

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

# Tatsfield

## Parish Magazine

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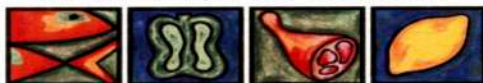
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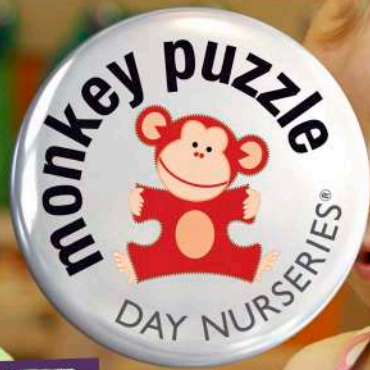
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*Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.*

**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](http://www.lttm.org.uk)

**Anglican** • Team Vicar: Revd. Vince Short

**Church Correspondence** • The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2NA (577289; [vince@littm.org.uk](mailto:vince@littm.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](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk) (07483 337461)

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

**Website** • [www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk)) (07983 011028)

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**Village Website:** [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Morning Sky Tatsfield, Miriam Barry.



## EDITORIAL

On the morning of Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January I was driving past the school. The car in front of me stopped by the crossing, a hand reached out of the window and presented a warm cup of tea (or coffee) to Karen! A huge smile spread across Karen's face – and mine too. What a wonderful kind gift on that cold morning.

In this first issue of 2022, Alison Cole has written a thought-provoking article about the giving of gifts and what will bring a smile to people's faces. Please, please do take the time to read it as the answer is very simple and one we should all implement as part of our New Year's resolutions.

On the theme of New Year's resolutions, I am definitely someone who thinks about doing something, making a change, setting myself a goal and of course then deciding I can't achieve it.

Just this week Preet Chandi, an army physiotherapist became the first woman of colour to complete a solo expedition across Antarctica. After two years of training, she trekked 700 miles in 40 days, facing temperatures of -50 degrees C! Why? She "wanted to encourage people to push boundaries and believe in themselves".

Many people in Tatsfield are like Preet. They challenge themselves each year to push their physical boundaries, raise awareness for projects they believe in, or organise large and small events for the community. The list is endless but examples are: Jan Akhtar and her Dementia wagon which has raised close to £8,000 – far more than Jan ever expected; Dave Bishop and his determination to organise events such as the Picnic on the Green, the Remembrance Service and the Christmas Carol Singalong; Jill Hancock and the In Bloom team, and the gardening team who keep the village centre looking beautiful; the Not So Young Club and WI Committees who ensure there are social activities for all; and in 2022 Liz Kelleher will once again run the London Marathon to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

What do they all have in common? Determination to make things possible and the willingness to give their time. It's a lesson for us all!

**Tara**

### **TATSFIELD ONLINE**

**Village website:** [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://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



## LETTERS

Dear Editors,

Well, what a year 2021 has been! While Covid did it best to spoil things, Tatsfield rose to the



challenge and we were able to hold three fantastic events – the Picnic on Westmore Green, the Remembrance Service in the Village Centre, and the 19th annual Carol Singalong.

We hope to hold these events this year, so for now please pencil Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August in your diary for another “Picnic on Westmore Green”. However, for this year the event will need some sponsorship. If you would



like to sponsor (or possibly kindly contribute to) this event then do please let me know either by email [davedbsound@gmail.com](mailto:davedbsound@gmail.com) or please ring 01959 577550. Please remember that without generous sponsorship and help the event will not be able to go ahead. Also for your diary, the Remembrance Service will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Singalong will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

**Tatsfield’s Sad Loss** Sometimes life can be very sad, and one particular family in the village lost a dear father who was such a nice person. His name was Terry Waite. His partner Jaime and their nine beautiful children are devastated by his loss. Terry went to many houses cleaning people’s windows (ours included). He looked so strong and fit and always wore a smile for everyone. One thing about “our Terry” was that the windows took about ten minutes at most to clean and the rest of the hour was spent with him indoors chatting over a hot drink and biscuits. Liz Kelleher, a great friend of Jaime, hosted a coffee and cake morning at the WI Hall in December – it was a great way for friends to gather and remember Terry who is sorely missed.

Dave Bishop

### TATSFIELD VILLAGE HELPLINE

The Tatsfield Village Helpline is in need of:

**volunteer drivers and two more members on the committee**

If anybody would like to volunteer please contact  
**Suzanne Rhule 07940358347**



## TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

What a lovely evening we had on 17<sup>th</sup> December - singing Carols and a visit from Father Christmas. This was sponsored by the Parish Council and organised by the ever youthful Dave Bishop and his team of helpers. Thanks to all for a super start to the festive season. Also many thanks again to Ian Hayman of Tatsfield Aquatics for sponsoring the Christmas Tree on Remembrance Triangle. If you or your business would be interested in sponsoring the tree in December 2022 please contact me for information. The lights in the trees once again looked amazing this is all made possible by the generous time and expertise of Chris McMullan of Able Electrical and Ian Hayman of Tatsfield Aquatics.

It seems hard to believe we are now full into Winter with such mild weather, although the rain has been causing some very wet and muddy spots around the village so please take care when walking these areas.

We held a very small meeting in December due to sickness but luckily managed to remain quorate. The Clerk reported that Parish Council had registered an expression of interest for 100 whips and 10 feathered trees from Surrey County Council. I am now pleased to report that we have been successful in our request and will be starting to replant areas of our woodland that have been affected with losing trees through Ash Dieback.

### Planning

**TA/2021/1974** Ty Canol, Old Lane Tatsfield TN16 2LH. Proposed loft conversion to create habitable accommodation to include the insertion of a dormer to front. *No comment.*

**TA/2021/1933** 5 Crossways, Tatsfield TN16 2BL Proposed roof extension to create first floor habitable accommodation with Velux windows, single storey rear extension and internal alterations. The property falls within the settlement area and is flanked by properties on both sides that have been generously extended over the years and therefore would not have an impact on these surrounding properties. *No comment.*

**TA/2021/1950** Downe House, Ricketts Hill Road Tatsfield TN16 2NB. Erection of single storey/side extension, conversion of Garage to provide habitable accommodation and erection of single storey front extension. Downe House falls outside the village settlement area within green belt. The house is set well back from the road and a distance from neighbouring properties. Downe House is a large property and the proposal does not appear to be disproportionate with the existing house. *No comment.*

**TA/2021/1922** Land at rear of The Parade, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AQ. Demolition of existing building. Erection of two duplex flats, parking and landscaping. Previous application 2020/1656 for a pair of semi-detached dwellings on this land was refused. Many comments were raised to be considered, TDC were made aware of these comments. The proposed development falls within the village settlement area and appears to fulfil local needs regarding additional housing and blends in with surrounding properties. *The Parish Council recommends that TDC planning officers check that the applicants have addressed the sustainability and environmental issues raised on the previous applicant. If this is satisfactory then the Parish Council has no further comments.*



**Appeal: APP/M3645/D21/3276892 TA/2021/325** Park Farm, Rag Hill Road, Tatsfield TN16 2LS. Removal of condition (No further extensions or enlargement) of planning permission ref:95/292 (Demolish existing single storey rear extension to provide living room and swimming pool and first floor bedroom and bathroom above) to allow for further development. *Previous comments made by the Parish Council still stand and it was agreed that no further comment was needed.*

### **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

We all have a four day bank holiday from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June to Celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council are busy making plans for celebrations in the village and we hope to have something on each day. If any village clubs or societies have any ideas or plans over this time it would be great to include in our calendar of events. Please contact Kim Jennings 07951072326, or Ian Hayman 0795660735.

### **Litter Bins**

We have received reports of broken and damaged litter bins around the Church and at far end of Ricketts Hill Road these will be repaired in the coming few weeks.

### **Footpaths across Parkwood Golf Course**

Reports have been received that the footpaths around the golf course are not being adhered to. Please when walking the footpaths make sure you are only on the permitted ways.

### **Advertising signs for village events**

If you would like to advertise a village event on Westmore Green, Remembrance Triangle, Bakery Lawn, or Tatsfield Green you require permission from The Parish Council. Please book your space by writing to the Clerk giving the date of the event. The Parish Council have a large A1 double-sided advertising board for use on Tatsfield Green and an A2 board that can be used in village centre. We want to give all a fair chance for advertising without swamping the village centre with notices. On applying for space, you will be given a time slot for your board to be out and removal after.

### **Airport**

The Vice-Chairman David Pinchin has written a separate report regarding the overflying from Biggin Hill Airport.

### **Multi use Games Area (MUGA)**

Reports of dogs inside the MUGA have been reported. Please do not take your dogs into this area - it is used by the school children and fouling has occurred. This area is a DOG FREE ZONE.

If you require a full report of our December Meeting this is now available on our website.

On behalf of all the Parish Councillors we wish you all a Happy and Prosperous 2022.

**Kim Jennings**

**Chairman Tatsfield Parish Council**

**Email: [kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)**



## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT – TATSFIELD OVERFLYING**

As the Parish Council's representative on the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee I recently reported to the December PC meeting on progress that had been made regarding overflying of the village.

