MAY 2025

30 years 1995-2025

# Tatsfield Parish Magazine

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Friday 23rd May - Disco

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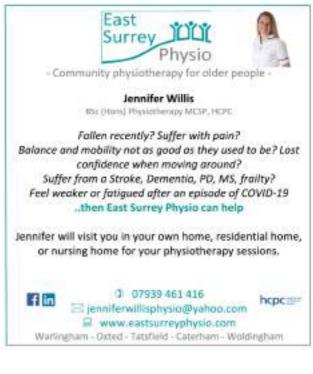


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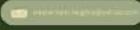
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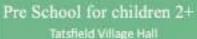
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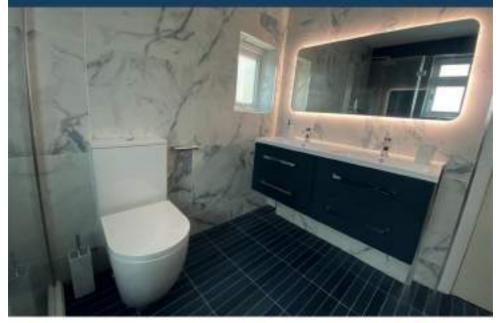






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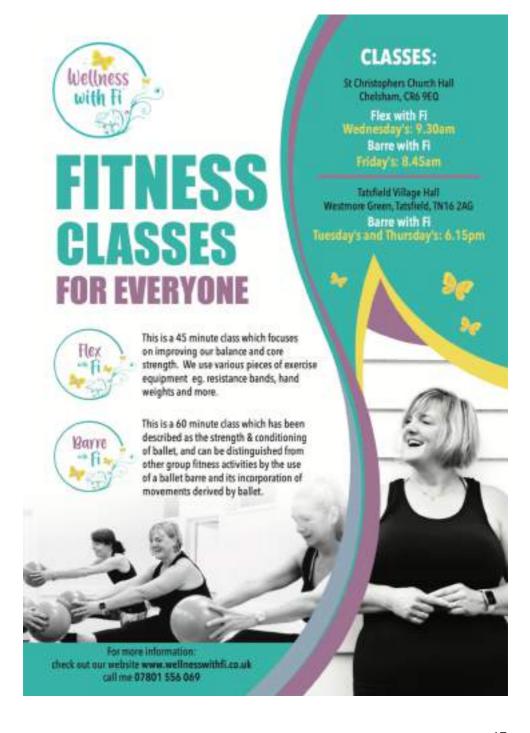
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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

Editors • Tara Barry and Tracey Syrett

Chair • Debra Elsdon

**Treasurer •** Madie Langford (577114) **Distribution Managers •** Jim and Ruth Yeeles (577489) **Advertising Manager •** Sarah Tait **Production •** Ruth Yeeles

#### CHURCH CONTACTS

St Mary's Church Office (Thurs 9.30-13.30)

Admin: Steve Tatler, The Parish Office, High Street, Limpsfield RH8 0DG.

Phone 01883 712512 / email stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Team Rector: Revd Helen Cook email: <u>hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk</u>

Curate: Debra Elsdon email: curate.lttm@gmail.com

Wardens: Marjory Broughton (01959 541059) / Chris Hancock (01959 577622)

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

#### COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk • Aileen McHugo Building, Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG clerk@tatsfieldpc.org.uk (07483 337461)

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

Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

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

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

#### OTHER CONTACTS

Village Hall Bookings Secretary • Helena Garcia-Mcleod (bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk)

W.I. Hall Bookings • Pat Walsh (01959577684)

Parish Room Bookings • (07483 337461) email clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

Tatsfield Village Club • (577330)

Furze Corner Bookings • 07483 337461 clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

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Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

#### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 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: <a href="mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com">tatsfieldpm@gmail.com</a>, Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

**Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts** should be made to Sarah Tait (<a href="mailto:tatsfieldmag@gmail.com">tatsfieldmag@gmail.com</a>). All loose inserts need to be booked an 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: Tatsfield Clubfest 2025.

#### **FDITORIAL**

#### ClubFest is nearly here. 1pm Sunday 11th May

This month we are looking forward to celebrating all our amazing volunteers and societies, and thanking them for all they do for the village and our community. Tatsfield just wouldn't be the same without them! Flip to the centre of this issue for your pull out and keep ClubFest programme.

Do come along to Westmore Green from 1pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, chat to some of our local clubs, and enjoy some fantastic displays by our local young people.

There will be refreshments available, from curry by The Creative Curry Girl, to ices from the Not So Young club Ice Cream van, and not forgetting the amazing homemade cakes from the ladies at the WI! Get down early, as Park Wood Golf Club have a free glass of Prosecco for the first villagers to visit their stand and try their luck in the chipping net!

When you're feeling refreshed, take a wander and speak to some of our fantastic clubs – If you're green-fingered, all our gardening clubs are available on the corner of the green by the Tatol bed. If you're musical, whether you play an instrument or your voice is your instrument of choice, we have people who can help. If you have younger members in your family, come and speak to Little Acorns or 1st Tatsfield Scouts to see how they can keep occupied! Or why not let Gary take you through your paces and show you how the outdoor gym works?

Not forgetting of course our village history, art, and Fairtrade groups, as well as the Village Hall, Church, Parish Council and us truly – the Parish mag team. Come and put faces to our names!

Congratulations to all the volunteers that have been nominated for an award. A full list appears in the programme, together with a stall plan so you can plan your afternoon. Here's a summary:

**1pm** ClubFest opens

2pm Boom Dance Academy display

3pm Bright Sparks Performers and Dance display

3.30pm Presentation of the 2025 Tatsfield Volunteer Awards

#### 4pm Close

We've got something for everyone – whether you're into sport, fitness, music or gardening we have a club for you. Young or 'not so young'! This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet with those who look after our clubs, find out when they meet, how you can join and perhaps even how you can volunteer yourself.

We look forward to seeing you all on the Sunday!

Debra, Madie, Ruth, Sarah, Tara and Tracey - Tatsfield Parish Magazine team

#### **LFTTFRS**

#### A Personal Lament (and hope for the future).

Before exploring recent developments, I wrote this simple composition lamenting the demise of the variety of beautiful trees that was planted and, for a short while, adorned the larger part of Westmore Green. For that short while I was overjoyed and filled with hope for the future of our village environment. Then I heard of their removal. Of course, having since ventured out-of-doors, I find that the trees have <u>not</u> been removed but thoughtfully re-sited at the green's perimeter. Although remaining a welcome addition to the village scene, it can't do any harm to express an alternative, and possibly unpopular, viewpoint: the trees looked better where they were, providing interest and future shade in the vacant central area. With this in mind, I feel the sentiment of the poem remains relevant. I must emphasis, however, that my hope for the future remains strong and I'm grateful to whoever planned and implemented the planting on both the north and south greens.

Unto us all a gift was made to help adorn our Westmore Green, a gift that offered summer shade but sadly now's no longer seen.

A place to sit with beer and cake where local gossip spreads and weaves, the chance to play and merry-make below a canopy of leaves.

Alas, most others cannot see what I see in my mindful head: a place of tree-filled harmony.

A barren space they choose instead.

