THIS ISSUE

- LUIS de la TORRE REMEMBERED
- A MONTH IN INDIA
- CUB LEADERS WANTED
- GOLDEN + POETIC BLOOMS
- SUMMER HOLIDAY IN TATSFIELD

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

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

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

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

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 Please state if not for publication.

Advertisements We take no responsibility for the goods and services advertised in the Magazine.
Hello Everyone,

Everyone I have met since coming back from holiday has said how quickly the summer has passed. We've all been so busy. Day trips to London or the coast, Holiday at Home for adults and Holiday Club for children, play days on Westmore Green run by the Kestrels Children’s Centre, time spent playing with friends (and I’m not talking about the children here!), all having been such fun even if the weather has not been fabulous. There are so many things to enjoy. Tatsfield is a famously busy community where you get out what you put in.

There’s a library of books with lots of details about people having fun. People get together and have raucous parties. They shout and sing and dance, over-indulge (and suffer the consequences), yet come out of it alright. Sometimes they get it really badly wrong and you can’t see how the story might end, but really want to know so you keep reading. The library can be difficult to get to, or incredibly easy, depending on how you use it. It’s quite a small library, only sixty-six books, but they are incredibly dangerous, even unsuitable for small children to read, you might say.

The word Bible means ‘library’, and the dangerous stories are about David cutting off Goliath’s head, and King David committing adultery, and ultimately Jesus forgiving those who had tortured him. This year marks four hundred years since the King James Authorized Version of the Holy Bible was published, and it is full of stories about people having fun and enjoying their lives, giving thanks for the good bits and begging for help with the bad. Christians specialise in rejoicing in creation and having a good time, while remembering that some of life is incredibly hard. So having enjoyed lots of good things this summer, we do not forget that All Saints and All Souls festivals are coming up. We share in each other’s memories, good and bad, of those who are no longer with us, and count ourselves privileged to do so. We are ordinary people who live with extraordinary hope that there is more to life than this, but let’s follow our ancestors’ example of having a jolly good time while we’re here.

Jennifer Evans

COVER

The picture (taken by Dave Bishop) on this month’s cover is of all those receiving awards at the In Bloom celebration evening at the WI hall on 9 September. There is a report in Village News.
Dear Editor,

Falkland War Questions

Mrs. Perry’s letter in the September issue caught my attention. She points out accurately that Major General Julian Thompson commanded 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines during the Falklands campaign, but did not add that he never had operational control over the Welsh Guards. She might have noted that the Welsh Guards formed part of 5 Brigade, commanded at the time by Brigadier Tony Wilson.

The loss of 56 men on 8 June 1982 was a tragedy. Martin Middlebrook, in his book - Operation Corporate - writes a detailed account of the events leading up to the attacks on the Landing Ship Logistics Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram. There is no doubt mistakes were made; mostly due to unforeseen operational circumstances, but also due to the condition of the troops, and their lack of experience in the amphibious environment. All of that comes out most clearly in Martin Middlebrook’s book. I share Mrs. Perry’s implied view that little new will emerge next year, but perhaps not for the same reason. I think most of us who were involved then take the view there is no further useful information to emerge.

I will be very pleased to lend Mrs. Perry my book if she’d like to read it.

Roger Williams, Lt.Col. (ret’d), Shaw Road
(In 1982 I was a company commander in 40 Commando Royal Marines)

Dear Editor,

Surrey Police Targets

I have nothing but good to say about Surrey Police; the uniformed officers (constables) I have met have been friendly, professional and helpful. So I was somewhat surprised to find myself displaying mixed emotions of admiration and astonishment whilst reading the latest edition of ‘Policing Surrey’ (an interesting and useful publication that deserves to be more widely read). Naturally, I was delighted to read that the Force’s aim is to ‘dismantle or disrupt 15 organised criminal groups’, ‘charge or caution 450 people for supplying Class A or B drugs’ and increase the number of constables to 1,545. This feeling of admiration was in full flow when suddenly I was hit by a fact that diverted me into that more unwelcome state.
But before revealing it, let me ask your readership a question. What percentage of serious acquisitive crime, serious violent crime, rape and sexual abuse do you think Surrey Police aims to resolve with a sanction (this can include a charge, summons or caution) or other police resolution in 2011/12? Well, almost everyone I have asked has given me a figure of between 50 and 75%. I myself would have hoped for around 60%. So, I’m sure you will understand my astonishment when I tell you that the aim for resolution is just 18.6%. Yes, that’s eighteen point six per cent! On balance that means that Surrey Police expects 81.4% of the aforementioned crimes to be unresolved.

I still think they’re nice people, but that seems to me to be an outrageously poor achievement target, particularly as it’s the lasting effect of these ‘serious’ crimes that so often destroys people’s confidence, their ability to work and have normal relationships, their faith in fellow men and, in many cases, the rightful expectation of a bright and happy future.

Astonishing? Yes. Disappointing? Even more so.

Nigel Shaw, Greenway

Dear Sir,

Holiday at Home in Tatsfield

We write to thank Sheila and Susie Cook, Jennie South, Barbara Piggott, Babs Heffernon, Madie Langford, Louise Ellis and all the other people who organised and so effectively delivered a wonderful week as ‘Holiday at Home in Tatsfield’ in August.

We booked all five days with little idea of where or what we would be doing! We were not disappointed. We started on Monday with afternoon tea at the Tatsfield Ritz with the palms, bone china crockery, delicate crustless sandwiches, tiny delicious cakes and bottomless tea and coffee pots. The delightful waitresses in their perfect pinnies and hats topped up sandwiches and cakes while Shirley Murgatroyd played the piano. It was delightful and we all left with full tummies and hearts and lifted spirits.

Tuesday encouraged us to try Iris folding art, body massage and flower arranging. Pat is the most artistically challenged person in the whole of England, but with the simple but detailed instruction and patience of Sue, Sue and Pam, Pat created a beautiful card and a flower arrangement. George still doesn’t believe that Pat could have produced the work! Our successes were followed by another delicious meal, this time an enormous slice of Cottage Pie and peas followed by trifle. Another wonderful day. We felt our ‘holiday’ could not get better!

Wrong! On Wednesday it was a superb ploughman’s lunch and ice cream. Together with a quiz, shove halfpenny, matchstick puzzles - you know - move two
matches to change three boxes into five - so easy when somebody shows you after you’ve deliberated for fifteen minutes! We all had a good laugh at Madie’s readings of little ‘ditties’ and limericks. The whole session was rounded off with a good old sing song round the piano.

Thursday was a little more expensive for some of us as we visited Polhill Nurseries, a rather wet journey! After seeing the almost whale-size Koi wandering through all the displays we made it to the restaurant in time for coffee and wonderful cakes. Time flew past and we had to rush back to Cottage Farm Butchers to purchase our bargains with just enough time to pop across to buy a meat pie for dinner from Lime Tree Pantry, before a more pleasant drive home. Back in the village the majority of the gang went into the Ship for more good food to finish off another great day.

We were quite sad when Friday arrived, it was the last day of our holiday! We had met and chatted with so many ‘new’ friends, and really enjoyed all the activities, but there was still one more day! A visit to the cinema! We queued for our tickets (a raffle ticket) collected our popcorn - sweet and savoury - and were shown to our seats by an ‘usherette’ with a torch. The lights went down and a ‘A Private Function’ commenced with such a young Michael Palin, Maggie Smith, Richard Griffiths and many more. We all had a very good laugh at the antics of the cast. There was an interval half way through when we were all served choc-ices by one of the ‘usherettes’ carrying a tray suspended around her neck. The day was rounded off with a delicious cream tea, again with bottomless tea and coffee pots and an endless supply of home made scones, jam, cream and cakes. The raffle was drawn and then we departed from the Millennium Hall, sad at the end of the Holiday but also elated by the experience.

Our very sincere thanks for so much hard work and organisation, and we do hope that it will be possible to repeat the event next year.

**Pat Farmer, Westmore Road and Barbara Taylor, Maesmaur Road**

Dear Editor,

**Holiday at Home in Tatsfield**

I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone concerned with the ‘Holiday at Home’ venture.

Having booked for two of the days, my subsequent enjoyment made me regret that other commitments had prevented me from attending all five of the programmes.

Everything was organised to provide the maximum pleasure, and reflected the coordinated hard work which achieved the outstanding success.
Shortly afterwards I was both delighted and astonished to receive a very attractive postcard, available at Linda’s Stores, showing a coloured photograph of our village church. It was used to thank me for having supported the ‘Holiday at Home’ week, and to hope that I had enjoyed it as much as the team had done!

This final touch surely epitomises the spirit of all those special people who enrich our community, and make Tatsfield such a privileged place in which to live.

**Betty Perry, Paynesfield Road**

Dear Editor,

**Dog Fouling in the Village**

I am sorry to have to write about the ‘old chestnut’ that is the dog fouling in the village, but I feel quite angry that we have a few very selfish people in this village who think of no-one but themselves.

We have a dog litter bin at the junction of Crossways and Paynesfield Road, but still these people leave their rubbish for someone else to deal with. Linda has ‘dog poo bags’ in her shop - a whole box for £1 - so there really is no excuse whatsoever. I met up with a very nice couple who have just moved into Paynesfield Road and they were in the process of cleaning up after a dog, right outside their gate. I felt so sorry that it was their first impression of this lovely village.

When we went on holiday in South Devon, there were dozens of dogs with their owners, and not a speck of anything nasty. Do these people realise just how unhygienic and even dangerous dog mess is, especially to children? I feel it is now time to take pictures and put them in Linda’s window. Maybe, if we can’t reach them any other way, we can shame them into bending their backs and cleaning up after their own pet.

**Babs Heffernon (an avid dog lover), Paynesfield Road**

*Editor: In addition to this letter, two other villagers have asked for this problem - especially in Paynesfield Road, Westmore Road and Crossways - to be highlighted. Perhaps any dog owners who read this and who allow their dogs to roam free or who don’t bother to pick up their pets’ mess will think again about the consequences of their actions. If the problem continues, maybe Babs’ suggestion should be tried.*
TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Tatsfield Community Games Area: This area continues to be well used but unfortunately a few people seem determined to ruin it for everyone else. The recent vandalism and graffiti will be dealt with by the Parish Council but we urge every user and observant passer-by to report all incidents of criminal damage or misuse on the new police number of 101 to establish patterns of behaviour and maybe catch the offenders.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework: The Parish Council agreed at its meeting on 12 September to produce a full response to the draft policy highlighting our concerns over issues regarding the future of the Green Belt and the ability of rural communities to develop in a controlled and appropriate manner.

Westmore Green Play area: Following the Village Survey, the Parish Council has been working with Tandridge for the last couple of years to ensure that the playground on Westmore Green is refurbished. Unfortunately we were informed that funds are severely restricted due to cuts. We have however got agreement for guaranteed match-funding for work to start in 2012. The current estimates indicate that the total cost will be in the region of £50,000, so we have a target of £25,000 to raise in the next six months or so. The co-ordinators of the PARROT group reported their fundraising plans and the Parish Council confirmed active support for their efforts. Village residents and businesses are urged to support this investment in the play facilities for little Tatsfielders; if we all manage a small contribution we can reach our target by next summer. For more information please contact Vicky Cooling on 07891 295972 or myself on the number below.

Winter Emergencies: We are repeating last month’s request for people with equipment, vehicles or skills that might be useful during a winter weather emergency to get in touch. We are grateful to the dozen or more who have already agreed to continue to offer help and to several others who have come forward for the first time. Tatsfield always pulls together in an emergency but we can be much more responsive if we know there are even more people who can be called on for practical help. Please email us at tatsfieldplan@btinternet.com.

We also need to hear from you if you rely on help from outside the village which may be cancelled in bad weather; we cannot plan assistance if we do not know who might need it.

