Tatsfield

THIS ISSUE

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TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

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

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

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

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 Please state if not for publication.

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

Quite rightly much has been said, in recent parish magazines and elsewhere, about the fantastic displays and the general appearance of our village during the summer. Now we also know that all this effort by so many people has been rewarded not only by a greatly improved village ambience but also by Tatsfield being the winner of its section of South and South East in Bloom: further details of our success appear elsewhere in this magazine.

There is another aspect of all this that seems significant to me. The physicists tell us that our universe began to be formed some 14 billion years ago in a flash of radiation which gradually cooled into small particles which then began to coagulate into hydrogen: from this stars were formed and as they came to the end of their lifetime they exploded giving birth to the everyday materials, carbon and oxygen for example, from which both we and the flowers which adorn our village are all made. Furthermore, life as we know it evolved from these elementary materials, first in very simple forms and then in increasing complexity resulting in a vast range of plants and also in human beings who are able to recognise their own identity and can cooperate to bring about the transformation of a village.

If you accept this view – as I do - that’s some universe, don’t you think. So perhaps as we look at the beauty of these flowers and think about the thought and effort that has gone into providing them, we might also marvel at the process, spanning such an unimaginable length of time, that has brought all this into being.

The media has recently been reporting that Stephen Hawking now feels that the laws of physics do not require a god to light the touch paper and get the universe going. That comes as no great surprise to me or to many Christians. We would first respond by saying that this still leaves open the question as to where the laws of physics come from, and we would then go on to say that the god that Hawking does not believe in is not one that we believe in either.

Christianity puts its faith in a creator who originated, and also keeps in being, the laws of science in such a way that small chaotic beginnings lead to the emergence of beautiful flowers and our self conscious life, with which that creator is keen to maintain personal contact.

Gerald South

GOLDEN BLOOMS

An article in Village News reports the village’s success in South and South East in Bloom. To mark the occasion this issue of the magazine has colour pictures of the scenes we have been enjoying this summer – on the cover and in the centre pages.
Dear Editor,

St. George’s Cross Flag

I would like to thank Tony Watson for his well written tribute to Chris Lehan in last month’s magazine.

There is a little story behind the St. George’s Cross flag which Tony mentioned had been flying at half mast after 3rd July at Furze Corner.

Two summers ago, Chris and I were driving through Newhaven when he spotted an open market and, always looking for a bargain, we parked up and went to have a look around. It was then that Chris noticed a St. George’s Cross flag and paid £5 for it. We happily went back to the car with his prize possession only to find that it had been wheel clamped! Chris thought he could beat this one, so back to the market we went to see if there was a wrench or tool for the job. Unfortunately, or ‘fortunately’, there was nothing suitable. He had to succumb to ringing the council to get the car unclamped. Some time later the parking attendant arrived but by now Chris was not too happy. He reluctantly paid the £175 fine and bade farewell with choice expletives! With that episode over we enjoyed the rest of the day.

Readers may like to know that St. Christopher’s Hospice received £840 in donations in Chris’s memory. So thanks to those who donated to such a good cause.

Wendy Bryant, Westmore Road

Dear Editor,

Last Month’s Magazine

This letter is prompted by several items in the September magazine.

I had sat down to my evening meal after recovering from taking my grandchildren to ‘Ronald McDonalds’ in Reading. As I was enjoying my meal and reading ‘Village News’, I saw the item ‘Anyone Remember The Bruce Family?’. I vaguely remember Joe Bruce, a farm labourer at Lusted Hall Farm, who lived in the farm cottages beside the pond in Lusted Hall Lane. Just as I was finishing my meal the telephone rang and it was my old mate Ted Bonwick. After preliminaries I asked if he remembered Joe Bruce. Ted replied that he had worked with him on the farm, and recalled the names of the two shire horses Joe worked. What a memory! I have forwarded all this information to Catherine Cameron.
On page 95 of the history book ‘Tatsfield, the First 2,000 Years’ is a photo of a section of Tatsfield Home Guard. I can name most of them. In fact there are two fathers and their sons, at least two brothers and their brother-in-law. That only leaves four and, if Joe Bruce is second from the left in the middle row, that leaves three unknowns; two of these could be brothers and the last could perhaps be Frank Lynne?

As I leafed through Forum, I saw Auntie Sylvia Watson’s letter about reaching 96. I did send her a card.

I have also noted the sad passing of Bridie Higgs, a great Irish lass, of Jerry ‘Jed’ Amos, my cousin Olive’s husband and of Chris ‘The Tree’ Lehan. All will be sorely missed.

Congratulations to Dave Bishop, explaining the non-arrival of the Lancaster at Kenley. There is more up to date information in Tatsfield Parish Magazine than in the media. Keep up the good work!

Dennis Tapsell, Reading, Berks

Dear Editor,

Bags of Poo

Many thanks to all those responsible dog owners who remove their animal’s offending do do’s from our village paths and pavements. However, as I am now a bona fide (or should it be bone fido) collector of village litter with a designated territory which includes the unmade portion of Paynesfield Road, I am troubled by the number of plastic bags I rake out of the hedgerow containing dog poo. Whilst I am not averse to picking up the occasional suspicious package in an attempt to maintain the high village standard, in doing so I cannot describe the experience as finger licking good if the package subsequently turns out to contain the product of a dog’s rear end. I must admit to becoming quite possessive over my territory and feel I should consider declaring my patch a poo free zone, so please help to make my job that much more sweeter and go just that one step further and take doggie’s dunnits, or barkers eggs as the Ozzies would have it, away with you. Many thanks.

Howard Aylett, Paynesfield Road

PS On an even more serious note, it was reported last week that a child actually died as a result of dog poo contamination!

NEXT ISSUE

The November magazine should be reaching you on 29 October or soon after. Contributions and comments from readers are welcome and should be with the editor by 16 October.
Dear Editor,

Bonfires

I have read about this problem before in the Parish Magazine and now it is my turn! I have just returned from work on a lovely late summer afternoon to find a NEIGHBOUR having a bonfire at midday! I find this very inconsiderate as I thought I could have lunch in the garden, put out some washing but no I have had to shut myself in. On looking at the Tandridge website, I see you are not breaking the law but how about people having a bit of common sense. We should be able to enjoy these late summer days!

Sarah Brooker, Cudham Road

Dear Editor,

The Taxman Cometh

I worked for the BBC for over 40 years and can honestly boast that I enjoyed every day. I still consider that I was so lucky to have such good employment and I wish it were the same for every working person. The jobs I had varied over that long time of course and I well remember that each and every one of the staff was taught their jobs properly and perfectly. If you didn’t eventually learn or couldn’t cope with the sort of responsibility that went with it, then you were soon moved (or offered!) some other position. Correctness was the main consideration in every job and the aim was to get everything right. If anyone did something wrong, then they or their boss was “carpeted” and the reasons for the wrongdoing were soon sorted out and remedies put in place to make sure that such a mistake couldn’t (and wouldn’t) happen again.

Now let us come up to date with this new system that has been put in place now that the tax people have made a new computer operational. It seems that several million people’s tax has been wrongly assessed and some of them will be receiving a demand for back payments, wrongly assessed by the tax people. The only people who should be punished for this incredible cock up are the tax people themselves. They made the mistake and they should be the losers, not the already screwed public. They should write off the whole debt, as a bad experience.

So what can we “Joe Muggins” do about it? Well the Daily Mail says “Don’t pay it” and the BBC’s financial expert Robert Peston also says the same and both of them (money wise) are much cleverer than I am. But I can tell you this (from bitter experience): the sad thing is that the tax people send you a letter stating that you haven’t been paying the correct amount of money and therefore you owe them a certain (much higher) amount that could be payable to them in instalments. If you object, then (and here’s the rub) they’ll tell you that the matter will be taken out of their hands and put into the hands of an agency (bailiffs). Those bailiffs will come...
to your house and take the assessable amount of money that your goods will fetch at auction until they seize what they consider will cover the costs owing the tax people, plus their costs of course. The sad thing is that the laws of the land give them total legality. Can you believe that? There is another added anomaly that there is a thing called “compound interest” in which an amount calculated by “them” from some years ago of say £200 becomes today over £1,000 using this method. This “compound system” is what the banks make millions out of.

The tax people are in a win-win situation and we dear people are the suckers that have to pay for their mistakes. Unlike Shakespeare’s Shylock, they not only want their pound of flesh, but they also want the complete blood of each and every one of us as well. I loathe them and the only thing George Orwell got wrong in his book 1984 about state ownership of the individual, was the date. The whole darned lot of them should be sacked once and for all, for making such mistakes in the first place. In my old job whoever those persons were would have been found out and have disappeared from their posts long ago.

And Another Thing

Over five years ago we (my wife Jan and I) started a Wednesday afternoon Tea Dance Social at the Village Hall every 4 weeks and it was done after consultation with a doctor as how to go about it, considering that some of our dancers were retired and not too used to sudden exercise. On the doctor’s advice, we had a session of dancing for about an hour and then we all enjoyed a break with refreshments, a quiz and raffle. After that we continued dancing until the finish time. We had some extra help from good old Enid, Ken, Hilda and Denise. Well it has worked fine but the numbers have recently been declining and although we still get the “regulars” we still record that the dances have possibly reached the end of the line of interest.

We have therefore decided to run the next three dances on October 6, November 3 and the Christmas special on December 1 and then we will see if they are to be terminated after all. It’s a bit of a sad conclusion but we certainly have had a lot of fun and enjoyed a heck of a lot of laughs.

Meanwhile, we have been asked by the Village Hall Management Committee to run a “special” ballroom dance evening at the Village Hall on Saturday October 9 from 8 – 11.15pm. For this we will receive no fee and are doing it for the Village Hall funds. Perhaps you might like to come along and get some good exercise and have some fun. Tickets are priced at £5 each which includes refreshments and will be available from Linda’s Stores, Bob David (on 557357) and us (on 577550). Oh and one other thing! Bring your own wine and glasses, as much as you like, ‘cos nobody will be counting!

Dave Bishop, The Square
Future Uses for the Old Surgery: The usual ‘public five minutes’ at the beginning of the September Parish Council meeting was extended for us to hear the views of those present before making a decision. The proposals were:

1- that the Council awards a 5-year tenancy of the old Surgery to Little Acorns
2- that the Council awards a 5-year tenancy of the old Surgery to Specology
3- that the Council does not award a long term tenancy to either of the current interested parties at this time, but instead pursues other possible options including other interested parties looking for short term interests and continues to look for a longer term tenant once the market improves.

After a discussion the Parish Council voted for Option 3 and now moves forward to consider further options for finding a tenant for the ground floor of the building.

The Car Park: Following further discussions and consultations there is to be another site meeting to consider new proposals for resolving the outstanding matters of the unsatisfactory lighting and collapsible bollards.

The Parish Room Building: The Parish Council voted unanimously to rename the Surgery/Parish Room in honour of the councillor who had been the original driving force behind it – Aileen McHugo. It was acknowledged that Gerald South and the late Roland Payne had led the building project but that it had been Aileen McHugo who had pressed hard for the Parish Council to buy the land in the first place. The building will now be known as the Aileen McHugo Building.

