

DECEMBER 2025

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Parish Magazine



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MONDAYS - BINGO 8PM

TUESDAYS - REGULAR QUIZ NIGHTS 8PM

FRIDAYS - MEAT RAFFLE 7:45PM

SUNDAYS - POKER FOR FUN 7:30PM

HAPPY HOUR 7-11PM TUES

TELEVISED SPORTS FIXTURES

Members & their guests welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 5th May - VE day BBQ

Friday 23rd May - Disco

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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, Limsfield RH8 0DG.

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

Team Rector: Revd Helen Cook email: hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk

Curate: Debra Elsdon email: curate.ltm@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)

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Doctors • Stock Hill Surgery (580011) • Westerham Surgery (564949) • Oxted Medical Centre (01883 734000)

Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16th of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment by MIDDAY on the copy date in an email to: tatsfieldpm@gmail.com. Alternatively post to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). 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: Tracey Syrett, using original photo by Sarah Kirk.

EDITORIAL

Dear Neighbours,

Autumn is always a reflective time as leaves fall, and we are led gently to the end of another year.

It was my first time at the Tatsfield Act of Remembrance, and I was really moved by the sight of so many gathered in the village. It was a true testament to the spirit of our community, united in silent respect for the sacrifices made for our freedom.

It was a chance to hear some stories and, hopefully, learn some lessons from the past. So many people, young and old, joined together to witness the laying of the wreaths and to observe two minutes of silence. At moments like these we can see that we are all connected by our collective grief, gratitude and our hope for enduring peace for all.

Our service was framed by the magnificent Poppy Arch and the two silhouettes of the soldier and the servicewoman—a beautiful installation crafted by dedicated locals. This arch, bursting with lovingly knitted and crocheted poppies, served as a poignant visual anchor for our act of remembrance.

Poppies are not just symbols of grief, but also of the hope of renewal we all cherish. They remind us that from ground devastated by war, beauty and life can still emerge.

To watch the wreaths being laid, is to feel the weight of a shared history; the names of all those villagers whose lives were lost in the two World Wars.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize the service, who contributed to the stunning poppy display, and who attended to make the day such a humbling and successful act of communal remembrance.

May we continue to live in the light of the peace they secured for us.

Blessings, Reverend Debra

*Peace on a thousand hills and dales,
Peace in the hearts of men
While kindness reclaims the soil
Where bitterness has been.
The night of strife is drifting past,
The storm of shell has ceased.
Disrupted is the cordon fell,
Sweet charity released.
Forth from the shadow, swift we come
Wrought in the flame together.
All men as one beneath the sun
In brotherhood forever.*

Georgia Douglas Johnson (1922)





TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

As you know, the magazine is delivered free each month to all households in Tatsfield and to some in Titsey. We are only able to do this because of the income we receive from advertisers and donations from village organisations and individuals, not to mention the voluntary efforts of nearly 100 villagers who help to write, produce and distribute the magazine each month.

If you would like to contribute to the magazine funds, we would be very grateful as we then have the chance to keep improving the magazine and balancing the books. There is no obligation to donate but we are very grateful for anything received.

The easiest way to make a donation is by a direct bank transfer, and our bank details are as follows: Tatsfield Parish Magazine; Account 84841084; Sort Code 09-01-54.

Alternatively, you can make a cheque out to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine and send it to The Treasurer, Mrs M Langford, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, Westerham TN16 2AU.

Thank you for your continued support.

Madie Langford



**Santa will be visiting the village
on Friday 19th December**



**His Santa mobile will be touring the
local streets from 5.30pm and will
be in his grotto on Westmore Green
from 6.00pm**

**Tickets cost £2.00 available from
Sheree`s or on the night from
a naughty gnome!
Under 11's only**

LETTERS

Dear Editor

Many Tatsfield residents have been unhappy about the proliferation of very noisy fireworks in the weeks around 5th November and at other times. Others obviously enjoy celebrating with fireworks.

Noisy fireworks can cause hearing loss, trigger stress, anxiety or sleep disruption to many people.

We live in one of Surrey's only three 'National Landscapes' with probably most of us enjoying the surrounding nature with its wildlife and yet we spend little thought about the distress we cause our wildlife, livestock and pets by letting off loud fireworks. Many pet owners know about the misery fireworks cause their animals. Ponies panic and need extra care, but their owners don't know when the next noisy fireworks will be let off. This year at least two Tatsfield dogs got spooked and bolted and one disappeared overnight. Luckily he was found the next day with his owners looking for him through the night. The RSPCA and the RSPB warn year after year about the stress, disorientation and even death loud fireworks cause to animals.

Two fireworks petitions have attracted more than 100,000 signatures – enough to trigger a parliamentary debate but it takes a long time for any issue to become law.

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/738192> and

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/732559>

In the meantime, let's make Tatsfield a "Quiet Fireworks" village as well as a FairTrade village. The PTA of Tatsfield Primary School have been leading the way with a laser show and reduced noise fireworks. Truly silent fireworks unfortunately don't exist but if you search for low noise fireworks there now is quite a variety on offer due to the general concern worldwide.

Ideally attend an organised fireworks display but if you really want a private display, look for the low noise ones.

Let's make Tatsfield a "Quiet Fireworks" village, starting at the latest on New Year's Eve.

Doris Mitchell





A MESSAGE FROM SARAH COOP – TATSFIELD RESIDENT

I have decided to take on the challenge of running the **LONDON MARATHON** this April to raise money for **BRAIN RESEARCH UK**.

I chose this charity not only because a close friend of mine is living with terminal brain cancer, but also because Brain Research UK funds vital research into a range of neurological conditions such as motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and dementia.

I will be honest — I am not a natural runner, and I do not particularly enjoy running. Therefore, the training and the marathon itself will be a real challenge for me. However, knowing that every step will help support life-changing research makes it worthwhile.

If you can support me by sponsoring my run, I would be truly grateful. Every donation, no matter the size, will make a difference.

My fundraising link is:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/sarah-coop-1753777697890?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 st Prize	Tim Scott	£42.00
2 nd Prize	Michael Wiggins	£28.00
3 rd Prize	Tom Ellis	£14.00

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 leames200@gmail.com.

Les Eames

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

With Christmas fast approaching we are planning our lighting of the trees again and this year we are replacing a few strings that have been damaged and no longer working and adding an extra tree.

The village christmas tree has been kindly sponsored this year by YES Glazing Solutions. Many thanks to James Howard for this generous donation.

I'm excited to announce that we have been told that Father Christmas will be visiting Tatsfield on Friday 19th December. He will be riding around village roads with his Elves, starting at Ship Hill at 5.30pm and travelling up to the village centre, then down Paynesfield Road along Crossways and up Westmore road to arrive at his Grotto at 6pm at the Picnic Area on Westmore Green. He will be giving presents to children under 11 years of age. (Tickets are just £2 per child available from Sheree's Store from 1st December; they are also available on the night from the old bus shelter.) See the poster on page 21 for more details.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

PLANNING

TA/2025/1149 Mirabilis 65 Paynesfield Road Lawful Development certificate (Proposed). Additional storey to bungalow. Recommendation: No Comment.

