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

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

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COUNCIL CONTACTS

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clerk@tatsfieldpc.org.uk (07483 337461)

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

Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

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

Surrey County Councillor • Cllr Jacquie Thomson

OTHER CONTACTS

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Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Cover image: Thank you to Sheree Cook.

EDITORIAL

Noticing the Small Things: The Quiet Power of Everyday Kindness

Everyday our attention is eaten up by the big, loud things; the news, our busy schedules, and long to-do lists. It can be bewildering and stressful.

But, when we pause and look around our village, we find that life's richest blessings lie in small, quiet details so easily overlooked.

A morning walk through our parish reveals countless small wonders: the autumn dew on a spider's web, the shifting colours of the trees, or the comforting chime of our church bells on a Sunday morning across the North Downs. Noticing these tiny details costs nothing and helps us to rest in the peace of God's creation. Nature enriches our spirit and fills our senses.

Also, when we notice one another, we strengthen our community. A friendly wave across the road, holding a gate open, or asking a neighbour "How are you doing?" and truly waiting for the answer – these small acts of kindness are important. Then, when we are feeling alone, or going through a difficult season, we know that we are seen and valued – part of our village family.

In a world that so often measures worth by scale and achievement, small acts of kindness remind us of a different economy – one where a shared cup of tea, a thoughtful note, or a moment of patient listening can brighten an entire week.

By slowing down, opening our eyes to the small things, and offering small kindnesses whenever we can, we help weave a community rooted in grace; that generous love that reaches out.

We all know individuals and groups who already do this in our village; we are so thankful for the joy and warmth you bring.

But we can all do with a little of this slowing down and noticing; and kindness is a gift we can all share.

Blessings, Reverend Debra





RUPERT EALES-WHITE

On Tuesday 8th September, a packed Tatsfield Church said goodbye to one of its community for over 30 years. Rupert Martin Ditmus Eales-White, a truly memorable and loving man, that you don't forget meeting. He was a regular at the allotment, singing his heart out in the choir and generally bringing character to the village of Tatsfield. He loved spending time in the village, stopping in to chat to Sheree

(and previously Linda), eating his snacks by the pond. You would see him ambling to the allotment with his dog or years back running along the roads oblivious to passers-by. He leaves behind his wife Jessie, his three children Soph, Edward and Jessica and his five grandchildren who he loved dearly - Scarlett, Rae, Madeleine, Arley and Henry. He was a one of a kind and will be missed by all who knew him.

Thank you to everyone who could attend the service.

Soph Eales-White

LETTERS

Dear Editor

With the recent interest in the Bayeux Tapestry - due to its arrival and exhibition in London - a recent newspaper article linked me to a website that offered more details on the Domesday book (1086) - in which I was surprised to see Tatsfield getting a mention. For parishioners' amusement I thought I would share this through the Parish Magazine as Bishop Odo (who ran the Tandridge - Tatol/Tatsfield) area was the half-brother of William the Conqueror and seems to have a somewhat brutalist reputation. Indeed, he is recorded in the Tapestry (in which he seems to have had a role commissioning).

The Domesday Book (1086) details on Tatsfield extract include: Tatsfield (Tatol) in 1086 had a population of 26 households putting it in the largest 40% of households recorded in the Domesday book. Tatsfield had five villagers, nine smallholdings and twelve slaves, with one Lord's plough team and one men's plough team. The area was controlled by the aforementioned Bishop Odo of Bayeaux.

TATSFIELD

Tatsfield was a settlement in Domesday Book, in the hundred of [Tandridge](#) and the county of [Surrey](#).

It had a recorded population of 26 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded in Domesday.

Land of Bishop Odo of Bayeux

Households ⓘ
Household: 5 villagers, 9 smallholders, 12 slaves.

Land and resources ⓘ
Ploughland: 1 lord's plough team, 1 men's plough team.

Valuation ⓘ
Annual value to lord: 3 pounds in 1086; 2 pounds when acquired by the 1086 owner; 1 pound 10 shillings in 1086.

Owners ⓘ
Tenant-in-chief in 1086: [Bishop Odo of Bayeux](#).
Lord in 1086: [Anskott of Rots](#).
Created in 1066: [King Edward](#).
Lord in 1066: [Aelfric](#).

Other information ⓘ
Pallimore reference: [Surrey 5A](#)



View on page: [Surrey folio 5A](#)

Before the Norman Conquest in 1066, a lord named Aelfric held the manor of Tatsfield, which was located inside the Hundred of Tandridge. While Tandridge sits right on the border of Kent, it is historically and officially a county district and ancient "hundred" in Surrey. A search on Lord Aelfric in 1066 in the **Open Domesday Database** (www.opendomesday.org) records the following specific transition for this manor after William the Conqueror's invasion:

- 1066 Lord: Aelfric, who held the land freely from King Edward the Confessor.
- 1086 Tenant-in-Chief: Odo, Bishop of Bayeux (the half-brother of William the Conqueror, who seized vast swaths of land across Surrey and Kent).
- 1086 Lord (Subtenant): Ansketil of Rots, a Norman knight who took over the day-to-day control of Tatsfield from Aelfric

A separate search on Ansketil of Rots (also called Anquetil de Ros) revealed he was a Norman landowner in 11th-century England. His name comes from Rots, a place near Caen in France. Ansketil is recorded in the Open Domesday survey from 1086 as a lord or sub-tenant holding about 20 manors across Kent, Surrey, and Hertfordshire (including places such as Tatsfield, Deal, Maidstone and Hoo). He served as an under-tenant rather than a primary tenant-in-chief, managing local manors and paying tax to higher lords under major tenants-in-chief like Bishop Odo of Bayeux.