Highways and Rights of Way: Sandy Philibert’s highways report had been previously circulated and repairs to the large hole in the Approach Road were discussed briefly. Sue Smale and Eileen Pearce are now reviewing and updating the local guides for walks around the parish with valuable assistance from David Wood (who was the original author) and Alan Armitage.

Village Centre Road Scheme: Concern continues to be expressed about the danger of vehicles parked at the Old Bakery corner and blocking the view for drivers from Westmore Road. Motorists are also seen driving in, and out, of the road outside the Old Ship that is reserved for buses. These matters will remain on the list of topics being discussed with Surrey County Council and Surrey Police.

Allotments Scheme: Good progress was reported on negotiations with the landowner to secure a site for new allotments on the Approach Road. A draft site plan has been drawn up and further discussions are planned with a view to securing a
lease by the Parish Council by the end of the year. There will be a public meeting in the Parish Room on Wednesday 27 October at 7.30pm for all those who have registered an interest in having an allotment and also for those who may want to add their names to the list.

Better Broadband: Ian Mitchell reported that only 16 households had responded to the survey in last month’s magazine and on our website, which falls a long way short of the numbers needed to embark on a ‘self-help’ scheme to improve the service to the village. Many more responses are needed in the next few weeks.

Tree Planting Proposal by Nigel Shaw: Nigel Shaw is asking support for his proposal to plant an avenue of trees in Approach Road towards the junction with Clarks Lane. In discussion we noted that there did not seem to be full public support and a majority of councillors did not wish the Parish Council to become involved. However, there was strong support for the general idea of planting more trees and it was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.

The In Bloom Competitions: The Parish Council was delighted to hear that Tatsfield had won its category (Large Village) in the South/South East in Bloom competition with a gold medal. The results of Britain in Bloom and Surrey Village of the Year are being announced on 29 September and 23 October respectively.

Tatsfield Green Phase 2 Path Proposals: The new path across Tatsfield Green continues to be well used and is wearing well. The next phase of the project to provide pedestrians with a safer alternative to walking in Ricketts Hill Road was discussed. It was agreed that Jon Allbutt, Sue Smale and Eileen Pearce would work towards organising a public information evening to gauge support for continuing the path to the end of Tatsfield Green.

The Maintenance of the Village Hall and Aileen McHugo Building (formerly known as the Parish Room and Surgery): The Parish Council considered the tenders by three contractors for maintenance work. After a discussion it was agreed that the contract would be given to Ling & Sons Ltd.

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

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Planning Policy: The whole of Tatsfield is in the Green Belt. The building of new houses and substantial extensions of existing houses are not normally allowed in the Green Belt. However, Tatsfield (like several other Tandridge villages) has an area in the village centre which is known as a “settlement area” and in which infilling and large extensions may be allowed. Tandridge has been required by a Government inspector to review all its settlement areas to check whether they are “sustainable”
i.e. whether the services and facilities in them are such as to make it sensible to allow new development e.g. the availability of shops, a post office, buses, etc.

I attended a Tandridge Planning Policy Committee meeting last month at which a consultative document on this subject was agreed. This document, which is due to be published before the end of the year, will describe fully the features of all the villages with settlement areas and will seek people’s views on whether the villages concerned should continue to have settlement areas and, if so, what the boundaries of each settlement area should be. The outcome will be important to Tatsfield (and to all the other villages concerned) for it will determine the amount of new building which may be allowed in the village in future years.

Don’t assume that we all think the same about this! Some favour allowing new building, because this would allow development which they believe would be beneficial to the village as a whole and at the same time would allow individuals to make the most of the land they own. Others prefer to restrict new building in the village in order to preserve its character. I confess I personally largely favour the latter. Anyway, we will all have the chance to have our say in due course!

Old Lane Dogs: We heard at the September Police Forum meeting that the Old Lane dogs case had gone to court, that the dogs were still in police custody and that the case was “ongoing”. I am afraid I have not learnt anything further since.

Bonfires: I still get complaints about bonfires being lit at unneighbourly times (there is a letter about this in Forum). Tandridge will take action against a persistent offender but it can be a long-winded process. Maybe if you are affected it would be best to speak – nicely! – to the offender who, just possibly, may be lighting bonfires unaware of the effect on their neighbours. It is possible!

Dog Mess: Another of the regular complaints made to me is about dog mess on pavements and elsewhere by dogs allowed to roam or by accompanied dogs whose owners do not bother to pick up their dog’s mess (and there is a letter in Forum about this too). Particularly bad areas are Westmore Road, Crossways and Paynesfield Road. I see many dog owners who clean up after their dogs but sadly there are some who don’t. Last month there was even a complaint about dog mess in the children’s play area on Westmore Green. It is unbelievable that the dog owner concerned could have allowed this to happen. Perhaps the time has come to name and shame. I know not many of us carry a camera around with us but, if you do, take a picture of the offending dog and if possible the offending owner too and let either me or any Parish Councillor have it.

Planning Decisions: Tandridge has decided to refuse the planning application for Roland House, Borough Road for the conversion of existing garages to habitable accommodation, erection of extensions and other changes.

Cllr Bob David (Tel: 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk)
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TRAIN YOUR DOG?

The most important relationship in your dog’s life should be the one he has with you and the rest of the family. If your dog sees you as the source of everything brilliant in his life, how much easier would it be to get him to come back to you in the park where there are lots of other distractions!

This relationship has to be worked at, it doesn’t happen naturally or overnight – it is developed through controlled play, interaction and importantly, training. Training should be fun for the dog and the owner and the more time that can be put in will reap wonderful benefits. Dogs are intelligent animals and they want to learn. Once they have learnt to learn, and the owners have learnt how to train them, there is nothing you cannot teach them!

Our training methods are all reward based; they are fun, fair and motivational and help you get the very best from your dog. Most importantly it all helps to build that wonderful bond and relationship with your dog that will last for the rest of its life.

Dogs get a bad press these days and the responsibilities under law regarding dog ownership are harsh. It's more important now than ever that our dogs are responsible members of our family and community at large.

Right Start Dog Training runs basic obedience course at Tatsfield Village Hall on Monday and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to book a course or would like further information, please contact me on 01959 575129. Alternatively check the website for full details on all classes offered – www.rightstartdogs.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE: Never buy a puppy from a pet shop; many will buy from unknown sources which can often be puppy farms. Always buy from a reputable breeder and make sure you see the pup with the mother, even better if you can see both parents.

Kaye Scott (Member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers)

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME

The composting site is closed now until April. 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 and also the stalwarts, Martin Allen, Eddy Leaves, Ray McPherson, Mike Teague and Ian Longley working not only on Saturdays but putting in a lot of overtime as well! We have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of two students, Ruth Deterding and Charlie Brown 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!

Barry Bull (Tel: 577649) and Jennie South (Tel: 577598)

PETER WARNER’S PIANO DEBUTS in the Village Hall on 13 November with NDS

The next North Downs Sinfonia concert is in the Village Hall on Saturday 13 November at 7.30pm. The concert programme is Rossini’s Tancredi Overture, Haydn Symphony 104 and Beethoven Piano Concerto 5 – The Emperor, featuring soloist Mariella Cingo under the baton of Michael Hitchcock. Details are in the leaflet coming to you with this magazine.

This promises to be a great concert and is especially significant because it will be the first run out for a piano with an interesting past. When Peter Warner’s family were clearing his house (following his death in 2007), one of the last items to be placed was a rather sad looking piano, covered in dust and used as a table for piles of papers and other odds and ends. Peter’s nephew, Malcolm, was thinking of either putting it in a skip or advertising it for free to anyone who would cart it away. On passing mention we had a quick look at it and assumed it was a bit of a nail – horribly out of tune with the action on many keys broken. Even so, we noted the maker and looked it up online – Schiedmayer Stuttgart, c1910 – which it turns out is very well respected, sought after today for rich tone and high quality materials.

We asked our piano tuner, Gary Briley, to have a look at Peter’s piano and he confirmed that underneath the battered exterior lay a decent instrument, albeit one that needed a great deal of work. Furthermore, Gary knows the instrument well having maintained it for Peter for many years and he pointed out that the piano was acquired by Peter’s father who himself was a professional piano restorer and tuner, bearing out the thought that it would be worth restoring.

The NDS committee had been looking for a project for the balance of the Peter Warner Fund and the restoration of his piano to provide a decent quality instrument
for the Village Hall with strong links to Peter himself seemed like the perfect opportunity. We are delighted to be presenting the fruits of the Fund and Gary’s labours at the concert on the 13 November and we have a fantastic soloist paired with a great concerto to debut the newly restored Schiedmayer in public.

As an NDS founder, musician and Tatsfielder, we are sure Peter would approve of this project and the concert will be a wonderful occasion to remember him as a great local character and friend to so many in the village and outside. Please join us – tickets £9 (concessions £7) available:

- By emailing mail@northdownssinfonia.com
- Jan Maynard on 577659
- At Linda’s Stores
- Online at nds.localboxoffice.com

Andrew and Hilary Harber

THE JOE BOADELLA AND ALAN COHEN MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

Thanks go to everyone who recently took part in the first Bakery Restaurant Golf Classic Day, an event held in the memory of Joe Boadella and Alan Cohen, both of whom were colourful and popular characters of the village and avid golfers!

On Wednesday 15 September 35 golfers, some from the village and some from further afield, met at Park Wood Golf Club on a bright if somewhat windy morning to play 18 holes of golf. The general opinion was that the course was in excellent condition and a real credit to the village. With golfers of differing abilities playing, the Stableford method of scoring was adopted to give everyone a fighting chance of winning! Barry Leach came out on top with a score of 36 points, with John Savory a point behind on 35. After a few swift pints at the Club everyone moved on to The Bakery for an excellent dinner and prize giving. Money was raised throughout the day for our chosen charity, The British Heart Foundation, and after totting the total up I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £610 in Joe and Alan’s memory.

I hope to be able make this an annual event and have provisionally booked the course for the end of July next year. Thanks go to everyone who helped make the day a great success, Park Wood Golf Club and Lorna and Olivia Beeby for extracting charitable donations from unsuspecting golfers! An enjoyable time was had by all.

Andrew Bond
TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS
OPEN AFTERNOON

For prospective parents of children starting school September 2011
(children born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2007)

1.30 pm – 3.00 pm on Tuesday 5 October
With a talk by the Head Teacher at 2.0 – 2.30 pm

For further information please contact the school office on 01959 577356

GARAGE, GARDEN AND SHED SALE

10 WESTMORE ROAD
TATSFIELD

Saturday 9 October
10 am til 3 pm

Toys ★ Games ★ Kids Clothes ★ Bits and Bobs
Household ★ Bric a brac

THE BIENNIAL BLUEHOUSE FESTIVAL
will be taking place on 20 October to 3 November
Oxted United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted

For this third Festival, the organisers have booked the usual diverse mix of entertaining and thought provoking authors and speakers. This means that there will be something to suit all tastes. We are delighted to say that we have recently been able to arrange for the Hampstead Garden Opera to give a special preview performance of its new production of Mozart’s The Magic Flute on Wednesday October 27 at 7.30 pm. in the Barn Theatre, Oxted. The performance will be semi-staged, giving the audience as much of the flavour of the production as is possible without full sets and costumes.

