hoover the carpet, for which we are very grateful.

The next meeting is the fish and chips lunch on the 13\(^{th}\) March.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

CAN YOU HELP WITH CHURCH TEAS ?

One of the most popular village events in the summer is Church Teas on Sundays. Can you help occasionally? Have a look at the request on page 55.
One of the Tatsfield in Bloom projects this year is to produce a **mosaic of panels** of six of the oldest village organisations of which we are one along with the W I, Tatsfield Village Club, St Mary’s Church, the Horticultural Society and Tatsfield School. Each panel is to include appropriate logos, symbols and pictures of the organisations concerned. These are then to be mounted in honour of Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee on the wall of the Aileen Mc Hugo Building facing the Village Hall. Tatsfield has been selected to represent the South and South East in the national Britain in Bloom competition this year and the mosaic will be one of the displays which hopefully will impress the judges, as well of course as being something we will all enjoy seeing for many years to come. The Scouts group is honoured to have been asked to help with this project.

**Sainsbury's** have again launched their ‘**Active Kids**’ vouchers which we will be collecting over the coming month. In the past we have had some lovely sporting equipment from the vouchers collected and will be browsing eagerly through the new brochure when it arrives. So remember to pop those vouchers in our collecting box in the entrance hall.

Beavers have been working towards their Safety Badge, learning about road, rail and water safety as well as completing work for several of the Challenge badges, so those who are due up at Easter will have completed their Chief Scout Bronze Award. Cubs had a fantastic evening last month at the indoor climbing centre at Redhill where they all had a go at climbing and abseiling as well as the very popular bouldering. They have also been brushing up on their knife, peeling and grating skills in readiness for their upcoming ‘Ready Steady Cook’ evening which sounds as if it is going to be an interesting pack evening!

At the end of this month Scouts will be having a weekend camp at Downe Activity Centre; they will be staying in the Jubilee building and will of course be doing lots of the usual camp activities: open fire cooking, shelter building, some of the on-site activities available and much more. I will be doing my usual camp activity of scouring all the supermarkets for as many packets of marshmallows I can get my hands on – I wonder if there is a badge for that?!

Let’s hope we are edging towards the better weather and brighter evenings so that we can get all the sections out and about especially as both the Cubs and Scouts have evening hikes planned on their programmes this term. Let’s hope we have seen the last of the snow – I for one am all snowballed out!

**Helen Clarke, Group Scout Leader** (Tel: 01883 380742; Mobile: 07736 230068; email: tatsfield.gsl@gmail.com)
The meeting on 21\textsuperscript{st} February was well attended as the subject was **Potatoes and Soft Fruit**. The speakers were Bryan Everest, our local Sweet Pea grower, and Guy Deterding and Gerald South, both dedicated to their hobby of gardening.

Bryan always orders his **potato seedlings** from Medwin Williams, in Anglesey, but wherever you buy them, get Scottish seedlings. You should be starting to chit them now. That means choose the larger seedlings and put them in egg boxes so they can stand with their eyes to the light, keep them in a cool but light place and let them begin to sprout the eyes. If you want big potatoes, remove most of the eyes.

It is garden lore that you plant your potatoes on Good Friday. Draw out your trench, with depth and width of the spade, and plant first earlies, such as Swift or Rocket or International Kidney (which is the Jersey potato) Plant about 15 inches apart., main crop about 2ft apart. Here in Tatsfield, several of our gardeners have found Kestrel pretty resistant to slug attack. Bryan also recommends Cara for big cropping. Both are main crop potatoes. Growmore, chicken manure, Grow Organic and 6x are all good for feeding the ground prior to planting. If your green tops are likely to suffer frost damage, cover with fleece but let the air circulate, so suspend it over the crop. When the tops begin to show, earth up with your trench soil which you have kept beside the original trench. If you get a sign of blight, ie blackening leaves, remove the leaves instantly and burn; the potatoes will be fine if you are quick about cutting off the leaves.

You can grow potatoes in big pots; any old left over soil will suffice, but only put about 3 or 4 potatoes in a large pot and keep them watered. They will be ready in about 6 weeks, if you are growing in a polytunnel or greenhouse. Eat these as soon as you dig them up. For main crop leave them to dry for a day or so when you have dug them up. If storing for use over the winter, try to use a hessian sack, as they breathe well. If you are entering for shows, sponge the potatoes, don’t scrub them. If the potato has any colour on it at all, it is classed as a coloured potato, not a white. If you want to choose individual potatoes, not a selection in a bag, go to Coolings at Rushmore Hill, where you can select your own.

