

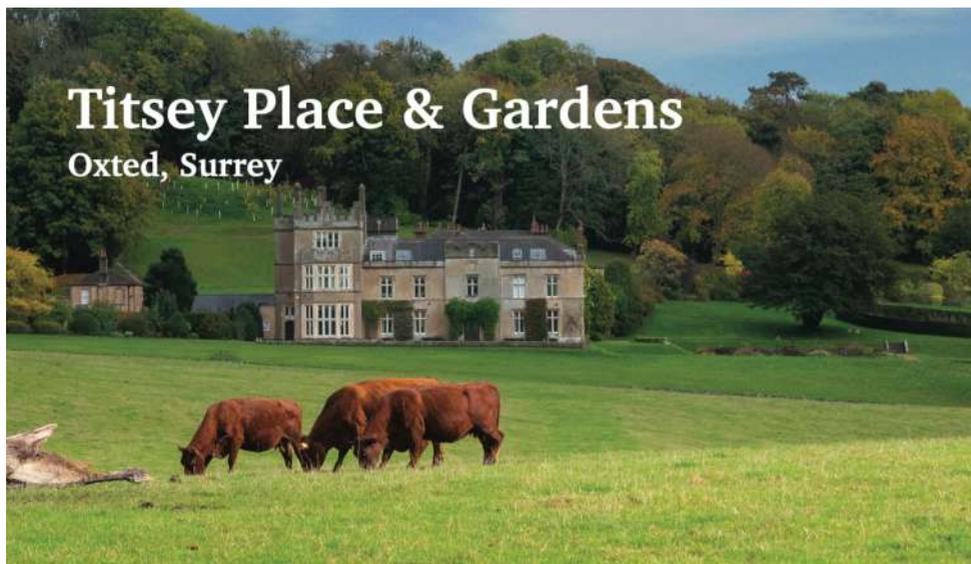
MARCH 2026

Tatsfield Parish Magazine



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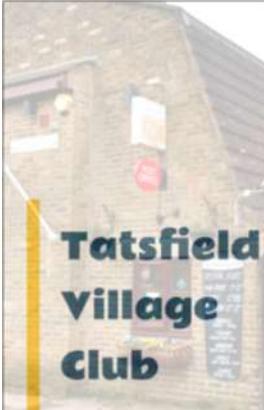
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Tatsfield, TN16 2AS





Tatsfield Village Club

phone: 01959 577330
email: tvsecretary@btconnect.com
Facebook: Tatsfield Village Club
Instagram: tatsfield_village_club

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 5th May - VE day BBQ

Friday 23rd May - Disco

Saturday 7th June - Country & Western evening

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Saturday 6th September - Games night

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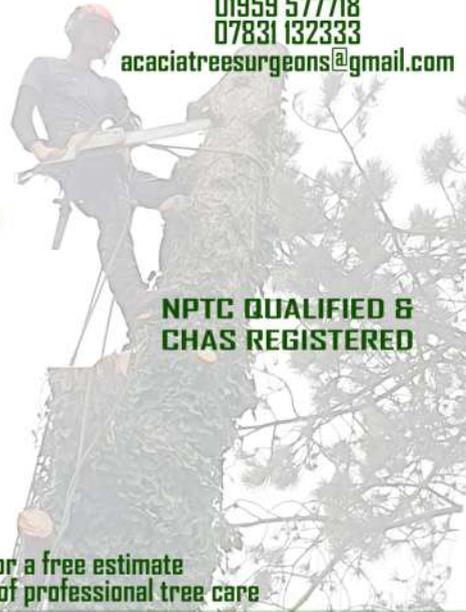


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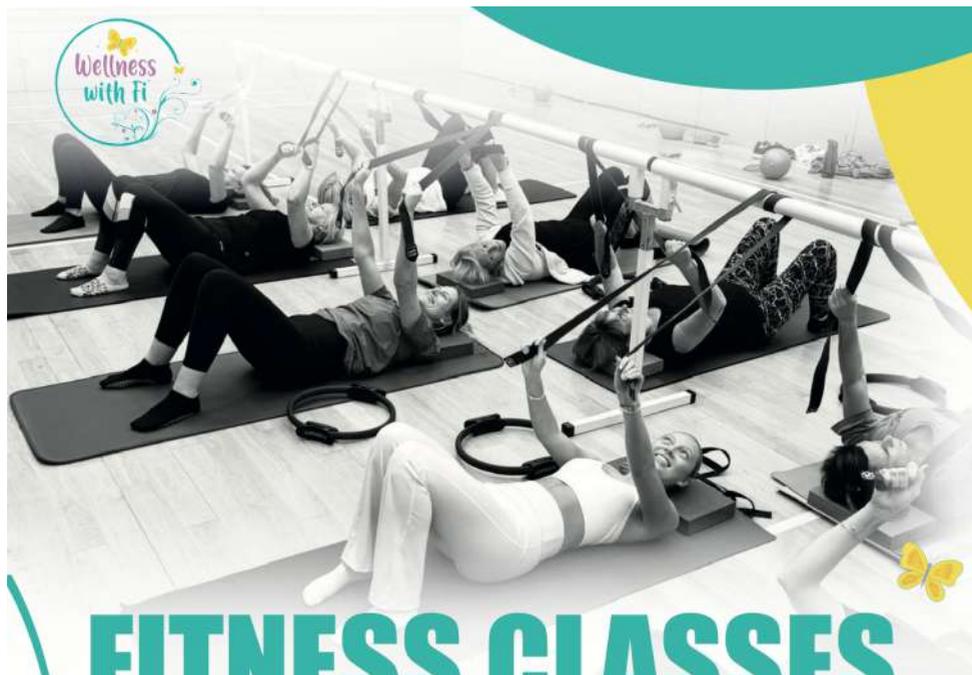
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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

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: hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk

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 • Vacancy

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

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 and approved at least ONE MONTH in advance of insertion.

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

Calendar Dates Our calendar usually covers six weeks or more from publication so please give us your dates in good time. If you don't want your event to clash with others why not check with us early?

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

Cover image: Wiltshire Horn Sheep Grazing at Hill Park, Jim Yeeles.

EDITORIAL

We celebrated Candlemas on 1st February which is when, for Christians, the Christmas season is properly over. It's been rather grey and drizzly, hasn't it? So it's good to light a candle which gives such a warm light; encouraging us to reflect and take a moment. Think about the year ahead and the year that's gone.



We know that Spring is coming as green shoots emerge from the dark earth – even though it seems to come to us later in Tatsfield!

And so we have already made some plans for the coming of Easter and all it promises of new life, and chocolate eggs and that lovely, long weekend.

At St Mary's there will be lots going on – details found elsewhere in the magazine – and we do hope we will have a chance to welcome you to some of these in the coming weeks.

The Churchyard Team will start their monthly labour in March to keep our North Downs site looking as beautiful as ever – but sadly without the encouragement of our friend, Mary Smith. We will continue to see her in the wildflowers she loved and will carry on the work in creating a biodiverse environment which was her passion.

After all, variety makes Life more interesting and colourful and as we come out of a soggy winter we can even better appreciate and be thankful for all the interests, activities, changes and challenges that come our way.

Blessings, Reverend Debra

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

Gaye, Sue and Nicky are saddened to announce that their beloved mum Christine Gascoyne, who was a Tatsfield resident for many years, passed away peacefully on Thursday 5th February 2026. There will be a memorial service at Tatsfield Church in March (date tbc). If you would like to know the details of the service, or pass on your condolences, please contact Nicky on Nickybarker76@gmail.com or 07847 627711.

Nicky Barker

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SAVE THE DATES

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER

Ash Wednesday Service, 18thFebruary, 7:30pm, St Mary's Tatsfield

Lent lunches, 12:00 to 2:00pm each Saturday, 21stFebruary to 28thMarch, Millennium Hall

'Draw Near' Lent groups, 90 minutes each Wednesday from 25thFebruary to 2ndApril, 10:30am at the Dome on Paynesfield Road and 7:30pm via ZOOM



Compline (Night Prayer) service, Monday 30th and Tuesday 31stMarch in Holy Week, in St Mary's Tatsfield

'Seder' meal in the Millennium Hall, Maundy Thursday, 2ndApril, 6:30pm, followed by a short reflective service in St Mary's Tatsfield.