Tickets are available at the URC every Tuesday morning between 10 am and 12 noon. Alternatively full details are available at www.oxtedurc.org.uk or tel: 01883 712893.
Well here we are in a new school year, our leavers from last year are now settling nicely into ‘big’ school and at Little Acorns our topic this term is ‘Our Senses’. During the first week back, we had a messy table every day, for the children to play and experiment with. We used cornflour and water to make a paste one day, and used shaving foam another which all the children had great fun with! We will also be exploring our other senses over the coming few weeks, and we are planning on going for a walk around the village to help illustrate this.

As some of you may know, we have been campaigning over the last year to move Little Acorns from the Village Hall into the old Surgery building. At the Parish Council meeting at the beginning of September, we discovered that we have been unsuccessful in doing this. Our intention was to take over the Surgery and extend the services that Little Acorns could offer to the community by way of introducing a breakfast club, a lunchtime club and an after school club, along with a walking bus to and from Tatsfield School. It was hoped that by doing this the people of Tatsfield would be able to benefit greatly with their childcare provision but unfortunately we have not been able to do this. However, we are not going to give up and will be pushing ahead with our plans to take Little Acorns forwards.

As I write this, our AGM is due to be held on Thursday 23 September. I will report the outcome next month.

Finally, the Little Acorns committee will be holding our popular Auction Night on 14 October at The Bakery in Tatsfield from 7 pm until midnight. Tickets are available from Ana Rose on 07891 964207 or from Little Acorns itself and cost £20 per person. The ticket price includes a 4-course meal, entertainment and the opportunity to bid for some of our fantastic prizes! So please come along and support your local pre-school and have a very enjoyable evening too.

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

Helen Hartley, on behalf of Little Acorns Pre-school

INSERTS THIS MONTH

Coming with this month’s magazine are 2 leaflets – one with details of the North Downs Sinfonia’s concert on 13 November and one about learning to play tennis at Charles Darwin school.
LES BONWICK REMEMBERED

Les (Runner) Bonwick died in action on 22 October 1943. Les was only 19 years of age and it was his first time at sea. His ship, HMS Limbourne, was torpedoed off Sept Iles, near Guernsey. We remember you, Les.

Dennis Tapsell and Ted Bonwick

FAIRTRADE TEA TENT

Over free cups of Fairtrade tea and coffee outside the shops on Saturday 11 September, members of Tatsfield Village Fairtrade Group engaged in useful conversations about Fairtrade and talked about what it means when you see the Fairtrade logo on items in the shops. It means that you can be sure that the producer has been paid a fair price and that you are not, for example, enjoying a cup of tea or coffee at the expense of an exploited grower on the other side of the world. People were able to sample Fairtrade biscuits and a very popular Fairtrade banana tray bake made by Ann Hayes. Lots of you asked for the recipe so here it is.

Ingredients:
1lb Fairtrade bananas  8oz self raising flour
5oz Fairtrade caster sugar  4oz butter or margarine
2 eggs  6oz Fairtrade dried mixed fruit
½ teaspoon salt

Method:
Mix together all the ingredients apart from the dried fruit which is folded in after mixing

To cook: Oven temp 180C. Grease tin. Use a 2lb loaf tin - takes about 1hr 30min or as a tray-bake cooks in about 30mins

Jennie South
A FREE WINE TASTING EVENT!

Life isn’t much fun for hired workers in the conventional wine industry. Exposure to pesticides and toxic gases used in the industry often causes serious health problems; during the picking season workers can be on their feet for shifts that last longer than 12 hours and there are reports of vineyards without access to drinking water or toilets.

But for workers lucky enough to be employed by a wine producer who has achieved Fairtrade certification, things are very different. Fairtrade standards prohibit discrimination, bonded labour, abuse and exploitation. They include regulations about conditions of employment and occupational health and safety as well as environmental protection and the strict control of agrochemicals. Even knowing this, many of us will nevertheless choose our wine on the grounds of taste and, having once been offered Fairtrade wine which has not suited our palate, will reject any bottle which displays the Fairtrade logo. But there are over 200 Fairtrade certified wines currently available in the UK and there may be at least a few which find favour.

After last year’s annual Fairtrade wine competition at Vinopolis, Jon Woodriffe, chairman of the Committee commented: "The improvement in the quality of Fairtrade wine entered into the competition year by year is remarkable. During this time, considerable investment has been made to improve growing conditions and share the latest winemaking techniques with our Fairtrade partners. As a result, the Fairtrade Mark on a bottle of wine now represents great quality as well as a guarantee of ethical trading. This year’s competition and tasting shows how successful our commitment to building long-term mutually beneficial relationships with Fairtrade partners has been - and proves that creating high quality wines is just as important to licensees as guaranteeing a fair price."

You don’t have to go to Vinopolis to see if you agree with him – because on 19 November we’ll be holding our own Fairtrade wine tasting at 8 pm in the WI Hall, so make a note in your diary now and watch out for more details in next month’s magazine.

Carol Jordan (Tel: 577584)

JO BISHOP 1970 - 2010

We would like to thank everyone who sent donations for the Woodland Trust in memory of Jo and to let you know that half an acre of Staffhurst Wood, Limpsfield, has been dedicated to her, in addition to several trees in other locations.

Margaret and Desmond Bishop
CHURCH TEAS AT ST MARY’S- the end of another season!

‘Another season!’ How many have there been? Teas in the old wooden hut (replaced by the current building in 2000) had been going for some years before we discovered them on moving to Tatsfield 30 years ago. With a bit more research it may be possible to find the start up date but whatever that revealed it would just confirm what a marvellous venture this. Thanks are owed to the individual or group from St Mary’s whose idea it was and to all those who have maintained this much loved highlight of summer in the village!

In addition to the Flower Festival weekend in May we have been ‘open’ on twenty four Sundays this year, welcoming many hundreds of visitors and serving them with delicious homemade cakes and scones.

It is quite a complicated enterprise to organise and one for which Tatsfield is much admired. We can only to 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 volunteers have been invited to a ‘thank you’ coffee and cake morning on 2 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!

We have raised £2,950 towards the upkeep and maintenance of our parish church, St Mary’s.

Jennie South

TATSFIELD SCHOOL HISTORY BOOK

To celebrate the opening of the new school in the centre of the village, the Tatsfield History Project team – Eileen Pearce, Ian Mitchell, Paul Myers and Bob David – have been researching and writing the history of the school, from its earliest days in the 1840s to this year’s move to the new site. This has been done with the help of many others, including present and past pupils. The book will become available in November and the team hope that many in the village will find it interesting and stimulating. More details in next month’s magazine.

AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER VILLAGE

Some people think that there has been an increase in light aircraft flying over the village.
Biggin Hill Airport only controls aircraft flying at below 3,000 ft (aircraft above that height are controlled by national air traffic services). Below that height, the only aircraft which should be near Tatsfield are those light aircraft mainly engaged in training, taking off from Biggin Hill in a southerly direction. The light aircraft flying south take a route to the west of Tatsfield and should turn left after 2 nautical miles, which is intended to take them round the village.

If you wish to complain about light aircraft flying over the village, you should phone the Biggin Hill Airport comments line – 578580 – giving the time of the incident and your name and address, and the airport will investigate and send you a written reply.

**BULKY RUBBISH COLLECTION**

The last collection of the year will be on Saturday 30 October, when a Tandridge refuse vehicle will be at Lusted Hall Lane (by Westmore Green) 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, fridges, freezers, hardcore, hazardous chemicals, oil and trade waste.

**OCTOBER SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD**

**Tony and Di’s Greengrocers (Tel: 577603)**

- Look out for wallflowers, pansies and other winter/spring plants
- All your fresh fruit and vegetables
- Frozen food
- Pet food
- Wild bird food
- Cut flowers
- Free delivery to your home
- Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones and used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson) here. Proceeds to charity

**Linda’s Stores (Tel: 577152)**

- All your Post Office needs including foreign currency
- Look out for leaflets in the shop for special offers

**HARVEST FESTIVAL**

Celebrate harvest festival at St. Mary’s on Sunday 3 October at 10 am followed by Harvest Breakfast in the Hall

The service will have the flavour of the regular all-age Open The Book services
You are invited to bring gifts – for details see St. Mary’s Matters
GARDENING CLUB

AN UPDATE ON SQUERRYES VINEYARD
By JOHN WARDE

Tuesday 12 October at 8 pm
WI Hall

Hear – and maybe sample! – how the vineyard down the hill at Westerham is progressing

All Welcome

ADVERTISING MANAGER WANTED FOR PARISH MAGAZINE

The magazine has just over 100 advertisers, who advertise annually from April to March. Geoff Groom has done a marvellous job in managing this for the last 15 years but would now like a rest. Could you take on this important job? It is the income from advertisements which enables the magazine to be distributed free to everyone in the village. If interested, please contact Bob David, the Editor, on 577357.

CYCLING HILL CLimb AT WHITE LANE

White Lane will be closed from 10 am to 6 pm on Sunday 10 October for the annual White Lane Cycling Hill Climb. Organised by the BEC Cycling Club, this will be the 55th 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!

Looking for someone who can help your Business?

‘Whether it’s being a Waiter, Receptionist, Working with Computers, Shop Assistant or Gardener’

My name is Charlie Boys. I am 16 and attend Oxted Sixth form. I am looking for a job in the local proximity. For any more information please contact me by phone or email: 01959 577836 / charles.boys@btinternet.com
**TATSFIELD ARE GOLD WINNERS !**

Some 300 people were present at Gillingham on Friday 10 September to hear the results of this year’s South and South East in Bloom. One of the hardest fought categories is that of Large Villages (population between 1,000 and 2,500), and there is always keen competition between villages in this part of the country.

In the event it was Tatsfield who came out on top as the Best Large Village with a Gold award, finishing in front of Limpsfield (who also achieved the Gold standard). The judges commented on Tatsfield’s entry as follows:

“Using the new school as the theme for this year’s entry certainly engaged the imagination of the community and business. Standards were of high quality with everyone enjoying themselves and pulling together. The high marks awarded have been earned and are fully justified.”

The publishers of ‘Surrey Life’ and similar magazines for other counties in the south also sponsor an award for the community of any size (from small village to large city) with the most points in each county, and we are glad to say that Tatsfield won the Surrey trophy too.

The photo shows the five Tatsfield representatives – Mike Teague, Carol Gaskell, Peter Maynard, Babs Hefferon and Bob David – with the awards at Gillingham.

We have made a huge effort this year with our floral displays celebrating the opening of our new village school and it is agreed by all in the village that Tatsfield has never looked better. As ever, this has only been possible because of the regular efforts of our team of volunteers and the support, including generous financial contributions, of villagers and local organisations.

As this is written, we are looking forward to seeing how we fare in Britain in Bloom, where we are up against the best villages in the UK. Our representatives will be travelling hopefully to Birmingham on 29 September to hear the outcome – and you will know it by the time you read this!