**Nigel Shaw** 

#### **TATSFIELD 100 CLUB**

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for March 2025:

 $\begin{array}{llll} \mathbf{1}^{\text{st}} \, \text{Prize} & \text{Chris Maynard} & \text{\pounds}43.50 \\ \mathbf{2}^{\text{nd}} \, \text{Prize} & \text{Roger Luck} & \text{\pounds}29.00 \\ \mathbf{3}^{\text{rd}} \, \text{Prize} & \text{Stuart Hendry} & \text{\pounds}14.50 \end{array}$ 

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 leames200@gmail.com. Les Eames

# TATSFIELD VILLAGE CELEBRATES

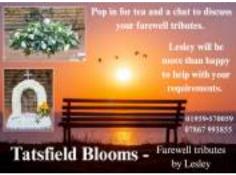


Service starts 9:15pm
National Beacon Lighting 9:30pm

#### **NEW ADVERTISERS**

We are delighted to welcome Beauty By Sarah St John, PPHS and Tatsfield Blooms as new advertisers:





We would like to thank our repeat advertisers for their ongoing support and urge readers to browse the adverts when looking for local businesses and services. Don't forget to mention that you saw their advert in the Tatsfield Parish Magazine when contacting them.

Advertising Enquiries We deliver ten editions a year to over 800 households in the village and the latest copy of the magazine can be found on the village website: www.tatsfield.org.uk where all advertisers are listed under the 'Businesses' section. We are also able to accommodate ad hoc advertorial pieces, advertisements and distribute A5 flyers with the magazine by arrangement.

For further details please email me on tatsfieldmag@gmail.com.

Sarah Tait, Advertising Manager

#### TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE ADVERTISING MANAGER POSITION



Our parish magazine is funded by kind donations and paid advertising from local businesses. We are looking for someone with good organ-isational and computer skills to take on the volunteer role of Advertising Manager. There is plenty of scope to make the role your own.

A fantastic role for someone looking to

increase their skill base and to contribute to the Tatsfield community. The Advertising Manager sources and invoices advertisers, manages the advert layout and may occasionally do some advert design.

For more information, please contact Sarah Tait: 07468 589379 or tatsfieldmag@gmail.com

#### TATSFIFLD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – this time in the Village Hall. The change of venue was arranged due to the large number of parishioners expected to attend and in the event, nearly 70 people did, mainly for the planning item relating to Kemsley Road. It was good to see so many residents taking a real interest.

#### **PLANNING**

**TA/2025/277** Land at Shaw Road. Erection of a detached dwelling. Application to increase the size of a previously agreed proposed dwelling. The new proposal is much larger than the approved dwelling and as a result would cause harm to the Green Belt. It does not comply with TDC policies or with the recently approved Neighbourhood Plan. Recommendation: **Object** 

**TA/2025/307** The Flint Barn, Park Farm, Rag Hill Road. Erection of a first floor side extension. This proposal extends one bedroom and adds one further bedroom and bathroom. The extension appears to be proportionate to the existing house and represents only a 14% increase in volume. Recommendation: **No comment** 

**TA/2025/217** Land between Downalong and The Retreat, Kemsley Road. Change of use for the stationing of a self-build mobile home for Gypsy Traveller occupation together with ancillary car parking and bin storage facilities. This application proposes the erection of a three-bedroom new dwelling on this woodland site in Kemsley Road.

A previous similar application was refused by TDC and then an appeal dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in 2020. Although the applicant has made certain adjustments as a result of the Inspector's reasons for that refusal, the Parish Council is clear that the current application still represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The site is an established and undeveloped nature habitat with significant mature trees and undergrowth which would be destroyed by this proposal. There has also been a long-established presence of badgers, bats, deer and nesting woodland birds within this land. Furthermore, the application is clearly designed as a permanent grounded new dwelling, not a mobile home, and does not comply with national and TDC policies regarding space for Gypsy Traveller communities.

Finally, the proposals under this application are not compliant with the adopted Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan in which this piece of land on Kemsley Road is specifically identified as an important woodland area that should remain protected as part of the openness of the Green Belt. Recommendation: **Object** 

**TA/2025/291** Hill Cottage, Barnfield Road. This application is the revised design of a replacement dwelling previously approved. However, this revision further increases the height of the proposed new building resulting in an overall volume increase well in excess of 250% of that of the existing building and is contrary to the NPPF and TDC policies. Recommendation: **Object** 

**TA/2025/** Middle South, Tatsfield Approach Road. Erection of ground floor single storey rear infill extension and extension of roof. This involves minor extensions to better link the two halves together with a larger hallway and new bathroom at first floor level within the roof. Recommendation: **No comment** 

**TA/2025/229** Tavira, Parkwood Road. Demolition of side and rear elements, and erection of single-storey side addition and two-storey rear extension. Taking into account previous additions and those now to be demolished, this application proposes a volume increase of 117% to the existing building and is not compliant with TDC policies. It represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Recommendation: **Object** 

**Request for village CCTV** Following a recent increase in vehicle crime in the village, a parishioner request has been received for the village to install a number of cctv cameras, possibly at the top of Westmore and Paynesfield Roads. As a result of recent incidents, residents have now formed a neighbourhood group to report and monitor the situation and have offered to contribute to the cost of installing cameras. The PC discussed the matter and agreed with the principle that something does need to be done to reduce crime, also ASB. Work will now be done to assess the implications of cctv and how best it might work, also to obtain quotations. To be further discussed at the next meeting.

**Formal requests to the Parish Council** A reminder was made to the village that if anybody wants to make a request to the Parish Council it must be made to the Clerk rather than using Facebook or WhatsApp. The council does not monitor messages via social media. The clerk's details are always available on the contacts page of this magazine.

**Furze Corner** Great news this week is that the planning application for the development of Furze Corner has now been submitted. A huge amount of work has gone into this project and thanks go to all those who have contributed, but particularly Jason Syrett.

**Litter Pick** Thanks to everyone who took part in the village Litter Pick on 6<sup>th</sup> April. Great community effort and believe it or not 20 bags of litter were collected.

**Easter Egg Hunt** Thanks also to Kim Jennings, Sue Dowse and Mr Easter Bunny who all turned out and entertained nearly 40 children on Easter Saturday. A great time was had by all.

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



#### TATSFIELD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

You can still view the documents on the neighbourhood plan website: https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan

#### TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

So nothing too controversial this month, except for the fact that our democratic right to vote for a County Councillor has been withdrawn by the new government whilst we sort out the Local Government reorganisation going forward. See my later report. There is also talk that the elections for May 2026 that would have been for the Tandridge District elections for those councillors in a three-ward council that obtained least votes, would stand will also be set aside as we could be voting for our new unitary councillors.

**Council Tax Bills** Also council tax bills will have arrived with everyone since the end of March/early April and that will show you the increases from all of the statutory bodies. Whilst not overlooking this part of the postbag I wanted to make sure that you looked at the rest of the enclosures as they are informative and may help you in the future.

Firstly there is an explanation from Tandridge where their portion of the council tax goes and offers advice and information about Local Government organisation. Also enclosed was information regarding the Handyperson service, for residents 60+ or vulnerable persons and home adoptions and funding. There was also information about the MyTandridge account so you can do things on line any time of day or night without having to wait in a telephone queue. The MyTandridge account offers a lot and it will improve going forward so do please use it. If you have already disposed of the form and want information on any of the above I would be happy to help you with them.