Easter Vigil 6:30pm Saturday 4th April, St Mary's Tatsfield churchyard

Easter Sunday 10:00am, Sunday 5thApril, St Mary's, Tatsfield. Special service of celebration and thanksgiving.

Contact Reverend Debra for further details and to register your interest in the 'Seder' Meal. Booking is required for catering.

Reverend Debra on 07436 172130 or curate.lttm@gmail.com

**DRAW
NEW**

WHAT'S ON

LENT COURSE 2026

Meetings will be in person at 10.30am, and in person and online 7.30 pm every Wednesday

Week One - 25th February
Week Two - 4th March
Week Three - 11th March
Week Four - 18th March
Week Five - 25th March
Week Six - 1st April

Sharing in Prayer
Sharing in the Scriptures
Sharing Communion
Sharing in Service
Sharing the Good News
Holy Week Worship: Affirming the Christian Way

Contact Debra at curate.lttm@gmail.com for more details
The Everyday Faith app will carry reflections throughout Lent
and is free to download for iOS and Android.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCHES



Our annual gatherings during Lent will start soon and we hope that you will come along and enjoy a hearty Ploughman's Lunch and a choice of homemade soups for a donation, with all proceeds going to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.

**Saturdays from 12-2pm in the Millennium Hall, St Mary's,
Church Hill, Tatsfield (parking available)**

**7th March, 14th March, 21st March,
28th March - come to one or two or
come to all, we'd be delighted to see you!**



In addition there will be free all age Easter crafts to try.

Booking

Just drop by - no need to book - and if you need further information, contact:
Maryrose Fawke on 07710 411 587
Reverend Debra on 07436 172 130
or curate.lttm@gmail.com





SHE'S BACK!!!

“DOES MY HRT PATCH LOOK BIG IN THIS CORSET?”

LADIES FUNDRAISING EVENT

TUESDAY 27TH APRIL 2.15 – 4.00PM

To the Ladies of Tatsfield the WI invite you to join them for a **fabulous, funny afternoon with our speaker Lindsey Barrell and her alter ego, Ms Cherry Bomb** who will be entertaining us on Tuesday 7th April, 2.15pm until 4pm.

Lindsey is an amazing lady, gifted storyteller, a little bit quirky and refreshingly funny. Lindsey leads two troupes of Burlesque dancers, who are all WI members and are aged between 40 and 82! Giving talks and performing and raising funds for local worthy causes. Not many speakers show their pants as an introduction!

This time the title of Lindsey's talk is '**Does my HRT patch look big in this corset?**'. When Lindsey gave her talk to us last year, we ended with Ms Cherry Bomb leading us all in attempting to '**bump, grind and shimmy**', and **advice on twirling tassels!**

All money raised will go to Tatsfield WI's 2026 fundraiser for a local charity. Entry at the door £3, cash only please, which includes refreshments.

If you would to join us, please give Susan Smale a ring 01959 577660. Sandra Shury



**TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

MONDAY 23rd MARCH 19:30 FOR 20:00 START

**In the Meeting Room, Aileen McHugo Building,
Westmore Green, Tatsfield TN16 2AG**

Report from the Parish Council Chairman

Updates: MUGA Project

Guest speaker:

**Richard Biggs (Claire Coutinho MP
Constituency Manager)**

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Hello all, hopefully by the time you read this the weather will have improved. The rain is not good for those living on the unmade/unadopted roads - muddy puddles definitely need wellies! Our spring daffodils on Westmore Green are about to bloom and many patches of lovely snowdrops have made an appearance to bring us Spring-time hope.

PLANNING JAN/FEB 2026

2025/1244 Kylemore Paynesfield Road. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of an orangery. Recommendation: no comment.

2025/1285 3 Paynesfield Road. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 4 dwellings, parking and landscaping. Recommendation: objection on the basis of overdevelopment of the proposed site.

2025/1451 Motorway Service Area South Clacket Lane Services. Erection of a small totem sign on the Westbound approach to Clacket Lane Services from M25. Recommendation: no comment.

Planning Appeal ref 6003433 (TDCr ef. 2025/1060) Proposed single storey rear extension. This application has gone to appeal. Recommendation: no further action.

EV CHARGING FOR THE VILLAGE Despite much research and requests for suitably placed charging points in village centre we have not been successful. It was decided to return to this matter at a later date.

APPROACH ROAD SPEEDING We are working on a campaign to request a speed limit reduction on the stretch of road from the village gates to the village centre after many incidents during the last few months. A request has been made to SCC and we are hoping for a response with a Speed Assessment soon.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND CRAFTS Following on from the success of this event last year, we will again be organizing this fun activity for children 10 and under. Tickets are limited and available from Sheree's Store. (See more info in the mag for further details.)

MUGA (MULTI USE GAMES AREA) Work on improvements to this very underused facility is continuing: new table tennis tables have been installed; line painting of the tennis courts has taken place together with the purchase of tennis nets, pickleball nets and bats, new netball nets and tabards. If you are interested in forming a club or hiring the area for coaching classes, please contact me. As soon as weather has improved, we will be holding an open morning for all to come and try the courts and tables.

Full minutes of our meetings can be found on our website. The next **Parish Council Meeting is on 9th March, 8.00pm**. Our **Annual Parish Meeting will be on 23rd March, 7.30 for 8.00pm**. Both meetings will be held in the Aileen McHugo Building. All welcome.

Kim Jennings, Chairman Tatsfield Parish Council

Email: kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk Tel 07951072326

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Council's share of Band D council tax will increase to £259.86. This is around £4.98 a week, an increase of 14p from last year The latest council meeting (12th Feb) on the agreed an increase of 2.99% in Tandridge District Council's share of council tax for 2026/2027. The meeting also agreed the Council's budget for next year. As I have done in the past I **voted against** this acknowledging it may be a small increase but when taking into account the increases from the Parish, Surrey County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner it made for an uncomfortable increase.

We are being told that this will help pay for a wide range of vital services like recycling and waste collections, parks and open spaces and supporting the most vulnerable residents - but they are the same services as promised last year! So there was no reason for an increase knowing that we are in an asset transfer year (which will no doubt save the council large sums in ongoing costs), as well as our having £m's in "locked reserves". There was no reason for any increase to the public this year especially what is supposed to be ahead of us in major Government reorganisation changes. More on that below.

This year's Band D council tax will be £2,550.85, which equates to around 98% of the total amount. This amount is divided among the different organisations as follows:

- 75% (£1,938.42) Surrey County Council.
- 13% (£352.57) Surrey Police.
- **10% (£259.86) Tandridge District Council.**

The above Band D figure does not include parish precepts, which vary across the district, but average at about 2% of the total.

Visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/counciltax for full details about council tax, along with quick and easy ways to pay council tax. In March, bills will arrive, by post, or email if residents have opted in to e-billing.

Having got this unpleasant news out of the way we go forward and concentrate on the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation - please read on... Tandridge District Council along with the other Surrey district, borough and county councils have come together to communicate plans for devolution and local government reorganisation, including **preparing residents for elections to the two new councils in May**. The group of twelve councils are committed to ensuring residents are aware of the changes, how it impacts them and how they can have a say by voting in the elections, and are communicating the change via a temporary brand called '**Future Surrey**'. Residents will receive information through letterboxes, on social media, in newsletters, in local libraries and community spaces and via a new website. The Future Surrey website is available at www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk. It will feature the latest information on elections in Surrey, including information on how residents can prepare to vote. Government has confirmed elections for the new councils will take place in May 2026. To vote, residents must be registered by midnight on Monday 20 April 2026 at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Depending on where residents live, they will vote for who represents their local area in **East Surrey** or West Surrey at their local polling station. The councillors elected

in May 2026 will work as shadow authorities initially, helping oversee the transition. From April 2027, they'll officially take over delivering all local services in East and West Surrey. Existing councillors (that is me for Tatsfield) in all current councils will continue to represent their areas until **31 March 2027**. Surrey County Council will also be distributing a 20-page leaflet, which will be delivered across the county. It will include sections on Future Surrey and elections. Alternatively, much of the same information will be included in the East Surrey Council election leaflet that will be distributed with the council tax bills in March.