After months of helpful negotiations with senior staff at the airport it was finally agreed that a joint exercise with airport personnel and Tatsfield residents would take place. The aim was to try to understand some of the reported and unreported incidents of flights encroaching or appearing to encroach the NSA (Noise Sensitive Area) encircling Tatsfield. I am now pleased to say that Martin Allen and I took part in that exercise on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November, also a follow-up review on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The exercise consisted of a light aircraft flown by one of the airport's senior instructors - with me as a passenger - undertaking 5 different circuits with different approaches and routes around Tatsfield. The weather thankfully was good, and I was able to see precisely where we were at all times in relation to the village. On the ground were Martin Allen, David Winstanley the airport CEO and his senior colleague Colin Hitchins. They moved from location to location including residential addresses and the allotments to witness the various circuits made by the aircraft.

The main outcome of the exercise was the realisation that the perception on the ground as to the location of an overhead aircraft can actually be very different from reality. On at least two circuits those on the ground were adamant the aircraft was overflying the centre of the village when in fact it was not. That is all about angles, height, wind and speed and could well be the reason why previous examples of perceived incursions have not been conceded as overflying. The exercise also allowed me to check the southern departure route including the two nautical miles before the left-hand turn south of the village. And all of us to check the accuracy of the WebTrak recording system against in-flight equipment and SkyDemon.

Having said all of this, of course it is still the case that aircraft noise can be disturbing and it is for this reason that the NSA exists and why the airport consistently works within a framework of agreed noise contours. There are still some incursions, although fewer than in the past, and they need to continue to be reported. In recent times, noise has become more of an issue for some of our residents, possibly because of the increased number of speciality Spitfire flights. The CEO fully understands this and he has agreed set up a noise monitor in one of our resident's gardens. He is also going to ask the Spitfire pilots to take a slightly more southerly turn following departure from the airport. Some corporate jets can also be very noisy but only temporarily on departure and because of their routing they are never the subject of overflying the village.

At our follow-up meeting Colin Hitchins gave us an excellent presentation on the outcome of the exercise which reviewed all the WebTrak data together with GPS data from SkyDemon, also how airborne observations compared to those on the ground including video recordings. He and the CEO have also offered to undertake a similar



presentation to the PC or to the village as a whole if that would be helpful and Martin and I both think that would be an excellent idea. It would give residents the chance to see the facts including the exact position of the NSA and the progress that has been made in recent months, also the opportunity to raise issues and ask questions.

At its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December the PC had an initial discussion about this and will consider it again at the January meeting. The current view is that a separate village event in the New Year would be the best way forward.

**David Pinchin**  
**Vice-Chairman, Tatsfield Parish Council**

## **TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR ALL RESIDENTS and any new villagers**

Tatsfield has been preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that the committee hope will set out a vision for the development of our village over the next fifteen years. The Neighbourhood Plan if accepted must be referred to by the Planning officers at Tandridge District Council when they are considering any application for development in Tatsfield. It is essential that the plan is completed and that it protects what Tatsfielders love most about the village.



An essential element of this project is to consult the public (you!) throughout the process – **your participation is vital to the success of the plan** and continued harmony of the village.

I am pleased to advise that after much hard work by your committee in general and Jason Syrett in particular who was kind enough to spend time working on the finalisation of the draft plan over Christmas, the committee are pleased to advise that it is now complete.

By the time you read this in the magazine the Tatsfield Draft Neighbourhood Plan will have been loaded on to the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan website and will have been sent to Tandridge District Council as the Local Planning Authority for their views.

Please take the time to read it and let us have any comments.

### **You can still BECOME INVOLVED? THERE ARE THREE WAYS:**

- 1. MEET THE STEERING GROUP**, at their next meeting usually held on a Wednesday in the Aileen McHugo Building - **or on zoom**. Please come along and see the work completed to date.



2. **JOIN THE STEERING GROUP** During the “pause” for Covid much has changed and we have lost some members of the committee and are in need of new interested persons to join the committee.

**MINUTES SECRETARY** We are in particular need of a Minutes Secretary/Administrator to handle the minutes and processes of the committee. If you are interested in assisting us in this way and joining the committee, please contact either myself or Susan Smale or Kim Jennings. Contact numbers are below.

3. We would also ask someone that would be prepared to take on the role of **GROUP LEADER** of a “**SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE FUTURE**” group in the Neighbourhood Plan. You would be starting from scratch but would be offered all of the assistance needing to get the papers completed in time.

**IF FEEL YOU HAVE SOME TIME OR ADVICE TO GIVE TO THE VILLAGE**, then please contact one of the steering group members for a no obligation chat. Contact details can be found at: [www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan](http://www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan)

Martin Allen (Chair)	Email: <a href="mailto:martin_allen@talk21.com">martin_allen@talk21.com</a>	Tel. 577201
Sue Smale (Deputy)	Email: <a href="mailto:sue.smale@yahoo.co.uk">sue.smale@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Tel: 577660
Kim Jennings	Email: <a href="mailto:kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk">kimjennings@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk</a>	Tel: 577328

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW TO SECURE THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS IN TATSFIELD**

**Please consider the role of the Minutes Secretary  
and contact one of us for any information you may require.**

## **TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**I trust you all had a really good Christmas and New Year within the current Covid guidelines. And let's all hope for a better 2022.**

It was good to see the centre of the village being nicely lit up and a large crowd of villagers at the Christmas Carol Singalong despite the cold once again.

To maintain this lovely centre of the village setting please remember, as soon as we are able, to **continue to support the local businesses** including Sheree's Shop and Tearoom, the Chartwell Cancer Trust Charity shop, the Post Office the Pub, the Bakery and the Club as well as all of the other small and large businesses in and around Tatsfield.

**Yellow lines** You may have seen or heard that further yellow lines are being considered around the village to reflect the need for further safety at some junctions. The only way to avoid this in the future is for us all to park more sensibly on corners and junctions. Only today walking up Paynesfield and down Westmore I can see that irresponsible parking is still taking place and on bends and pavements. Fines are being issued elsewhere in Tandridge so be aware, it is inevitable it will happen in the village.



**Financial matters** As 2022 has now arrived I am a little more confident that the financial problems that plagued the Council during the last year have been worked on rigorously and the gap as it currently stands is manageable. The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 which helped close the gap but does not include any service pressures or the inability of making savings which are all subject to review and finalisation and will be updated for the final budget, presented to committees in January / February.

**My role as your District Councillor** will continue much as last year, as well as looking after Tatsfield's interests I will continue working with the Council delivering a balanced budget for 2023/24 as well my other roles, Vice Chairman of the Audit & Scrutiny committee and a member of the Community Services committee. I will also be involved in Group Leaders meetings throughout the year, forming the future strategy of the Council.

I do not doubt there will be tough times ahead for everyone as it is clear the future of the Council within the limited financial availability will mean a smaller and leaner council or ever-increasing Council Tax amounts will have to happen.

The administration has pledged that all statutory services will be maintained with as little impact on the residents as is possible but other services will be reviewed throughout the year. During 2022 you could help Tandridge District Council even more if everything that you need to contact them about is done online rather than the telephone.

Before Christmas the Tandridge Winter 2021 magazine was delivered throughout the village and I would recommend that you all read it as this will help you keep up to date with the minute goings on at the Council. When seeing all of the Blue Bins out for collection on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> it was clear how many hadn't looked as the collection was not due until Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, as advised in the magazine.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January at the Audit & Scrutiny Committee we will be holding the **Community Safety Review**. It will focus on policing with a presentation from the Borough Commander. Subject to Covid restrictions you can see this meeting in the Council or on zoom. Further details will be issued during the month. There will be a chance for direct questions, although they may have to be asked on your behalf.

In the meantime, **PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT CRIME** and never think it is a waste of time. The 101 system is working much more effectively than in the past. Online reporting is the better method. And there is always Crimestoppers which is totally and perpetually anonymous. There is a similar scheme for younger residents - [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)

One last item that was brought to my attention over Christmas is to those people using **wood fires/burners**. A resident rang to say that the smoke from the detached house next door could be smelt throughout their house, and they wondered what could be done about it. I referred them to Environmental Health Department at Tandridge. In the meantime, if everyone who does use a wood fire/burner can check that their smoke is not an inconvenience neighbours I am sure everyone would be grateful.



**Finally, a reminder** about wearing face coverings, social distancing, working from home when possible and keeping your home well ventilated. Let's do this to keep everyone in Tatsfield safe.

**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](mailto:cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk) Or [martin\\_allen@talk21.com](mailto:martin_allen@talk21.com)**

## **HELP FOR RESIDENTS FACING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP THIS WINTER ADMINISTERED BY TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

We are inviting residents with low incomes to apply for a grant to help ease the financial pressure they may face this winter. The Tandridge Household Support Fund will help residents in financial difficulty and struggling to meet the cost of essential items including:

- Food.
- Energy and water bills.
- Repair or purchase of essential household appliances.
- Servicing and repair of heating systems.
- School uniform or other essential clothing.
- Broadband and phone bills.
- Transport related costs.

