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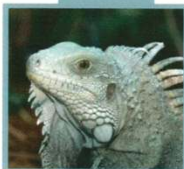
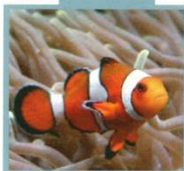
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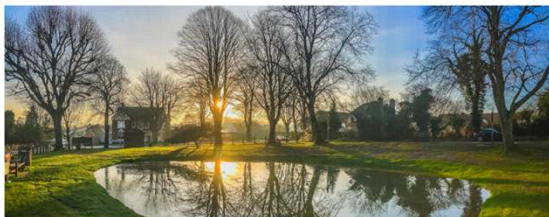
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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

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Ruth Yeeles

CHURCH CONTACTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Church Lane, Tatsfield, TN16 2JX, www.lttm.org.uk

Anglican • Team Vicar: Revd. Vince Short

The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2NA (577289; vince@lttm.org.uk)

Wardens • Marjory Broughton (541059), Chris Hancock (577622)

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk • Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Rd, Warlingham CR6 9DW
clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk (07483 337461)

Chair • Kim Jennings email: kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk, (577328)

Website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield

Tandridge District Councillor • Martin Allen, 38 Paynesfield Rd, Tatsfield TN16 2BG (577201)

Surrey County Councillor • Becky Rush Becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

OTHER CONTACTS

St. Mary's Church Hall - Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)

Village Hall - Bookings Secretary • Helena Garcia (tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk) (07983 011028)

W.I. Hall - Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)

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Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16th of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment in an email to: tatsfieldpm@gmail.com. Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2NA.

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). All loose inserts need to be booked and approved at least ONE MONTH in advance of insertion.

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

Calendar Dates Our calendar usually covers six weeks or more 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?

Advertisements We take no responsibility for the goods and services advertised in the magazine.

Cover image: Photo taken by Vince Short of the East Window in St Mary's Church.

EDITORIAL

Let's think about angels. As we look ahead to a long winter with the pandemic, for many their "angels" are the key workers and those family, friends, neighbours and special people who make a real difference for good in the face of their hopes and fears. Some of us also believe in angels in the literal sense – spiritual beings who carry out their work of protection - normally unseen but on rare occasions made manifest.

Our village has many angels but the need for them at this current time is great. Could you add to the cohort of "Tatsfield angels"? On page 20 there is a note about the opportunity to join in and be a communications angel helping to keep us all connected. Please do call, we need your help.

In celebration of angels, my wife, Veronica, has suggested that it would be a lovely thing to place angels in our windows and gardens this Christmas, in much the same way as we did with rainbows earlier this year. These might be made of paper, card, wood, metal, wool...etc. The wonderful designs that you come up with will certainly lift our spirits. To get us started, Veronica has provided a template on page 19.

The theme of angels should potentially have something in it for everyone because they are not only the small fairy-like creatures that appeal to little children but in reality, they often appear big and strong and perhaps more akin to our perception of the "super-hero".

As is normal, talk of Christmas began in earnest with the return of the schools at the beginning of September; but this year the question has focussed on whether we will have a Christmas that in any way resembles our past normality.

At the heart of Christmas there is an unchanging story of love, as God came into the world to be known by us and indeed to save us. The word itself "Christ-mas" speaks of His identity and the call to remember what He has done. But what of the angels, what part did they play? Earlier, I mentioned protection, but another key role is to act as God's messengers. In the early chapters of the Gospels the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she is to give birth to the Son of God. Another angel appears to her fiancé, Joseph, in a dream, to reassure him. Then, when the great day (or should I say night) comes, a host of angels declare news of the Saviour's birth to startled shepherds, who hastily make their way to the stable to find that it is true.

Our angels of whatever kind speak of love. I believe they also point beyond themselves to God, as the source of love and I pray that we may know that He is with us this Christmas.

God bless,

Vince 01959 577289 email: vince@littm.org.uk

Our front cover this month shows the angel in the east window of St Mary's, Tatsfield.

KEY HELPLINES

Fraud: If you need to report a scam, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Domestic Abuse: If you are at risk, please contact East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service in confidence on: 01737 771350 or the National Helpline 0800 2000 247 which is manned 24/7. The Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership is aware the measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 will put survivors of domestic abuse at further risk. Being unable to leave the home will make accessing support even more difficult and being isolated at home with a perpetrator increases the risk of serious harm or worse. The Home Office has published advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse during the outbreak.

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- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse

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Surrey County Council Helpline: If you need the help of volunteers and community groups, financial support, or help with prescriptions they can be contacted on 0300 200 1008.

Tandridge District Council: If you have a business, Tandridge are responsible for administering the grants and business rate relief that you may be eligible for. You can register on <https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Your-council/Coronavirus>

Food available for parents struggling to provide family meals: Those finding it hard to put food on the table are being encouraged to talk to their child's school or early years setting, or to contact the Community Helpline set up by Surrey County Council to find out about the options available. There are various other sources of food available, including food banks and community fridges. In addition, food hampers are available for some families who need them and again schools will be able to help with allocation.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS...



How about we give Tatsfield an angel-themed Christmas this year? Many of us have been glad, these past months, of “angels” of many kinds looking out for us and giving us a helping hand. Perhaps we could celebrate this kindness and goodwill in Tatsfield by hosting angels within our decorations – inside or out – in whatever medium you choose.

If you’re stuck for an idea, you could cut-out/trace or photocopy the above template for use with or without decoration.

Veronica Short



WOULD YOU LIKE A FRIENDLY CHAT?

We know that many of our neighbours in Tatsfield may be feeling lonely and isolated this year especially during this time of Coronavirus and with the onset of winter.

It's Good to Talk is a group of Tatsfield residents who have volunteered to be available for an informal chat on a regular or occasional basis.

If you feel this is something that you would like, then please get in touch for further details.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Phone or text: 07834 635891

Email: tatsfield.itsgoodtotalk@gmail.com

It's Good to Talk is an initiative set up by Tatsfield residents in conjunction with

LETTERS

Dear Editors,

Security Lights

With the longer, darker evenings I realised my movement-activated security light on the drive had gone a bit astray and was lighting up more than I had intended. I needed to ensure both the sensor and the light beam were angled within my boundary where I need the security. I notice that others may have the same problem as it seems many shine out bright well beyond the immediate drive or garden for which they were intended. This can be most annoying for neighbouring properties when a branch waving in the wind can cause a blast of light almost continuously throughout the hours of darkness. May I please request that others do this simple adjustment before we get any further into the short days and long nights?

Thank you, **Sue Smale**

POPPY APPEAL

Despite the appeal taking place within the second lockdown which curtailed much of the money raising activity, I'm pleased to say that the village stepped up and fully supported this worthwhile cause.



Special mention must go to Ruth Regan, who organised and encouraged Tatsfield School, pupils, parents and staff to raise a massive £490.18. Two consecutive Saturday morning Pop Up Poppy Shops outside Sheree's raised a further £266.07 and again a special thank you to Dave and Sheila Alexander who braved the damp weather to help me out. These two fundraising activities together with contributions from St Mary's church and Tatsfield Scouts pushed our village total to £806.25.

From all at the Royal British Legion, thank you for your continued support in helping our injured armed service personnel and their families.

David Vale

TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

Village facebook page: search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook

Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for 'Tatsfield Talk' on facebook, and ask to join to be able to view and post.

Twitter: @tatsfieldtweet

CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

As you may be aware, there will be no annual Christmas Carol Singalong held in the village this year. This is a great shame and I feel sorry for the children who will miss singing "Away in a Manger" and then receiving a present from Father Christmas and his two Elves.

But if things go to plan (fingers crossed) by next year and with the good Lord's help, along also with the help of very clever scientists, we will be all made safe and sound once again and we will be together (whatever the weather) enjoying the brand-new Christmas lights that will be shining on the trees around our Village centre. Of course, we will all be singing the Carols with great gusto, along with a glass of mulled wine and warm mince pies from Tina and her team outside the Ship pub as usual. And don't forget our Father Christmas always says a loud "Ho - Ho - Ho-" on the microphone along with a message from the Parish Council chairman and a Christmas Blessing from our lovely Revd Vince Short. Now that's something to look forward to seeing and hearing.

Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Dave Bishop



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A CRISP RESPONSE FOR KENT, SURREY, SUSSEX AIR AMBULANCE

Many thanks to all of you who saved crisp packets and Tassimo Coffee Pods for the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance during the first long lockdown. The volume I received was gratifying and clearly illustrates the support the Air Ambulance Service has in the village. Your donations are winging their way to the recycling centre raising funds to keep the Air Ambulance Flying. Though we are again grounded with another lockdown, I will continue to accept your crisp and coffee pod donations so no need to hoard them at home this time.

There have been some changes to the sponsorship due to COVID which mean we get less money per kilo collected and have also lost the free delivery to the recycling centre. Thus, it is even more important to keep the donations coming.

The sponsors of this project have laid down rules that must be followed when submitting donations to the recycling centre. You could help me by following the guidelines below:

- 1. Crisp packets must be flat.** So far as practicable please keep them flat. Please do not fold or screw them up or practice your Origami skills. Crisp packets folded in Origami knots jam the recycling centre machines and if submitted could lead to the project being cancelled. In one sack I had over 100 crisp packets in Origami knots. Very clever but tedious and time consuming to unravel and flatten them. Most get thrown in the rubbish which is a waste. **The outer wrappers of multipacks are accepted and may be folded.**
- 2. Crisp packets must be completely empty.** My garage floor resembles a crisp factory when I sort and empty packets ready for submission to the recycling centre. Again, time consuming and tedious work but if not done can result in the whole consignment being rejected.
- 3. I cannot accept** popcorn packets, wrappers for sweets, chocolate, chewing gum, pork scratchings, meat products, soiled tissues, kitchen roll, bottles, plasters, losing lottery tickets and other such detritus. None of these items are covered by the sponsors.
- 4. Coffee Pods.** All Tassimo Coffee Pods and outer wrappers are accepted. These include Costa, Kenco, Jacobs, Cadburys and many more.
- 5. Nespresso pods.** Only the Nespresso compatible L'Or pods are now accepted. No other brands of Nespresso compatible pods are able to be taken, including Nespresso itself.

Any help you can give me in the above regard would be appreciated. **Before you throw that crisp packet or coffee pod away, just think "This could keep the Kent, Surrey, Sussex Air Ambulance flying". You might need it one day!**

DONATIONS should be left in my porch at 58 Crossways.

Jenny Davies

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN TATSFIELD

Our annual Remembrance Service in the village centre this year was planned for Saturday 7th November. Due to the present conditions the Parish Council and I decided that in the interest of people's safety, the event should be cancelled. Tatsfielders were instead offered the chance to bring their wreaths and give them to a marshal who would place them around the Memorial Stone on the Saturday morning before 11am.



With perfect weather on Saturday morning, one of the first arrivals to the Remembrance Stone was the Police & Crime Commissioner David Munro, who was welcomed by our Tandridge Councillor Martin Allen. After laying his wreath Mr Munro explained that he had to go to some other similar events. Before he left he said "I am honoured and proud to be invited to lay a wreath on behalf of Surrey Police to pay our respects to all the brave people of Tatsfield who gave their lives in the past two wars and since." Councillor Martin Allen said "It's good of Mr Munro to come up to us because he comes a long way and is always pleased to come here. He likes laying his wreath here, as do I for this wonderful Village so that we can remember everyone."