Sue Smale, Vice Chairman (Tel: 577660 Email: susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk)

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th October
Transport of Tatsfield Year 7 Children to Oxted School: David Hodge and I last month set out the problems which parents were facing: they had been told at the 11th hour by the County Council that their children were not eligible for free transport because Charles Darwin School in Biggin Hill was closer than Oxted School. Parents made a joint appeal to be heard at the end of September. Meanwhile, parents have applied for concessionary seats on the school coaches, for which they have to pay, but at least one child has not been able to get even that – because coaches are full – and has to get to and from school some other way. I very much hope that there will be better news to report by next month.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): The Government published the draft NPPF in July and is consulting until 17 October. It will determine what kind of development, including the building of houses, takes place in Tatsfield and everywhere else in the country. It is radical stuff: the draft’s 50 or so pages replace more than 1,000 pages of regulations. At its heart is the presumption in favour of sustainable development - “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Bodies such as the National Trust say the NPPF would put the countryside in peril. The Government maintains that the countryside and in particular the Green Belt would continue to be protected. Tandridge believes the proposals are too drastic and leave too many uncertainties to be exploited by those in favour of development. It wants the current protection against unsuitable development to be maintained while small amounts of infilling and the building of affordable homes continues in villages such as Tatsfield.

New Affordable Housing: Nearly four long and complicated years after the Parish Council began its project for more affordable homes, Tandridge’s Planning Committee has approved English Rural Housing Association’s plan for 10 homes off Lusted Hall Lane. This combination of affordable flats and houses will be available only to Tatsfield people. The planning application got full support and councillors from across the district went out of their way to congratulate the Parish Council on its initiative. The next step is funding. Hopefully, this will not be a problem, in which case building should start before long.

Bulky Rubbish: The first bulky rubbish collection at the Village Hall car park last month seemed to go reasonably well. The second collection there is due to take place this month on the 15th, after which the Parish Council and Tandridge will review the situation. Do you have any views for or against using this site? If you do, tell any parish councillor or let the Parish Clerk, Ana Hughes, know.

Cllr Bob David (Tel: 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk)
As reported in last month’s magazine, Luis died on 22 August. Luis had been a resident of Beaconshaw on Approach Road from 1954 until he moved, with his wife Ann, to Herefordshire a few years ago.

Having grown up in Purley, Luis volunteered to join the Commandos in 1939. After service in the North Atlantic and an attack on a Norwegian port, Luis opted, in 1942, to take part in a highly dangerous raid on the port of St Nazaire, a facility that was providing great military strength to the German navy, including its battleship Tirpitz. It was known that few would return and in the event over a quarter of the participants were killed, although the objectives of the raid were met and the port was never used again. Luis was taken prisoner but such was his nature that he made two audacious escapes, unfortunately being later recaptured on both occasions. This led to some periods of severe deprivation and humiliation which may well have marked the end for someone of lesser strength of character.

Immediately after the war Luis was instrumental in establishing the St Nazaire Society, maintaining the memory of those who died and supporting their relatives. The Society also provided water wells in Africa and Nepal. In 1997 Luis was awarded the MBE for his 40 years of service to the St Nazaire Society, many of them as Honorary Secretary.

For many years Luis ran a sports equipment shop in Harlesden, leaving Tatsfield in the early hours and returning well into the evening. After retirement he continued to be physically active, walking the golf course perimeter before breakfast, and he also made valuable contributions to the life of the village and the Roman Catholic Church of which he had been a life-long member.

Those who remember Luis will have had the privilege of knowing someone of the very greatest integrity, humility, kindliness and cheerfulness. From his unassuming manner it was hard to imagine that he had lived through such difficult times, or to appreciate the immense courage and fortitude that he had been able to muster in the face of such adversity.

His story should be known by all of us in this generation – it is to people such as Luis that we owe so much. A service of thanksgiving for his life takes place in Hereford at 2 pm on 3 October.

A documentary about the St Nazaire raid, including a contribution from Luis may be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZuDpsFmbh8&feature=related

Gerald South
Like many others in the village, I regularly witnessed this somewhat severe figure striding across the village green en route to the local shops. He always seemed dressed for combat even down to the great Wellington boots!

One day we came face to face in the Post Office and even exchanged slightly embarrassed smiles. Next time, we actually spoke and thus began a good friendship with the great hero of the village, none other than Luis de la Torre.

It was only after a bit of investigation amongst village elders that I really got to know just what heroics Luis had got up to during WWII. Plucked out of his regiment and put on ‘special duties’ eventually led to that wonderfully brave exercise to blow up the lock gates at St. Nazaire. It cost lives and resulted in most of the British lads being either killed or certainly taken prisoner.

For a whole host of reasons, Luis would never openly discuss the exercise although, with a little persuasion, he would open up a bit, which only made us all realise and appreciate more fully just what those lads went through.

The village archives will probably tell you more about Luis’ exploits and he was involved very closely in various television programmes about WWII, some of which still come up from time to time on one of the history/WWII freeview channels – and well worth watching if you see them listed.

Along with the McHugos, who were their neighbours in Beaconshaw, the de la Torres enjoyed many years in Tatsfield, giving a lot of their time to village life besides their devotion to church matters.

That Luis should have lived to the ripe old age of ninety two speaks realms for his fortitude and determination. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him in Tatsfield and, doubtless, all who got to know him during his twilight years in Stoke Lacy. It really was a pleasure to have known such a splendid Englishman.

Colin Davis

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**LUNCH AND BEETLE DRIVE**

Ploughmans and Pudding

**WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER**

WI Hall at 1 pm  
Cost £6

Tickets available from Maureen Perrin  577679  
Organised by WI Tatsfield  Everybody Welcome
NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

A reminder that Tatsfield’s very own symphony orchestra The North Downs Sinfonia is delighted to be performing soon on **Saturday 12 November at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall. If you have been an NDS regular then you’ll know how enjoyable these concerts are. But if you haven’t yet taken the plunge, do come along and hear what you have been missing – we promise you will have a great evening.

This autumn concert has 3 superb pieces that you will almost certainly be familiar with. We open with Greig’s Holberg Suite, the Scandinavian composer’s homage to music in the Baroque style for String Orchestra. Then we play Mozart’s sensational symphony no.40 in G minor, arguably his greatest, and certainly his best known.

After the interval (free bar – donations welcome) we will play the amazing Brahms **violin concerto in D**. This is perhaps the most impressive and large scale of the great violin concerti and we are fortunate to welcome a fantastic professional soloist to perform this work under the expert baton of Jem Muharrem.

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

Andrew Harber

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**FOR SALE**


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**BULKY RUBBISH COLLECTION**

The next collection (the last until next spring) will be on Saturday 15 October and will again be at a new location – the Village Hall car park. A Tandridge refuse vehicle will be there from 7.30 to 10.45 am. You can take household rubbish, furniture, garden waste, glass, metal items and up to 2 washing machines but not asbestos, car batteries, concrete, fridges, freezers, hardcore, hazardous chemicals, oil, paint and trade waste.

Tandridge have opted for the new location as being a better and safer one and have agreed with the Parish Council to use it on a trial basis. Tandridge and the Parish Council will review the situation after the collection on 15 October. If you have any comments, let the Parish Council know.
OCTOBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD

Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)
★ Fresh fruit and vegetables – look out especially for cabbages, cauliflowers, greens and sprouts  ★ Pet and wild bird food  ★ Frozen and tinned food  ★ Winter bedding plants  ★ Free delivery to your home – just ask  ★ Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity.

Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)
Now stocking fresh bread from Plaxtol Bakeries
Offers available until 11 October:
PM = Price marked
★ Cadburys Freddo/Fudge 6 pack £1.00 Buttons 3 pack £1.00
★ Lucozade Sport 2 for £1.60  ★ Yazoo 3 x 200 ml £1.00
★ Dairylea Dunkers 3 for £1.00  ★ Monster Energy Drink £1.00
★ Lucozade 380 ml pm 85p 2 for £1.00  ★ Vimto pm 95p 2 for £1.00
★ Fruit Shoots 2 for £1.00  ★ Fanta/Dr. Pepper/Sprite cans pm 49p 3 for £1.00
★ Robinsons Squash pm £1.25/£1.49 £1.00
★ McCoys Crisps 3 for £1.00
★ Toblerone/Milka/Daim/Terrys Chocolate Orange 3 for £1.00
★ Large bags Malteesers 2 for £1.75  ★ Haribo £1.00
★ Chewits 5 for £1.00  ★ Jamie Dodgers 2 for £1.00
★ Mr. Kipling Trifle Bakewells/Rhubarb and Custard Tarts £1.00
★ Krave £2.00  ★ Nescafe £2.50  ★ Supernoodles 2 for £1.00
★ Heinz Soups 3 for £2.00 ★ Rustlers Subs/Wraps £1.00
★ Pilgrims Choice Cheddar £1.29 ★ Persil pm £2.99 £1.99
★ Whiskas Sachets 3 for £1.00

GARDENING CLUB
THE GARDEN AND ALLOTMENT IN WINTER

A talk by Jon Allbut

Tuesday 18 October
8 pm in the WI Hall

Winter should be a busy time for the gardener and allotment holder. Jon will be giving hints, tips and advice for winter jobs and planning for the next growing season.

ALL WELCOME
CALL 101:
THE NEW NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER FOR
SURREY POLICE

A new non-emergency telephone number to contact Surrey Police came into effect last month. The new 101 number is part of a national drive to make it easier to contact the police and report crime and disorder. While 999 is a well recognised number to report emergencies, the 2010 British Crime Survey found that only 54% of the public know how to contact their local police if they want to talk to them about local policing issues, crime or anti-social behaviour.

Not only is the new number an easy and memorable way to contact the police to report non-emergencies, for most people it is also significantly cheaper than the 0845 number it replaces. It costs 15p to call 101 for the entire length of the call, no matter how long it takes or what time of day it is. This applies to both landlines and mobile phones, while calls from telephone boxes are free.

As well as making the police more accessible to communities, it is hoped that 101 will reduce the number of inappropriate calls, allowing the police to respond to emergencies more effectively.

On average the Surrey Police Contact Centre receives 361 999 calls a day but only about 19% of those require an emergency response from the police. 999 should only be used in a real emergency, that is when a crime is happening, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby or where someone is injured, being threatened or in danger. For all other matters, such as reporting less urgent crime or disorder, contacting police with a general enquiry or speaking to an officer, you should contact Surrey Police on the new 101 number.

CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 30 October
11 am to 3 pm at the Village Hall

★ Lots of stalls with a wide range of lovely items  ★ Collectables too
★ Ideas for Christmas and Birthday presents  ★ Very good prices, starting as low as 50p  ★ Tea and coffee

MAGAZINE ADVERTS

We have nearly 100 local businesses who advertise in the magazine each month. Their adverts can be seen in the front and the back of the magazine and cover a huge range of goods and services. Have a look – and remember that some advertisers change their advert monthly e.g. the Bakery and Park Wood Golf Club.
FREE FAIRTRADE TEA TASTING
Sunday 9 October from 3 to 5 pm at the Millennium Hall

Many of us become very attached to our favourite brand of tea – PG Tips, Tetley’s, Yorkshire Tea and so on. But did you know that none of the big brand teas are Fairtrade? In fact only 10% of tea drunk in Britain is Fairtrade! The Fairtrade group in Tatsfield is organising “Tea at the Ritz” to give you the chance to try a range of teas which carry the Fairtrade mark. We all have personal preferences and I’m sure that one of the teas on offer will appeal.

Many people worry that Fairtrade Tea is more expensive – in fact it is usually cheaper than the big brands. If you buy Sainsbury’s, Waitrose, Co-operative or Marks and Spencer own brand top priced tea, it is still cheaper than PG Tips. This is because the supermarkets take out layers of middlemen and work directly with the tea producers to ensure that the people picking your tea leaves get a fair wage and reasonable working conditions. In addition the Fairtrade Premium means these communities can afford to build clean water facilities, a school or maybe a health centre for the whole community to use. It is not a charity – simply a fairer way of trading. You then know that your money will improve the lives of people in developing countries working hard to produce items we cannot grow here in the UK.

So come along to the Millennium Hall on Sunday 9 October to try some different teas, taste some delicious cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients (sugar, chocolate, honey, fruit etc) and enjoy listening to chamber music played by the Harber String Trio – Tea a la Ritz ALL FOR FREE!