Local government reorganisation Since my last month's report the council has held a Special Full Council Meeting where we discussed the representation letter that was being prepared for submission to MHCLG on the 21 March. We stressed that Tandridge District Council "favours" a three unitary model for Surrey with three councillors representing each ward, if that is the description that the new unitary authority takes. The full proposal is due by 9 May. The government is expected to decide in the autumn. It is too early to provide details other than the proposal for a two and/or three unitary council has been submitted between the joint boroughs and district with Surrey Country Council. We will try and keep you all updated as soon as more information comes to hand. Follow the progress on www.tandridge.gov.uk — search for Local government reorganisation (LGR).

Warm Homes Fund Tandridge District Council has been awarded £3.26 million from the government's Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Wave to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock. Previously known as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, the Warm Homes Fund supports social housing providers to insulate homes, upgrade heating systems and improve overall energy performance. This investment will support a major retrofit programme over the next three years. It will help reduce fuel poverty for tenants, lower carbon emissions and contribute to the Council's goal of reaching net zero by 2050.

**Professional dog walking** Licences are now needed for professional dog walkers to endorse the Council's responsible dog policy and signs are now appearing on council owned land, whether leased or not.

Councillors Allowances I attended Full Council on 10 April, where a recommendation came to council regarding Councillors Allowances. The Independent panel had recommended a reduction of the Public Service discount, from 60% to 30% which will have an effect on increasing allowances over the next two years. And to offset these increases they have recommended that no one Councillor should be paid more than one special allowance, and that allowances for Vice Chairs be ceased (I did not agree with this one). This was carried almost unanimously, as the panel had reported that they felt that the allowance had been eroded over time (no increase for many years) and that there was a recognition of a much increased work load for councillors and the fact that TDC allowances were bottom of the scale of local similar authorities, by a long way.

**The Square, Tatsfield** The parking situation has improved so thank you for your cooperation there.

**Biggin Hill Airport** Ongoing meetings have resulted in the first three months having only ten fly overs our NSA. We are still pursuing moving the NSA further south.

**Other** I have continued to report potholes and abandoned street signs across the village and beyond. It has been rewarding to see the authority respond quickly.

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 Tel: 01959 577201 or 07484 185363

Email: cllr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk or martin\_allen@talk21.com



#### **CLAIRE COUTINHO MP**

As the clocks moved forward in April and we started to enjoy the fruits of spring, there has been plenty happening both locally and nationally.

In Godstone, we are glad to receive the long-awaited news that most families evacuated from their homes have been given the green light to return home. As repairs continue, we hope those returning can begin to resettle and return to normal.

Last month, we visited St Mary's in Oxted to receive an update on the restoration of this wonderful church, which dates back to the 12th century. St Mary's has an exceptional fundraising team and they are planning even more community events, so please visit their website to see what is coming up and help with their fundraising efforts.

Sticking in Oxted, a huge well done must go to the brilliant volunteers at the Woodhouse Centre for putting on such a wonderful spring opening. The centre was buzzing with activity, with the Men in Sheds crafting bee drawers for local school children to decorate, visitors enjoying tea and cakes, and volunteers fundraising with their wonderful handmade gifts. Claire's Friendship Project part-funded new flooring and lighting throughout the space, so it was great to see this being put to good use.

In an update on Claire's rail survey, after weeks of raising residents' concerns with GTR and Network Rail, we are pleased to share that from December, the East Grinstead line will return to pre-COVID service levels. We are also continuing to push for the return of

the direct services from Caterham to London Victoria. While GTR gave us some positive signals in our meeting, we will keep the pressure on to get this important service back.

There have also been some developments in local government reorganisation; the leaders of all twelve councils in Surrey have submitted their joint interim proposals to the Government. This sets out Surrey's intention to meet the Government's plans to abolish district/borough/county councils, in favour of unitary authorities and the introduction of elected mayors. The interim proposal outlines two options: Surrey County Council has recommended the creation of two unitary authorities, while most District and Borough Councils have put forward a model for three unitary authorities. In any case, the authorities will be split East to West. A final decision from the Government is expected in the autumn. While the process is still in the early stages, Claire is keen to make sure that residents are able to have their say on the proposals. We will work with other Surrey MPs to ensure residents have the opportunity to share their views.

While Claire is on maternity leave, our team is working as normal. Please do continue to contact us on <a href="mailto:claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk">claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk</a> if there is anything we can do to help you or your family. **Team Claire** 

#### **SURREY POLICE**

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY PORTAL** Have you heard of our Suspicious Activity Portal? And did you know that it can help build a wider picture of retail crime, as well as home burglary? The dedicated portal is a tool available for you to submit digital media (photos/CCTV/dashcam/smart doorbell footage) of any suspicious activity. It's not a reporting tool and should not be used to report a crime. Instead, it helps us build and understand the wider intelligence picture of related offences in the area, which is vital in helping to reduce crime. So, if you witness something suspicious in your community, or someone acting suspiciously around businesses, places that you visit, or near your home, please upload to the portal on **www.surrey.police.uk**.

**THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB) SURVEY IS NOW LIVE** The survey is run yearly and is a vital way of us learning about the ASB issues that matter to you in your neighbourhood. We know that ASB is not a minor issue for those involved, and that persistent ASB can be an indicator of serious and organised crime, such as exploitation. All types of ASB can have a serious impact on individuals and communities, interfering with everyday life and wellbeing. Reducing ASB in Surrey is a key focus of police and community safety partners, and this survey is an important tool for us to help understand the issues you face, the impact it has on you, and how we can improve our response to ASB.

The survey is open until Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. It should only take 5-10 mins to complete and asks you for your thoughts on ASB issues in your area, such as anti-social driving and speeding, fly tipping, or vandalism. Your answers will form the basis of the work we carry out going forward to reduce ASB where you live. You can access the survey here: <a href="https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GHT0KV/">https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GHT0KV/</a>.

**SELLING YOUR VEHICLE** Thinking of selling your vehicle? Have you considered some quick checks you could make, to ensure your sale runs smooth and safely? Our officers are aware of an increasing number of scams targeting vehicles for sale online. These offences can typically involve individuals visiting private sellers for a viewing and test drive, either distracting the seller or asking them questions which force them away from the vehicle. We are reminding the public to remain vigilant online, and offer the following advice when selling your vehicle privately:

- Never leave potential buyers alone with your vehicle consider organising to have someone with you when a viewing is arranged.
- Listen to any advice offered by a company through which you are selling online platforms occasionally provide information on private buyers which might make you think twice about who you are selling to.
- If a potential buyer claims your vehicle is damaged and tries to haggle on the price, do not accept this and notify police.
- If you have a Ring doorbell/CCTV system, make sure these are activated and working prior to a viewing.
- Ask to see a copy of the potential buyer's driving licence before they attend the viewing.

# TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT SALE AT CLUBFEST ON WESTMORE GREEN ON SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY

This year our annual plant sale will be held as part of Tatsfield Clubfest.

Come and buy: vegetable plants; summer bedding; perennials and much more!

Got a gardening problem and needs some advice?

Our committee members will be there to help.

If you have surplus plants from your garden projects please bring them along.

All proceeds go towards our funds to run the society.

Our award winning community compost scheme will also be there with bags of our 'Black Gold' ready for sale (£1.50 per bag). Come and admire out super new Eliet Shredder for processing your green waste and turn it into compost. Learn about how to make and use compost from your own green waste in your garden.







Tatsfield's glorious bluebells. Courtesy of John Barry.



