

MAY 2021

Tatsfield Parish Magazine

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A large photograph of Titsey Place, a grand stone mansion with a prominent bay window and a red brick chimney. The house is set in a lush green landscape with a large, colorful flower bed in the foreground and a green lawn. The text 'Titsey Place' is written in a large, elegant script font, and 'OXTED, SURREY' is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it.

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

Editors • Tracey Syrett and Tara Barry

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Advertising Manager • Sarah Tait **Production** • Ruth Yeeles

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Anglican • Team Vicar: Revd. Vince Short

Church Correspondence • 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)

Parish Room Bookings • (07920 772880) email clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Kevin Bellinger (577356)

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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: Bluebells in Park Wood by Tracey Syrett

EDITORIAL

As we go through the Government roadmap with the staged easing of restrictions until 21st June, we might reflect on the question: “What is it like coming out of lockdown?” For some it will be daunting, as they weigh up when and how it will be safe for them to go out and mix as in times past. Added to this, they may be out of the habit of the things they used to do or even actively choosing not to go back. Others though, will be bursting to get on with shopping, gatherings, activities and especially holidays, including overseas. Just recently, I fell victim to this enthusiasm when I was turned away from an event where, apparently, I should have pre-booked my place among the small socially-distanced limit on numbers, that was clearly far exceeded by pent-up demand! We’ve all had to learn patience, as we wait for things to open up and as things are of necessity done differently.

This month sees the celebration of Pentecost (Whitsun) on Sunday 23rd May. Being the fiftieth day from (and including) Easter Sunday suggests an element of patience concerning the full celebration of all that Christ had done. Whilst we rejoice at Easter, the first disciples were somewhat restrained at that point. St John’s Gospel speaks of them being behind locked doors for fear of the authorities. However, as Jesus appeared among them on a number of occasions, He brought both peace and expectation as, following His Ascension, we then find them gathered in greater numbers, when they are prayerfully waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. The effect of His coming at Pentecost was to kick-start the life and growth of the Church – thus sometimes being referred to as the “Birthday of the Church”. Those previously fearful disciples were ecstatic and emboldened as they went out to the crowds who had gathered in Jerusalem for that annual agricultural festival and something about their presence, testimony and preaching convinced many others to become Christians.

It has been a hard year, as many have lost loved ones and been unable to mark their passing as they would have wished. Additionally, other special occasions, including weddings and special birthdays have fallen by the wayside or been scaled down. Let’s hope and pray that we may emerge to better times and avoid a third wave.

God bless,

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

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.

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If you would like to go on the waiting list for spaces, please email Sarah Tait, Advertising Manager on tatsfieldmag@gmail.com. We are also able to distribute A5 flyers with the magazine on occasion and with a minimum of one month's notice.

LETTERS

Dear Editors

I wonder how many other residents of Ricketts Hill and other villagers in the vicinity, would be relieved, not to have to risk life and limb, if the sand path were to be extended? Now that the Millennium Wood has had Ash dieback trees removed, there is space for a sand path on the opposite side from the houses and their drives. Ricketts Hill is on a bus route and it is also a rat run for cars from the motorway. Trying to keep out of the way of traffic from Tatsfield green to the sand path on the other part of the Green, is very challenging to get up on the banks between house drives, especially when the banks are muddy. I hope the Parish Council will take this request seriously now that we don't have to encroach on residents drives and can have the path extended without going into the woods, because a space is now available parallel to the road. Perhaps other walkers and parents with pushchairs or wheelchair users, will agree this is an opportunity we should be able to fulfil for our safety when walking, which many of us have been trying to do recently?

Dawn Forrester

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

How wonderful to see our village coming back to life with The Bakery and Ye Olde Ship opening for outside drinks and food. Also, the Chartwell Cancer shop is now open to all customers once again. Do remember to support all our local businesses where possible. This has been a very long and hard lockdown, and all are taking precautions to make surroundings COVID safe for visitors and staff.

Planning:

TA/2021/303 Neville House Edgar Road. Erection of a single storey side extension and internal alterations for which we had No Comment.

TA/2021/368 The Old Granary Forge, Clarks Lane. Use of rear flat roof area as balconies serving two dwellings and changes to fenestration. This is a copy of a previous application 221/2020 which was refused in September 2020. It is recommended that decisions on this new application are left to the expertise of Tandridge Planning Dept.

TA/2021/344 The Firs, Maesmur Road Erection of single storey side extension. Object on the grounds of poor design and impact on existing mature tree.

TA/2021/505/TPO Barleyfields Barn, Park Farm. G1- All trees within Barleyfields Barn woodland overhanging Avenue Road. Lift to approximately 20ft to create clearance for road users. No Comment.

AMB: The meeting Room at the Aileen Mchugo Building has been decorated and has new carpet and tables. Some photos provided by our talented village photographer Lorna Halfpenny-Beeby have been reproduced onto canvas and are decorating the newly painted walls. We hope to soon be able to take bookings for use. We are now planning to revamp the kitchen area.

The Parish Council have received a request from Little Acorns to lay a soft outside flooring which will provide a more even surface for the children to play on. We were happy to grant this request and understand work will hopefully take place over the Whitsun holiday.

Tatsfield Mask Makers have asked to plant a blossoming tree to flower each March as a reminder of the pandemic. The tree will be planted in the Autumn. The PC granted the request for the tree to be planted on the Westmore Green Triangle and it will be accompanied by a small plaque.

As I write this I have just spotted the Bluebells starting to show on Church Hill, think it's time for a walk to the woods!!

Kim Jennings, Chairman

Tatsfield Parish Council (email: kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Elections on May 6th

Nothing too political this month with the pending elections across Surrey for the Police and Crime commissioner and the Warlingham Ward for our County Councillor. I have assisted four of the candidates in delivering their leaflets through your doors as I believe it is important for you to read and understand the candidates from their literature or from meeting some of them on the doorstep. It was unfortunate that I was not available last Saturday to catch up with David Munro the current PCC, but I hope any of you that recognised him whilst he was having lunch on Westmore Green took the time to say hello and speak with him.

I have found David a good friend of Tatsfield and he has always been willing to come to the village and speak to me, The Parish Council and I hope some of you through email correspondences on his role.

I have the utmost respect for the two candidates from the two major parties contesting the Warlingham ward. I have worked with both as a fellow District Councillor and as the current County Councillor and I am sure that whoever we return will continue to work for the benefit of Tatsfield.

Details regarding the how to vote, when and what appear elsewhere in the magazine so just remains for me to stress the importance to the candidates of your votes, so please vote on May 6th and send a clear message to the winning candidate.

Recycling

Each year the government publishes a recycling league table, and it is pleasing to note we are the 13th best performing council in the country (there are 354 councils which collect rubbish and recycling). We are the second best in Surrey and fourth in the South East region. We are confident with your continued support we will continue to be one of the Surrey's top performing districts for recycling and food waste collections, while reducing the amount of waste going to landfill.