TA/2025/961 Aston Acres, Kemsley Road. Conversion and elevational alteration to the existing barn to form 1 no. dwelling. Recommendation: Tatsfield Parish Council have no formal objection to the proposals as it appears to meet the requirements for conversion under DP13 and Paragraph 154 (h) (iv) of the NPPF. We however ask the District Council to secure through condition or submitted drawings, the delivery of an energy efficient, sustainable design incorporating minimum 10% onsite energy generation for the building as in line with adopted Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan policy TNP08B. We also request as it seems evident that this development is not subservient to the original house and is the creation of a new separate dwelling, to review and secure CIL payment for the new dwelling created.

FINANCE

The cost of resealing and sanding of the village hall flooring costs amounting to £4,565.60 was approved. Works will take place during the October 2026 half term.

Further costs of £7,300.00 were approved for works required to Village Hall roof. It was also agreed to ask the Village Hall committee for a donation towards these necessary but unplanned works.

NOTIFIED ITEMS

The Emergency Plan has been updated and all volunteers confirmed still active by Martin Elmer. Snow angels are ready for any heavy snowfall and the PC have continued our agreement to additional gritting for Paynesfield Road.

Dates for Parish Council Meetings for 2026 were agreed: 12th January; 9th February; 9th March; 20th April; 18th May; 8th June; 13th July; 14th September; 12th October; 9th November; 14th December.

MUGA (Multi Use Games Area next to the school)

The regeneration of the MUGA is continuing. The new Table Tennis tables have been delivered and will be positioned and erected soon. The new lines have been painted and the area treated with weed remover and swept. The next phase is for new signage and lockers. We are aiming to have the new area up and ready for new clubs in the New Year. Anyone who is interested in forming a Tennis, Pickleball, Netball or Table Tennis Group or club please contact me.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kim Jennings, Chairman Tatsfield Parish Council

Email: kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SURREY The government has confirmed plans to reorganise local councils in Surrey. The current two-tier system where services are split between Surrey County Council and district or borough councils, will be replaced by two new unitary councils - East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council.

East Surrey Council will include the current Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge councils, managing all local services, including economic support and development, housing, planning, waste, education, roads and social care. Elections for the new councils will take place in May 2026, with a shadow council preparing for the change. On 31st March 2027, the current councils will close and on 1st April 2027, the new councils will officially take over. For more information, please visit tandridge.gov.uk.

Joint committees are being set up and that for East Surrey, would comprise of five county and five district/borough representatives, but all is subject to much discussion and final arrangements as the process comes together. The current crop of councillors across current East Surrey councils are going to have to decide whether they want to be part of the new unitary, where I believe it is unanimously agreed that the workload will increase substantially, putting pressure on the local representations that we have currently. Part of the reorganisation will result in elections in 2026 being cancelled for the greater good.

I will keep you in touch through these articles, but I urge you all to maintain a watching brief on the events as they unfold. Others have gone down the unitary route and then eventually on to a Mayoral authority, and I can only assume that all of this Government reorganisation will get worse a long time before it gets better for us all.

DOWN TO MORE NORMAL MATTERS The election result in Tandridge returned an OLRG hold a Liberal Democrat hold and a Liberal Democrat win. So along with the one conservative switch to Reform, the Conservatives lost two seats and now number only five, the same as the Independent group. A big change from when I first was elected with 36 Conservative seats.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE LOCAL PLAN We are working on a new Local Plan for the Tandridge district. This plan will help shape how the district grows and changes in the future. If you'd like to stay updated, you can sign up for the Local Plan newsletter at tandridge.gov.uk.

SURREY HILLS FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES GRANT The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme provides grants to farmers and land managers in the Surrey Hills for one-off projects to make improvements to the natural environment, climate change mitigation, cultural heritage and public access on their land. **Apply by March 2026 at surreyhills.org.**

THE WORKPLACE CHARGING SCHEME The Workplace Charging scheme provides support for organisations towards the cost of installing up to 40 electric vehicle (EV) charging point sockets at their sites. The scheme covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV charging points (including VAT), capped at a maximum of £350 per socket. All charging points must be installed by an OZEV authorised installer. Closing Date: 31 March 2026.

These and further information, opportunities and grants can be found on the Tandridge District Council website.

ENFORCEMENT MANAGER Unfortunately, the Council's Enforcement Manager, has left the Council after a period of sickness. Which will have an effect of putting us back somewhat in getting things done despite the Council's effort to increase the capacity of this department.

WASTE COLLECTIONS I had a meeting with a Council Officer regarding problems collecting waste down some of the unmade roads in the village. Residents have been written to and resolved the matter. But please do not let the unmade roads become inaccessible to 42 ton waste trucks and trees overgrow and block their passage otherwise the consequences will be that the service will be restricted until such times as the improvements have been made.

HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMOs) The question of HMOs has risen sharply in the Tandridge District particularly across the built-up areas of Caterham and Whyteleafe where both residential and retail premises are being turned into HMO with little if any regulation around their safety and fitness for habitation. Officers are investigating the possibility of an Article 4 to limit this.

BYWAYS AND BYELAWS I notice that one local resident has fallen foul of the Byelaws and was asked to remove some fencing posts from the Byway. I have mentioned many

times before, before doing anything please check and check again that you do not spend time and money thinking something will look good only for you to have to return it to how it was.

TATSFIELD GOOD CAUSES Remember to help Tatsfield Good causes by buying your Tandridge Together lottery tickets. Also please volunteer to assist the clubs and societies that need committee members to help run them.

LOCAL BUSINESSES Remember to support all our local businesses who will continue to need us to show our support to them to ensure that they continue to operate well into the future.

And finally for 2025 may I wish you and yours the best that is possible over this Christmas and the coming New Year.

If there is anything you think I can help you with, please contact me accordingly.

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

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

November offered us a chance to remember all those who gave their lives in service to our country. I was honoured to join veterans, local volunteers, our emergency services, and Father Peter O'Connell in Godstone for a beautiful Remembrance Day service. Whilst living connection to the World Wars may be fading, it's our duty to never forget the sacrifices our brave servicemen and women made so our nation could triumph in the face of tyranny. We will always remember them.

It's been a remarkable year for my family, with the birth of my son, but the journey was not straightforward; becoming a mother left me in a medical coma and almost killed me. I'm so grateful to the brilliant doctors and nurses who saved my life. My husband and I sat down on the This Morning sofa a few weeks ago to tell our story – I have shared the clip on my Facebook page.

Back to the constituency, our farmers make sure we have brilliant British food, but it's often hard work – so it was great to sit down with local farmers and the NFU recently. Farms are not just beautiful fields or places to put solar farms; they provide food security, and many have been in the same hands for generations.