A number of other Tatsfielders also came and laid wreaths, including the ex- serviceman Ted Bonwick who (some years ago) along with the late Dennis Tapsell, started the whole idea of having a Remembrance Stone in the Village centre. Barbara Hester laid a wreath on behalf of the Fairtrade group in Tatsfield and Val Bagshaw did the same for the group of Tatty Knitters. Coming up to 11am, there were quite a number of people standing (properly distanced from each other) on the Westmore Green area. At 11am there was a two-minute silence followed by Councillor Martin Allen thanking everyone who had come to pay their respects.



Thanks must be given to the Tatsfield Parish councillors David Pinchin (Vice Chairman) and Ian Hayman. Our Parish clerk Samantha Head laid out many wreaths on the Friday afternoon. Further thanks must be given to a number of other people for their help and advice including the Revd Vince Short, 1st Tatsfield Scouts, RAF Cadets, Karen Vowles. Credit must be given for the help given by the Flag Marshall Dave Mitchell for putting up the Union flag and the laying of many wreaths. Other people thanked are Paul and Christine, Tina, Bob, Gary, Andrew, Simon, Stephen, Tracey, Sheree, Kirsty, Karen, Pat, Lin, Neil and Sue and a whole lot of others.

Let us hope that by this time with next year's Remembrance service on Saturday 13th November, we can resume the normal service and many attendees plus the parade of the 1st Tatsfield Scouts and the RAF Cadets from Biggin Hill.

There was one other happening that weekend on the Sunday. At 11 o'clock there was the sound of a trumpet heard all over Tatsfield. People thought that I had switched on the public address system for all to hear. I must confess that it wasn't me or my equipment at all but young villager, musician and one of 1st Tatsfield's Explorers, Ethan Syrett, in his uniform, standing outside the Village Hall and playing the Last Post and Reveille in remembrance. I have asked him to play again for us when hopefully we will all be together in 2021.



All the best,
Dave Bishop

GREETINGS FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dear Tatsfield friends

It does not seem like three years since we moved from Tatsfield and we still miss you and often think of you. However the soil is so much better here – not a flint or a lump of clay in sight: so our allotment has flourished and we are well stocked for the winter.

I had been appointed for three years to the two parishes of Avening and Cherington but this has now been extended for a year. This would have been a difficult time to leave so I look forward to a few more months of duties. Let's hope that life will be less constrained by then.

During recent months our congregations have been worshipping in the two churchyards: the sounds and sights of nature have inspired us and the passing walkers, cyclists and farm machinery have reminded us that worship is a part of life and relates directly to it. As you can see in the photos, taken during one of the churchyard services at Cherington, there are many lost sheep in my flock.

When not tending the allotment, I have the difficult task of deciding which of the three local golf courses to enjoy. Meanwhile Jennie is singing with the Avening Angels (the local community choir), organising a community café, going to WI and many other ventures.

We lived in Avening Rectory for two years but have now moved to our own house in Minchinhampton with a large National Trust common with grazing cattle on our doorstep.

We would be delighted to see you here if you would like a trip to the Cotswolds when lockdown is over. Meanwhile very best wishes and have a good Christmas.

Gerald and Jennie South
01453 883456
gp.south@btopenworld.com



TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 9 November, again via zoom. Not surprisingly, the current pandemic and the further national lockdown announced by the Government featured heavily on the agenda. Unfortunately, as a result of the lockdown and despite our successful efforts with Dave Bishop to create a reduced format, the remembrance service eventually had to be cancelled. However, thanks to the efforts of colleagues and other volunteers the village has been made to look special with wreaths laid around the trough on Memorial Green alongside the Silent Soldier, and poppies on display across the village centre. Individually, lots of residents have taken the opportunity to visit the Green and to pay their respects.

As I mentioned in the last edition, we are hoping to have our new and extended Christmas lights, courtesy of Magna Electrics, switched on by Dave Bishop at the beginning of December – the only doubt now is the actual date for that to occur. We will clearly have to wait to see whether and how the current lockdown is to be lifted or extended. One way or another we will make sure the work is completed and the lights are switched on for us to enjoy before Christmas. Thanks also go to Tatsfield Aquatics for donating this year's Christmas tree.

We are obviously keen to ensure that everybody in the village is fully supported during lockdown, particularly as the nights are now drawing in and the winter months are ahead. So, we have updated and reissued our advice in a National Lockdown statement which has already appeared on Tatsfield Talk and on the village website. Please do keep an eye out for neighbours and friends, especially those who are on their own and those who perhaps do not have access to a PC or Smartphone. Barbara Hester's 'It's Good To Talk' initiative in conjunction with St Mary's will be really important so if anybody would like to help Barbara in this do please get in touch with her on 07834 635891 or email her at tatsfield.itsgoodtotalk@gmail.com.

Planning

This month we had three applications to consider:

TA/2020/1656 3 The Parade, Westmore Green Demolition of outbuilding and garage. Erection of two semi-detached dwellings with integral garages. **Comments to be forwarded** suggesting possible replacement of false gables with a lower balustrade, redesign of the second floor terrace and inclusion of a Renewable Energy Assessment.

TA/2020/1891/TPO19 King Edward VII Memorial Garden, Westmore Green Application by TPC for the felling of 4 Ash trees due to advanced Ash dieback. **No comment.**

TA/2020/1692 Fernlea, Old Lane, Tatsfield Erection of enlarged rear dormer. **No comment.**

Antisocial behaviour and police news

Unfortunately, there has been a recent spate of antisocial behaviour in the village, including some vandalism, particularly around the village centre, bus stops and also the village hall and AMB. Several properties were targeted during Halloween including Sheree's Store and Tearoom. We all recognise how difficult life is at present but there really is no excuse for any form of threatening behaviour, including towards young children, or damaging property. Our PCSO Rupert Kelley was informed and he attended on a number of occasions. Do please report any suspicious circumstances to Rupert (Kelley12599@surrey.pnn.police.uk) or dial 101. Any such instances should not go unreported.

At our meeting County Councillor Becky Rush gave us some hopeful future news regarding police numbers. She had recently met the Borough Commander who had confirmed that by the end of March next year there would be nine police officers in post in Tandridge as opposed to the present two. Tatsfield will be given the name and contact details of a local officer allocated to us so we can hopefully begin building a useful working relationship.

Speed Watch

Stephen Mittins reported on a Speed Watch session held in October. Timed to coincide with the end of the school day, Speed Watch volunteers were posted in Lusted Hall Lane opposite the play area on the green for an hour. Happily, out of 183 vehicle movements, there were no speeding vehicles recorded on this occasion. Speed Watch comes in for a bit of criticism every now and again, but I think this recent experience shows that it is an important initiative in calming traffic and that most drivers do take notice of speed limits within the village.

Thanks to our volunteers

Rarely a meeting goes by without mention being made of the enthusiasm and hard work of our Tatsfield volunteers and the meeting this month was no exception. Constructive meetings have recently been held between TPC and TIB representatives and there is now an agreed programme of jobs to be undertaken throughout the village in the coming months, also preliminary plans for the whole of next season. The work our volunteers do throughout the year is exceptional and hugely appreciated.

And finally...

Christmas will inevitably be different this year. But with the recent welcome news about possible vaccines etc. there is now some optimism that next year will be a year of recovery. Let us hope that turns out to be the case. Meanwhile, the Parish Council will do all it can to help keep Tatsfield supported; I know that our residents will do the same. So, from all of us a happy and safe Christmas to you all.

David Pinchin, Vice-Chair, (davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have decided to put on hold writing about all of the activities that I generally get involved in to deal with and stress the most important things that matter to us all at the moment.

New measures to protect residents and support businesses

New measures are in place to help protect people, prevent the spread of Covid-19 and support businesses and employees. The government has produced guidance setting out the new measures which include how we should all stay at home, work from home if we can and only leave home for specific reasons. Under the national restrictions certain businesses have to close, including all non-essential retail, indoor and outdoor leisure facilities like gyms, swimming pools and theme parks, entertainment venues like cinemas and galleries personal care facilities like hair and beauty salons. Non-essential retail can continue to operate click and collect (when pre-ordered and collected off the premises, and delivery services. The government has also announced a range of additional support for business and employees.

Support your local businesses

On behalf of Tandridge District Council we would like to thank all residents for following the national guidance. We would also like to extend our thanks to local businesses and the hospitality sector for everything they have done during these two lockdowns including making their premises Covid-secure to keep their employees and shoppers safe. We appreciate how hard they are working to continue to serve our communities.

Local businesses are at the heart of our communities by providing jobs and essential services and contributing to the unique spirit of our towns and villages and shopping locally also helps to reduce our carbon footprint.

The government has announced a range of support for businesses and their employees. To see the latest information and application forms, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/coronavirus.

We appreciate the festive season will be different for many of us this year and it's vital we all do what we can to support all our local businesses now and when those that have recently closed are able to reopen. These businesses need everyone's support to survive, thrive and continue to contribute to the unique spirit of our towns and villages.

Shopping and dining locally is great fun so this Christmas, eat, drink, shop local and stay safe. This year once the national restrictions are lifted and you are making your plans, why not consider:

1. Purchasing presents at a nearby gift shop.
2. Giving family and friends gift cards from local businesses.
3. Buying cards and wrapping paper from charity or independent shops.
4. Visiting a florist, nursery or farm for your tree, wreath and decorations.
5. Ordering your food from a local food supplier.

6. Visiting your nearest farm shop.
7. Buying homemade or locally sourced produce including, jam, cheese, chutneys, wines and chocolates.
8. Trying the menu at one of the many pub, cafes or restaurants in the area for lunch or dinner.
9. Supporting local events. More maybe online, but you can still take part.
10. Donating to a charity.

We hope you can support the wonderful variety of businesses in the district, spend time with family and friends, while following the latest guidance to keep us all safe.

Tandridge District Council will keep updating the website with the latest guidance from NHS, the government and our work with our partners to support residents, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/coronavirus.

To keep up to date with council and their partners' news sign up to the free newsletters at www.tandridge.gov.uk/signup.

Lastly and importantly for Tatsfield please stay safe and if the Lockdown does have to carry on follow all of the guidelines as that will protect us all including your family and friends and fellow villagers. I would like to continue to see any residents that have been exercising around the village well into the New Year and beyond.

Remember to help Tatsfield Good causes by buying your Tandridge Together lottery tickets. Thank You.

And I wish you and yours the best that is possible over this Christmas and The New Year.

Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201

cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk or martin_allen@talk21.com

CHANGES TO STREET CLEANING SERVICES

From November to the end of January, our street cleaning service changes its focus to concentrate on clearing leaves from pavements and roads. The team also collects litter, empties dog waste and litter bins and removes flytipping.

Roads are selected for leaf clearing in priority order, as well as volume of leaves to be cleared. Many roads need repeated visits and it is not practical to have all roads at the same priority level. We are often contacted by residents at this time of year who want their road cleaned urgently, but we must keep to our schedule to make sure the leaves don't cause any issues.