How you can help the fight against flytipping

If you're getting someone to work on your house or garden, before you agree anything, check they are a registered waste carrier. Then you'll have peace of mind that when your trader takes your waste away it won't be dumped, causing damage to the beautiful countryside.

It's easy to find out if your trader is registered and it could save you a £400 fine. Remember to get a receipt for the disposal of your waste.

Fly tipping is anti-social, and punishment can result in a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months in prison. In Surrey, 100% of fly-tippers who go to court are convicted, so help us to stamp out this unacceptable behaviour by running a quick check online before you employ anyone.

To report fly tipping in progress call 999, in other cases use our flytipping form, or contact Surrey County Council if it is blocking the road.

Census 2021

If you haven't yet completed the census, please do so straight away as the information you provide will help shape your local community for the next ten years. This year's census was completed digitally by many residents due to the Covid restrictions; you should have received a letter showing you how to take part.

If you can't complete it on line or need help visit www.census.gov.uk, for further help and information .

Officers will resort to knocking on the doors of those have not completed the Census so save yourself the problem and complete it now.

Grant payments for businesses severely impacted by pandemic

A discretionary one-off payment through the Additional Restrictions Grant is available to some businesses impacted but not forced to close by Covid 19. The new scheme launched on the 8th March 2021 so please do go and check whether you are eligible.

Our local businesses need you

It is good to see and be part of the early support to our businesses that are beginning to reopen under the new Covid relaxation guidelines. Please do support them in every way that you can.

If you think I can help you with anything to do with the Tandridge District Council or anything else please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Martin Allen 01959 577201 cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk Or martin_allen@talk21.com

UPDATED INFORMATION FROM OUR NEW TATSFIELD POLICE OFFICER

No serious or overly concerning crimes to report within Tatsfield over the last few weeks. I have noted that fraudulent/scam calls have been on the rise recently (not necessarily targeting our local residents, but as a whole across Surrey). A lot of these incidents seem to involve the people making these calls posing as Police Officers and threatening that the victims may be arrested if they do not pass over personal details/transfer money etc. I can assure everyone that this is not the case, very rarely would we call people and make them aware that we plan to arrest them! It is very important that people understand that they should never pass over personal/banking details over the phone to anyone. The Police, nor the Banks would ever ask for this information over the phone.

There has been a slight increase in the theft of 'keyless' motor vehicles recently. It appears that the suspects involved are highly organised and very professional with regards to how they go about committing these crimes. Ensuring that vehicles are locked, the keys are kept at a suitable distance away from vehicles and out of view from external windows is very important. Faraday pouches can be purchased at a low cost which block

the keyless signals that the criminals use to steal these types of vehicles. Small tins also work just as well.

We have been made aware of some anti-social behaviour that appears to be emerging at the Furze Corner playing fields and clubhouse. We will incorporate this location into his patrols and will obviously engage with anyone that may be causing issues. This will be monitored and if the issues persist then we will look to take positive action.

On a parting note, I have found since joining the Neighbourhood Team that a lot of communities will report crimes or suspicious activity via social media directly to resident groups. This is a great way of notifying neighbours and other local residents of any issues that have occurred; however, this should always be done after the Police have been notified. Thank you.

PC for Tatsfield, Tom Warwick

PARKING ENFORCEMENT AWARDED TO SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

From 1 April, following a full tender process, Sevenoaks District Council will start a two year contract to deliver the district's on and off street parking enforcement, with an option to extend the contract for a further three years.

Sevenoaks District Council has over 20 years' experience of civil parking enforcement. They have been carrying out our parking enforcement service since 1 April 2020 and have been responsible for parking enforcement in the Council's owned car parks since 2018.

Parking enforcement officers carry out a vital role in the district helping ensure motorists abide by parking restrictions. This is not only for road safety, such as ensuring parked cars are kept clear of junctions so pedestrians can see when it is safe to cross, but also so visitors and shoppers to town centres have somewhere to park in short stay parking bays.

For more information on how to report a vehicle parking illegally or how to pay a parking fine, visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/parking.

PETER AINSWORTH, FORMER EAST SURREY MP

We are very sad to hear about the death of our former MP, Peter Ainsworth.

Jackie King, Acting Chief Executive, TDC, said: "Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. Peter was a very popular, well known and respected MP. He had a lot of time for his constituents and was a very visible member of the community. He always made time for businesses and residents. Everyone knew who he was."

Peter was MP for East Surrey from 10 April 1992 to 12 April 2010. During this time, he was Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under William Hague and also Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under David Cameron. Following his retirement from politics, he was appointed Chairman of the Big Lottery Fund and Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Our current MP, Claire Coutinho, said: "I was extremely sad to hear the news about Peter, my heart goes out to his wife and family. He had been wonderfully kind and supportive to me since I'd been elected. Every time his name has come up with local residents, it's clear how much he touched people's lives and how highly he was regarded for his work in East Surrey. In recent years his work on the environment has helped to set us on a path to a greener future. As I said in my maiden speech he was a green giant of a politician and one who will be missed by many."

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Major Capital Resurfacing Works planned 2021 for Limpsfield Road

I have been complaining about the state of the Limpsfield Road (Botley Hill end) for the past year to highways. The fact it is a concrete road with tarmac over the top means that with age some of the joins have perished. I have been working together with Cameron McIntosh (County Councillor for Oxted, and chair of the Tandridge Local Committee) to lobby highways for a solution. In autumn they moved the road on to a monthly inspection and repair list to keep on top of the damage, however the snow episodes in January, in our opinion, really exposed the true state of the road, and Cameron and I have been working with the Cabinet Member for Highways to call for it to be accelerated in the major capital programme.

I am pleased to say we have been notified that the work has been brought forward and will be carried out in 2021; no fixed date yet but I will share when I am informed.

I'm sure everyone will be pleased with this as it is an important connecting road that the majority of residents in the division use.

Becky Rush, Cabinet Member for Resources and Corporate Support

Surrey County Councillor for Warlingham Division

(comprising the Parishes of Chelsham, Farleigh, Tatsfield, Titsey, Warlingham and Woldingham)

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MAY 6 AT LOCAL ELECTIONS

On Thursday 6 May, residents will vote on who should represent them in the County, District, Parish and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Residents will also be voting on the referendum on the Caterham, Chaldon and Whyteleafe Neighbourhood Plan, a community-led framework which will guide the future development, regeneration and conservation of the three areas.

Our polling stations will be a safe place to vote and we're putting measures in place to make sure they're completely Covid secure by:

- Ensuring everyone in the polling station wears a face covering, unless exempt.
- Providing hand sanitiser for everyone to use.
- Ensuring everyone in the polling station is following social distance guidelines.
- Providing protective screens, separating voters from polling staff.
- Asking voters to leave the polling station and surrounding area promptly once you have cast your vote.
- Encouraging voters to bring your own pen or pencil to mark your ballot paper, if possible.

The Electoral Commission has produced a short video on what to expect when voting in person.

When you receive your polling card, it will tell you which polling station to visit to cast your vote, although you won't need to bring it with you when voting in person on 6 May.