# 'The Famous and the Forgotten'

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Saturday 10th May 2025 at 7.30pm Tatsfield Village Hall TN16 2AG



Schubert - Overture in the Italian Style Bruch - Violin Concerto No 1 Mendelssohn - Symphony No 8:

and Ushiawa the 'Lost' Symphony

Violin Haru Ushigusa
Conductor Ben Knowles
Leader Michelle Francis

#### Tickets £13 Concessions £11

FREE programme with all tickets

By email:

northdownssinfonia@gmail.com

By phone:

Jan Maynard 01959577659

And in Sheree's Store



Scan with smartphone for email address!

www.northdownssinfonia.co.uk



#### LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

Little Acorns have had a busy term!

Mums and Grandparents enjoyed our Mother's Day Tea in March, having the opportunity to come and join the children on a Thursday morning. The children enjoyed showing them their preschool and introducing their friends. It was lovely to see so many Mums and Nans to celebrate the occasion!









The children particularly enjoyed making pizzas and Hot Cross Buns in Cooking Club during the Spring term, along with lots of Easter/ Spring themed activities. In March Little Acorns hosted a well-attended Quiz night, raising over £300 to spend on resources for the children. Thank you to all who supported this event! On 1st April we held our Easter-Cise event, raising valuable sponsorship money, in return for the children completing different sporting activity stations. They were all awarded a medal and special gift for taking part.







Thank you to all our parents/carers for supporting Little Acorns!

#### MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



At Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield we have had a fun filled month!



We had a little visit from our manager's rabbit "Stitch" this week! All the rooms got to spend some time with him.

They were able to stroke and feed him. We spoke about how soft he was, what he eats and where he lives. The children absolutely loved him coming to nursery.









#### **Horticulture Show 2025**

And we have done it again....
FIRST PLACE!





The brief this year was to make a natural sculpture. The children all worked together to use natural resources to create the winning prize!



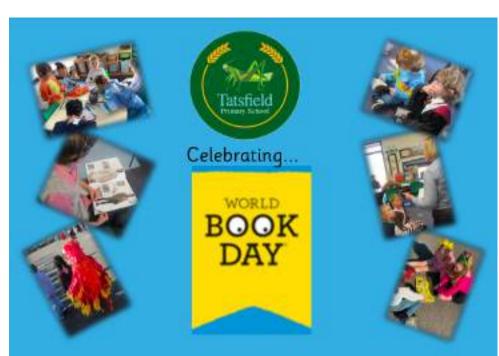
#### Are you looking for childcare?

We offer a high standard of care to children aged 3 months to 5 years old. Providing a range of fun and exciting activities, both indoors and outdoors all year around, exploring our local environment and all it offers on local trips, celebrating all traditions and cultures.

We have spaces available here at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield, if you are interested and want to book a tour of the nursery, please contact us

Phone - 01959928427

Email – manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk



Through our annual event in March, filled with joy, celebration and fun, we encourage more children to read, and raise awareness of the difference reading makes to their lives. World Book Day improves children's life chances, particularly those growing up in disadvantage and inequality, by encouraging reading for pleasure.

#### Why reading for pleasure matters?

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success —
more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or
their income

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This year's World Book Day at Tatsfield began with a parade in the playground, followed by an assembly led by Mrs Colegate.

Mrs Colegate shared ways the children can encourage others to read and children heard from this year's World Book day authors - Joseph Coelho, Arwen Hubbard and Tom Palmer. Teachers were allowed (for one day only!) to run between classes for a "Speed Reading" activity! They read a book with each class and when the school bell rang, had to run to the next class! Live lessons and paired reading with children in different year groups took place in the afternoon. A lot of fun and a lot of reading!



#### TATSFIELD WI – JUST WOW!!!

Our April WI meeting was, well what can I say wow!!!!! Our speaker Lindsey Barrell entertained us for an hour as 'Ms Cherry Bombe' burlesque dancer, she appeared in the most amazing

costume, red corset, suspenders and high heeled boots decorated with cherries and a sheer black sparkly fur trimmed coat. She talked about how she joined a lesson on burlesque dancing, which became

a wonderful way to make friends and perform all over the UK with a troupe of ladies all of a certain age, raising so far £18,000 for her charities.





Her life has been very varied not only does she teach burlesque she is also involved in teaching British Sign Language, Reiki, NLP Practitioner and is a Life Coach, she is also the president of her WI in Essex.

At the end of her performance, we got a lesson in burlesque dancing, it was a fantastic fun afternoon,

so enjoyable we loved it so much she will be back to us next year when her talk will be 'Does my HRT patch look big in this corset'?

We will be having a stall at ClubFest in May, with lots of information about the WI plus cake of course! Come and see us.

Wednesday Pop In from 10.30 to 12pm for tea/coffee biscuits and a chat everyone welcome.

Our next meeting in May is our AGM. Pat Walsh



#### THS ANNUAL VISITS TO WISLEY GARDENS

Dates booked for our annual visit to Wisley Gardens 2025:

- Saturday May 17th at 10am and
- Saturday October 18th at 10am

Just a reminder that the Horticultural Society has 30 tickets for Wisley Gardens on both of the above dates. I can have up to 55 tickets per visit. Please text Sue on 07555 120427 or phone on 01959 542892 and I will add you to the list.

You are welcome to arrive earlier and enter the gardens on arrival, as I plan to be at the Café at 9.30am. If you are later than 10am I will put your tickets in a named envelope and these can be collected from the Group Tour Desk in the entrance on the left hand side. Please do not panic if you are stuck on the M25 as most probably I will be there as well. There is a new entry and exit road from the A3 so do watch out for the new signs.

The day is free to enter and you are welcome to use Wisley catering facilities or take your own picnic. **Sue Warren** 

#### ST MARY'S MATTERS

We are a friendly Anglican church within the Diocese of Southwark, with a long, proud pilgrim history and continue to welcome those travelling the Pilgrim's Way today. We are delighted that our Curate, Revd Debra Elsdon, is based at the Rectory in Tatsfield with husband Ashley as her vocational journey progresses and her role within the St Mary's community and the wider Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry develops.

**Sunday Services** Our main Sunday service with music is at 10am led by visiting clergy/ lay people including Revd Debra as her schedule allows. All are welcome. Further information is in our Notice Sheet accessed via the link on the home page of our website: **www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys**. If you would like to receive our weekly Notice Sheet directly by email please contact **stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com**.



Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2025 Thanks to all the clergy and volunteers we were able to offer a range of services and events. Maryrose Fawke and her team arranged three splendid 'Friendship Lunches' in Lent. Bishop Chris Goldsmith led the Palm Sunday and Easter Day services. As well as the Lent Course, Revd Debra offered new services including Compline (Night Prayer) and an Easter Eve 'Service of Light' symbolising

the light of Christ in ending darkness. As always , we are grateful to our Flower Team for decorating the church with beautiful seasonal displays.

**Christian Aid Week 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May** Christian Aid Week is celebrated in the second week of May every year and aims to provide humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice, and championing people's rights. Donations may be made directly to Christian Aid via their website (or via St Mary's in an envelope marked "Christian Aid").

**St Marys Sunday Teas** Our popular Summer Teas commence on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May and continue until the end of September. Visitors old and new are all very welcome to join us in the Millennium Hall each Sunday 3pm to 5pm.