**Jon Allbutt and Bob David**
VERN ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB WINNERS

Winners during the summer of the Vern Association’s 100 Club monthly draw were:

May   2 x £7.50  Bob David and Anna Davies  
June   2 x £7.50  Bob David and Rosie Fuller  
June Big Prize £75  An undisclosed winner returned the prize to the Vern funds and we thank the person for their generosity  
July   2 x £7.50  Peter Fuller and Sue White  
August 2 x £7.50  Althea Davies and Amy Fuller

Prizes will increase as the numbers taking part increase – 50% of receipts is given back in prize money and 50% is invested in the association. Those taking part pay £5 a month by standing order into the association’s bank account. To find out more about how you can support the association in this way, please contact me.

Huw Davies (Tel: 541060)

UPDATE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL/HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ALLOTMENTS PROJECT

We are making very good progress with our project, with further very constructive meetings with the landowner; site plans are being drawn up and the Parish Council is now preparing Heads of Terms for a lease on the site for 25 years. We fully expect that a lease will be signed by the end of the year and then the hard work begins to prepare the site and mark out the plots for growing in the 2011 season. We will also need to start the process of applying for various grants to provide a storage shed; put in a mains water supply and a roof harvesting water storage system; erect fencing and no doubt many more matters requiring financial support.

We have a growing list of applicants for allotments and also those who are willing to volunteer to help manage the site. If you are interested in this project and would like to help, please come along to our inaugural meeting in the Parish Room on 27th October at 7.30 pm where we will have our plan of the site on display and will be able to bring you up to date on the latest developments.

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 576481)

HURRY ! HURRY ! HURRY !

Tickets for the Wine Dine and Shine event at the Village Hall on Saturday 16 October advertised in last month’s magazine (page 50) are going fast. If you would like to come, please contact Rosie Fuller on 573554 or Alex Deterding on 577346. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £8 for children.
ORPHEUS COMES TO TATSFIELD ON NOVEMBER 7th

How often have you driven along the A25 at Godstone and seen the sign to The Orpheus Centre and wondered what it was? If so, read on.

The Orpheus Centre supports young disabled adults in their transition to independent living. Through the performing arts, students gain confidence and self-esteem and learn essential skills for life. The centre was founded in 1998 by the entertainer and musician Richard Stilgoe in his former family home.

Special, intimate performance with tea and cakes

You are warmly invited to meet and listen to some of the students who are coming to Braeside, Johns Road, Tatsfield on November 7th between 3 and 5pm.

The afternoon will give you an opportunity to enjoy their special brand of entertainment, with tea and cakes provided. You will be able to learn more about the wonderful world of Orpheus, see displays of artwork, with the chance to win a raffle prize and much more.

So that we can be sure to make enough cakes, do please email me at lovelace@clara.co.uk or call on 01959 576212 to say you are coming – don’t leave it too late!

For those coming by car, we suggest you park in Paynesfield Road and walk the short distance down Johns Road to Braeside (on the right-hand side).

We do hope you will be able to join us for what is going to be a fantastic afternoon.

Ann Lovelace (i-vol fundraiser for Orpheus)
AN EVENING OF DANCING
Staged by Dave & Jan Bishop

8 to 11.15 pm on Saturday 9th October

Tatsfield Village Hall

Nice music to bring back memories

Tea / Coffee/ Soft Drinks

Bring your own wine and wine glasses

Free Raffle and Quiz

All this for just £5!

Tickets from Linda’s Stores
or
Dave Bishop on 01959 577550
or Bob David on 01959 577357

Arranged by Tatsfield Village Hall Management Committee
VILLAGE NEWS

Tatsfield Vern D’Anjou Association present a

HALLOWEEN PARTY

GOOD BAD UGLY

Fancy Dress Theme

Saturday 30th October
7.30 to 11.30
Tatsfield Village Hall

2 Course Meal
Licensed Bar
Fancy Dress
Disco
Adults £14
Children £7

Tickets available from Rosie & Pete Fuller on 573 554 also on sale at Linda’s Stores
Little Acorns Pre-School Presents
Auction Night at the Bakery in
Tatsfield

Thursday 14th October 2010
7pm-12pm

£20 per person to include a 4 course meal

On the night there will be some fantastic
prizes for you to bid for, as well as
entertainment for all to enjoy!!

For more information contact Ana on 07891
964207 or Little Acorns Pre-School

Please come along and support your local
pre-school!!
TATSFIELD-VERN d’ANJOU ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 12th October at 8 pm in the Parish Room.

Come and find out about this friendly and lively association and more about town twinning.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS ‘n’ COFFEE

for
Cancer Research UK and Children’s Hospices UK

9.30 am to noon on Friday, 12th November at 25 Paynesfield Road
Enquiries to Anne Chapman on 577596

FOR SALE

ELC Happyland sets:
Happyland funfair - £10; Happyland Quad bike set - £4; Happyland family £3.50;
Happyland Cherry Lane cottage - £10; Happyland roaming rose caravan - £7; Happyland emergency vehicle set - £4

Also, Men are from Mars ... Women are from Venus ... board game ... new and unused and boxed - £5.

Please phone 571556

EVENTS AT TATSFIELD VILLAGE CLUB

Saturday 2nd October Race Night 8pm – Late
Saturday 30th October Halloween Disco 8pm – Late
Saturday 27th November Rhythmic ‘The Hat Man’ (Visual Cabaret Act) 8pm – Late
Sunday 12th December Christmas Prize and Meat Raffle Draw 2pm onwards
Friday 31st December New Year’s Eve (Exact events to be confirmed) 8pm – Late
Wednesday 19th January 2011 OAPs Christmas Party 3pm – 6pm

Readers may like to know that the Club raised £1,019 for the MacMillan Cancer Charity from the events at the Club on 4 September.
TATSFIELD VISIT PRINCE CHARLES’ HIGHGROVE

The Horticultural Society were invited to Highgrove on Thursday August 26th at 11.25am on what was a very damp summer’s day.

It was with great excitement that a full coachload left Tatsfield before 8am for the long drive to Tetbury, which is a lovely market town, for a cuppa and quick browse around the shops before we arrived at Highgrove at our allotted time. We were greeted by a policeman who inspected our Allenby coach thoroughly and gave us a quick insight into the security ahead. We proceeded to the Orchard Room after showing our photographic ID, to be greeted by our guide for the day who informed me she was a bit of a 'Garden Anorak'. I assured her that she was in good company and that the group were very keen gardeners and that we were Finalists in the Britain in Bloom RHS competition.

We watched a 10 minute video by Prince Charles explaining his vision for Highgrove, which he purchased from Maurice Macmillan, son of Harold Macmillan, the Prime Minister in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Prince Charles was drawn to the vision of painting a picture to feed the soil, warm the heart and delight the eye. He was deeply affected by the excessive use of chemicals and destruction of hedges in the 1960s and the effect of Global Warming on trees and plants. He aims for an environment of tranquillity and beauty using the Organic System, which is more resistant to disease.

The Estate covers 18,000 acres of farmland, 15 acres of garden and 5 acres of meadows. There are 6 full time gardeners and 4 part time gardeners, plus volunteer guides and shop assistants.

Our guide, Alison, took us on an extended garden tour which can only be described as sensational. We walked through many gardens as if they were rooms. Some really stood out in my memory. The Laurel Tunnel leads through the fernery towards Thyme Walk (23 different varieties) up through an avenue of clipped yews which line the walk up towards the house. Looking in the opposite direction is the Lily Pool Garden in the shape if a water lily. Huge terracotta jars adorn each corner. We proceeded past meadows where the Happy Chicken' live in electric fenced enclosures to the Woodland Garden which is a mysterious magical place. It included the 'Stumpery' and was planted with the New National Collection of hostas, one of Prince Charles' favourite plants. The Temple of Worthies created from green...
oak has been drilled and sandblasted to give the impression of being 'rusticated' stone and in its midst is a bronze relief of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother sculpted by Marcus Cornish. The thatched tree house, 'Hollyrood House', is a raised tree house with a thatched roof where the two princes played as children, and built in a Holly Tree, hence the name!

As we continued on to the Walled Garden via the Southern Hemisphere Garden and Azalea Walk, the sight of an arch of apple trees greeted us, laden with fruit. We walked towards the Italian Fountain covered in moss, which is appreciated by the birds and insects. The top fruit grew up the brick walls and there was an abundance of pears, and all the vegetables are organically grown. There were several varieties of runner beans grown over arches of willow and hazel stakes, leeks, courgettes, beetroot, onions and lettuce to name a few. We wandered around the different sections taking in the companion planting of flowers to attract the insects.

We then shut the gate to keep out the rabbits and proceeded to the flower meadows, with 74 different wild flowers which had just been mown ready for the sheep to graze. Many of the trees had been protected with a covering as sheep like to nibble. We came to the Sundial Garden, which had been planted in a black, white and pink scheme, more formally laid out next to the house. We then walked out onto the terrace in front of the house. Sadly the famous giant cedar (over one hundred years old) had been felled due to disease and had been replaced by an open oak pavilion. Then we walked through the Rose Pergola designed by Lady Salisbury and the New Topiary Garden onto the Carpet Garden, which was designed on a Turkish Carpet and famously exhibited at Chelsea Flower Show in 2001.

At the end of our tour, which lasted over 2 hours, we were able to purchase refreshments together with the obligatory cakes, and sit in the Orchard Room with the fires lit to warm us up after a dry and breezy walk which were more than welcome. Adorned on the walls were paintings by Prince Charles together with paintings of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip with William and Harry, and of course his favourite granny Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The final treat to come was the Shop, where we were able to buy plants and many interesting mementos of our visit. This time I bought a hand-made modern oak trug with 'Highgrove' embossed on the sides which has found a home on the windowsill of my kitchen.

I will finish with the words of Prince Charles: 'It is to achieve a sense of harmony that I have, over the past 30 years, worked with various people whose professional skills I admire in order to blend the arts of the imagination and architecture into what I hope has gradually become a garden which delights the eye, warms the heart and feeds the soul.'

Sue Warren
GIANT SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 2010

This year’s competition, organised by the Horticultural Society, started with 35 competitors. However, early summer winds and hot weather took a toll of some of last year’s leading competitors but it was very good to see some new challengers this year.

Under 8s

The winner of the tallest plant this year was George Hadden with a giant sunflower measuring 2.76 metres (nearly 9’). Close behind was Amy St John (2.73m) and Lewis Longley (2.70m).

The winner of the largest flower was Lewis Longley with a monster flower of 31cm (just over 12”). Close behind was George Hadden (17cm) and Amy St John (15cm).

Under 16s

The winner of the under 16s tallest plant was Shannon Scanlon with a huge plant of 3.20 metres (over 10’) that was pulling the fence over! Not only was this a huge plant, it was also supporting lots of flower heads as well! Close behind Shannon was Harry Boyes (3.13m), Jack Hadden (2.95m), Ben Stokoe (2.90m) and Isabella Gabelli (2.83m). This was one of the closest competitions in recent years.

The winner of the largest flower was Harry Boyes with a huge flower of 30cm (a foot wide). Close behind Harry was Isabella Gabelli (25cm), Shannon Scanlon (19cm) and Jack Hadden (18cm).