Voting in a polling station is not the only way to cast your vote. You can also vote by post or by appointing someone to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. You can apply for a postal vote or apply to vote by proxy online.

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

As the sun shone over Tatsfield we held our first Committee meeting, planning for our first members meeting in July - subject to restrictions. We will welcome our lovely members to a garden tea party with a Wimbledon theme with plenty of strawberries and maybe even some Pimms. A date will be confirmed nearer the time and new members will be very welcome.



If restrictions allow, we may be able to visit the Biggin Hill museum, which will be followed by afternoon tea in the Cafe.

Sadly, two of our members have passed away this year, they were much loved and will be sadly missed by everyone in the Not So Young Club, our thoughts and sympathy go to their families.

Keep safe

Sue Dowse notsoyoung100@gmail.com 07816110929

TATSFIELD WI

When I last spoke to you, we had seen the first spring flowers and some sunshine. Since then, we have had real warm sunshine, rain, hail, laying snow and bitterly cold winds!



It seems as though our members can take whatever is thrown at them but only with the support and help of family and friends. It has been many months that I have been asking everyone to support each other and I am so grateful when someone passing by stops to give me an update on a friend or neighbour so we can take any steps necessary to ensure they are well and safe. Thank you Tatsfield.

We are now daring to plan for the re-opening of the W.I. Hall. It is still too early as the Rule of 6 continues to apply, however after 21st June we may be able to meet in modest numbers indoors. So our Garden Party in July may be our first chance truly to get together and open the hall for hire.



Susan Smale, 01959 577660



TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

3 Ship Hill, Tatsfield, Surrey, TN16 2AH

The Governing Body at Tatsfield Primary School is shortly going to lose some of its longstanding Governors who have served the school for more than ten years. We would love to recruit some new, independent people to fill these vacancies and would welcome applications from local people who wish to support the development of our village school.

Expertise in finance, property management, business organisation or taking meetings would be an advantage but please come forward and apply as we would be very pleased to hear of your interest.

Applications in writing should be sent to Kevin Bellinger, Headteacher, Tatsfield Primary School or email school@tatsfield.surrey.sch.uk for more details.

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Year 2 have been
learning about the
artist

Jackson Pollock.

We used his 'drip'
painting technique
to create our own
masterpieces!



LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

What a busy month at Little Acorns! We held a very successful Eastercise event with sponsored activities and raffles which raised over £1000 for the preschool. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

We were also lucky enough to be visited by the Easter Bunny and Elsa



who came along to play games and give out some yummy Easter eggs (kindly donated by Simon at Sainsbury's).

Little Acorns was also extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to witness the miracle of hatching chicks thanks to Alex Walker who very kindly donated his incubator and eggs. All the children were amazed and enthralled by this experience and each of our lovely hatchlings has now gone on to their forever home!

If you would like to enquire about a place for your child from September please do get in contact; we'll be happy to answer any questions you may have and you'll be welcome to visit the preschool.

Thank you for reading!

The Little Acorns Team
office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk



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.

In danger, need the police, but can't speak? SILENT SOLUTION is a way for the public to access help in an emergency situation even if it's not safe, or they are unable to speak. This solution allows someone to make themselves heard and let the 999 operator know the call is genuine. If you can't speak, dial '55' from your mobile phone after calling 999.

Bright Sky App: Bright Sky is an App providing support and information for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or someone concerned about a friend or family member. In addition, the app is available for use by employers and service providers and includes:

- A UK-wide directory of specialist domestic abuse support services
- A secure My Journal tool to record incidents of abuse via text, audio, video or photo form, without any of the content being saved on the device itself
- Questionnaires to assess the safety of a relationship, plus a section on dispelling myths around domestic and sexual abuse
- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse

You can download Bright Sky for free on the Google Play Store and App Store, where it is available in English, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu.

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>

ST MARY'S NEWS

HOLY WEEK and EASTER

We are grateful to our Flower Arrangers for the wonderful arrangements for Easter. Photos appear here and elsewhere in this edition.



Thanks also to those who contributed to the cost of this year's Easter lilies.



At our 9am service on Easter Day we lit the new Paschal candle and rolled back the stone from in front of the tomb to celebrate "Christ has Risen"



Flower arranging team

Our heartfelt thanks to all the lovely ladies who produced such beautiful flower designs to decorate St. Mary's for Easter: Tina Boys, Pauline Conlon, Kay Longley, Jan Maynard, Kay Roberts, Christine Rosenbaum, Sue Saunders, Sue Warren, Sara Williams and Pat Walsh. Hopefully, by the time Harvest is with us we will be able to prepare in situ with more chatting plus flowers and greenery from The Titsey Estate, plus, of course, coffee/tea and cake. **Ann 577207 Jan 577659**

Sunday services

Currently, there is normally a 9 am short spoken Holy Communion service in church, with no hymns (Covid protocol applies, including: face mask, social distancing, track and trace). There is also a 10 am service on Zoom. *Please check for variation of service arrangements and further information via the notice sheet which can be accessed by clicking on the link on the home page of our website (address below).*

Ascension Day - Thursday 13th May

We look forward to our annual 6.00am service of Holy Communion in the churchyard (in church, if wet), with takeaway refreshments afterwards. Any donations received will be for the work of Christian Aid. Please let us know if you intend to come.

Christian Aid Week - 10th-16th May

St Mary's Parochial Church Council recently approved a donation of £500 to mark Christian Aid week. We are grateful to all whose support for the Church have enabled this. Further donations may be made directly to Christian Aid via their website (or via St Mary's in an envelope marked "Christian Aid").

Next Food Bank Deliveries

We are planning to make another delivery of food to Christ Church, Brixton Road, on Monday 17th May. Food suggestions are canned vegetables and meat, tinned fish and fruits, ready meals, milk, fruit juice and porridge. Also, the following would be welcomed: rice, pulses and toiletries. These items will provide the supplies which are much needed.

We have also recently supported the Westerham food bank with a delivery on Thursday 8th April. There continues to be a growing need for support from families at both Food Banks. Westerham has 52 adults and 55 children registered with them now.

Any non-perishable food that you would like to donate can be left at The Rectory or please contact me. If you would like to donate in the monetary way, this will be used to purchase further food.

Thank you for your support. **Hilary Vale (01959) 577864**



Church teas

Although we are unable to recommence teas at present, we will keep the changing restrictions (including social distancing) under review to determine whether or not it is possible to open for a short period at the end of the season.

St Mary's Tatsfield is currently open for private prayer at the following times:

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.

Churchyard

Bags of compost are available for collection free of charge from the church composting area and we are thankful to those who have made this possible. Please bring a wheelbarrow and take care, as some bags are fairly heavy. We would also be grateful for the return of bags when empty for future use.