At the meeting we also discussed the soaring numbers of unauthorised traveller sites in Tandridge. These sites are being set up on Green Belt land without planning permission, and like locals I'm becoming increasingly frustrated. I met with Surrey Police and Tandridge Council and am working with colleagues in Westminster to press for national change. I organised a letter to the Home Secretary calling for a task force to support local councils in tackling illegal encampments. I will always act to protect our countryside and ensure fairness for all residents.

We also received confirmation that Surrey County Council and all district and borough councils in Surrey will be abolished and replaced with two unitary authorities – East Surrey Council and West Surrey Council. Next year's May council elections will take place. My main concern has been the shadow of other councils' debt. When I wrote to the Government in May, I made clear East Surrey residents should not pick up the bill for towns they don't live in, left by councillors they did not elect. Whilst some debt will be written off, billions remain, and I will continue to press Ministers to make sure any debt burden incurred elsewhere in the county is not placed on the residents of East Surrey.

As I wrap up this month's update, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, and to thank you for the many wonderful conversations I've had with constituents on the doorsteps, in the community and in my many surgeries throughout 2025.

It's the privilege of my life to be your MP, and I'm here to work for you. If you need help, please never hesitate to get in touch.

Email or call: claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk or 02072195972.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND – EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS E-VOUCHER

As part of Household Support Fund 7 funding by the Department of Work and Pensions, Surrey County Council has launched the Everyday Essentials E-voucher.

This is open to eligible Surrey residents who may be struggling with the financial costs of everyday essentials. Eligible residents can receive up to £300 in the form of an e-voucher which can be redeemed at a supermarket of the applicant's choice.

Applications opened on 1st October and can be made until March 2026 or the funding runs out. The application portal opens each month and will close once that month's funding has been fully allocated and reopen again the following month.

For more details visit: www.surreycc.gov.uk/everydayevoucher

SUB-ZERO HERO AND GRIT GRANNY GEAR UP FOR WINTER

As the temperatures drop, Surrey's gritter drivers are gearing up to keep the county moving safely through the colder months.

Our 39 state-of-the-art gritting vehicles – each proudly named by Surrey schoolchildren – are now on standby 24/7, ready to treat the county's busiest routes before and during severe weather. Backed by 10,000 tonnes of salt stored across our four depots, the team ensures roads remain safe and accessible whatever winter brings.

This year, we've also introduced two new mini gritters to tackle roads that are trickier to reach with larger vehicles, ensuring even more communities are covered. Across Surrey, 1,000 grit bins have been filled for residents to use on local roads that aren't part of the main gritting network, especially those with steep slopes, sharp bends, or heavy footfall.

Winter operations typically run from October to March, though teams remain on alert for longer if needed. Last year alone, more than 1,900 routes were treated.

Whatever the weather, Surrey's gritter team is ready to keep you safe, steady, and moving this winter.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR SURREY OPENED THREE GRANT PROGRAMMES FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ON 17TH NOVEMBER

Main Grants Programme: The Community Foundation supports the broad scope of social welfare. Our purpose is to help make life better for the people of Surrey.

Mental Health Scale-Up Fund: This fund offers five-year funding to produce step change improvement to support available in Surrey for people's mental help wherever they live. The next round will focus on all age multiple disadvantage.

Strategic Transformation Programme: Donor funds have come together to support the sustainability and resilience of our voluntary sector organisations.

For help with your applications the next Q&A sessions are on:

Main Grants: 10.30am Tuesday 2nd December; 2pm Wednesday 7th January 2026

Mental Health Scale-Up Fund: 10am Tuesday 9th December; 11am Tuesday 13th January 2026

For more information visit: cfsurrey.org.uk

Tatsfield Singers Present



A Holly Jolly Christmas

on

13 December

@ 5pm

(doors open at 4.30pm)

Enjoy a cup of tea and mince pie on arrival!

Tatsfield Village Hall

Tickets: Adults £8
Children free

Tickets from
Sheree's Store, Tatsfield
or on the door



LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL



This term we have enjoyed activities themed on celebrations!

We've had fun creating sparkly artwork for Fireworks, learnt new songs for World Nursery Rhyme week, made bird feeders for Wildlife conservation day and friendship potions for World Kindness Week.



Tuesday Art Club is proving very popular with our children and parents, loving the special creations coming home each week.

In November we took a trip to Biggin Hill Library for a stay & play session, story and craft time.



The children enthusiastically explored the library books and played brilliantly with the toys during the session. We all enjoyed the bus ride too!

We have been extremely busy with Christmas activities, and the children were amazing in their nativity performance!

Parents and carers were invited to watch and support their children perform brilliantly on stage.

Our Christmas party/brunch with Father Christmas was also a very popular event and the children were very excited to meet the man in red!



Little Acorns wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Little Acorns Team

Tel: 01959 540775. Email: office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk



MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



CHILDREN IN NEED ... And just like that, another year of Children in Need done. The children had a busy week with; baking, fancy dress, crazy hair day, teddy bears picnic and pyjama/spa day! Alongside lots of arts and crafts as well as fun activities! We were trying to raise as much money as we can for a good cause!



FOREST SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLUB We have spaces available for 5–8-year-olds to join our Forest School holiday club on Monday 16th February and Wednesday 18th February. For more information, please feel free to contact us.

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 – 01959 928427

Email – manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL KINDNESS AMBASSADORS

We are the Tatsfield Kindness Ambassadors. We have been nominated by our classes so that we can make sure our school is a kind place and community for everyone. We led an assembly for Anti-Bullying Week. In the assembly, we created a chain of kindness by playing compliments to each other across the school. One kind act can inspire others to be kind.



As Kindness Ambassadors we attend meetings and plan activities to spread kindness. We also attend Zoom meetings with '52 Lives School of Kindness' with other children across the country to share our ideas. Last year we donated cereal boxes to Westerham Foodbank as an act of kindness for our wider community.

We've also been making bunting to share positivity across the village. Here are some of our favourite quotes about kindness.

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." Dalai Lama

"Kindness is free — sprinkle it everywhere!"



NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

What a fabulous evening everyone had who attended our Bingo night in Ye Old Ship! We almost had a full house (well public house!) Tina and her staff were amazing hosts and worked hard to ensure everyone's drinks were topped up and meals were served promptly. Neil, our caller, kept the numbers rolling and the games on track. We raised over £580, which will go towards our garden centre visit, Christmas celebrations and race afternoon. THANK YOU to everyone involved and, due to numerous requests, we will hold another Bingo night in the spring.

In November we will be visiting Haskins Garden Centre to see all the lovely Christmas goodies they have and perhaps indulge in afternoon tea.

For our Christmas celebrations we will be going out to celebrate with perhaps a small tippie or two.

Our next meeting will be in January please contact me if you would like to join us.

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Keep safe. Sue Dowse, notsoyoung100@gmail.com, 07816110929

TATSFIELD WI

WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month.