**Who can apply?** We accept applications from, or on behalf of, people who are in financial difficulties. The person receiving the funds must:

- Be over the age of 16.
- Live in the Tandridge district.
- Be struggling to meet immediate and essential needs for themselves or their dependents.

More information on the fund, which is available until **31st March 2022**, is available on our website. We strongly encourage people to apply immediately as funding is limited and we may have allocated all the funds before the closing date.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2022-2023**

The Strategy & Resources Committee on 2nd December 2021 noted the Council's draft budget for 2022-2023 and Medium Term Financial Strategy. Despite a number of financial challenges, we anticipate we will set a balanced budget once we have the final details of our funding award from the government. There is currently a £0.3m overspend, which we will use up to £0.2m of our reserves to cover. To enable us to set a balanced budget, we have:



- Identified £1.5m of unavoidable revenue cost and funding pressures.
- Identified £1.1m of savings across three areas:
  - £0.6m from people and enabling services. Achieved by budget underspends from staffing turnover, as well as a review of the back-office functionality.
  - £0.2m from service efficiency. Achieved by reducing the cost of the Council Offices by leasing more of the building and improving commercial value from external contracts.
  - £0.3m from fees and charges. Achieved by reviewing support costs and fees and charges.
- Maintained a contingency (£0.1m) to allow for any additional costs throughout the year.

When considering setting the 2022/2023 revenue budget, we have ensured we will deliver services within available resources by implementing a corporate transformation programme to review all services and challenge what and how is delivered.

We are inviting residents to give their views on the budget by **12pm on 1st February 2022**. You can have your say on the budget by e-mailing [customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk), or writing to Budget Consultation, Tandridge District Council, Council Offices, 8 Station Road East, Oxted RH8 0BT.

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

### A Vehicle Activated Sign for Tatsfield

I am very pleased to have been able to source a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for Tatsfield from Surrey County Council to assist the village in keeping motorists at speed limits. A VAS is a sign that flashes up a speed warning when motorists are travelling above the speed limit and are designed as a reminder to encourage speed compliance.

The sign I have sourced is a refurbished sign from the police and will be given to the Parish Council on long term loan for FREE. A VAS typically costs £2.5k so this is terrific news for the village; the only cost is the cost of two batteries to operate it (around £50 each) and a padlock. The VAS is mobile which means it can rotate around the village to cover all the speed hot spots of the village.

Additionally, the Surrey County Council officer has offered to change the batteries for the village, and also rotate the sign at the Parish Council's request – a great service from the council. The Parish Council are currently liaising with the officer to identify the best locations for the VAS; where suitable posts don't exist they will be inserted.

It is a great addition to the armoury of speed tackling initiatives in the village which include the fantastic resident led speed watch group and the 20mph section of road.

If you have any questions about the VAS please contact me [becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Becky Rush**



## LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

Hello from Little Acorns.

We were pleased to welcome back our annual Crafty Christmas at the start of December which was great fun and a popular event with local families. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the atmosphere was very festive. Thank you to all who came and supported us.



December was an extremely busy and fun packed month at Little Acorns: Christmas jump-er day; a visit from Jan Akhtar to share her new story book; Rev Short came and shared the Christmas story with the children; we had some fabulous Christmas singing; and the children all had fun with lots of crafts, baking, messy play and making special Christmas cards and gifts for family and friends.

Our Christmas party and nativity play marked the end of the term. The children all put on a wonderful performance, and we were even visited by Father Christmas!





Finally, we would like to send out a huge thank you to all our families, local businesses and friends who have supported Little Acorns over the last year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in January.

If you would like to enquire about a place for your child from September 2022, please do get in contact: [office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk).

With best wishes to everyone for 2022.

**The Little Acorns Team**

**Email:** [office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk) **Tel:** 01959 540775

## ***Oxted Bereavement Support Group***

An initiative of  
**Churches Together in Oxted and District**  
(CTOD)



You are welcome to join this open group where bereaved people can come on their own, or with a friend, to meet others who are in a similar situation.

It is a great opportunity to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping.

Trained volunteers will be on hand for emotional and bereavement support. We look forward to welcoming you.



### ***When***

Starting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, then every other Thursday ...  
20<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> March, etc.

### ***Time***

Drop in between 1pm and 3pm

### ***Where***

Oxted United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted RH8 0AA

*For further information please contact*

CTOD (Churches Together in Oxted and District)

Email: [ctod.oxted@gmail.com](mailto:ctod.oxted@gmail.com)



## YEAR THREE 'S ROMAN LEARNING

This half term, the children have been immersed in all things ancient Roman, discovering many fascinating facts, including why the army was so successful and the legacy they left.

Here are some examples of the children's home learning projects.



Whilst learning about the Roman army, we studied the scu-  
tum (shield) before designing and painting our own. We  
formed the 'testudo' (tortoise) battle formation!



We designed and made Roman pots  
which we made out of clay, fired then  
glazed.





## THE GIFT OF TIME

As our attention turns to the new year, fresh beginnings, new year resolutions and thoughts of frosty mornings, we leave behind us the gift buying frenzy and pack away those much-loved Christmas baubles for another year.

With each passing year my list of how many I need to buy for each year and who needs to be on the list changes, and as family and friendship groups reshape and change over time, that now dog-eared list has gone through a few transformations over the years.

Don't get me wrong. I rather enjoy the hours of contemplation and searching to find that special something that I hope will bring a smile to the face of its recipient. Tussling with wrapping paper in the wee small hours and that familiar realisation that I've left too much to do in between baking, eating and perhaps a glass too many of that potent mulled wine.

Gift giving across the centuries has a rich history and goes back to the beginning of civilisation. It is believed cavemen gave shaped rock or animal teeth gifts as a way of socially connecting and showing appreciation. As time has passed and society has developed, gifts have become more and more elaborate.

For thousands of years, Pacific Northwest native American tribes gave property and gifts to confirm and demonstrate their status in a complex ceremony known as the potlatch. Alaskans returning from a successful hunt would share the largest portion of their catch with their tribe. The more they gave to the tribe members, the more revered and respected the hunters were.

Most of us will no doubt recall the Egyptians history for gifts. It was considered the oldest son's duty to ensure that his parents were buried with all the necessary goods and gifts that they would need in the afterlife, including everyday objects like bowls and combs, furniture, amulets and valuables. Each gift served a different purpose.

In Ancient Greece, elaborate gifts were given to travellers. The Greeks believed travellers could be Gods in disguise and believing this, they welcomed these strangers into their home and provided the gift of food and a bed. Elaborate gifts were also given in Ancient Greece to express emotion and build relationships, show devotion or respect. A tradition that continues to this day, is the giving of a small phial of olive oil to strangers.

In many countries around the world a bride's father gives a dowry (a lavish gift) in the form of land, money, livestock or precious items to the groom and in Sri Lanka, you might have also been gifted an Elephant to assist with your gardening and heavy lifting!

Gift giving forms part of a symbolic exchange ritual that is common to all cultures and all periods of history and plays such an important role in our society. Whether the gift is symbolic between the giver and recipient, symbolic of the gift giver's knowledge of the receiver, expressive of a significant moment and loaded with meaning or simply for an occasion such as a birthday or Christmas.

There have been some breath-taking gifts over time. The American philanthropist and businessman Leonard Lauder gifted a collection of artworks to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City (2013), believed to be valued at \$1.1 billion.



The colourless Koh-i-noor diamond was gifted to Queen Victoria by Duleep Singh, The last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire in the year 1849. The diamond was refashioned by Prince Albert into the 105.6-carat diamond we now see in the front cross of the Queen Mary Crown and estimated to be worth a staggering £409 million.

The infamous boxer Mike Tyson gifted actress Robin Givens a 24-carat luxury golden bath costing just under £2 million.

I imagine that our Christmas gifts may not have been quite on the same scale as those above. However, with each advancing year, I become ever more aware of the pressure on us to buy and, despite COVID, a recent consumer survey found that 12% of people in the UK spent more this Christmas than in previous years. According to government statistics, the average UK household was expecting to spend over £1,108 during the festive season in 2021. And all this is set against a backdrop of increasing awareness of the environmental impact consumerism is having on our futures.

A study published early in 2021 highlighted the escalating financial pressure being put on households in China, for example. In China, increasing levels of gift giving linked to maintaining and building informal social networks, is having significant implications on individual's subjective happiness and wellbeing.

Many of us say we want to live a less materialistic life, where we prioritise relationships and time over things and the pandemic has meant that for many of us our shopping habits have changed. However, when I reflect back to the things I value and remember most over time, it is not gifts that come to mind but rather the special moments shared and the stories associated with those events.

In previous articles I have written about the dopamine high (the feel-good chemical in our brain) that we get from doing something for others without expectation of getting something in return. Remember that gifts can come in many forms from forging relationships, sharing laughter and our time with others.

Gifting your time might not have been on the top of your list this Christmas, but perhaps it should be your gift for 2022. R. Warren said "Time is your most precious gift. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back."