The Business As Usual Report On your behalf I thanked both the Housing Committee Chairman Independent Group member Cllr Pursehouse and Head of Housing Jane Rochelle for all of the work they are having to put in to the Housing Improvement Project.

Also during my Budget speech on Thursday 12th February, I took the opportunity to pass on the thanks of all local Councillors for another Independent group member for Whyteleafe Cllr Cline for all of the time he put in assisting the Officers for bringing to the fore the major and even sometimes unknown takeover of HMO's in the Whyteleafe area. We are pleased that the matter has now been formalised by our Issuing HMO Article 4 Direction.

I also thanked officers and Cllr Sayer for the improvement regarding the enforcement across the district by the Team, currently resulting in one major victory in the Oxted area on land South of Barrow Green Road and the just announced Chelsham, Shipley Bridge and Horne decisions. I hope this is a good sign going forward and we continue to act decisively and promptly to protect Green Belt land, uphold planning law and respond to residents' concerns. And we hope that the decision makers go even further for our residents by ensuring costs are awarded against these frivolous appeals which cost the Council a lot of money to defend - but defend them we must.

I trust you all responded to the Local Plan consultation - deadline was 1 March 2026, this was important for the future. The Council have been assessing 45 land parcels across the district for the Green v Grey belt dilemma and gave Councillors an opportunity to flag up any green belt-related issues that they should consider when making their assessments. On your behalf I completed three Tatsfield parcels with the Chair and one for the Titsey part of the ward.

I continue to work with the Council(s) on planning issues, enforcement issues, housing issues, abuse of yellow lines, reporting potholes and blocked drains and litter picking and road sweeping.

I placed information on Tatsfield Talk about the Tandridge Winter Support Scheme so I hope some of you applied for this fund.

Cllr Pinchin and I attend the BHACC AGM and meeting, where it was advised that there are now more auto reported over flights from the airport than reported complaints, which is a good sign. They have also put in place a blocking system where if a pilot has ignored the "complaint letters" he will not be allowed to land until he responds and his case is dealt with by SANARB. Discussions with the airport continue our efforts to get the

NSA safely moved further south and it looks promising. I hope to supply you with an update from the CEO for the next magazine.

As I sit here typing this at 5pm it is still light out, the snow drops and the daffodils are coming through, and in my shed there are over 50 seed pops for my sweet peas showing through. Surely that means spring is coming. So it is not all bad news.

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

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

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL, MANAGING SPEED ON SURREY ROADS

Faster vehicle speeds increase the risk of collisions and make the consequences far worse. Speeding vehicles also deter more walking and cycling and can make places less pleasant to live in due to increased noise and air pollution. More local authorities, including us (Surrey County Council), are adopting the best practice "Safe Systems" approach to improving road safety. This approach asserts the principle that road users will make mistakes, yet at the same time people have a right to safe and healthy mobility. Therefore, it is the responsibility of organisations to work together collaboratively to make the entire road system as safe as possible for all road users. A key priority of this approach is safe vehicle speeds.

If you have a concern about speeding or road safety in your area, please see our web page: [surreycc.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roadsafety/safervehicle speeds - requesting a change to speed limits](http://surreycc.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roadsafety/safervehicle%20speeds%20-%20requesting%20a%20change%20to%20speed%20limits).

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

It has been a very busy start to the year and there is much to update you on.

After two denied applications, letters to Treasury Ministers and inviting LINK to join us on a visit to show them around the worrying gaps in local banking services, it is wonderful news that a new Banking Hub will be coming to Oxted. The Hub will have a full-time counter service and access to bankers from different banks each week on rotation. A temporary Hub will be set up by the end of April, with the hunt already underway for a permanent location. This has been a long-standing campaign for Cllr Cameron McIntosh who has been working hard to seek a Hub for residents. This is a fantastic win locally – and I look forward to visiting it when it is open.

If you have been keeping up with my columns, you may know that I have been campaigning for the Home Secretary to launch a National Task Force to stem the wave of unauthorised traveller sites we are seeing locally. I was shocked to read in official government statistics over Christmas that these sites have soared over 20% in the last year. Last month, I visited a site in Smallfield where two caravans were set alight and completely burnt out. The village has also been the epicentre of the noxious fires causing

serious nuisance to families in the area. From my conversations with the police and Tandridge District Council, the clear link with illegal migration and tax evasion means we need national support to bolster local efforts. Otherwise, local residents will continue to feel powerless as good community relations are undermined. This issue is about fairness, everyone being equal before the law, and protecting our beautiful countryside from people trying to destroy it.

It has been over one year since the collapse of the High Street in Godstone. This has been a truly difficult time for households and businesses in the area, but it has also shown the community at its very best. I organised a public meeting in January so those involved in the repairs could take timely questions from the public. The overwhelming feeling expressed by residents was their frustration with disjointed communication, so I have now started a mailing list to bring together the latest updates from all the agencies. If you would like to receive these updates, please send me an email on claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk and I will add you to the contact list. Disappointingly, we still didn't get a commitment to a completion date. The stabilisation works are still ongoing, but with more tunnels discovered in the recent weeks, Surrey County Council are not yet able to say when this part of the repairs will be completed. This is acting as a bottleneck, as without the stabilisation, SES Water cannot begin their works.

Many residents also expressed significant interest in traffic calming measures once the works are finalised. Traffic management does not usually sit with the MP, but in light of the exceptional circumstances, I am keen to support the village as much as possible. I will host a further public meeting in March to discuss ideas and options in the hope of getting concrete commitments from SCC before the road finally opens. If you would like to attend, please keep an eye on my social media as I will share more details once bookings are confirmed.

If you are interested in politics or have a keen eye for gothic architecture, Parliament is now offering free tours of the Palace of Westminster this May. Tickets are often in high demand, so if you are a constituent and interested to learn more, please get in touch and I will try to get you signed up (claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk).

TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

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**





Tatsfield gardening club

Home of Tatsfield Horticultural Society

**SPRING SHOW in the Village Hall on Saturday
11th April from 3.00pm.**

**Come and join us and see wonderful displays of
spring flowers, vegetables, photographs, our junior
section, work by local artists, jams, chutneys, home
made bread and lots more!**

Enjoy home made cakes, teas and coffees!

- Show Schedule and entry forms available on our website www.tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com, or contact our Show Secretary Carol Gaskell on 07815 775859
- Entry forms to be completed by Friday 10th April, either online or hand to a member of the committee
- Hints and Tips for entering the many classes are available on our website, or contact Jon Allbutt on 07712 196406

CONSERVATION GRAZING AT HILL PARK – AN UPDATE

Ten-acre field is the south facing scarp slope opposite Tatsfield Court Farm, as you head towards Westerham on Clarks Lane. It is sub-divided by hedgerows into three separate grazing compartments and is managed for the County Council by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT).

It's been a few years since we've had any consistent grazing in these compartments and when we did have sheep on the slopes there was never enough grazing pressure to remove the coarse and rank grasses.



However, in 2022 a dozen Belted Galloway cows were brought in to tackle these tough grasses. This hardy breed originates from the lowlands of Scotland and has a proven track record in grazing both heathland and chalk grassland and they are now a familiar sight across much of Surrey. They have a calm temperament and are selected because many of the Trust sites have public access.

Once the 'Belties' had done their job, sheep were put in the compartments to further lower the sward height.

The aim is to create diversity of structure within the chalk grassland - a mosaic of grazed patches with un-grazed tussocks around small scrub. We may also allow some scrub blocks to develop further as this is equally valuable habitat for increasing biodiversity. The grazing will help to lower the nutrient levels and hopefully reduce the rank species such as Thistles, Dock and Nettle and increase the range of wildflowers and invertebrates that make chalk grassland so special. The compartments will be monitored to ensure that the calcareous grassland attributes are maintained, and future management can be adjusted if any potential problems are identified.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get the Belties back in 2023 and the few sheep we had struggled to prevent the coarse grasses and scrub bouncing back. It wasn't until October 2025 that Belties returned to the site for about a month and did a fantastic job. We have also had a few work parties from SWT removing some of the scrub (mainly hawthorn and bramble).