During our November meeting, fourteen members, guided by Jane O'Keefe, created jolly Christmas Gnomes, a sign of fast approaching Yuletide. We have also planned our Christmas Lunch.

As the weather starts to change you may be looking for somewhere warm and cosy for a midweek cuppa. Don't forget, everyone is invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly chat every Wednesday morning between **10.30 am and 12 midday** in the WI Hall in Paynesfield Road. Apart from a short three week break over Christmas and New Year, our Pop In runs every Wednesday and has done so for many years, hosted by a small rota of WI volunteers. A great way to meet and catch up with other village residents – anyone of any age is welcome. So, if you are passing, please do just "Pop In".

I would also like to remind you that our WI Hall is a conveniently local, warm (new radiators just installed) and bright venue available to hire at very reasonable rates for a meeting, family party or celebration, please just give us a call on 01959 577684 to find out more.

Susan Smale 01959 577660

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



ST MARY'S TATSFIELD CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**SUNDAY 7TH
DECEMBER**

Carols BY
CANDLELIGHT
FEATURING
"THE TATSFIELD SINGERS"

TIME: 4.30PM

FOLLOWED BY
MULLED WINE
AND MINCE PIES

**LOCATION:
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Nativity
&
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

TIMES: 3.30PM & 5PM

**LOCATION:
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS EVE

Midnight
HOLY COMMUNION

TIME: 11.30PM

**LOCATION:
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS DAY

Morning

FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE

TIME: 10AM

**LOCATION:
ST MARY'S CHURCH**





NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA YOUNG SOLOISTS CONCERT

As is now our custom, NDS will be holding a short, ***totally informal*** concert on Sunday, 4th January 2026, at the Village Hall. There will be three young soloists performing, and for most this will be their first experience of performing in public with an orchestra. They are Susannah, who will play the Adagio for Cello and Orchestra by Bargiel, Michelle, a Soprano (the first time that we have ever had a young soloist vocalist) singing the Berlioz Vilanelle and Absence from Les Nuits D'Ete, and Aaron who will be playing the violin in the exciting Saint-Saens Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso for Violin and Orchestra.

Tickets cannot be booked and are free. Just turn up. The concert will start at 4pm, but if you arrive at 3.45pm there will be free tea, coffee and biscuits, plus a chance of course to chat to the orchestra members and the soloists.

The conductor will be Bryn Clarke, a good friend of the orchestra who has conducted it many times before, and who always supports the concerts.

This promises to be an exciting concert and will show off the talents of the next generation of musicians! Hope you can come!

Peter Maynard

**TATSFIELD COMMUNITY COMPOSTING
SPECIAL EVENT!**

WE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY THE 10TH OF
JANUARY (AT THE ALLOTMENTS AND
COMMUNITY GARDENS ON APPROACH ROAD)
FROM 10-12! BRING ALONG YOUR NATURAL
CHRISTMAS TREE TO BE PROCESSED THROUGH
OUR NEW SUPER YELLOW MACHINE! TO BE
MADE INTO 100% TATSFIELD BLACK GOLD
COMPOST!

FREE HOT DRINKS AND BISCUITS!



ST MARY'S MATTERS



CHURCHYARD TEAM Our final churchyard maintenance session was held on 25th October. Huge quantities of leaves were raked up and taken down to the compost area, where work bagging matured compost was undertaken and where there is now a large quantity of it freely available for collection at any time.

The grass was mown for probably the penultimate time this year. Bulbs were sown around the area below the beech trees, and the hanging baskets were taken down and stored ready for next year. We have several projects planned for the coming months to further enhance our beautiful churchyard.



Our very grateful thanks to the following volunteers whose hard work this year has enabled the churchyard to continue to look well cared for and be a welcoming place for peaceful reflection: Alexa Carter, Chris Hancock, Dickon Poole, Fiona & Mike Pendleton, Hedy Gulley, Jan & Peter Maynard. Kay & Keith Roberts, Mary Smith. **Weather permitting, we will meet again in March 2026!**

David Gulley



CHRISTMAS 2025 AT ST MARY'S TATSFIELD – ALL ARE WELCOME!

To get our Festive Season going, do join us on **Sunday 7th December at 4.30pm** for our **Carols by Candlelight Service** which will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

On **Christmas Eve at 3.30pm and 5pm** we will be holding **Family-Friendly services featuring the Nativity Story and Christingle activity.**

Our **Midnight Service of Holy Communion** starts at **11.30pm** and on **Christmas Morning** there will be a **Family Communion at 10am.** We do hope to see you there!

We will again be collecting for The Children's Society at our Christmas services and look forward to Sauro Gabelli's wonderful Christmas Tableau in the church Narthex, an Italian tradition which he loves to share with us, also in aid of The Children's Society.

MAIN SUNDAY SERVICE with hymns at 10am. All are welcome. Our website is at www.ltm.org.uk/stmarys which gives more information and has a link to our weekly Notice Sheet.

ST MARY'S CHURCH IS OPEN FOR VIEWING, PRAYER AND REFLECTION 9am to 3.30pm approx, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSE-BOUND Contact our Curate Revd Debra on curate.lttm@btinternet.com or 07436 172130.



PERSONAL PRAYER REQUESTS We would love to support you in prayer. Please add your request to the Prayer Request Book near the Baptism Font, or email stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

LIFE EVENTS We welcome enquiries for baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials. For further information look on our website www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys or email stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

FOOD DELIVERIES We will be delivering on Thursday 8th December and 22nd January. Non-perishable food can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's when open (see opposite for opening hours). To see what items are most urgently needed or to make a monetary donation please contact the Foodbank at <https://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/westerhams-foodbank> Thank you for continued support. **Hilary Vale 01959 577864**

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP 1pm - 3pm THURSDAY 4TH AND THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER Bereaved people are welcome on their own or with a friend to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers are on hand for emotional and bereavement support. Oxted United Reform Church, 21 Bluehouse Lane.

ST MARY'S TATSFIELD 100 CLUB RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER

54 M Smith £25	D Vale £15	48 M Langford £10	St Mary's	£46
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HIRE OF THE MILLENNIUM HALL If you are looking for a well-equipped venue for a function, event or activity our Millennium Hall is open for bookings. Enquiries from individuals and groups are very welcome. **Sheila Cook (01959 577443)**



ST MARY'S CONTACTS Our contacts are detailed near the front of this magazine and on our website www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys.