The Tatsfield Fairtrade Group

R.N.L.I. CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 22 October from 10 am to 12.30 pm at
Oxted Community Hall, Church Lane, Oxted

There will be a large variety of stalls including Christmas cards, Cakes, Jewellery, Silks and many other tempting Christmas Gifts

Entrance £1 to include tea/coffee and biscuits
All are very welcome

ALL PROCEEDS TO OXTED AND DISTRICT BRANCH RNLI

Donations of cakes, etc. gratefully received. Enquiries 01883 715186
The Vern organising committee have burst out of summer hibernation to ready ourselves for another year of activities in the village.

Next year it’s our turn to be entertained by our French friends and so we’ll be heading off for a long Easter weekend on Good Friday 6 April returning on Tuesday 10th. We’ll be taking a coach full of Tatsfield residents to the gorgeous Loire Valley for our biennial twinning excursion. Spaces will be limited so if you fancy a 5 day holiday to this lovely part of France, staying with a French family and enjoying great food and wine then please contact us to find out more or to register your interest. Costs will be about £100 per adult (less for children).

We have two events this autumn. On Saturday November 19 we’re holding a quiz evening in the Village Hall. It’s the Beaujolais Nouveau weekend so we’ll be taking advantage of this traditional time of year and bringing back the new crop of wine from France on the first day of availability (always the 3rd Thursday of every year). As well as the lively quiz with a variety of rounds, the new Beaujolais and some traditional French fare will be included in your ticket price. Why not book a full table (of 6 or 8) or come along and join other teams and take up the challenge with your fellow villagers. More details in our advert in this and next month’s magazine. Phone to reserve your tickets for what’s bound to be a popular village event.

On New Year’s Eve we’ll be holding our traditional family party in the Village Hall. With a disco, food and a bar it’s a great way of seeing in the New Year with friends and family and it’s local enough to not worry about anyone having to drive home. This event is usually a sell out so again please phone to book your tickets in advance.

Rosie and Pete Fuller (Tel: 573554)

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**BARN DANCE**

With star caller David Jex and his recorded music

Saturday 8 October
7.30 pm Village Hall

- Supper
- Licensed Bar

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

Arranged by Tatsfield Village Hall Management Committee
TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME

The composting site is closed now until next year. This year we have recycled more green garden waste from Tatsfield gardens than ever before. This has been possible because:

1. You have continued to value this scheme and have shown this by bringing your garden waste to the site.
2. We have had continued financial support with grants from Tandridge District Council and Tatsfield Parish Council
3. We have had the use of the site in Borough Road thanks to the generosity of Geoff and Dawn Groom
4. We have had a wonderful team of regular volunteer helpers. It is as we come to the end of this season that particular thanks go to all the 'meeters and greeters' from the Horticultural Society committee who have been there each Saturday to help you. Led by the ever cheerful Barry Bull thanks also go to him and the other stalwarts of the enterprise, Martin Allen, Eddie Leeves, Ray McPherson and Mike Teague, who worked not only on Saturdays but put in a lot of overtime during the week as well! We have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of four students, Sam Fuller, Sophie Watts, Libby Clifton and Isabella Gabelli, and thank them for the reliable and regular help they have given as they work for their Duke of Edinburgh award.

A team effort that has grown from a broad cross section of this vibrant village community! Many thanks!

Jennie South

SURREY VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

As winners of last year’s Surrey Village of the Year competition, Tatsfield were not able to take part in this year's event but instead were asked to host the awards ceremony. This took place in the Village Hall on 10 September, when Brockham, a village off the A25 between Reigate and Dorking, were declared the 2011 winners. The competition is organised by Surrey Community Action and is sponsored by Fullers.

WINTER EMERGENCIES

Could you help if the village experiences a winter weather emergency? Do you have any suitable equipment e.g. a 4-wheel drive vehicle, a petrol chainsaw or any special skills? The Parish Council is updating its list of people willing to help. Please let the Parish Council know by e-mailing tatsfieldplan@btinternet.com. If you volunteered last year, please confirm that you are still willing to help.
LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

The children have now been back for a couple of weeks, with some of them moving from our afternoon sessions to our morning sessions and a few new ones coming to visit us so that they can then start in the afternoons in the forthcoming weeks. All the staff at Little Acorns and our committee would like to take this opportunity of welcoming all our new children and their families, and also welcoming back the children who were with us before!

This half term our theme is ‘Getting to know you’. The children have been making paper plate faces of themselves, using all kinds of creative materials! Each child has then been telling us about themselves; what they like, what they don’t like, their favourite things, and other little bits of information! Once we have collected all this together, we will be making a display of all the paper plate faces.

Next week is ‘Who are we?’, and the children (and staff!) will be bringing in photographs of themselves with their families, and they will be telling us who they are with, and all about family and friendships. The staff photos will be of when they were young, and we will be able to see if any of the children recognise them!

As you may know, all pre-schools, schools and a large number of other organisations are routinely checked by Ofsted and marked on all manner of topics. Our latest review was in July of this year, and I am very pleased to report that our overall effectiveness in the provision of early years services is good, and indeed that we scored a ‘2’, which relates to ‘good’, on all sections of our report. If you want to read the report, it is available on-line on the Ofsted website (www.ofsted.gov.uk), or contact me and I will forward you a copy.

Our AGM will be held this year at 8 pm on Thursday 22 September, in the Parish Rooms. Hopefully some of our new and current parents will be able to attend, and the committee for this coming school year will be voted in. I will confirm all committee positions in the next edition of the Parish Magazine, and hope to have met some of you there.

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)

NIGEL GOES RAMBLING

Do you want to know where? You can, by reading page 58.
MAGAZINE CROSSWORD

The first correct entry for the cryptic crossword in the September magazine was from Sybil Yates, a member of Tatsfield Badminton Club who lives in Biggin Hill. Sybil wins a £5 voucher for use in our village shops.

Our cryptic crossword compiler is away this month, so instead another compiler – Doug Halters – has set an ordinary crossword, with some of the clues requiring some Tatsfield knowledge. It is on page 47. Going to give it a go?

BADMINTON MARATHON

The Badminton Club are just completing their 24 hour sponsored badminton marathon at the Village Hall as the magazine goes to press. Four people – not the same ones! – have been on court for the whole 24 hours and the event has been really well supported both in terms of the number of those playing and in the generous sponsorship by so many people. Next month’s magazine will have more details, including the sums raised for two good causes – the Alzheimer’s Society and the Westmore Green play area refurbishment.

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

‘A YEAR AT CHARTWELL’

An illustrated talk by Peter Jones of the National Trust

Tuesday 8 November 8 pm at the Village Hall

Tickets £3.50, including wine and nibbles, from Angela Sawyers on 577434 or any other committee member

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

All Welcome
Rosie’s Bakes

Coming with this month’s magazine is a leaflet featuring Rosie’s Bakes. Rosie is based in Tatsfield and runs a part-time cake business. Her website is www.rosiesbakes.co.uk and you can contact Rosie by email: rosie@rosiesbakes.co.uk or by phone: 07811 222240. You need look no further if you would like to impress friends with an original gift of beautiful cupcakes, delight your children or grandchildren with fun cakes for their birthday parties or simply save your valuable time when you have friends or family round for tea.

Gold Blooms Again

Another Gold! For the third year running! It’s good to do well in competitions and there is a lot of satisfaction, to those directly involved and also we hope to the village as a whole, in seeing the team’s efforts recognised by independent judges. Even better is the satisfaction from seeing all that is done as part of the competitive effort resulting in us as all enjoying having a clean (relatively speaking!) and attractive village.

Anyway, five representatives of the village travelled to Fontwell on 7 September for the South and South East in Bloom (SSEIB) awards for 2011, where more than 400 people from the communities competing had gathered.

This year we were competing in the top category of what is called “Champion of Champions”: those taking part consist of those communities which had won their categories in both of the previous two years (we had been Best Large Village in 2009 and 2010). We were delighted to receive a Gold award (Chris Collins of Blue Peter fame was doing the honours) but we were pipped at the post by Crawley, who were the winners. Tatsfield also won the Conservation Award, for the highest markings in Community Involvement and Environmental Responsibility, and as a bonus we picked up the “Surrey Life” award for the highest score of all the entrants in Surrey. The village’s new allotments also received a special commendation.

This is what the judges said in their report:
“From the moment you arrive in Tatsfield you appreciate why the village has been so successful in South & South East in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and latterly the Tidiest Village in Surrey. Beautifully presented, colourful, clean and a community spirit which was evident during every part of the tour.

Clearly all the volunteers remain motivated despite the ‘highs’ of 2010, for which the organisers are to be congratulated. Everyone we met was enthusiastic, pleased and proud to show us their continuing efforts and new initiatives. Judges were particularly impressed by the vegetable bed and scarecrow on the edge of the green.
High praise must be given to the composting scheme, which at village level must be amongst the best in the country. The new allotments have also been planned and implemented with the same degree of commitment, ingenuity and enthusiasm demonstrated elsewhere. We are sure they will develop quickly and provide another sustainable positive for the village.”

We decided this year to have some very different displays to celebrate the village’s new allotments and Tatsfield’s new status as a Fairtrade Village, and it is good that the judges liked them. We are greatly indebted to the organisations which have supported us – the Parish Council, the Horticultural Society, Howard Cundey Estate Agents, Knights Garden Centre at Woldingham and Phil Clark’s 1Q Financial Planning Ltd – and of course to our great team of volunteers, and for the generous donations of villagers. We are honoured to have inspired a poem (by Ann Lovelace of Johns Road), which you will find on page 41.

We celebrated in style when more than 70 of us gathered at the WI Hall on 9 September and we were able to thank directly all those who had helped our effort this year. The judges also award 10 “Certificates of Excellence” to individuals and groups they pick out and the certificates were presented that evening to Mary Bull, Barry Bull, Kay Longley, Ian Longley, Angela Sawyers, Howard Aylett, Mike Teague, Alan Armitage, Crossways Court residents and the Community Composting Scheme (they are pictured on this magazine’s front cover).

So it’s time to move on and to start thinking about 2012, when the two big national events will be the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. By the time this magazine reaches you, the In Bloom Committee will have had its first discussion about plans for next year. Please let us know if you have any suggestions.

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

Reading the report in last month’s magazine of Vera Longley – Nurse Longley to everyone – brought back many happy memories of the time she was Tatsfield’s District Nurse until she retired in the late 1960s.

To think she is now 103! Whew, what a lady she was! She looked after families from the cradle to the grave. In those days, children suffered from whooping cough, measles, mumps, chicken pox and much else. Whatever was wrong, we would call Nurse Longley and there would be no waiting, she would come the same day.

My three children were born at home (I used to live in Old Lane then). We had no mains water in those days. Nurse would make sure everything was sterilised and she would scrub up with Dettol. It was two weeks rest after the confinement. I never got an infection. Nurse would visit twice a day in the first few days.

If the travellers pulled in at Beddlestead, as they sometimes did, she would bring their babies into the world. She covered Limpsfield and as far as Beech Farm along the Limpsfield Road. She was such a caring and wonderful midwife.

She also gave you tips on making a little go a long way, as most things were rationed during the Second World War and in the years after. She also used to suggest adding things to make the food more tasty. One of her recipes was for making a really good sponge cake with Birds Golden Raising Powder which gave a yellow colour (we were allowed only two eggs per week). Another tip was always to have a breakfast, even if it was only a piece of toast. The report in the magazine said Nurse Longley recommended a good diet and regular meals, which is the same as what she told us 65 years ago.

Well done Nurse. Here’s to many more happy days.

Gwen Miles

EXTRA COPIES OF THE MAGAZINE

Every household gets a free copy of the magazine. But sometimes people want an extra copy to send away or for some other reason. If you do, you will always find copies on sale at Linda’s, at 75p each. Sad to say, the second class postage is even more – 92p.
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING SECRETARY

It’s the end of an era. Our fine Village Hall, the envy of so many other communities and the centre of much of village life, has been “looked after” by Margaret Parsons as its Booking Secretary for more than 20 years. It was in March 1990 that Margaret took on this important job and she has devoted herself to the task.