Jon Allbutt

“COME DANCING”
TEA DANCE SOCIAL
Village Hall  2.15 to 4.55 pm
Wednesday 6 October

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

£5 per person
Enquiries to Dave Bishop on 577550
LOCAL POLICE NEWS

I would firstly like to say thank you to all residents that attended the panel meeting on Monday 13 September. It was good to see you all.

An issue brought to our attention by local residents is regarding the bus-only lane by The Ship pub. Residents have noticed vehicles using this lane as a cut through, so just to make people aware who may not already know, please note that the lane is for bus use only.

Over the last few days, we have had calls from residents regarding youths who are causing a nuisance by their behaviour in the village. A police unit reported that the youths are coming over the border from New Addington. If you see anyone causing any rowdy behaviour, then please ring it in to Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222, or 999 if it is an emergency. As usual, all the team have been patrolling the village as much as possible, especially around the times that the youths are reported to be in the village.

On a final note, with the darker evenings drawing in very quickly and Halloween just around the corner, just a reminder to remember your security i.e. keeping windows and doors in your houses locked, sheds and garages locked and keeping your car secure.

PCSO Rachel Kettell

TATSFIELD SINGERS

The picture shows the choir singing at Tatsfield School, where their weekly sessions with choir mistress Alex Deterding take place on Thursday evenings at 7.45 pm. Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact Pat Coombs on 577863.
“SIX THOUSAND YEARS UP THE GARDEN PATH”

This newly published book has been written by Ian Robertson, who was once a resident of Tatsfield and who was well known in the Drama Group and as a talented Garden Designer. He once owned the Composting Scheme site in Borough Road, along with the bungalow it adjoined in Maesmaur Road. Gardening and design lured him to Virginia about 25 years ago, but he returns to our village often, just to be sure the Gunnera manicata he left in my pond is still flourishing.

This fascinating book is really a global journey through the intrigues and humour of our gardening ancestors from the Sumerians up to the present day. It is packed full of history and is written in Ian's own inimitable style. He is a very amusing writer, but at the same time he knows his subject.

Any gardener, serious or pottering, will enjoy this book, the kind you can read by the fire when it is too nasty to be outside. A great Christmas present for your gardening buffs and anyone who is interested in the history of the garden. It is available on Amazon UK now and will probably appear on various reading lists in due course. I have checked with the Limpsfield Book Shop - you can order the book there, price £13.07.

Dawn Forrester Groom (Tel: 577585)

**TOTAL BODY WORKOUT**

Aerobics, yoga and conditioning in one class
Every Wednesday at 8.30pm
Tatsfield Village School – School Hall
£3.50 per person
You will need to bring along a towel and a bottle of water

*If you are interested please contact Vicky on 07970 761 642 or email victoria.cooling@btinternet.com*

**FREE DELIVERY OF HORSE MANURE**

Free delivery of reasonable amounts of bagged horse manure. Use me, save your car! Please phone 577391.
IN MEMORIAM

It is with great regret that I have to inform the villagers of Tatsfield that line dancing no longer exists here. I would like to thank Jacqui Tingley, her husband John and assistant Pat for their dedication and perseverance in trying to make line dancing work in Tatsfield.

When I moved to Tatsfield 3 years ago, I was approached by a member of the council who found out that I was a line dancer, to bring a new innovation to Tatsfield i.e. line dancing lessons. I approached Jacqui Tingley, one of my instructors elsewhere, and she said she would be prepared to come and teach although she lived in West Wickham.

We were initially granted every other week on a Saturday evening at the Village Hall on the understanding that should somebody else require the Village Hall, then we would forego our lesson on that night. This system worked quite well at first, when we were averaging 15-20 members a night.

Then gradually our evenings became more intermittent as the hall was increasingly booked for other functions. Our members started to drop away because we weren’t there on a regular basis.

I had thought of approaching some of the other activities that use the Village Hall on a weekday evening to see if they would compromise and give up one of their evenings out of the four a month which they had. However, I was informed by a long-standing member of the village that I would be wasting my time: they would never consider giving up some of their time to allow us to come in.

I would like to thank our little hard core of dancers who never missed a lesson in the last 2½ years, and who were becoming proficient line dancers, namely Enid, Andy, Sue, Jenny, Betty and Jackie. Some of our members, although they did not live in Tatsfield, supported Tatsfield village in other ways by attending various functions that were held here e.g. quiz nights, dances etc, and were becoming a part of village life.

So once again I would like to thank Jacqui, John and Pat for trying to bring something new to Tatsfield. I know they will miss coming here, as we will miss them being here.

John Hayes

ARE YOU A FOLK/COUNTRY FIDDLER?

Join guitarist and banjo player for fun. Please ring 576212.
DIAMOND WEDDING

Congratulations to Tom and Jean Chorley of Westmore Road who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary with a family party at the Village Hall last month. The photos are of Tom and Jean at Elmers End on their wedding day in 1950 and at the Village Hall last month. We wish them many more happy years.

TATTY KNITTERS

At our September get together, Tori Thurgood, who is a nurse at the neo natal unit of Queen Mary’s Hospital at Sidcup, popped in to collect the blankets, jackets and hats our nifty fingers had made for the premature babies. Some of the pieces were more doll size than baby size but Tori assured us that all the pieces would be used and would be very useful.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19th October at 7.30 pm at the W.I. hall.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264)

COMPUTER CORNER

Are you one of the computer users currently experiencing problems whilst attempting to open MS Office files that you receive from your contacts?

If so the cause is due to the files being produced on later versions of MS Office. Many of us with older computers are running earlier versions such as Office 2000 and 2003 - the later versions are 2007 and now 2010.

There are three ways to overcome this problem The easiest way is to request the compiler of the file to save in your version. Another option is to download and install the provided converter from MicroSoft’s website:

Highlight the above URL and copy/paste into your web browser, download the file and install. This will allow you to view and edit all of the files from later versions.

The following is an edited extract from the MicroSoft website:
Users of the Microsoft Office XP and 2003 programmes Word, Excel, or PowerPoint—you should install all High-Priority updates from Microsoft Update before downloading the Compatibility Pack.

By installing the Compatibility Pack in addition to Microsoft Office 2000, Office XP, or Office 2003, you will be able to open, edit, and save files using the file formats in newer versions of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The Compatibility Pack can also be used in conjunction with the Microsoft Office Word Viewer 2003, Excel Viewer 2003 and PowerPoint Viewer 2003 to view files saved in these new formats.

The final option is costly - just purchase the latest version of MS Office which will provide you with backward compatibility for all current versions.

Tom Chorley (Tel: 577794)

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BARN THEATRE AT OXTED

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

by John Dighton
Presented by the Oxted Players
7.45 pm on Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 October
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 724852

HELP FOR HEROES
A concert in aid of the charity featuring the Croydon Male Voice Choir and the Surrey Guards Ensemble
7.30 pm on Saturday 23 October
Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811

UNEXPECTED OPERA - ORPHEUS DOWN UNDER
Performed as part of the Bluehouse Festival 2010
7.30 pm on Wednesday 27 October
Tickets from 01883 712893 or thefestival2010@hotmail.com
Carol Gaskell’s painting at the Approach Road entrance to the village

The “going to school” scene on the Bakery green

The display in front of Tatsfield Village Club
The giant pencils at the school

The cascading tower in the Village Hall car park

Two of the baskets

One box of vegetables at the school
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>1 Fri</td>
<td>2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH</td>
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<td>6pm Badminton Juniors - VH</td>
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<td>8pm Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<td>2 Sat</td>
<td>10am Churchyard Tidy Up - StM</td>
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<td>11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery</td>
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<td><strong>8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)</strong> - StM</td>
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<td><strong>10am Harvest Festival</strong> - StM</td>
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<td>11am Ramblers Walk - Ighthamote Car Park</td>
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<td><strong>7.30pm St.Mary’s Evening Group</strong> - Torridon, Westmore Road</td>
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<td>16 Sat</td>
<td>10am Coffee Morning - WIH</td>
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**Venues**

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

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Tots on Top - CH · 1pm Microsport VH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH</td>
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<td>Beavers - SH · 7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS</td>
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<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Food and Wine Society - Little Bay Restaurant · 8.15pm Bingo - TVC</td>
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<td>Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH</td>
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<td>Tatty Knitters - WIH</td>
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<td>Tatty Knitters - WIH</td>
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<td>Yoga - WIH · 2pm Whist Drive - WIH</td>
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<td>WI Darts - WIH</td>
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<td>Duplicate Bridge - WIH · 7.45pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS</td>
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<td>Short Mat Bowls - VH · 6pm Badminton Juniors - VH</td>
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<td>Badminton Club - VH</td>
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<td>Bulky Rubbish Collection - Lusted Hall Lane</td>
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<td>PC Café - The Bakery</td>
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<td>VERN HALLOWEEN PARTY - VH</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Sung Eucharist for All Saints Day - StM</td>
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<td>10.15am</td>
<td>Ramblers Walk - Westerham Green</td>
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<td>All Saints Service - StM</td>
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**NOVEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Tots on Top - CH · 1pm Microsport - VH · 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH</td>
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<td>6pm</td>
<td>Beavers - SH · 7.30pm Art Group - VH · 7.30pm Celebrity Yogalatts - TPS</td>
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<td>Yoga - WIH · 5.30pm Cubs - SH · 7pm Scouts - SH</td>
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<td>WI Meeting - WIH</td>
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<td>10am-12noon</td>
<td>WI Pop In - WIH</td>
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<td>PCSO Nick White Surgery - PR</td>
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<td>Tea Dance Social - VH · 8pm Yoga - VH · 8pm Explorers - SH</td>
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<td>Tatty Knitters - WIH</td>
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<td>WI Darts - WIH · 5pm Brownies - CH · 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH</td>
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<td>7.45pm</td>
<td>Tatsfield Singers - TPS · 8pm Table Tennis - VH</td>
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THE GOATSFIELD ROAD PIGS

We have been asked to write an article for the magazine as to why we have decided to own pigs!

At the end of 2007 we purchased the piece of land adjoining our property, Dell Cottage, in Goatsfield Road. The land, known as Meadow Bank, was overgrown to say the least.

On clearing the boundaries in order to re-fence we realised what hard work the clearing had been and it was suggested instead of trying to clear the whole plot ourselves why not get some pigs to do it for us!

On investigation we were horrified to find that, apart from poultry, pigs get the worst deal from intensive farming. Most pigs never get to see grass or mud and are kept on acres of concrete, often in crates, which are only just big enough for them to stand in.

Increasingly less of the pork we eat is raised in Britain and more and more of it is being imported from Europe, where minimum welfare standards are lower. This means that the cost of the meat is lower there because more meat can be produced in less space. Staggeringly, nearly 70% of pork products sold in Britain contain pork that has been farmed in a way that is illegal here.

With supermarkets and consumers demanding cheaper meat, British farmers are priced out of the market by their EU counterparts. As a result farmers in this country are rapidly going out of business and in the last ten years the UK breeding herd has more than halved.

On finding this information we decided, as hard as it would be to send our own animals to slaughter, we could guarantee the life they did have would be fantastic compared to that of their cousins……..