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
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 st 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 CLOSED UNTIL APRIL
	6.00 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH
	6.00pm	Over 8s Jujitsu, SH
	6.30pm	Latin Fusion Dance Fitness for Adults, TPS
	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 nd Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 st Thursday of the month)
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	5.30pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
Fri	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
	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-12pm	Composting Site CLOSED UNTIL APRIL
	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

DECEMBER

4 th Thu	1.00pm	Oxted Bereavement Support Group, United Reform Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted
4 th Thu & 5 th Fri	7.30pm	Moana JR, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
7 th Sun	3.00pm	Messy Church, StM
7 th Sun	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight, StM
7 th Sun	5.00pm	Handel's Messiah, OLCS, United Reform Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted
11 th Thu & 12 th Fri	7.30pm	Sister Act, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
13 th Sat	5.00pm	A Holly Jolly Christmas, Tatsfield Singers Christmas Concert, VH
13 th Sat	7.30pm	Sister Act, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
14 th Sun	7.45pm	Oasiz, Barn Theatre
18 th Thu	1.00pm	Oxted Bereavement Support Group, United Reform Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted
19 th Fri	5.30pm	Santa Visiting Tatsfield

JANUARY

4 th Sun	1.30pm	NDS Young Soloists Concert
9 th Fri	7.30pm	Hansel & Gretel, Pantomime, Barn Theatre
10 th Sat	10.00am	Christmas Tree Composting, Tatsfield Community Allotments
10 th Sat to 17 th Sat	Various	Hansel & Gretel, Pantomime, Barn Theatre
24 th Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night, Barn Theatre
28 th Wed	2.15pm	Visual Magic in the Musicals, Limspsfield Church Hall

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.

FAIRTRADE ONLINE SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS



As Christmas approaches many of us are looking for original and thoughtful presents with a difference. Buying presents with Fairtrade in mind can be an imaginative treat for those receiving the gifts as well as a boost for those who make the gifts and supply ingredients.

Although there are some shops on the high street that sell Fairtrade gifts such as Oxfam, it is sometimes tricky to buy a wide range of goods which are ethical. Online shopping for Fairtrade gifts can be fun and easy.

All the gifts that frame this writing can be bought online. By putting Fairtrade Christmas gifts into your computers search engine so many imaginative and beautiful gifts can be viewed at all price points. Some companies charge a reasonable fee for delivery but with some delivery is free.

The gifts pictured in the frame are just some examples of what is available and come from these companies' online platforms:

- The FAIR-trade store
- The Ethical shop
- Shared Earth
- Oxfam
- One World Shop

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com
tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com

Towards the end of 1925 there was talk of possible dramatic change for Tatsfield. On December 5th, the Westerham Herald reported plans for the 'Southern Heights Light Railway', connecting Orpington, Keston, Cudham and Tatsfield in a loop extending to Chelsham and Warlingham and then Sanderstead.

Tatsfield's station would have been close to the Village Hall and where the school is now. To the disappointment of potential users wanting a fast route to London and others seeing an opportunity to bring more housing to the village, it was not to be. The state of the British economy meant that the money could not be raised and the idea was abandoned in 1931. At its

December meeting, the Parish Council had been clearly expecting the project to go ahead and was expressing concern that the railway might block the footpath from the village to St Marys Church.

Another public transport issue also came up. This was the siting of the bus stop at the end of the Approach Road. It wasn't until 1926 that the first buses serving Tatsfield actually came into the centre of the village. There was apparently a seat at the top of White Lane but the Parish Council reckoned that the time it took to get from there to the stop itself often meant people missing the bus.

Also in December – seven years after the ending of the First World War – was a meeting of the local branch of an association supporting the League of Nations – the predecessor of today's United Nations Organisation. This was told that 'the horror of war had been increased a hundredfold by the latest scientific weapons of destruction. London could be wiped out in a night by a fleet of aeroplanes. If by their apathy they allowed war to come again they would have to pay the same price as they did in the last war.'

Among the more 'routine' matters that came up that December was parents appearing in court for not sending their children to school and 'insanitary cottages' in more than one of Tatsfield's unmade roads.

RAILWAY FOR TATSFIELD?

On and off for over twenty years Tatsfield has been promised a railway, and now it seems as if at last it will actually materialise.

Application has been made by Mr. H. F. Stephens Agent to the Promoters, to the Ministry of Transport for an order, under the Light Railways Acts 1896 and 1912, authorising the construction, working and maintenance of light railways between Orpington, Kent and Sanderstead, Surrey. The land required for the purpose is some 190 acres.

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

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES OPEN 2026 On Sunday 19th October, Kayden Plinston and Harvey Davy travelled to Brentwood to compete in the NHC Open, the first major competition of the new competition cycle, which starts after the England Championship, held in September. For both boys, this was their first time fighting in the junior men's category (17 to 21 years old) as they both moved up from the cadets boys (u17's) with the start of the new cycle. Both were fighting in the u73kg weight group which consisted of 21 fighters, split into two pools – one of eleven and one of ten. The winners of each pool meet each other in the final to decide the gold and silver medallists. The runners up from each pool, face each other for the bronze medals.

Unfortunately, Harvey lost his first two contests which meant an early exit from the competition. Tough to take, but this was Harvey's first time fighting in the older age band and having only just turned 17 he was one of the youngest. So, experience gained but no medal. Kayden won his first contest in 39 seconds with a big throw. In his second contest, he dominated from the start scoring twice with throws before forcing a submission from his opponent with a choke. In his third contest he was up against a lad he trains with regularly, so both boys know each other's judo very well. The last time they faced each other in competition, Kayden lost. The fight was extremely close and with no scores for either boy, they were heading into golden score (extra time when the full four minutes of normal time is up – but during golden score any score wins). Then, with just eight seconds left in normal time, Kayden pulled off a beautiful throw to win with ippon and avenge the previous loss (plus, giving him a psychological edge for when they face each other again). This win meant Kayden had won his pool and was into the final against the other pool winner. In the final, Kayden put in a great effort but was unfortunately caught with a throw. Despite this, a good day and a great performance – winning a silver medal at a national event. (The gold medallist was a black belt, who wore a white belt in the medal photo.)

JUJITSU GRADING We held our last club grading of the year on 12th November for our jujitsu members. These gradings consist of demonstrating techniques from our syllabus, then some 'live' training and with the adults, we like to pressure test them - so standing sparring, groundwork, throw for throw etc.

We had 31 members taking part in the grading – who all passed! A result of the hard work they put in during the last couple of months leading up to the grading.

SELF DEFENCE & PERSONAL PROTECTION COURSE On Friday 17th October we delivered our last SDPP course of 2026. We deliver these courses with our friends from Riddlesdown Martial Arts, and we aim to provide one per quarter – switching the venue between Riddlesdown and Tatsfield. But we also deliver a number of private courses throughout the year for numerous different organisations including the WI, doctor's surgeries, schools and universities.



Adam Plinston

'BLAST FROM THE PAST' – A GOLDEN DISCOVERY (TATSFIELD WI, 1925-1975)

As we all know, this is Tatsfield WI's centenary year. Fifty years ago, they celebrated a similar benchmark occasion. Quite by chance, while looking through some old documents, I came across the lyrics to a song appropriately titled 'Golden Jubilee'. An accompanying photograph suggests that it was performed by members of the 'Paynesfield Road Gang' at the WI's jubilee dinner on February 4th, 1975. So many 'insignificant' documents such as this are lost over time, and yet they **do** have significance in terms of our collective history. I hope the discovery and presentation of these lyrics will bring forth pleasant memories to the more senior ladies within our community and offer some general amusement to current WI members and others alike.