When she started, it was of course the “old” Village Hall and Margaret remembers the very different building and the different issues which used to come to the Village Hall committee. She remembers too with affection the committee members of the time, all village characters in their own right – Aileen McHugo, Liza Player, Cedric and Joyce Oliver, Rosemary Petrie, Rose Slatter and Rose Bradshaw.

It’s all change now, not only with the committee but also with the job of Booking Secretary. This happened last month, when Margaret was thanked by the current committee for all she had done and was given some parting gifts as a token of their appreciation.

The new Booking Secretary is Vicky Cooling, who is well known to many in the village and who is looking forward to doing the job. All enquiries about booking the Village Hall should go to Vicky, whose contact details are: Phone – 07983 011028, Email – tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk Address: 14 Wedgwoods, Tatsfield, TN16 2AF.

ARE TATSFIELD CUBS GOING TO HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN?

The answer is “Yes” – unless new leaders are found. Interested? Read about it in the 1st Tatsfield Scouts report in Club News on page 67.

TATSFIELD BUSES

Since September, more buses have been serving Tatsfield. Not a huge number but more than before! There is a new 540 service and a modified 595 timetable. As a result there are now at least seven bus journeys a day to and from Oxted as well as four to Westerham. A free pocket timetable of these services (produced by the Magazine), and of the 464 to New Addington for the Tramlink, is available at Linda’s.
MESSAGE TO VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Are you wanting the Parish Council’s financial help in the year beginning April 2012? If so, you should submit your bid as soon as possible as the Parish Council will soon be setting its budget for 2012/13. You should email the Parish Clerk, Ana Hughes, at tatsfieldpc@talk21.com or write to her at 102a Sunningvale Avenue, Biggin Hill, TN16 3TT.

LOCAL POLICE NEWS

Following reports of recent crime in the village, Surrey Police are asking residents to be extra vigilant about their security.

We have arranged an information and awareness event in the village on Thursday, 20th October to help support residents to reduce future opportunities for crime in Tatsfield. Details are below.

PCS0 Rachel Kettell has married and is now Rachel Gridley. She or PCS0 Terry Pearson will be covering the police surgeries in the Parish Room on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

PC Steve Cresswell

SURREY POLICE

A PUBLIC MEETING TO HELP RESIDENTS REDUCE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CRIME IN TATSFIELD

7 – 8 pm on Thursday, 20th October
The Parish Room in the Aileen McHugo Building

♦ Neighbourhood Watch  ♦ Property Marking
♦ Property Registration  ♦ Home Security Advice
♦ Security Burglar Alarms

Do not miss the chance to help yourselves to make a difference in your community

NEW LIN SAINES BOOKLET

Lin Saines, who writes the monthly herbs article in the magazine and is the Medieval Garden Adviser at Rye Castle, has just published a booklet “The Garden Beyond the Tower” about Rye Castle Medieval Garden and the Still Room. It is available from her for £4, which includes a donation for the Medieval Garden, and she will sign and dedicate it on the inner page for anyone who wishes to purchase it! You can contact Lin on 577478.
A DEDICATION

Rupert Eales-White, who used to live in the village and who now lives in Beddlestead, will shortly be publishing a new book, “Winning Ways to Work: Produce Profit and Promotion”, which has the following dedication to his brother Gavin:

This book is dedicated to the memory of my beloved brother Gavin Cushny (né Eales-White). Gavin was a dual citizen of the USA and UK. He was murdered on 11th September 2001 by Osama Bin Laden. Gavin was working on the 104th floor of the North Tower, which the first Boeing hit. Gavin was a man of enormous courage, indomitable will and a hunger for life. Though trapped above the Boeing, he nearly broke free from the building. His body was found in a stairwell with another victim and twelve of those incredibly brave New York firemen. He did not die alone.

YOUNG RUGBY PLAYERS WANTED

Westcombe Park RFC U13s team (School Year 8) “The Cougars” need a few more players for their squad.
If your son has played a bit, played a lot or never ever played he will be warmly welcomed by our very experienced and highly trained coaches.

BEGINNERS WELCOME

Westcombe Park RFC is situated 20 minutes from Tatsfield via Knockholt and Halstead on the Orpington by-pass next to Hewitts Farm.

Training and matches take place on Sundays from 10 to 12.

For more information please contact Chris Sands on 07837 588826 or Michelle Harvey on 07984 179892.

EATING AT THE OLD SHIP

• Our Christmas menu is now available. Pick up a copy!
• Sunday lunch is very popular with a selection of 3 roasts.
• Food is served 7 days a week, lunchtime and evenings.
• Children always welcome
• For bookings please call 577315.

Carol and Amanda
ANOTHER CELEBRATION …………

…..Brenda and Bob David recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and their family even succeeded in taking them away for a long weekend in a log cabin in the Forest of Dean. Congratulations to them both – I am sure I speak on behalf of magazine readers.

Gerald South

THE GIANT SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

This year’s competition, which is organised by the Horticultural Society, started with 30 competitors, slightly less than last year. The challenging weather this year resulted in a large number of competitors losing their plants to drought and high winds leaving us with just 11 competitors, the lowest number of entries for some time.

Under 8s

The winner of the tallest plant and also largest flower this year is Lewis Longley, who also won the largest flower category last year. This year Lewis grew a 2.80 metre (over 9 feet) high sunflower with a 28 centimetre (over 11 inches) wide flower that is just a bit smaller than his winning entry last year.

Under 16s

This is the category where we expect to see some monster sunflowers but this year all the plants measured fell short of the winning sizes in previous years. Only one young grower came close to previous years sizes and that is young Harry Boys, who seems to have taken over from his older brother Charlie, a frequent winner of all the sunflower categories. This year Harry won both the tallest plant and the largest flower with a very large group of sunflowers growing in a close group. The winning plant is 3.03 metres (almost 10 feet) tall and 33 centimetres (over 12”) wide. Harry assured me that he used the “Giant Russian” seed he was given at the Spring Show, but he might have saved this huge seed for the next year!

Jon Allbutt

NICE APPLES

A big thank you to whoever generously left a large container of apples on the green in Ricketts Hill Road. It was a very kind gesture and much appreciated.

Maureen Perrin
TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners for August:

1\textsuperscript{st} prize: Michael Burbage £31.50
2\textsuperscript{nd} prize: Debbie Bishop £21.00
3\textsuperscript{rd} prize: Gary Weaver £10.50

Thanks to those members who have recently signed up for the club who will be included in the draw from October.

Does anyone have contact details for A.J. Burton or M.E. Burton who generously contribute to the club every month but for whom I have no details? Even the bank are unable to help!

Les Eames (Email: leseames@yahoo.co.uk)

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ZUMBA
Every Tuesday
7pm – 8 pm
Tatsfield Primary School
£4 per person

TOTAL BODY WORKOUT
Every Tuesday
8pm – 9 pm
Tatsfield Primary School
£4 per person

Or if you’re feeling brave why not do both classes on the same night for only £6, a great 2 hour workout!

For more information please contact Vicky on 07891 295972.

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CYCLING HILL CLIMB AT WHITE LANE

White Lane will be closed from 10 am to 6 pm on Sunday 9 October for the annual White Lane Cycling Hill Climb. Organised by the BEC Cycling Club, this will be the 56th time the event has been held. Cyclists will be competing to see who can climb the 700 yards of White Lane the fastest – the winning time is usually a little less than 2 minutes. You can watch the event at close quarters from both sides of White Lane. It makes exciting viewing!
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

Thursday 27th October at 7.30
St Mary’s Church Hall

Clue: Stringent rules apply to this form of dancing

Genre: Comedy  Country: Australia  Year: 1993
Running time: 94 mins  Language: English  Rated: PG
Director: Baz Luhrmann  Producer: Tristram Miall
Cast: Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice, Bill Hunter, Pat Thomson,
      Gia Carides, Peter Whitford, Barry Otto, John Hannan

Now’s the time of year when this activity really takes off on TV. A sleeper hit of the 1992 Cannes Film Festival where it received a 15 minute standing ovation, Baz Luhrmann’s offbeat, vibrant and sometimes hilarious tale has been branded Dirty Dancing Down Under . . . but don’t let that put you off.

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

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

Wendy Harvey 01959 562340  wendyharvey@talktalk.net
Elaine Webster 01959 577753  elainez@btinternet.com
BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

What is so very special
About our Island in The Sky?
What makes us proud to be part of it
And impresses passers-by?
It’s certainly not the buildings
Or the roads that ruin our tyres.
It’s hardly down to the architects
With its lack of gleaming spires.
No, it’s something far more organic
That’s not set in brick and stone.
It’s the flowers and the vegetables
All so diligently grown.
And this is the work of an amazing group,
To the village they’re Heaven-sent.
I refer of course to that wonderful band
With a horticultural bent.
It’s time to praise this creative team
And thank each and every one
For all the planning and toiling
Throughout the year they have done.
Coming along the Approach Road
As you turn and sally forth
There to greet you is a scarecrow
Tatsfield’s Angel of The North!
Baskets greet you everywhere
Full of summer bedding
Accompanied by the workers
Industriously de-heading.
No matter what time of year it is
When the winds blow cold and bitter
You will sure to see some hardy soul
By the wayside picking up litter.
So congratulations to all of you
That your efforts and skills have been noted
Your golden rewards are so deserved
For no society was more devoted.

Ann Lovelace
ST MARY’S SWAP SHOP WITH A TWIST!

Ladies, have you ever admired your friend’s snazzy outfits? Marvelled at how they accessorise or secretly wished you didn’t share the early morning school run with such a glamour puss?

We can help! Come join in the fun at our Clothes Swap Evening **in the Church Hall from 7.45pm – 10pm on Thursday, 15 November** and you too could be wearing that shocking pink pashmina and orange hat with style and panache! All ages are welcome.

We all hang onto clothes, squashing them into wardrobes in the hope that we might wear them again or they might come back into fashion. We never do and it never does so Clothes Swap is a fantastic way to de-clutter your wardrobe and replenish with those secretly coveted garments.

The entry fee of £10 means you can chat over a glass of wine (or soft drink), natter over nibbles and/or relax with a gentle massage in between browsing. All money will be going to a great cause: St Mary’s supports David and Shelly Stokes who are currently working in Argentina to improve the quality of life for people there.

All we ask is that you bring at least one item of good quality, clean clothing (and maybe a clothes hanger) or accessory such as a handbag or scarf to “swap” during the evening. So let that inner fashionista in you go wild and strut your stuff on the catwalk if you dare!

*Changing screens will be available and a glass of wine (or soft drink), nibbles and massage are included in the entry price but remember to bring an item of clothing to swap!*

For more details please contact Susie Cook on 07890 519466 or Sheila Cook on 01959 577443. A lift from the village centre can be arranged.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

An invitation to come and celebrate harvest at St. Marys’ on Sunday October 2nd at 10 am followed by a Harvest Breakfast in the hall.

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

**GOING FREE**

Free to collect - 2 Parker Knoll TV Chairs, blue pattern, loose covers. Phone 577737.
An invitation to Afternoon Tea

You are invited to join us for a free tea tasting at the Millennium Hall, St Mary’s Church on Sunday 9th October from 3 until 5 pm

A selection of tea and cakes accompanied by the Barber String Trio

RSVP to Carol Jordan 01959 577584

carol_jordan@hotmail.com

A Tatsfield Fairtrade Village event
TATTY KNITTERS

The next meeting of the Tatty Knitters will be on Tuesday, 11th October from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at the WI Hall - £2 to include tea and cakes. Please feel free to bring any craft along – the evening doesn’t need to be exclusively knitting. I look forward to seeing you.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

A BIG THANK YOU…….

15 Days, 4 Flights, 3 Countries, 3 Time Zones and One Unforgettable Trip

We would like to thank everyone in the village who helped us raise the money, £3,600 in total. It wasn’t easy to fund raise, but we did it with a lot of help from family and friends.

Whilst we were at the international camp in Nova Scotia we met lots of other Guides from different parts of Canada and some from New Zealand, some of whom we are sure to remain friends with for a long time.

We learnt about Canadian Guide traditions, made crafts, sang songs, hiked in the lovely countryside and swam in the lake every day.

