

APRIL 2026

# Tatsfield

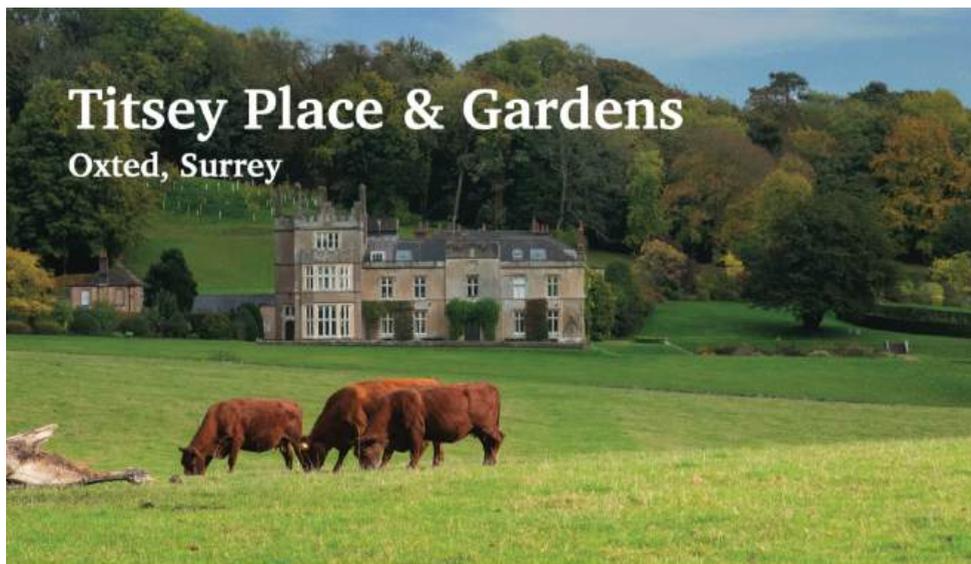
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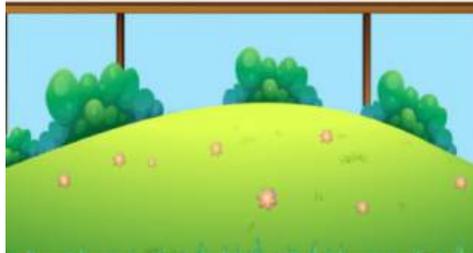
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*Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.*

**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, Limsfield RH8 0DG.

Phone 01883 712512 / email [stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).

**Team Rector:** Revd Helen Cook email: [hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk)

**Curate:** Debra Elsdon email: [curate.lttm@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk) (577328)

**Website** • [www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk](http://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](mailto:bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk))

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

**Parish Room Bookings** • (07483 337461) email [clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.tatsfield.org.uk)

#### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month, except for July/Aug and Jan/Feb double issues. Ideally contributions should be sent as a Word attachment by MIDDAY on the copy date in an email to: [tatsfieldpm@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com). Accompanying images should be sent as separate files.

**Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts** should be made to Sarah Tait ([tatsfieldmag@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldmag@gmail.com)). All loose inserts need to be booked and approved at least ONE MONTH in advance of insertion.

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

**Calendar Dates** Our calendar usually covers six weeks or more from publication so provide dates in good time.

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

**Cover image:** St Mary's Church, painted by Mary Smith

## EDITORIAL

There is a specific kind of magic that settles over Tatsfield in April. It's the month where our gardens finally stop "thinking about it" and get to work. As you walk down the lanes this month, you'll notice the transition is in full swing—the skeletal trees of February are now draped in that hazy, neon green that only lasts for a few fleeting days.

This year April started with Easter, with St Mary's full of the beautiful displays we are blessed with by our wonderful Flower Team. And, for all of us, there is a shared sense of taking a deep breath in and a deep breath out.

We are collectively shaking off the damp, grey coat of winter.

In a village like ours, April is also about the return of community life to the outdoors. You'll see more neighbours over garden fences, more muddy boots lined up outside the pub, and the first optimistic attempts at outdoor coffee mornings. It's a season of unforced renewal. While January's resolutions can be made through sheer willpower and gritted teeth, April invites us to change simply by looking around. The persistence of the bluebells and the unstoppable return of birdsong remind us that life is, by its very nature, resilient.

As we navigate this month, perhaps we can take a cue from the landscape. It's a time to clear the clutter—both in our sheds and our minds—and make room for something new to grow.

Blessings,

Reverend Debra



## SAVE THE DATES HOLY WEEK, EASTER



**Compline (Night Prayer)** service, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March in Holy Week, in St Mary's Tatsfield

**'Seder' meal** in the Millennium Hall, Maundy Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 6:30pm, followed by a short reflective service in St Mary's Tatsfield.

**Easter Vigil** 6:30pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, St Mary's Tatsfield churchyard

**Easter Sunday** 10:00am, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 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](mailto:curate.lttm@gmail.com)**

## IN MEMORY OF MARIAN GODFREY, PARKWOOD ROAD, 1945-2026



**Ian, Charlotte, Edward and families are shocked and saddened to announce the passing of Marian Godfrey after a short illness.**

If you ever walked along Parkwood Road, you will almost certainly have noticed the house called *Green Bushes*, with its beautiful front garden — and you would very likely have found yourself chatting to Marian. Mum and Dad (Ian) bought Green Bushes in 1968, moving out from Purley and Shirley. To them, Tatsfield felt like a little slice of heaven — peaceful, full of fresh air, and the perfect place to build a life surrounded by the countryside they both loved, while still being within commuting distance of London, where Mum worked as an Assistant Editor for The Directory of Directors.

Over the years, they poured their hearts into the place, creating and planting so much of what can still be seen there today. It really was their life's work.

Mum was a dependable, kind and generous lady who never expected anything in return. She gave her time willingly: collecting for the RNLI, litter-picking along Tatsfield's lanes, donating blood, volunteering for Riding for the Disabled, delivering the Parish Magazine, and helping with Tatsfield in Bloom. She really got things done!

She was also a talented gardener, seamstress and baker — though she would never have admitted it. Despite much encouragement (particularly about her cakes), she always described her efforts as "very average". Those who tasted them knew otherwise. Mum's

general knowledge was incredible, she could have won a fortune on TV Game shows, and it was pointless playing Trivial Pursuit against her!

Mum never realised the difference she made to the world around her. After she passed, Dad and I found a memory book she had been filling in. One question asked, "If you won the lottery, where in the world would you go?" Mum's answer was simple: *Tatsfield*.

Marian's love of animals was infectious, at one point seven cats had made Green Bushes their home, all arriving as if by magic across the fields. Horses, dogs and wildlife filled Mum's life and that is how best we will remember her, surrounded by animals and galloping across three fields on her favourite horse Madonna.

We are still coming to terms with the shock of losing Mum so quickly, she was so fit and had the energy of someone 20 years younger. Knowing she was where she loved more than anywhere else in the world until her last week brings us great comfort.

Her grandsons — Alex, George and Thomas — now all grown men, have such fond memories of their time at Green Bushes. And Elizabeth, her five-year-old granddaughter, holds the freshest memories of all, with her regular visits to see Granny and Papa, and her love of the ponies and adventures in the garden.

Tatsfield is a truly special community, the kindness, support and beautiful messages we have received from everyone who knew Mum will continue to help us in the difficult days ahead. Mum will be hugely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Thank you for all your kind words, cards and to everyone that has stopped to chat, it's very much appreciated,

**Ian, Charlotte, Edward and family**

**Marian's funeral will be held on**

**7th April at 11.15am at The Bluebell Cemetery, followed by a meeting of friends and family at Parkwood Golf Club from 1.00pm**

**Family flowers only please. Donations to Chartwell Cancer Trust.**

**<https://chartwellcancertrust.enthuse.com/cf/3c40/InMemory#!/>**

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION INFORMATION

# LAND ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SHIP HILL, TATSFIELD



This notice outlines Chartwell's intention to submit a planning application for the land outlined above and invites comments from local residents on how the site could come forward.

### WHO ARE WE?

Chartwell is an award-winning, local developer with over 20 years' experience delivering high-quality homes in and around Tandridge.

Chartwell provides a range of new homes, from bespoke private dwellings to affordable housing, all designed to modern, energy-efficient standards.