Please do not blow leaves from your property onto the pavement, or into the road. Fallen leaves belong to whoever owns the land they fall on and the property owner should dispose of leaves responsibly. We apologise for any inconvenience these changes may cause and thank residents for their patience and co-operation.

GET WINTER READY BY CLAIMING UP TO £15,000 TO MAKE YOUR HOME WARMER AND MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

Householders across the Tandridge district are being urged to act quickly to claim a share of up to £15,000 each which is available to winter proof homes and slash fuel bills.

Improving home energy efficiency is one of the simplest ways of saving energy and combating rising energy prices. More than £6.2 million has been made available for residents as part of the central government scheme which will provide grants to eligible homeowners to improve energy efficiency in their homes, cut heating costs and help the environment – and up to 600 homes across Surrey, including the Tandridge district, are set to benefit.

Surrey County Council is also contributing £750,000 to the "Green Jump Surrey" project as top-up funding to cover the cost of works up to £15,000.

The eco-friendly 'Green Jump Surrey' initiative, which is being run by Action Surrey on behalf of local authorities including the Tandridge district, provides funds for a range of home improvement works from free loft, wall and park home insulation as well as new renewable heating systems installed.

A Tandridge District Council spokesperson said: "Everyone has a responsibility to act on climate change and improving our home energy performance represents a major step towards reducing our collective carbon footprint." "That's why this funding is so crucially important. It delivers not only for the environment, but the funding secured will also make a real difference to people's comfort, health and wealth.

However, the funding is only available for a limited time only and on a first-come, first-served basis, so we would encourage everyone to check if they are eligible as soon as possible." Funding is available to those living in a hard-to-heat home and are either in receipt of a means-tested benefit or have a total household annual income of less than £30,000. Private and social housing landlords can also receive up to £5,000 to cover two-thirds the cost of installing solid wall insulation.

Action Surrey helps residents, community groups and business within Surrey to save money on their energy bills, keep warm and reduce their environmental impact.

To check if you are eligible, phone free on 0800 783 2503 or visit <https://www.actionsurrey.org/improve/green-jump-surrey> for more information and to contact us online.

CLAIRE COUTINHO, EAST SURREY MP

It is with a heavy heart that I voted for the national lockdown measures earlier this month. I based my decision on local needs by discussing our situation with East Surrey Hospital and our local NHS Trust and looking at the most reliable data which, in my view, is hospital admissions. However, at my core, I am deeply against fighting the virus this way long term. I want to assure local residents that I sought – and received – assurances that, on 2 December, our exit from lockdown in East Surrey will be judged on our local rate of infection, not on a national ‘R’ rate.

On the subject of health, I recently spoke to Victoria Robinson from Cancer Research, and she outlined her concerns about delays in diagnoses and some people's reluctance to speak with their doctors. As your local MP, I just want to emphasise that if you have existing medical appointments and check-ups, you should continue to attend them. And if you find anything irregular when carrying out self-checks or if you think you need to speak to your doctor about a medical issue – no matter how small – you can and should do so as normal. The NHS is there to serve you – and it remains fully operational.

In light of the new restrictions, the Chancellor announced an extension of the furlough to the end of March – employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to £2,500 per month. We’re also providing even more generous support to the self-employed by increasing the support to the self-employed from 40 per cent of trading profits to 80 per cent for November, December and January. The Government has also made available businesses grants of up to £3,000 per month for businesses that have been legally required to close, and Tandridge District Council’s scheme is now open. More discretionary grants will also be made available to some businesses severely impacted but not forced to close by Covid-19, and I have asked that we ensure they are as wide as possible to allow us to help hard-hit businesses who might not qualify for other schemes.

As part of the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce that I set up with Crispin Blunt MP to support the local economy, we met with the Minister for Skills, Gillian Keegan MP, last month to push for £2.5 million for East Surrey College’s Advanced Technology Centre. This proposal is even more vital considering the need to skill up our young people into the jobs of the future. The meeting was very constructive, and both Crispin and I were encouraged by the Minister’s positive response, and we will continue to work hard on getting this funding and on supporting Surrey’s local economy more generally. In education news, I’m also thrilled that 77 of Surrey’s schools are rated as outstanding by Ofsted, which contributes to the county being listed as the second-best place to live. I’m especially pleased to see a number of our SEND specialist provisions too. During the General Election campaign this time last year, I did a hustings in one of our excellent SEND schools. We’re lucky to have them, and I hope the 213 additional places across Surrey will help to alleviate the pressure they’ve faced this year.

I was delighted to visit the Lingfield Nature Reserves recently, established just over 25 years ago in 1994. I was so pleased to see for myself the brilliant work the volunteers are doing to create this natural haven in the middle of Lingfield. It's remarkable that in such a short time they have such a wide range of species – for example, they now have more types of butterfly than in the whole of Northern Ireland. Last month, I also signed a letter to the Environment Secretary with other MPs across Surrey to ask him to urge Natural England to begin – at long last – the review into the boundary of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy Christmas and extend my best wishes to you and your families for the new year. I know that 2020 has not been the year that we had planned – it certainly wasn't what I was expecting when I became your Member of Parliament last December. It has been a year characterised by unprecedented challenge and tragic loss. But residents across East Surrey can be so proud of their response to those difficulties. From local charities helping those in need, to new groups of volunteers mobilising through Facebook to do their bit, the community spirit across our towns and villages shone through and was so inspiring to be a part of. I hope that with the recent news of promising vaccines on the horizon, 2021 will bring a return to our normal way of life.

If you need help, please contact me at: claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk; or call 0207 219 5972. Do please also check out my Facebook Page (@claire4eastsurrey) for the latest updates.

LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

This month we were very pleased to create our own poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day in the village which was kindly displayed in Sheree's store and tearoom.

It's officially glitter season at Little Acorns as we start preparing for Christmas with lots of festive crafts! The children have had fun playing with rice and glitter, building different things with cardboard tubes and lots of water play.



As we head into December, although our plans are slightly different to normal, we still have lots to look forward to!

We'll be having two smaller Christmas parties for the children to enjoy during their usual sessions with party food and games along with a video from Santa! We'll be collecting items for our Christmas hamper, teddy raffle and small gifts for the children to choose and wrap at preschool for a loved one. We'll also have our usual Christmas jumper day and this year we'll be recording our nativity performance for our families to enjoy watching together at home!



Thank you for reading!

The Little Acorns Team
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

Tatsfield Primary School

Woodpecker Class enjoyed a 'Stone Age to Iron Age' Theatre Exchange afternoon.

Through drama, we focussed on Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers and how life changed in the Mesolithic time and people began to settle in one place and farm.



We focussed on a long house and what may have happened in each of the three areas.



Through discussion, we predicted that people would have worked near the door as that was the lightest area; the largest middle part would have been the main living area with a fire and the rear section away from the door was colder and possibly a store room.



Lastly, we analysed Stone Henge and created our own Winter and Summer solstice worship dance.



ST MARY'S NEWS

All Souls' Service Sunday 1st November

The attendance at the short service on Zoom included people from around the UK and overseas – several of whom would not have been able to join us if we had been in church. Names of our departed loved ones were read and candles were lit in their memory. Our banner for All Souls' also depicted a candle.



Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Although we couldn't meet for an Act of Commemoration in church (or the Village), the church and grounds were decorated for Remembrance and hopefully appreciated by visitors. Our grateful thanks go to the Flower Arrangers and others. The Zoom service from the Rectory included the reading of the Roll of Honour and the observation of the 2-minute silence in memory of all who gave their lives for the peace and freedom that we enjoy.



Toy Collection

Our normal toy collection on the 1st Sunday of Advent (29th November) could not go ahead for various reasons. For those still wishing to donate new toys at Christmas, Welcare suggest supporting Stripey Stork's Santa Stork project. Full details can be found at: <https://stripeystork.org.uk/santastork/>

(If any new toys are received locally at The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, on or before Sunday 13th December they will go to Christ Church, Brixton Road.)

Foodbank Collection

Christmas deliveries are planned for Monday 14th December to Christ Church, Brixton Road. (At the time of going to print, we also plan to deliver to Westerham food bank at the end of November.) If you would like to support the collection, please contact me or you can leave any food at the Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road. Thank you. **Hilary Vale 577864**



Photo by Debbie Schiel from Freemages

*A Very Happy Christmas
from the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team of Churches*

St Mary's Tatsfield Christmas Services 2020

We warmly invite you to join us.

Services by Zoom Video Conference

the link can be accessed via the notice sheet on the homepage of our website:
<https://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys>

Sunday 13th December 4.00 pm – Carol Service (Zoom)

Christmas Eve 4.30 pm - Christingle Service (Zoom)
11.30 pm - Midnight Communion (Zoom)

Christmas Day 10.00 am - All Age Communion (Zoom)

Services in Church

When the current lockdown ends, a 9am Holy Communion service (with no congregational singing) will also take place on Sundays and Christmas Day (if applicable). Any changes to the above will be published on village noticeboards, the church website and Tatsfield Talk.

Christmas giving to The Children's Society

Last year, we were able to give over £800 from the generous gifts at our Christmas services and in response to Sauro Gabelli's Christmas Tableau in the church. This year will be rather different as we will not have the normal popular large services in church or at the School. We are grateful that Sauro hopes to complete a Christmas Tableau, as usual (gifts may be placed in the box in the Narthex at times when the church is open). The Parochial Church Council have set aside £500 from church funds for The Children's Society and we are pleased that Sherrie will have a collection pot on her counter during the second half of December. We would like to encourage additional donations so that The Children's Society do not miss out. Please support them directly via <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk> (or contact us for gift aid envelopes or details for direct giving via the church).

Posada

Sadly, due to the Pandemic, our Nativity figures of Joseph and Mary, will not be making their annual journey around Tatsfield and the surrounding area. However, they will be appearing at our services.

We congratulate Revd Helen Cook on her appointment as our new Team Rector for the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team (based at St Peter's, Limpsfield)



The following announcement was made on Sunday 1st November: **Appointment of Team Rector at St Peter's, Limpsfield for Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry by the Bishop of Southwark** "We are pleased to announce today, the 1 November 2020, that the Reverend Helen Cook, presently non-stipendiary minister, Redhill, St Matthew, in the Diocese of Southwark, has been appointed Team Rector of St Peter's, Limpsfield for Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry, subject to completion of the necessary procedures. Further details regarding the licensing service will follow in due course."

Flower arranging team

Flower Ladies - Do hope you are all keeping well. There will not be any flowers in the church during Advent. I do not know about decorating the church for Christmas yet but when I do, I will be in touch. Stay safe. **Ann 577207 Jan 577659**

Revised weekday opening time from 5th November (during lockdown)

During lockdown, St Mary's Church opening times for private prayer have been revised to: 10am-1pm on Thursdays and 1pm-4pm on Sundays. Visitors are required to wear a

mask. Please read and follow the **safety guidelines** by the entrance porch, including the use of the **hand sanitiser** provided on entry and exit.