Sheep were then returned to Ten-acre field in January to finish the job. This time we have Wiltshire Horn sheep which have the unusual feature of moulting their wool, so require very little shearing.

This trial of grazing cows followed by sheep is starting to reverse the decline of previous years and is having a positive effect on the flora and fauna of Ten-acre field. We've already spotted a few bee-orchid rosettes appearing – the first seen for several years. Fingers crossed!

Jim and Ruth Yeeles

Voluntary Wardens, Hill Park Nature Reserve

SWT Livestock emergency (24 hours) 07817 769672

OUR VILLAGE HAS A RACING STAR

You will probably have seen Logan Stone helping around the village - clearing the pond, putting up the Christmas Tree, fixing knocked out posts and lots, lots more.



A promotional poster for 'Club 5' motorcycle racing. The background is red with a large, semi-transparent image of a red motorcycle. Text on the poster includes: 'BMCRC THUNDERBIKE SPORT' and '@STONESRACING' at the top; 'CLUB 5' in large white and blue letters; '80 SLOTS', '£150 PER NUMBER', '2X WEEKEND TICKETS', 'SEE BOTH BIKES UP CLOSE', 'A FULL AWNING TOUR', 'A STONE RACING T-SHIRT, CAP OR BOBBLE HAT', and 'MESSAGE ME FOR MORE INFO' in white text; and 'STONE RACING' at the bottom. Two small inset photos show a rider on a track.

Logan is employed By Tatsfield Aquatics and is known by most of us villagers for his pond maintenance duties. But did you know that in his spare time he's a Motorcycle Racing Champion, with many wins under his belt?

The new season is just starting for Logan and Stone Racing and he is raising funds to pay for his tyres. The prizes are fantastic opportunity for anyone interested in supporting this young man in his sport. Tickets are available from **Logan** on **07857970160**.

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for **January 2026**:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 st Prize | Brian Wiggins | £42.00 |
| 2 nd Prize | Craig Seamons | £28.00 |
| 3 rd Prize | Michael Burbage | £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**

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL



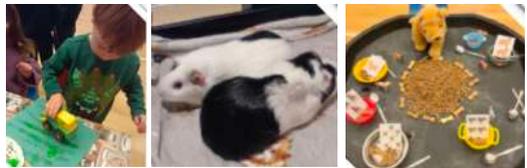
We warmly welcomed several new children and families to Little Acorns at the start of the Spring Term and has been lovely getting to know them all.



The children have been busy engaging in imaginative play through our 'Shops' theme this term. They have enjoyed exploring different roles such as shopkeepers; using trolleys, baskets, money and tills, taking

turns and communicating their ideas to each other. Understanding the world was emphasised as children learned about different types of shops and the roles people play in the community. We have been creating a Pet Shop, a Supermarket, a Post Office, a Petrol Station, a Bank, a Cafe and a Toy Shop!

We enjoyed getting messy making the Petrol Station- creating painted Tyre Tracks! For Pet Shop week the children really enjoyed pet visits from a cat, dog and guinea pigs, showing confidence and respect when touching the animals.



The children have also been very busy with our inclusive clubs: art; science; dance; messy play/ cooking!



The Little Acorns Team

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

Tatsfield Village Hall, Westmore Green, Tatsfield, Surrey TN16 2AG

MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



We celebrated Storytelling week, exploring all things books! Bryan our nursery chef visited all rooms for a session of Big Chef Little Chef, incorporating the book 'I can eat a rainbow' – where the children were tasting lots of different foods of all the colours of the rainbow.



We are going to be celebrating all our lovely mummies for Mother's Day, inviting them all in for our Mother's Day Tea! As well as taking part in World Book Day and Science week with lots of fun activities planned!

Forest School Holiday Club We have spaces available for 5–8-year-olds to join our Easter holidays: 30th March, 1st, 7th and 9th April. As well as May half term 27th and 29th May! For any 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: 01959928427 Email: manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL WELLBEING AMBASSADOR TRAINING

On 2nd February we participated in a workshop to train us, our Kindness Ambassadors, School Councillors and Year 6 Community Leaders, to be Wellbeing Ambassadors.

What is wellbeing? Wellbeing is feeling good and functioning well.

What is a Wellbeing Ambassador? A Wellbeing Ambassador...

- Talks to other people about wellbeing
- Helps everyone to understand CLANG
- Represents pupil voice
- Delivers wellbeing activities
- Works with everyone in the school to champion wellbeing.

During the workshop, we learnt about the five ways of wellbeing - CLANG. CLANG stands for:

Connect: feel connected to others and feel belonging

Learn: Trying out new skills and learning new things

Active: Getting exercise and movement

Notice: Look at the world around you for positive things

Give: Give kindness to everyone

When we finished our training, we were awarded with a badge.

The following Monday, as part of Children's Mental Health Week, the Wellbeing Ambassadors delivered an assembly on wellbeing. We shared the 'Five Ways of Wellbeing' with the whole school. We then went into classes to share one of the 'Active' strategies and taught the other children a yoga flow.

Written by Sophie and Audrey (Year 6)

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Not So Young Bingo night returns to Ye Old Ship on Thursday 16th April. Tables are selling fast so to secure your place ring Tina on 01959 577311. Eyes down at 8pm but arrive early and enjoy some lovely pub grub.

We had our first 2026 new member join our February meeting which was lovely. Everybody enjoyed delicious stew to warm them up followed by pancake cake and of course more cake from Pam just to ensure nobody was left hungry. Our quiz was quite revealing as most members gave me a secret about themselves that I had to announce and they had to guess which secret belonged to who! Interesting what these members got up to.

In March we will be holding two cinema events in the WI hall, partially funded by a grant from Surrey County Council. We will be showing "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" film followed by light refreshments. There are a few extra spaces if anyone would like to join us, please contact me on the number below.

We are also planning our annual summer outing to Brighton in July giving us all something to look forward to.

The Parish Council has very kindly agreed to award us a grant to cover the cost of a contactless card machine to help with our fundraising events as not everyone uses cash. This will be a great asset to the club, and we are very grateful for the Council's continued support.

Our meetings are always the second Tuesday of the month please contact me if you would like to join us. **Keep safe. Sue Dowse, notsoyoung100@gmail.com, 07816110929**

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA



We were very lucky to have three extremely talented teenagers perform at the Young Soloist concert on 4th January. Aaron played the violin, Susannah played the cello, and Michelle sang beautifully. All of those who came to this most informal (and free)

concert were very appreciative, with enthusiastic applause following each performance.

The next NDS concert will be on **Saturday 9th May**, and will feature the Richard Strauss Horn Concerto No 1, with Tom Pinnell as soloist. Also being played are the JC Bach Sinfonia No 2, and the Mozart overture 'La Clemenza di Tito' (which deserves to be played more frequently) and his 'Paris' Symphony, No 31. Liz Worth will be conducting. As ever, there will be more details next month, but put the date in your diary now!

Peter Maynard

ST MARY'S MATTERS



WELCOME SPRING! As Spring evolves, we see growth and renewal in our natural world. Alongside this the season of Lent provides us with an opportunity for personal reflection and renewal. Our events and services for Lent and Easter are below. Please join us. All are welcome!

Donations to the Children's Society With thanks to all, a total of £775 was raised for the Children's Society from collections across all our Christmas Services.

SUNDAY SERVICES We continue our main Sunday service with hymns at 10am followed by refreshments in the Millennium Hall. All are welcome. Our website is at www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys which gives more information and has a link to our weekly Notice Sheet. You can also keep up with events at St Mary's by following us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Marys-Tatsfield/61584833041098/>

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSE-BOUND Please contact Revd Debra by email: curate.lttm@gmail.com.



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 the office: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

'DRAW NEAR' LENT GROUPS 10.30am-12.00pm Wednesdays 25th February to 2nd April at the Dome Paynesfield Road, Tatsfield. 7.30pm Face to Face and via Zoom (link available on request from stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).



SAVE THE DATES – LENT AND EASTER AT ST MARY'S



Lent Lunches 12-2pm Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th March.

Compline (Night Prayer) service 7pm Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st March in Holy Week, in church.