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the April draw

41. M. Broughton £25 9. R. David £15 91. A. Long £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/stmarys

ST MARY'S EASTER FLOWERS





TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS – REOPENING 22nd APRIL

In line with both the Government roadmap for easing Covid restrictions and our National Governing Body return to training plan, TMA will be reopening the dojo doors from Thursday 22nd April for under-18 indoor classes, and although we have several safety measures to work with, we are able to return to full contact training for the first time since March 2020. For grappling martial arts, non-contact training is pretty much nonexistence, so this is a massive boost for all involved after a pretty tough year. If everything continues to go to plan, adult classes will be back from 17th May with some contact and from 21st June full contact as all safety measures / restrictions will be removed.

Some facts on TMA that you may not be aware of:

- The club opened in January 2015 with 12 members offering two children's judo and an adult's jujitsu class on a Thursday evening. In March 2020, when the club closed due to COVID, we were offering eight classes a week over three days and had 94 members, many of which were training 2-3 times a week.
- As well as traditional martial arts classes, we have a Friday morning self defence and combat fitness class which has proved very popular.
- Although a recreational club at heart, which believes the benefits of training in martial arts are far more important than medals, we are active on the local competition scene and a number of our students have won medals at county and area events.
- The club is very social, as well as a weekly trip to the village club after training on a Thursday, we arrange events such as Christmas parties (separate ones for the adults and kids), nights out and summer sports days to name a few.
- The club is involved with a number of local schools, having provided judo and jujitsu sessions for Warlingham High, judo at Charles Darwin and self-defence at Woldingham.
- Since opening we have produced one jujitsu black belt and three judo black belts – most of whom live in the village.
- Every year since opening we have held a children's judo competition and invited other local judo clubs to attend. For the past two years we have had over 75 children enter, packing out the village hall.

All the TMA coaching team are looking forward to welcoming club members, both new and old, back to the club and rest assured we will be taking time to ease everyone back into the rigours of training after what has been a much longer break than we first anticipated. If you would like more information on our classes, then please get in touch via tatsfieldmartialarts@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 VERN d'ANJOU TWINNING ASSOCIATION

For those of you who know and for any new people who are unfamiliar we have a really strong twinning association with Vern d'Anjou, near the Loire on the west side of France. For over 40 years we have visited every other Easter, and on the alternate years they have visited us.

Whoever is doing the hosting lays on a weekend of activities and on the alternate years we are the recipient of their hospitality. You don't get left stranded struggling to speak French as most things are done in groups.

This year and last year are the first time in the history of the twinning that we have not visited, we hope by next year that both countries will be in a healthier position and that the exchange can take place again.

The hospitality between the two villages is amazing. I have been visiting or receiving for about 16 years and the warmth of the friendship between the two villages has to be felt to be believed.

We won't be visiting until at least next year due to Covid but if anyone would like to know more about the twinning please get in touch and we can tell you more.

Our committee has been an amazing group of about eight people but now we are down to four and we would like to welcome some new members onto the committee, we organise some fundraising events from time to time and get together to organise the itinerary for the weekend when it is our turn to receive.

Please contact Jonnie and Gaye Panther or Sean and Alizon Mooney if you would like to ask any questions or express an interest in joining the committee.

Alizon & Sean Mooney Tel: 01959 577 143 Mob: 07494 568 520 Mob: 07912 519 591

Gaye & Jonnie Panther Tel: 01959 577 362 Mob: 07715 159 991 Mob: 07960 130 348

TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL REOPENING

The Tatsfield Village Hall Management Committee are pleased to announce the re-opening the Village Hall on the 6th of June 2021 for our regular hall users.

We are planning to re-open the hall from the 21st of June 2021 for open bookings.

This is subject to review and could change at any time and will be in line with current Government guidance and legislation.

Further information can be obtained from the Tatsfield Village Hall Web Site on:

www.tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk

FAIRTRADE FLOWERS

Most of us know about Fairtrade chocolate, coffee and tea for example but it is also possible to buy Fairtrade flowers. Some of the local supermarkets including the Co-op and Lidl as well as Interflora and a company called Serenata sell FAIRTRADE flowers.

During the pandemic the flower farmers have had a particularly hard time, we now have the opportunity to buy lovely flowers and help keep their industry alive.

There are nearly 70,000 flower workers working with Fairtrade to get a better deal. They



grow, harvest, pack and care for the flowers so we can enjoy them all year round.

Fairtrade flowers are traceable back to the original farm. Fairtrade certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees. These farms receive a premium of 10% for every stem sold, which allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and

other social benefits. Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uganda and Tanzania.

Many of the major supermarkets and stockists offer Fairtrade flowers. These include not just Roses and Spray Roses and Lilies but also, Eryngium, Calla Lilies, Sunflowers, and Alstroemerias so there's a Fairtrade bouquet whether it's your wedding day, a special occasion or a simple thank you.

Once you have enjoyed your flowers there is a lovely activity below for pressing flowers.

PRESSING FAIRTRADE FLOWERS

Prepare your flowers before pressing

Technique 1: Book pressing

After you've bought your flowers, trim the stems by about an inch and stand in a vase of water. You only need to do this for a few hours, but you can do it for as long as you'd like if you want to enjoy the flowers before pressing!

Select the flowers you'd like to press and trim away the stem as close to the flower as you can. If the flowers are quite big (like roses) you may want to cut them in half with a knife or scissors. Don't forget that you can press leaves and smaller flowers and plants too!

- **Step 1:** Prepare the flowers on some paper (just some plain scrap paper is fine). By putting it on paper you'll protect the book from the water and colour released from the flower. Then cover with another sheet. I also like to use a few kitchen roll sheets to help absorb the water too.

- *Step 2:* Put the flowers (between your sheets of paper) in a book. Best not to use your favourite book! Then pile up some heavy books on top to add some weight.
- *Step 3:* Leave for a few weeks, swapping the paper every so often when it becomes wet. This is the slowest method for pressing but a classic. Perfect if you're in no rush for your flowers.

Technique 2: Microwaving

This is our favourite method! It speeds up the process of pressing by weeks and is really easy to do.

- *Step 1:* Prepare your flowers on a piece of kitchen roll or parchment paper. If you're using different flowers/leaves then just be aware that some will need more time than others. Put them on a microwave-safe plate and cover in another piece of kitchen roll/parchment paper.
- *Step 2:* Add another heavy plate or oven dish on top to keep the flowers flat. Then microwave. You can either microwave on the defrost setting and microwave for a minute at a time or on a regular setting, checking the flowers more frequently. A low heat is best though!
- *Step 3:* Change kitchen roll/sheets regularly when they become wet. When the flowers are mostly dry and stiff then remove them. The bigger flowers will take longer and release a lot more moisture than leaves or smaller flowers.
- *Step 4:* Then press these flowers in using technique 1 (book pressing). This will ensure they are completely dry. You should only need to press for a few days though, rather than the weeks it would take not using a microwave. You can also store your flowers in books until you're ready to use them for something else!