Wednesdays 7.30pm - 8.00pm - An invitation to learn from the Bible together

Lectio Divine (Bible reflection) with Chris and Ellen Goldsmith. The Zoom link can be found in our notice sheet which is accessible via the homepage on our website.

Churchyard Extension

We are currently working towards a topographical survey to assist us in planning the layout; and professional removal of the existing hedge (a new hedge is already taking shape on the new boundary).

Records

17th October Interment of Ashes of Derek Gibbons

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the November draw:

14. S Tatler £25 92. M Langford £15 64. J Spicer £10 St Mary's £50

The Millennium Hall remains closed at present, but we continue to review when we may be able to re-open to our regular groups.

St Mary's Church Website: www.lttm.org.uk

Have you tried Zaytoun Fairly Traded Palestinian Dates?

You may remember that in Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 we were lucky enough to have a visit from Zaytoun. Zaytoun are a social enterprise, ethical company promoting sustainability who sell Palestinian produce in the UK. Since their visit we have stocked their Olive Oil in the shop, which has proved extremely popular.

Another of Zaytoun's Palestinian products is Medjoul Dates. Dates are one of the world's oldest grown fruits and they thrive in Palestine on the fertile soils around the ancient city of Jericho. These dates are high in fibre and potassium, with a natural sweetness that makes them a tasty treat any time of the day.

Palestine Gardens is a date farm just north of Jericho in the West Bank. Being close to the Dead Sea, the land there is 300m below sea level and the climate is favourable for date growing with hot summers and warm winters. Land in the West Bank is divided into three areas, A, B and C. This farm is mainly in area C where the land can only be used to grow produce. In this area they used to grow bananas and citrus fruits, but as both of these crops require fresh water, which is extremely limited they moved over to growing dates in 2007. Dates are a crop that can be grown using saline water which they access from wells.

Date trees start to produce dates at four years old and are fully mature once they are 10 years old. Harvesting takes place between September and October and the farmer places nets around the bunches of dates to protect them from insects and to catch the ripe fruits. The dates are collected three times over the two months of harvest.



This year there has been a good yield of 12,000 tonnes. Palestine Gardens is fortunate to also have land in area A where they have been able to build their packing house. There they pack both their own dates and the dates from other farms. They then export the dates through neighbouring Jordan which adds to the overall cost.

Please look out for these delicious and nutritious dates in Sheree's Store now.

TATSFIELD WI

We wish all our members, their families, their friends and the wider community a great Christmas. Our Committee will be distributing our best wishes to members in the form of a Christmas 'hamper' of edible and seasonal gifts. (Many thanks to the Tatsfield Mask Makers for their donation.)



There seems to have been a window of weather most days recently that allows me to take a walk out and about in the village and I always bump into someone doing the same thing, often people I have not seen for some time so a 'distanced' chat often ensues.

OK Christmas will be a bit different this year, but hey, we can do different, can't we? If you cannot have a big family get together how about a 'cook and share'- by that I mean if you would normally cook a big batch of mince pies or sausage rolls maybe a couple of cakes or a box of sweets, why not do so as normal and share with a neighbour or a family member outside your bubble?

This is what I intend to do this year and it may help towards my dilemma over what to get for a Christmas present for my children and grandchildren. They all love their festive food and have personal favourites that they look forward to each year (not to forget the little bottles of sloe gin and vodka!).

We remain optimistic for the New Year when we can at last look forward to a healthier and happier future.

Susan Smale, 01959 577660

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

NDS would again like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for the chance to rehearse in the hall at the beginning of November. There were fewer players than in September or October, because with the Tier system in operation, people from Tier 2 areas – for instance Biggin Hill and Orpington – were not allowed to come to the hall. Now, of course, with another lockdown, the hall has had to be closed to all but Little Acorns, so a December rehearsal will not be possible.

The orchestra had hoped to have a November concert, as it has done for the past 13 years, and is still hoping to have a concert in May 2021, but who knows? Whatever happens, there are a lot of frustrated players out there who are cannot wait to get back to making music together!

Peter Maynard

OUR ASH TREES

Many of you will have seen the recent clearance of a large number of trees along Titsey Hill and, elsewhere within our parish, the felling of a number of ash trees on some individual private properties.

The devastating rate of ash tree decline across the UK is caused by a fungal pathogen which causes 'ash dieback', also known as Chalara dieback of ash. This is a chronic disease of ash trees that has spread across Europe and is characterised by leaf loss and crown dieback in infected trees. In summer months it attacks the trees leaves and produces spores, which are then spread around the tree in the rain and wind causing more infections.



Ash trees that are suffering will show signs of loss particularly in the top of the tree crown. Severely affected trees will not bud or flower in spring. Often severely affected trees will produce epicormic growth (sprouting from the lower trunk) that show the tree is struggling for life. It is particularly destructive of young ash plants, killing them within one growing season of symptoms becoming visible. Older trees often survive initial attacks but tend to succumb eventually after several seasons of infection.

Unfortunately, ash dieback is now spreading across Surrey, Kent and throughout our parish and, due to the number of ash trees around Tatsfield Village will have a significant impact on our woodlands over the next few years.

Tatsfield Parish Council commissioned an arboricultural survey of all of our Parish Council owned land this summer and this has identified advanced ash dieback in many of our trees. As a result of this, we unfortunately will have to bring forward the felling of the worst affected ash trees in the Millennium Wood, King Edward VII Memorial Ground, Kemsley Wood and Ashen Shaw. A total of 56 individual trees and ten groups of trees were recorded as requiring either felling or tree works. A TPO application has



now been submitted to Tandridge District Council to fell four affected trees in King Edward VII Memorial Ground. Within Kemsley Wood there are five tree groups with a total of 131 trees affected.

The Parish Council recognise the importance of our trees to the natural environment and the role that the woodland setting plays in defining the character of Tatsfield. We do however need to ensure that we monitor the health of our trees and will continue to assess the trees on PC land on a regular basis to track the advancement of ash dieback.

As we look forward longer term, we will need to assess the mix of trees growing in the woodlands and consider options for re-planting with other species for our future generations.

Jason Syrett, Tatsfield Parish Council

BARN THEATRE, OXTED

JANUARY 2021

Kick in the Head – Mother Goose (*A fabulous touring potted panto, full of fun for all the family with Idle Jack being.....well.....idle, the Fairy Godmother keeping her eye on all the mischief to make sure no-one is too naughty and our wonderful Goose trying to lay her first lockdown egg*)

Saturday 16th (11.00, 3.00 & 7.30) & Sunday 17th (11.00, 3.00 & 7.30) (Tickets (£8.00 - £12.00) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk)

Oxted Comedy Night (*When did you last have a good laugh? Change that and come and see Arthur Smith and the comedians from House of Stand Up*)

Saturday 30th (7.45) (Tickets (£25.00) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) **18+**

FEBRUARY

Southern Counties Drama Festival – A first round of the All-England Theatre Festival

Monday 22nd – Saturday 27th (2.30 (Sat) & 7.00) (Tickets (£10.00) available from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01959 561811)

THE BARN THEATRE HAS BEEN PROFESSIONALLY CERTIFIED AS COVID-SECURE

Information pertaining to all the above shows can be obtained from:

www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 15a High Street, Westerham. Kent. TN16 1RA. 01959 561811

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB



With Christmas looming and a vaccine around the corner the Not So Young Club looks forward to an active 2021! Our festive celebrations this year will be a last-minute decision depending on what we are allowed, however, the committee will not forget our members and try our hardest to make the season memorable for all the right reasons. If we are unable to meet as a group we will try to organise one of the highlights for members at our normal meetings - a raffle! We can do this by way of loading a car with prizes driving to a members' home, they can then choose a number that has been allocated to another member and we can then transport the prizes to them and so on! A kind of Santa's delivery raffle!

To help enable us to do this if any kind villagers would like to donate a prize a member of the committee would be happy to collect before 9th December.

We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting 2021 when hopefully some sort of normality can be achieved. There is a busy calendar including visiting the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, afternoon teas, light luncheons, bingo, quizzes, garden party and we have a few milestone birthdays to celebrate!

We would like to say a big thank you to our helpers who have always been ready to help on the few occasions that we have been able to meet.

Finally, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.

Take care and keep safe

Sue Dowse

07816 110929, notsoyoung100@gmail.com

EMERGENCY INFORMATION – DEFIBRILLATORS

The following Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in and around Tatsfield. No prior training is required as instructions and audio guidance is provided:

Village Hall, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Crossways Court, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Mayfield Stables, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day, on left hand side of entrance.

TATSFIELD PFA 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for October 2020:

1 st Prize	Nigel Gracie	£48.00
2 nd Prize	Ken Budgen	£32.00
3 rd Prize	Les Eames	£16.00

Thank you for supporting sport in Tatsfield. If you know of anyone who wishes to join the 100 Club (for a modest £6 per month), or if you would like additional numbers, then please contact me at les.eames@ntlworld.com.

Les



CHANGED DATES FOR THE FILMS AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Curzon Country Cinema were going to show “42nd Street” and “1917” in November but sadly the Covid-19 restrictions meant that these terrific films had to be cancelled. We can’t be sure that the position is going to be any different in December, so in the hope that it will have improved by the New Year the two films have been re-booked at the Village Hall for January – “42nd Street” on Saturday 9th at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm) and “1917” on Saturday 16th at 7.20pm (doors open at 7pm). All social distancing and other Covid-19 measures will apply. The number of seats will be limited, so you should book and pay online – at www.curzoncountrycinema.co.uk. Tickets are £10 for “42nd Street” and £5 for “1917”.



Information about the films was given in the November magazine. Both films are special ones – the hit musical “42nd Street” was filmed live in the West End at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and “1917”, made by Sam Mendes, tells the true-life story of two young British lance corporals in the First World War finding their way across a war torn Europe to deliver a vital message. We have few opportunities at the present time to go out for a treat and here are two chances for you to do that safely in the village.



Bob David

THE OXTED ROTARY CHRISTMAS PLEASE CAMPAIGN



PLEASE give a little . . . PLEASE take a little . . .

This Christmas promises to be most unusual and we are having to adapt to the way we run our Christmas appeal for funds to help those in need, so Oxted Rotary Club will be running an online appeal that allows the community to give a little and take a little.

To help fund this initiative, we would normally provide a large Christmas tree outside Boots and collect loose change from passing shoppers in the weeks prior to Christmas but this is no longer possible. Instead, we are asking you to give a little by text message and our giant tree is being replaced by a smaller tree close to the water feature outside Elements Salon, maintaining our 50-year-old tradition of erecting a tree in Oxted High Street at Christmas time.

So, to give a little, Make a Wish to Santa and . . .

text PLEASE followed by your donation amount to 70085

For example, to donate £2.00, send PLEASE 2 and your text will cost the amount of your donation plus one standard rate message. PLEASE help us to help others enjoy their Christmas.

To allow those in need to take a little, we are extending our Community Grant Scheme in order to help deserving families with children under the age of eighteen and we have teamed up with Morrisons to provide Gift Vouchers for turkeys and other seasonal goodies in the immediate run-up to Christmas.

Oxted Rotary Club is inviting applications NOW from those in need, so if you believe that you are likely to meet the eligibility criteria and you live in Oxted or immediately surrounding areas, please complete an application form and send it to us as soon as possible.