'Seder' meal 6.30pm Maundy Thursday 2nd April in the Millennium Hall, with a service at 8pm in church commemorating the Last Supper.

Good Friday Walk of Witness 12noon 3rd April in Oxted followed by 2pm Liturgy of the Passion at St Peter's Limpsfield. St Mary's Church will be open Good Friday for personal reflection.

Easter Vigil 7pm Saturday 4th April. A sunset service of readings and reflections in the churchyard.

Easter Sunday 10:00am Sunday 5th April. A special service of celebration and thanksgiving. Refreshments follow in the Millennium Hall.

ST MARY'S CHURCH TATSFIELD ANNUAL MEETING 2026 At 11.30am on Sunday 26th April in the Millennium Hall we will have our Annual Meeting of Parishioners followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Anyone resident in the Parish whose name is entered on a register of local government electors, as well as anyone whose name is on the Electoral Roll, is entitled to attend the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which the Churchwardens are elected. If you would like further information on the role of a Churchwarden, please contact stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

All Lay persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and take part. Details of how your name can be added to the Electoral Roll are below.

ST MARYS CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2026 – 2027 The Church Electoral Roll is your parish church's register of electors – it is a list of those entitled to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for:

- (a) the Parochial Church Council;
- (b) the Parish Representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Any person entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting may raise any question of parochial or general church interest.

Preparation for the revised Electoral Roll will take place from Saturday 28th March to Saturday 11th April 2026.

Under the Church Representation Rules any persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they:

- are baptised and aged 16 or over.
- have signed a form of application for enrolment.
- are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment.
- or are members in good standing of a church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Should you wish to be considered for entry on the Electoral Roll, please contact Chris Hancock (01959 577622) or collect an application form from the Church Narthex (at the rear of the Church). Please return the completed form by Saturday 11th April 2026 to: Chris Hancock, Electoral Roll Officer, 12 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, Kent TN16 2AU.

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF FRAUD A talk by Ashley Elsdon, TSB. Saturday 28th March at 3pm in St Mary's Millenium Hall. Please contact Revdebra@curate.lttm@gmail.com for further details and to register your interest.

DONATIONS TO WESTERHAM FOODBANK We will be delivering on Thursdays 26th March and 23rd and 30th April. Non-perishable food can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's opening times below. To see what items are urgently needed or to make a monetary donation please visit <https://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/westerhams-foodbank>. Thank you for continued support. **Hilary Vale 01959 577864**

CHURCHYARD TEAM Weather permitting our churchyard volunteers meet at 10am on Saturday 7th March for our first session of the year. There is plenty of tidying-up to do after all the winter winds. As a result of grass cuttings and small vegetation harvested last year there are still many bags of compost freely available for collection in the compost area, so please help yourselves! We are a small friendly team that meet 10am to 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month except in Winter. There are always varied jobs to be carried out over the year and we welcome new volunteers. So, if you enjoy fresh air, stunning views and serene surroundings, whilst helping to keep the churchyard looking beautiful and cared for, we very much look forward to seeing you! Gardening experience is not necessary, just turn up! As an added encouragement, you will get to enjoy tea/coffee and cake midway through the session! **David Gulley**

'HEAR HERE' HEARING AID SERVICE This monthly service for NHS hearing aids is held on the first Thursday of the month in the Aileen McHugo building behind the Tatsfield Village Hall and runs from 1.30pm to 3pm. I wrote in the Parish magazine four months ago that I was stepping down from providing this service after ten years. As I have not had a willing volunteer to take over from me, the last session in Tatsfield will be on 5th March 2026. The nearest 'Hear Here' session is at Oxted Community Hall, 53 Church Lane, Oxted RH8 9NB, held on the first Friday of each month from 10am to 11 am. I intend to join the Hear Here team in Oxted in April 2026. **Hilary Vale**

LIFE EVENTS For enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings, funerals, burials and the interment of ashes please contact stmooffice.lttm@btinternet.com.



HIRE OF THE MILLENNIUM HALL If you are looking for a well-equipped venue for your event function, 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

Our pretty church is open 9am–3.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for viewing, prayer or reflection.

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 |
| | 2.00pm | Cosy Crafters, Sheree’s Store and Tea Rooms |
| | 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 |
| | 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 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

MARCH

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|--|
| 7 th Sat | tdc | Churchyard Tidy Up, StM |
| 7 th Sat | 12.00pm | Friendship Lunch, MH |
| 7 th Sat | 7.45pm | An Evening with the Dreamers, Barn Theatre, Oxted |
| 9 th Mon | 8.00pm | Tatsfield Parish Council Meeting, AMB |
| 14 th Sat | 12.00pm | Friendship Lunch, MH |
| 14 th Sat | 7.45pm | Looking For Me Friend (Victoria Wood's best songs), Barn Theatre, Oxted |
| 21 st Sat | 12.00pm | Friendship Lunch, MH |
| 23 rd Mon | 8.00pm | Annual Parish Meeting, AMB |
| 25 th Wed | 2.15pm | How Russia Sold Off Much Of Its Cultural Heritage Following The Revolution, Limpsfield Church Hall |
| 25 th Wed | 7.30pm | How Russia Sold Off Much Of Its Cultural Heritage Following The Revolution, Limpsfield Church Hall |
| 28 th Sat | 12.00pm | Friendship Lunch, MH |
| 28 th Sat | 3.00pm | How To Avoid Being A Victim Of Fraud, MH |

APRIL

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---|
| 3 rd Fri | 11.00am | Easter Egg Crafting & Egg Hunt, Westmore Green, Tatsfield |
| 4 th Sat | 10.00am | Tatsfield Community Composting Site Opens |
| 14 th Tue | 7.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 15 th Wed | 7.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 16 th Thu | 7.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 17 th Fri | 7.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 18 th Sat | 2.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 18 th Sat | 7.30pm | Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre |
| 27 th Tue | 2.15pm | "Does My HRT Patch Look Big In This Corset?" WIH |
| 29 th Wed | 7.30pm | The Stirling Prize: British Architecture's Oscars, Limpsfield 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.

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS

Southern Area Regional Schools Championship – Sunday 11th January 2026 A school's championship is when the judoka represents their school rather than their judo club (however the school has absolutely no involvement and probably no idea these events take place!). It is still the judo club and coaches there on the day, supporting the athletes – not a PE teacher in sight! The National Schools Championships, held in March, is one of the main competitions on the British Judo Association's calendar. The regional competitions are smaller and act as a warm-up. Regional gold medallists are pretty much guaranteed a place at the nationals.

TMA had two judoka competing in the Southern Area event. Morgan Baker in the year 6&7 over-55kg category and Kayden Plinston in the year 12&13 under-73kg category. Morgan had no one else in his age and weight group so he won the gold by default – however, to give him some contests he agreed to fight up an age band in the year 8&9 category. He had two contests, won one and lost one on the smallest of scores. So, some valuable experience gained against older opponents as he prepares to defend his title of National Schools Champion that he won last year. Kayden had four opponents and beat all of them with ippon (the highest score which ends the contest immediately) to win the regional gold medal for the 3rd year in a row. To be honest, this level of regional competition is probably below Kayden's standard now, but being in year 13 it is the last time he can enter it.

Surrey Open – Low grade and Kyu grades Sunday 1st February 2026 As Chair for Surrey Judo, any Surrey event takes a lot of my time – as it is myself and the committee that must arrange everything. From booking venues, arranging the first aid cover, arrange officials and setting up the day before and clearing away afterwards. Our events are becoming increasingly popular and gaining a reputation for being well run. As a result, we had competitors taking part from as far afield as Devon and Wales.

TMA had five judoka entered. Maude, Teddy and Henry in the low-grade event (red & yellow belts only) and Cameron and Charlie in the kyu grade (adults / 14+ – but no black belts). It was Henry's first competition. He had two contests which he lost but his performance in the second one saw a big improvement compared to the first which just shows how important competitive experience is (which is why low-grade competitions are so important for player development). Maude and Teddy, both at their second competition, managed to pick up a medal each - Maude a bronze and Teddy a silver. Cameron, also at first competition, picked up the bronze medal and is raring to go for his next competition. Charlie who was entered into the red and yellow belt men under-60kg category, had no-one to fight so was given the choice of stepping up in weight and fighting with the red and yellow under-66kg men or staying at his weight but stepping up in grade and fighting the green and blue belt men. At only 15, Charlie decided to stick within his weight group and face the higher grades. Charlie fought well and gave some of his high-grade opponents a really run for their money and eventually picked up a well-deserved bronze medal.