Creating time for social connections enables us to build up a store of positive experiences and supportive relationships that we can draw strength from in the future. In turn, these new connections can potentially lead to improved health and more success at work as well as helping us to navigate through hard times. Why not find a new group or club in the village to join? From the compost group, Tatsfield in Bloom through to art groups, Tatsfield is rich with options.

So when you are wading through that list of items you think you need to buy this year or contemplating that new year resolution, remember the words of Marge Piercy, "The best gift you can give is a hug: One size fits all and no one ever minds if you return it".



## TATSFIELD SINGERS - BACK TO SINGING!

Tatsfield Singers were delighted to be able to return to singing last September. Singing has been a big no-no throughout the pandemic, and even when lockdown was lifted it was some time before choirs were given the green light to sing.



Under the excellent direction, of Sarah Fryer, our Musical Director, the Singers spent a very enjoyable autumn term getting our somewhat rusty voices back into singing mode reprising some old familiar songs and learning new ones, including an old Australian whaling song! We were

planning a Christmas Concert on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December but unfortunately, due to the continuing Covid situation we were not able to hold the concert, which was very disappointing. However, we were fortunate to be able to carol sing at Chartwell at the invitation of the National Trust, so on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December we gathered outside the front of Churchill's house to sing carols for the visitors who were gathered on the lawn to listen.

We are looking forward to singing again in early 2022 and to planning for our Spring/Summer concert. Tatsfield Singers are always looking for new members to join us. So if you fancy spending a couple of hours on a Thursday evening singing a wide variety of music we would be delighted to see you. No auditions necessary, whether you sing high, low or in the middle come and give it a go! We gather at Tatsfield Primary School at 7:45pm and, due to the current situation, make sure that the hall is well ventilated that and we are well spaced out.

## TATSFIELD WI



Our Christmas Party on December 7<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Nineteen members and one guest enjoyed a great variety of delicious festive dishes, both savoury and sweet. Mulled wine accompanied the meal and hot mince pies were served with tea and coffee to finish. A 'bring and choose' gift exchange convinced us that the Christmas season had really and truly started. We had a charity collection to add to other funds raised during the year and will donate £117 to Kidney Research UK in memory of our dear Shirley Murgatroyd who was so sadly missed this year.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

In November four mums and their new babies joined our regulars at the pop In in the WI Hall. They hope to start a "Mother and Baby Network" in the village and if you would like any details, please contact Bryony on [bryonymines@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonymines@hotmail.com).



We are open at the WI Hall, 29 Paynesfield Road, every Wednesday morning from 10.00 till 12.00 for a "Coffee/Tea Pop In", so if you are at a loose end please join us (children and well behaved dogs are very welcome).

Following the excellent presentation by Sals Shoes Charity last year, we collected outgrown - but not outworn - pairs of shoes, particularly children's sizes, at our meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January and the Wednesday morning pop Ins. These shoes are sent to charities in the UK and abroad. So far more than 2 million pairs have been distributed so please remember the charity and don't bin old shoes - re-cycle them with this great initiative.

At our February meeting we hope to learn about a true female pioneer. Martina Berman Osterberg founded the first Physical Training College for women in 1885, 45 years before the first men's college! She also brought Basketball back from America and within a couple of years Netball was born. This promises to be a great talk.

Please keep safe and look after yourselves and your neighbours over the winter months while we look forward to spring and warmer weather.

**Susan Smale 01959 577660**

## **TATSFIELD SCOUTS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY**



Tatsfield's Cubs, Scouts and Explorers were all delighted to return to Scouting in the autumn term. Highlights included hiking, wide games, learning First Aid and a close encounter with fabulous reptiles from Tatsfield Aquatics (thanks to Lisa and Jasper) while the year ended with a special party guest Christmas T-Rex!

More adventures are planned for the new year, and so we are asking for villagers ready for a new challenge in 2022 to support our Scout Group and therefore our young people in the village.



**Section Leader** We still have a vacancy for Beaver Section Leader for girls and boys aged 6-8 years old. If you can bring bags of enthusiasm and energy, we will provide full training and support. Without a leader we are unable to run this section which is a great shame. Please email [tatsfieldscouting@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldscouting@gmail.com) to find out more.

**EXPLORERS Assistant** Our Explorer Leader (SJ) needs another adult to help run Tuesday evening sessions with our 14-18 year olds on a temporary basis. You don't have to commit to being in uniform - just over 18 and ready to join the fun. Please contact SJ via email [sj\\_466@hotmail.com](mailto:sj_466@hotmail.com) or phone **07966 227202**.

**Please volunteer and give young people the skills they need to succeed in life and discover how being part of the Scouting family can be as rewarding for you as it is for them.**



## NOT SO YOUNG CLUB



Christmas cheer and celebrations arrived at the Not So Young Club last month! We were joined and entertained by the Revd. Vince Short who played his guitar and encouraged us to join in vocals. After a glass of Sherry to loosen their vocal chords, this was not a problem for our lovely members!

Once the crackers were pulled and hats placed on heads we enjoyed an array of delicious Christmas food, including roast turkey, mince pies and Christmas cake. Members went home with a Christmas goodie bag to save for the big day after our normal members' raffle.

Another highlight of the meeting was the drawing of our Big Christmas Raffle. Unfortunately, Sheree was unable to join us to pull out the winning tickets, so Vince did the honours instead.

Raffle results: 1st prize Tony; 2nd prize Annette Lynch; 3rd prize Angela Powell; 4th prize Caulton Rhule; 5th prize The Edwards'.

Sheree and her team did an amazing job selling £200 of tickets; and Tina and her team in Ye Old Ship sold tickets along with committee members and helpers. This all raised an astonishing £415. We would like to thank everyone in the village who supported us. We can assure you all the money will play a major part in helping to continue our meetings, organising events and supporting our members.

The Club was also awarded a grant for £360 from Members Community Fund supported by Becky Rush (SCC). This will be used towards a day out to Wisley Gardens in the summer. We have allocated £140 from our raffle proceeds to ensure we have sufficient money to cover all costs for a fabulous day out.

Our January meeting was themed around Burns Night.

We would like to thank our wonderful helpers, Claire, Liz, Tina and our most recent recruit Lorraine for their help and support throughout the past year, you are amazing ladies - thank you all!

As always, we welcome new members, so if anyone would like to join us either as a member, helper or committee member you would be most welcome.

The committee would like to reassure everyone that our priority at all our events is the safety and well-being of our members, therefore all helpers and committee members are doing a lateral flow test before our meetings and PPE is used by all in attendance.

Keep safe.

**Sue Dowse**

**Email: [notsoyoung100@gmail.com](mailto:notsoyoung100@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 07816 110929**



## TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS – GRADING SUCCESS FOR TMA COACHES

The end of 2021 saw promotions for two of TMA judo coaches. Andy Mumford completed a technical grading in December which saw him promoted from 1<sup>st</sup> dan to 2<sup>nd</sup> dan. Andy helps teach our children's judo classes on both Thursday and Saturdays, and this is a well-deserved promotion. TMA's head coach and founder, Adam Plinston, was promoted to 6<sup>th</sup> dan. Adam has been practising judo for 42 years now, he has been a black belt for almost 29 years and had held his 5<sup>th</sup> dan for over 6 years when he applied to be considered for his 6<sup>th</sup> dan. Fortunately, following an interview process, the board of examiners agreed with his application and promoted him in November.

Judo black belt grades are called dan grades and there are 10 in total:

- 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> dan is displayed by wearing a black belt.
- 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> dan is displayed by wearing a red / white belt.
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> dan are displayed by wearing a red belt.

Technical and competitive gradings are held for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> dan, but from 6<sup>th</sup> dan the grading process changes and rather than completing a set grading exam, it is more about what you have achieved and given back to judo, how long you have trained and how long you have held previous grades – along with your knowledge and technical ability. Olympic and world medallist, Brian Jacks, explains the dan grade system as degrees and 6<sup>th</sup> dan is when you become a professor.



**Adam Plinston**



**Andy Mumford**





## FEBRUARY FILM AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Curzon Country Cinema. All seats £6.

Pay at the door or reserve and pay online – [www.curzoncountrycinema.com](http://www.curzoncountrycinema.com)

Queries: contact Bob David 01959 577357

**Saturday 19 February:** Doors open 7pm, Show starts 7.30pm



### TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Tom Ellis	£48.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Alan Thorpe	£32.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Dave King	£16.00

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Paul Menham	£48.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Pete Small	£32.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:les.eames@ntlworld.com).

**Les**



## ST MARY'S NEWS

**Announcement concerning Revd Vince Short, Team Vicar** The following announcement was made at St Mary's, Tatsfield, (and at Limpsfield and Limpsfield Chart) on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January: "I am today announcing that I will be retiring from my post as Team Vicar this year. My last Sunday will be Sunday 27th March 2022 (Mothering Sunday). Since I arrived in November 2016, with just over 5 years to my planned retirement, I count it a privilege to have served in Tatsfield and the Team Ministry during a period of significant change. I have enjoyed meeting and working with you all and I look forward to our remaining time together. My prayers are with those who will oversee the new chapter in the Team. God bless, Vince."