**Ascension Day 6am Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May** We look forward to our annual 6.00am service of Holy Communion in the churchyard (in church, if wet) which will be led by our Team Rector, Revd Helen Cook. Breakfast follows in the Millennium Hall and any donations received will support the work of Christian Aid. Please email the Church Office if you would like to join us: **stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com** 

#### St Mary's 100 Club Results March 2025

86 K Longley £23 80 G&J South £14 62 M&L Lambert £9 St Mary's £44

St Mary's 100 Club Results April 2025

19 L Sande-Vine £25 48 M Langford £15 57 H Bright £10 St Mary's £46

Our membership recently increased and the prize money was adjusted accordingly.

**Churchyard Team** Our wonderful volunteer team met on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April to continue the programme of works to keep the church tidy and welcoming for our parishioners and visitors. We meet again at 10am on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. **David Gulley** 

**Food Deliveries** We continue to support the needs of the local community at Westerham foodbank where more households are being referred from a variety of agencies for short, medium and longer term support. Deliveries are planned for 15<sup>th</sup> May and 19<sup>th</sup> June. Items currently needed include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish, meat, long-life or powdered milk, custard and rice pudding. Please donate if you can. Non-perishable food can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's church (see below for opening times). Monetary donations will be used to buy food. Thank you for your continued support. **Hilary Vale 01959 577864** 

**Life Events** We welcome enquiries for baptisms, weddings, funerals and interment of ashes. Further information and qualifying criteria is on the 'Our Services' section of our website www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys or email stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

**Millennium Hall** Our well-equipped Millennium Hall is open for bookings. Enquiries from individuals and groups are very welcome. **Sheila Cook (01959 577443)** 

#### Records 2025

23<sup>rd</sup> January Funeral Service & Burial Enid Garrard 9<sup>th</sup> March Baptism Isabella Burr

**Church opening times** St Mary's is currently open for viewing, prayer or personal reflection from 9am – 4.30pm approx. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

#### **CONTACTS**

St Mary's Church Office: The Parish Office, High Street, Limpsfield RH8 0DG.

Phone: 01883 712512 Email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com

Open Thurs 9.30-13.30 - emails are checked regularly for urgent matters.

Team Rector: Revd Helen Cook 07530 609511 Email: hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk (day off Friday) Curate: Revd Debra Elsdon 07436 172130 Email: curate.lttm@gmail.com (days off Mon & Fri)

Parish Administrator: Steve Tatler - Church Office Thurs 9.30 -13.30 (details above)
Wardens: Marjory Broughton (01959 541059) / Chris Hancock (01959 577622)

St Mary's Website: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys

#### TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website:www.tatsfield.org.uk
Village facebook page: search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook
Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for 'Tatsfield Talk' on facebook,
and ask to join to be able to view and post. Twitter: @tatsfieldtweet

#### PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS

If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to tatsfieldpm@gmail.com. Please also let us know if any information has changed.

#### REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary - WIH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	6.30 pm	Cubs - SH
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1st Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
Wed	10.30 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	2-4 pm	Composting Site OPEN
	6.00 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH
	6.00pm	Over 8s Jujitsu, SH
	7.30pm	Adults Jujitsu, SH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1st Thursday of the month)
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	6.15pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
Fri	9.30 am	Combat Fitness - SH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	4.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Tots Street Dance – VH
	4.45pm	Boom Arts Academy Lower Junior Street Dance – VH
	5.30pm	Boom Arts Academy Theatre and Singing – VH
	6.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Junior Street Dance – VH
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
Sat	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00am-	Composting Site OPEN
	12pm	
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH

**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

### **UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND**

MAY			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	11.30am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH	
5 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.30am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH	
8 <sup>th</sup> Thu	9.15pm	VE Day Celebration, Beacon Lighting, Bakery Lawn	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Haru Ushigusa plays for North Downs Sinfonia Concert, VH	
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	1.00pm	Tatsfield ClubFest and Volunteer Awards, Westmore Green	
13 <sup>th</sup> Tue	12.30pm	NSY Club Meeting, WIH	
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.00am	THS Wisley Visit, Wisley Gardens	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	7.45pm	The Roy Orbison Experience, Barn Theatre	
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
28 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	The Art of Stained Glass, Limpsfield Church Hall	
29 <sup>th</sup> Thu	6.00am	Ascension Day Holy Communion, StM	
30 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Truly Collins (Music of Phil Collins and Genesis), Barn Theatre	
31 <sup>st</sup> Sat	7.30pm	OLMS Jazz Evening, Pat Davey's Acrobat Trio, Hazelwood School	
JUNE			
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Oxted Comedy Night, Barn Theatre	
8 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
13 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Carlton Kirby's True Tales of the Tour de France, Barn Theatre	
14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Bruce Juice (Springsteen Tribute), Barn Theatre	
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
20 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Dead on Cue by Giles Shenton Productions, Barn Theatre	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	Vermeer and Music, Limpsfield Church Hall	
27 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Wind in the Willows, Barn Theatre	
28 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Wind in the Willows, Barn Theatre	
29 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
JULY			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Cats, Barn Theatre	
4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Cats, Barn Theatre	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Cats, Barn Theatre	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sat	6.30pm	Songs That Make You Feel Good, Tatsfield Singers, VH	
6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
10 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Come From Away, Barn Theatre	
11 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Come From Away, Barn Theatre	
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	Glow Theatre Group – Come From Away, Barn Theatre	
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Glow Theatre group – Come from Away, Barn Theatre	
13 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
20 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	
27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Summer Church Teas, StM	

# BIGGIN HILL RESIDENT TAKES ON EVEREST-SIZED CYCLING CHALLENGE FOR CANCER SUPPORT



Local resident and endurance enthusiast Paul Clark is preparing for an extraordinary test of stamina and determination to support cancer patients and their families for local cancer charity The Chartwell Cancer Trust. On 21st June 2025, Paul will be conquering Stock Hill, Biggin Hill's steepest climb, at least 240 times in 24 hours. That is a staggering fifty metres of vertical ascent per lap, adding up to a total

climb of over 12,000 metres. Higher than the summit of Mount Everest.

This monumental challenge aims to raise £24,000 towards funding the planned creation of a new Cancer Information Centre at the Chartwell Unit in The Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough. The centre will provide crucial support and guidance to patients and families navigating the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Paul's challenge will begin at 9am, where he will be cheered on by supporters and volunteers collecting donations. The local community is encouraged to come along, show their support, and help keep his spirits high as he battles every lap.

Determined to see it through, Paul has committed to pedalling for the full 24 hours, even if he reaches his goal. "This is more than just a physical test; it is about making a real difference for those facing cancer," Paul said.

Local businesses and community members are rallying behind Paul's inspiring challenge, and there are still plenty of sponsorship opportunities available.

Senior Trustee of The Chartwell Cancer Trust, Michael Douglas added that "We urgently need more spaces where people affected by cancer can turn for support. The new centre will be a place of comfort, advice, and care when people need it most. We hope Biggin Hill will come out in force to support Paul. Every cheer, every donation, will help build something truly meaningful for local families affected by cancer."

To donate and support Paul's challenge, visit: www.justgiving.com/page/paul-clark-3

For more information, interviews, or media enquiries, please contact:

Michelle Calthorpe 01959 570322 mcalthorpe@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk





# THE TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SPRING SHOW 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

The Committee were delighted to have over 200 entries for this year's Spring Show. Many thanks to all those who entered, many of whom were first timers!