Bishop Odo sitting on the left in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and Earl of Kent, was perhaps the most feared and hated man in England during the late 1060s and throughout the 1070s, with a black and brutal reputation as his half-brother's enforcer. Odo was a close advisor and half-brother of King William the Conqueror, playing an important role before, during and after the Norman Conquest of 1066, even being famously present at Hastings itself.



Bishop Odo seen on the right leading his knights in the Bayeux Tapestry.

There is an interesting 25-minute History Hub programme available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EFka-bylZY>) titled **Bishop Odo of Bayeux: the BRUTAL Half Brother of William the Conqueror** – it's definitely worth watching.

Mike Pendleton

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on 14th September when, after the summer August break, we had several planning applications to consider. It was also a pleasure to welcome and hear from three local councillors, Jacqui Thomson from Surrey County Council, Jeremy Pursehouse from East Surrey and, of course, Martin Allen from TDC.

PLANNING

TA/2026/825 Land to the rear of Barn Cottage, Westmore Green This application is for the demolition of an existing barn and outbuildings and the erection of a replacement dwelling with a new parking area and landscaping at land to the rear of Barn Cottage, Westmore Green. The defined village boundary runs through the Barn Cottage plot, with the barn and location of the proposed dwelling positioned outside the defined village in the Green Belt. Barn Cottage itself is within the boundary. A previous planning application in 2019 was turned down by TDC on the grounds of inappropriate development in the Green Belt. This current new build would see an even larger volume increase of 25% on the refused 2019 proposal through the addition of a second storey with windows facing adjacent properties and gardens leading to a potential loss of privacy for both Barn Cottage and The White House. It would result in a building which is materially much larger than the one it replaces, and again, therefore, constitutes inappropriate development in the Green Belt. No special circumstances have been demonstrated, and the proposal is contrary to all relevant planning policies. A further point raised at the PC meeting was the inevitable detrimental effect of the single lane shared driveway with The White House. Recommendation: **Objection**

TA/2026/732 2 Sunnybank, Old Lane Proposed front landscaping works to reconfigure the front garden wall and entrance steps next to the existing garage. Recommendation: **No Comment**

TA/2026/937 and TA/2026/993 Greensleeves, Ricketts Hill Road Single-storey rear extension under Permitted Development to the existing house. The extension of 3.0 by 4.2 metres will provide additional ground floor living accommodation, ancillary to the use of the property as a single dwelling. Recommendation: **No Comment**

TA/2026/595 Land adjacent to Cedar Cottage, Ninehams Road Erection of one self-build dwelling and associated parking and landscaping. This plan was presented to the July meeting and the PC objected strongly to it. Recommendation: **No Further Comment**

TA/2026//839 The Briars, Ninehams Road Erection of rear extension to single-storey detached dwelling located at the far end of Ninehams Road, outside the defined village. This extension will demolish an earlier rear extension. It falls within the realms of permitted development under the larger home extension rules. Recommendation: **No Comment**

TA/2026/786 Sunnyside, 17 Paynesfield Road Erection of single-storey side extension to form new bathroom. This semi-detached house has its entrance located on the side via a small porch. The proposed extension wraps round the porch and adds a small wet

room. It represents a modest increase in footprint and floorspace; a proportionate addition with negligible impact on the neighbour. Recommendation: **No Comment**

FURZE CORNER The PC received a progress report on issues relating to the Furze Corner project. There had been a few hold-ups during the summer months, particularly negotiations with TDC about accessing funding. Also heatwave conditions had slowed down progress on looking after the cricket square, but bramble clearing has been completed by the PC to help prepare the football pitch area. On the bright side, Biggin Hill Football Club (BHFC) has been actively preparing the site for the football season which has now started. There are lots of outstanding issues which the steering group is actively involved with, particularly in relation to the site lease and legal requirements to unlock various sources of funding. As mentioned many times before, if anyone would like to join the steering group to help take these matters forward, please do get in touch with Jason Syrett or Martin Elmer.

TATOL BED The refurbishment of the Tatol bed in Approach Road has recently been completed by Ian Hayman and Tatsfield Aquatics. With a new tiered flower bed system slightly further back from the road, the whole area should become much more resilient to prevent future damage from any road incidents. Many thanks to Ian and his team.



MUSICAL BINGO NIGHT A big thank you must go to Tina and all at The Olde Ship on Thursday 10th September for hosting the Musical Bingo night. Also to Greg Watkins for compering. It was a great success, everybody enjoyed the occasion and over £1000 was raised towards the new children's playground on Westmore Green. The GoFundMe page is still up and running and we do still need some more contributions to finally get us up to the £10,000 needed. Please scan the QR code here to donate.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE Our remembrance service this year is being undertaken in conjunction with St Mary's Church on Remembrance Sunday itself and will be held at **11.00am on Sunday 8th November**. Please put it in your diary now and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible from about 10.30 on the **memorial green in the village centre**.

DON'T FORGET...Our Halloween event, **5.00pm on Saturday 31st October** at the Picnic Area on Westmore Green.

AND FINALLY...The annual Christmas Lights switch-on will take place on the Green at **5.00pm on Saturday 5th December**. Another date for the diary!

David Pinchin – Vice Chair, Tatsfield Parish Council

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN The local plan is moving apace with numbers of responses around the 2,500 mark, this is a good number and represents a good communication from residents and businesses in Tandridge. You will not be surprised to hear that the protection of the green belt and countryside and incorporating infrastructure needs features most

strongly in the opinions shared. There appears to be a strong option for No.4 which was a capacity-led dispersed growth across the settlements throughout the district but with an additional strategic component of around 2,250 dwellings at Redhill. Like the South Godstone village from the previous plan the inclusion of Redhill aerodrome has not gone down too well with the residents and Councillors from there. Current legal advice shared with us suggests that we must plan to deliver at least 80% of our Housing requirements set by the government within our local plan - 780 a year.