To obtain an application form, either send an email to grants@oxtedrotary.org.uk with 'PLEASE' in the subject line, or, if you need a hard copy, request an Oxted Rotary PLEASE application form by sending your name and address to Tandridge Voluntary Action, email info@tva.org.uk

The value of Gift Voucher Grants will depend on the circumstances of the family applying and will be entirely at the discretion of the Oxted Rotary Club. The vouchers will enable the recipient to purchase anything from a Morrisons store with the exception of tobacco or alcohol and applicants are required to affirm their agreement to these conditions.

A little give and take will make Christmas happier for everyone.

Rotary 
Club of Oxted & Limpsfield

“THE HERBER”: HERBS AT CHRISTMAS

What’s this? “Back to the future” or “days of future passed” perhaps? Old Tatsfield residents will hopefully remember my monthly herb articles from 2006 onwards, often featuring the Horse Trough on the Memorial Green, planted with seasonal herbs and tended by my husband Martyn and myself for more than a decade. The wording on the Memorial Stone, shown on the front cover of our 2020 November magazine, was my suggestion. Tatsfield’s Horticultural group enjoyed a day at Rye Castle in 2009 when I was part of our Village Committee and viewed my planting within the Medieval Rye Castle Garden and Still Room display in one of the Archers’ cells at Ypres Tower. Since then, I’ve become a Speaker for West Kent WI and other groups, including talks at our Village WI Hall and, most memorably, to over 300 WI ladies at a special “Speaker Day” at Ditton, near Maidstone. With all talks cancelled in this extraordinary year I thought it was time to write some more articles for our excellent Parish Magazine, including herbal recipes and uses around the home as before, and where better a time to start than the festive season?

Fragrant herbs and oils are an excellent and cost-effective addition to both Christmas decorations and festive fare.

Throughout autumn I collect cones, beech masts, rosehips and interesting woodland items to dry on wire cake racks. Some of these are spray gilded, but most left plain. After placing everything in a large bowl herbal oils are added to the mix, including ancient, sensual **sandalwood** from Jamaica, English **cedarwood** and essential oil of **frankincense** from the Middle East. This particular oil has been used for over *ten thousand years* to anoint newly born babies, mixed with oil of the **olive tree**; so, a very thoughtful and expensive gift from a Royal stranger, as his offering to the One newly born in Bethlehem so long ago. Most herbal oils can easily be found online these days!

After drying orange slices using the residual heat from a roast Sunday lunch, assembling all the collection within a tall glass container couldn’t be easier. A home-grown **Bay** tree is a treasure, and lots of resin-scented, freshly picked



leaves can be added, everything topped with **cinnamon** sticks wrapped in twine. This annual decoration for our hall table scents the home throughout the festive season and long into those dark January days ahead.

My highly scented bath bags are popular with the WI ladies for gifts and are easy to make, but you have to think ahead. Dry individual **rose** petals on wire racks, then add them, chopped into small pieces, to a mix of medium oatmeal, **lavender** and essential oils of lavender, rose and **rosewood**, if you can get it. Pile a couple of tablespoons onto a saucer-sized circle of muslin, tie with a long piece of twine and hang over your bath tap for a country scent long after summer has departed. Try presenting them either in small baskets or cardboard boxes lined with tissue paper. Most of my friends add them to a certain drawer in their bedroom before they use them! Oatmeal is a wonderfully natural, skin-softening addition to your bath.



Finally, my “Downton-Style” Christmas Terrine is a great way to use up the last of your Christmas feast and, whenever it is in my recipe leaflets, I get lovely feedback. I think even children love assembling this. Line a large loaf tin with bacon, importantly with no gaps, leaving ends to lap well over the sides to form a top later. First put in raw sausage meat flavoured with **thyme** leaves, pressing it well down to make the base that will eventually be the top. A layer of cranberry sauce and some turkey and ham slices follow. Now add thinly sliced leek topped with chopped **sage** and lots of **parsley** leaves, then repeat the turkey, ham and cranberry sauce. Finish with a thick sausage meat layer

topped with the chopped parsley and thyme. Fold over the bacon top, put some fresh bay leaves down the centre and then wrap loosely in foil. Place in a roasting tin with cold water filling halfway up the sides, the mysteriously named “Mary’s Bath” or “bain-marie” that keeps air moist in the oven. Cook at medium heat, 190 degrees, (375F) or Gas Mark 5, remembering everything except the sausage meat and bacon has previously been cooked, so don’t overdo it!

I love turning this out onto a board when cold, sliced through into individual servings. It freezes well, wrapped first in baking parchment then foil, because the cranberry sauce acid can taint. We normally enjoy this special terrine warmed, accompanying a jacket potato with lots of pickles and chutneys, or as a packed lunch during a winter outing as a memory of the recent Christmas past. Of course, any of the above contents could be left out and replaced with your own favourites to become over the years, like ours, a most important and traditional post-Christmas parcel of goodies.

Look out for my “Herbs of Easter” springtime special next year.

Lin Saines



NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Our first item of correspondence comes from Paul (Jackson) and Jon (Allbutt) (17.10.20). It relates to an article in 'The Guardian' about the creation of 'hedgehog highways' as a means of creating free access for these endangered mammals between neighbouring gardens. Gardens are a stronghold for hedgehogs and anecdotal evidence suggests holes in fences and walls have a significant impact on populations. The creation of these 'highways' is also seen as a way of forming friendships within village communities. In the midst of so much grim news this is a great story, wonder how we might get an initiative like this started in Tatsfield!

For the full story, go to the Guardian article at the following web address: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/oct/17/prickly-business-hedgehog-highway-knits-a-village-together-kirtlington-oxfordshire-aoe>

We have lots of unintended gaps beneath our fences at home. I did, however, create a hole in our front fence a few years ago. I expect you can guess what it gets used by - pesky cats! But it is a seriously good idea. Thanks for the contribution.

Our next email is from Stuart Payne who lives in Bexley, but frequently visits his Mum in Paynesfield Road. (Stuart is one of my old Cubs so I was particularly pleased to hear from him. We usually have a catch-up at the THS shows but, alas, not this year.) I'm sure we all hear goings-on in our gardens during the night, but we don't often get the chance to see what's happening. Stuart has found a solution to this problem (29.10.20):

'Been meaning to get in touch for a while about some of our sightings in Mum's garden in Paynesfield Road. Last year we invested in a relatively inexpensive 'Apeman' trail camera, to see if we could spot what was using the garden when she wasn't. It's triggered by movement and records stills or short video clips, in colour during the day, black and white after dark. In the first week we were able to confirm that it was Badgers that were digging and leaving regular deposits in one corner of the garden! They seem to be visiting every few hours during the night. We have also captured Foxes, sometimes two together, and mice. Then in the summer something ate just the flower heads from the geraniums. After a couple of attempts we caught a deer by the pots and in the next shot the flowers



were gone! Finally, and perhaps luckiest of all, we recently saw [a] Tawny Owl. There are bird feeders hanging on the apple tree the camera was strapped to, so maybe a mouse had come out to eat the crumbs and the owl had swooped down on that, but unfortunately you can't see what the owl is standing on!'

It's amazing what goes on under cover of darkness. Who'd have thought your Mum's garden would have been such an interesting

place at night. Looks like the camera was a good investment. Many thanks for the notes, Stuart.

Our final message this month comes, again, from Jon (Allbutt). This draws our previous themes of 'hedgehog highways' and night cameras rather nicely together (16.11.20):

'I have a wildlife camera that I put down under the beech tree every once in a while to see who is using my 'wildlife gate'. No cats, regular Badgers and young Foxes and only a few Hedgehogs. This could be because our four back gardens are separated by 4" square stock fencing that a hedgehog could use freely.'

In addition, I expect you all saw the lovely display of meadow flowers next to the Westmore play area this summer. As the initial proposer of wildflower planting and our resident wild plant expert, I asked Jon to update us on any developments:

'I have been campaigning for ten years or more to try and get a strategy to establish more native wildflower meadows on Westmore Green and the Approach Road verge. I organised a meeting in January 2020 between Parish, District and County councils to try and persuade them to adopt the 'Plantlife' national campaign together with its very helpful guidance. The result was a two metre 'non-mow' strip along the hedge on the section of Westmore Green opposite the allotments to allow the wildflowers Tatsfield in Bloom had been sowing there for years, to develop. I am expecting a good showing of Cowslips and other plants next spring. My request for creating a linear meadow along the Approach Road verge was noted for action. Disappointingly, the result was that it was mowed as usual. The Parish and District Councils got together and sowed a small demonstration plot of wildflower seed - not all native - that was very successful and created some interest. It seems there is little enthusiasm for taking practical steps to enhance our environment following Allbutt's well-worn saying, "Act Locally and Make a Difference".

Lack of action and enthusiasm can be depressing and de-motivating. I think you might find there is considerable latent enthusiasm, Jon, but not necessarily where you expect or hope to find it. Your belief in acting locally to make a difference is increasingly relevant and I, for one, hope you will keep the faith and continue to fight for environmental improvement. Your efforts are appreciated by many people. Keep up the good work!

Alys Fowler (The Guardian) has filled me with a yearning desire to go running into the garden to gather fallen leaves. Apparently, when composted, they create a soil so soft and rich it makes her want to strip naked and roll around in it. So, can you guess what I want for Christmas? Yes, that's right – a super-sized lawn rake!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2020

Over the last few months, we've been watching the two "gas giants" Jupiter and Saturn low down in the evening skies initially in the south east but now more towards the south west. During this time, we have observed them moving slowly but steadily closer together. On the first of December they will be about 15° above the horizon in the south-south-west at 5pm when they lie approximately 2° apart – about four Moon diameters. By the 17th there is just $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ between them when they will be joined by a slim crescent Moon that is a little to their east (left). They continue to close, with Jupiter doing most of the running, until on the 21st they will be just 6' (six arc minutes) apart. A circle, as you know, consists of 360° and an arc minute is one sixtieth of one degree. Given how close together they will be, it may be difficult for the naked eye to split them. Following this "conjunction", as it is known, Jupiter continues its eastward journey leaving Saturn in its wake.

Don't forget to look for Mars because it is well placed throughout December. At the start of the month, it is already 30° high in the east-south-east at 5pm and reaches due south just after 8pm with an altitude of 45° . As the days pass Mars rises earlier and reaches the meridian earlier but remains visible until well after midnight even by the end of the month. It's orange/red hue gives it away immediately. Its position on December 13th is shown on the map.



December brings the most active meteor shower of the year, the Geminids, so called because the meteors appear to radiate from a point within the constellation of Gemini.

The shower is active from December 4th to 17th but maximum activity is forecast for around 8pm on the evening of the 13th so it is worth looking as soon as darkness falls.

Meteors, or less scientifically shooting stars, are caused by tiny particles, typically the size of a grain of sand, which strike the Earth's atmosphere and vaporise, giving rise to the streaks of light that we are familiar with. They seem to radiate from a single point, the radiant, because they are travelling in parallel paths and therefore suffer from perspective in the same way that snowflakes do if you're travelling in a car or railway lines that disappear into the distance. Because of this you tend to see shorter meteors close to the radiant and longer ones further away. The position of the radiant is shown on the map by a circle with an "R" in it. It's useful to know where the radiant is because after you have seen a meteor you can follow its trail backwards to see if it comes from around that area, proving whether it was a shower member or not.