GOLDEN JUBILEE (Author unknown) (Original punctuation)

*There's a great celebration in Tatsfield, I see,
Down at the WI.*

*None of your sandwiches, rock cakes and tea;
The menu to-night is as posh as can be.
It's a Golden occasion – a real Jubilee,
Down at the W.I.*

*Have you seen Madam President set 'em alight?
Down at the W.I.
Eileen can organise meetings all right,
But of dates she's arranged she will often lose sight.
Why, she almost forgot about coming to-night!
Down at the W.I.*

*Catherine calmly responds to each call,
Down at the W.I.
The duties which to the Hon. Sec. duly fall
Are enough to send most people right up the wall;
And she cannot tell Tuesday from Thursday at all,
Down at the W.I.*

*Little comes outside the Treasurer's ken,
Down at the W.I.
Pamela wields a formidable pen,
The books always balance, (well, now and again);
But she takes off her shoes to count further than ten,
Down at the W.I.*

*Mrs. Barnes guards the entrance, through thick and through thin,
Down at the W.I.
They drink gallons of tea, (which is stronger than gin),*

*But non-payment of dues is a cardinal sin;
If you don't pay your money, she won't let you in,
Down at the W.I.*

*The kitchen is spotless, as everyone knows,
Down at the W.I.
All scraps of food in the dustbin repose,
And the crockery's carefully washed 'til it glows,
But is it the mice they're afraid of – or Rose?
Down at the W.I.*

*In pursuit of the drama some are immersed,
Down at the W.I.
In pursuit of maternity others are versed;
But Marg'ret's production was badly rehearsed,
For the Happy Event's due on April the First,
Down at the W.I.*

*Some of the members hold titles most rare,
Down at the W.I.
Mavis and Gwennyth to Knole Park repair,
But what do they do in the Bedchamber there?
Well we have heard it said ... no, it wouldn't be fair,
Down at the W.I.*

*When the Hall floor gave way, they weren't half in a fix,
Down at the W.I.
But the cost of repairs, and the shortage of bricks,
Could not dismay Betty, (who knows all the tricks), -
She just filled in the hole with the stale bread from Dick's,
Down at the W.I.*

*We hope we've enlivened your Gold Jubilee,
Down at the W.I.
We'll come back some time, if you ask us, maybe.
But don't book us yet for your Centenary -
By then we'll be nearly a hundred and three,
Down at the W.I.*

WI members named in the lyrics were all active characters at the time: Eileen **Pearce**, Catherine **Gulley**, Pamela **Cawley**, Mrs **Barnes**, Rose **Bradshaw**, Margaret (**?**), Mavis **Broom**, Gwennyth **Shaw** and Betty **Rumley**. The line about the stale bread from 'Dick's' refers to Dick **Watson's** bakery and store, now known as simply 'The Bakery' (restaurant).

If anyone can work out the tune that the lyrics were sung to, please let me know. And who was the mysterious Margaret? **Nigel Shaw**

WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

Tatsfield – Your hedgehogs need you! We might not have many hedgehogs in Tatsfield but there are definitely a few up here on the hill, and if, like me, you'd like to help them out then winter is the most important time to do it. There is a popular misconception that they hibernate in autumn and wake in spring, but it isn't true. While all hedgehogs might like to do this, it isn't possible for all of them. Snoozy males enter hibernation before females, probably because they have more time to fatten up enough to go through winter without eating, while females may still be busy weaning a second or late-born litter. Consequently, these females may not hibernate until well into December or even January. Similarly, the late born litter will not have fattened up enough to hibernate and hence they will be foraging through winter when food is scarce and the weather is cold, and many youngsters won't make it through to spring. This, of course, is largely because we have displaced their feeding grounds with buildings, farms and gardens. It is a huge problem for our prickly little neighbours, and their population has dropped by a 30% in the last decade, so please do think about feeding them over winter.

Hedgehogs will thrive on cat and dog food, either wet or dry, though the dry food should be the good meat-based stuff. The problem arises in that cats, foxes and badgers may well beat the hedgehogs to the food unless you put it in a hedgehog feeder. I've found it is quite easy to make/buy a feeder that will keep cats and foxes at bay, but badgers are another matter entirely. But I have now made a badger-proof feeder, so it can be done. Hedgehog feeders are readily available online where there are also plenty of plans if you fancy making your own.

One other thing, pesticides of all sorts kill hedgehogs because they poison the insects that hedgehogs (and birds) eat, so please do consider this before zapping your garden with pesticides or the innocuous sounding but poisonous 'lawn treatments' that decimate the local food chain.



Interesting fact of the month... By the time you read this our early daffodils will be breaking ground getting ready to flower over the Christmas break. Daffs are my favourite bloom, and I love the way they herald in the New Year with a cheerful splash of colour. And each bulb will last around a hundred years and so they leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

For centuries they have been a symbol of spring and have come to symbolise new beginnings and rebirth. Indeed, medieval paintings even show daffs at the foot of the Crucifixion as a hint towards the Easter Resurrection. So it has bugged me for ages why their Latin name is 'Narcissus', which has unpleasant connotations, as in 'narcissistic' and 'narcotic'. Anyhow, it is well known that Narcissus was the handsome ancient Greek lad that fell in love with his own reflection in a lake (they didn't have smart phones back then). This resulted in him falling into the pool and drowning whereupon he was magically transformed into a beautiful gold and yellow flower that took his name.

Voila. Mystery solved. Jim Kenney

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN DECEMBER

As I predicted, our late November weather had a sting in its tail! I had left my Nasturtiums in the tubs as there was another lot of Large White caterpillars busily feeding on the foliage, but the plants are now a black mess after our first lot of air frosts. I reckon that after a mild spell this month it may turn cold again and who knows, maybe check out those sledges!!

Thinking of Christmas and the challenge of what to buy for a keen gardener, why not buy them an RHS membership and/or an online short course in gardening, there is a big selection available online, have a look at the choices on www.rhs.org.uk.

A word of warning, if you treated yourself to some new planters for the garden this year, and will be leaving them outside over winter, check that they are frost proof. If not, or you are not sure, move them to the shelter of a South or West facing aspect, or put them inside a shed or garage; stop watering them so they dry out and the soil shrinks away from the sides. However, if they are planted up, you should wrap them in bubble wrap and water sparingly, not very pretty but should protect them. The problem is that when damp compost freezes, it expands sideways and can crack the container.



This strange season continues to bring surprises, my winter flowering Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) usually starts flowering around Christmas or soon after, but this year it started flowering in the second week of November! My bumble bees did very well this year and this plant is vital for their winter survival, unfortunately an early start means an early finish and my bumbles may struggle for food on those mild and bright days in January and February. Planting Primroses, Pansies, Violas, Christmas Rose (*Hellebores*) and other winter flowers

not only bring some winter cheer but also food for our vulnerable winter feeders.