Both the Green belt assessments and the Housing Economic Land Availability Assessments are nearing completion so it is hoped that we will still be able to meet the end of year target for submitting the Local Plan.

The Green belt assessment Stage 1 review assessed 47 green belt parcels with the strongest Purpose C performing quite strongly everywhere within the district, except where there is an urbanising influence.

NATIONAL SCHEME OF DELEGATION The new national scheme of delegation will come into force on 31st October 2026 and will alter **planning decision making**. A report will come to a September meeting making the position clear. But it will mean that after this date local councillors will not be allowed to call in applications meaning that the great majority of applications will be decided under delegated powers to Officers. ***A further slap in the face to localism.***

I am now working more closely with Group Leaders and Senior Officers in monthly meetings to try and get TDC ready for a smooth takeover. What has arisen from this closer scrutiny is that it has thrown up other “enforcement cases” in Tatsfield and Titsey than I was aware of. I have followed up asking for updates on them all as it would be good if I could close them all off before vesting day.

BIFFA AND FREEDOM LEISURE We delved deeply into the workings of both **BIFFA** and **Freedom Leisure** to try and improve their services. We have been successful with Biffa but alas not with Freedom Leisure yet. At Freedom Leisure there has been a lot of work done getting the boilers back to working order as there have been some weeks without heat either in the pool or in the showers. TDC are currently investigating what will need to be invested to get this back to normal.

SOCIAL HOUSING TDC have taken on specialist advisors to try and get out of the D grading that the **Social Housing Regulator** has placed on us. It is a costly exercise, but hopes are high that it will keep us out of administration.

OTHER BUSINESS Work as usual continues at TDC, albeit slowly. I have a meeting with the CE, GL on Wednesday 16th October where we will continue to discuss the Local Government Reorganisation. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced a review of their Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme. While they have confirmed that **LGR will continue in Surrey as planned**, they have made the decision to pause LGR in sixteen areas and withdraw it in four others. ***Go figure!*** Both Councils have now employed senior personnel in the

statutory positions, and it seems that regular meetings are now taking place as we progress from local to the East Surrey Council.

A quiet August apart from IG and GL meetings has turned into a busy September with PP, S&R, PPWG and A&S meetings scheduled.

I continue to report **overflies** of the NSA with four occurring in both August and September so far. Cllr Pinchin and I are waiting details of the moving south of the NSA and we hope to have some positive news on this later in the year.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will see an update that I received from Surrey County Council about Titsey Road. So, fingers crossed.

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT ALL OF OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES who will continue to need us to show our support to them to ensure that they continue to operate well into the future.

On your part I would ask that you consider the things that make this village what it is and why you choose to live here. There are many societies and clubs that operate across the range most of whom could use a little more volunteer help from you. Please consider helping them.

Cllr Martin Allen Tel: 01959 577201

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

TITSEY ROAD

Dear Councillor Martin Allen, Thank you for enquiry.

I have spoken with the engineers working on Titsey Road, who have informed me that specialist testing was carried out last week - w/c 7th September. This was a combination of immediate and longer-term investigations to monitor the area over an extended period, check for any ongoing movement, and identify any anomalies.

The team are planning to undertake a temporary carriageway resurfacing that will enable the road to be fully reopened to traffic without the need for any lane closures. We anticipate that these works will take place throughout October and will issue out communications regarding these works in due course.

Following this, the engineers will continue to monitor the situation from a geotechnical perspective and develop a more robust long-term structural solution. However, this process may take some time.

In the meantime, our aim is to minimise disruption to residents by safely reopening the road to full traffic while the design and planning of the permanent works are progressed.

We will continue to keep the situation under review and will provide further updates as the project progresses or if any significant developments arise.

Sign up to [‘Your Highways Update’](#) to stay up to date with highways information for your local area.

Kind regards, Works Communication Team, Surrey Highways and Transport

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

Before I begin, I would like to share some personal news. My family and I are feeling very blessed as we are expecting our second child very soon. I will be taking some time off to get back on my feet, but my highly capable team will be on hand to help anyone who needs it – so please do continue to keep in touch at **claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk**.

The Edenbridge & Oxted Show was a wonderful finale to a lovely summer packed with activities throughout the constituency. To see the quality of husbandry and the stewardship our farmers have over our countryside was sublime. But the past year has been extremely tough. Fertiliser, seed, energy, labour – all basic inputs for farming have shot up. This is incredibly serious. Food security is national security. These are conversations I will take back to Westminster with me. Huge well done to the Trustees for putting on such a fantastic show – and special shoutout to Trustee Stewart Walker for being my buggy driver on the day!

After months of lobbying and my cross-party meeting with the Housing and Planning Minister in June, I'm very pleased the Government has now confirmed they will consider a number of my recommendations to bear down on unauthorised traveller developments. The first is a cross-governmental task force; the second, a new construction offence for any company that supplies construction materials or mobile housing units to unauthorised developments; and third, consolidated and updated statutory guidance. You can read the letter I wrote to the Government in August to welcome these considerations and to push for tougher action on my Facebook page.

And finally, with Parliament back in full swing, I'm very pleased to share that Kemi Badenoch has appointed me as the Shadow Business Secretary and Deputy to the new Conservative Economic Unit. I want to make our economy work for those who pour their blood, sweat and tears into their businesses - and for those who are doing a hard day's work, week after week, without feeling like they're getting enough back. Alongside the Shadow Chancellor and the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, within the Economic Unit I will be focused on reducing the cost of living and creating a stronger economy by leading a radical reset in how we think about business and enterprise.

claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.



1ST TATSFIELD SCOUTS

During the summer break, and for the first time in many years, Tatsfield Scouts went international! A small group of our young people and our Leaders joined up with the whole of Surrey Scouts to take roughly 500 young people from across the county to KISC, Kanderstag International Scout Centre in Switzerland.