### GET INVOLVED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

Chartwell want to understand local views. All comments will be taken into consideration. If you would like to comment, please email: [info@chartwellpropertygroup.com](mailto:info@chartwellpropertygroup.com)

Chartwell would like to thank you for taking the time to read this information. Commenting at this stage will not affect your right to comment at a later stage.

To learn more about Chartwell, please visit [www.chartwellpropertygroup.com](http://www.chartwellpropertygroup.com)

### THE PROPOSAL

The proposal comprises 85 dwellings, including 41 affordable homes.



The development will primarily deliver 2 and 3 bedroom homes, with a limited number of 1 and 4 bedroom properties to ensure a balanced housing mix. This mix reflects the housing needs identified in the assessments prepared by both Tandridge District Council and Tatsfield Parish Council.

The scheme includes ten bungalows suitable for downsizers, two play areas for young children, policy-compliant parking for all dwellings, and visitor parking distributed throughout the site.

Green open space is incorporated, alongside a pedestrian link to the local Public Right of Way network.

The principal access will be taken from Ship Hill, where visibility in both directions meets highway safety requirements.

Surface water will be attenuated on site and discharged at a controlled rate to prevent any adverse impact on surface water flows to surrounding land.

The proposal will deliver biodiversity net gain and provide Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, which will contribute towards local infrastructure and community benefits. A full suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken, with appropriate mitigation measures proposed.

## LETTERS

### On Reaching 80!

I must confess that reaching this point in my life has caused more of a stir in my family and friends than myself, somehow it crept up on me!

The last 32 years have been spent in Tatsfield, this is also a surprise, it seems the Tatsfield environment suited me, and I grew strong roots here!

This is a great village community, and I am proud to have 'done my bit' where I could, I am sure that as we old grey, or white, heads step back others will step up, as always, there is much to do!

My very best wishes to all my fellow 46'ers, and for those earlier than that and still going, as the great man said we "must keep bugging on (KBO)!"

**Jon Allbutt**

## EAST SURREY COUNCIL ELECTION – INFORMATION AND REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

**On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026, eligible voters across Tandridge District will vote for councillors for the new East Surrey Council.** Local government in Surrey is changing. All district and borough councils and Surrey County Council are being replaced with two new unitary councils, East Surrey Council (ESC) and West Surrey Council. East Surrey Council includes Surrey County Council, Tandridge, Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley and Reigate & Banstead district or borough councils. Because of this there are no Tandridge District Council elections this year.

Each new council will run the full range of local government services. This includes education, recycling and rubbish, planning and building control, roads, housing, play areas, children's services and adult social care. Right now, these services in this area are provided by Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council.

### **Councillors, wards and your vote:**

- Councillors will be elected for a five-year term, ending in May 2031.
- East Surrey Council will have 72 councillors covering 36 wards.
- There will be two councillors elected for each of the six wards in the Tandridge District. This means a total of 12 councillors compared with 49 councillors at present (43 TDC and 6 County councillors).
- You can vote for up to two candidates in your ward.
- The two candidates with the most votes will be elected.

***Candidates standing in the election are invited to send their biographies to Tatsfield Parish Magazine in advance of the election for publication in the May issue (in time for election day May 7<sup>th</sup>). Please send to Tatsfieldpdm@gmail.com***

## TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE WELCOMES NEW ADVERTISERS

Our advertising year refreshes in April and **we would like to thank our repeat advertisers whose continued support is a vital part of keeping our magazine thriving.** We encourage readers to explore the adverts when looking for local businesses and services – and don't forget to mention that you found them in the Tatsfield Parish Magazine!

We are delighted to welcome the following new advertisers this year: Dance First; Elite



Global Construction Ltd; RB Roofing and Beyond; Crest Development Group Ltd.

**Advertising Enquiries** Our magazine is delivered 10 times a year to more than 800 households across the village and the latest copy of the magazine can be found



on the village website: [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://www.tatsfield.org.uk) where all advertisers are listed under the 'Businesses' section. We are also able to accommodate advertorial pieces, one-off advertisements and distribute A5 flyers alongside the magazine by arrangement. If you would like to book a space please email me on [tatsfieldmag@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldmag@gmail.com).

**Advertising Manager Volunteer** I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Parish Magazine Committee and I'm proud to have helped ensure the magazine continues to pop through your letterbox 10 times a year. The time has now come for me to hand over the reins to a new volunteer who can liaise with advertisers, manage bookings and adjust the layout when needed.

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking to become more involved in village life or to gain valuable experience for their CV. Advertising plays a crucial role in keeping the magazine free for all residents, so if you feel you could help, please do get in touch.

**Sarah Tait, Advertising Manager**

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

## TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Roger Luck	£42.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Michael Evans	£28.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Mary Wiggins	£14.00

Thank you for supporting sport the Tatsfield Cricket Club. 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](mailto:leames200@gmail.com). **Les Eames**

*Call*  
**Come & meet  
Mr. Easter Bunny  
& enjoy a fun time  
Easter crafting & egg hunt  
on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Westmore Green**

**at 11:00 am**

**Tickets £3.00**

**available from**

**Sheree's Store**

**Limited numbers, under 10 years only  
accompanied with an adult**

## TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Westmore Green refurbishment project

I will start with the exciting news. Tatsfield will be getting a new improved and extended playground at Westmore Green. Tandridge District Council have agreed to spend £160,000 on refurbishing our existing play area. As a community, we must contribute £10,000 to receive this wonderful benefit to our village.



To start the ball rolling, we have created a Gofundme page. The link for the page is <https://gofund.me/238e43d2e> or you can scan the QR code here →



Please make your donations through the site. we will also be holding fundraising events throughout the summer. Please let me know if you would like to join our fundraising journey [Kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk](mailto:Kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk)

### Planning

**TA/2026/31 The Chestnuts Ship Hill Tatsfield.** Conversion of Garage to provide Guest bedroom and Utility.

Recommendation: No comment.

**Notification of proposed replacement telecommunications installation at HO/MBNL/97287 Ship Hill Tatsfield.**

The works which are anticipated within the coming months will involve replacement of existing 8m telegraph pole and two cabinets with a 20m streetworks monopole supporting nine antenna, five cabinets, one wraparound cabinet and ancillary development thereto. The installation will also be moved approx. 19m west on the same stretch of grass verge. These works will allow enhanced 4G services and 5G future technologies to be added.

The works in question are 'permitted development' and as such do not require prior approval or planning consent.

### Finance

The clerk reported that our mid-year audit had taken place and was happy to report we passed with flying colours. It was also commented by the Auditor that the council was well run, with excellent councillor involvement.

A review of our Earmarked Reserves took place with all funds being increased due to rising costs. The reserves cover emergency work to Aileen Mchugo Building, Village Hall and further emergencies.

### **Request for speed reduction of Approach Road**

Martin Elmer reported that response from Highways had been very disappointing. They said funds are not available to undertake a speed reduction survey and to approach the new Unitary Authority when they come into force next year. Martin has agreed to follow this up in future.

### **Furze Corner Project**

Jason Syrett reported that he had now received all necessary quotes and information to submit our new funding application to TDC by 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### **MUGA refurbishment**

Sue Dowse reported that new sign board had been ordered and would be delivered in next two weeks. The new lines would be repainted for the Pickleball court as soon as we have a few dry days during Easter Holidays. Watch out all for our open day to come along and test the new sports facilities.

### **Litter Pick**

Our Spring Litter Pick will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. Meet at Village Picnic area. Please bring own gloves Bags and picks supplied.

Our next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> April 8pm Aileen Mchugo Building.  
Full minutes of all our meetings can be found on our website.

**Kim Jennings Chairman Tatsfield Parish Council.**

## **TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

As I am writing this, I am being told that the dreaded Council tax bills are now arriving on the doorsteps reflecting the rises I alluded to in last month's report. I hope that my report about the Local Government reorganisation also last month will give the financial relief that we all seek when the final phases of reorganisation have settled in. It will be a long haul so let's hope it is the correct one.

With the upcoming elections to East Surrey Council and the seat for the Warlingham division getting ever closer, I have made contact with the prospective candidates that I am aware of to send the Parish Magazine a small biography of themselves and their achievements in their own wards so that you have as much information as to who to vote for, for the good of the village. Leaflets will be arriving thick and fast between now and election day, so do contact any candidates and raise any concerns to them.

The councillors elected in May 2026 for East Surrey 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.