When the camp was over, we headed for New York, where we stayed in a Youth Hostel. We visited the Statue of Liberty, Time Square and the Empire State Building (when the earthquake happened!). We also shopped till we dropped…….

We had an amazing time and would once again like to say a big thank you to everyone that helped.

Hannah and Kaleigh Nash, 3rd Oxted Guides

TEA DANCE SOCIAL

Village Hall 2.15 to 4.55 pm

Wednesdays 5 October, 2 November and 7 December

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

£6 per person

Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550
By now you will all no doubt have heard the results of the South and South East in Bloom competition and that we received a Gold award. The judges visited the allotment site as it had been entered into the allotment section and they were very impressed and gave us a commendation - not bad for a 6-month old project!

It was also impressive to see that so many exhibits in the Horticultural Society’s Autumn Show last month were grown on the allotments, many being awarded prizes - a special mention should be made of George Farmer, who swept the board, and has surely been our most enthusiastic allotmenteer from the start.

Sadly, we have had more problems with vandalism/theft. The police were notified this time and a SOCCO team came and took fingerprints which the perpetrators very helpfully left behind. The crime prevention officer has also given us some tips and our community police officers have promised to keep a careful eye on the site from now on, adding it to their regular patrol. We were grateful that they took this crime so seriously and they couldn’t have been more helpful, possibly due to the large booty of veg they were sent away with (is bribery of a police officer with courgettes a crime?).

A huge debt of thanks is due to Ken Thurgood, who willingly turned out on Bank Holiday Monday with his JCB, shifting several large tree-trunks, strategically placing them at the sides of the entrance gate to help block any further unauthorised motor entry. This took him most of the morning, and he did this despite not actually being an allotment holder. Just another lovely villager doing a good turn.

This autumn, the barren patch around the containers will be prepared for sowing with grass seed to provide the promised community area for social events, so watch out for this.

Liz Armitage

BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING IN THE WORLD IN AID OF MacMILLAN CANCER CHARITY

Saturday 1 October 10.30am – 12 noon or later Village Hall

- Coffee, tea, home made cakes and other refreshments
- Lots of stalls
- Hosted by Margaret Parsons
Tatsfield Vern D’Anjou Association present a

Quiz Night

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

Saturday 19th November 2011
From 7.30 at Tatsfield Village Hall

TABLES available from Rosie and Pete Fuller on 573 554

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

FURTHER DETAILS IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE

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

Complimentary food and wine with your ticket.

BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU
This month’s crossword is an ordinary, non-cryptic one. Some (but not all) of the clues require some Tatsfield knowledge.

Across
1 Root vegetable (6)
5&9 Central village open space (8,5)
10 Unnecessary (8)
11 The Parish Council has one for the allotment land (5)
12 In village hall on Friday evenings (9)
15 What to do to get a drink in The Ship (3,5)
17 They built a villa at Titsey (6)
18 Put out of shape (6)
20 Opposite of down outside (2,6)
22 You might say this on a Tatsfield morning (2,2,5)
23 Your District Councillor (5)
26 Got recognition (8)
28 Italian violin making family (5)
29 Keeps trying (8)
30 .... Building – where the surgery was (6)

Down
2 Fishers (7)
3 You may do these at a barn dance (5)
4 He will sell you a 1ac (4)
5 Tatsfield has often done this in SeiB (3)
6 There was once a plan to bring this past Tatsfield (5,5)
7 Unpleasant growths (9)
8 Exhibited again (7)
13 Your Parish Council Chairman (6)
14 Where do you get a newspaper (4,6)
16 Road off Paynesfield (9)
19 At the very limit (7)
21 Speedwatch aims to improve this (7)
24 Covered in water (5)
25 One in Clark’s Lane (4)
27 The other Mr Bishop (3)

Solution to Crossword in September magazine
Across 1. Mysteries 6. Shelf
9. Dampens 10. Aspirin 11. See
27. Ireland 28. Lager 29. Guiltless

Down 1. Midas 2. Summers

Prize of £5 voucher for use in Linda’s Stores or the Greengrocers to the first correct entry opened on 17 October. Please drop in your entry to to Linda’s Stores or to Bob David, The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN.
1 Sat 10am Churchyard Tidy Up - StM · 10.30am MacMillan Coffee Morning - VH
11am-12noon - PC Cafe - The Bakery

2 Sun 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM
10am Harvest Festival  Open the Book All Age Service- StM
10.45am Ramblers walk - Penshurst Station (south)

3 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
8.15pm Bingo - TVC

4 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs -SH · 7pm Scouts - SH
7.45pm WI meeting - WIH

5 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH · 8pm Yoga - WIH
8pm Exploring the Lord’s Prayer · 8pm Explorers - SH

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

7 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH · 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
8pm Exploring the Lord’s Prayer · 8pm Explorers - SH

8 Sat 11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery
7.30pm BARN DANCE - VH

9 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist- StM
3-5pm FREE AFTERNOON TEA + MUSIC - CH
6.30pm Informal Service - StM

10 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS
7.30pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB · 8pm Bingo - TVC

11 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH · 2pm Not So Young Club - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH · 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - WIH

12 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB · 8pm Yoga - WIH
8pm Exploring the Lord’s Prayer · 8pm Explorers - SH

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

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

15 Sat 7.30-10.45am Bulky Rubbish Collection - Village Hall Car Park
11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

16 Sun 8am Holy Communion (BCP) - StM · 10am Sung Eucharist - StM
10.15am Ramblers Walk - Shoreham Station

17 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH · 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS · 7.30pm Art Group - VH
8.15pm Bingo - TVC
18 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH  5.30pm Cubs - SH  7pm Scouts - SH
8pm Gardening Club - WIH
19 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB
1pm BEETLE DRIVE - WIH  8pm Yoga - VH  8pm Explorers - SH
8pm Exploring the Lord’s Prayer
20 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH
7pm PUBLIC POLICE MEETING WITH VILLAGERS - AMB
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH  7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH
21 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH  5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
22 Sat 11am-12noon PC Cafe - The Bakery

23 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist- StM
TATSFIELD SCHOOL HALF TERM 24-28 OCTOBER
24 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  8.15pm Bingo - TVC
25 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH  2pm Whist Drive - WI Hall  5.30pm Cubs - SH
7pm Scouts - SH
26 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30-11.30am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB  8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Explorers - SH
27 Thur 9.15am Morning Prayer - StM  2pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH  7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Film Night - CH  8pm Table Tennis - VH
28 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH  5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
29 Sat 11am-12noon - PC Café - The Bakery

30 Sun 10am Sung Eucharist- StM
10.30am Ramblers Walk - Westerham Green or Round Pond
3.30pm All Souls’ Service - StM
31 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH  1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH  6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH  7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS  8.15pm Bingo - TVC

NOVEMBER

1 Tues 10am Yoga - WIH  5.30pm Cubs - SH  7pm Scouts - SH
2 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH
10.30am -1130am PCSO Rachel Gridley Surgery - AMB
2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH  8pm Yoga - VH  8pm Explorers - SH

Venues
AMB - Aileen McHugo Building · CH - Church Hall · FC - Furze Corner · SH - Scout Hut
StM - St. Mary’s Church · TPS - Tatsfield Primary School · TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
VH - Village Hall · WIH - Women’s Institute Hall
Holiday at Home in Tatsfield
The ‘holiday month’ of August can seem a bit dull for those with nothing planned so St Mary’s embarked on this new venture and over forty people took up the invitation and booked their “holiday at home week” in Tatsfield. To start the week the church hall was transformed into the Tatsfield Ritz serving the most delicious afternoon tea to many guests. Good food was an enduring theme for the week with a hearty ploughman’s lunch, warming shepherds pie and indulgent cream teas enjoyed along the way. Add in some flower arranging, card making, sports massage, fun quizzes, a lively sing song, a trip to Polhill Garden Centre and an afternoon film showing. It was a busy week for all involved and definitely a holiday to remember with lots of laughter and many new friendships made. Many of the holiday makers left wanting to book again for next year!

Open The Book, Harvest Festival 2nd October 10.00am followed by a Harvest Breakfast in the hall
Mary was the focus of our September service and we began to realise that there was rather more to her life than donkeys and stables. Our next service on 2nd October will be a celebration of Harvest - a time when we thank God for His boundless generosity to us and try to show our generosity to others. Following the service, details of which are in a separate advert, harvest gifts will be delivered locally and to our link church Christchurch Brixton Road. Children and adults are all invited to bring harvest gifts to this service. What will you bring? It may help you to know that it would be really good to have some small (shoebox size) boxes of goodies that would suit an elderly person living on their own. Also Christchurch are particularly glad of the following which go to their ‘store cupboard’ and provide the makings of a simple meal for those in immediate need:
Rice, pasta and tea bags. Cans of protein foods: baked beans, tuna, sardines, meatballs, meat pie, stewed meat. Cans of tomatoes, canned vegetables such as carrots and peas. Canned fruit and fruit salad, packets of custard, jars of jam.

**Exploring the Lord’s Prayer – started Wednesday 28 September at 8pm**

There is an evening course on the Lord’s Prayer continuing on 5th, 12th and 19th October. Please speak to Louise on 577289 for further details including the venue.

**Informal Evening Service 9th October 6.30 pm**

This will be a relaxed and informal service of prayer and praise including traditional and contemporary music. The music for this service will be led by two Tatsfield young people – Tessa and Mattie Deterding.

**All Souls Sunday 30th October, 3.30 pm**

This quiet service is an opportunity to remember those we have loved and see no more. There is the opportunity to remember them by name and also to light a candle in their memory. Over the years many people have found this a particularly valuable time as we gather together to share our sadness and also to give thanks for the lives that have meant so much to us. If you feel this service would be meaningful and helpful for you please come, even if you are not in the habit of coming to church. There will be tea and cake in the hall afterwards.

**Church Teas at St Mary’s – the end of another season!**

We have been ‘open’ on twenty three Sundays this year, welcoming many hundreds of visitors come rain or shine and serving them with delicious homemade cakes and scones. We estimate that we will have served nearly 200 cakes and 300 scones! At the time of writing we have already raised a fantastic £2,200 towards the upkeep and maintenance of our parish church, St Mary’s. It is quite a complicated enterprise to organise and one for which Tatsfield is much admired. We know that we can only continue to offer this hospitality and the delicious homemade teas over the summer months because of the wonderful help and generosity of a willing group of over sixty people, some of whom help on more than one occasion. All these people have been invited to a ‘thank you’ coffee and cake morning on 1st October. So thank you once again for all the baking, washing up, and help on the rota. Thank you too to all our customers for your continued support. As the season draws to a close many of our ‘regulars’ say how much they miss coming once we shut up shop and ask why we can’t carry on throughout the year!

**Flower Rota for October**

- 2nd Church decorated for Harvest Festival
- 9th Jan Maynard
- 16th Tina Boys
- 23rd Tina Boys
- 30th Kay Longley

Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)

**Records**

- 21st August Baptism of Teddy Dwyer
- 28th August Baptism of Connor Philip
Our Reception children started school at the beginning of September and have settled in very well. They have drawn some pictures to introduce themselves:
A MONTH IN INDIA – EXTRACTS FROM MY DIARY by Jay White

I spent 4 weeks during July and August in India, accompanied by 14 other students and two teachers (all from Oxted School) and an expedition leader from True Adventures. The following are extracts from my diary.

**Day 1 Arrival**

With around 3 hours sleep behind me I wake up in the morning still on our flight to Delhi where our month long trip to India will begin. We are crossing over Afghanistan; vast deserts, small camouflaged dunes, amazing. The lands seem so huge, great expanses of the world stretch out ahead of me. From Delhi we will travel to Himachel Pradesh in the Himalayas to work with a school, improving their infrastructure, continue on from there with a week’s trek and finally a week resting, relaxing and sight seeing.

Left the airport into a sea of Indian men – told to cover up and wrap a scarf around me as bare skin attracts men. They stare and I have never felt so foreign in my life, my white skin and red hair makes me feel alien among the mass of rich skinned Indians! Got in bus with air-con, a relief from the 33 degree heat! No sun, just heat. Poverty riddles the landscape of dusty construction sites in this developing country. Men and women are so calm, the slow pace of life due to the humidity. People live on the roadside in the dust in beautiful saris, selling sweets, veg, fruit and flowers. Men sleep in rickshaws, their feet hanging out, ready to be nudged and given a destination.