### **Advent and Christmas at St Mary's**

During Advent, congregation members took a turn in lighting the Advent candle (picture shows Pat Stokoe assisted by Thelma Nkomo).

At Christmas, we were delighted that Sauro Gabelli set up a wonderful Christmas tableau at the church, as in the past.

Additionally, we were grateful for the purchase, setting up and decoration of

one of David Bacon's recycled wood Christmas trees; and for other floral decoration around the church, including greenery kindly donated by the Titsey Estate.

Following the very difficult decision to hold the Christmas services on Zoom in view of high Covid infection rates in the nation, we very much hope that next Christmas will be easier for everyone.



We encourage gifts to our annual Christmas charity, The Children's Society.

**Christmas Food Delivery and Future Deliveries** A huge thank you to everyone who had donated food and money to enable us to support the local food bank in Westerham and at Christ Church, Brixton Road, over the Christmas period. Two deliveries were made to Westerham, at the end of November and in December, of food and Christmas goodies. Also, a carload of donations was taken to Christ Church, Brixton Road, on 8<sup>th</sup> December. We plan to take further provisions to Westerham in February and Brixton in March 2022. We continue to collect food, throughout the year, for both Westerham and Christ Church.



*Food suggestions* are canned vegetables and meat, tinned fish and fruits, ready meals, baked beans, milk, fruit juice, porridge, biscuits, cereals, coffee and tea. Also welcomed are rice, pulses, and toiletries. There continues to be a growing need for support from families at both Food Banks. If you would like to give your support you can leave any non-perishable food that you wish to donate in the church, 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**

**Flower Team** Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. It was disappointing not to catch up with the Flower Arranging Team at Christmas but fingers crossed we will manage to meet up at Eastertime. **Ann 577207 Jan 577659**



**"Happy Hour" Coffee – early 2022** We warmly invite you to Sheree's between 10am and 11am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March (assuming no restrictions due to the Pandemic), for our next sessions of "Happy Hour". The Church will offer a **£1 subsidy** for every coffee, tea or hot chocolate purchased. Please mention "Happy Hour" when ordering to obtain your discount.

### **Consecration of Churchyard Extension on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

We welcomed the Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark, assisted by the Archdeacon of Reigate, The Ven. Moira Astin, for this special event. Following a short service in church, the congregation followed the Bishop out to the churchyard extension, where the legal document was read, followed by the Bishop using his staff to make the mark of the cross on the ground at each corner, before a concluding blessing with holy water. Afterwards, tea, coffee and cake were enjoyed in the Millennium Hall. We are grateful to Dave Bishop for this photo and a glowing report in the Surrey Mirror. The next steps for the extension will include grass and wild flowers for the burial ground and progressing the design for a memorial garden for the interment of ashes. This will then need approval by the Diocese before it is established and brought into use.



### **St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the December draw**

74. S Payne £25    28. S Cook £15    68. L Ellis £10    St Mary's £50

### **Records**

2<sup>nd</sup> December    Interment of Ashes of Alan Henry Wickenden  
8<sup>th</sup> December    Funeral of Paul William Laugharne

**Monthly Open the Bible All Age Service – 10am Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February** Children and families are welcome at St Mary's every week. On the first Sunday of the month our lively (and slightly shorter) Open the Bible service includes additional involvement of the



children and young at heart. On 6<sup>th</sup> February, the service will include the opportunity to remember our Baptisms – children and adults are invited to bring their Baptism candle (extra candles will also be available).

**Lectio Divina – weekly Bible reflection 7.30pm-8.00pm each Wednesday by Zoom with Chris and Ellen Goldsmith** Each session explores and brings to life a short Bible passage as we first listen and then each share a word or phrase that stands out for us. All are welcome, as each week stands alone. The Zoom link can be found in our notice sheet which is accessible via the homepage on our website.

**Sunday Services** Our regular Sunday services in church are at 10am weekly, with an additional service of Holy Communion at 11.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Further information is in our notice sheet which is posted on the noticeboard at the church entrance and can also be accessed via the link on the home page of our website: [www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)

**St Mary's Church, Tatsfield, is currently open at the following times:** approximately 8.30am – 3.30pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Visitors are kindly asked to continue to wear face masks. The **Millennium Hall** is open for bookings.

**St Mary's Church Website: [www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)**





## REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

<b>Sun</b>	10.00 am Church service – StM
<b>Mon</b>	9.30 am Tots on Top – CH 1.30 pm Bridge Club – WIH 5.00 pm Boom Dance Academy Junior Street Dance - VH 5.45 pm Boom Dance Academy Break Dance for All – VH 6.30 pm Cubs - SH 7.15 pm Adult Ballet - TPS 7.30 pm Art Group – VH [Term time] 8.15 pm Bingo – TVC
<b>Tue</b>	1.30 pm Whist – WIH (Last Tuesday of the month) 12.30 pm Not So Young Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH 2.30 pm WI Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH 5.00pm Tatsfield Drama Club - StM 6.00 pm Beginners Step Class - VH 7.00 pm Scouts and Explorers – SH 7.00 pm Beginners Step Class - VH
<b>Wed</b>	10.00 am WI Pop In – WIH 6.00 pm Cubs – SH 7.30 pm Yoga – VH
<b>Thu</b>	2.00 pm Scrabble at AMB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month) 4.30 pm Under 8's Judo - SH 5.45 pm Over 8's Judo - SH 7.15 pm Adult Ju Jitsu - SH 7.30 pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS 8.00 pm Table Tennis – VH
<b>Fri</b>	10.00 am Pilates – WIH 9.30 am Self-defence and HIIT, Tatsfield Martial Arts -SH 11.15 am Pilates – WIH 1.30 pm Short Mat Bowls –VH 6.30 pm Over 10's Ju Jitsu- SH 8.00 pm Badminton Club – VH
<b>Sat</b>	9.00 am Under 8's Judo – SH 10.00 am Composting site (now closed for Winter) 10.15 am Over 8's Judo - SH 11.45 am Adult Judo – SH

If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to:  
**tatsfieldpm@gmail.com**



## UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

### JANUARY

25 <sup>th</sup> Tues	10.00am	Happy Hour Tea/Coffee, Sheree's Tearoom
29 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night, Barn Theatre

### FEBRUARY

1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	2.15pm	WI Talk about Martina Berman Osterberg, WIH
6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.00am	All Age Bible Service, StM
6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	7.30pm	Blues Brothers Little Brother, Barn Theatre
8 <sup>th</sup> Tues	12.30pm	Not So Young Club, WIH
8 <sup>th</sup> Tues	7.30pm	Tatty Knitters, The Bakery
11 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	The Wild Murphys – One Night in Dublin, Barn Theatre
19 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.00pm	The Last Bus, Curzon Country Cinema, VH
21 <sup>st</sup> Mon	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre
22 <sup>nd</sup> Tues	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre
23 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre
24 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre
25 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre

### MARCH

1 <sup>st</sup> Tues	2.25pm	WI Meeting, WIH
5 <sup>th</sup> Sat	TBC	Quiz for London Marathon in aid of Juvenile Diabetes, VH
11 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.00pm	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Barn Theatre
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.00pm	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Barn Theatre
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.00pm	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, Barn Theatre
23 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	7.45pm	Magic of the Musicals, Barn Theatre
24 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.45pm	Magic of the Musicals, Barn Theatre
25 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Magic of the Musicals, Barn Theatre
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	Magic of the Musicals, Barn Theatre
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Magic of the Musicals, Barn Theatre

### Venues

AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CGA - Community Games Area • MH - Millennium Hall • SH - Scout Hut •  
 StM - St. Mary's Church • TACG – Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club •  
 TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women's Institute



## FAIRTRADE MATTERS - CLIMATE, FARMERS AND TATSFIELD



Fairtrade has become inextricably linked with the Climate Crisis since the farmers around the globe who supply so much of our food are increasingly threatened by the consequences of our warming planet. Mary Kinyua is a Fairtrade flower grower in Kenya who worked with COP26 President, Alok Sharma, for the United Nations Climate Summit. After the event, she said “This COP’s outcome is in many ways a cop out, a frustrating conclusion to this summit filled with hope that we would see a start to the healing of our world.

“As farmers ourselves, representing 1.8 million Fairtrade farmers and workers across the world already living with the devastating realities of climate change, we came to Glasgow in good faith, hoping our world leaders would listen to our voices and keep their promises. Our message – of ensuring the planet temperature rise remains within 1.5



degrees and that the costs of addressing a changing climate would not be unfairly placed on those of us who did the least to cause it – could not have been clearer.

“It is hard to understand why the prospect of a 2.4 degree temperature rise has not driven world governments to deliver on the promises made in Paris. It is hard to understand why the climate finance promise of \$100 billion per year is still outstanding. It is painful to see that no commitment at all has been made to pay for the unavoidable loss and damage faced by our communities.