The Scouts enjoyed activities such as hiking through sunny mountain passes, high ropes, river rafting, swimming and a slightly lower walk through the clouds.

Many new friendships were made, and the Scouts (and Leaders) experienced some great activities, camped under the stars and enjoyed the entire week. I think it's safe to say that everyone had a fantastic time.

If you think you would like to take part in some fantastic experiences such as this, Tatsfield Scout Group are currently seeking volunteers for all sections. Please do get in touch to find out a bit more about the group and how your time could make a difference to the young people of our community.

For a chat about how you can get involved give SJ a call on 07966 227202 or email tatsfieldscouting@gmail.com

Thank you, 1st Tatsfield Scouts

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

After a couple of months of being out and about it was good to be back in the WI Hall. It really felt that Summer was over as we all arrived rather soggy wet, but in good spirits. Despite this our monthly meeting was well attended.

Members had time for a chat and catch up before a light lunch of my very own "rustic! chicken casserole", followed by a "rhubarb something", and wonderful cakes baked by Pam. We were then challenged by Claire who produced a great quiz. The raffle ended the meeting with a variety of prizes including three excellent table-top floral displays produced by talented Tina.

It was still raining when we left!

Our meetings, as usual, are on the second Tuesday of the month. Please contact Sue Dowse if you would like to join us (Email: notsoyoung100@gmail.com; Tel: 07816110929).

Keep safe, Jackie Shaw and Sue Dowse

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

As we began the start of the Autumn term, it was fantastic to welcome several new starters and their families into Little Acorns.

It was also lovely hearing about all of children's adventures over the summer break and was great to welcome them back!

We have exciting plans for this term, with discovering Space and the Earth. We've had fun creating playdough aliens and decorating them with various materials. We have also been looking at Spaceships & Rockets and getting involved in activities based on the planets!



The children have enjoyed using the resources for outdoor play while the weather is still nice and have been practising their balancing and hand/eye coordination skills with great success!

We still have some places available for an immediate start. Please email office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk to

book your visit. We would love to show you around our preschool! **The Little Acorns Team**



COSY CRAFTERS

TUESDAYS AT 2.00PM, SHEREE'S STORE AND TEAROOM

Thank you to Sheree Cook for our cover image showing some of the wonderfully cute and creative items made by Tatsfield's crafters.



MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



The nursery have had an amazing month exploring everything animals! Babies have been loving their new 'brief case', they use this for open ended activities, which have a real focus on their interests/themes. Toddlers/Preschool have



also been exploring animals, from 'dinosaur worlds' to 'under the sea' water trays. This also ties in nicely with our Artist of the month Dave White, Franz Marc and Giles Ward.

We practice In The Moment Planning, which is a child-led teaching approach where educators observe a child's spontaneous interests and extend their learning right then and there, rather than following rigid, pre-planned weekly themes or topics.



Forest School Holiday Club We have spaces available for 5–8-year-olds to join in the holidays: 19th, 22nd, 26th and 28th October!

We now offer extended sessions (time slots), contact us for more information.

Are you looking for childcare? We offer a high standard of care to children aged 3 months to 5 years old. Providing a range of fun and exciting activities, both indoors and outdoors all year around, exploring our local environment and all it offers on local trips, celebrating all traditions and cultures. **We have spaces available here at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield**, if you are interested and want to book a tour of the nursery, please contact us. **Phone: 01959928427. Email: manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk**

AN EVENING WITH OWLS

Tatsfield Village Hall, Sunday 11th October, 6pm

An Evening with Owls is coming back to Tatsfield Village Hall. Join us for a magical evening in the company of our beautiful owls. From little to large, step into their world as they fly just inches over your head.



Discover the hidden lives of these secretive birds as we travel the world meeting owls from frozen forests and sun-baked grasslands. **Tickets available at: <https://www.owlndraptorcentre.co.uk/eveningwithowls>**

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

We would like to offer a very warm welcome to all the children and families who have started at Tatsfield Primary School this year.

Our youngest members of the school have begun their first exciting adventure in Wren Class. We have been incredibly impressed by the resilience and growing confidence they have demonstrated during their first few weeks at school. They have settled into school life smoothly and happily, and it has been wonderful getting to know both the children and their families.



The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their fantastic classroom environment, both indoors and outdoors, and have embraced new experiences with enthusiasm and curiosity.



A particularly memorable milestone was when each child had the opportunity to ring the school bell to mark their very first day at Tatsfield Primary School. It was a special moment for the children and one that we hope will remain a cherished memory. The next time they ring the bell will be at the end of Year 6, as they celebrate the completion of their Tatsfield Primary School journey.

What Next?

Looking for a job?

VOLUNTEERS OFFER THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE TO FACILITATE YOUR JOURNEY

Support on a one to one basis includes:

- CV and job applications
- interview preparation
- deciding career objectives
- finding relevant sectors/companies



Contact: jobcluboxteddistrict@gmail.com

An Initiative of Churches Together Oxted District and Titsey Rotary Club

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

It's the 20th anniversary of North Downs Sinfonia this year, so there will be an extra special concert on Saturday 14th November at 7.30pm.

We start with a specially commissioned piece, the North Downs Overture, composed by **Daniel Pengelly**, who has been our Young Soloist twice. Daniel performed for us in 2020 (when he was 14), and in 2025 he played his own composition, his Flute Concerto No 2. A talented composer, he is now at music college, and has composed this piece especially for NDS, so this is the world premiere, and (from the rehearsals) I can tell you that this is not to be missed!