Guy discussed growing **soft fruit, especially Strawberries and Raspberries**. He says he is a lazy gardener and he tries to have strawberries throughout the summer. Marshmellow is his favourite, but will only fruit for about 2 weeks, so you have to have more than one variety for a 3 month supply. Honeyoye is a new strawberry and Cambridge has good flavour, malwinner is a late strawberry and Flamenco is ever bearing from May to November. The plants last about 2 to 3 years, but you can propagate easily from the runners they make in November. Take the first runner (it is the strongest) and pot it up and keep till now and then plant out in rows. Netting is essential as the entire animal kingdom likes strawberries.
Straw over the plants will help to suppress weeds. Mulch if dry when flowers have formed, then water. If they are new plants, some people remove the first flowers. Plant 30 inches apart in 18 inch rows. Adding potash is good. If you have too many predators, try growing in grow bags, up high, out of reach of rabbits, and badgers. Gerald backed up this discussion with some good slides to show how to peg out the new runners and showed some gorgeous strawberries, to encourage you to try your hand. Raspberries are much more forgiving and only need planting now for some fruit next year. Floricane and Primocane are two Guy grows. Autumn Bliss and Glencoe are others that do well here. Some are summer fruited and must be netted, but the autumn berries don’t seem to be so much attacked by birds. Raspberries will put up with partial shade and they freeze very well. Plant 6 feet apart and 15 inches deep. The roots will run all over the place, so if they are near a grass path, you can keep them in check when cutting the grass. Sulphate of potash with compost or wood ash is good for them. Support with wire and stakes to hold the wire in rows.

Gooseberries were next on the list and Bryan impressed on us to keep the bush open; all fruit he says should be shaped like a wine glass, unless you are doing a cordon. Gerald said he grows his gooseberries in a sheltered sunny spot and does not have more than 6 growing branches; any trying to grow inwards are removed, so you keep your wine glass shape and the fruit is easier to pick too. Red Winhams and Invicta Green are good varieties. Plant 6 ft apart and prune in winter. Keep a beady eye out for Sawfly and spray immediately, the same day,

Dawn Forrester Groom

W.I.

On 7th January ex Scotland Yard detective Steve Roberts shared with us an amazing variety of memories of his career with the Metropolitan Police. Brought up in Stepney, East London he eventually followed his father into the force and moved up through the ranks from a beat officer of the old school to a globetrotting investigator in serious fraud, kidnapping and sudden death cases. He kept us enthralled with a non-stop description of his exploits, from his first day of training at Hendon, through the Notting Hill riots, car chases, football matches and sad missing person investigations. He also gave sound and sensible advice about the evil scams that wreck lives and mercilessly extort every last penny of savings from people who congratulate themselves as being eminently sensible. Although our numbers were smaller than usual due to the wintry weather, it was a really entertaining hour with a few hard messages.

Our next meeting will be on 6th March at 7.30 in the W I Hall when Ian Currie will tell us all about Frosts, Freezes and Fairs, a very apt subject for a Tatsfield spring. We really are a very friendly bunch so do come along and give us a try. You will be very welcome.

Sue Smale (Tel: 577660)
MARCH NOTES

First of all we had to decide not to use Impatiens (Busy Lizzies) in our bedding schemes any more because of the damage caused by the Downy Mildew disease; now it looks as if we may have to stop using Pansies and Violas as the Leaf Spot disease spreads across the country. This disease is at its worse where the plants are in damp compost and in poor light where the foliage does not dry out quickly. The short spell of cold snowy weather did not help them this year and already we have lost plants in the tiered planter outside the Aileen McHugo Building. If you have pansies in your spring displays this year, make sure to try and keep them as dry as possible; if they are in containers try and move them into a sunny spot where the foliage should dry more quickly. Avoid using liquid feeds as this will soften the foliage and make them even more vulnerable to attack.

We need to keep a sharp eye on the weather and wait for the first signs of a rise in temperature and drying winds so that we can start to get our vegetable plots ready for sowing and planting. Our soil is heavy and slow to drain and warm up, so be patient! If you try and force the soil into obedience you will end up with a sticky mess, but sometime March’s conditions will be ideal so be ready!

Given the wet state of the ground at the moment, you might be surprised to learn that in fact we start the spring growing season with a worrying deficit in ground water and reservoir levels, the lowest for many years we are being told. If we do not have a lot of rain this month – something gardeners and farmers do not want! – it is very likely that we may have restrictions on the use of water this year. At the moment it is also unclear whether those of us who have an irrigation system will be exempted if there is a ban on the use of hosepipes. An irrigation system uses up to half as much water as a hand held sprinkler because it places the right amount of water exactly where it is needed.

This is a critical month for nesting birds so please do not ‘have a go’ at your hedges and large shrubs! A light trim is unlikely to disturb birds which are sitting on eggs or feeding newly hatched fledglings.

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

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