Like most people we love pork, ham, gammon, bacon and sausages and, when a local supermarket kindly agreed to let us have their ‘out of date’ fruit and veg, our first piglets were ordered.
We knew following some research that we wanted to keep rare breed pigs, not only to help protect the breed, but also because of the superior quality pork they produce. Rare breeds take longer to grow (about 7 months), have more fat, produce tastier meat and depending on the breed can be very active. To date we have had British Saddlebacks, Gloucester Old Spots and Oxford Sandy and Black pigs. Different breeds may follow!

We have found pigs surprisingly easy to keep. As long as they have food, water and shelter they are happy. They are also very gentle and extremely intelligent! Pigs do not have the facility to sweat so a wallow is essential. The mud is their equivalent of sun block.

Our pigs get fed twice a day with a combination of fruit, vegetables and pig nuts. It is now illegal to feed any form of meat or swill to pigs.

By using electric fencing we can move our pigs around. This means that we can give the pigs an area to forage in rotation, letting the ground rest for a while in the other areas.

Before we purchased our first pigs we had to register with DEFRA, gain a holding number and herd number, and agree to abide by the increasing number of rules and regulations that government now enforces.

So, if you are out walking down Goatsfield Road, don’t forget to take a look at the pigs. Piglets usually arrive every few months due to the increasing number of local people wanting a regular supply of meat.

*If you would like to find out more about keeping pigs, or are interested in tasting and hopefully buying some of our sausages, please pop in and see us at the Craft Fair being held on Sunday, 21st November in the Village Hall. Although only sausages will be on sale at the Fair we will be taking down the names of people who would be interested in other produce when it is available.*

James and Karen Longley
VILLAGE NEWS

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE 2012 OLYMPICS WILL BE ONE OF THE GREATEST SPORTING EVENTS OF OUR TIME. COME AND HEAR MORE ABOUT THE STADIUM AND WHAT IT WILL BE USED FOR AFTERWARDS!

“THE 2012 OLYMPIC PARK - A LEGACY”

A talk by PHILIP ASKEW
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OLYMPIC PARKLANDS, OLYMPIC DELIVERY AUTHORITY

Philip is a horticulturist, landscape architect and urban designer

8 pm on Tuesday 9 November
At Tatsfield Village Hall
Tickets £3 from Angela Sawyers on 577434 or any other committee member

ALL WELCOME!

The talk will be preceded by the Horticultural Society’s AGM
Starting at 7.30 pm
NEW BUS ONLY LANE

There are many drivers who are illegally using the Bus Only lane outside the front of The Ship. This section of road is only for the use of Buses and Bicycles and the blue signs are clear for all to see and it is written on the road as well. This section of road is NOT for any other drivers and certainly NOT for dropping off children who are using the bus. The Police are taking this matter very seriously and our PCSO has stopped and talked to a number of drivers using the lane.

I am trying to monitor use over the coming 6-8 weeks and it would be extremely helpful if you could email me the date and time if you see any vehicle using it which should not be (I do not need to know the registration of the vehicle) – email sandy@philibert.co.uk.

Many thanks for your help.

Sandy Philibert, Parish Councillor

NETBALL 4 FUN

Netball 4 Fun started again in September and continues in October on Wednesdays from 6.30 to 7.30 pm at the Community Games Area (or the MUGA as most people still call it). The Wednesday evenings sessions will stop when the clocks go back at the end of October and after that the sessions will be on Sundays at 11am. All welcome. Just turn up or if you want to know more contact Gaye Panther on 577362 or Alizon Mooney on 577143.

TATSFIELD SPEEDWATCH

At the September Police Liaison meeting just before the Parish Council meeting, the police reported that in recent weeks there have been eight hours of Speedwatching in Tatsfield. As a result of this twenty letters have been sent to owners, pointing out that their vehicle has been recorded as significantly exceeding the speed limit on a Tatsfield road. It was also stated that the police seem to have received fewer complaints about speed on our roads since Speedwatch commenced this spring; although not statistically significant, this is reassuring.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this initiative can find out more from either of us.

Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434) and Gerald South (Tel: 577598)
TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT

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

Morris : A Life With Bells On

Mike Lambert plays us in on his squeezebox!

GENRE : COMEDY   2009   UK   101 MINS   RATED : 12
DIRECTOR :  LUCY AKHURST
CAST :  CHARLES THOMAS OLDHAM, GREG WISE,
       NAOMIE HARRIS, OLIVIA COLMAN, DEREK JACOBI

“Morris is my life . . . I'd die for it”
so says Derecq Twist (Oldham) a quiet radical of the Morris dancing world struggling to drag, kick and cajole the ancient practice into the 21st century ... only to fall foul of the hallowed Morris Council rules ... and before he’s had the chance to fulfil his life’s ambition of dancing the legendary Threple Hammer Damson, Derecq and his Millsham men are rusticated and their hankies confiscated. This low budget labour of love mockumentary, shunned by distributors, became a word-of-mouth hit on the UK folk scene playing to packed village halls across the West Country. “Very silly, but rigorously so” Time Out

Suggested donation : £3.00 (includes a glass of wine etc)
The Bakery open from 6 for a delicious dish of the day at £7.99

Wendy 562340 wendyharvey@talktalk.net   Elaine 577753 elainez@btinternet.com
There are many herbs associated with Magic and Sorcery, many bound up with countless myths and legends of the British Isles, and others in the quest seeking the “Philosopher’s Stone” – allowing the finder to turn base metals into pure gold. The fact that the hunt continues for this, and for the “Holy Grail” of Arthurian legend, proves the fascination of discovering the hidden or unknown is unchanged through the ages.

Alchemilla Mollis, or Lady’s Mantle, has “Alchemy” in its Latin name because droplets of water on the soft, broad leaves look very much like liquid Mercury; also this magnifying property was thought to be a sign of magical association in ancient times. The Christian Church turned it into a plant connected with the Virgin Mary, and it is known today to have healing properties. So a gentle plant rather than a hurtful one. Elder, on the other hand, has darker associations. Many woodsmen will not cut this tree down fearing bad luck even in these more enlightened times, and Elder wood brought indoors to burn on a fire is not only thought to be unlucky but could invite the Devil inside! The “hanging tree” of Judas, the “Elder Mother” of pagans, is a tree with a powerful history, so the age-old habit of apologising when pruning and thanking when collecting its wine-dark berries may still be a sensible precaution!

Divining “Wands” have been made for centuries from Hazel wood, a pleasant tree of our woodlands and one associated with good luck and fertility. Grown near to Elder it is supposed to keep witches at bay, as indeed are the male Ash tree of many Norse myths and the female Rowan – a guardian tree when planted near to a house, and one that also gives our native songbirds lots of brightly coloured berries to eat! I try to harvest a few from each of my trees every year to make apple and rowanberry jelly for our Christmas table, but they beat me to it this year!

Many herbs have been worn as a “Talisman” for good luck – similar to the Irish four-leaved clover today - or to help ward off evil spirits at Hallowe’en and other specific times of the year. Betony, Artemisia and Valerian leaves are just some of many thought to protect the wearer. These helpful, “magical” herbs have a fascinating history. And, as I advise every October, be sure to keep that pot of Garlic by your front door at Hallowe’en!

Kitchen Herbs of World War Two are our topical November subject.

Lin Saines
Harvest Festival 3rd October 10.00am
followed by a Harvest Breakfast in the hall

Harvest is a time when we thank God for His boundless generosity to us and try to show our generosity to others. Following the service, details of which are in a separate advert, harvest gifts will be delivered locally and to our link church Christchurch Brixton Road. Children and adults are all invited to bring harvest gifts to this service. What will you bring? It may help you to know that it would be really good to have some small (shoebox size) boxes of goodies that would suit an elderly person living on their own. Also Christchurch are particularly glad of the following which go to their 'store cupboard' and provide the makings of a simple meal for those in immediate need:
- Rice, pasta and tea bags
- Cans of protein foods: baked beans, tuna, sardines, meatballs, meat pie, stewed meat
- Cans of tomatoes, canned vegetables such as carrots and peas
- Canned fruit and fruit salad, packets of custard, jars of jam

All Souls’ Service. Sunday 31st 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.

Bible Study group and an opportunity to meet our CMS link partners

There will be a five week Bible study/House group on Wednesday evenings, starting on 13th October at 8pm at Torridon, Westmore Road. If you would like to come or would just like more information please speak to Louise.

The first meeting, which will start with dinner at 7.30pm, will also be an opportunity to meet our Church Missionary Society Link Partners, David and Shelley Stokes. They are setting off to Argentina in November and are coming to tell us something of their work. You can read more about them on the poster in the narthex. We hope that as many of us as possible will be able to come on the 13th even if not able to attend the following four Wednesday evenings. Please let Louise or Jennifer Evans know by 6th October if you are coming.

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Open The Book

At the September service we were delighted to celebrate the baptism of two of our regulars at OTB services, Callum and Emily. They will continue to be in our prayers at this early stage of their Christian journey.

Remembrance Sunday, 14 November

There will be an Act of Remembrance at St Mary’s starting at 10.45 am, following the 10 am service. All will be welcome at either or both of these services.

Parish Records

5th September Baptism of Callum and Emily Hills
12th September Baptism of Samuel Stewart

Flower Rota for October

We will be decorating the Church for Harvest Festival on Saturday 2nd October starting at 09.30am If you would like to help with the floral arrangements you will be most welcome. Please contact me.

3rd October Church decorated for Harvest Festival
10th October Jan Maynard 17th October Kay Roberts
24th October Kay Roberts 31st October Tina Boys

Jan Maynard (Tel: 577659)

Churchyard

The picture shows the lovely view at the churchyard.

There will be another of the tidy - up mornings at the churchyard on Saturday 2 October starting at 10am.
Self Portraits by Reception Class Children

Our full time Reception children started school on Monday 6 September and have settled in very well. They have drawn some pictures to introduce themselves:

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Kevin Bellinger
Head Teacher
On one foggy morning, my brother George, a few other boys and I set off from the village with our catapults and a pocket full of pebbles heading for the Titsey plantation to hunt down squirrels. At that time you could get six pence per tail. Not that we ever received any money for tails! As we approached Clarks Lane, a local man, Mr Bert Lewis, passed us on his bicycle – the bicycle had a carrier over the rear wheel.

He disappeared into the fog towards Titsey Hill. As we passed the end of Beddlestead Lane, there was a loud explosion down Titsey Hill. We all ran to the top of Titsey Hill, where we saw Mr Lemon, a police special constable, come running out of his cottage with a large axe in his hand (the drawing of the scene with the two cottages at the top of Titsey Hill is by a friend of mine).

He ran down the hill with us boys running after him. As we reached the bend half way down the hill, it was clear to us that one or two planes had crashed or collided. There was plane debris across the road and in the trees on both sides of the road.

And, on the bank among the debris, sticking up, was a bicycle with a carrier on the back but no sign of Mr Lewis. Police and firemen would not let us any nearer.