Councillors will be elected for five years to May 2031. East Surrey Council will have 72 councillors covering 36 wards. There will be two councillors elected for each of the six wards in the Tandridge District - a total of twelve councillors compared to 49 at present. You can vote for up to two candidates in our ward.

All the details will continue to be updated on the Tandridge District Council website, so please stay in touch. **BUT MOST importantly, please vote.**

I continue to work with the council on planning issues, enforcement issues, housing issues, abuse of yellow lines, reporting potholes and blocked drains and litter picking and road sweeping. Whilst writing this I can see there are SCC notices about "repair" to Westmore Green. Long overdue so it will be interesting to see just how much they do repair. I will chase again if they come up short.

Full details are too large to include in my report, but half price bus travel for young people through the county to residents aged 20 and under is available. Please do investigate if this is relevant to you or your family.

The Local Plan consultation received more than 2,500 responses reflecting strong local engagement and interest for the future. My hope is that the numbers are representative of more resident views than business interest views. The results will follow once all the feedback has been analysed. You can sign up for the Local Plan newsletter on the Councils website.

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

**Cllr Martin Allen Tel: 01959 577201, [cldr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk)**

## **CLAIRE COUTINHO MP**

**Conflict in the Middle East** I always like to keep my columns focused on what's happening here in the constituency, but I know many of you will be worried about the conflict in the Middle East and what it means for your families. With the fast-paced nature of this conflict, it may have come to an end by the time of reading, but the consequences will continue to be felt in the weeks and months ahead.

Naturally, as Shadow Energy Secretary, my role is to hold the Government to account on how this conflict is affecting energy prices here at home. MPs from across the country have received a deluge of messages from constituents feeling the pinch from the rising price of fuel. If there's one thing we can take away from these past weeks, it's that our energy resilience is vital to our national resilience.

To use just one example, it's clear heating oil suppliers are using the war to rip off vulnerable families in rural communities. For weeks I've called on the Energy Secretary to get a grip on price gouging. The Conservatives have sent a letter to the Competition and Markets Authority urging them to launch an investigation to protect consumers. I'm

glad the watchdog has now done so. Whether it's heating oil or gas for boilers, families should not be facing hundreds of pounds just to keep their homes warm. We need to reduce our reliance on imports by backing the North Sea and building out our nuclear power capacity. We need to protect consumers by making electricity cheap again and taking on rip off suppliers.

**Social Media** There is a national conversation about the impact of social media on young people. I have lost count of the number of times parents and teachers have told me they feel they have lost the battle with social media and feel powerless against it. I ran a survey asking constituents for their views, and almost 90% agreed that under-16s should be banned from social media. This is the position I hold. The Government should bring forward a ban as soon as possible and finally give children their childhood back.

**See The Chamber In Action** We're fully booked up for tickets to watch Prime Minister's Questions, but there are plenty of opportunities to watch other sittings of the House of Commons on a Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Visit: [whatson.parliament.uk](http://whatson.parliament.uk) to see what's being debated the coming weeks, and please do email us at if you would like us to reserve tickets in the public gallery for you: [claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk).

**Casework** If you would like to talk to a member of the team about an issue you are having, please email us at [claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk).

## **LONDON BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT – NOISE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

As many residents will be aware, for the past few years Tatsfield representatives sitting on both the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee (BHACC) and the Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) have been working with the Airport to reduce the noise impact on residents.

Meeting regularly with the Airport, this work has focused on reducing the number of aircraft entering the Noise Sensitive Area (NSA) without appropriate mitigation. The work has focused on encouraging pilots to fly a route to the south of the golf club house and, in doing so, remain well clear of the NSA. This work has seen a dramatic reduction in the number of aircraft entering the NSA over Biggin Hill and Tatsfield.

It is important to note that the NSA is to be avoided by pilots - if it is safe to do so. If a pilot is following an Air Traffic Control instruction, or procedure, or encounters a flight safety concern, then they are permitted to enter the NSA - in the case of Tatsfield, this is a rare occurrence.

The diagram shows the NSA (in red) and the tracks, over a period of one month, following a track to the south of the Golf Club and remaining well clear of the NSA. It shows all departures from Runway 21 - heading East between 1<sup>st</sup> January & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Of

the 407 departures, eight were found to be non-compliant with noise abatement measures for the Biggin Hill & Tatsfield Noise Sensitive Area.



As part of our obligations under the Noise Action Plan, London Biggin Hill Airport continuously monitors all NSAs to ensure compliance. We work proactively with pilots and operators, based at Biggin Hill, to help them maintain full adherence to the agreed noise-abatement procedures.

The work has not stopped at reducing penetrations into the NSA; the joint team has also discussed extending the NSA to the south. The Airport has already started the safety analysis required to look at this initiative and will soon commence an airborne trial. The findings of the safety analysis and airborne trial will be shared with Tatsfield representatives.

The level and depth of engagement by both Martin Allen and David Pinchin have established a blueprint on how best to engage with the Airport to make a real difference for residents. This proactive and open approach was the forerunner to the establishment of the now very successful Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum (ARNAF).

**David Winstanley, Chief Executive Officer**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD ENFORCEMENT TEAM**

Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET) is a new team set up as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. There are three newly formed NET teams in Surrey covering the north, east and west of the county.

The Eastern NET team has one Sergeant and eight Police Constables. The team is made up of proactively minded officers, some of whom have a background in neighbourhood policing. The team has specialist skills which make them effective for proactively targeting criminals and keeping the community safe. The NET are primarily formed to assist Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) within the Eastern Division including Tandridge with any prolific issues or offenders which require targeted resources, including shoplifting, drug dealing, closure orders and people carrying weapons.

The team started on 8th January 2026 and in those 7 weeks:

- 39 arrests for many offences including: prolific shoplifting, burglaries, domestic abuse, weapons offences and even murder have been made.
- They have carried out 108 stop searches, many of which have resulted in arrests or community resolutions.

- They have issued 19 community resolutions (mainly drugs possession for personal use).
- They have completed returns for 52 patrols in crime hotspot areas.
- They have put in 91 intelligence submissions which helps paint a bigger picture and develop warrants and other investigations.
- Live Facial Recognition operations in Redhill, some plain-clothes shoplifting patrols and some operations working with British Transport Police at Redhill station.

These results are across East Surrey so include results from Tandridge, Mole Valley, Epsom and Reigate and Banstead. A good proportion of these returns are for Reigate and Banstead Borough as it is one of the busier areas.

## **HIGH-VALUE BIKE AND E-BIKE SAFETY**

We have recently seen an increase in reports of bike thefts across the area, including high-value bikes and e-bikes. We are sharing some simple steps you can take to reduce the risk and protect your property.

### **Practical prevention advice:**

- Always use a good quality D-lock, or ideally two different types of lock. Look for Sold Secure approved products.
- Secure bikes to a solid, immovable object, even when stored at home.
- Lock bikes inside garages and sheds, not just doors.
- Remove batteries, displays and accessories where possible.
- Store bikes out of sight and consider shed alarms or motion lighting.
- Register and mark your bike for free on the national bike registration database. This helps police return recovered bikes to owners.

### **Be mindful of fitness tracking apps**

Some fitness and cycling apps share start and end locations by default. Publicly shared routes can reveal where high-value bikes are stored. Check privacy settings and consider hiding start locations or limiting who can see your activity.

Most bike thefts are opportunistic. Making your bike harder to steal and being mindful of what you share on social media, can be enough to deter offenders and reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim.

If you see suspicious activity or have concerns in your area, please report it to us via our online portal. In an emergency, always call 999.

**Inspector Lyndsey Whatley, Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Inspector**



# 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](http://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

## LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL



Little Acorns celebrated World Book Day in March with a trip to Tatsfield School Library, a book Show & Tell and craft activity.

We really enjoyed all the costumes that were worn, based on the children's favourite book characters!

Little Acorns held a Stay & Play in celebration of Mother's Day. The children enjoyed showing their guests around the preschool and took part in icing biscuits together and decorating them.



Our theme for this term is Animals and Life Cycles. The "Farm" role play has been very popular and great fun for the children dressing as chickens!

We are also excited for our upcoming trip to Godstone Farm in May, supporting the children's learning about different animals in a farm environment.