However, Mary does acknowledge some of the positive signs that emerged including the “Promises on deforestation are critical for millions like me for whom farming is a way of life, and the announcement of a ‘Just Rural Transition Fund’ is an encouraging move.”

### **What can we do here in Tatsfield?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us more than ever how interconnected we are globally. This interconnection is at the very heart of the Fairtrade message and is where our role begins. **Farmers need better incomes and financial support to adapt to changing weather patterns and change their farming methods to ensure a low-carbon economy. By choosing Fairtrade, you offer support and show solidarity with those on the frontline of the climate crisis.** We can all play our part not only with our shopping choices but with our support in spreading the message.

During Fairtrade Fortnight 2022, 21<sup>st</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March, please look out for the increased array of Fairtrade products available in Sheree’s Stores. These will include Traidcraft products supplied by our good friend Moyna Bridge. The theme of the fortnight will be “Choose the World you Want”. The Fairtrade Foundation are organising another online festival which will give you the opportunity to select from a wide range of talks, discussions and presentations from your living room. Find out more about the **Choose the World You Want Festival** here: [fairtrade.org.uk/festival](https://fairtrade.org.uk/festival) or scan the **QR code**.



Thank you for all the support you continue to show by choosing Fairtrade at local shops, supermarkets and online every time you shop.

Together we do have the power to make a positive difference.



**Hilary Harber**  
**Tatsfield Fairtrade Group**



## THE TATSFIELD ART EXHIBITION

When I entered the village hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November, I was literally 'blown away' by the sea of beautiful pictures filling the room. I had no idea there were so many talented artists in our village! I am not in the least knowledgeable on art, so forgive me if this write-up is lacking in technical detail but I will proceed to put into words what I saw as I moved around the hall.

I was immediately drawn to Sandra Shury's huge canvas boasting a field of stunning sunflowers that radiated happiness and sunshine! I also loved her African savanna dotted with acacia trees and many gorgeous flower paintings.

Next door, in contrast, Alison de Alwis's portfolio was predominantly portrait for which she displayed a unique style and considerable talent.

Gill Manners' beautiful work showed great diversity of subject matter, ranging from portrait and animals to picturesque landscapes and coastal scenes.

Barbara Forest, for whom it was her first time exhibiting in Tatsfield, showed great skill for painting dogs. I particularly liked the way they were drawn in very natural and adorable positions, all of which were realistic and appealing.

Christine Stainer, who specialises in Portrait and animals, exhibited a wonderful selection, but I fell in love with a simple vase of wildflowers on canvas, which has now found its new home at Furze Corner.

Julie Leversedge displayed a talent for painting town and landscape scenes along with animals and I particularly admired her rhino in reflective water.

I enjoyed the captions that accompanied some of the artwork on display; one of Brian Ling's paintings was entitled 'Did I hear walkies?' to accompany a delightful painting of a dog wearing a peaked cap! Brian's subject matter was quite varied, including a beautiful bluebell wood in oil and a field of golden hay bales.

Jane O'Keefe - is there no end to her talent? She paints as well as making all sorts of brushed felt creations! Known for running a 'Donkey Club' for many years in Tatsfield, there were sadly no donkeys but her great close-up of an alpaca more than compensated, along with a beautifully detailed barn owl in acrylic.

Hannah Franklin impressed me with the originality of her work, which featured a unique style of portraits and her effective use of mixed media - my favourite being 'A Happy Home in the Woods'.

Jackie Copeman again showed great versatility of subject matter and was clearly incredibly skilled at portrait. Her gorgeous painting of her mother was captivating. I felt that I could almost speak to her, she looked so real and so full of character (understandably, it was not for sale). I was also taken by her exquisitely detailed male pheasant and the oyster catchers, one of my favourite birds, flying just above the surface of the sea.



John Kenyon-Robert's painting of Whitehall, London, reminded me of the late Leonid Afremov - a Russian painter renowned for his amazing use of oils to create rainy, urban scenes with streetlamps and moonlight reflected in puddles and wet pavements. Along with his liking for buildings, John also had an impressive selection of aeroplane paintings and a wonderful painting of two shire horses ploughing a field.

Carol Gaskell's exhibit was a feast of flamboyant colours within an original and unique style. I loved her depiction of David Bowie and her shining acrylic flower paintings. Carol's work had, to my mind, so much of Carol's personality intrinsically embedded- colourful and vibrant!

Next door to Carol was a similarly bright and vivid display - the work of Sheila Alexander. The title 'Confusion Acrylic' was an apt title for her use of a dotting technique, reminiscent of Aboriginal art. I loved her large colourful flowers, especially the one that used needlefelt embroidery full of rich shades and texture - it must have taken hours to produce.

Up on the stage, I learned about the 'Lingfield Arttask'- a group which started up during lockdown and chose fortnightly art tasks to do at home. When restrictions were lifted, they started to meet regularly, and it was amazing to see the raw talent amongst individuals who had never realised they had it in them.

Also exhibiting on the stage was Linda Lambert, Molly Chapman and Steve Gaskell. Linda appeared to have used most mediums and often creates an attractive marbling effect in her paintings. I loved her poppy field and her gorgeous giraffe entitled 'Nomad'.

In total contrast, Molly's manga designs were totally cool and current! She is clearly a master of these characters and is a very talented young lady.

Steve Gaskell uses an unusual medium of combining crayons and biro to effectively create detailed drawings of entomological species and snakes.

Finally, I stood aghast in front of Jane Smith's array of sculptures. I had no idea that Jane did this and I was in awe! Some were in bronze resin and others in clay and I particularly liked her yoga figures in all different poses. Jane runs weekly classes in Biggin Hill and has occasional open days for anyone who wants to have a go.

We had an impressive number of visitors on both days, and I would like to say a big thank you to all members of the Tatsfield Art Group for sharing their portfolios with us and for including my Charity Wagon. It was a very enjoyable two days and raised a substantial amount for dementia.

**Janice Akhtar**



## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

### Reflections and correspondence

With the apparent merging of one season's end into another's beginning, without any great difference in weather, it becomes increasingly difficult to observe what used to be considered seasonal events: When will migrant birds arrive and leave, when will butterflies emerge, when will the first spawn appear in the pond, when will the first primrose be seen flowering below the hedgerow? All such expectation creates excitement but also leads to much disappointment. The observation of Redwing and Fieldfare flocks was pretty much a certainty in our locality during the cold, winter months. But now, with milder winters, I'm having to get used to the fact that they may only appear for a very brief time, if at all. I'm beginning to realise that the variety of dependable, wildlife events will never be as good as it was in my childhood, or indeed a decade or so ago. Once common garden observations have become a thing of the past. I wonder how many of you, like myself, enjoyed the sight of a buddleia bush smothered with Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Red Admiral, Small and Large White butterflies? How many of us recall regular sightings of Commas, Painted Ladies and Orange tips? Disappointment indeed. And yet there is one sighting that we seem able to depend on - the springtime Brimstone. Now, as you know, there is excitement each year to see who will be the first reader to spot a Brimstone, out of hibernation and 'on the wing'. With this in mind, I fully expect to hear from someone within the next month or so saying that they have spotted one on a warm February day flitting across their lawn. Of course, for the past couple of years it's been a two horse race with Ruth (Yeeles) and Steve (Gaskell) both hoping that the accolade will be there's. But you never know, perhaps this year... but wait a moment, what's this coming through? A message from 'Adventuress' Ruth (Yeeles). What is this about? Could it possibly be? Yes, I think it is!

*(01.01.22) 'In case you need anything for Nature Notes this month, I'm hopefully going to claim **'First Brimstone of the Year'**! Jim and I were working at Hill Park Reserve this afternoon (1st Jan) and saw a couple of Brimstones. It was lovely weather and the unbelievably high temperature must have brought them out. Hopefully Steve wasn't out and about today!!!'*

**WOW!** What else can I say? A Brimstone - no, a couple of Brimstones - on the first day of January? Amazing! I'm so pleased you were there to see them. I would love to see Steve's reaction when he finds out! Oh well, Steve, not to worry; you'll soon get another chance - in 2023!

### The intelligence of crows

Winter bird feeders, as we know, are particularly important during the cold, winter months. If we're lucky, and go to the trouble of providing a variety of foodstuffs, they attract a good number of species and offer us the opportunity to observe various forms of behaviour. Of course, we may also attract what some consider to be unwanted visitors, such as the Magpie. But perhaps we shouldn't be quite so hasty. Magpie



behaviour, like that of other members of the crow family, can be fascinating. I currently have a bird table and a birdbath sited very close to each other; within hopping distance. At least one of the Magpies that visits regularly has learnt to dunk pieces of stale bread or cake in the water before eating it. This is a clear example of intelligence and the ability to apply that intelligence to solve an everyday problem: *This food is dry. There's some water. If I drop the food in the water it will become edible.* Problem solved. Of course, unlike (most) humans, they lack morals: *I'm hungry. There's a nest full of eggs. I'll eat them.* Second problem solved. The first behaviour is entertaining, the second distressing. But that's through the eyes of a human. The Magpie will do whatever's necessary to survive. In fact, under different circumstances, so would we. Magpies are not evil; they're naturally pragmatic. They are also great entertainers!