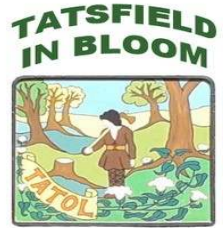
Astronomers can model the particle streams that are left behind by comets or asteroids as they pass in orbit around the Sun and can predict when the Earth will encounter the densest part of those streams. In the case of the Geminids the culprit is Asteroid 3200 Phaethon, a body with an orbital period of just under 1½ years that makes an approach to the Sun that takes it well within the orbit of Mercury. It has been observed for more than 35 years with the result that we know and can predict its position extremely accurately giving rise to the ability to pin down the time of peak activity so precisely. However, in practice, things are not quite that simple because the streams of particles that cause the meteors are perturbed over time by the planets and in particular by the gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn.

These particles are more correctly referred to as meteoroids when in space but become known as meteors when they "burn up" in the atmosphere. Should any fragments of larger meteors make it to the ground then they are classified as meteorites.

Brian Mills FRAS

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

With the second lockdown now in progress due to coronavirus, the volunteers have found themselves unable to work as a group on Saturday mornings during the second half of November. However, individuals have still been going out collecting litter or removing the seed heads from the pansies and violas in the containers.



We are still trying to carry on with one of our projects for this year by planting tree seedlings at the allotments to grow them on for distribution around the village. If anyone has any beech or oak seedlings growing in their gardens, please let me know so that we can arrange for you to bring them to the village centre.

A decision was made to leave the 'Spitfire carpet bed' on the Tatol bed until after the Remembrance Day celebrations, although in the end these had to be scaled back considerably. The plants have been removed and some of them stored for the winter with the idea of using them again in 2021. The bed will then be turfed over for the winter. The three oil painted panels have been removed so that they are not damaged by the weather and a new home is being sought for them as Ben Holmes, the artist, has very kindly donated them to the village.



The Committee have been meeting via Zoom to make plans for 2021, although at this stage there are so many unknowns as to the situation in the summer next year. We have decided to keep the scale of the planting to the level we achieved this year with the ordering of plants perhaps from local suppliers in case of cancellation.

Two themes have been suggested and are being worked on – 25 years of Tatsfield In Bloom and celebrating the work of the NHS and volunteers during the coronavirus outbreak. Plans are still at an early stage, but these will be filled out during the coming months.



Jill Hancock (577622)

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN DECEMBER

The October long term average rainfall for our area is 98mm, our actual rainfall was 180mm, that is a record!! So far November is looking a pretty average month for weather – winds with gusts of 40mph, three air frosts and rainfall, so far, is just 54mm (the average is 88mm). I am already being asked if we should get the sledges out and polished up for Christmas snow! There is an increasing trend for sudden changes from mild to cold weather with temperatures plunging by as much as 10^{0C} in a few days. To have any chance of good sledging snow that lasts we need a big high-pressure area that feeds cold air in from the North and East, that is something we haven't seen for some years now. Looking at the expert's predictions it does seem that towards the end of the month there is a chance of high pressure moving in with settled colder weather – snow? – maybe!!

It has been another bad year for Ash Dieback; it is very sad to see so many of our great native trees almost bare long before they are due to lose their leaves. If you have dying Ash trees in your garden be sure to take professional advice, we have some excellent local tree surgeons in the area. This does not bode well for the future and we must accept that with so many Ash trees dying in Tatsfield, our lovely wooded views will be much diminished. We must act now to replace these losses with native Beech and Oak! Look around your garden for those small seedlings of Oak and Beech and make sure they are not pulled out as weeds! By the time they are a couple of years old they are ready for transplanting. Remember just how big these trees will be in 100 years or so, and do not plant them near to your, or your neighbours, houses! If you have a lot of seedlings why not offer them to others who have the space? The Tatsfield in Bloom group will be planting a small tree nursery of Oak and Beech this winter – many thanks to the Allotments Committee for the space – they will be offering these trees to the community in 2022. If you have spare seedlings, please contact me on 577100 and I will make sure they are added to our growing collection. Better still, why not give them to your family and friends to plant, maybe in remembrance of someone you lost to the COVID-19 virus.

Do you have any Sunflower seed heads in the garden? Did you know that they are a vital food for birds and other wildlife? Collect them carefully and put them in a dry place for a few weeks, then either put them in net to hang up, or break them down to release the seed and put them out on the grass or on the bird table in small handfuls when the weather turns cold.

We can't be sure what kind of growing season we will have next year but now is the time to plan your vegetable growing projects. Order your seed now and when the ground dries out – might be a while yet! – prepare it for sowing and planting. Don't forget if you are a member of Tatsfield Horticultural Society you will get a very large discount when ordering from Suttons Seeds.

Jon Allbutt

TATSFIELD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

At the end of September, we completed another successful year. Due to the current situation, we were unable to keep a good record of our turnover, but it felt like that we maintained the same number of bins in and out.

The new shredder performed very well, but only on the few occasions that we had the numbers of volunteers for us to be able to get it out and operate it. However, it did block towards the end of the season as the material got damper and damper.

Finally, I would advise that Phil and Helen Brett have left Tatsfield and are in the process of moving to Bexhill. Phil has been our teamleader for the last two years and we will miss his dedication and drive as well as his woodcraft skills, resulting in the transformation of the site with the installation of the new bins and containers, he produced. We wish Phil and Helen every happiness in their new life in Bexhill.

Rupert Eales-White 570985 ew@rupertwriter.co.uk

A PLEA FOR COMPOSTING VOLUNTEERS

Following on from the above we are now appealing to the whole village and specifically those that use the site regularly to come and volunteer with us on Saturday mornings between April – September 2021.

We unfortunately lost two regulars this year, one to the COVID regulations and the other to the fact that he had done his time (something like fifteen years) and decided that was enough. As a village, we should all be most grateful to him for his time and commitment during the years that he volunteered with us.

Most worryingly, as Rupert advises above, we lost our leader Phil Brett who moved out of the village in early September. He will be sorely missed and if no one steps up to take on the leadership role of this site, there has to be serious consideration as to whether it can continue.

Phil's programme of grant applications over more than eighteen months allowed us to buy a new shredder in 2019 and to completely finish the rebuild of the site, where we now have 36 compost bins for the green waste, two larger compost bins for the finished product, 2 covered bins for allotment waste, three reserve bins and three separate and covered waste receiving bins. Phil completed most of this work on his own during the early months of Lockdown and we should all be grateful for his efforts.

We continue to provide a valuable green waste recycling facility for the village in these environmentally conscious times, as well as a precious volunteering opportunity for our young people of the village, DoE participants add an extra dimension to the In Bloom competition.

If you would like to take on a good bunch of enthusiastic volunteers then please come forward, I would think that key skills a potential leader would need are time, organising skills, mechanical skills, familiarity with grant applications, an ability to use a computer; having a knowledge of the composting process would be useful but can be provided.

I would be happy to discuss this with you if you are interested, otherwise please don't say in two years' time "where has the compost site gone?".

Martin Allen 577201 martin_allen@talk21.com

GARDENERII PRUNIPHOBIA

(The Gardener's Fear of Pruning)

One of the very first jobs I had to do as a 16-year old apprentice working in the wonderful rose garden in Walpole Park in Ealing was to learn the art of pruning roses. My instructor was old (he must have been all of 50!), grumpy, smelly and he spoke in a strange mixture of West London and foreign (I learned later that he came to London from Italy as a child).

With me holding a pair of old Rolcut secateurs, old grumpy would point to where I should make the cut, sloping and above a bud of course, I was terrified! I also had to use a pair of ancient wobbly loppers with loose wooden handles to chop off the big gnarly non-productive wood. Watching him work I was convinced that he was just in a bad temper as he worked quickly over the rose bed cutting and chopping leaving just stumps. I was told that I was pruning roses that were at least 20 years old and the only way to keep them 'young' and get a good display was to prune them hard. I also learned that pruning is a quick job, no time for standing back to admire your work, or mistakes!

We were taught that each shrub must be pruned according to its 'horticultural merits', that is, to know your plant and apply 'gardener's rules' so that it grows and flowers within the boundaries of its allocated space.

Pruning flowering shrubs has been a big part of my life, including introducing gardeners, both professional and amateur, to the art of pruning. Without fail every one of them has at first been disbelieving, frightened, and very hesitant! I can see the smiles on the faces of our Tatsfield Community Volunteers as they read this and remember their first attempts at pruning under my eagle eye!

If left unattended, a flowering shrub will grow, flower, and continue to grow until it reaches its maximum potential. As it grows there will be a tendency for the amount of flower to become less and also smaller. But it is not as simple as that, there is also a large group of shrubs and small trees that just get better and better as they mature, for example Rhododendron, Camellia and many more. Confusing? Yes, it is! Fortunately, we have access to excellent information in books and on the webby thingy! Take the RHS for instance (www.rhs.org.uk), they have identified no less than thirteen Pruning Groups,

each one carefully described with more detailed guidance for each group available in their excellent book *Pruning and Training*, a very good Christmas present for a keen gardener.

When pruning it is important to remember that, in general, a plant will spring into growth at the point where you make your pruning cut. If you hesitantly nibble around the top of the shrub, that is where the new growth will appear. Continuing to do this will create a mop headed, or top heavy, plant that eventually will become bare at the base and lean wearily over your path and other plants. Many gardeners then feel forced to cut off the top growth to make room, only to see more growth returning on top again! Shrubs that have developed like this need what we gardeners call 'renewal pruning'. A pruning saw, loppers, big bags (to take your prunings up to the community composting scheme) and sturdy kneelers are needed for this task. Get down into the base of the shrub and take out whole pieces of old woody growth, then stand back and watch the response of strong young shoots from the bottom. This strategy has its risks; you will remove flowering wood and it may take a year or so for the plant to produce wood mature enough to flower; the plant may be too old and weak and may die. But it is also true that some shrubs thrive on annual very hard pruning! There is no substitute for knowing your plant, and what it needs by way of care and attention to gives its best for you.

In Tatsfield we are very lucky to have our Horticultural Society that runs two shows a year and has a Gardening Club where all your questions can be answered – well almost all!!! Have a look at our website www.tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com or give me a call on 01959 577100.

Jon Allbutt

CHARTWELL CANCER TRUST

OBITUARY: MR PRAKASH SINHA

Tributes and donations pour in in memory of one of The Princess Royal Hospital's most gifted and dedicated surgeons.

It was with profound shock and sorrow that family, friends and colleagues learnt of the tragic and untimely death of Mr Prakash Sinha, Consultant surgeon and Medical Director for the Princess Royal University Hospital and long-standing supporter of The Chartwell Cancer Trust.



Mr Sinha was a truly distinguished surgeon who began his career at Bromley Hospital in December 2002, moving to the PRUH when it opened in 2003. Here, he served for nine years as a Consultant Oncoplastic Breast and Endocrine Surgeon within Endoscopy Unit before being appointed as Medical Director for the hospital in 2018.