The entries

were spread across all the categories, but the biggest section was in the Horticultural Section, a lovely selection of spring flowers, pot plants, and flowering shrubs. The Floral Art Section had some stunning entries, a difficult



job for the judge to choose a First! The Art and Photographic Sections had original paintings and some high quality photographs, Tatsfield has some very talented artists.

The Domestic and Junior Sections were again low on numbers of entries which was disappointing but we will continue to promote them and hope for more entries at our Autumn Show.

The Giant Sunflower competition for children has returned and was launched at the show. If you missed out on getting an entry please contact Jon Allbutt (577100 or

07712196406), it is not too late to enter!

Organising and running a show takes a lot of planning and time to set up, and take down at the end of the day. This would not be possible without our wonderful committee and our helpers. Many thanks to you all.

Jon Allbutt, Chairman

### **NOT SO YOUNG CLUB**

April's meeting was our AGM and we were delighted to welcome Kim Jennings and Martin Allen. After the formalities we all enjoyed a delicious buffet. Then the fun began! Martin and Kim were asked to participate our game 'Play Your Cards Right' they had to reveal cards in order for members to gain points! Everyone had a really good time as members can be very competitive!

We are delighted to be joining the Horticultural Society on their trip to Wisely Gardens in May and our members are looking forward to a lovely day out.

Our next meeting is on May 13th at 12.30 in the WI hall, new members always welcome.

Keep safe,

Sue Dowse, notsoyoung100@gmail.com, 0781611092

### INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS FOR TATSFIFLD MARTIAL ARTS



Tatsfield resident, Kayden Plinston, was selected by England Judo to travel to Belgium in March to compete in the Antwerp Open, an international judo competition with fighters from across Europe taking part. He was part of a small team of u18's taken there by the EDS (England Development Squad).

This was Kayden's first time fighting abroad and his first time representing England. The "weigh in" was on Friday night and Kayden was competing on the Saturday. Having the weigh in the night before meant Kayden was able eat a full meal afterwards and eat

breakfast – whereas other groups weren't so lucky and had to weigh in on the Saturday. This was a real bonus as Kayden was only in his group by a matter of grams and had been cutting weight all week!

Fighting in the u66kg cadet boys, he was in a massive group of 57 fighters from numerous different countries. He fought his way, with some lovely Judo in front of the England coaches, to 5<sup>th</sup> place. Had he won his last contest, the only one he lost on the day, he would have been guaranteed at least the bronze medal and would have had the opportunity to fight for gold in the final.

In judo, 7<sup>th</sup> and above is counted as 'placing' – a result that means you got through to the medal bouts. So, placing 5<sup>th</sup> at just his second international competition and first time abroad is a big achievement and the club is very proud of him.

**Adam Plinston** 

### NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA 'THE FAMOUS AND THE FORGOTTEN'

It's difficult to believe, but between the ages of 12 and 14, Felix Mendelssohn wrote no fewer than thirteen symphonies. These were all for strings only, but he liked No. 8 so much that later in life he added parts for winds, timpani and brass. Nevertheless, it is rarely played, and is known as the Forgotten Symphony. This contrasts with Max Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, his most famous work and one that is played frequently and loved by all who hear it. In the concert, on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm as usual in the Village Hall, it will be played by a wonderful violinist, Haru Ushigusa, who has played with us several times before. You may remember her rendition of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in November 2023, or The Lark Ascending, which she played on her debut with the orchestra in November 2018, or the Beethoven Violin Concerto.

The concert will be starting with Schubert's 'Overture in the Italian Style', D591. Schubert actually wrote two Overtures in the Italian Style, but this one in particular captures the spirit of Rossini. The concert will be conducted by Ben Knowles, who has conducted NDS on several occasions before.

Tickets will be available from Sheree's nearer the date of the concert, and will also be available to book by phoning 01959 577659, or by emailing northdownssinfonia@gmail.com.

Tickets will be £13, with concessions £10, but each ticket will now include a programme, which we currently sell separately.

**Peter Maynard** 

### THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD



The Art of Stained Glass by Nicole Menzy.

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2025. Evening lecture only starts at 7.30pm Limpsfield Church Hall and refreshments will be served before the lecture. Guests: £10.

The work of art is not just a symbol of creative genius but a historical object and the result of a laborious process of creation. This lecture looks at the

development of stained glass, its purpose, the process by which it was created and some of the extraordinary survivals. From vast cathedrals to tiny chapels, we concentrate on the great achievements of the Middle Ages but consider, too, the reasons for the decline in popularity of this once-preeminent art form and some of the projects in which it has been reconsidered and revived.



**Vermeer and Music – The Art of Love and Leisure** by Lydia Bauman.

**Date:** Wednesday 25 June 2025. Evening lecture only starts at 7.30pm Limpsfield Church Hall and refreshments will be served before the lecture. Guests: £10.

The role of music and musical instruments in both life and art of the Dutch Golden Age. This talk comes with musical excerpts which

illustrate particular instruments shown in paintings. Based on a popular exhibition at the National Gallery by the same title some years ago.

### WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

Princess Kate caught my attention recently with her words, 'Let us celebrate Mother Nature and recognise how our bond with the natural world can help not only nurture our inner selves, but remind us too of the role we play within the rich tapestry of life'. It was the 'role we play' bit that seemed well timed as it leads me neatly to No-Mow-May. This

is the popular annual campaign urging everyone to pack away the lawnmower, let wildflowers grow freely and help nature.

Tatsfield has been pretty enthusiastic at joining in, and last year we had plenty of creatively sculpted lawns and verges around the village. I'm hoping this year may be even better with all the keen nature loving gardeners we have here.

No piece of lawn is too small; even the smallest wild patch can provide much needed food for birds, bees, bugs and butterflies, and give nature a great start to summer. And, a lawn filled with daisies, clover and buttercups looks and smells fantastic!

Why No Mow May? Approximately 97% of flower-rich meadows have been lost since the 1930s, and with them, vital food and habitat for our wildlife. Not mowing your lawn can help boost butterfly numbers, with more than half of UK species now in long-term decline. 2024 was one of the worst on record for butterflies, with 51 of the UK's 59 butterfly species showing a drop in numbers compared to 2023.

**Your garden can help!** A healthy lawn with some longer grass and wildflowers is a benefit to wildlife. Lots of garden lawns can add up and deliver enormous gains for all our hard-pressed fauna by providing wildlife corridors, food and refuge.

**No-Mow-May** is an international initiative of the UK based global nature conservation charity Plantlife. For more details see **www.plantlife.org.uk**.

Interesting fact of the month Lawns first became popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a way for wealthy folk to show they were rich enough not to need to use their land to grow food. Lawns became status symbols for the middle-class to demonstrate that they weren't grubby little peasants. Images of Blackadder and Baldrick spring to mind... perhaps



No-Mow-May would count as a cunning plan to help out our heritage wildlife?

Jim Kenney

### THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MAY

One of the great events in my gardening life has been the change over, in May, from spring to summer bedding for that summer long splash of bright colours. In recent years this has become increasingly unpopular, apparently for two reasons; annual bedding is not environmentally sustainable because you buy the plants, enjoy them, and then throw them away; secondly the use of annual bedding is a very expensive way to bring colour into your garden, is this true? In my defence of this way of having a summer of colour I would say:

• We use the phrase 'annual bedding', but in fact a lot of the plants we buy are tender perennials such as Geraniums, Fuchsias, Begonias, Cannas, Dahlias and many more. At the end of the summer these plants can be lifted and kept over the winter with a

minimum of watering and heat. Towards the end of the summer many tender perennials can be reproduced by taking cuttings, no heat needed, is that sustainable? Yes!