EJU Sarajevo Junior European Cup – 5th to 9th February 2026 An EJU (European Judo Union) European Cup is the highest level of competition in Europe, apart from the European Championship and Gland Slam events (such as the Olympics and World Championship). They are age banded; a cadet event is under-18's, a junior event is under-21's and a senior event is adults. They are a vital development platform for the next generation of elite judoka coming through and provide the opportunity



to collect world ranking points.

On Friday 5th February, Kayden Plinston flew out to Bosnia with members of the England judo squad to take part in his first ever European Cup. Although Kayden fought in Europe twice last year with England, this was a massive step up in class. The competition was held over two days, with a European training camp (basically, a mass sparring session) before flying home. In total, there were 302 judoka competing from 21 countries.

Kayden fought on the Saturday morning. He was in the largest weight group for both days, with 53 competitors in the under-73kg category, and up against a 19-year-old Croatian with much more experience at this level (this was his 21st European Cup). The contest went the distance and Kayden eventually lost to a waza ari score. At this level of competition and in such a large group there's no second chances, you lose and you're out. However, to last the distance against such an experienced opponent at your first European Cup, plus having only just moved up to this age band (Kayden turned 18 in Jan) isn't to be sniffed at and Kayden has now been given the world ranking position of 267 for his weight group. I was delighted with this performance! He was not out of his depth and didn't look out of place at this level. I'm writing this on Monday 9th February, so at the moment Kayden will be at the training camp session fighting the best young judo players from around the world (the training camp was what he was really looking forward too) before picking him up this evening from Heathrow, no doubt battered and blue - but what a great experience!

Adam Plinston

THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

How Russia Sold Off Much Of Its Cultural Heritage Following The Revolution by Tom Flynn. **Wednesday 25 March 2026. Afternoon lecture starts at 2.15pm. Evening lecture starts at 7.30pm.** Refreshments beforehand. Guests: £10. Unlike the widely publicised looting of Jewish collections by the Nazis during the Second World War, the wholesale dispersal of Russia's cultural heritage during the inter-war period is rarely discussed. This talk looks at the process by which the Russian Revolutionary authorities sold off vast quantities of their country's valuable patrimony following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 to raise valuable hard currency. Sometimes referred to as the conversion of "Treasures into Tractors," the process effectively confiscated and sold off the contents of Russia's churches, libraries, monasteries, museums and aristocratic private collections. This talk lifts the lid on the extraordinary events that unfolded after the Revolution.

The Stirling Prize: British Architecture's Oscars by Brian Stator. **Date: Wednesday 29 April 2026. Evening lecture only starts at 7.30pm.** Refreshments beforehand. Guests: £10. The Stirling Prize has celebrated the very best contemporary buildings since 1996. Some winners, such as Norman Foster's Gherkin, of 2004, have become enormously successful and appreciated by the wider public. Others have proved harder to love. This entertaining lecture looks at some of the hits, some of the misses, and several buildings that arguably should have won, but didn't. No doubt the audience have some strong opinions here!

Date booked for our annual Visit to Wisley Gardens 2026 Saturday May 10th at 10am

The Horticultural Society has 40 tickets for the
Wisley Gardens on the above date.

Please Text or WhatsApp Sue preferably on 07555120427 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 your Family named envelope and these can be collected from the Group Tour Desk in the entrance on the left-hand side.

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

Sue Warren

A DECADE OF MAKING MUSIC: THE STORY OF 'THE FUN ORCHESTRA'

In late 2015, two residents, Dave Ellis and Peter Matthews, found themselves sharing a similar frustration. Both had loved playing their clarinets in school orchestras years prior, but they now found themselves with nowhere to make music in their local community. It was a classic "lightbulb" moment: if a local orchestra didn't exist for people like them, they would simply have to build one.

Their vision was clear from the start. They wanted to create a group where anyone with an instrument and a basic musical foundation could play in a social, stress-free atmosphere. There would be no daunting auditions, no strict grade requirements, and no pressure. The focus was to be squarely on enjoyment.



True to that vision, the North Downs Community Orchestra (NDCO) held its very first rehearsal on 23rd March 2016. Appropriately, we often refer to ourselves as "The Fun Orchestra."

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary this month, it is remarkable to see how that small seed of an idea has grown. Today, we are a registered charity and a vibrant musical home for players from across Surrey, Kent, Sussex, and South London. Our members are a wonderful mix of "musical journeys." Some are adult learners who have only recently picked up an instrument; others are "rusty" players who rescued a violin or flute from the attic after twenty years of silence. We even have experienced musicians who simply wanted to play without the high-stakes pressure of more formal ensembles.

"We believe in the power of music to bring people together," says the committee. "Whether it's tackling a challenging classical masterpiece or enjoying the theme from *Moon River*, the joy comes from the shared experience—and the essential tea break halfway through every rehearsal!"

The orchestra has become more than just a place to practice; it's a community. Our goal has always been inclusivity; we never turn a musician away based on instrument quotas. Whether you play the bassoon, the French horn, or the triangle, there is a place for you.



This May, we are reaching a milestone that seemed like a distant dream back in 2016. To mark ten years of music-making, we are hosting a grand anniversary concert on **Saturday 23rd May 2026 at the Millennium Theatre, Woldingham School**.

We would love to see the community come together to share in this celebration. Whether you have followed our progress over the years or have never experienced the unique sound of a live orchestra before, we invite you to be a part of our story. It promises to be an evening filled with familiar favourites, celebratory spirit, and the joy of community music-making

Tickets are available now at www.thefunorchestra.co.uk. Join us for an unforgettable evening as we toast to the last ten years and look forward to the next! **Lin Larmer**

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN MARCH

This month could be a very busy time for Tatsfield gardeners, that is if we are very lucky and have escaped a late blast of winter weather! Our soggy clay soil should be recovering from the record levels of winter rainfall and allow us to get the garden ready. Gently ‘tickle’ the soil and remove weeds BUT if the soil is still sticky, wait until the surface dries out. Covering bare soil with an organic mulch will suppress weeds, retain moisture, and indirectly feed the plants. Improving the organic matter in our clay soil makes it easier to work, greatly increases the population of soil microbes, and slowly release plant nutrients. **The Tatsfield Community Composting site opens on 4th April at the allotment site in Approach Road.** Remove dead flower heads of Violas, Pansies and other spring flowers to stop them forming seed pods; a plant uses a lot of energy to make seed, this results in less flowers.



Do you have space in your garden for a small or medium sized tree? There is no better way to engage children with the outdoors and gardening than to have them help you plant a tree for their birthday, or other special occasion, encourage them to go out and check it regularly, maybe hang a birdfeeder for extra interest. A small garden tree in a five-litre pot can provide flower, fruit and lovely autumn colour, garden birds love to use them as a perch. Choose a Japanese Cherry, an ornamental Crab Apple, the Juneberry (Amelanchier lamarckii), Ornamental Hawthorn (Crataegus Prunifolia), the small Weeping Willow (Salix purpurea pendula), the Star Magnolia (Magnolia stellata), and many more!

I continue to be asked for my advice on how to deal with trees and shrubs that are growing on, or close to, a boundary between two properties. My first advice is always, if possible, to discuss your concerns with your neighbour and reach an amicable agreement on a way forward; try and avoid entering into a dispute, it is very time consuming, expensive, and often has an unsatisfactory outcome. Many neighbours happily share the responsibility, and the cost, for keeping their gardens safe. Problems tend to arise when one neighbour moves on and is replaced by someone new who is not of the same mind. The Royal Horticultural Society has updated its advice and guidance on this subject, it is a very good read – Trees and the Law <https://rhsgrow.onelink.me/430N/4gn52r81>.