The Raven is another member of the crow family. Their intelligence is such that Mathias Osvath (animal behaviourist) classifies them with the great apes due to their ability to use past experience to plan for the future. After just one lesson they can learn to use tools to gain rewards. They can even choose a tool from a selection in order to solve a known, reward-laden problem, should it reappear. They will ignore other opportunities for a lesser reward, waiting patiently for the time to use their 'special' tool' thereby earning their equally 'special' reward. The birds were also taught how to barter, trading-up their tools to obtain an even better reward than their 'special' one. In this experiment the Ravens outperformed minor apes and even young children, demonstrating self-control, reasoning and flexible planning equal to that of a great ape. They, like other members of the crow family, particularly Jackdaws, also enjoy devising and playing games. Perhaps watching the bird feeder from our window can offer more than we expect. Why not share your observations of bird behaviour with other readers? Go on - give it a go!



Next month we'll be looking at John's (Rosenbaum) annual bird report. In the meantime, here's a **'New Year Message'** from Greenpeace:

*'This year, real change will come from every one of us keeping up the pressure on companies and governments to take action on the climate and nature. We all want to see a world where plants, humans and other animal species live together in harmony. Now's the time to make it happen, together. **Nothing changes without you.**'*

**Any news or views?** Contact: [nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com)  
Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.



## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022

The start of a new year provides an opportunity to look forward to the “stand out” events that 2022 offers not only astronomers but also those whose interest in the sky is a little more superficial.

Some events to look out for this year are a total eclipse of the Moon on May 16<sup>th</sup> although it doesn’t begin until 3:30am and ends for us when the Moon sets at just after 5am. Then there is a partial eclipse of the Sun on October 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:08am and concluding at 11:51am. Unfortunately, from our location in the UK, the amount of the Sun covered by the Moon is quite small although, despite that, they are comparatively rare events, so are worth making the effort to observe. In fact, there is no location on Earth that will see a total eclipse on that day or, for that matter, at any time during 2022.

Coincidence plays a part in all areas of life and astronomy is no exception. In terms of eclipses, the coincidence is that the Moon is approximately 400 times smaller than the Sun but it is also 400 times closer to us. The result is that, to us on Earth, they both appear to be roughly the same size. Thanks to that happy coincidence the dark body of the Moon just fits in front of the Sun to block out its light and allows us to see the Sun’s outer atmosphere at a total eclipse. This part of its atmosphere is called the Corona, something that until fairly recently could only be observed at the time of a total eclipse. Now space probes look directly at the Sun but have an “occluding disk” that is effectively performing the same function as the Moon by inserting a dark disk between the camera and the Sun.

By mid-January the evening sky that was recently replete with bright planets has only Jupiter left now that the other solar system bodies have either moved too close to the Sun or have transferred their allegiance to the pre-dawn observer.

Venus, for example, has become a morning object as February dawns and on 1<sup>st</sup> at 7am it lies exactly in the south east with an altitude of 12°. As the days pass its position changes very little although the lack of altitude should be no deterrent to finding it due to it reaching maximum brilliance this month.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> Jupiter is just west of south-west at a height of almost 15° at 5:25pm. At that time the Sun will be 6° below the horizon, a point that signifies the end of civil twilight and the beginning of nautical twilight. As February progresses, Jupiter moves closer to the Sun until, from the middle of the month onwards, it is lost in the solar glare. It will reappear in the morning skies later in April and have a very close encounter with Venus at the beginning of May. The only other planet available in the evening is Uranus, that is currently within the boundaries of Aries, but is at the very limits of naked eye visibility.

If you look generally towards the south around 8:30pm in early February, Orion the hunter, the brilliant winter constellation, is straddling the meridian with his entourage clustered around him. Orion’s shape is well known, because most people are aware of the three stars in a line close together that form his belt. North of the hunter and slightly east lies Gemini containing Castor and Pollux – the mythological twins. To the north and



west is Taurus that is well known for the open cluster of stars, M45 or the Pleiades, that are colloquially referred to as the Seven Sisters. They are so called because it is said anyone with good eyesight can see seven members of the group. Given the amount of wholly unnecessary light pollution today I think it unlikely that that would be the case. The brightest star in Taurus is Aldebaran which is meant to represent the eye of the bull, an excellent choice as the star is obviously red in colour. It is a giant star whose surface, if it were to replace our Sun, would reach halfway to Mercury. If you look carefully, you will see a “V” shape of stars that Aldebaran appears to be amongst. This is another open cluster of stars called the Hyades although they have nothing to do with Aldebaran because it simply lies in the same line of sight as the cluster.



Below Gemini is Canis Minor, the small dog, whose only bright star is Procyon, the eighth brightest in the night sky. Then, closer to the horizon, is Canis Major, the large dog. The brightest star here is in fact the brightest in the entire night sky; Sirius whose name in Greek means “scorching”.

Directly below Orion is Lepus, the hare, which although it contains no bright stars it has a shape that is quite obvious.

Of course, Orion is the star of the show with its previously mentioned belt and bright stars at two of the “corners”. The star at the lower right, which often depicts the knee of the hunter, is Rigel a blue supergiant that is thought to be at least 100,000 times as luminous as the Sun. The star at the upper left (the hunter’s shoulder) is Betelgeuse, a red giant that is expected to explode in a supernova at any time. In fact, there are those that suggest that this has already happened but we can’t yet see it because the light from that stellar explosion would take 548 years to reach us. A light year is an astronomical



measure of the distance that light would travel over the period of one year given that the speed of light is 300,000 kilometres per second.

Incidentally, the star at Orion's right shoulder (as we look at him) is Bellatrix, a name that surely gave J K Rowling inspiration for a character in her Harry Potter novels.

The map is drawn for February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30pm but is perfectly usable for later in the night or the month if you allow for the gradual rotation of the sky towards the west. Constellation names are given in bold type whilst star names, and the Pleiades, are in italic.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## **NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA – A NAME TO REMEMBER**

North Downs Sinfonia held its informal Young Soloists concert on Sunday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Despite the weather and the situation with Covid, more than 30 people, over a quarter of whom were aged under fourteen, came to see the orchestra (somewhat down on the usual number of players, for obvious reasons!)

The orchestra performed the Beethoven 'Coriolan' Overture, and the first and fourth movements of Charles Gounod's first symphony, a relatively unknown work, but one which is full of French joie de vivre.

However, the main focus of attention was on the Bruch 'Romanze', and quite rightly so, as the soloist, viola player Rebecca Wells, who is only thirteen, was outstanding. For one so young, she was not only technically excellent, but performed the work with amazing maturity. The audience did not want to leave at the end and would have loved her to play another piece. So do not be surprised if, in a few years, you see her name at the top of a concert list!

Thanks must also go to the orchestra who, despite being down in numbers, performed really well, and to the conductor Brynly Clarke, who has always supported NDS.

The next rehearsal is on 6<sup>th</sup> February and will be the first rehearsal for the concert on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. More details on this next month!

If you are grade 8, and would like to play in the orchestra, please email [northdownssinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:northdownssinfonia@gmail.com). The orchestra meets once a month, and gives two varied concerts, plus of course the Young Soloists concert, every year.





## TATTY KNITTERS

After a lovely meal in December, we were ready to pick up our needles and get going again in January. We will next meet on 8<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time of 7.30-9.30pm in the Bakery. Any crafters are welcome. **Val Quick 07761571071**



## POPPY APPEAL 2021 IN TATSFIELD



Last year, in my third year as Poppy Appeal Organiser for Tatsfield, we saw a total of £1529.33 collected in the village. This has come from collection boxes which were placed at many sites in the village, and from Pop up Poppy Shop tables set up at Sheree's Store and Tearoom in October and November. Thank you for continuing to support us. Your contributions help fund life-changing work and allows the British Legion to help thousands of members of the Armed Forces community every year. **David Vale**

## BARN THEATRE

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January: Oxted Comedy with Charlie Baker and Ricky Grover.** When did you last have a good laugh? Change that and come and see Charlie Baker and Ricky Grover and the comedians from House of Stand Up. Tickets £25.00 available from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811. **18+**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Blues Brothers Little Brother.** A fabulous rhythm and blues evening. Jake and Elwood belt out two hours of hits associated with the Blues Brothers films whilst entertaining with an energetic and amusing stage show. Tickets £18.00 available from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February: The Wild Murphys – One Night in Dublin.** Come and join in the craic as this award winning seven-piece Irish band covers songs by the Pogues, The Dubliners, The Saw Doctors, Daniel O' Donnell, Flogging Molly, Dropkick Murphys, Van Morrison and many more, in their own unique and upbeat style. The Wild Murphys celebrate Irish classics with tracks including: Galway Girl, Tell Me Ma, Dirty Old Town, The Irish Rover, Brown Eyed Girl, Seven Drunken Nights, Sally MacLennane, When You Were Sweet Sixteen, Whiskey in the Jar, Wild Rover and Molly Malone, to name just a few. Tickets costing just £21.00 are available from 01959 561811 or [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk).