Technique 3: Ironing

- *Step 1:* Place your flowers between two pieces of parchment paper. Then flatten them using a heavy book or piece of crockery.
- *Step 2:* Turn your iron onto a low heat setting. Ensure no water features (like steam) are turned on!
- *Step 3:* Iron the flowers gently for about 15 seconds at a time, allowing the paper to cool in between (for another 15 seconds).
- *Step 4:* Again, we recommend finishing off the drying process in a book for a few days.

If you would like to know more about FAIRTRADE flowers including some stories from flower farmers go to the link below

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/farmers-and-workers/flowers/>

Enjoy your flowers!

Alizon Mooney
Tatsfield Fairtrade Group



TATSFIELD ART GROUP CALENDAR

Sept 2021 – Sept 2022

SESSION DATE	TUTOR & SESSION FOCUS	NOTES
2021		
26 June	Adie	Workshop
14 Aug	Pippa	TBC
6 September	AGM - IF POSSIBLE	TBC
	Kit Leese	Stormy skies & coast – w/col Demo
20		
27	Emil Nikolla	Awaiting Reply
4 October		
11	Mike Fryer	Knife Painting Demo
18	Mike Fryer	Knife Painting Workshop
25-29 October	HALF TERM	LINGFIELD
1 November	Workshop	Framing and Mount cutting workshops
8 November	Workshop	(Carol organising)
15 November		
22 November	Pre exhibition	Preparation
Sat/Sun 27/28	TAG EXHIBITION WEEKEND	
29	Last meet for year	Post Mortem of Exhibition
	WINTER BREAK	
2022		
14 – 18 Feb	HALF TERM	
21 February	Adrian Leppenwell	w/c snow scene - Demo
28 February		w/c snowscene - Workshop
7 March	Ian Henderson	Portrait Painting (Demo)
14 March		Portrait Painting (Workshop)
21 March		
28 March	Stephen Cheeseman	Pastels/Pencils/Graphite Townscape - demo
	EASTER HOLIDAYS	& BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
25 April	Chris Forsey	Rip, Stick & Paint
2 May	BANK HOLIDAY	
9 May		
16 May		
23 May		
30/31 May	BANK HOLIDAY	
6 June		
13 June		
20 June		
27 June		
4 July		
11 July		
	SUMMER BREAK	
3 September	AGM 7.30	Venue to be agreed.

Members Annual fee £150.00 Includes: All Demos, Tutored Sessions, self directed sessions and hire of hall and Exhibiting at our annual Art Exhibition - 27 Sessions @ £5.55 per session

Guests fee for Demos £10.00 : Guests fee for Tutored Session £15.00 : Guests charged a fee for exhibiting at our Art Exhibition

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

At the start of 2021 we held our AGM to establish a new committee tasked with the management and future development of our village playing fields at Furze Corner.

Whilst there has been a strong friendly cricketing presence for many years, we are committed to bringing regular sports and clubs back to Furze Corner, as well as providing an area for everyone within the village to enjoy.

As we work closely with the Parish, District and County Council on the future investment and development of the facilities we are also preserving and maintaining the existing buildings and grounds. There have been a number of recent instances of anti-social behaviour where damage has been caused and attempts to break into the building have occurred. The building has been secured once again but we would ask for the support of the community to make us aware of anything out of the ordinary that you may see when at Furze Corner.

We have established a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/tatsfieldpfa>) to share updates on progress and gain feedback on future developments, so please like/follow the page to keep in touch.

David King (Chairman)

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

The Tatsfield 100 Club still has slots available for anyone wishing to help sport thrive in Tatsfield. By joining the 100 Club, for as little as £6.00 per month, you could win one of three cash prizes drawn every month, whilst giving a much-needed financial boost to Tatsfield Playing Field Association at Furze Corner. The money raised helps towards the running and maintenance of the grounds and facilities.

When your first payment is received in the 100 Club account you will be given a number (between 1 and 100) which will be put into the draw. Half of the money raised goes to the PFA and the remaining half goes to prize money. If there were 100 members then the prizes each month would be: 1st prize £150.00; 2nd Prize £100.00; 3rd prize £50.00

Obviously with less than 100 members then the prizes are less on a pro rata basis. The more members the bigger the prizes! You can have as many numbers as you want at just £6.00 per month per number. See below for news of recent winners.

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for March 2021:

1 st Prize:	Mary Wiggins	£48.00
2 nd Prize:	Ken Budgen	£32.00
3 rd Prize:	Alan Thorpe	£16.00

If you have any questions about the 100 Club, or you would like to receive the forms required to join, then please contact **Les Eames by email (les.eames@ntlworld.com)**.

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Now, who would have thought that nature spotting would become a competitive sport? Possibly the 'twitchers' and list-tickers of this world. But normal people, here in Tatsfield? Surely not? However, Ruth's (Yeeles) email would suggest otherwise. (09.04.21):

*'I saw my first **Swallow** of the year yesterday, 8th April, flying over the fields alongside Ship Hill. Do I get another first???'*

Well, Ruth, in three words – YES YOU DO! Well spotted. Great to hear they're back. We wait now for the Swifts (and House Martins?). Following this achievement, and last month's Brimstone award, you may well be thinking, "Ruth has two first sightings this spring, she'll doubtless be taking a well-earned rest". But you'd be mistaken. This was her response to my congratulatory reply:

'Oh that's wonderful - just need the swifts for the hat trick!'

So, if you're hoping to get a 'first sighting' recorded this spring you'd better get a move on. Ruth is taking no prisoners!

Mary Smith has an amphibian-free pond. The question is: Is she alone? (12.04.21):

*'Why is my pond a watery desert? It was put in last year and is two metres across, has a pebbly sloping beach for amphibians, native pond plants and oxygenators. Last year I saw a **frog** swimming in it and had many **damsel and dragonflies** on the plants. The birds used it for drinking and bathing and still do but... nothing else seems to be in it this year; neither frogs, newts or snails. I have heard that as last year was so dry many amphibians may have died. I would be interested to hear what is happening in other garden ponds. However, the birds never cease to be interesting and 'dominance' is what I have been watching. A **Blue Tit** won't allow **Goldfinches** on the sunflower feeder and **Pied Wagtails** won't allow **Dunnocks** near the ground feeder. Four **white doves** have found the food and are daily visitors – who do they belong to?'*