Then came a shout from the trees on the left - “The other one is up here”. We assumed they meant the other pilot. After a while we were turned away and went home to tell our story. Poor Mr Lewis survived but was left with a large dent in his head.
Correspondence:

A couple of years ago I would have been scraping around for ideas to fill my two allocated pages; but now I find myself (once again) having to ask ‘Bob the Editor’ for more space. And that’s wonderful.

Our first report (as promised last month) is from Wendy and Damian Kilgallon of Ricketts Hill Road (11/07):

‘We erected two owl boxes when we first moved in three years ago. Well, when I say we, it was one of our parents who thought that it would be a great idea. He had seen two designs on the RSPB website that were very different in style and had made both and brought them down from the Midlands to put up in our garden.

The successful box is in a Beech tree, about 30ft from the ground, on the underside of a branch that grows at a 45-degree angle (approx). This was following the advice given on the RSPB website. The flight path is not particularly clear, with many trees and branches to negotiate.

For the first two years there was no sign of interest. Even this year we had little hope and had not seen any signs of life until one evening in April. We had been out watching Badgers, and on the way back passed under the Beech tree that had one of the boxes fixed to it, and there it was, the sound of (Tawny Owl) chicks calling from within. We couldn’t believe it! While we watched and waited there was no sign of the mother. The next night we went down again and it was a similar story until finally, a couple of weeks later, we saw the mother coming into the nest. Its flight was so silent; we were lucky to see it.

Eventually the chicks got louder and louder, but the mother was always elusive. Then one night in mid-May, the box fell silent and we thought that we had missed our chance to see them emerge. However, we soon found that they had made themselves at home in the wood and could be heard calling to each other. Even though we could hear them clearly, it was really frustrating because it was so hard to see them. Whenever the mother came near, their calling became louder. For many nights we watched them ‘branch-hopping’ from tree to tree. Apparently, this is what they do when they have fledged, until they are strong enough to make their own way in the world. One night we observed something else they are infamous for – falling out of a tree! The two chicks were in the same tree, one more active than the other, when all of a sudden, the less active one was hanging upside down and proceeded to fall to the ground! We were stunned as we hadn’t read about this trick of theirs, but we later found it to be something that can happen while they are learning to balance. We went to look for the chick but couldn’t find or hear it. We went to bed like two nervous parents. What a relief to see, next night, that both were fine and well.

Then, at the start of June, the woods fell quiet and the owls were gone.’

Thank you Wendy and Damian for such an informative and entertaining report.
The Kemsley Road ‘Reserve’ has been busy lately with some interesting sightings being recorded (01/07):

‘Four squawking **Parakeets** chasing a **Sparrowhawk**. Four **Long-Tailed Tits** (three fledglings and an adult). Two **Swallows** darting over the garden (looked in the bird book to confirm). A **Fox** cub last week? (It may have been the dog and vixen or the vixen and a cub.)’

We can learn a useful lesson from those Parakeets – find some mates for support and face up to any threatening bullies!

**Do you know what’s happened to the Pheasants?** Their numbers dwindled from six when we first moved in to none that we see now. **STOP PRESS!** Saw a lone female this morning. Well spotted, Samuel!’

Well Nicola (Reeves), I went for a walk the other day and saw nothing but Woodpigeons and Pheasants, all busily feeding in the fields of stubble. I’m guessing that with this rich, seasonal food source they have decided to pack their bags. I dare say that when the grub runs out, they’ll be back!

Finally:

‘I was in the office the other day, the house unusually quiet, when I heard a strange sound coming from the kitchen. I crept out of the office to find a **Woodpigeon** pecking at the cat’s biscuits in her bowl! It looked startled and flew around the room before exiting out of the back door where it sat on the children’s climbing frame for several minutes, looking rather shocked!’

Even more finally:

‘We’ve seen lots of male **Blackbirds** lying in the sunshine on the front and back lawns with their wings spread out and beaks wide open. We think they are sunbathing! Or possibly anting? It’s only the Blackbirds that do this, and only the males.’

If the birds are black or brown they are undoubtedly sunbathing. If the birds are green, they are anting – and they are woodpeckers!

Thank you, Nicola. And now a note from Roy Fiddimore (Westmore Green):

‘Just to record that I counted at least 35 (possibly nearer 40) **Swifts** heading south over the house this afternoon (11/09) at 5.00 pm. Obviously on their way to Africa. I thought it was worth noting as I believe by now most Swifts have normally departed due to lack of flying insects in the UK. It is certainly more than I have ever seen before.’
Thanks, Roy. Two days later I saw about 14 **House Martins** flying over Greenway. They were heading northwest, and as they flew overhead I heard them calling, ‘**Time for a change. Iceland, here we come!**’

Back in June, Pauline Conlon sent this amazing message (Paynesfield Road, 28/06):

‘I have just read the Parish Mag (and) was surprised to read about the **Sparrowhawks** as they have been living in our dovecote since at least May. My dilemma is that they have frightened away seven of the **Doves** leaving just one pair who are very brave and have started nesting in the dovecote again, despite being bombarded by the Sparrowhawks. I have tried to frighten the hawks off, but this hasn’t worked as they are braver than me! I have seen three together and now think they are on their second brood and seem very comfortable in their new home.’

An update arrived on August 16th:

‘Update on the Sparrowhawks – they have left the dovecote but left behind a dead chick, quite big and with some down feathers. It was very sad to see. Update on the Doves – we now have seven, so nature carries on after having only two in May.’

What seems incredible, Pauline, is firstly that the hawks would nest so close to human habitation and secondly that a pair of doves would share their nesting site with a natural enemy. At least the influx of Sparrowhawks around the village is now explained. It will be interesting to see if they return to nest next year.

And while we are on the subject of Sparrowhawks; the Pluck family of Paynesfield Road forwarded this dramatic report (06/09):

‘I was so excited yesterday when we had an unusual (for us) visitor to our garden. Whilst pottering about outside, I was distracted by a flutter of wings and what appeared to be a falling bird from the Oak tree on The Square. I almost went out to investigate, but to my surprise a bird of prey had wandered into our garden with a pretty big catch. We watched with amazement, horror and excitement as a tug of war ensued, his catch very much still alive. Whilst running for the camera, death was imminent for what appeared to be a **Woodpigeon** or maybe a **Collared Dove** (we have several of these flying in and around the garden). There were feathers everywhere!’

Enclosed with the letter were two superb photographs of the **Sparrowhawk** plucking its prey. Considering the reports we’ve been receiving, I’m beginning to think this bird has been misnamed. I hereby propose a change from Sparrowhawk to Pigeonhawk!'
Brenda Allen (Crossways) also sent a photograph of a Sparrowhawk, busily plucking a House Sparrow on her lawn. Excellent as this photograph was, it was her second one that grabbed my attention – a three-eighths of an inch ball of spiderlings, about a hundred in number (17/08):

‘I touched the ball and all these tiny spiderlings were swinging away on their webs. They all worked their way back to the ball. Each day they would go off along the webs, but always come back to make a ball for the night. This went on for just over a week and then they were gone, just the webs left. I thought it was fascinating.’

Fascinating indeed – and a superb close-up photograph!

We’re staying with Brenda for what is probably the last letter of support we will receive before the tree-planting proposal is put before the Parish Council. Here it is:

The tree planting proposal:

‘I would like to say that I really love the idea of trees being planted on the end of (the) Approach Road. I have often thought it would be a good idea. I think that Oak or Scots Pine would be the best as they were part of our ancient woodland and we need more of these trees. I love the Beech, but think it is more of a woodland tree. At the end of (the) Approach Road it would need to stand up to the elements. There is an Oak tree already quite big on the other side of the road, so it’s obviously very happy up there. Also, the Oak is so important to so much wildlife. But I love to see the Scots Pine, and they love being high up. We were walking at the top of Leigh Hill the other day and the Scots Pines looked superb. They lose their bottom branches as they get older, so you would still be able to see the view, and these too are important for wildlife.’

Thank you for those thoughts, Brenda. There will be a full update regarding the proposal in next month’s magazine.

With all this summer mail, a few messages are having to be held over. But, we just have room to print Laura Smith’s enquiry (Old Lane, 29-30/07):

‘What have I heard today? To start, I couldn’t see anything, just heard the screeching sound. Second day I’ve heard it. Then three birds circling above my head. The screech is like you hear in the cowboy movies in the American desert!’

I suggested Buzzards and Laura was indeed able to confirm that, using the RSPB’s audio website. Watch out for those ‘Injuns’, Laura. That fine head of hair would make a ‘heap-good’ hunting trophy!

Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com, or leave a note in Linda’s
Autumn Show on 11th September - Once again the Tatsfield Horticultural Society Autumn Show drew an astonishing array of entries of vegetables of all shapes and sizes, flowers, pictures, photographs, crafts and food which upholds the view that there are many talented folk living in our village!

The vegetable section produced an abundance of winners including Bob David who was placed in 18 classes, 6 of these 1st places earning him the Club Challenge Cup for the most points which along with entries in other sections secured him the Presidents Challenge Cup. David Hadden was placed in 10 classes, and Gerald South in 17 with 5 firsts and many second prizes. Britta Erbes also did extremely well with 13 exhibits placed with 8 firsts and she also scooped the Ron Draper Award for best exhibit – her tomatoes.

The flower section had some memorable exhibits from perfectly formed dahlias, to sweet pom pom dahlias to a near perfect Sunflower bloom. Sue Warren was a clear winner with 17 of her exhibits being placed of which 12 were firsts. She took away the Elizabeth Challenge Cup for the most points in this section, the Harry Shrubb Memorial Cup for the best Dahlia and most points in both shows in the horticultural classes winning her the Banksian Medal.

In the Arts section, Linda Lambert won 3 first places earning her the Slatter Trophy. The Craft section had some beautiful hand-stitched work by Mrs Clarke and some delightful knitted baby toys by Mrs King and Linda Lambert.

The flower arrangements are always a sight to behold. Winner of ‘Autumn Sunset’ was Jan Maynard with her striking arrangement of copper colours accented by almost black foliage and complemented by the lime green of an acer. She also took first prize for her floral fan with dark leaves creating a dark backdrop for white orchid and rose blooms. She won the McHugo Trophy for the most points won in this section.

There were some beautifully staged exhibits for the ‘Sound of Music’ class with trumpet and violin accessories as well as clever references to the North Downs Sinfonia. Eileen Pearce won this class. The ‘Afternoon Tea’ class was won by Tina Boys with mini arrangements in tea cups echoing a larger one in a jug.

The junior flower arrangement class titled ‘Bonfire Night’ was won by Sophie Watts, who chose spray carnations and gerbera to give height suggesting rockets with vibrant red, oranges and pinks bursting out of a bed of wine-red foliage punctuated with twigs. This won Sophy the ‘Best in Show’ and the Clark Cup.
Competition in the Domestic section was very even with lots of entries for the banana bread and flapjack classes and some wonderful ideas in the men’s fairy cake class. The Tom Black cup for the most points was won by Jennifer Evans.

The Children’s section is always a delight and there was some imaginative use of fruit and vegetables to depict flowers, notably Mattie Deterding’s use of plums arranged as a flower around an artichoke and Sophie Watts’ use of orange and yellow peppers for petals and cabbage for leaves.