There seems to be a swing towards the use of natural Christmas trees as we begin to understand more about such complicated matters like carbon footprint and sustainability. It is so difficult to avoid buying decorations made of plastic, but we do have a choice when it comes to Christmas trees. A natural tree is a wholly sustainable crop, it takes five to seven years to reach a decent size, and the field is a good habitat for wildlife as there is minimum disturbance during that time. After harvesting, the land is cleared and another crop is planted, and so the cycle commences again. Another advantage for us is that there are plenty of growers in our area where we can go and collect a fresh tree. Leave buying your tree as long as possible and make sure to stand it in water, especially in the dry atmosphere of a centrally heated house. The traditional Norway Spruce will drop its needles in a hot, dry atmosphere but the Nordmann Spruce is much more resistant to needle drop. For Tatsfielders there is an added bonus; the Tatsfield Community Composters are opening especially for you to bring your natural Christmas tree to the site in Approach Road (the Allotment site) on Saturday 10th January from 10.00 – 12.00, come and watch our new big yellow machine chew it up and make our famous Black Gold compost ready for you to put on your garden, now that sounds sustainable to me! **Jon Allbutt**

TATSFIELD ART GROUP



TAGGERS EXPERIMENTAL TERM During recent weeks the members of Tatsfield art group have been in an experimental mood.

We have played with palette knives; attempted to draw and then paint trees in watercolour; joined the dots in aboriginal styles and looked at the Dali inspired Elsa Schiaparelli's fashions. Adie Parker is inspiring us to work with loose puddles of watercolour; Simon Cook is demonstrating painting on glass; Ian

Henderson is back just before our Christmas meal on 8th December; and Sheila Alexander is rounding off the term using ink and bleach. Many sessions have been led by members who have prepared materials very carefully so that we can continue to create when at home.

After Christmas we take a break, avoiding the mists and vagaries of Tatsfield weather. We reconvene on Monday 23rd February with a full programme of sessions which will include sessions led by both professional artist and members.

We would welcome sessional visitors. The first two sessions with us are free. Membership is £160 annually, which includes free entry into our May exhibition. If sessions suit best, then a demo thereafter cost £10 and an interactive workshop £15.

If you need more information, please get in touch with Sandra Shury 07867502235 or me 07815775859, Carol Gaskell.



THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

Visual Magic in the Musicals by Christopher Budd. **Date: Wednesday 28 January 2026.** **Afternoon lecture only starts at 2.15pm.** Guests: £10. **Venue: Limpsfield Church Hall RH8 0DG**

The true pioneers of visual effects in the movies were the musicals. In the glory days of the studio system Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly were involved in an artistic arms race to put the most ingenious dance routines on screen. Join writer, teacher, and composer Christopher Budd for an appreciation of blue screens, rotating stages, and two extraordinarily talented men.

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2025

Astronomy, as in many other activities in life, requires a number of things to all work at once to achieve success. Of course, the major problem is that it must be both clear and Moon free (unless you're a lunar observer of course). Such is the case for the Geminid meteor shower this year which is active from 4th December until 17th, with maximum activity occurring on the night of 13th/14th. Anyone who looked last year was severely hampered by an almost full Moon "next door" in Taurus. This year the outlook is better with a waning crescent Moon not rising until 2:30am when I'm guessing most people will be tucked up in a warm bed.

The reason that we see meteor showers at regular times of the year is thanks to comets and, in the case of the Geminids, an asteroid as they pass around the solar system on highly elliptical orbits. Each time a comet or asteroid passes the Sun some of it vapourises and small particles are released which then form a trail of debris through which the Earth passes on a yearly basis. These particles collide with the Earth's atmosphere and "burn up" though that isn't entirely the correct terminology.



The Geminids are so called because the point in the sky that the meteors appear to radiate from (the "radiant") located in the constellation Gemini, the celestial twins. They seem to originate from one point in the same way that snowflakes do if you're driving in a car when it's snowing or if you see railway tracks converging into the distance. In general terms it's better to look later at night when the radiant is higher which means not only is there more chance of seeing meteors that are travelling south, towards the horizon, but air and light pollution away from the horizon will be less.

So, if the weather plays ball for us on the night of 13th/14th we can expect to see perhaps one meteor every 3-4 minutes. Geminids are slow moving and often bright with many having a subtle yellow hue. It's best to meteor watch lying on a sun lounger with the head end raised slightly – viewing from the standing position plays havoc with the neck! Point yourself either towards the Plough in the northeast or Orion/Taurus in the southeast but you don't need to look directly at the radiant as meteors tend to be shorter there. In the map the radiant is shown as a black "R" on a white circle.



Christmas Challenge

Big Give

**Donations doubled,
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Save the date
2nd - 9th December 2025
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***The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust is once
more taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge.***

For one week only all online donations will be matched, commencing midday #GivingTuesday, 2nd December, the global day of giving and doing GOOD for charity.

Please save the date and spread the word!

When: Midday 2nd December to midday 9th December

Where: Online only

Why: Every donation, no matter the size will be **DOUBLED**, giving supporters the power to make twice the impact for children and families facing cancer.

It is a chance to help provide essential care, comfort, and hope to children and families at a time when it matters most.

Mark your calendar and get ready to give online from midday 2 December!

This link: **The Chartwell Children's Cancer Trust CIO – Big Give** will be **LIVE** from **midday 2nd December** – stay tuned!

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

The Chartwell Cancer Trust Team



CHARTWELL IN-PATIENT UNIT UPDATE - 25,000 SAY 'NO' AND CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY ON IN-PATIENT CAPABILITY

Two months on from the launch of the campaign against proposals concerning the Chartwell In-patient Unit at the Princess Royal University Hospital and opposition remains strong. Over 25,000 people have now formally put their names to a single, unambiguous message: do not remove or dilute local inpatient cancer care at the PRUH. Across the testimonies that signatories have shared, community priorities are consistent: **Care must remain close to home** (relocation will create delay, complexity, and clinical risk, resulting in the very barriers to access that proposals seek to address); **Support networks must be able to reach patients** (carers, families and friends travel in from well beyond the immediate PRUH catchment – Eltham, Biggin Hill, Tatsfield, St Mary Cray and neighbouring communities - moving inpatient care further away makes visits harder and, for some, impossible); **A protected, specialist clinical environment matters** (people value Chartwell because it is a dedicated, infection-controlled setting, staffed by people who know the unit's caseload and the complexity of haematology and cancer inpatients).

We have been given assurances by KCH that the Chartwell Ward will not be closed and will continue to support cancer patients at PRUH. However, this does not yet answer the central question being put to us by the community: will PRUH retain protected inpatient cancer care capacity — i.e. defined beds, appropriate infection-prevention standards and dedicated, specialist staff — on site? Until that is made explicit, the position remains unclear. Procedural shortcomings in this process remain a live concern that is shared by councillors and others across the community. In early October, our submission of evidence gathered through the campaign and our request that it be logged as formal community input went unacknowledged. With support, we have secured a response from the Deputy CEO, recognising that engagement throughout has not been handled correctly and that this would be rectified. That concession is important, but to date, there is still no published information around such engagement processes or a visible mechanism for our community to input into decision-making. Despite assurances, the Trust has yet to evidence how it is “putting people at the heart” of this process, as it is procedurally bound to do.