We too used to have frogs and newts in the garden, but I can't recall seeing either for at least three or four years. Hopefully, we will hear positive news from other pond owners. As to the cause of the disappearances, dry weather is without doubt a possibility. Another, (and I'm sure this doesn't apply to any Nature Notes readers) is the use of garden pesticides, particularly in this scenario - slug pellets. If you are able to maintain a healthy population of slug-munching frogs, you don't need slug pellets! The danger of using them is that the frogs eat the slugs (and snails) that have ingested the poison and unknowingly poison themselves. It's a similar process to how DDT (the use of which was banned in 1982) was ingested by birds of prey through their food source causing

reproduction failure and drastic population decline. Likewise, it's an easily avoidable form of wildlife destruction. Quite simply – make the decision not to use poisons in the garden. Another possibility is that we, as gardeners, are too tidy. Amphibians spend more time out of the water than in it. They hunt for food and find shelter in long grass and 'wild' areas. These aren't necessarily favourite features of the keen gardener. Predation may also be a factor. Birds of prey, Herons, Carrion Crows, Badgers, Magpies... a juicy frog provides a tasty morsel for many other species. And then we must consider the possibility of disease. According to Dr. Trent Garner (Zoological Society of London), ranavirus is one of the most serious health threats currently facing the UK's amphibian population. The virus was found to be present in the South East of England in the 1980s, and it has since spread. It can kill common frogs either by causing sores and blisters to form on the animal's skin or by causing their internal organs to bleed. In a certain proportion of populations, the disease persists, and when it persists, frogs decline by around 85%, and they don't seem to be recovering. While infection is spread by the natural movement of amphibians, garden ponds could also be playing a key role, acting as stepping stones for infected animals to move around and reach new sites. Research suggests that the introduction of infected animals from aquatic retailers into ponds or moving species between different ponds may be exacerbating the problem. The virus seems to be spreading at a rate that exceeds the ability of a frog to hop, suggesting human-aided dispersal of the virus. Taking frogspawn or frogs from one pond and placing them in another could be helping the spread. Dr. Garner states: "We certainly don't want to discourage people from adding ponds to their gardens - this remains one of the most positive steps we can all take to support wildlife. But equally we would strongly urge people to try to limit how much potentially infectious material they're moving into and out of their gardens in the process."

So, how's the health of your garden pond? Do you have a thriving population of amphibians? Can you offer any advice? Mary and our other readers would love to know.

The bigger picture:

It's tragic to think that without massive human intervention and political action, children being born as a result of the lockdown baby-boom will be living with the reality of widespread species extinction around the world. The possibility of keeping climate change under control seems remote. Endemic species (those found in only one place) are particularly at risk. The island of Madagascar could lose all endemic plant species in the next 30 years and if the rate of global warming can't be kept to 1.5%, 20% of endemic animal species will be at risk of extinction, largely due to their inability to move and/or find suitable conditions elsewhere. Dr. Mariana Vale (University Of Rio de Janeiro) states: "We would expect to have cascade effects that might change whole environments. If climate change remains unchecked, these endemic species will be lost for ever."

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

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MAY 2021

If you're lucky you may be able to catch a glimpse of the elusive planet Mercury in the evening skies soon after sunset. The smallest planet reaches its maximum *apparent* distance from the Sun on May 17th after which it appears to move back towards our parent star. Looking a week or so either side of that date should provide a reasonable window of opportunity given the vagaries of the weather. You need to look low down towards the west-north-west at 9:15/9:30 pm from the 10th to the 17th and a little later, around 9:30/9:45 pm, from the 18th to the 24th. At those times you should find Mercury around 10° above the horizon which means you will need an unobstructed view in that direction. When you look for Mercury you may just see the much brighter Venus in the same direction but it will be even closer to the horizon. Venus remains as an evening object for some time to come but will not be nearly such an impressive sight as it was last year. However, please remember that if you look for either of the two inner planets with binoculars or a telescope then you **MUST** wait until the Sun has set. **Inadvertently looking at the Sun, if only briefly, will lead to permanent damage to your eyes.**

If, for some reason, you are an early riser the gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn, are now visible before dawn in the south-east. Both are fairly low down but Jupiter is unmistakable due to its brilliance whilst Saturn lies just 15° to the west of its brighter neighbour. A slim waning crescent Moon passes just to the south of Jupiter on May 5th.

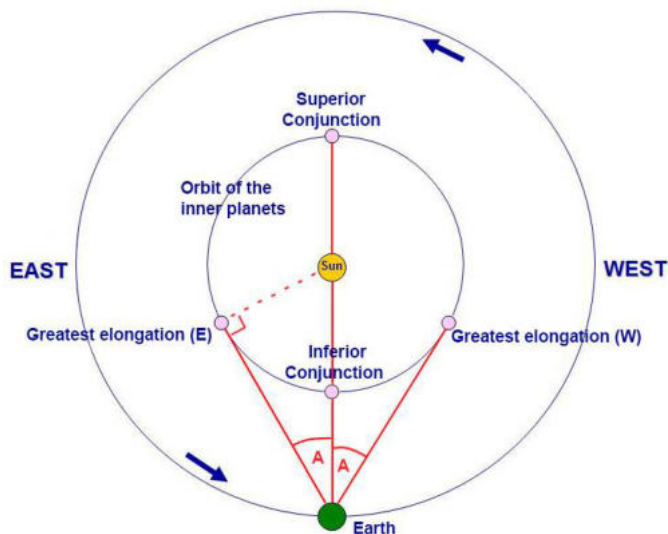
Something to bear in mind for next month is that we will (weather permitting) see a partial eclipse of the Sun on June 10th beginning at 10:08 and concluding at 12:22 as seen from our part of the country. From here just 20% of the Sun will be obscured whilst the Scots get a better deal with 38% obscuration from Lerwick. We'll look at the mechanics of eclipses at a later date.

In previous months, we have looked at how the planets beyond the Earth appear to move and now it's the turn of the inner planets Mercury and Venus. They both lie inside the Earth's orbit and have shorter "years" than Earth for two reasons. Firstly, they don't have so far to travel because the distance around their orbits is shorter and secondly being closer to the Sun its gravitational influence is stronger so they move more quickly.

The diagram is drawn looking down on the solar system from above with the result that the planets move anti-clockwise. I have only drawn one planet within the Earth's orbit but everything applies equally to both Mercury and Venus and I have kept the Earth in the same place to simplify the diagram though it will be in a different location for each of the phenomena described below.

If we begin with superior conjunction, this is when one of the inner planets is on the other side of the Sun compared to the Earth and effectively behind it making it invisible to us. As it progresses in its orbit it appears to the east (left) of the Sun making it an evening object. This is because being to the left of the Sun it rises after it and so is still visible when the Sun has set. Once the planet has reached greatest elongation (east) it is at the point when, as seen from Earth, it is as far from the Sun as it can *appear* to be. A

line drawn from Earth to the planet in question makes a tangent with its orbit whilst a line from that point to the Sun (a radius) will form a right angle as shown. The angle “A” is an angular measure of the planet’s “elongation” from the Sun: obviously the bigger the better as this will make observation easier. Mercury has an eccentric orbit which means its elongation can vary from 18° to 28° but Venus, who’s orbit is closer to being circular, has an elongation of around 47° and can, of course, be seen further away from the Sun.



The planet continues on its way until it reaches inferior conjunction when it lies between Earth and the Sun. If the line-up were exact this is when we would see a transit of either Mercury or Venus but this is a rare occurrence, particularly so in the case of Venus. Most of the time the planets pass either just above or just below the Sun though they are drowned out by sunlight.

As it progresses the planet now appears to the west of the Sun making it a morning object because it rises before the Sun but also sets before it. Soon it reaches greatest elongation (west) which is very similar to the evening one in the east but just on the opposite side of the Sun. So, it moves back to superior conjunction for the process to begin again.