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February: Southern Counties Drama Festival – A first round of the All-England Theatre Festival.** This year's selection of plays is an eclectic and interesting mix of comedy, tragedy and drama and a week not to be missed. Tickets cost £10.00 and are available from [www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk) or 01959 561811.



## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Another gardening year commences, but you are probably looking out there and thinking it looks more like a bog than a garden! Be patient, our lovely clay soil is brimming and not very forgiving if you try to do any sort of cultivating; it will stop raining and the slow drying out process will start. But, there must also be a few smug smiles from those of you who have years of experience working our heavy soil and are already preparing it for a busy year? Clay is a good soil for growing all sorts of plants, fruit and vegetables but timing your cultivations is a vital part of success. My early gardening years were spent working on 'Middlesex Clay', a thick pure yellow soil that could be hard as a brick in summer and sticky mess that could suck your boots off – yes it happened to me many times! We were taught how to manage this stuff to produce great sports pitches, vegetable plots and flower beds. Digging the vegetable plots in the autumn before it got too wet and leaving the soil in big lumps for the frost to break them down, adding lime before final preparation for growing brassicas, adding lots of well-rotted manure or compost in the final preparation for legumes and salads; over years of doing this we developed a decent, workable, topsoil. In shrub and flower beds we used a variety of organic substances such as coffee waste (very acid) and hop manure – all from the local factories; we also used our own huge compost heaps to dig in where possible but also as a mulch on the surface.

Want to learn more? Tatsfield is blessed with an active Horticultural Society, Gardening Club and an award-winning Community Composting scheme; have a look in this magazine or go to ***tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com***.

It is very encouraging to see the growing level of debate about our environment and to read about the many great initiatives that are now happening both globally and nationally. Tatsfield is also involved in making environmental improvements with initiatives by our Parish, District and County councils, articles in this magazine and work by our community volunteers. But what about your garden? Did you know that you can also make a significant contribution to improving our local environment? You can make changes to the way you manage your garden that will not be expensive or even very time consuming. It starts with developing a greater awareness of your garden as a wildlife haven and the simple practical steps you can take to make it even better. This year I will be including practical advice for you in my gardening notes, so watch this space!

Did you know that, despite a bad reputation, wasps are a gardener's friend and are a vital part of our local biodiversity? They live on caterpillars and other garden bugs, and despite many scare stories, they do not usually attack humans unless disturbed. A key part of having a healthy population of wasps is providing a habitat for the Queen who hibernates over the winter in dry sheltered places, especially logs in your log store! I make sure to collect my logs for the fire in daylight so that I can carefully pick off the Queen and place her somewhere safe – don't worry, she is asleep and will only wake up if you accidentally bring her indoors! Not a problem, please do not kill her! – she will allow herself to be collected and put back outside in a sheltered spot where she will go



back to sleep. Yes, I know this takes a bit of believing, but it is this sort of challenge to our perceptions that can help to make a big difference to our environment!

**Jon Allbutt**

## TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

During November and the first few weeks of December the volunteers continued to keep the village centre tidy with our annual job of clearing the leaves on Westmore Green, especially for the Remembrance Day service. All the gutters were cleared of leaves and the area in front of the shops to prevent icy slippage should the temperatures fall.



We started our volunteering sessions again in the New Year on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January when we collected all the twigs and branches which had fallen on Westmore Green over the Christmas period to protect the grass when the mowers start again. The vines outside the Bakery were also pruned and the pansies and violas deadheaded and checked.

During January we shall also be working on the posts and wires for the vines which need tensioning before this year's growth. We will also be preparing a new bed under the new noticeboard on Westmore Green ready for the planting of shrubs in the Spring.

Thank you to all our friends and volunteers who have helped in 2021. Our best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to you all.

**Jill Hancock (577622)**



### THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE

The Woodhouse Centre is a cheerful and busy 'workshop' for retired and disabled people living in Oxted and surrounding areas. Members come and get involved in a whole range of crafts from caning, upholstery and seagrassing to knitting, sewing, paper crafts and the Men-in-Sheds Club make a whole host of wooden items from bird tables, planters and other items for gardens.

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First of all, my apologies if you missed the announcement on village notice boards and on Tatsfield Talk and so were not aware that December's 'History Weekend' had been called off. This was done because of the increasing concerns about Covid and the difficult in maintaining social distancing and providing proper ventilation in a small location in winter. All being well, the 'weekend' will take place in the spring. Now, back to the past.....

## TATSFIELD A CENTURY AGO

In January 1922 there was a foretaste of one of the controversies that was to agitate communities on the outskirts of London for decades. Tatsfield Parish Council was alarmed at proposals to extend the powers of London County Council into neighbouring counties. It feared a rise in local taxation to support the needs of the capital. Nothing came of the idea immediately, but in 1965 the Greater London Council was formed, and London took over Bromley and Croydon. In the 1980s there was more talk of London gobbling up its surroundings. So, the parish council was urged to promote development on the village hall side of Westmore Green so that moving the boundary in that direction could be rejected because it would split the enlarged village centre in two.

In February 1922 came news that local schemes to relieve wide-scale unemployment would benefit Tatsfield. Government help had been forthcoming, and the Approach Road would be widened and reconstructed using '*broken Sevenoaks road stone*', extending into land provided by the squire – Charles Leveson Gower. However, within a couple of weeks it became clear that not every Tatsfielder appreciated the idea. In a letter to the Westerham Herald, 'A Tatsfield Resident' complained that the scheme would be "*at the expense of all the present beauty of the place*" and "*disfigure a beauty spot*" by felling the trees that appeared to have lined the road at the time. Tree-felling seems to have been a delicate issue then, since the district council had been accused of cutting down trees along Westmore Green without first consulting the parish council.

Also in February, the Surrey Mirror carried a detailed account of the past year's activities of the Working Men's Club which at the time had 112 members. The club had won the Edenbridge Games League shield and a silver cup for the 1920/21 season. These successes were being maintained, with members doing well in the League. Internal tournaments had involved '*whist, draughts, shove-penny, rings*' and, later, a billiard championship. In the summer, there had been a summer outing to Hastings and a successful Boxing Day lunch had been held. A strong delegation from the Club had been present at the unveiling ceremony of the war memorial in the church and a '*magnificent wreath with an appropriate inscription*' had been laid on behalf of the Club.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - [Tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:Tatsfield.history@talk21.com)**

**Tel: 577376 Website: [www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldhistoryproject/](http://www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfieldhistoryproject/)**





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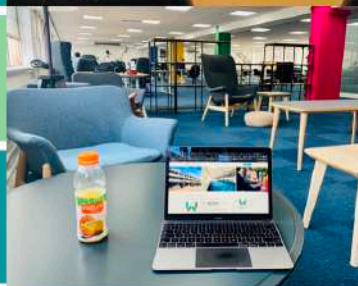
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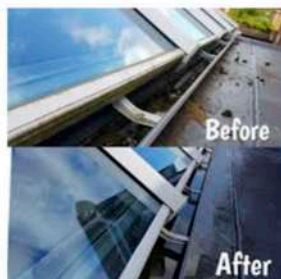
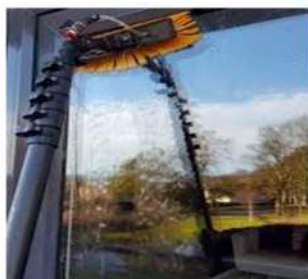
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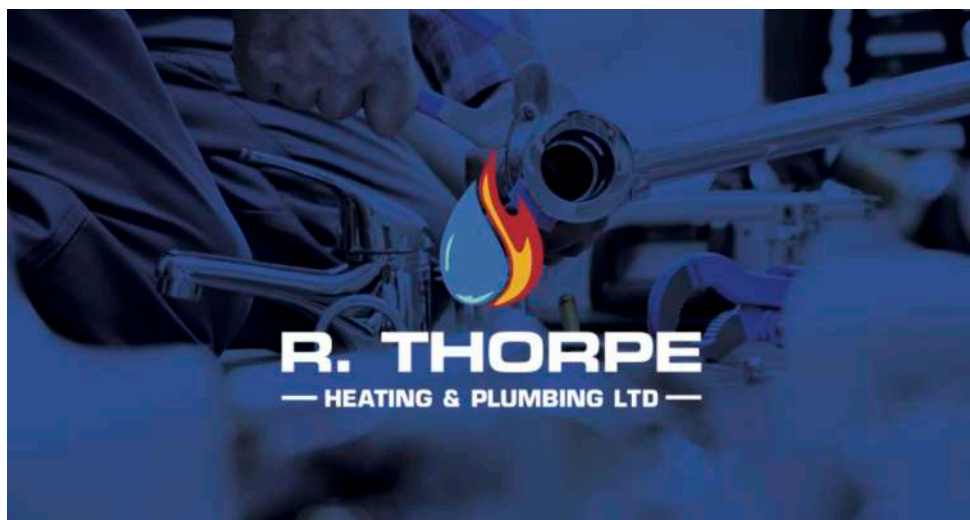
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