Mr Sinha was a hugely committed and energetic supporter of The Chartwell Cancer Trust – a charity that supports local cancer and leukaemia services to improve cancer care raising funds for capital projects, equipment, training and additional NHS staff.

Through their work, the charity has achieved great things at the PRUH including 15 years support for The Chartwell Cancer and Leukaemia Unit and investment in cutting-edge breast cancer scanners and state-of-the-art equipment to create virtual cancer clinics at the hospital. A vigorous advocate of the charity, Mr Sinha undertook numerous personal fundraising challenges in aid of the charity including trekking the length of the Stok Kangri Range of the Himalayas with characteristic zeal and spirit.

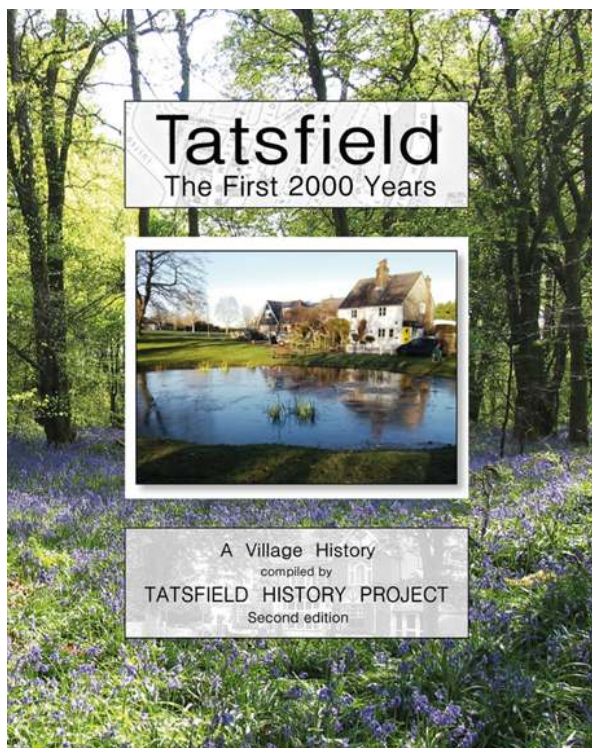


"We feel immense gratitude for the contribution Prakash has made to our charity as we have grown over the years. We will miss him hugely and mourn his loss whilst also celebrating the incredible legacy he leaves behind. We are also deeply moved and honoured that, at the request of his family, donations in loving memory of Prakash will be dedicated to our charity and the work we do for cancer care."
Michael Douglas, Honorary Trustee, The Chartwell Cancer Trust

Donations in memory of Mr Prakash Sinha can be made via his Just Giving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/prakash-sinha>

TATSFIELD – THE FIRST 2000 YEARS, NEW EDITION

We ran out of copies of the first edition of this book not long after it was published in 1999 under the editorship of the late Eileen Pearce. It has long been our ambition to satisfy the hitherto unmet demand for copies.



We were also aware of the need to update the text to record how Tatsfield has developed since the Millennium. We have nevertheless been careful not to lose the essence and style of the original book.

The second, revised, edition went to the printers in the middle of November and our aim is to have it on sale early in December - in time for Christmas.

Whether you are a newcomer to Tatsfield or an 'old-timer' we hope you will enjoy this opportunity to delve into Tatsfield's past.

The price will be £10 and we are pleased to say that the 162-page book will be on sale in **Sheree's Store and Tea Room**.

Further details will soon be available in the village and posted on Tatsfield Talk as well as on the History Project's website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS UPDATE

As this is the last issue of the Parish Magazine for 2020, I thought I would provide an update on what has been going on at TMA and how the pandemic has impacted us.

During the two lockdowns we have had this year, the club has had to close. Personally, this was extremely difficult, especially during the first lockdown. Not only is the club my business, but training and teaching martial arts is a massive part of my life. It was the first time in the last 40 years that I haven't had a judo class to go too. So, suddenly I had all this spare time on my hands – although the home schooling did take up most of it!

The club is affiliated to two National Governing Bodies (NGB). The British Judo Association (BJA) for judo and The National Association of Karate & Martial Arts Schools (NAKMAS) for jujitsu.

When lockdown ended and restrictions eased, both NGB's released return to training plans in line with the Governments and Sport England guidelines. As both judo and jujitsu are close contact sports, we are extremely limited in regard to what we are allowed to do – social distancing and hand to hand grappling don't really work together! Regardless, outside of lockdown TMA remained open, offering socially distanced classes with several additional steps in place to keep the venue and club members as safe as possible. Our jujitsu classes are currently focused on solo training, so kind of shadow boxing for martial arts. For our judo members we have judo fitness classes, using drills that mimic judo moves and muscle memory, plus we have a same household class which does allow contact between members of the same household - so on a Saturday morning there are lots of judo dads chucking their kids about!

In March, the club had 96 members training. Around 30% of our members have returned to train in the socially distanced classes and a number of other members have confirmed they will be returning to training once contact is allowed again, however there no guarantee of this and no doubt 2021 will be spent rebuilding numbers. In January the club turns six years old and I have no doubt we will see our 7th birthday and beyond. If there's one thing judo teaches, it's not to give up.

Have a great Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Adam Plinston

FIVE MINUTES WITH....

Our feature returns this month when we talk to Chris from Magna Electrical, who have generously sponsored the new installation of Christmas Lights in the village.

How long have you lived in Tatsfield?

I have lived in Tatsfield with my family since November 2013, having moved from Beckenham mainly for the primary school and the village way of life. My wife and I felt that by moving here we would be giving the girls the best start possible and we think that they have absolutely prospered as a result of being here.

From a work point of view, I had previously spent 13 years within the corporate industry of electronic displays, selling electronic components to equipment manufacturers all over the UK and Europe. In 2009 I decided to take the bold step and re-train to be an electrician. Although daunting at the time this has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I felt the electrical trade was one that I was able to use the knowledge I had gained from my engineering background and it was a trade with a future.

With the new technologies coming through now that have environmental considerations like LED lighting, solar, car charging points etc there is a route for future progression within the industry that offers longevity and variety.

What happened after you retrained?

After having completed my training I worked for numerous companies within the domestic and the commercial arenas all over London and the South East. From the HSBC Tower in London and Global Radio in Leicester Square to numerous schools in the Bromley area as well as domestic projects from full re-wires to small light changes.

Having had eight years working for other people I decided it was time to see if I could do it for myself, so in April 2018 I started Cmack Electrical Ltd. I had great success here picking up a lot of local business through the Parish Magazine as well sponsoring the Beer Festival staff t-shirts and beer barrels over the years. In addition to this I have generated invaluable working relationships with other local businesses including Musselwhite Builders and Tatsfield Aquatics.

Why Magna?

After a successful first year, I decided it would be beneficial to be part of a larger organisation. This way I could share the back-office work and admin and concentrate instead on securing new business and carrying out the actual work. I approached my father about merging with one of his companies, Magna Installation and Maintenance or Magna IM. Magna is based in the Midlands and incorporates multiple trades from building services, plumbing and gas, air conditioning and of course electrical services. The long-term plan is to offer the same full range of services as the Midlands office does here in the South East, but one step at a time!

Not long after re-branding to Magna in April 2019 I took on my first employee, Jon, who rapidly became an integral part of the operations here. After another prosperous year in 2019, 2020 has been...interesting to say the least!

What have you been up to so far in 2020?

As there was a lot of uncertainty initially in February and March with the COVID situation taking hold we did take some time off in March and filled some time doing some volunteer delivery services for Sheree's shop for some of the isolating residents of the village. As soon as we were able to continue working in locations that were conducive to social distancing restrictions we were back open for business and since the summer it has been full steam ahead.

What can we expect to light up the village this year?

With all the restrictions on village activities this year, we felt that the community could do with something to lift the spirits a little which is why we are delighted to be involved in the installation of the new Christmas lights this year along with Ian of Tatsfield Aquatics. After we struggled last year to keep the lights on consistently on due to some wiring deterioration over the previous years, we are now working with the Parish



Council to install new lights in on the memorial island as well as adding another tree across the road by the bus stop. In addition, we will be lighting a Christmas tree that is being kindly donated by Tatsfield Aquatics. Magna will be donating all the lights and their installation at the end of November in time for their switch on at the beginning of December.

From all at Magna we wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Chris McMullan

07884 243 509, chrismc@magna-im.com

www.magna-im.com

www.facebook.com/magna2020/

AVIAN FLU – UPDATED ADVICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Poultry and other captive birds

Further testing has confirmed the case of avian influenza H5N8 in broiler breeder chickens near Leominster in Herefordshire to be a highly pathogenic strain.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England effective from 5pm on 11 November 2020. The decision to implement this AIPZ follows a risk assessment containing the latest scientific and ornithological evidence and veterinary advice.

The AIPZ means a bird keeper in England (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions. Further details of the measures that apply in the AIPZ can be found in the AIPZ declaration and our biosecurity guidance. Bird gatherings are not permitted within the AIPZ. The general licence for bird gatherings was revoked on 11 November 2020.

The following 3 cases of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds have now been confirmed:

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 was confirmed on the 10 November in broiler breeder chickens at a premises near Leominster, in Herefordshire. A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 was confirmed on the 2 November at a premises near Frodsham, Cheshire. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises.
- Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 was confirmed on the 2 November at a premises near Deal, Kent. A 1km low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) Restricted Zone has been put around the premises.

Wild birds

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols. As part of this surveillance of wild birds, the following have all tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8:

- a number of geese near Stroud in Gloucestershire
- several swans near Dawlish in Devon
- a goose near Weymouth

The following wild birds have also tested positive for avian influenza H5N8 (pathogenicity to be confirmed):

- a goose and a buzzard near Ormskirk, Lancashire
- several different species of geese and ducks near Boston, Lincolnshire

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77).

TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE – 25 YEARS AGO

For this Christmas issue, we thought we'd look back at the thoughts of previous editors of the Parish magazine, as they appeared in December 1995...

MAGAZINE MEMOIRS

by Rosemary Petrie

I have proudly indicated that I was Editor of the magazine for some thirty three years - but this is not true! However, I have been associated with its production for that length of time. When my mother, father and I moved to Tatsfield in 1962 it somehow got mentioned that in my previous parish I had typed their magazine - so the Revd. Kenneth Lewis asked me to do the same here. For several years I did - sending the copy to a printers, who set it up and supplied the completed magazines, which then included an inserted leaflet.



However, in 1969 it was found that printing was becoming too expensive, so it was decided to produce them here, using a duplicator. An electrically operated one was purchased and this was kept at the home of Stan and Edna Doughty. Stan not only did the duplicating, he ran the paper through twice (once with red for various titles and to enhance the advertisements, which he got produced on litho stencils). Also he dealt with the covers; and I believe the first one was a portion from an Ordnance Survey Map, with Tatsfield in the prime position! In the May 1969 issue there was a report of the church A.G.M. (it wasn't an A.P.C.M. until much later) and in this was noted ".....the Rector paid tribute to the effort made in producing the parish magazine locally and expressed the hope that the magazine would become an integral part of village life and wished this forward looking experiment every success."