This process explains why Venus is referred to as both the “Morning Star” and the “Evening Star”.

Brian Mills FRAS

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING PROJECT

Health, Wellbeing and Happiness

The Tatsfield community composting scheme opened to the public on Saturday 3 April. Thanks to all of you who dropped in with your green waste and also those who bought our compost. Thanks also to the energetic team who processed all of the materials and built up the new bins.

If you are not sure where we are, the composting project is based within the village allotment site, on the right, if you're heading out from the green, towards Limpsfield road. The site is open to the public every Saturday, weather permitting, from 10 am to 12 midday. In order to continue to produce cheap, quality, local compost, we need your garden waste. Please drop off your hedge trimmings, leaf litter, grass mowings, or any other green matter. We do not recycle food waste or soil. Also, no materials that have been sprayed with insecticides or weedicides that do not inactivate rapidly.

Compost is available at extremely competitive pricing of £1.25 per bag or £2.50 a barrow load. Please bring empty bags or sacks. We will help you fill. Our compost is rich in organic matter and healthy soil organisms, ideal for boosting your vegetables, fruits or flowers as well as spring mulch for that added nutritious boost to your beds.

More importantly, why don't you join our team of volunteers? We meet on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings, throughout the gardening season.

And the health, wellbeing and happiness stuff? Yes, totally. There is excellent evidence that spending some time outdoors significantly reduces blood pressure, and the related risks of heart attacks, strokes etc. You will spend some of your time on physical activity, walking around, spading and forking, lifting and sifting, all as good as spending time at the gym, and at absolutely no cost. We all know the benefits of exercise.

There is plenty of good evidence to show that working outdoors, working with a team of happy people (oh, yes, we are a happy group!), and doing stuff that you know is useful and of value to others, all improve wellbeing without a psychiatrist, psychologist, or other happiness guru in sight.

In many parts of the country, health services have adopted wellbeing gardens to their armoury for helping people cope with anxiety and sadness, and to re-acquire happiness and a zest for life.

If you are feeling low, or trying to cope with loss, or simply looking for something to brighten up your life, come join us. We don't ask why you want to join us, and as volunteers, we each do what we can, at our own pace.

If you like to see who we are, or what we do, drop in on a Saturday morning or on a Wednesday between 2-4 pm. If you want more information, please text or call me, Dilo, on 07709 357 086 and I will get back to you.

Dilogen (Dilo) de Alwis

HINTS AND TIPS FOR GARDENING IN TATSFIELD

I wouldn't dare to give advice to anyone about how to garden – all I can do is describe how we have developed our own garden in the 40 years or more that we have lived in Tatsfield. Like most 'home' gardeners, my judgements about gardening are the result of years of accumulated knowledge – some by instinct and some simply by experience and 'having a go'. The most important thing is that I enjoy gardening.

I have to start with a warning – don't get too enthusiastic because gardening can start to take over! On the other hand, never be wary of trying some new plants/shrubs in the garden – there are so many options. I found that, particularly when I retired from work about 15 years ago, I got more ambitious about what I planted. When we originally moved in, we inherited an almost empty garden - just one large conifer in the centre, two concrete bunkers and a tall, very crooked conifer hedge! I don't follow rules too closely but, in general terms, I love planting using bright colours and I'm not fond of straight lines. Most of our flower beds are formed with curved edges rather than straight. I don't



like mowing – which means I keep cutting into the lawn to create new planting areas! I have a general preference for small trees, shrubs, roses, with closely planted perennials - but use some self-grown summer annuals to fill in any gaps. I use a lot of Hemerocallis (Day Lilies) in the flower beds and Oriental lilies in large pots. Both of these are very tough and basically look after themselves all year round in most weathers.

The first three months of the year are so unpredictable (especially in Tatsfield it seems!). I am writing this article (end March/beginning of April) – with high temperature levels last week and now the threat of possible frost/snow/strong winds for the next few days. Should I delay some of the planting - both flowers and vegetables? At the beginning of every year, I generally start to panic about leaving everything too late and that nothing will catch up if I don't get going quickly – it has never happened, and most plants and vegetables survive and grow despite me!



Last year I made a note of which plants I would like to grow more of, eg I need some more penstemons – I took a lot of cuttings last year and they are doing well in the cold frame, together with those I grew from seed during the middle/end of last year and are also waiting in the cold frame ready to be planted out. Which plants shall I give up on and replace with something new? In case some of the perennials are a bit sad this year, I am growing on a number of annual 'filler' plants from seed in the greenhouse – including Cosmos and Rudbeckia together with some Lupins and Aquilegia - the latter might not

get planted out this year, but they will do well next year – I hope! Whatever happens, I know that my annuals will do their job until some of my new perennials take hold – persicaria and scabiosa and a few others. The tomatoes are also growing well from seed in the greenhouse where they will be grown on in growbags – I once tried growing them on outside and they got the dreaded blight!

Eventually, we managed to fit in a reasonably sized vegetable garden area and that provides us with most of the standard popular veg - I have some celeriac, courgette and leek seeds bursting forth in the greenhouse, but all the other stalwarts (runner and French beans, peas, potatoes etc) can wait to go straight out into the veggie area later on – not enough room to kick-start everything in the greenhouse. Broad beans should be in by now but I'm running late– garlic already in. A couple of years ago, we also found room to plant some espalier apple and pear trees along the vegetable garden fencing!

Finally, I should just remind you that, once the pandemic is beaten and life comes back to usual, you might enjoy attending the Tatsfield Horticultural Society shows that we usually organise twice a year – hopefully, conditions will allow the September Show to go ahead this year. You don't have to exhibit anything – you can just wander around to see all the brilliant displays of flowers, plants, vegetables etc. – meet some of the THS members who grew them – and perhaps get some good advice! Do contact us if you are interested in the THS activities; you can email me on pamelabishop524@btinternet.com.

Enjoy your gardening, **Pamela Bishop**

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Visit to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Gardens at Wisley

This year the THS Committee is arranging a group visit on **Saturday 26 June** to the RHS Gardens at Wisley. At that time of year, we will be able to see the gardens when the Summer bedding is out, and the trials are well under way in the Portsmouth Field. The organisers also confirmed that our visit is well timed as the new **RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science** opens up on 24 June.

The suggestion is that we should all meet at Wisley at 10.00 on 26th June outside at the entrance by the Café. It is a free event for you, and family and friends are welcome. If you would like to join us for this visit please contact **Sue Warren**, on 01959 542892 and she will put you on the list.

An early response would be welcome.

Pamela Bishop



Cowslips spotted by Jon Allbutt

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MAY

What an interesting start to the spring weatherwise, lots of frost and cold winds, snow in April and so far very little rain. In March we can expect an average of 58mm of rainfall but we only had 40mm; average rainfall for April is usually similar to March at around 60mm but by the middle of the month my rain gauge showed just 3mm!! The long term forecast predicts average temperatures but rainfall levels will be below average for our region, make sure to save whatever rainfall we get!