Then we have two of our very favourite soloists. **Mariela Cingo** (who first played for us as long ago as November 2010) will be playing the much loved, and much played, Scherzo from Litolff's Concerto Symphonique No 4. **Haru Ushigusa** will be playing the Vaughan Williams 'Lark Ascending'. This regularly tops the classical music charts and was the very first piece that she ever played for NDS in November 2018. To our delight she has been back on several occasions since, on the last occasion playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

After the interval, as a complete contrast, the orchestra will be playing the Emilie Mayer Symphony No 1. Female composers are rarely heard these days, which is a great shame, as many deserve to be heard much more. As a result, the May concert next year will be devoted to female composers, and what a treat that will be.

Tickets are £13 or £11 for concessions (both to include a programme) and may be obtained as usual by emailing **northdownssinfonia@gmail.com**, or by texting/telephoning **07732 724180**. We look forward to seeing you.

Peter Maynard

TATSFIELD CRICKET 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield Cricket 100 Club for **August 2026**:

1 st Prize	Pete Small	£42.00
2 nd Prize	Pete Harrison	£28.00
3 rd Prize	Justin Naughton	£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**.

Les Eames

TATSFIELD MARTIAL ARTS – SUMMER UPDATE

It has been a busy few months for the club, even though we took a well-deserved two-week break from training. Here are some of our summer highlights.

Sunday 28th June, Kent International Three of our members competed at the Kent International. Kayden Plinston won bronze in the U73kg Junior Men's category (18–21 years). Harvey Davy, competing in the same group as Kayden, didn't pick up a medal this year but did earn 10 points towards his 2nd Dan black belt. Ben Davy, Harvey's father, fought up a weight category in the U90kg Veterans (over 30s), finishing fifth and narrowly missing out on a medal.

Saturday 4th July, Summer Social We held our annual Summer Social, giving past and present club members and their families a chance to catch up, as well as giving our junior members the opportunity to mix away from the mats. Thanks to all the staff at The Ship for looking after us – it was an extremely busy (and very hot!) day.

Sunday 5th July, Croydon JC Competition Eleven of our junior members took part in Croydon Judo Club's annual competition. Between them, they picked up three silver and eight bronze medals. Archie Plunkett also won the *Spirit of Judo* award in recognition of his attitude and effort throughout the day.

Sunday 12th July, Surrey Veterans Open Ben Davy and Matt Smyth both competed at the Surrey Veterans Open, with both coming away with bronze medals. This was particularly pleasing for Matt, who has only recently returned to judo after a 20-year break.



Tuesday 14th July, Self-Defence Course

I was in London providing a bespoke self-defence and personal protection course for the ladies of BW Construction, as part of Women in Construction Week. These courses are becoming increasingly popular with companies in the city, and we have delivered several of them this year.

Saturday 19th July, National Dan Grading

Kayden Plinston entered a National Dan Grading organised by Surrey Judo. Winning two contests and drawing one, he picked up another 20 points towards his 3rd Dan black belt –

leaving him with just 50 points to go!

Morgan Baker, National Success Morgan has had a particularly good couple of months, picking up some major medals at high-level competitions. He won gold at the West of

England Open on 19th July, a GB ranking event, and then on Saturday 5th September he came second at the English Championships, winning silver and earning a place on the England Judo Squad. This is a fantastic achievement for Morgan and the club and means that Tatsfield Martial Arts has now produced two national medallists and two England squad members – an incredible achievement for our little club!

The remaining months of this year will focus on gradings for all our judo and jujitsu students, both juniors and seniors.

In November, we have our annual interclub competition in the village hall, which is always the highlight of the year for me. After that, we'll have a short break over Christmas before getting started again in the New Year.

It's been a fantastic summer for the club, both on and off the mats, and there's plenty more to look forward to!

Adam Plinston

TATSFIELD WI

Tatsfield WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the WI Hall, Paynesfield Road.



*Photo by Unknown
Author, licensed
under CC BY-SA*

We had a rather special guest at our September WI meeting. Mr Charles Dickens, in full costume regaled us with tales of his early life from a rather privileged son of a middle class family to residing in Marshalsea Prison for Debtors and how he started writing stories about the people he met along the way.

Also this month 22 members enjoyed a great Afternoon Tea at the Lookout in Biggin Hill. Next month on **Tuesday October 6th** at 1pm we will have our Harvest Lunch.

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 new to the village or lived here for ages and 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

TATSFIELD GARDENING CLUB DISCOVERS THE SECRETS OF NATURAL FIRST AID

On Tuesday 8th September, members of Tatsfield Gardening Club enjoyed a fascinating and very practical talk on 'Natural First Aid', presented by Elaine Roberts from Wild and Pure.



Elaine introduced us to four familiar plants — Plantain, Mallow, Yarrow and Comfrey — and showed us that some of the plants growing quietly around us can have a surprising number of traditional uses and benefits.

The evening focused particularly on their traditional uses for first aid, giving members plenty to think about as they look at the plants growing in their gardens, hedgerows and local countryside.



One of the most memorable tips of the evening was Elaine's 'scrunch and spit' remedy. She explained that some plants can be chewed or scrunched in the mouth, as mixing the plant material with saliva changes its texture, making it more slippery or 'slimy' and easier to apply traditionally to minor cuts, bites and stings. It was certainly an unusual tip — and one that is unlikely to be forgotten by those who were there!

We also had the chance to see Elaine in action. During the talk, a member of the audience developed a small rash on her hand, providing an unexpected opportunity for a practical demonstration. Elaine used some Plantain on the affected area, allowing us to see first-hand how the plant could be prepared and applied. It was a great example of how an evening of theory could suddenly become very hands-on!

And it wasn't just about things to put on the outside of the body. Elaine had thoughtfully prepared a Plantain, Mallow and Yarrow tea, providing everyone with a sample to taste. The tea was particularly welcome for anyone suffering from a sore or dry throat, and gave us another opportunity to experience the plants for ourselves. It was a gentle and refreshing addition to an evening packed with interesting information.