### The Little Acorns Team

Tel: 01959 540775. Email: [office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk)  
Tatsfield Village Hall, Westmore Green, Tatsfield, Surrey TN16 2AG



## MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



We are celebrating Easter with lots of amazing activities coming up. The children will take part in our annual easter bonnet parade, where they are able to create their own and then show them off! World Book Day was a hit once again with all children and staff taking part! We had Elmer, a Dalmatian, Elsa, a Gruffalo and many more!



We had such an amazing time celebrating all of our amazing mums for our annual Mothers Day Tea! It was such a lovely event and hope we made all of our mummies feel special!

### Forest School Holiday Club

We have spaces available for 5–8-year-olds to join our Easter holiday clubs on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April, as well as May half term 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May! 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](mailto:manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk)

## NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Our next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April will be our AGM at the WI hall. We have had a busy year so lots to look back on and even more to look forward to. After the formalities we will be having fish and chips supplied by Ye Old Ship followed by Pam's delicious cakes.

The Not So Young Bingo night returns to Ye Old Ship on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Only four spaces left so to secure your place ring Tina on 01959 577311. Eyes down at 8pm but arrive early and enjoy some lovely pub grub.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we held our first cinema event in the WI hall, partially funded by a grant from Surrey County Council. Everyone enjoyed sandwiches and cake before seeing "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel". There are a few extra spaces if anyone would like to join us to see "The Second Best Marigold Hotel" on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30. Please contact me on the number below for further details.

The NSY have been offered complimentary tickets for Wisely gardens from the Tatsfield Horticultural Society. So, on the 10<sup>th</sup> May we will be off to see all the wonderful flowers and features there, followed by afternoon tea (of course!).

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 fund raising events as not everyone uses cash. This will be a great asset to the clubs fundraising events and we are very grateful for the continued support from them.

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](mailto:notsoyoung100@gmail.com), 07816110929**

### TATSFIELD HISTORY PROJECT

Would you be interested in taking part in the **Tatsfield History Project**? We're a small, informal group and you may have some fresh ideas on what we should be doing. If so, please get in touch.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project**

**Email: [tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:tatsfield.history@talk21.com) Tel: 577376**

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

## TATSFIELD WI

Tatsfield WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Our members welcomed Mrs Mary Smith whose talk was entitled A schoolgirl's War, a fascinating glimpse into the life of a schoolgirl during World War 2. The school was Maidstone Girls Grammar where the underground air raid shelters were built in the grounds of the school and are now accessible again. The talk was illustrated by drawings of the then Art teacher. A wonderful speaker very much enjoyed by our members.

### Pat Walsh

Next month on **Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> from 2.15 until 4pm** we are delighted to host a fabulous, funny afternoon with our speaker Lindsey Barrell and her alter ego Ms Cherry Bomb who not only leads two troupes of Burlesque dancers but is also President of her local WI. The talk is entitled "Does my HRT patch look big in this corset?" Entry at the door is £3 to include tea and cakes. Please give us a call on 01959 577660 if you would like to attend, (ladies of all ages only). All money raised will go to our 2026 fundraiser for a local charity.

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 and 12** in the WI Hall in Paynesfield Road. 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**



## OXTED & LIMPSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 6th June 2026 5pm.

United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted.

Tickets available @ [www.olcs.org.uk](http://www.olcs.org.uk)



## ST MARY'S MATTERS

### EASTER AT ST MARY'S

**Easter Vigil** 7pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April. A sunset service of readings and reflections in the churchyard.

**Easter Sunday** 10am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Join us for a special service of celebration and thanksgiving followed by refreshments in the Millennium Hall.

**VISIT US** Our churchyard has splendid views over the Downs, and our pretty church is open 9am – 4.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for viewing, prayer or reflection.

**SUNDAY SERVICES** Our main Sunday service with hymns is at 10am followed by refreshments in the Millennium Hall. All are welcome. Our website is at [www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).



**LIFE EVENTS** For enquiries regarding baptisms, weddings, funerals, burials and the interment of ashes please contact [stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).

**DONATIONS TO WESTERHAM FOODBANK** We will be delivering on Thursdays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 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** Our first session this year was on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. A major task was the raking up and clearing of branches and twigs blown down over the winter months. We also cleared the beds and ground level gutters around the church of debris. The compost area was tidied so please remember there are plenty of bags of compost freely available for collection. Some strimming around graves was also carried out and the bank for a proposed wildflower area was also prepared for planting in the near future. Our next maintenance session is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10am. **David Gulley**

**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 CHURCH TATSFIELD ANNUAL MEETING 2026** At 11.30am on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

[www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)

## REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

<b>Sun</b>	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
<b>Mon</b>	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
<b>Tue</b>	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.00pm	Cosy Crafters, Sheree’s Store and Tea Rooms
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
<b>Wed</b>	9.00am	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	10.30 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	2-4 pm	Composting Site OPEN FROM 4 <sup>TH</sup> 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
<b>Thu</b>	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
	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
	7.30pm	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
<b>Fri</b>	9.30 am	Combat Fitness - SH
	10.00am	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	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
<b>Sat</b>	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00am	Composting Site OPEN FROM 4 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH

**Venues:** AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • MH - Millennium Hall • SH - Scout Hut • StM - St. Mary’s Church • •  
 TVC - Tatsfield Village Club • TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women’s Institute

## UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

### APRIL

3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	11.00am	Easter Egg Crafting & Egg Hunt, Westmore Green, Tatsfield
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.00am	Tatsfield Community Composting Site Opens
4 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.00pm	Easter Vigil, StM
5 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.00am	Easter Sunday Service and refreshments, StM
7 <sup>th</sup> Tue	2.15pm	“Does My HRT Patch Look Big In This Corset?” WIH
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	3.00pm	Tatsfield Village Show, VH
14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	various	Guys & Dolls, Oxted Musical Theatre Company, Barn Theatre
18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	OLMS 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Concert, Hazelwood School
26 <sup>th</sup> Sun	11.30am	St Mary’s Church Tatsfield Annual Meeting, MH
29 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	The Stirling Prize: British Architecture’s Oscars, Limpsfield Church Hall

### MAY

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	3.00pm	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, Private Viewing, VH
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	11.00am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	11.00am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH
7 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.00am	East Surrey Council Election Polling Day, VH
9 <sup>th</sup> Sat	tbc	Fairtrade Tea Tent, by Sheree’s Store
10 <sup>th</sup> Sun	10.00am	Annual Wisley Visit, RHS Wisley
12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	various	The Oxted Players, Journey’s End, Barn Theatre
19 <sup>th</sup> Tue	7.30pm	Dare to Dream Jr, Barn Theatre
21 <sup>st</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Seussical Jr, Barn Theatre, Oxted
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	7.45pm	The Denotones, Barn Theatre, Oxted
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	2.00/6.30pm	All-England Festival Eastern Area Final, Barn Theatre, Oxted
29 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.45pm	Bee Gees Songbook, Barn Theatre, Oxted
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	10.30am	67 <sup>th</sup> British Film Collector’s Convention, Barn Theatre, Oxted
31 <sup>st</sup> Sun	3.00pm	Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical, Barn Theatre, Oxted

### TATSFIELD ONLINE

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

Village facebook page: search for ‘Tatsfield Village’ on facebook

Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for ‘Tatsfield Talk’ on facebook, and ask to join to be able to view and post. Twitter: @tatsfieldtweet

### PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS

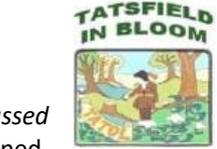
If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to [tatsfieldpm@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com). Please also let us know if any information has changed.

## TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

### MARIAN GODFREY

*We were all deeply shocked to hear that Marian had very sadly passed away. It is impossible to comprehend how quickly this has happened.*

Marian had been such a strong, energetic, enthusiastic and supportive member of the TIB Team and was truly inspirational. Her horticultural knowledge was invaluable, and it was an absolute joy to work with her. She was always so generous, growing and donating plants to raise funds or give away and providing endless bags of PP (pony poo), which enriched many a border or planter. She was always happy to join in with whatever needed to be done and came up with some brilliant ideas for future projects.



One of these was to create a planted area on the right-hand side at the front of the Village Hall. She suggested planting a variety of spring bulbs in it, which she undertook with great gusto. She also had the vision that an edging of lavender plants around this area would make a lovely visual asset and be beneficial for the pollinators. The bulbs that she painstakingly planted and protected against some mindless hooligans with strings and notices, are beginning to bloom well and will, undoubtedly, naturalise over the years. Very sadly, she didn't see the planting of the lavender plants due to the bad weather, but we were joined by her family on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to plant them. This will always be called "Marian's bed".