Similarly the 8-11 year olds produced some charming animals made out of vegetables, first prize being awarded to Megan Stokoe with Harry Boys, Jack Hadden and Eleanor Evans close runners up. George Hadden and Zoe Jones came joint first in the ‘Mr Potato Head’ class for the younger age group. Overall winner of the Junior Section was Zoe Jones.

The Photography section was a real celebration of the wonderful displays for Tatsfield in Bloom and Linda Dance’s shot of the wicker figures won her first prize as did her holiday street scene and portrait of Bob David. There were some good entries in the novice section entitled ‘Doors’, with Sybil Yates winning this class. Overall winner of the Jeff Bloxham Trophy was Linda Dance.

No Autumn Show is complete without the presentation of trophies, this year executed by the Revd Louise Ellis, who was greatly inspired by the turnout and exhibits on show. The show was concluded with the usual auction and refreshments. Many congratulations go to all who took part and to those who helped throughout the day to make the show a success. We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Show next year!

Forthcoming events – The Society has two more events this year, both of which are special ones not to be missed – on Tuesday 12th October at 8pm John Warde will be speaking at the Gardening Club about progress at Squerryes Vineyard and on Thursday 9th November Philip Askew of the Olympic Delivery Authority will be telling us about the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Park (his talk will follow the Society’s AGM starting at 7.30pm). Both talks will be of wide interest and everyone is welcome to attend. More details are in the adverts elsewhere in the magazine.

Rosie Fuller (Tel: 573554)
Have you heard the stories about Queen Victoria’s Dreadful Uncles? Wow, what stories they are. Straight-lacedism (new word?) began with Queen Victoria. Things had been said about the aunt who protected her from the court, that she was domineering, wanted to influence the heir to the throne etc. when in fact she protected the young princess from all the goings-on and prevented her seeing the corruption around her. Hence she was a completely moral woman in spite of ascending the throne at only 18 when she could have been so easily corrupted by what went on around her.

The talk by historian, Sheila Boyd was fascinating and romped along at quite a pace. Problem with that was that apart from being very entertaining, as soon as I tried to jot down an interesting point, another one came up and it was difficult to get it recorded, so this report will be a bit sketchy.

The House of Hanover gained the throne after the Stuarts died out. Victoria was portrayed as a severe, non-smiling woman but she brought in a golden age of great prosperity and advancement for Great Britain. When she was born she was not expected to reign, being a girl and having uncles ready and willing to produce a male heir. The problem they faced however was the fact that Henry the Eighth had brought in the Act of Settlement meaning that no heir to the throne could marry a Roman Catholic. Some of the uncles did indeed do that. When the problem of a male heir became more urgent they left their Catholic “wives” (the marriages were not recognised anyway) and married German princesses to produce the desired child. These marriages were loveless and no heir appeared. So despite the cards being stacked against Victoria she came to the throne anyway. George the Fourth was a weak ruler given to excesses. Having failed to produce a male heir the succession was left to his brothers.

The uncles all spent time at court in Hanover, were educated there or were in the army there for a time. Frederick, Duke of York had a failed marriage to a Prussian princess. He then married a Catholic woman. On the plus side he founded two military schools, one being Sandhurst.

William went into the navy but didn’t get on, then went to the Hanovarian court. He was not successful there so went back into the navy. He lived with an actress for some 20 years and was devoted to their thirteen children but left to marry Adelaide, a German princess in a bid to produce a legitimate male heir. He became William the Fourth.

After him came Edward, Duke of Kent, a soldier who became a severe and cruel leader to his troops. Many deserted but those who were caught suffered the extreme punishment of 999 lashes. His troops mutinied and he retired with huge debts. He later married a German princess and she produced two children: Alexandrina Victoria was only eight months old when her father died.
Ernest Duke of Cumberland went to university and then the army in Hanover. He was as savage as Edward. When his valet was found with his throat cut it was widely suspected that Ernest had murdered him although the inquest, such as it was, found it to have been suicide. He married the fiancé of a younger brother then was involved in another incident when someone else was found with his throat cut. He went on to become King of Hanover... lucky them!

Augustus of Sussex was educated in Germany but married a Roman Catholic against his father’s wishes. The marriage was annulled but the couple stayed together for many years. Augustus was associated with many charities and good works and seems to have been a pleasant man unlike his elder brothers. Queen Victoria was very fond of him and his second wife.

Adolphus of Cambridge was handsome, virtuous and a musically talented. He lived in Hanover with his wife and again was popular with Victoria.

None of the brothers fathered a legitimate male heir who lived. Incredibly however, between them there were fifty six illegitimate children. The family’s huge debts and the subsequent burden on the state caused as much of a crisis as the one the country faces today. Victoria raised the monarchy from the depth of depravity to the pinnacle of respectability and changed the family name from Hanover to Saxe-Coburg. She married Prince Albert and produced twelve children, six boys and six girls, who married into royalty across Europe, thereby founding a dynasty. Our speaker ended by saying “Thank Heaven for Queen Victoria”.

We are looking forward to a games afternoon and cream tea at the end of September and there is an outing to Canine Partners in early October as well as another theatre visit being planned. The District Conference is in Westerham this time so is much easier for our ladies to get to. All this is going on as well as the regular activities – Keep Fit, Pop-in, Darts, Whist and Craft afternoons. Our next speaker will be Mr P.J.Durrant telling us about the History and Humour of Fleet Street. We are always eager to invite new members and with so much going on it would be a shame to miss out. Why not give us a try, ladies? Just arrive on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.45 and you will be made very welcome.

Toni Holley

1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

All sections have now settled into the swing of their new programmes and we are about to invest 8 new Beavers who started their Scouting life this term. Eight Cubs and 3 Scouts have already been invested too having moved up the sections.
Beavers have already been making a start on their Global Challenge badge work by looking at recycling and planting bulbs for Christmas and this month will be working towards their Outdoor Challenge badge by putting up some tents, looking at what to pack in a rucksack for camping and learning some new camp fire songs – ably helped by a couple of ex Explorer Scouts. The older Cubs attended the District ‘Sixers and Seconders Camp’ at Broadstone Warren and had a fantastic weekend of activities. This month they will also be out and about on a local evening walk and will be going swimming for some extra practice for the Swimming Gala in November when last year Tatsfield won (so no pressure then!).

Scouts started their programme with work towards their Promise Challenge badge by making their own Code of Conduct, looking at the meaning of their Scout Promise and Law and the new Patrol Leaders will be holding a council once a month to discuss any issues they may have and any contributions to the programme they may wish to put forward. They will also be out and about on a scavenger hunt in Biggin Hill. They will be going swimming and having a night hike and sleepover at Highams Farm thanks to the generosity of a parent from the group - those thick sleeping bags will be put to good use I think as we will be under canvas!

Looking forward we will be having a fireworks evening for all the sections, Cubs will be visiting a local fire station (always a popular visit for all the sections), Scouts will be having their ‘Winter Weekend Camp’ this year at Downe with the Beavers being invited for a day to join them to get a taster of what to expect in Scouting as they get older and to have a go at some of the activities on offer. Early on in the New Year Cubs and Beavers will be joining the District at the pantomime at the Barn Theatre, always a popular one.

So there is much happening even though the dark nights and weather may be against us. Watch this space!

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

BADMINTON CLUB

The club has vacancies for adults with some playing experience. There may also be vacancies in the junior section for under 16s. Interested? If so, please contact Bob David on 577357.

TATSFIELD FILM NIGHT ON 27 OCTOBER - Do you fancy a comedy based on the world of Morris Dancing? How can you miss seeing it? Especially as it will be preceded by Tatsfield’s Mike Lambert on his squeezebox. Details in Village News
NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The lunch on 14th September was fairly well attended. We had a lovely afternoon and the food was superb. It was a happy atmosphere and quite noisy! We welcomed a new member and I hope we shall see her again next month. The meeting on 12th October was to be a Bingo afternoon but it was decided, on a majority vote, that we would rather have a Beetle Drive (I wonder if that’s because it is usually quite hilarious?). We have the usual coffee morning on Saturday 16th October and if the members can manage it, we would be glad of some home-made cakes or pastries to help swell the funds. We are only able to organise the events we enjoy if we can make some MONEY!

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

RAMBLERS

The walk on 19th September from Banstead Woods to Mugswell and back attracted 26 walkers with 5 dogs. October sees three walks just across the border into Kent. October is a good walking month. All are welcome to join in. Details are below. If you would like to know more, please contact us.

Date        Sunday 3rd October
Meet        11am at Ightham Mote car park (map ref: TQ584535)
Walk        5½ miles, 3 hours, to Dunks Green via Fairlawns, pub stop at the Kentish Rifleman, Dunks Green
Leader     Peter King

Date        Sunday 17th October
Meet        10.30am at Penshurst Station (map ref: TQ519464)
Walk        5 miles, 3 hours, to Chiddingstone
Leader     Jean Turner and Carol Vening

Date        Sunday 31st October
Meet        10.15am at Westerham Green or 10.30am at Hosey Common (map ref: TQ446540 or TQ453531)
Walk        6½ miles, 4 hours from Westerham Green- to Hosey Common, Gilhams, Pipers Green, Toys Hill, Puddleduck, Chartwell and Hosey Common
Leader     Dudley Turner

Roger and Angela Sawyers (Tel: 577434)
As autumn weather takes control of our gardens, evenings draw in and we brace ourselves for the gales and rain, it is useful to reflect on an interesting summer. Despite various media reports of spectacular extremes of drought and temperature, we actually managed to produce some excellent crops in the local fields and in our gardens. Our summer displays were spectacular and lasted longer than many of us can remember. Our hedgerows have been full of fruit but it is disappointing how few local folk come out to harvest them these days. I wonder if it is ‘supermarket syndrome’ or just that we are forgetting the country ways, not to mention the great value to be had with cooking and eating such delicious food.

It took many months before we saw the final results of winter frost damage to our garden plants. After looking dead for months many plants started to grow in June and by now many have made some very good growth so now is the time to cut away all that dead wood and get ready to re-shape as they continue to grow next year. I left one of my minis standard citrus plants outside and by late May gave up and took it out of its pot and put it at the back of a newly re-built compost heap; it now has four large shoots and is ready to go back into its pot!

To reduce the chances of autumn rain and wind damage now is a good time to trim back those long straggly shoots of climbers like Wisteria and Clematis; also reduce the long shoots on vigorous roses towards the end of the month. The softer shrubs now carrying a lot of growth like Lavatera, Buddleia etc. can now be reduced. If any of the removed shoots are carrying seed heads, why not tie them in a tight bundle and hang them upside down so the seed eating birds such as the Finches feed on them.

Make sure to avoid composting any leaves or prunings if they are diseased; this especially applies to the leaves of the Horse Chestnut that have been infected by the leaf miner pest as this will provide ideal ‘winter quarters’ ready for an early attack next year. There is a growing risk that if there are successive attacks of this pest it will weaken this great tree and make it more vulnerable to the fatal canker disease.

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

Have you had a look at Nigel’s Nature Notes this month? If not, turn back - they are full of interesting sightings of a variety of birds seen by villagers. If you witness any, let Nigel know.
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