We learnt about Plantain, a common and often overlooked plant, traditionally valued for soothing minor skin irritations and insect bites. Mallow, with its soft and soothing qualities, has also been used traditionally for calming irritated skin, while Yarrow has a long history of traditional herbal use. Finally, we heard about Comfrey, another plant with a long-standing place in traditional herbal practice.

To round off the evening, John Albutt took the opportunity to open the floor for a question-and-answer session. Members were invited to ask any general gardening questions, and John shared his helpful advice and experience, with the recent heatwave

having presented plenty of challenges for gardeners. It was a useful and informative way to finish the evening, with plenty of practical tips for taking home and putting into practice.

There may even be an opportunity to take our learning out into the countryside. Elaine would love to organise a foraging walk in late spring or early summer next year, giving members the chance to discover some of the useful plants growing locally and learn more about identifying and using them. So, if that sounds like your kind of adventure, look out for further details from Tatsfield Gardening Club!

What made the evening particularly enjoyable was the combination of traditional herbal knowledge, practical demonstrations and the opportunity to share gardening experiences. Elaine's enthusiasm encouraged us to look more closely at the natural world around us, while John's question-and-answer session brought us back to the everyday challenges faced by gardeners. Plants that we might normally dismiss as weeds suddenly seemed rather more interesting!

A big thank you to Elaine for sharing her knowledge, enthusiasm and practical tips, and to John Albutt and Tatsfield Gardening Club for another enjoyable and informative evening. It certainly left many of us looking at our gardens — and the countryside around Tatsfield — with fresh eyes.



If you would like any further information regarding Wild and Pure, please visit their website www.wildandpure.net. And of course, keep up to date with Tatsfield

Gardening Club and future events at www.tatsfieldgardeningclub.org.uk.

Join us for our next event on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7.30pm in the WI Hall - **Plants for Free** - a talk and demonstration by Jon Allbut on how to take hardwood cuttings. Tea and biscuits available for small contribution on the door.

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**

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

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

ST MARY'S MATTERS

SUNDAY SERVICES Our main Sunday service with hymns is at 10am followed by refreshments in the Millennium Hall. All are welcome. On Sunday 11th October, Archdeacon Revd Geoff Dumbreck will be preaching.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND Please contact Revd Debra at 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 stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

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

ST MARY'S SUNDAY TEAS Our ever-popular Teas season has now concluded. Thanks to Eleanor and all the volunteers who helped make this another successful year.

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 'BRING AND SHARE HARVEST LUNCH' Join us at 10am for a Harvest themed Holy Communion service with hymns led by Revd Debra Elsdon. Following this there will be an informal 'Bring & Share' Harvest Lunch in the Millennium Hall. ***A 'sign up' sheet will be available at the back of the church for those who would like to come to list what food they can bring and share.*** Please note our Church will be open all day to view Harvest displays.

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 3PM ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE Annual Ecumenical Service followed by refreshments. We particularly welcome members of the local Roman Catholic community to mark our historical connection.



SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 3.30PM ALL SOULS SERVICE Revd Debra Elsdon will lead a short service to remember those we have loved and see no more, as we gather to share our sadness and to give thanks for the lives that have meant so much to us. All bereaved are welcome wherever your loved ones are laid to rest. If you would like the name of anyone who has died to be read at the service, do contact the

Church Office stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 10.45AM 'REMEMBRANCE' This year we will be joining with the Village community at 10.45am in Tatsfield to mark the Annual Act of Remembrance. Please note this will replace our usual 10am Sunday service.

CHURCHYARD TEAM We met on Saturday 5th September to continue our annual programme of maintenance and will again 3rd October at 10am. Weather permitting, we may have a final session in November. If you would like to join our friendly Churchyard team, please contact stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com. Thank you. **David Gulley**

SUPPORTING WESTERHAM FOODBANK We help our local community in need and will deliver on Thursday 22nd October. To check for the most needed items or to donate funds please visit <https://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/westerhams-foodbank>. Non-perishable food can be left in the Church when open (see below). Thank you for your support. **Hilary Vale 01959 577864**

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP Bereaved people are welcome on their own or with a friend to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers are on hand for emotional and bereavement support 1pm-3pm Thursdays 8th and 22nd October at Oxted United Reform Church 21 Bluehouse Lane, RH8 0AA.



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 (07504 988897)

VISIT US Our ancient pretty church is open 9am–4.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for viewing, prayer or reflection. You can also enjoy splendid views over the Downs from the Churchyard. Built around 1075 our church has a long, proud Pilgrim history and we continue to welcome those travelling the Pilgrim's Way today.

FOLLOW US Our website is at www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys where you'll find more information about St Mary's and has a link to our weekly Notice Sheet. You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Marys-Tatsfield/61584833041098/>

ST MARY'S CONTACTS

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

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary - WIH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.00pm	Cosy Crafters, Sheree’s Store and Tea Rooms
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 st Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
Wed	9.00am	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	10.30 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	2-4 pm	Composting Site CLOSED 1 st October to 31 st March
	6.00 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH
	6.30pm	Latin Fusion Dance Fitness for Adults, TPS
	7.30pm	Adults Jujitsu, SH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 nd Thursday of the month)
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	6.15pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
	7.30pm	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
Fri	9.30 am	Combat Fitness - SH
	10.00am	Mat Pilates with Emily, WIH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	4.15-	Boom Arts Academy – VH
	6.15pm	Various classes – contact for details
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club - VH
Sat	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00am	Composting Site CLOSED 1 st October to 31 st March
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH

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

UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

OCTOBER

3rd Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
4th Sun	10.00am	Harvest Service and Bring & Share Harvest Lunch, MH
6th Tue	1.00pm	WI Harvest Lunch, WIH
11th Sun	6.00pm	An Evening with Owls, TVH
13th Tue	7.30pm	Plants for Free, Gardening Club Talk, WIH
13th – 17th	various	Steel Magnolias (The Oxted Players), Barn Theatre, Oxted
17th Sat	7.30pm	Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society Concert, Bawtree Hall, Oxted
18th Sun	3.00pm	Annual Ecumenical Service followed by refreshments, StM
28th Wed	2.30pm	Azulejos: Tiles, Arts Society, St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield
30th Fri	10.00am	Art of Mughal World, Arts Society, St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield
31st Sat	5.00pm	Halloween Event, Picnic Area, Westmore Green

NOVEMBER

1st Sun	3.30pm	All Souls Service followed by refreshments, StM
3rd Tue	2.30pm	The Wonders of Winter, WIH
3rd – 7th	various	All Shook Up (Oxted Musical Theatre), Barn Theatre, Oxted
8th Sun	10.45am	Remembrance Service, Village Centre
14th Sat	7.30pm	NDS 20th Anniversary Concert, VH
19th – 21st	various	The Magic Flute (New Aquarian Opera), Barn Theatre, Oxted
21st Sat	7.30pm	Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society Concert, Bawtree Hall, Oxted
25th Wed	2.30pm	British Stables, Arts Society, St Peter's Church Hall, Limpsfield

DECEMBER

1st Tue	tbc	WI Christmas Lunch, WIH
5th Sat	5.00pm	Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, Village Centre
13th Sun	7.45pm	Not the Rolling Stones, Barn Theatre, Oxted

TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

Village facebook page: search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook

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

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF VILLAGE TALENT

Tatsfield Gardening Club's Horticultural Show Saturday 12TH September 2026

What a wonderful success this year's Horticultural Show proved to be! Despite an exceptionally hot and challenging summer, the show was packed with an impressive array of entries, showcasing the creativity, skill and enthusiasm of our local community.

There was something for everyone to enjoy, with exhibits covering a fantastic range of categories. The fruit and vegetable classes demonstrated just how determined our local gardeners had been to coax their crops through the extreme heat, with an impressive selection of produce on display. From beautifully presented vegetables to home-grown fruit, there was lots to admire, including a class for vegetable that did not quite turn out as expected!



A particular highlight was the superb display of Dahlias grown by Alan Armitage. Given what has been an extremely challenging growing year, the quality and variety of Alan's blooms were very impressive. The stunning blooms were a real testament to his skill, dedication and knowledge as a gardener.

The baking section was equally tempting, particularly from the chocolate and raspberry Brownies. Tatsfield Gardening Clubs very own Chairman, Jon Albutt, won this section despite this being his very first attempt at making Brownies. He says that if he can do it, anyone can!



Alongside the traditional horticultural classes, the show also celebrated the many other talents within our community. The arts and crafts exhibits were full of colour, imagination and creativity, while the ever-popular photography section provided a wonderful opportunity to see the world through the eyes of local keen photographers.



The Junior section once again demonstrated that the next generation of villagers has plenty of creativity and enthusiasm. The entries were imaginative, colourful and full of character — a lovely reminder that the village show is something for all ages. Our youngest winner, Nevaeh, is just 18 months old, pictured here with her beautiful animal themed collage made from gathered autumn leaves.

Perhaps most impressive of all was the sheer number and variety of exhibits given the conditions we have experienced this summer. The prolonged heat and dry weather presented gardeners with considerable challenges, making the abundance of fruit, vegetables and flowers on display all the more remarkable.



The show was not simply a competition; it was a celebration of the skills, interests and generosity of the local community. It brought together gardeners, bakers, artists, crafters, photographers and our younger exhibitors, all

sharing their talents and taking part in a much-loved village tradition.

A huge thank you to everyone who entered an exhibit, and to all those who helped organise, judge and run the show. Your time and effort are what make events like this possible.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our sponsor, Tatsfield Aquatics, for their support of the show. The backing of local businesses is hugely appreciated and helps us to continue this wonderful village tradition.

Congratulations to all the prize winners — and equally to everyone who took the time to enter. After such a challenging summer, filling the show with so many wonderful exhibits was certainly an achievement to be proud of.

The Prize Winners for the Autumn Show 2026 were as follows:

Presidents Challenge Cup	Horticulture	Rob Saunders
Club Challenge Cup	Vegetables	Rob Saunders
Elizabeth Challenge Cup	Flowers	Sue Warren
The Mc Hugo Trophy	Flower Arrangement	Hilary Harber
Slatter Trophy	Crafts	Sophie Waller
Peter Warner Trophy	Art	Sandra Shury
Jeff Bloxham Trophy	Photography	Lesley Putt
Tom Black Cup	Domestic	Jon Allbutt
Tatsfield School Cup	Juniors	Lucien Roux Martin
Harry Shrub Memorial	Dahlias	Alan Armitage
Ron Draper Award	Vegetables	Alan Armitage
Clark Cup	Flower Arrangement	Susan Saunders
Tony Erbes Cup	Best Onion	Alan Armitage
Allotment Trophy	Vegetables	Rob Saunders

Knight’s voucher £20 was won by Sue Warren for her vase of mixed garden flowers.

Knight’s voucher £10 was won by Jane O’Keefe for her autumnal door wreath.

The show ended on a particularly special note with a presentation to **Peter and Jan Maynard** who are moving on to pastures new. They were presented with an annual entrance ticket for two to **Great Dixter House & Gardens**, which is only a short distance from their new home in Northiam.

Peter and Jan have made a **huge contribution to Tatsfield Gardening Club over the years**, giving their time, enthusiasm and support to the club and its activities. The presentation was a small token of our appreciation and a chance for members to say a heartfelt thank you for everything they have done.

We hope Peter and Jan enjoy many happy visits to Great Dixter and its beautiful gardens in the years ahead — and perhaps pick up a few new gardening ideas along the way!