• Those true annual plants (they grow, flower and die, usually at the first frost) can be taken up, soil shaken off then put in the compost bin and then mixed into the soil the next season — sustainable?, yes! These plants are soft, they decompose readily when mixed with other vegetation such as grass mowings. Many colourful annuals can be grown from a packet of seed sown direct into the garden soil, all for a few pounds per packet. Don't forget also that you can harvest annual seeds before composting, keep them dry in a paper bag over winter and sow them in the spring, that sounds sustainable to me!

My basket Begonias (Begonia Illumination or boliviensis types) are now three years old and ready for planting out. They are now so big that I have carefully divided them in two, making sure each cut segment has plenty of shoots. There is a slight risk that the cut areas could rot, to protect them I use natural sulphur powder.

Each of my Geraniums and Fuchsias yielded at least six cuttings each last year, visit us at the Plant Sale at ClubFest on 11<sup>th</sup> May and you will see them for sale!

When making up your baskets and other containers you will almost certainly be using

peat free compost. These are made largely from recycled green waste and other organic waste. They do tend to dry out more quickly than traditional composts so buy a packet of water retaining granules that act as a reservoir and slow down the drying out. mix Knights Multipurpose non peat compost with our own community compost (Black Gold) compost at the ratio of 50:50.

Have I convinced you that having summer bedding can be sustainable?

Jon Allbutt



### NIGFL'S NATURE NOTES

I have the uncommon luxury of writing my own notes this month. Let me begin by adding a few birds to John's (Rosenbaum) 2024 list of observations: **Fieldfare** and **Redwing** (seen flying over and audible), **Green Woodpecker**, **Pheasant**, **Starling** and **Tawny Owl** (audible only). I know the distribution of Starlings within the village is inexplicable and many of our readers will never see one at home, but from my garden window I was seeing small groups of them almost daily throughout the winter. In fact, on 4<sup>th</sup> December over 40 of them sat and serenaded from a tall, neighbouring tree, along with a Great spotted woodpecker, two Wood-pigeons, two Jackdaws, a Parakeet and a couple of Magpies. Goodness knows what was going on that day! Another mass observation came two days later: around 45 Jackdaws whirling around in the sky, resting a while, taking off again, having a wonderful time. And I may as well mention the 11 Magpies chasing each other over a neighbour's roof. Do you know the old rhyme about Magpies, 'One for a girl, Two for a boy', etc.? Well, I was surprised to find that it goes up to twenty. I had no idea. Anyway, it seems that eleven Magpies signifies 'good health'. Since good health is the most important objective at my time of life, I'm more than happy to go with that!

It's that 'No Mow May' time of year. Personally, I don't find it particularly helpful to focus on May alone. If I had mowed my entire lawn in April I would have lost all of my Violets, Cowslips, Primroses and Fritillaries. I was delighted, therefore, to discover the following website – plantlife.co.uk. This is what they advise:

'We encourage everyone gardening for nature to cut less for longer. Results from our previous 'No Mow May' surveys show that keeping two to three different lengths of grass throughout the summer will maximise the diversity and quantity of flowers and the nectar they produce:

Leave some areas of long grass completely unmown all year to let taller flowers like Oxeye Daisy and Field Scabious come into bloom. These long grasses provide valuable feeding material, shelter and nesting sites for species such as hedgehogs and toads, connecting them across our landscape.

Mid length 'meadow' areas are mown, with cuttings collected, just 2-3 times per year outside of April-August. They allow taller growing summer flowers to flourish like Meadow Cranesbill, Musk Mallow, knapweeds and scabiouses.

For the rest of the lawn, you can keep the grass shorter by mowing once every month to a height of 1 or 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm). This allows smaller plants such as daisies and Bird's-foot-trefoil to flower in profusion, providing a fabulous food source.'

Obviously, adjustments need to be made according to the size and style of the garden, but I suggest almost everyone can leave a <u>small</u> area of unmown grass, even if it's only up against a fence. About a quarter of my back lawn has previously been left unmown between April and late June, but perhaps that's not long enough. The problem is, when the grass is eventually cut it leaves an unsightly area of yellowish-brown. Perhaps that doesn't matter? Perhaps I need to adjust my aesthetic expectations? Let's wait and see.

I have written elsewhere about the variety of newly planted trees on Westmore Green, but I think it's worth mentioning the **Italian alder** that may be overlooked at the far northern end of the green, near Rose Cottage: a very fine, well-established specimen

and, being found more commonly in urban areas, an unusual find in these parts. (See photo.) Of course, there's a big difference between deliberately planting a beautiful tree of an appropriate size for a garden or public plot, and simply letting a wildly sown tree grow unmanaged. Throughout last autumn, I had a squirrel that spent a considerable amount of time digging holes in the lawn and shrub borders planting hazel nuts. What with that and the seed pods



drifting over from all the nearby Ash trees I could easily end up with a woodland garden. I must have removed at least 30 little Ash saplings last year alone. Goodness knows how many will emerge this spring. I know Ash trees are becoming scarce in the wild but, even so, the domestic garden is not the place to grow one. From the back of my house I can see a very tall Ash tree that is suffering extensively from dieback. Whichever way it falls it will cause extensive damage: to the east and south it will fall on a neighbour's property, to the west a well-used car park and to the north an electricity sub-station. And then there's the possibility of human harm. Although the house is currently unoccupied,



someone must be responsible. I hope they are well insured. If only they'd had the foresight to grow a magnolia.

I'm finishing with Ruth's (Yeeles) photo of a Barn Owl taken over at Hill Park. (See last month's notes.) Seeing this, it becomes obvious why these birds have a ghostly reputation!

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

### FAIRTRADE IN TATSFIELD

On Sunday April 6th the Tatsfield Parish Council organised a litter picking session all around the village. Tatsfield Fairtrade Group provided teas, coffees, hot chocolates and cold drinks for the many people who kindly gave their time to litter pick.



Kim Jennings, Chair of Parish Council, and the Fairtrade Committee with refreshments.

Kim Jennings organised the event so effectively with each volunteer assigned to a section of the village to clear up with a litter picker and bin bag. Well done to everyone involved.



The aim of our Fairtrade Group is to raise awareness of fairtrade which includes selling Fairtrade products in the village. We had a small selection of goods available at the litter pick but plan to offer a much wider range in May. We will also be sharing information about Fairtrade if you are interested in learning more about the positive impact of choosing Fairtrade branded products.

We will be back on Westmore Green in on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> for ClubFest, organised by the Tatsfield Parish Magazine committee at which we will be selling Fairtrade products such as tea, coffee, biscuits, rice, chocolate, crafts and socks. We look forward to seeing anyone who fancies popping over to the green Fairtrade gazebo! We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining our committee too.