**Days 4 and 5 Travel to Kalka and Shimla**

Train pulled into Kalka where we transferred to 2 minibuses and began ascent up to the mountains. Beautiful mountains, rice fields. The intensity of colour here in India is so striking; clothes, scenery, food, particularly the ‘Ta-ta’ trucks which are brightly decorated. There appears to be more women and children in the mountains towns, as opposed to Delhi where men control and crowd the city. There are small weavers and textiles shops where men and women crouch on the floor with hand-powered sewing machines.

**Day 5 Manali – Acclimatisation**

We meet our guide for the trek – Danny, a very nice man who lives in Manali. He says ‘I love nature and the mountains’ and is unbelievably fit and hops up the mountain without a bead of sweat. We trek up the back of Manali and the high altitude begins to catch my breath. The sights over Manali are incredible and we sit on a huge rock in silence, taking in the view in awe. Walking down it rains and we are surprised when Danny
doesn't take our lead of putting on waterproofs, but instead pops up his umbrella!
In the afternoon we meet our cooks and try to order 7 days food for 17,000 rupees
for 17 people. The cooks say it is only possible for 30,000 but we push on and
manage to do it for 16,000!

**Day 6 Arrive at Evergreen Primary school, Kais**

We load up the jeeps with food, cooks, travellers and kit and drive to Evergreen
Primary School. The children are amazed by us – they bow and say ‘Namaste’! The
principal, Ramesh, treats us like kings and he speaks of his dedication to his school
and how 300 children work in 3 classrooms the size of my living room, some even
travel 25km from remoter parts. Before we eat we go for a short one and half hour
walk through the nearby farms. Every little farm sells fruit and vegetables and the
people look more Nepalese or Tibetan than Indian, in this remote north-eastern
region.

**Day 8 Hard Work at the School**

Today we aimed to make sound progress on the school after our rain-off yesterday.
The other girls went up to the office to complete painting the walls and the boys and
I began knocking up concrete for the floors. Between us all, sweat, heavy lifting,
pain and satisfaction, we completed 2 classrooms by the end of the day – result!
We all feel exhausted after the day but very very proud of what we have achieved!
A Tibetan lady is wearing 2 straps of material around her back and after she sees
me hobbling around we share a look of mutual struggling, although my ache is
quickly put into perspective by her evident years of manual labour. We sat on the
roof and chatted to the principal for ages – he is so eager to improve his English
and he shows such passion and determination for the expansion of his school.

**Day 12 Cricket and Lunch at the Principals**

By 11am it was already 32 degrees and the sun beamed down over the mountains.
We played cricket and stuck in the mud as well as being star-struck by the high
level of cricket the little boys play at! After a long morning at the cricket ground we
trekked up the track to Ramesh’s home for lunch. Ramesh lives in his 4 room home
with his parents, brother and wife, him and his wife and 4 children! Ramesh and his
wife tend to us in that little room as if we are royalty and he does not allow us to
leave until we have gorged on coconut rice pudding and plenty of chai.

**Day 13 Last Day at Kai**

Ramesh, his sons, family and some school chil-
dren began to gather around… He called each of
us up in turn as ‘Mr Chris, Mr Michael, Miss Jen-
yy…. ’ then finally ‘Miss Jay!’ and bowed his head,
said ‘Namaste’ and painted a saffron spot on our
foreheads, giving us each a traditional north east-
ern Indian cap and Evergreen School badge! We
will treasure them forever.
Day 14 I am Leader for the Day!
We piled up our provisions for the week’s trek and drove to the river crossing. We were met by the mules and ‘muleteers’ and they looked so exhausted already, but must be stronger than they appear. As we ascend I realise how hard it is to breathe at this high altitude. Despite being exhausted I am driven on by the breath-taking mountains.

Day 16 We Reach 4000m
Today we had to hack our way through the overgrown path – beautiful wild flowers everywhere made the fields colourful and wild. The terrain is different today and we see snow not far away.

Day 17 The Glacier
We walk along the valley with the glacier-fed river running along beside us. We find many plants such as wild thyme, rhubarb and other plants which Danny says have medicinal properties. As we start to ascend the glacier the terrain gets rocky and unstable. Danny tells us not to shout and not to spread out for fear of making a rock avalanche. After lunch we made a pile of rocks to mark our summit and had a photo with Stuart’s Union Jack flag!

Day 26 Agra and Taj Mahal – 2 days until we sadly go home
We have now returned to the crowds and humidity of the towns and cities. Agra is strangely peaceful at 6am – still relatively busy though. Paid our entrance fee of 750 Rupees (£10) for tourists at the Taj Mahal (10 Rupees for Indians – 7p!). It is so spectacular and huge with marble, stone and intricate patterns and very peculiar witnessing such an iconic building in the flesh, but a great experience. Outside it began to rain lightly and so we sat cross-legged under one of the arches and people watched. As it was Independence Day there were many Indian families in their best clothes, proudly wandering around India’s treasure.

After returning from such a fantastic trip I feel elated from the enjoyment, experience and pleasure I got out of it.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to my fundraising. I am eternally grateful.
As promised, this month sees the publication of the first of this year’s Bird Surveys. I eagerly await your comments! In the meantime: several contributors attach notes to their record sheet. These aren’t usually included in our correspondence, but they are of interest. So, here they are:

**Bird survey notes:**

Brenda Allen:

‘Kestrel on Approach Road, 7.1.11, and in February. Buzzards – 2 near church (March), 4 over field by Lusted Hall Lane (April). Red Kite, White Lane (March).’

Roy and Carol Fiddimore:

‘23 Crows seen on large Ash tree acting like Rooks. Reason unknown.’

Reeves family:

‘We have seen baby Blue and Great Tits, Blackbirds, Wrens, Robins, Thrushes, Coal Tits. Daily visits from a very tame male Blackbird who even comes indoors and clears up under the table! He has brought his babies right outside the back door (open or closed) and fed them the scraps we left out for them. We think he and Mrs. Blackbird have raised 3 broods of chicks as he has worked tirelessly since early springtime collecting food. Also get frequent visits from the deer which are rather partial to our newly planted fruit trees and, despite our best efforts, have still managed to gain access to the garden!!’

Linda Bennett:

‘Lots and lots of bees, but not many butterflies yet!’

Ann Hayes:

‘I saw Kites being mobbed by Crows over towards Rag Hill/Ricketts Hill.’

Martin Allen:

‘() Highlights for us are the Redpoll, a first, the Bramblings, the Goldcrest and the two sightings of the magnificent Bullfinch.’

Wendy and Damian Kilgallon:

‘() No owls this year, unfortunately, but we have had a mother and baby deer living in our garden for the past 6 weeks. Watching the baby grow and develop has been great.’
And finally, John Rosenbaum (Ricketts Hill Road), who always includes detailed observations on the reverse of his sheet:

‘January: Young female *Sparrowhawk* arrived (21.1.11) and took up residence on our bench under the conifer. It stayed most days and flew off about dusk, returning the next day. Not taking much notice of the larger birds in the garden. Lots of activity during the night by *Tawny Owls*.

February: Flock of 15 *Redwing* came in to feed on pyracanthia. Various numbers around for a few days. Young female Sparrow Hawk back again to her daily activity.

March: Young female *Sparrowhawk* still around but moving off more frequently. *Buzzard* flew over, mobbed by *Crows* (21.3.11).


May: *Cuckoo* around in trees calling all morning (2.5.11). First *Swifts* flying around (11.5.11). *Blackbird* building nest in Hydrangea at front door, later feeding female. *Robin* has nest in Virginia Creeper.

June: Lack of *Swifts*, *Swallows* and *House Martins* this year. 10 newly fledged *Blue Tits* flew in a line from Cherry Tree to conifer (28.6.11). Many fledglings around. We have nests in garden hedge, climbing Hydrangea and Virginia Creeper. *Owls* are around at night but rarely seen, only heard.’

Thanks to all of the above for making the extra effort although, of course, all of our survey responders are stars!

**Butterfly observations:**

Now, you may remember that I asked you to keep a simple record of butterflies that you spotted during the January to June period, using the reverse of your Bird Survey sheet for your note-keeping. Evidently, most of you forgot! However, we have two keen lepidopterists among you which, combined with my own notes, is sufficient to be able to present a list (and that’s all we’re really aiming for at present) of species observed. And here it is:

*Brimstone, Comma, Peacock, Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled Skipper, Large Skipper, Speckled Wood, Small White, Green-veined White, Meadow Brown, Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Large White, Holly Blue, Gatekeeper* (Hedge Brown), *Silver-washed Fritillary and Painted Lady*.

Eighteen species – not at all bad for a first season’s effort. Many thanks to Jim Yeeles (‘The Adventurer’) and to Margaret and Desmond Bishop, who filled two whole A4 pages with notes. Stars indeed!
Let’s go rambling:

Only three butterfly observers? Oh, dear – no wonder some once common species are now rarities. Perhaps people simply don’t care about such simple, common life forms anymore? I don’t believe that’s true. (But then I am somewhat naïve when it comes to understanding my fellow man. I’m one of those daft people that don’t believe in natural sin and look for the good in everyone.) Or perhaps life is now so complex and demanding that families simply don’t have the time to observe the everyday, natural world that surrounds them? I don’t believe that’s true either. It’s much more likely (I prefer to believe) that people who don’t know the names of the butterflies they see, decide not to participate. What they don’t have time for is the process of investigation. In terms of butterflies, I find that inconceivable. And yet, as I walk along footpaths, across fields, through woods, I pass many wild plants that I recognise but have no idea what they’re called. I daresay somewhere in the village, someone is saying, ‘What? I find that inconceivable!’

And the same applies for birds, mammals; other forms of wildlife. We can’t be expected to be experts in all fields of observation. I, myself, am not an expert at all. I am simply an interested amateur. I became interested as a young boy, through practical activities and exploration, and have remained interested ever since, which is why I am saddened by the general lack of interest and knowledge amongst children these days. According to research, an increasing number of children have no idea that the chips they are eating began life underground, that the milk on their cereal comes from a cow, that their sausages came from ground-up bits of dead pig. We need to ensure that children ‘touch base’; understand their relationship with the earth, albeit through the analysis of a meat and veg pie.

Of course, for children lucky enough to live in a village such as ours there is no excuse for ignorance. Farmland abounds on our southern and western boundaries; grassland and woodland are both within easy walking distance. And yet, I wonder how many children have spent time exploring these natural environments? I would spend hours, as a child, hunting for caterpillars or picking at a dead tree trunk in the hope of finding a few beetles. I think this is what’s generally referred to as ‘simple pleasures’. Well, for me, these simple pleasures were time well spent, and I can’t help thinking that the children of today would also benefit. It’s up to us adults (collectively, not just parents) to give them the opportunities and encouragement to become interested, to explore, to connect. We will then have the joy of seeing a whole new, enlightened generation appearing; one that cares about the natural world that surrounds them, upon which we are all dependent.

Here endeth the sermon. (Sorry, vicar!)

Do you have any views or opinions regarding the natural world that you would like to share? Do you have an observational report? Wonderful! Here’s what to do -

Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s.
Tatsfield and Titsey Bird Register Results: January to June 2011

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


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Unfortunately this World Tour of Herbs is, as many of you understand, a “virtual” one ... I’ve had some funny looks from a few Tatsfielders. One person asked why wasn’t I still in New Zealand, and another thought I had more money than sense, so I’m glad to report that since we started this journey looking into herbs and spices around the world in January 2011 I haven’t been further than Rye Castle – until this week!

Today I’ve been standing on the deck of the beautiful tall ship “Kaskelot” down at Charlestown Harbour in Cornwall. Martyn and I were given an excellent, specially-guided tour round the vessel, made famous in the new “Alice in Wonderland” film, by the Square Sail Shipyard Company. It was a great privilege to be the only people aboard for our visit and special for me as I had been preparing this article on the Spice Trade for some months. Wooden-hulled and tall-masted European vessels freed up the passage of exotic herbs and spices from Arab domination as far back as the 14th century. It is an interesting story, and underlines how very precious and expensive spices were, and how bland European meals must have been before their inclusion.