Another topic that gets Tatsfield gardeners going is how to stop deer eating their way through a rich diet of garden plants! The most effective way to deter deer is to put up a two-metre-tall fence (please make sure to have Badger gates fitted). This is beyond the pocket of many, especially those with large gardens bordering open countryside. But help is at hand. In 2018, the Royal Horticultural Society carried out a survey of members on which plants seemed to be resistant to attack by deer, they also carefully recorded experience gathered by staff in RHS gardens throughout the UK. This information has recently been updated and is available on the RHS website www.rhs.org.uk have a read through the list before you buy.

Jon Allbutt

WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH

Hi folks. Firstly, could I just say that if you haven't seen David Attenborough's recent documentary 'Wild London', I highly recommend that you do if you get the chance – you'll find it on BBC iPlayer. It really is a wonderful bit of work on urban wildlife, though I will never look at a gull the same way again!



What an optimistic time of year it is with the onset of spring hopefully putting an end to the dire winter weather. There are already plenty of flowers in bloom for the pollinators; our cyclamen, crocus, snowdrops and daffs have been going great guns along with the viburnum (thanks for the tip, Jon). And the birds are mostly paired up and making nests for their broods-to-be, and there is so much more birdsong out there. All of which means that it's a perfect time to be putting up bird boxes;

we put one up last springtime and straight away got two consecutive broods of blue tits, so we had a swarm of playful young birds flitting around the garden all summer – great stuff! And while we're on the topic of bird boxes, it's that time of year for bats to be waking up from hibernation, so they'll be very happy to see a bat box if you fancy putting one up. And in return, they'll take on pest control duties, so you don't get bitten ragged by rampant midges and gnats.

If you are not familiar with them, bat boxes are artificial wooden roosts that provide bats with resting places and/or to encourage them into your garden. There are various designs that you can make or buy, and they're easy to find on the internet.

I'm sure many of you are getting ready to start mulching and pot planting, wandering off to the garden centres for compost, especially at Easter. I'd just like to put a big shout out there for our Allotment Composters and their wonderful black gold. Apart from being exceptional value and direct from the local community, it is the only compost I've ever found that is such a natural product that it generally comes with some very healthy-looking worms. It is its own mini eco-system and perfect for healthy soil, a first-rate addition to any wildlife garden. And because it's nearby you don't waste time travelling to the big stores, so there's more time for gardening (and tea).

Interesting fact of the month.... It is well known that the humble daisy is a cheerful little wildflower, and great for pollinators, and they also provide a food source for caterpillars (i.e. our beautiful butterflies), larvae and rabbits, but did you know that its name derives from 'day's eye', due to its tendency to open when the sun rises and close when it sets? So for daisy's sake, say no to the mow in no-mow May (just getting it in early).



Jim Kenney

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – MARCH 2026

Of the major planets, Jupiter remains master of the evening sky, ensconced within the borders of Gemini, the twins.

During the first few days of March, it is at its greatest altitude lying due south and just over 60° above the horizon around 8:30pm. If you recall that the angular distance from the horizon to the zenith (the overhead point) is 90° then Jupiter will be two thirds of the way “up”. If you have binoculars then take a look to see if you can find any of the four Galilean moons (Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto). These are the four brightest out of Jupiter’s total of 97 natural satellites. They are referred to as Galilean because it was Galileo who first saw them in 1609 and 1610. If you do look for Jupiter’s moons you will need to be able to hold your binoculars steady either by using a tripod or by leaning them against a wall or fence.

Jupiter’s moons are important in astronomical history because they played a part in proving that light travels at a finite speed.

At a time when the determination of longitude on board ship was a problem, a method of finding local time, and therefore ultimately longitude, was being sought. One suggestion, initially from Galileo, was that it should be possible to use one of Jupiter’s satellites (Io) as a kind of clock by publishing tables that predicted when Io was being eclipsed by the body of Jupiter. However, it was found that it was difficult to predict such events accurately because, in some cases, they occurred earlier than expected and sometimes later. It became obvious that the times were always late when Jupiter and Earth were further apart in their orbits but were earlier when the two planets were closer to each other.

Ole Rømer, a Dutch astronomer, reasoned that when the two bodies were further apart, the light had a greater distance to travel and so it took longer for the light from Jupiter to reach Earth and so the eclipse was late. It follows that when the planets are closer, the distance is less and the eclipse is early. Rømer didn’t work out the speed of light himself but he provided the data for the mathematician Christiaan Huygens, to do so.

In case you’re wondering, the moon Io was chosen because, out of the four Galilean moons, it is the closest to Jupiter and would therefore yield more eclipses over a given period. Galileo’s idea of using Io and Jupiter as a clock was largely unsuccessful because it was far too delicate an observation to make from the heaving deck of a ship. It was, however, possible, with care, to carry out the observation on dry land.

Saturn is now lost in the evening twilight but Venus is appearing low down, due west towards the end of March. Look around 6:30 to 7pm from 15th onwards to see the evening star emerging. It will become more prominent in the coming months and in June will have a coming together with the giant planet Jupiter.

The Earth reaches the spring, or vernal, equinox on 20th March at 14.46. The centre of the Sun will then lie exactly over the equator and day and night are of *approximately* the same length.

Don't forget that British Summer Time (BST) begins at 1am on Sunday 29th March when clocks should go forward by one hour. It remains in place until 2am on 25th October.

Brian Mills FRAS

COSY CRAFTERS

Do you enjoy crafting? Are you working on a craft project? Why not bring it along to our Cosy Crafters Corner on Tuesday afternoons 2pm until 3.30pm in Sheree's Store and Tea Rooms. It's a nice friendly group where you can enjoy a relaxing time in good company, and its **FREE**.

We swap talents, learn stuff, have a go at new crafts, and have a good old natter over a cuppa. Most crafts acceptable. No need to book, just pop in any Tuesday afternoon at 2pm.

Sandra Shury



TATSFIELD ART GROUP



Our March meetings will be all be very different starting on **Monday 2nd March with Simon Cook's Demo/Workshop 'Black & White'** Simon describes his work as 'Painting in Negative'. These are just a few Simon's paintings which gives you an idea on what we will be doing. All showing the same technique



but just adding minimal colour. If anyone would like to join us all you need to bring are fine brushes and white acrylic paint. Simon will supply everything else. Simon will

also bring reference photos and his paintings. If anyone would like further information on this workshop please contact on numbers below.

Monday 9TH March: The theme of Adie Parkers Demo/workshop is 'Architectoral and Landscapes Features' using Ink Pen Illustrations with a Wash. This combination should tick all the boxes for the illustrator and painter, and it is a refreshing way to "paint" a subject. The Pen illustration will be enhanced with acrylic ink glazes. We will focus on special aspect of our homes or surrounding landscapes, or a local feature which could lead to some quirky and refreshing interpretations of what is literally on our doorsteps. If anyone would like further information on this workshop, please contact on numbers below.



Monday 16th March '3D Heads -Sculpture' with Jane Okeefe. Jane describes her workshop as: using the 'plaster-mache' technique to create a 3D head. We will be using plaster of Paris, paper and card to create the head over an inflated balloon. It will be messy! Bring aprons, old shirt anything to protect your clothes. If you would like to join us again the following week, we will be painting them.

If anyone would like further information for Jane's workshop, please contact us on numbers below.

If you would like more information, please contact Sandra Shury 07867 502235 or Carol Gaskell 07815 775859. Our door is always open Mondays from 7pm - 9.30pm at Tatsfield Village Hall, if you fancy trying something new, just pop in and have a chat. The first two sessions are free. If you don't fancy becoming a member you can always join us at any of our workshops, only £15, we would love to see you.

You can find us on Facebook **Tatsfield Art Group** and Instagram **tag_tatsfield_art**

TATSFIELD FAIRTRADE GROUP - MAKE A CHANGE

Tatsfield has been a Fairtrade village since 2009. One of the important roles of this undertaking is for the Fairtrade Group to promote the sale and use of Fairtrade products in the village.



Have you been into Sheree's Stores, our local shop, recently and seen the new display and array of Fairtrade products for sale? Sheree has recently added to her Fairtrade stock of coffee and Zaytoun olive oil. She is also now selling shortbread and chocolate chip biscuits, flapjacks and cookies. Hot chocolate is soon to be added to the mix!



You may recognize the Fairtrade logo from different foods such as bananas, chocolate, coffee, and tea. The Fairtrade logo is displayed on foods which have been grown using sustainable methods by farmers in developing countries.