In light of this, and in a constructive spirit, we are continuing to hold King's to account and maintaining pressure on them to honour their duty and commitment to the community by commencing a transparent and meaningful engagement process and by giving a written assurance that protected inpatient cancer care will be maintained at PRUH. We believe this is a proportionate ask. The Trust has already acknowledged procedural deficiencies; the community has set out, with decisive clarity and scale, what matters to it – local, specialist, accessible inpatient care. We now call on the Trust to demonstrate, promptly and visibly, how the people most affected by this proposal can take an active part in shaping it.

Please sign and share our petition. Every signature helps keep care safe, specialist and close to home: <https://chnq.it/LSctZjXfFW>

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

I thought I was doing quite well when I spotted a small flock of **Redwings** flying over Greenway on 6th November. That was before I read Brian Thomas's report in the 'TN16 Magazine'. He spotted his first on 25th September. Some years we are invaded by giant flocks coming over from the Scandinavian continent as they attempt to escape the harsh winter conditions to be found there. If they arrive this year, they certainly won't be disappointed as most of our berry-bearing trees are fully laden. What other species can we look forward to seeing? Well, certainly some Fieldfares, possibly a few Siskins, Redpolls and Linnets, and perhaps we'll be welcoming the return of the Hawfinches seen in the past year or two. It would also be exciting to receive a report of Bramblings on someone's garden feeder. I'll be watching out for an email from Tony Turner for that.

It occurs to me that some of these bird names will mean nothing to many of our readers, particularly those who may have moved here from a more urban environment. Of course, these days it's simple to ask the pocket computer (smartphone) to make an identification although, being a 'tech dinosaur', I still prefer a book. Having said that, I do use 'Google Images' when I need to source something specific. I would copy images of all the seven birds named here but I feel that would be pushing things a little too far in terms of copyright. Any images I do use are either sent by the contributor or freely available for anyone's use. (Many thanks to those unknown photographers.)

Out of those winter visitors (migrants) mentioned above, the two I consistently see, year after year, are the Redwing (photo below) and the Fieldfare (photo to right). But you may not see them if you are stuck to your armchair. Wait for a bright, dry day, perhaps with



a bite of frost or a scattering of snow, then off you go wearing your warmest jumper, your thickest socks, solid footwear (not trainers), gloves and some form of headgear that covers your ears. No one wants cold ears! Head for some berry-bearing bushes or trees such as the Hawthorn or tall, woodland trees such as the Beech. A pair of binoculars will prove extremely useful as you will be able to keep your distance and not frighten

off these nervous visitors. The only other things you need are a flask of something warming and a pocketful of nibbles. This may not sound a particularly exciting activity but you may well be surprised. A morning in the great outdoors during these cold winter months can be quite uplifting, particularly if you have a hot lunch waiting for you when you get home!

As you have probably realised by now, I do love an excuse to do a spot of research. So, what can I discover about either of these two birds that may not be commonly known? Let's focus on the birds' local names, beginning with the Fieldfare. It is (or was) known in various parts of Surrey by a number of nicknames; Felter, Felfer, Felterbirds, Felferbirds and Bluefelt. (The Birds of Surrey, Bucknil, 1900.) The 'blue' and 'felt' would seem to refer to the bluish-grey head plumage. 'Felfer' certainly bears an intelligible resemblance to the presently named 'Fieldfare'. 'Feld' was used in Middle English, around the 12th century, so I am guessing that 'feldfer' was simplified to 'felfer' at some point. The latter part of the name, 'fer', has picked up more than one meaning over the past 900 years or so. It refers to travel, rushing or running, and making noise. Well, thinking of the bird in question, any of these could apply: It travels a long way from its breeding ground to be with us during the winter months, it runs around on the ground, rushing from place to place, and it makes noticeable noise, calling from the treetops and as it flies across open ground. All things considered we would have to say that the Fieldfare is well named. As for the Redwing, well, I can't find any Surrey-specific names. I will, however, suggest one of my own, 'Cutwing', in recognition of the red streak below its wing, suggestive of an injury. What do you think? Will it catch on? Like many new words it will if it's used often enough.



And so, another year of queries, news and observations will soon have passed us by. With climate change advancing and no worthwhile international response to the crisis being evident, it seems we are heading towards rapidly changing environmental conditions, even here on our little island plot. Who knows what that will bring in terms of biodiversity losses and gains? One thing we can all do, as individuals and as a village community, is make sure that we appreciate and protect the wildlife to be found in the woodland and fields around us and make a concerted effort to attract that wildlife into the sanctuary of our gardens and communal grounds. Just the other day I looked out and saw a couple of solitary bees bumbling around on the flowering **White dead-nettles** that have invaded part of the garden and felt glad that I had decided not to dig it all out as previously planned. And with the relative warmth of recent autumn evenings, I have been entertained regularly by a bat that is happy to fly within a couple of feet of the kitchen window, catching the tiny flying insects that arise from my weed-filled lawn. It's these small changes in our individual mindsets that can make a positive difference to the way we view our place within the wider world and our relationship with all living things.

I offer my thanks to the valued contributors and loyal readers of these Nature Notes and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Eat, Drink and Be Merry!

Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com

Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.



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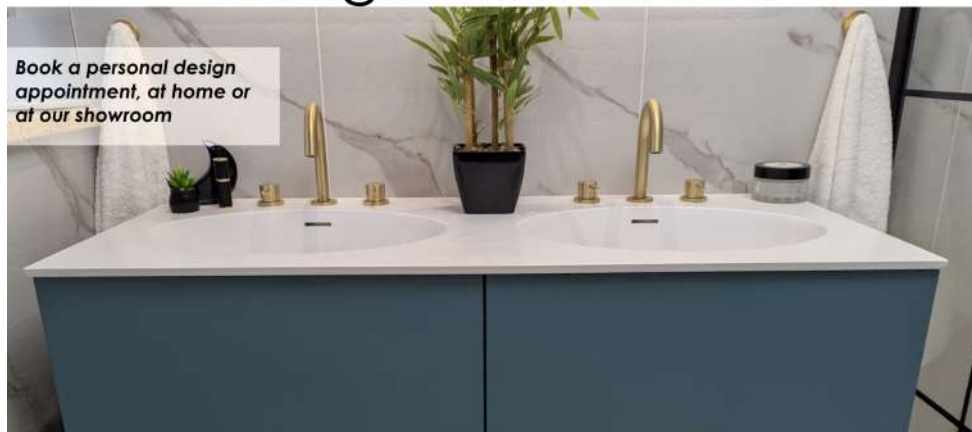


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