Before trading with Asia was widespread, our food flavourings were represented by just four plant families that are still familiar: 1. The onion/allium family including chives, leeks and scallions. 2. The mustards and horseradish. 3. The parsleys and coriandars (which is surprising) including cumin, dill and fennel, and finally 4. The huge mint family (most interesting of the lot) including sages, thymes, rosemary, marjoram, oregano and basil.

One major “Spice Route” used for many centuries took the Silk Road from China, a tortuous journey over mountains and then sea, eventually landing the spices in South-West India and into what is now Pakistan. Then overland through Persia (Iraq) to Baghdad on the River Tigris, over the Euphrates, across the Syrian Desert to either Damascus through into Egypt, or to Antioch and northwards to mighty Constantinople (now Istanbul). At every stage of the journey the spice caravans were vulnerable to attack, an easy target for thieves who often stole to order for wealthy caliphs and merchants on the way. Spice traders were very well thought of throughout Arabia and Asia ... the prophet Mohammed even married the widow of a spice trader in the 600s AD. Cassia bark and ginger were just two spices brought down the Silk Road, while other spices were added on the journey. Pepper – the most important spice in the world - was a native of India, and today is still the world’s most traded spice. Vietnam, perhaps surprisingly, is now the largest pepper producer. Indian spices such as asafoetida, turmeric and the still-hugely expensive saffron from Kashmir were added to the caravans passing through each district.
But of course the Spice Islands had a huge role in the spice story. Nutmeg, mace (the outer hull of nutmegs) and cloves were sold to Arab traders for centuries, who kept the location of these islands a secret. This secrecy, and the simple fact that all the spice traders crossed Arabia at some point in their journeys, meant they had complete domination of this hugely lucrative trade, and were determined to hang onto it.

In the early 1300s a Portuguese Prince, Henry the Navigator, decided to find sea-routes to stop this Arab domination, but quickly realised he needed new ships, ones that could go “windward” around coasts safely, and could return equally safely with a full cargo of fragrant spices. He sponsored expeditions and built vessels, eventually deciding upon the hugely important “Caravel”, 65 feet in length, that could carry 130 tons of cargo and could sail safely into the wind even when heavily laden. This design went on to help Columbus on his discoveries ... two ships of his, the “Pinta” and the “Nina”, were Caravels. Eventually it was Vasco de Gama who brought home ships full of spices directly from India by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope but not until many years later in 1498. By 1511 the Portuguese had captured the Strait of Malacca, found the Spice Islands, and broke the Arabian hold on the spice trade completely. As a result Portugal became fabulously wealthy. Well done Henry – and his Caravels!

The Dutch East India Company was established in 1602 with its main purpose to enter the now Portuguese-dominated spice trade. It established and protected ports in Indonesia, particularly Jakarta. Their Tall Ships offloaded spices at Rotterdam, near Schiedam, and used them to make Genever and other liqueurs. Now it was the Dutch who captured the Spice Islands from the Portuguese in the 1600s, and ruled there for 200 years. Our own East India Company came hot on the heels of the Dutch, and after years of warring on the high seas the Dutch finally traded with the British in 1667. Even today in Poplar, East London “East India Dock Road” and similar, nautical street names underline the importance of these sea routes and the wealth that came to these Islands as a result.

Today we use spices carelessly. We hoard them in paper packets at the back of our cupboards until they are out-of-date and then throw them away. Not so in centuries past ... spices would be kept locked in a small spice chest, usually only used by the lady of the house, or handed out to cooks as they required them. Small wonder, when the cost of bringing these amazingly versatile flavourings was so high, and not just monetarily. Standing on the “Kaskelot” I could sense the vulnerability of those sailors, and the price paid for the spice trade was immense.

Lin Saines
DEBATER

Not In My Backyard

I had very mixed feelings recently when on BBC’s Television News came the pictures of the Dale Farm where some ten years ago some 51 “Travellers” bought a piece of waste ground that had been used for a car disposal junk yard. They then drove their “homes” (caravans) into the site, which if any of you Parish Magazine readers have ever been invited into one of them, would have found out for yourselves that they are spotlessly clean from top to bottom.

They didn’t get planning permission for building on it and now, with the world press watching them, they are due to be moved from that land that they own. Listening last Sunday morning to a religious programme on Radio 4 at 7.30 there was a lot of discussion about bringing bailiffs into the site and removing them and the local priest was asked what his thoughts were about the problem. He said that he had regular attendees to his church services and the children of those “Travellers” went to the local schools and had their own friends, as children do. In general there was no trouble from them until now when their world was going to be turned upside-down by being forcibly evicted. A council official, Tony Ball, stated they had been offered council accommodation and therefore wouldn’t be homeless, which is rather like offering an Arab a mansion when he had lived all of his life in a tent.

The odd thing about all of this is that with an unbelievable shortage of money in this country there has been (apparently) some £18 million spent so far sorting out this problem that by the time you read this, will have probably been sorted. Let’s hope that no one gets hurt when the bailiffs do what the law demands.

Just a thought. I wonder if some of those that are threatened with removal from their own land might be muttering something about “the law being an ass”, or words similar to that old statement?

And Another Thing

9-11

Recently a whole sad day was spent by many people remembering the tenth anniversary of when their relations were murdered on the never to be forgotten “nine eleven” when the twin towers of New York City were destroyed. I was also surprised on TV to see a number of people gathered together in London all “hooded up” (I presume so that they weren’t recognised later) and seen to be burning the American flag on that same day.

Dave Bishop
If you watch the sky for a period of time any night when it is dark and clear, there is a good chance that you will see a meteor or "shooting star". What appears to us as a streak of light is actually a small particle, about the size of a grain of sand, that has encountered the Earth’s atmosphere at high speed and burnt up due to friction. Often these are random particles, but in other cases they are part of a group that provides us with a meteor “shower" at the same time every year.

Showers are usually associated with a comet that has orbited the Sun and left behind a trail (or trails) of small particles. Comets are often described as “dirty snowballs", meaning they are a mixture of a type of ice (which sublimates as it nears the Sun) and fragments of rock. Sublimation is the process of a solid turning to gas without going through the liquid stage. As this process takes place, the gas draws off some of the rocky particles and leaves them in the comet's wake to form a dust trail.

Annual meteor showers occur when the Earth encounters the dust stream that has been left behind - mostly it passes close by to give average meteor numbers but occasionally it meets a part of the trail where the dust is more concentrated. This is what is expected to occur on the evening of October 8th, when a normally pedestrian meteor shower suffers a significant increase in activity. Astronomers who are currently working on models of the dust streams left behind by comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner (to give it its proper name) predict that between 17.00 and 22.00 hrs BST on the 8th it is possible that meteor rates could reach between 300 and 1,000 meteors per hour although they stress that this is a very difficult shower to predict. To put this into context the shower (known as the Draconids because the meteors appear to radiate from the constellation of Draco) normally produces around 5 meteors per hour. Shower meteors appear to radiate from a single point in the same way that snowflakes appear to, if you are driving during a snowstorm. They are in fact all travelling together on parallel paths.

The most comfortable way to observe the Draconids is to lie on a sunlounger with the head end slightly raised, with your feet pointing north towards the “Plough" and positioned so that the Moon (between half and full) is out of sight. The map shows the Plough, Pole Star (Polaris) plus the radiant position marked with a cross. You can tell if any meteors you see are part of the shower by noting their path and tracing them backwards to see if they come from Draco. You don't have to be looking at the radiant to see meteors.

Brian Mills
Autumn Show 2011

On Saturday 17th September, following a showery morning, the sun came out and threw beams of light onto an array of vegetable, fruit and flower entries at the Horticultural Society’s Annual Autumn Show. It was great to appreciate the produce from the new allotments and to welcome some new faces to the show.

In the **vegetable section** there were a number of successes for Tony Erbes, Brian Ling, Sauro Gabelli, Alan Armitage, Roger Pearce and Gerald South. However, there was one person who proved he deserves the crown and that was George Farmer coming first in 10 classes. He also won the Ron Draper Award for his huge red cabbages as well as the Club Challenge Cup for the most points in the vegetable section.

In the **flower section**, Eileen Pearce did particularly well with her roses as did Alan Armitage in the chrysanthemum section. Sue Warren swept the board with her dahlias winning the Harry Shrubb Memorial cup for best dahlia as well as the Elizabeth Challenge Cup for the most points in the flower section and overall winning the President’s Challenge Cup.

The **fruit section** saw success for Rebecca Veale, Phil Brett, Peter Maynard, Brian Ling and Tony Erbes.

Jan Maynard won two of the **flower arranging classes** winning best in show and the Clark cup for her lime and orange arrangement depicting ‘Harvest Festival’. Peggy Johnson won the ‘Unusual container’ class and was runner up in two other classes winning her the McHugo Trophy for the most points in the flower arranging section.
Sylvia King won all four craft classes securing her the Slatter Trophy with Valerie Payne and Linda Lambert close runners up while the art section brought success for Linda Lambert, Jean Thompson and Carol Gaskell.

There were a good number of entries in the ‘Buildings’ photography class with first place going to Nicky Barker. Nicola Le Prevost won the ‘Colours and Shapes’ class with her striking close up of a cactus and with a second place for her ‘Beach Hut Trio’ photo entitled her to the Jeff Bloxham Trophy for most points in the Photography section. Roger Pearce won the dad’s class and Isabella Gabelli took first for her shot of a meerkat.

The domestic section proved popular as ever especially the cakes and was hotly contested between Jennifer Evans, Chris Maynard, Debbie Warne, Linda Lambert, Neil Jones, Paul and Christine Jackson. Jennifer Evans won 4 classes making her outright winner of the Tom Black Cup.

Sadly the children’s entries were down this year. Thomas Veale won first for his vegetable print picture. The Fireworks glitter picture was won by Miriam Barry with Amy Coop second while Zoe Jones’ decorated jam jar earned her first place with Heather Evans second. Another Barry sibling, Caitlin, won her class for her 3D autumn picture with her sister Imogen getting second place. Sophie Watts scooped all three firsts for the 12-16 year section winning her the Tatsfield School Cup.

The Sunflower competition results were announced by Jon Allbutt. The under 8s section was won by Lewis Longley for his 2.8m plant with a 28cm head while the
under 16s section was won by Harry Boys whose sunflower grew to over 3 metre with a seed head of 33cm!

The Show was concluded with the usual raffle and auction of produce and also worth a mention was the new plant sale championed by Phil Brett which was a success in boosting the Horticultural Society’s coffers.

The Society is most grateful to all the judges who commit time and enthusiasm to judge our exhibits. These include Nigel Shaw, Nick Hagon, Richard Abbott, Teresa McDonald, Jan Ling, Kate Bamber and Gillian Lambert. We would also like to thank John Whelan for all the support he has given the Society particularly during the creation of the allotments and for kindly presenting the prizes.

Congratulations to all who took part and we look forward to seeing you at the Spring Show next year.

Horti Update

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

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

Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)

1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

We are now well and truly settling into the new term with packed programmes for all the sections. This month Beavers will be working towards many of their badges including the Global Challenge and the Imagination Badge as well as having a trip to the British Wildlife Centre. We did this trip a couple of years ago and it proved most popular. The Scout section will be very busy with a trip to Bromley swimming baths, in preparation for the District Swimming Gala later on this year, which will be taking place in Edenbridge. We have organised a First Response St. John Ambulance First Aid day at their HQ in Redhill on the 9th. Scouts taking part will receive a 3 year First Aid certificate, St. John Ambulance badge and their Scout Emergency Aid Stage 3
Badge for attending a most valuable course which will be useful to them outside of scouting too. They will also be having the ever popular 'Ready Steady Cook' night where each patrol gets a surprise £5.00 bag and has to produce 2 main meals in a given time. All judged very seriously by the leaders – always a fun night and I am astounded at the creativity of some of the dishes produced! We will also be wood branding and having an evening learning about Geocaching in readiness for a night hike and sleepover at the HQ, where we hope to discover some of the locally hidden caches.