These farmers will have received a fair price for their product and have decent working conditions.

Fairtrade helps disadvantaged producers or farmers in developing countries by promoting fair trading conditions, combatting poverty and helping them take control over their own lives.

Fairtrade provides the following for farmers and producers:

- fair prices for their product
- good working conditions
- support for the communities where the farmers live
- protection for the environment farmers work in

In turn this means that more money can be invested in schools, health care and better sanitation for the community. All of which improves the standard of living. Behind every Fairtrade product is someone fighting for a future where their hard work is valued and their children have opportunities that they never had.

We sometimes struggle to know how we can make a difference to other people's lives. By buying Fairtrade products, you can make that positive difference.

When you choose Fairtrade, your everyday choices carry real hope - so remember to buy Fairtrade and make a change!

Hilary Vale, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group
tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com
tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com



NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

On the Nature Notes timescale, it's still New Year which means it's time for us to sit back and peruse John Rosenbaum's 2025 garden bird observations. I don't advise comparing his records with your own; that simply diverts us less fortunate mortals onto the path of despair and disillusion. Better to see it as an annual presentation for us all to enjoy and learn from.

Introduction:

'My count of varieties is down this year to only 50 seen from home. Although I hear a number of summer songbirds in the area, they have not ventured into the garden or trees around the house, so I don't count them. A few years ago, I was seeing large numbers of migratory Hirundine using the valley below our house as a passage further North, but they seem to have found another route meaning this year there has been only one observation of Swallows and none of Swifts or Sand Martins. During the autumn migration, regular fly overs of Scandinavian Thrushes occur from late October to February. They also enjoy a regular bathe in our small pond and a feed on the berry trees. I have regular visits above the garden of Buzzards and Red Kites and regular attacks on the feeding birds by the local Sparrow Hawks. The local family of Kestrels is now very rarely seen. This year the Pheasants seem to have also deserted us but are still around in the woods at the back. Our Collar Doves have been devoured by the Sparrow Hawks, so this goes some way to explain the numbers I am seeing on a regular basis.'

Bird observations:

'Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed gull, Blue tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada goose, Carrion crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal tit, Common gull, Dunnock, Feral pigeon, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great spotted woodpecker, Great tit, Green woodpecker, Grey heron, Greylag goose, Herring gull, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser black-backed gull, Long-tailed tit, Magpie, Mallard, Marsh tit, Mistle thrush, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Red kite, Redwing, Ring-necked parakeet, Robin, Rook, Shelduck, Song thrush, Sparrowhawk, Stock dove, Swallow, Tawny owl, Treecreeper, Woodpigeon, Wren.'

Notes on sightings:

12.01.25: Two Shelduck flew up the valley and turned towards Chelsham at around 09.45. Flew back from NNW heading down the valley around 11.15.

17.01.25: Two Canada geese flew from NNW, circled Tony's pond and flew off SE.

30.01.25: A family skein of ten Greylag geese flew NNE to SE.

23.02.25: Numerous flyovers of groups of gulls; Black-headed, Common, Lesser black-backed and Herring. Seven Lesser black-backed gulls flew over followed by a female Sparrowhawk. Tawny owls calling to each other at night.

23.03.25: Two Canada geese flew into Tony's pond (taken up residence).

31.03.25: Chiffchaff heard calling.

(April): Groups of gulls flying over; Black-headed, Lesser black-backed and Herring. Two female Mallards and one male taken up daily residence on Tony's pond. Chiffchaff singing from the Oak tree.

(May): Single Rook landed on the lawn to feed. Stayed some time. Young tits starting to appear.

01.06.25: Two Tawny owls flew across the garden to Oak tree during the night. Two Canada geese plus five young in Tony's garden.

16.07.25: Male Blackcap and Chiffchaff singing early morning in the trees. Twelve Canada Geese flew over at 05.15. Flock of twelve Herring gulls flew over east to west at 06.00. Young Green woodpecker following parent around the lawn. Good numbers of young out for first time on feeders. Tawny owls calling to each other at night.

05.08.25: Four Shelduck flew over followed by five Teal (I think) at 06.45. Tawny Owls calling to each other at night.

08.08.25: Small mixed flock of Black-headed and Common gulls flew over at 07.00.

29.09.25: Small flock of Goldcrests feeding in conifers at 09.30.

30.09.25: Skein of geese flew over Biggin Hill at 11.00.

12.10.25: Treecreeper on conifer tree at 10.30.

16.10.25: Flock of 30+ Scandinavian thrushes flew through the garden at 08.30; Blackbird, Redwing, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush.

10.11.25: Large flock of mixed tits flew onto feeders, returning on several days; Blue, Coal, Marsh, Long-tailed. Tawny owls calling to each other at night.

17.11.25: Flock of Fieldfare and Redwing flying around area. Finches in trees and feeding at feeders most days.

21.11.25: Raven flew over garden SW to NW at 11.45, cronking.

23.11.25: Woodpigeon taken down by female Sparrowhawk and devoured on lawn.

(December): Tawny owls calling to each other at night. Groups of gulls flying over most days; Black-headed, Common, Lesser black-backed and Herring. Finches in trees and feeding at feeders most days.

Here endeth the 2025 Rickett's Hill bird report. Many thanks, John, for forwarding this to us. I tend to report my own sightings on a month-to-month basis, space permitting, but I'm beginning to think that a more extensive annual review may be of interest to that merry band of armchair bird watchers who we know are spread around the village. We know of course, from previous reports, that the variety of bird life varies considerably according to location and the differences in local habitat. Just a handful of people recording their observations on an informal basis could provide us with a broader picture of what's being seen in every corner of the parish. So, how about it? Simply scribble down anything you see of interest on a calendar, in a notebook or on your smartphone, then gather up all those scribbblings at the end of the year and send them in for inclusion in our nature notes. As our hairy TV friends may say – '*Simples!*'

(Question: Good idea, Nigel, but will anyone actually bother to get involved?)

(Answer: Probably not, dear reader, but I enjoy living within a bubble of optimism!)

I'm finishing this month with just one word **Brimstone**. You know what that means!

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

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

It was in March 1926 that the scene was set for the general strike which was to become etched in the memory of those who grew up between the two world wars. That month the government was recommended to rationalise the mining industry with redundancies, a 13.5% pay cut, the merging of pits and increased profit-sharing between owners and workers. The Westerham Herald carried regular reports, reflecting the fact that there was a major coalfield at the other end of Kent. One local Women's Institute meeting had spent some time discussing the issue.

Last month (when I managed to suggest that 2026 was 100 years ago!) I mentioned a weekend school for conductors of choirs organised by Roland Broughton of Tangland Castle in Goatsfield Road. In March 1926 came a sequel in which national politics made a further impact on Tatsfield. This was a follow-up musical programme held at Potter's Assembly Room – later to become the Bakery - on behalf of the Labour Party, which one speaker said was at the time facing an uphill task in the south of England.

**LABOUR CONCERT MEETING
AT TATSFIELD.**

Mr. Rutland Broughton, the famous composer of "The Immortal Hour," and his wife gave a delightful short musical programme, at a meeting of the Labour Party held at Potter's Assembly Room, on Monday, Mr. W. H. Thompson presiding supported by Mrs. Marjory Pease, J.P.

Meanwhile, the prospect of a railway service for Tatsfield was still in the air. At the March Parish Council meeting there was a call to lobby the District Council over its apparent antagonism to the idea. Tatsfield decided unanimously that the railway could "*mean a considerable increase in the rateable value and would itself contribute a large share to the rates*".

Another recurring issue was insanitary housing in the built-up part of the village. The District Council had banned the use of one house between 1st October and Easter each year and it was then demolished. But there was good news too - the plans had been drawn up for the proposed council housing in Lusted Hall Lane.

Towards the end of the month came news of an accident on the Approach Road. Mrs. PJ Parker of Parkers Stores on Westmore Green had been riding her motor cycle when it ran into the bank in the bend at Furze Corner. The machine overturned and she was trapped underneath. Dr Hoffman of Lusted Hall was called and it was some hours before she regained consciousness and was able to be taken home.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project

Email: tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

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