The cascade planter in front of the AMB was one of her specialities. She came up with colour and plant combinations and would then plant it up, often single-handedly and nurture it throughout the season. There is no doubt at all that it flourished under her care. She also took on responsibility for the Tatol bed, watering it all through the dry spells over the past two years and lovingly restoring the plants when cars drove through it! Marian was an inspiration to us all and her dedication to our small team will be missed immensely. With love and sincerest sympathy to her lovely family, **your friends from TIB**



*Since writing this, the bed has been vandalised by bicycles being ridden through the bed. We have replaced the edging and tidied the bed, but can I ask parents – I presume it is children responsible – to remind their children that this bed is in memory of a much-loved person and should be treated with respect. However, nobody should ride over any flower bed or the daffodils!!* **Jill Hancock**



## TATSFIELD SINGERS - 2026 WINNERS!

Tatsfield Singers and Tatsfield Village School Choir are delighted to announce that they have once again been awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival. The festival, in its 82<sup>nd</sup> year, is a performing arts competition featuring music, dance and speech and is held in various local venues during the month of March.



Our venue was Sanderstead United Reformed Church where, conducted by Musical Director, Sarah Fryer, and accompanied by Kath Chivers, the combined choirs took to the stage to perform two songs in the category for Mixed Adult and Children's voices. They opened with a poignant song 'As Long as I Have Music' written by Don Besig, followed by a lively African song of welcome 'Funga Alafia' which was enhanced by the Tatsfield Singers percussion group made up of Eleanor and Hilary Harber and Jan Aktar.

The adjudicator, Jane Wilkinson commented "a lovely blend of voices that make for an engaging sound. Some rhythmic singing – joyous and clear".

**Tatsfield Singers are now rehearsing for their annual Summer Concert to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.** We meet every Thursday evening (7:30pm) at the Village School and are always keen to welcome new singers.

**Sara Williams**

## THE OXTED & LIMPSFIELD MUSIC SOCIETY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The Society is delighted to be welcoming **Timothy Ridout**, viola, and **Joseph Havlat**, piano, to The Bawtree Hall, Wolfs Hill, Oxted RH8 OQU on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 19.30**. In May 2023, BBC Music Magazine listed Timothy amongst the twelve greatest violists of all time - a list that included Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Of Joseph Havlat, The Guardian writes "... shimmering elegance and intensity".

### Programme

Joseph Joachim: Hebrew Melodies, Opus 9 (on poems by Byron)

Robert Schumann: Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Opus 105, arranged for viola and piano

Robert Schumann: Three Romances, Opus 94 Johannes Brahms: Sonata for Cello and Piano No. 1 in E minor, Op. 38, arranged for viola and piano

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

**Anna McKinney, Volunteer OLMS**

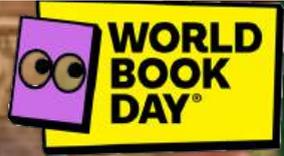
## TATSFIELD ALLOTMENTS

At last spring is here after a very wet winter. But our team of hardy volunteers have been hard at work all through the winter months carrying out constant maintenance to the allotment site. The drainage ditch has been cleared out to prevent flooding. The farmer has cut the hedging on the field side of the site and then we cut the inside of the hedging. They have also removed lots of rubbish from the site, so we are all pristine ready for our first event - the **plant & seed swap in May**. We will also be holding our **annual BBQ in August** - details and firm dates to follow.

Some people have told us they don't know where the allotments and composting site is, so a large new sign has been put on the entrance gate in Approach Road for all to see. This year we have said goodbye to some of our plot holders, but their plots have been quickly snapped up by new members who want to give allotmenting a go. Often these are younger members of our community, which is really heartening to see and hear - the chatter and laughter of children is often heard now! Hopefully these children will learn a lot and follow in their parents' footsteps, thereby continuing this very English tradition.

We are grateful to the Oxted stables who drop an annual supply of well-rotted horse manure for plot holders to use - it needs to be dug in asap; let the worms do the rest!

As we start a new growing season at the allotments, there's plenty to do now that the rain has eased off. Alan has put some guidelines for sowing early vegetables on the THS Weebly website. **Liz Armitage**



**Did you know?** World Book Day is intrinsically linked to

## *William Shakespeare*

because it is celebrated internationally on 23 April, a symbolic date marking both his birth and his death in 1616. UNESCO chose this date to pay a global tribute to his enduring literary legacy and to encourage a lifelong reading for pleasure habit, particularly among young people. By connecting the joy of reading to one of history's most famous storytellers, the event highlights how literature transcends time to provide enjoyment, improve wellbeing, and ignite the imagination.

In the UK, while the official celebration is often moved to March to fit the school calendar, the spirit of the day remains rooted in the creative inspiration and "high/low" universal appeal that Shakespeare's works first pioneered for audiences centuries ago .



Tatsfield  
Primary School



At Tatsfield, our wonderful PTA funded West End in Schools Shakespeare workshops for every class, giving even our youngest pupils the opportunity to become immersed in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The day finished with the whole school performing in a whole school production. Revered Debra shared the story of Romeo and Juliet with classes in fabulous interactive story-telling sessions.

Mrs Colegate

## TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS

**BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP, 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026** Held at the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield, the British Schools Championship is one of the main national competitions held each year. It is on a par with the British Championship, however the competitors compete in school years and represent their schools rather than their judo clubs (although it is always the judo clubs there on the day, not a PE teacher in sight!) In total there were over 767 judo players competing across the weekend.

In the years 6 & 7 +55kg boys we had Morgan Baker competing, defending the title he had won the previous year. Morgan got off to a great start winning his first contest with a big throw. A similar story in his second fight, winning with another big throw, although he was made to work for it by a very defensive opponent. This meant Morgan was into the final for the second year in a row. The contest went the distance, but he was caught with a couple of throws meaning a well-deserved silver medal to go with last year's gold.

In the years 12 & 13 -73kg men, Kayden Plinston was competing for the last time at this event. The national schools have always been a tough event for Kayden; he has never medalled there and in the previous two years he had only managed to win one contest – so this year was his last chance to add a National Schools medal to his collection. As seems to be the norm, Kayden's group was the largest of the day.

Because of Kayden's grade and ranking he was given a bye in round 1 so his first contest was in round 2 in which he scored against his opponent with a small throw before winning on a submission on the ground. In round 3, Kayden won the contest. This meant Kayden was into the semi-final to face one of the top ranked judo players in the county. This opponent was the eventual gold medallist, and Kayden was the only person to take him the distance, he won all his other contests including the final with full ippon scores within the contest time allowed. Kayden had one last fight for the bronze medal. Another close contest which went the distance, around the half way point it looked like the Kayden was struggling. With one minute left Kayden scored a waza ari with a shoulder wheel throw (like a fireman carry). With a bit of tactical nous, he saw out the remaining time to win the bronze medal! This was an extremely tough contest – just shows how much Kayden wanted that medal!



**FREE ADULT BEGINNERS JUJITSU!** New to martial arts? Want to learn a practical and proved form of self-defence? We are offering a **FREE** 5-week beginner's course during April in our Wednesday evening jujitsu class. Giving you the opportunity to learn the fundamental techniques, before progressing into the full class.

Should you decide to become a club member from May (only £30 a month) you will be able to take your first grading for no additional fee and take the first small step toward the prestigious 'black belt!' Interested? Places will be limited, so contact us via [tatsfieldmartialarts@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldmartialarts@gmail.com) to book you place on this free course.

**Adam Plinston**

## THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

**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!

**Miniature Portraits - Tiny Treasures close to our hearts** by Cindy Polemis. **Wednesday 27 May 2026. Evening lecture only starts at 7.30pm;** come early to enjoy refreshments Guests £10. Whether used for diplomatic gifts or tokens of love, between the 16th-19th centuries miniatures were commissioned as small portraits which could be held in the hand or placed inside locket creating an intimate relationship between the owner and sitter. Cindy looks at the history of these tiny treasures of art.

## 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**



## EVENTS – JOIN TEAM CHARTWELL

Whether you enjoy running, rowing, or adrenaline-packed challenges, there's a way for everyone to support The Chartwell Cancer Trust:

**10K Run** Bring colleagues or friends and enjoy a vibrant, well-organised event with a fantastic atmosphere. Chase your PB or take part for team spirit!