### Alizon Mooney, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group

Website: tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com Facebook: facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade Email: tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com

### TATSFIELD ART GROUP

Zsuzsanna Pataki wowed us yet again with her two 'floral' workshops. Zsuzsanna is such an enthusiastic and lively person who inspires us to take risks, she is also a brillant artist. You will find her on www.zsuzsannapataki.com. She describes her technique as



innovative working layers of heavy body and liquid acrylic paints, resulting in semi abstract works in vivid colours and a magical atmosphere. She is definatley a passionate artist. Her workshops are great fun.



in oils, pastels, acrylic, watercolour and other media. This year we have invited the pupils of Tatsfield School to exhibit their bird paintings and models. Visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite painting and model from each year group, the winners will receive a prize.

This year TAG'S Art exhibition will be a three-day event 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May. This exhibition has become a notable event in the social life of the village so don't miss it, starting with the popular Private View on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, invited guests will enjoy refreshments and will be able to meet all the participating artists.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May our doors will be thrown open from 11am until 4.30pm. **Entry is free** and all are welcome to buy or merely wishing to appreciate the talents on display. Homemade cakes and savouries will be available to purchase and of course tickets for our fantastic raffle. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize in our Raffle will be a Fairtrade hamper also the refreshments on sale this year will be supporting Fairtrade.

If you would like more information, please contact Sandra 07867502235 or Carol 07815775859

Our door is always open 7pm until 9.30pm at Tatsfield's Village Hall, if you fancy trying something new this year, just pop in and have a chat.





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Tickets are £30 (with free entry for those under 25). Either on the door or by way of our website at www.olms.org.uk

### VF DAY IN TATSFIFLD



As the national press headlined the end of the war in Europe, our local newspapers set out the contribution to victory made by the men and women of Tatsfield.

According to the Sevenoaks Chronicle in May 1945, more than a hundred Tatsfielders were serving in the armed forces. One had been awarded the Military Cross and another the Distinguished Service Medal, but eight other Tatsfield men had been killed in action since the outbreak of war.

The village itself suffered considerable bomb damage during the different phases of enemy air attacks. One resident had been killed. Her home in Chestnut Avenue had been completely destroyed.

At first ,Tatsfield was an area to which people were evacuated from places targetted by bombers. Then



Tatsfield itself later became an evacuation area. The Sevenoaks Chronicle reported that a number of the village's schoolchildren had then been evacuated to Newton Abbot in Devon. Throughout the war, key villagers had organised civil defence arrangements – air raid wardens, first aid parties, stretcher bearers, trailer pump operators.

Towards the end of May 1945, the Sevenoaks Chronicle reported that members of the civil defence services, mainly in uniform, had taken part in a service of thanksgiving at St Mary's Church. On one Saturday there had been a fete for children under the age of 14, sports on Westmore Green, a tea party in the Church Hall and, at dusk, a bonfire on Westmore Green, followed by a fireworks display.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376 Website: https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/

### THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MAY 2025

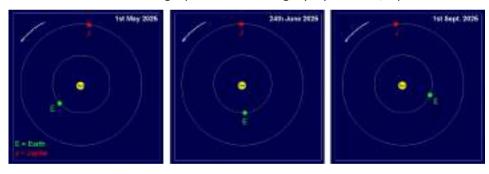
It seems like only yesterday the news channels were encouraging everyone to rush outside and be astounded by a line-up of seven planets in the evening sky. Of course, bitter experience teaches you that, in the case of life in general and astronomy in particular, anything, of any kind, that appears in the media should be treated with a degree of scepticism. My abiding thought in such cases is always "Why didn't they ask someone who knows?" It may be, of course, that they did ask someone who knows but

the reply turned out to be far less newsworthy than expected and so had to be embellished.

The issue is that the majority of people have no specific knowledge of astronomy so tend to take such pronouncements at face value and do indeed rush outside to see a sky filled with planets. However, in most cases, they very quickly retreat back indoors disappointed and thoroughly disillusioned. I hope you did look but I expect that you found just the three brightest planets on view at the time.

At the beginning of May, the only bright planets still visible in the evenings are Jupiter and Mars and sadly by the end Jupiter will have disappeared into the twilight as the Sun catches up with it. I use that phrase with care because, of course, it isn't strictly true. The fact that the Sun appears to close in on Jupiter, and pass it, is thanks to our changing viewpoint on Earth rather than the movements of either Jupiter or the Sun. This is shown in the diagrams where we are looking down on the solar system from "above" so the planets are rotating counter-clockwise. They are drawn for 1<sup>st</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> June, when Jupiter is at conjunction, and 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Because the Earth is so much closer to the Sun, we are orbiting faster than Jupiter. As you know, the Earth takes one year to complete one circuit whereas Jupiter takes just under twelve years. That means in the time frame of four months, Jupiter has moved very little. In the first diagram, from the Earth, we see Jupiter to the east (left) of the Sun so that the Sun will set leaving Jupiter in the evening sky. By 24<sup>th</sup> June, Jupiter has moved



marginally but the Earth is now in line with the Sun and Jupiter on the far side of it which is when astronomers say Jupiter is in conjunction with the Sun. This, of course, means we cannot observe Jupiter because it is too close to the Sun. The third diagram shows that by 1<sup>st</sup> September, Jupiter has again moved slightly but the speeding Earth now sees it to the west (right) of the Sun meaning it rises before the Sun and is classed as a morning object. You can see from the diagrams that the changes between where we see Jupiter in relation the Sun is almost entirely due to the motion of the Earth and almost nothing to do with Jupiter.

If you wish to locate Jupiter this month, then as I've already said, do it within the first two weeks. It lies in the WNW with an altitude of 12° around 10pm. To assist in finding Mars, the almost first quarter moon is just 2° to the west (right) of the planet on the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> May. **Brian Mills FRAS** 



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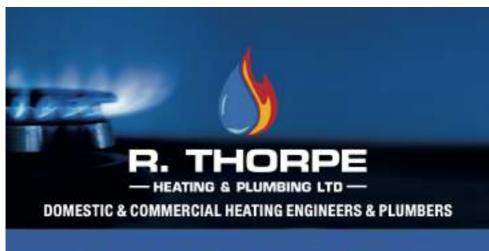
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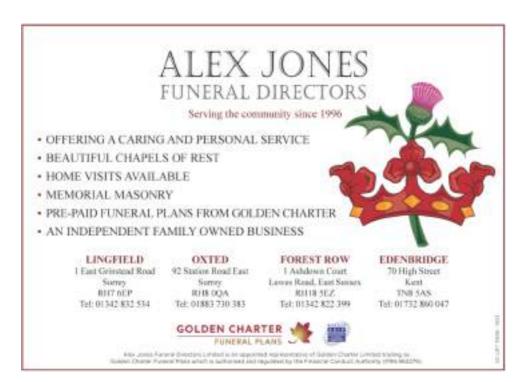
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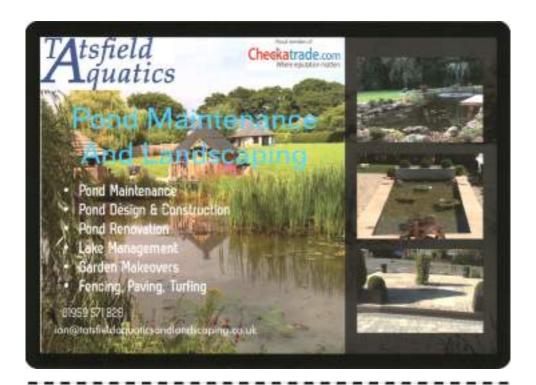
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