The Cub Section has now reached a critical point in time as Graham and Heather feel that due to increased personal and work commitments that they can no longer lead the pack and will need to step down from the weekly running of the section early on in the New Year – therefore we desperately require some new leaders who would be willing to take on the pack under the guidance of Graham with a view to Graham and Heather taking a lesser role in just assisting at the meetings without the additional workload of the admin etc. If this means that the Cub pack day of the week and time would need to change in order to accommodate new leaders, this would be fully negotiable with the group. **Unless new leadership is found unfortunately we will have no option but to close this section which will have a detrimental ‘knock-on’ effect on the other sections.** If this is something you feel you would like to help with and require any further information please contact me and I will be happy to discuss details. You would, of course, have the full support of both me and the current leadership team.

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

**NOT SO YOUNG CLUB**

It could not have been a worse day weather-wise for our trip to Broadstairs in August. The rain came down in torrents on the journey down and everyone wondered what we would do with ourselves for the day. But, once we reached the coast, the weather had cleared and with balmy breezes the day was warm and very pleasant! It was lovely to see so many bathers enjoying the water. We travelled home via Westerham and went into the W.I. there for a most pleasant tea, laid on for us by the Westerham ladies. Many thanks for that!

The trip to the Brick Lane Theatre on the 13th September was quite an experience! We were greeted with the most enjoyable cup of tea or coffee and the ambience was fascinating – the "theatre", which is an old Gothic church, renovated after a fire to serve as an entertainment venue, a Royal Box or two painted on the wall, giving an illusion of space, the occupants all dressed in Victorian attire. There were only four members in the cast and my word, did they work! We had all the old time songs and we were all in good voice! In the interval we had afternoon tea brought to the table (reminiscent of our afternoon at the Ritz at Tatsfield church
It has been a long time since I have enjoyed an afternoon so much! Many thanks to Enid Garrard for arranging that, even if nearly half of the members didn’t want to go!

At our meeting on the 11th October, we have a valuer coming in to give us some guidance on old items of ours and their estimated value. Members, please do not bring old jewellery or watches, but do try to bring something of interest, even if you are not sure if it is an antique.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

September’s speaker was Dr. John Ray, a historian and former schoolmaster, who told us all about The Queen and the 1950s. Actually, as most of us remembered the ‘50s well it was really an exercise in nostalgia. He was a historian and former school master. It was disappointing that he kept referring to the notes in his hand throughout, but the content was interesting.

He started his talk from the VE Day celebrations in May 1945 when he took a party of his pupils to London and it was the first time he had seen the King and Queen live. Everyone was shouting “We want the King” and he came out on the balcony of the palace with the two princesses and Winston Churchill. He said that the roar of the crowd was deafening. He reminded us that Princess Elizabeth had “joined up” just as soon as she was 18 and had never asked for, nor received, any special favours. Right from the time George became the “reluctant king” the young princess had been groomed for the throne and took matters very seriously. Churchill had noticed, very early on in her life, that she had an air of quiet reflectiveness and authority and was very aware of Britain’s rich past.

Elizabeth and Philip had already met during the war and were married with two children when in February 1952 the King died. He had been ill but it was still a shock. The young couple were abroad on a Royal Tour, having taken over some of the ailing King’s duties. The Princess Elizabeth returned home as Queen Elizabeth the Second. In 1953 she was crowned in Westminster Abbey and one in four of the world’s population were said to have celebrated. Many people contrived to watch the event on television, making it the biggest event in its history and a turning point for new technology. Queen Elizabeth is the 40th monarch since the Norman Conquest.

Her reign did not begin well as we were just out of a six year war, victory having been achieved at terrible cost – we were a debtor nation and had rationing until 1954. Then came the cold war and loud Russian rumblings. The British Empire began to dissolve, India gained independence first, followed by nations in Africa but we have kept our links strong through the Commonwealth. We had the Korean
War then Suez. We kept a strong army but could no longer exercise imperial rule. So much happened early in the Queen’s reign, so many changes.

Dr Ray then lapsed into total nostalgia by reminding us of the wages, food and home prices and the friendly shopping experience – so different from these days. Although many women wanted a different life after the war, many going out to work, there came the biggest baby boom in history. We had The Festival of Britain, plenty of jobs, house building with many of the old slums having been bombed, new towns and high rises. Living standards went up and health improved. We still had “smog” though, but after the Clean Air Act things improved. Our leisure pursuits changed when the ordinary radio morphed into the radiogram and more people had television. Interest in the cinema experienced a long decline with audiences dropping from 1.3 billion to 100m. Along came skiffle, rock n’ roll and the dreaded “teenager”; seaside holidays were the norm with holiday camps always busy but people were just beginning to venture abroad and planes began to take over from ships - new airports were built to accommodate them; cars became available for the ordinary man with the Morris Minor the most popular choice; with more vehicles we needed more roads and the M1 was built; trams were phased out (several of us remembered the last tram through our neighbourhoods) and steam trains began to be replaced by diesel – only to have Dr Beeching wield his dreaded axe after that. Dr Ray reminded us of the plays and films of the time, the actors and sportsmen…..so many memories.

The Queen has advised twelve Prime Ministers so far in her weekly meetings. Her experience is unrivalled, unlike most of the transient politicians and she has met every upset and difficulty with dignity. What more could any nation expect?

After a break for tea we discussed options for social activities such as theatre visits and other outings. As usual we are kept busy with the Keep Fit on Mondays, the Pop-In on Wednesday mornings – all welcome, Darts Practice, Craft Afternoons, and a Whist Drive. Whew, don’t know how we fit it all in.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a District Art Event, we have an invitation to the Westerham W.I., and a District Conference.

Our next meeting will be on 4th October and will take the form of a Games Evening – always great fun. You are advised to wear ear plugs if passing the W.I.Hall at the time.

A Walk on the Wild Side

The District Art event was hosted by us on Thursday, 8th September, when we welcomed visitors from other W.Is. Our hall was packed with representatives from 4 or 5 other clubs. Linda Lambert welcomed everyone and we settled down to listen to Adie Parker tell us about her life in South Africa and her passion for art. She had brought along paintings of an elephant, a buffalo, a giraffe (which she had christened Hamish), in different mediums and a large unfinished one of an
elephant’s head in acrylic. She prepared her palette with a surprising choice of pastel colours (to our untrained eyes) and proceeded to work on the elephant’s head, adding highlights here and there and jungle greenery in places in the background. The picture will take many more hours but it was truly fascinating to see how things began to come together. Following Adie’s demonstration and talk we settled down to a wonderful cream tea. Oooh, yummy! We are so fortunate in having such a willing and capable committee to organise these events and to produce such delicious treats.

Toni Holley

RAMBLERS

We have three walks in October, none of them far away. If you would like some exercise and to enjoy lovely scenery and good company, try one of them. Details are below – walks of 5, 6 and 7 miles. Everyone is welcome, including dogs and their owners. You can just turn up or contact one of us if you would like more information.

Date       Sunday, 2nd October
Meet       10.45 am at Penshurst Station (south side) (Map ref: TQ519464)
Walk       To Chiddingstone, 5 miles, 3 hours
Leader     Jean Turner and Carol Vening
Date       Sunday, 16th October
Meet       10.15 am at Shoreham Station (Map ref: TQ525614)
Walk       6 miles, 3.5 hours, some hills, refreshment stop at Lullingstone Park Golf Club via the Roman Village, then to Shoreham Cross and back to the village.
Leader     Carol Vening
Date       Sunday, 30th October
Meet       10.30 am at Westerham Green or 10.45 am at Round Pond, Mill Lane, Westerham (Map refs: TQ446540 and TQ444536)
Walk       7 miles, 4 hours, to Limpsfield Chart, pub stop at the Grasshopper, Moorhouse
Leader     Jean Turner and Carol Vening

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GARDENING CLUB

Fruit Trees for the Allotment and Garden - A Talk by Hamid Habibi and his Family

Keepers Nursery is run by Hamid Habibi and family. This Maidstone-based specialist fruit tree nursery, with over 600 varieties in cultivation, probably offers the largest selection of fruit trees for sale in the world. These include hundreds of varieties of apple, pear, plum and cherry trees; also more unusual specimens such as quince, medlar and mulberry, plus nut trees including walnut and cobnut.

This was an extremely informative talk at the WI Hall on 21 September, delivered by someone who is clearly a master of his subject. The enthusiasm shown by the whole family for their trees and fruit infected everyone present. This resulted in a very lively question and answer session. Some good reasons for growing fruit trees are: less hard work involved than in growing many other food crops; careful selection of trees results in a very long cropping season; can grow a far greater range of varieties and flavours than are available in the shops.

Advice on selecting which type of trees to grow included: tasting as many different varieties as possible before deciding your preferences and which trees to purchase; try to select trees which crop at different times; consider disease resistance. Also, keep an open mind. Old and new varieties are just as good as each other - foreign ones are just as likely to be as good as their English cousins.

Fruit trees, especially apples and pears, are grafted on to a ‘rootstock’. There are a number of rootstocks in use which have been selected to provide disease resistance and improve fruit quality but, most importantly, they determine the ‘vigour’ of the tree, i.e. how quickly it grows and how large it eventually gets. These rootstocks have rather unhelpful alpha/numeric names but help is always at hand at the nursery from the Habibi family. Choice of rootstock is vital when deciding how the trees will be trained. They can be grown in ‘goblet’ or ‘pyramid’ shapes, the latter being like a Christmas tree, or in restricted forms as ‘cordons’ (a single stem normally set at 45 degrees to the ground), ‘espaliers’ spread out flat against walls, fences or along wires, or ‘step-overs’ which are very low horizontal stems only about 18 inches high – good for marking boundaries. Pruning to shape starts in the tree’s second year and should continue for life. A tree which is left “to do its own thing” will eventually produce inferior fruit.

Ample samples were provided for tasting, including one apple which tasted of pineapple. The evening finished with everyone sampling a ‘Medlar’ – a fruit which looks like a large rose hip but has a soft centre similar in taste and texture to apple puree. Hamid’s thoughtful presentation covered a lot of ground and some fairly technical points were explained in simple terms – “Hoorah”, I now understand how triploid pollination works – but you don’t need to know this in order to grow great fruit. More info on www.keepers-nursery.co.uk.

Philip Brett
OCTOBER NOTES

There seems to be an ‘end of summer’ feeling with the evenings drawing in and morning temperatures already falling below the all important 10º mark. Once we see dewy, misty cool mornings with temperatures around 8º or less, growth stops and plants begin to close down for the winter. That said we must not forget that October can be hot too and this gives hope to those of us who have made late sowings of onions, beetroot, peas, lettuce and dwarf beans! My motto is to keep on sowing and hope for a mild early winter so I can still harvest as late as I can. Don’t be confused by this optimism to try and extend our current season cropping and preparing for next season. Confused? If you want early crops of onions and broad beans for example get them in now but be prepared to provide some protection from the severest weather e.g. wind, rain, frost and snow.

Early October is still a good time to sow grass seed and annual flowers (including wild flower mixtures). The soil is warm and we surely must have some rain to help young plants grow quickly before it cools down in November!

I was very pleased to see a good crop of conkers on some Horse Chestnut trees in the village this year. We are not really certain but it looks as if the hard winter weather killed off a lot of the dreaded leaf miner that is weakening the trees and causing them to fail to produce good sized fruit. We remain very worried also about the Bleeding Canker that is killing our Horse Chestnuts. If you have a conker tree and notice bleeding cracks in the bark, please give me a call.

The RSPB has issued an appeal to those of us who have fruited hedges to hold off cutting them back as this will remove vital fruit needed for our birds this winter. If you must cut back now please keep the fruiting branches and hang them up for the birds to eat before getting rid of them, hopefully by composting rather than burning please! I have noticed heavy crops of haws, holly berries and sloes; it will be interesting to see how quickly they are eaten – maybe an indication of the winter to come. Mind you, in my experience, a mild winter usually follows a hard one, let’s see how this one turns out!

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