**Dragon Boat Festival** Take to the water with a team for fun, fitness, and fundraising.

**Skydiving** Experience the thrill of freefall while raising vital funds.

**Wing Walk** Take your support to new heights and make an unforgettable impact.

Every step, paddle, or jump helps strengthen cancer care in our community, and creates memories that last a lifetime. Visit: [www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk](http://www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk)



### Date booked for our annual Visit to Wisley Gardens 2026 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 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 NEW ERA FOR NDCO: ANNA MARIA TABOR LEADS OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON



As the North Downs Community Orchestra (NDCO) approaches a decade of music-making, there is a fresh sense of excitement in the rehearsal room. This year's **10th Anniversary Concert on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** marks a vibrant new chapter under the leadership of our Musical Director, Anna Maria Tabor. Since joining "The Fun Orchestra," Anna has brought a unique blend of high-level expertise and community spirit. Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and the University of Surrey, her career has taken her from local festivals to the Arctic Circle, but her philosophy remains rooted in the belief that music is for everyone. Under her baton, rehearsals are both instructive and fun, perfectly capturing the NDCO ethos of being a no-audition, inclusive home for musicians of all levels.

While Anna leads us into the future, the foundations of the NDCO remain as strong as they were in 2016. Pam Deverill, a founding member and former Chair, remembers the very first rehearsal at the Godstone Scout Hut with nervous anticipation. "We felt like pioneers," Pam recalls. "My own double bass had been gathering dust for too many decades! We wondered if a mixed-ability community orchestra welcoming everyone could really work. Ten years later, with sell-out concerts and fifty regular members, we've proved that it does." It was during those early rehearsals that the nickname "The Fun Orchestra" was born, fuelled by happy smiles and plenty of tea and biscuits.

For our milestone performance at the Millennium Theatre, Anna has curated a programme that bridges our past and our future. Many of the pieces were chosen by the members themselves from our music library—a "greatest hits" of the last decade—while others are exciting new challenges introduced by Anna to mark this new era. From the cinematic drama of *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Phantom of the Opera* to the timeless beauty of Mozart's *Amadeus*, the selection aims to provide something for everyone. As Pam notes, "We hope most people will enjoy most of our music," an approach that is just as important for our audience as it is for our musicians.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our friends and family across the region, from our home base in Surrey to our regular visitors from Kent and Sussex. We invite you all to join us for an evening of music and memories as we celebrate ten years of harmony.

The concert takes place on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Millennium Theatre, Woldingham School, CR3 7LR. Tickets are £10 each, with **free tickets available for under 18's**. All tickets must be booked in advance via our website: [www.thefunorchestra.co.uk](http://www.thefunorchestra.co.uk)

**Lin Larmer**

## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN APRIL

I was feeling optimistic about an early mild spring to give us a good start to the summer, but three very early ground frosts in a row in mid-March was not welcome! Our spring flowering plants and our local birds have certainly made up their minds. Our keen growing and showing Tatsfield gardeners will be praying that there will be enough Daffodils, Tulips and other spring flowers to enter in our Spring Show on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April** – don't forget doors open for public viewing at 3.00pm – see our notice on page 33.

Growing citrus plants is becoming very popular to judge from the amount of choice now available online and in our garden centres. They flower at this time of the year, pure white blooms and very fragrant, followed by tiny green fruits that develop and grow throughout the summer months. They do have some particular growing requirements that are important if you want them to flourish, here are some tips: when flowering commences and young shoots appear feed regularly with a citrus specific liquid feed; water regularly with rain water, do not allow the plant to dry out; keep it in a well-lit place with a minimum temperature of 10C; from June to September put it outside in a sheltered sunny position; as the flowers emerge, use a tiny paint brush and very gently rotate it inside the flower cup to ensure pollination; use a hand sprayer filled with rain water to spray over the whole plant several times a day if you can, to maintain humidity and discourage red spider mites that can make a sticky mess; as autumn approaches bring it indoors to a cool well-lit place, water only sparingly now until it starts to produce flowers and shoots. Don't worry if the plant loses a few leaves during the winter months.



This is a good time to review the health of plants in containers indoors or outside. If they have been growing in the same size container for several years, they may now be pot bound i.e. the pot is full of roots, in this situation the plant will not grow well. To be sure, gently tease the plant from the pot when laying on its side. If you can only see a mass of roots, take a sharp knife or small saw and cut away the outside roots, we call this root pruning. You can now replace the plant in the same pot with fresh multipurpose peat free compost and water thoroughly.

Now is the time to sow annual flowering plants to fill any gaps in your border or in pots for that splash of summer colour. Packets of mixed annual flower seeds are inexpensive, they germinate and grow quickly, great fun to encourage our youngsters to go gardening!!

**Jon Allbutt**

## WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR APRIL

As usual, Easter has fired the starting gun for the rattle and hum of lawn mowers emerging from their winter hibernation. Similarly, badger cubs and their mums will be making their first foray out of their setts to play in the warming springtime weather, and my fingers are firmly crossed that they will be visiting our garden up on Ricketts. But as those lawn mowers get to work it's a time of year that I generally realise how badly the moss has taken over my lawn, so I guess it's the same for many of us gardeners. This makes it very tempting to apply a lawn treatment to eliminate the moss, but the downside is that these chemicals are pesticides that will poison anything that isn't grass, including worms, birds, bugs and even those cute little badger cubs looking for a meal. A less eco-cidal approach is the traditional scarifier – it's a bit more work but more wildlife friendly. The unanimous advice from the RSPB and all the Wildlife Trusts is to ditch those chemical lawn treatments because they not only poison wildlife directly but also destroy the food chain that birds, hedgehogs, badgers and pollinators all depend on.

And seeing as its April, it is almost time for No-Mow-May which is the national campaign to encourage people not to mow their lawns throughout the month of May to boost the flowers, and nectar, available to pollinating insects such as bees, butterflies and moths. No-Mow-May is supported by the RHS, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and just about every ethical organization in the country (and plenty of overseas ones too). It is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, and as Monty Don says, "*Cutting grass is about the most injurious thing you can do to wildlife. Letting grass grow, which is, after all, a pretty passive thing to do, is probably the single most effective thing you can do in any garden of any size to encourage particularly insect life, but also small mammals, invertebrates, reptiles.*"

I realise that plenty of Tatsfield gardeners do already join in but if you haven't yet given it a go, please do consider pitching in for nature's sake. For more information on No-Mow-May, visit [Plantlife.org](http://Plantlife.org) who are the charity organising it.

### Interesting fact of the month

A few days ago, I was lucky enough to see a fast-moving little stoat up by St Mary's which was only the second one I've ever seen in the wild, so it was quite a treat. Stoats are distant cousins to otters – you can immediately see the likeness in their sleek shape. And like otters, they are very successful predators which makes them excellent at keeping rat and rabbit populations under control. Although they are solitary animals, male stoats will travel long distances in spring looking for a mate. So, what's this got to do with wildlife in our gardens? Well, when I say they travel long distances, they can cover several miles a day, which would put all our gardens easily within range of the one I spotted, so any of us might be fortunate enough to receive a visit from this handsome though formidable little chap.

**Jim Kenney**

## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – APRIL 2026

Jupiter is very much the major player in the evening sky now. By 9pm at the start of the month it is exactly southwest with an altitude of  $55^\circ$ . As the angular measurement from the horizon to the zenith (overhead point) is  $90^\circ$  then Jupiter is a little over halfway “up”. However, Jupiter’s supremacy is being challenged as Venus makes its presence felt a little earlier in the evenings. Have a look at 8pm, close to due west early in April and you should see Venus, the evening star, at an altitude of  $10^\circ$ . In the middle of the month look at 9pm in the WNW and at the end of the month at 9:30pm, again in the WNW around  $10^\circ$  high.

There are several factors at work that influence how well the planets can be seen with their *apparent* distance from the Sun having a huge impact on visibility. This is not their *actual* distance, which remains roughly the same, but how far away from the Sun, in line of sight, they *seem* to be. Mercury orbits so close to our parent star that it can never be seen far away from it or in a properly dark sky and must therefore, by definition, be close to the horizon. Incidentally, when it’s on one side of the Sun it’s visible in the morning sky before sunrise and when it’s on the other side, it’s visible in the evenings after sunset. The ancients used to think they were looking at two entirely different objects!