The articles then were mainly church based but there were items from the Not-so-Young Club, the W.I. and a few sports and leisure Societies. I now typed the copy on stencils and had to organise the page sequence, with occasional fill-ins; but the usual number of pages was 16, or 20 at the most. Stan ran them off on the machine and he and Edna organised a working party to collate the copies - regular helpers included Lewis and Margaret Hassall and Tom and Doris Brookes. As regards subscriptions at that time - in 1969 copies were 6d each and in 1971 they were 2 1/2p. We stopped having the insert in 1971; again because of cost.

At the end of 1978 Stan, Edna and their team gave up the production side of the magazine, so we needed somewhere to keep the duplicator. Lillian Upcott, who at that time was the United Reformed Church Pastoral Representative and lived in Westmore Road, offered the use of her "upper room". Ian Wilson and Bernard Wittey agreed to take it in turn to run off the magazine and when neither was available I took a turn at it. So as Ian and I were Anglican and Bernard a Catholic, the production side became ecumenical. Betty Perry did the collating up there too. I don't know about the others, but I used to get coffee and biscuits when I was there. When Lillian moved away, Kathleen Coltman, who replaced her, kindly continued to offer the same facilities. However, when she moved to smaller accommodation, there was no room for the duplicator, but we were offered the hut at the rear of the U.R.C. By this time I was doing the duplicating on my own (I'm a little hazy as to the timing of this development). As the U.R.C. was near to Betty, I then took the pages over to her so that she could collate them in her own home. The hut did not have the comforts of the house in Westmore Road and it was a bit eerie if I was there late at night. Also by then the machine was getting old and temperamental. However, the worst time I remember was after the 1987 storm when I went down in the dark and had to climb over a fallen tree to get to the hut.

Over the years the covers have varied - the majority have been black line drawings and the names of the artist that spring most readily to mind are the Revd. Peter Atkinson, Betty Perry, Ron Michell, Wendy Campling and Ken Poole. We did have a three colour cover for 1979 - St. Mary's Church 900th Anniversary - (a lot of extra work for Stan!) In the Eighties the covers were printed by a local firm, so there was a bulk delivery at the end of December (once or twice they were late so the January issue was also delayed). The month was put on with an ordinary office date stamp and later using a "John Bull" printing kit - an extra task for Betty! There was a period when the covers were produced by Ian on the photocopier of the local estate agents where he worked - I believe this obviated payment for their advertisement. He was able to alter the month each time - as was done later on when we used our own copy printer at the Rectory.

Then came the advent of a different technology. In September 1988 the Diary pages were done on the Rectory copy-printer and in October I started using it for the whole magazine. The Revd. Peter Atkinson did the layout setting up for that issue, providing the illustrations and I struggled with the copy-printer. I somehow had a bad effect on it, at least in the beginning and there was a lot of creasing. I can remember being almost in tears when it did not go right.

I can recall too printing the reverse page upside down (once or twice for the limit of 99 pages!) - I refunded some petty cash if there was much wastage. It was a slow job - both the machine and I could not be hurried and it took me one morning to do the cover and the advertisement pages and two more mornings to do the actual copy - at that time we only produced 360 copies. I quite enjoyed setting up for the copy-printer as I now had a chance to have some illustrations and I liked trying to find something to fit. When it was duplicated, the only artwork I could do was to type "Editorial" in an arrangement of xxxxx's. In 1989 I was doing the advertisements - from approaching the firms, to attempting the necessary artwork - but as I find it difficult to draw a straight line the borders could be erratic.

So you see the evolution has been very gradual and circumstances have changed all the time and now 700 copies are printed and every household receives one!!

Twinkle, twinkle

by Gerald South

....how I wonder what you are. When Jane Taylor wrote this nursery rhyme in 1806 she, along with the rest of her generation, could have had no idea of the answer to her wonderings; stars were just dots of light in the sky with no obvious explanation, no indication of their distance, their size or even why they were alight.

Thanks to the many advances of 20th century physics we now have some answers that we could give her.

We know that the sun is a particularly close star (only 93 million miles away!), but that even the nearest of the other stars are so far away that it takes their light several years to reach us. We know that stars are born out of enormous clouds of gas and reach temperatures of many millions of degrees resulting in a hydrogen bomb in the sky. We know that large stars can be so hot that they appear blue but last "only" a few million years; smaller stars, like the sun are orange or red and can live for billions of years. We know that when a star does come to the end of its life it can manufacture

all the elements which make up our planet - oxygen, carbon, iron and the rest - and it can then spread these over vast areas of space in a spectacular explosion; the matter which makes up your body and mine was formed in such events some five billion years ago.



OK.....that's the end of the physics lesson. Some people find that thoughts such as these give the impression of a cold austere universe, devoid of meaning or sense; for others these insights add to the sense of awe and wonder at the richness of creation - so complex and yet hinting at some simpler underlying structure.

I find myself belonging to the second group - how about you? I am most grateful to be living in an age when we are continually learning more and more about the nature of our universe, partly because the more we know, the more we realise is our ignorance - there is no room for certainty or arrogance in science.

Two reasons led me to choose stars for the theme of this article, the first is that we have had some beautifully clear night skies in Tatsfield recently. These enable us to see some of the wonders of the sky - for example, look towards Westerham during the latter part of the evening; the distinctive stars of Orion are to be seen, a line of three for his belt, a red star for his left shoulder, a bright blue star for his right foot; just below his belt is a hazy area, best seen with binoculars, which is a star making factory.

Exploring the heavens with the help of good guidebook and binoculars or telescope can be far more entertaining than the average television programme. Furthermore, as we look above we are seeing much the same sights as our ancestors did hundreds and thousands of years earlier - a very real link in the chain of human evolution. Ancient peoples allowed their imaginations to wander and have passed down to us all the constellations, rich in myth and legend. Recent generations have had electric lighting and sadly this has resulted in our being far less aware of the stars, planets and even the moon; we are the poorer for it. In fact the amount of light which our modern way of life generates is causing "light pollution" - there are very few areas of England where the sky is dark enough to see many of the less bright stars and in built up areas it is impossible to see very much at all - our obsession with artificial light is depriving us of the natural lights of the skies. The Campaign for Dark Skies, launched in 1990, is working to ensure that new lighting not only cuts down light pollution but also saves energy - let's hope they succeed. They are currently seeking the help of interested observers in a national survey of star visibility - I can provide further details to those interested.

The second reason for considering stars at this time is that a star is one of the traditional symbols of christmas - one which has fortunately survived to the present day, perhaps because of its obvious visual appeal. There have been many interesting explanations of the light which led the magi to the stable, and we may never know the true one, but the real message of the christmas story is not to be found in the unimaginable vastness of space. Rather it is in the limitless potential that resides within each of us; "god become man" brings a challenge to respond, to value ourselves and each other, and to realise that we are capable of reaching for the stars (metaphorically speaking). It is not always easy to see these possibilities - once again the brightness and business of modern life can obscure our vision of ourselves and our own value. Our ancestors seemed to be aware of this problem - they created the season of Advent, the three weeks leading up to Christmas Day, as a period of quietness before the celebrations which were spread over twelve days. I think I quite like that idea - perhaps I will start a Campaign for the Return of Real Advents (and twelve days of Christmas!).

In Tatsfield we have a church which is not only very old, it also keeps alive many of the customs of worship which have been developed over the centuries - the period between christmas and easter offers many such opportunities. It is also an excellent place from which to observe the stars of the southern sky. We are fortunate indeed to have a place which offers so much of value.



Dear All

Christmas is already looming and in America I was intrigued to find many all-year-round Christmas shops in their "Malls". For many Christmas, "Xmas", is a time of fantasy. The fantasy that there will be a good time. That there will be happiness and goodwill. The cupboards must be stocked, every variety of booze purchased and everyone who sends one will receive a card in return.

Much of this is good. My fear is that we lose sight that the Christmas story is earthed in everyday reality, not in fantasy. A mother's screams as she brings a child to birth. The illegitimate birth in inappropriate conditions of a son to refugees. A story of hope in the midst of trouble and turmoil.

Christmas is a time to be hopeful. But the hope is earthed in the reality of the story of "God-with-us", the coming of Jesus into our world. The real world. Not the world we like to create today at Christmas-time. I hope that the Church services at St Mary's over the Christmas season will have a real atmosphere, yet reflect this.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy Christmas.

COLIN CORKE

At the beginning of this issue, we heard from Jennie South along with Gerald on how they are enjoying life in the Cotswolds. Here's a report from Jennie as Headteacher 25 years ago...

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Developments

At the start of this term an additional classroom was put in place to accommodate the increasing number of pupils. Since becoming a 5-11 Primary School in September 1993, we have nearly doubled in size! We are really enjoying seeing the development of our first ten and eleven year olds who are becoming mature, confident and responsible members of the school.

In a recent debate following a trip to the British Museum as part of their study of Ancient Greece, these children had to select one exhibit and make the case for saving it from the Museum in the event of a fire. Their arguments were persuasive!

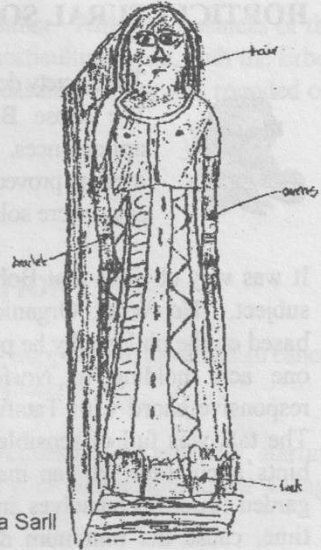
Joanna Blackburn chose the Rosetta Stone:

“We are gathered here to talk about what we should save in the fire. Personally I think we should save the Rosetta Stone. It has three types of language, Greek, Egyptian and Demotic characters. Without the Rosetta Stone we could not decipher Ancient Egyptian writing. It also shows what it was like then. It is a very famous stone and some people will be very sad if it gets burned.”

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Kye Newark chose an Egyptian mummy. He wrote:

"The Rosetta Stone is just a piece of rock. If it gets damaged we can make another one but the mummies are real people and you can't make another one. Scientists can do research to try and preserve people in the future but now you either get burnt and no longer exist or get buried and eaten by worms. Mummies are older and worth more because the Rosetta Stone is nothing more than a silly lump of rock. At least the Mummies were alive once!"



A Mummy by Alexandra Sarll

Starting School

Parents who want their children to start school here in 1996-97 have just had to complete their applications. We are once again oversubscribed and some people living in Tatsfield nearly missed the deadline!

If you have pre-school children please think ahead and let us have details early so that we can make sure you receive all the information you need at the right time.

I am always happy to meet parents and show them round the school. Please call in or telephone (577356) to make an appointment.

Sainsbury's Schoolbags Scheme

We are collecting Sainsbury's Schoolbag tokens which can then be exchanged for school equipment - anything from a £10 Collins book token for 230 vouchers to a camcorder for 15,000 vouchers!

If you have any of these vouchers we would be very happy to receive them. Please either send them to school with one of our pupils or drop them in to school where there is a collecting box in the front entrance hall.

Jennie South Head Teacher



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