Cowslips have returned to Westmore Green! Just goes to show what joys there are to see when you stop mowing. Two years ago, the Tatsfield in Bloom team persuaded the Parish Council to agree not to mow a strip of grass against the hedge and ditch opposite the allotments. Wild flower seed was sown along the length of the area towards Crane Cottage. These wild flowers will set their own seed that will be scattered by wind along the unmown strip and we will see increasing numbers of wild flowers in years to come. Please go and admire these lovely flowers but do not pick them, the seed pods will not be ready to shed their seed until June/July.

Also, make sure to take a walk around the meadow section of Tatsfield Green and admire the carpets of Primroses, Celandine; keep visiting these sites in the months to come and see what other lovely wild flowers appear.

It was great to see so many parents and children enjoying the improved, if a bit chilly, weather on Westmore Green, but such a shame to see them sitting on the grass near to an area where the Daffodils had been recently thrashed to the ground. I am sure there are many more other folk who appreciate the lovely drifts of colour.

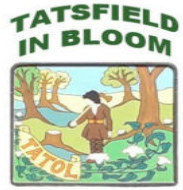
Have you noticed how many ants there are around so early in the year? There are around 50 species of ant in the UK of which around 8 are common, this depends to some extent on the type of soil in the garden. Ants also occur in the house; these tend to be very small species and can get inside food cupboards and food containers. Outside in the garden they are a very important part of your local ecosystem and should be left alone. However, on lighter soils you may find yellow and red ants especially in grass – these are biting ants and should be avoided as, if disturbed, they will attack!

If you need to control ants indoors make sure to buy ant killers specifically approved for use indoors, near food and are not harmful to children and pets. By UK Law that information must be clearly displayed on the product label.

Please do not use ant killers outdoors, if you have red or yellow ants in the lawn, or any ants around the edges of the house, and they are getting inside, then use boiling water if you must! In grass the boiling water will leave brown patches but the grass will soon recover.

Jon Allbutt

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM



Plans for the summer planting to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Tatsfield in Bloom and our wonderful volunteers are well under way. A scheme has been drawn up and orders placed for plants. We are anticipating starting the planting in the week beginning Saturday 5th June. We are aiming to do this along the same lines as we managed last year, appealing for individuals and couples to volunteer and help us prepare a work schedule to maintain safe distancing.

All volunteers who came forward individually or in couples in 2020 to plant or water the displays will be contacted in due course and a rota drawn up. If you would like to join us for the first time this year, please contact Angela and Roger Sawyers on 577434 or email acresroger@aol.com for further details.

The volunteers have been busy over the past month of lockdown with litter picking and we are pleased that a couple of our village youngsters are helping with this as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

We have also been clearing away fallen branches and twigs and, at the request of the composters, taking them to the site for use in their composting. We are always happy to give out hi-viz vests, litterpickers and refuse bags if you would be interested in helping if you are continuing with your 'daily exercise'.

This year it is obviously going to be difficult to ask for sponsorship from local businesses, but if you would like to make a donation to help with the cost of the plants, etc. please use the slip below or there is a collection pot in Sheree's Store.

Many thanks for the support from the village over the last 25 years.

Jill Hancock (577622)



TATSFIELD IN BLOOM APPEAL FOR FUNDS 2021

I should like to contribute £

Name (optional)

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TATSFIELD A CENTURY OR TWO AGO

Last month's census reminded me that local history enthusiasts are looking forward to details of the 1921 census being published next year. To protect the privacy of living people, personal details are withheld for a century. The 1921 census will be the last to be made public for a very long time. The 1931 returns were destroyed during the Second World War and the war itself prevented any census being held in 1941.

The first census was held in 1801 and then regularly every ten years thereafter but, as distinct from what happens now, they didn't record much detail – just numbers. They contain no names, ages or addresses until 1841. Even so, those early simple numbers are a good indication of what life was like in the century before last. In 1821 Tatsfield's total population was just 174 - less than a tenth of what it is now. It was made up of 92 males and 82 females. The total was small, but there was a big contrast with today. A total of 32 families were recorded as living in 24 houses, so most houses must have been busy places with an average of more than seven people living in each and sometimes accommodating more than one family. What limited detail there is tells us that 29 of the families were in 'agriculture' and that two were in 'trade'. The status of the other family is not described.

By 1921, our population had more than quadrupled and totalled 832. It will be interesting to see how many families were still engaged in agriculture in 1921. The nearest indication we have is from local directories from the 1920s. According to one of them, the nine farmers were outnumbered by 16 shopkeepers. As the village grew, builders and other trades people were also increasing in numbers.

Modern census forms demand much more information from us and processing the detailed statistics can take a long time. The 2011 figures showed the dramatic change in household size there's been in Tatsfield. It was down to an average of 2.5 people per house in that census. Most homes had more rooms than people.

A look at the local newspapers for May 1921 picks up some themes that are familiar to us today. At that month's parish council meeting for instance, the issue of 'inadequate police protection' came up. The precise reason for the complaint was not recorded, although at the time there was a resident police constable in the village. Another subject familiar to us now was a call for unmade roads to be improved. On this occasion it was Hillside Road that apparently needed attention.

Among the other items in the local papers, was a report that a cat belonging to Mr J Neale of Grove Villas was acting as a foster mother to three rabbits!

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com
Our website address is: <http://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE

REOPENING WITH A SPECIAL VISIT FROM THE HIGH SHERIFF

The Woodhouse Centre in Oxted opened on 12th April after months of being closed. The opening week was made extra special with a surprise visit from the High Sheriff of Surrey Mr Shahid Azeem DL, who came to look round.

He spent time talking to all the members and finding out about the crafts they were carrying out and also visited the Men in Sheds section. He spoke about his role and how the majority of his time as High Sheriff has been in lockdown, including his installation process which had to be carried out for the first time in history virtually.



The Woodhouse Centre is currently welcoming back existing members, in line with Government guidelines, but as these relax there will be opportunities for new members to join. It is currently open four days a week and members come along for companionship and to take part in various craft activities. There are about equal numbers of men and women and the age range is 20 to 90 and it is open to retired and disabled people living in Oxted and surrounding areas.

They are also looking for more volunteers who can lead craft and wood-working activities, designing and guiding projects for members to work on and helping members to learn new crafts or develop them. They would be interested to hear from anyone with an interest in crafts and experience to share, who has a friendly and approachable manner, and a few hours a week to volunteer. Please contact the Centre for more information: email: thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com or call 01883 715189.

THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE – CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

2021 is going to be a special year for The Woodhouse Centre as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Plans for the anniversary are currently being developed but any members and supporters with any ideas or suggestions should email thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com



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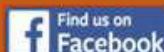
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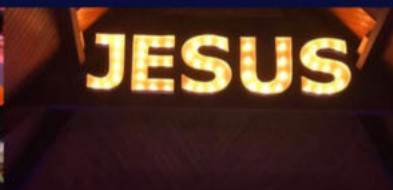
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