If we look at Jupiter, in contrast to poor Mercury, when at its best it can be seen in dark skies a long way from the Sun and remain visible throughout the night for months at a time. The simple reason for this is that it orbits beyond the Earth and is very much more distant from the Sun than Mercury.

Another factor in how well we can see the planets is the position of something astronomers call the “ecliptic”. The ecliptic can be considered in two ways, one of which is to think of it as the plane of rotation of the Earth around the Sun. All the other planets also rotate in very nearly the same plane but differ by a few degrees. It can be said that if you drew the Sun on a sheet of paper along with the orbits of the planets around it and then held it up and looked at it edge on, it would be very close to reality.

The other way to define the ecliptic is to think of it as the Sun’s path across the sky over the course of a year. This is not the arc it draws with its daily rising and setting, but the very gradual *apparent* journey it makes through the constellations. Of course, this isn’t immediately obvious to us because we can’t see the stars that surround the Sun, but if we could, we’d note it moving slowly eastwards with relation to them. This has nothing to do with the Sun but is due to us moving in our orbit and seeing the Sun against a slightly different background each day until a year later it is back where it (or, more correctly, we) started.

The reason the ecliptic is important is because its position above the horizon varies with both the time of day and time of year. When the ecliptic is low down the planets will be nearer to the horizon and more difficult to see, whilst when it’s higher any planets will naturally be at a greater altitude and remain visible for longer. **Brian Mills FRAS**

## TATSFIELD ART GROUP



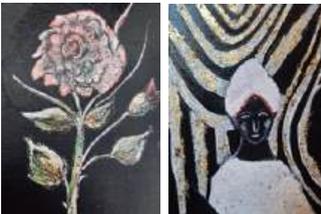
Simon Cook's 'Black and White' workshop was fun and a very enjoyable evening which inspired us all to create some beautiful paintings.



Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> Paolo Francis will be with us, his workshop will focus on 'Shadows'. This involves observing light, understanding shadow shapes, layering tones, and using colour theory to create depth and dimension.



Tatsfield Art Group's 2026 Art Exhibition is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (private view 3pm until 7pm). We are open to everyone on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 11am until



4.30pm also Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 11am until 4.30pm entry is free. Homemade cakes and savouries will be available to buy on Sunday and Monday.

The children of Tatsfield school have been invited again this year to enter TAG's art competition. The school will vote for the top 5 paintings from each year group, and the lucky finalists will have their paintings on display at

the exhibition where your votes will decide the winners so please come along and vote. The winners will be announced at 4pm.

If you would like further information, please contact **Sandra Shury 07867502235** or **Carol Gaskell 07815775859**. We meet on Mondays 7pm until 9.30pm at Tatsfield Village Hall during term times. If you fancy trying something new, just pop in and have a chat. If you don't fancy becoming a member you can always join us for 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**

**Sandra Shury**

## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Hooray! Having had almost no correspondence during the winter months, largely due to the lack of seasonal visitors, we now have a conversation to report. The primary subject was, of course, our annual hunt for the first Brimstone, but there is plenty more to enjoy.

### We begin with Nicola (Reeves):

(25.02.26) *'Just spotted my first butterfly of the year in the V-field but it wasn't a Brimstone! I didn't see what it was, maybe a Peacock?'*

### My reply to Nicola:

(25.02.26) SNAP! This morning I also saw my first butterfly, definitely a **Peacock**, along the footpath next to the school. However, the 'First Brimstone' award is still up for grabs! (Is Ruth on holiday? If so, we have a chance.) Happy hunting!

### A few days later, in came a message from Ruth (Yeeles):

(02.03.26) *'Have just seen your appeal in the latest mag, and guess what, I'd like to put in my entry for first Brimstone - seen at Hill Park on 25th Feb. We had a good haul of 6 Brimstone, 3 Peacock, 1 Comma - and a Bee-Fly. Amazing what a bit of sun can do! On our way home, we also saw a flock of 25-30 Lapwing in the field to the East of Approach Road. We have regularly been hearing a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers drumming in Millennium Wood and our Nuthatch is back again this year, trying to attract a mate, which always seems to start very early in the morning!'*



### I sent a note to Nicola:

(02.03.26) Guess what - Ruth's not on holiday. While we were spotting a Peacock, Ruth was spotting a ... Brimstone! Fortunately, I saw one today so I don't feel too bad.

### And responded to Ruth:

(02.03.26) Well, Ruth, you've done it again - **CONGRATULATIONS!** Nicola (Reeves) and myself were feeling quite pleased with ourselves for each seeing a Peacock, also on 25th. So we all had first sightings of a butterfly that day, it's just that yours was 'The Treasured One'. Incidentally, I saw my first Brimstone today (2nd March). That's not bad for me; I'm usually months behind everyone else. Thanks also for your other news. I love seeing the Lapwings. If they've returned here to breed I'll be delighted.

### Before long, Nicola had her own success:

(04.03.26) *'Just seen one!!'* [Brimstone] 😊

### The next day, Ruth replied with further news:

(05.03.26) *'Thank you Nigel... great news!! All good with us and very pleased to have some dry days. We've had a few Surrey Wildlife Trust work parties at Hill Park recently, laying another hedge. You weren't that far behind with your Brimstone sighting... the first one in Surrey wasn't until 24th February this year, so everything's very late due to the weather. I mentioned that Jim had also seen a Bee-fly, which he reported to Bee-fly Watch and it was confirmed that he got the first UK sighting of a **Dark-edged Bee-Fly** this year, so another record!'* (See photo opposite.)

**Well done, Jim!** I wonder what other joys you two will be reporting over the summer months. Surely not another scarce butterfly? How about a beetle? Has anyone ever seen a Stag beetle in Tatsfield? I saw several when I was working in Mottingham, but I've not seen one here.

### A week or so later (14.03.26), Steve (Gaskell) came to the party:

*'Some late (sorry) sightings, all in our garden (lower Westmore).*

*11<sup>th</sup> Feb – **Green Woodpecker***

*25<sup>th</sup> Feb – **Brimstone***

*05<sup>th</sup> Mar – **Brimstone, Comma and Peacock** butterflies all within one hour.'*

### My reply to Steve:

(15.03.26) Thanks, Steve - just in time; I'm writing the magazine notes over the next couple of days. Were you the first Brimstone spotter? You'll have to wait and see!

Well, Steve, the wait is now over and I am delighted to say that you are sharing this year's accolade as **'First Brimstone Spotter of the Year'** with Ruth. **Well done both of you!** It was, of course, a beautiful day. It even managed to drag me out of my winter hibernation, out across the fields in my shirt sleeves. I had one of those, so called, 'big' birthday's and that spring-like weather was, without doubt, the best gift of all.

You too could send a report or take part in a 'Nature Notes' conversation. I realise, of course, that you probably converse every day on social media, but that conversation will be read and forgotten within a day or two whereas a message printed in a magazine (this one) will be read and preserved for future readers to enjoy in ten, fifty, a hundred years from now. Where do you think your social media messages will be? Like your ashes, they will be lost to the wind, but, assuming they avoid fire, flood, ingestion by mites and nuclear fallout, these magazine contributions will be available as evidence of what life was like in our village during the early twenty-first century. Future generations will be grateful for your effort. Wouldn't you like to lay down part of our village history, knowing that the Ian Mitchell's of the future may dig out your report and bring it, and you, back to life? Give it a go; you might even enjoy it! **Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com. Or, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.**

## TATSFIELD A CENTURY AGO

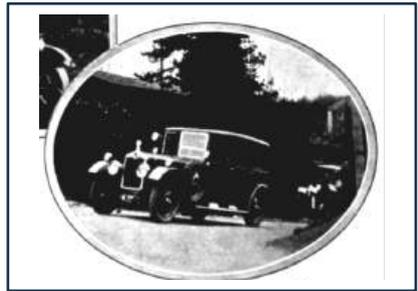
As the 1920s progressed, hopes that a railway could finally come to Tatsfield were kept alive. In January and February 1926, the issue had been where the station should be. In March, the Parish Council was lobbying the District Council for financial assistance for the proposed

**THE BETTER CLASS:**  
Mr. V. Richards raised the ire of some present by saying that there would be an influx of riff-raffs with the coming of the railway, who would be content to live in hovels or the meanest kind of houses the District Council allowed. They wanted better class people, and they ought to make the village attractive for them. Refuse was dumped in various parts; a proper dumping ground should

Southern Heights Light Railway. However, there was no unanimity. As the Westerham Herald reported, one parish councillor was concerned that the arrival of a railway service would bring “riff-raffs” to Tatsfield, content to “live in hovels”.

Another issue that came up again in April was whether there was a public right-of-way for vehicles across Westmore Green from Redhouse Road to Lusted Hall Lane. It was planned to block the route by stopping access where today there are indeed posts at the end of Redhouse Road. At the April meeting one member insisted that the route had been used for 40 years for wheeled traffic. “Moreover,” he said, “a dead body had been carried across the green, which further strengthened the claim”.

At the annual church meeting in the middle of the month, it was reported that the number of communicants at Easter had been the largest recorded - 118. That was one in eight of the population. More than £24 – the equivalent of nearly £1,300 in today’s money - had been raised for the church maintenance fund.



At the end of April, Tatsfield also found its way into a national ‘society’ magazine which published a picture captioned: “a 21 h.p Lanchester rising out of Tatsfield to Cudham, Kent”. The connection with Tatsfield was not explained. I wonder whether any classic car enthusiast in Tatsfield has an idea of what that connection may have been.

And finally, would you be interested in taking part in the **Tatsfield History Project**? We’re a small, informal group and you may have some fresh ideas on what we should be doing. If so, please get in touch.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project**

**Email:** [tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:tatsfield.history@talk21.com) **Tel:** 577376

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



## FAIRTRADE BOOST SUPPORT FOR COCOA FARMERS

Fairtrade cocoa farmers and cooperatives are set to benefit from increased premiums and a new safety net as they navigate the ‘perfect storm’ of challenges, including climate change, volatile markets, and rising costs, according to an announcement made in December 2025 by Fairtrade International.

The new Fairtrade Minimum Price increases the safety net by 45% dependent on country of production, with additional hikes in the Fairtrade Premium paid to farmers and the differential to organic producers. The new payments, which will go into effect in 2026, come after higher minimum prices for most cocoa-producing countries were announced earlier this year. Special arrangements were also put in place for Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, where prices are regulated by the government.

Cocoa prices crashed from a high of around \$12,000 per tonne in 2024 to current levels less than \$6,000 a tonne. Even when prices rise, cocoa farmers don’t always benefit because gains can be wiped out by extreme weather, crop disease, and inflation. There is an additional 50% uplift in the organic differential for Fairtrade organic cocoa producers who face higher costs from compliance with forthcoming EU organic farming regulations. “We hope that the new, higher organic differential will act as an incentive



for those farmers considering a switch to conventional cocoa to remain organic and to invest more in organic production,” says Johanna Schmidt, Cocoa Manager at Fairtrade International.



“Despite relatively high global cocoa prices, the future for Fairtrade cocoa farmers has never been less certain,” says Schmidt. “Fairtrade can’t do this alone - we call on every part of the cocoa industry to work with us to minimise market volatility and create a long-term, sustainable future for both conventional and organic cocoa farmers who have been exploited for far too long. Shoppers can also play their part by sending a powerful message when they choose to buy Fairtrade chocolate.”



So, if you choose to buy chocolate carrying the Fairtrade mark, then you can be certain that the communities who tend and care for the cocoa trees, which take 7 years to bear fruit, will be receiving more protection in 2026 as they try to meet the challenges of a changing climate, volatile markets and rising costs of production.

Thank you for supporting Fairtrade – look for the mark in Sheree’s Stores, Oxfam, Greggs and all local supermarkets. We look forward to meeting you at our **Tea Tent on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** in the morning by Sheree’s Stores.



**Hilary Vale, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group**  
[tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com) [tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com](http://tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com)



## CHARTWELL CANCER TRUST PETITION NEARS 30,000

**PRUH petition nears 30,000 as patient and charity founder warn against losing local inpatient haematology care.** Local residents and patients have voiced concern about NHS proposals that would remove dedicated inpatient haematology cancer beds at Princess Royal

University Hospital (PRUH) and centralise inpatient admissions at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill. The community petition received nearly 30,000 signatures, as the NHS undertook a formal stakeholder engagement process which concluded on 16 March.

Bromley-based haematology patient Matthew Venner has been receiving outpatient treatment — and, at times, inpatient care — at the Chartwell Unit at PRUH since his diagnosis in December 2023. Reflecting on what the unit has meant for him during this time, Matthew said: “Within the Chartwell wards, I have a whole team of people whose vocation it is to look after me; to ensure that I have the best treatment and the best care possible. Chartwell quickly became my safe place. The staff got to know me; they have seen me at my weakest and most vulnerable, and I trust them. Once I'm there, it's very easy for me to have visitors, and my children can pop in after school. What I have learned through all of this is that cancer care is not simply about drugs, drips and diagnostic tests. It is about proximity. It is about familiarity. It is about being known.”

Matthew explained that the day-to-day reality of treatment requires both outpatient care and the assurance of easy-to-reach, co-located inpatient bed capacity — a distinction he said is not reflected in the proposals: “Most of our care happens as an outpatient, sitting on the blue chairs, receiving chemotherapy or other IV treatments before going home that same day. But having the inpatient ward close to where we live is vital, too. If I spike a temperature, I must go to A&E at the PRUH straight away and, from there, it's a three-minute walk down the corridor to the Chartwell ward, with the help of a friendly porter. No waits for hospital transfers. No uncomfortable and long road journeys. It's as good as you can get.”

Michael Douglas, founder of The Chartwell Cancer Trust — a long-standing funding partner of the Chartwell Unit since 2005, emphasised the importance of the inpatient ward: “The Chartwell inpatient ward is not a marginal service. It is a core part of this district hospital, consistently full and frequently oversubscribed. Specialist haematology staff manage urgent and complex cases: severe infection, acute complications, sudden deterioration. Many patients are elderly. Many are frail. Many require close monitoring overnight. Most of the patients admitted to Chartwell are not there for cutting-edge, experimental treatment. These are not patients seeking specialist trials; they are patients who need a bed quickly and safely. The ward enables loved ones to reach the bedside without long and costly journeys. PRUH serves not only Bromley, but Biggin Hill, Tatsfield, St Mary's Cray and other communities where transport is limited and journeys are already difficult.”

Michael added: “The Trust says these proposals are guided by equity of access. Equity matters. But equity cannot mean making urgent care harder to reach. I do not oppose improvement, modernisation or specialist centres where they are necessary. But I cannot support the removal of vital inpatient cancer care without clear, transparent and evidence-based assurances that patients will not face greater risk or burden. If services are to be centralised, the community is entitled to a detailed and practical explanation of how current Chartwell patients will be admitted as quickly and cared for as safely as they are now. That level of clarity is essential before decisions are taken.”

Chartwell Cancer Trust has been collecting testimony, maintaining the community petition and engaging with local scrutiny and elected representatives since proposals emerged in August 2025. The charity is currently preparing a formal submission as part of the ongoing NHS engagement period.

- **KCH Proposals link:** <https://www.kch.nhs.uk/news/proposed-changes-to-haematology-cancer-care-at-the-princess-royal-university-hospital/>
- **The Chartwell Petition link:** <https://chn.g.it/LScTZjXfFW>



We are incredibly grateful for the support of local supermarkets helping fund our work.

**Co-op Local Community Fund** Chosen until October 2026 to support expansion of our AV1 Robot programme. Members can select us as their cause in stores including Biggin Hill, Coney Hall and Orpington. Every shop and token makes a difference. Not a member? Joining is quick via the Co-op App or at [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership).

**Tesco Stronger Starts** We have already received £1,500 thanks to customer voting - with further opportunities available before the end of March, offering further opportunities to win up to £1,500:

- In support of our AV1 Robot appeal: Grove Park, Lewisham, Bellingham, Downham, Hither Green, and Catford.
- In support of our Childhood Cancer Support Groups: Purley Extra, Sanderstead Express, Coulsdon Express, and Croydon Express.

Shoppers can vote using in-store tokens - every token helps change young lives.

**Waitrose Community Matters** From October to December 2025, Waitrose stores in Caterham and Oxted supported us through their Community Matters programme. Customers voted using the familiar green token system, including donations from convenience stores. If you would like to nominate us as part of the scheme, please pop into Waitrose Customer Services or give your local store a call.

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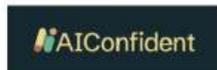
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