Here's to another successful show next Spring!

Keep up to date with news and events by visiting Tatsfield Gardening Club online – Home of Tatsfield Horticultural Society at www.tatsfieldgardeningclub.org.uk

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

Although it is now September, the displays are still in full bloom and we are intending to leave them for as long as possible, probably until the first frost arrives.



We will then make a decision about planting for the Spring. We have planted violas for the last few years, but these have struggled with the wet weather and have not recovered until March/April. We need to look at planting more drought resistant species for the summer and find plants which survive the rainy winter.

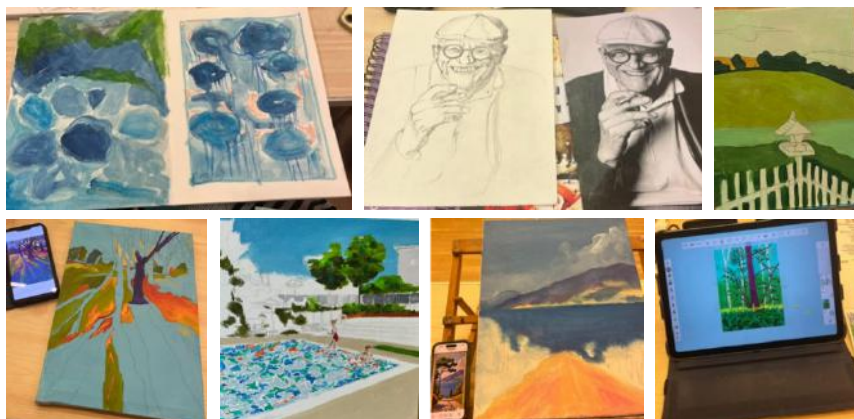
Now that the watering rota has finished, I would like to send a very big thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to water the displays and keep them alive during the very hot summer. I think the condition of the plants now shows how much time and care has been given by the waterers.

I made a plea for help in the September magazine as our volunteer numbers have dropped dramatically this year and we need more help if we are to keep the village centre looking beautiful. Please contact me if you are able to help.

If you would like to donate towards the displays in the village, please use the yellow pots in Sheree's shop, The Old Ship or The Village Club. Many thanks for your continued support. **Jill Hancock (577622/07711 417387) (jillhancock12@gmail.com)**

TATSFIELD ART GROUP

We began the new term with our tribute to the late David Hockney. You will be able to see the finished paintings at TAG's Annual Art Exhibition in May.



Autumn timetable

5th Oct	Jane O'Keefe 3D dancer Sculptor
12th Oct	Jane O'Keefe 3D dancer Sculptor
19th – 30th Oct	½ Term Break Lingfield Art Exhibition 26/10/26 until 1/11/26
2nd Nov	Own Work
3rd Nov	Miller Centre Art Exhibition, Caterham 3 rd Nov until 22 nd December
9th Nov	Judit Mathews Illustrator Demo/Workshop 'Wildlife in a woodland setting' source material-photos of animals and maybe pictures of trees/forest. Please contact Sandra Shury for full list of materials.
16th Nov	Hannah Franklin Workshop 'Food Memories' mixed media
23rd Nov	Simon Cook Workshop 'Gothic Art'
30th Nov	Own Work
7th Dec	Sandra Shury Workshop 'The summer of 2026' Narrative Art

Tatsfield Art Group is for anyone who appreciates art, be they an amateur or professional artist, or someone who simply enjoys art for art's sake. We are a friendly non-competitive group who foster the interests of our members through our varied program. Join us for our fun, friendly adult art classes. For 2026/27, the annual membership fee will stay at £160 which covers all demonstrations, workshops and participation to our annual exhibition where you can showcase and sell your art. You can join us any time of the year.



If you would like further information, please contact Sandra Shury 07867 502235 or Carol Gaskell 07815 775859. 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

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN OCTOBER

This is the time of the year when we reflect on how successful our display of summer flowering plants were. Did we waste money on plants that just could not withstand the heat and the drought? Was our choice of compost in our containers up to the job? Realistically, were we able to keep up with the need to hand water sometimes several times a day, or did our summer flowers wilt in between watering? Summer flowering plants are not cheap these days and we need to be sure that we are getting good value for our hard earned pennies!

If you bought, or grew, summer flowering annuals then that was a wise move this year, they thrive in hot sunny weather and a shortage of water brings them into flower early and with some careful dead heading they can flower throughout the summer. Geraniums love these conditions, you may have noticed that even now they are still in flower, and will keep going until the days shorten and temperatures fall; take cuttings now (the cuttings and mother plants) and keep them on the dry side all through the winter in a cool but well lit spot. All Begonias do well in dry warm conditions, they are perennials too and can be kept in a frost free place. There are two main forms, those with fibrous roots like *B. semperflorens*, and also *B. boliviensis* that form thick hard storage lumps called corms; dry them out and let the foliage die off, store them in trays of old dry compost, these are used in hanging baskets and other tall containers; if the corms have grown too large, cut them in half in March and start them off again. Mine are now three years old and have been cut in half several times, great value!

Now a word about hosepipe bans! I am guessing but I think we will not have these bans lifted until much later in the year, until there has been sufficient rain to start filling our reservoirs, and also our underground aquifers where a lot of our local water comes from. My water butts lasted well but eventually they ran out and it was a daily chore with watering cans; except for my containers. Some years ago I installed an irrigations system that precisely delivers sufficient water to the soil of each container managed by a programmer, no hosepipes involved! The system is programmed to water the containers for just four minutes, twice a day, early and late. Not only does this system comply with

Thames Water requirements but it also saves a lot of water wastage, an important factor if you are on a water meter.

We can expect this month to bring some gales and heavy rain that can damage fences that are carrying the heavy weight of climbing plants, especially if the posts are made of wood! Concrete posts are the best choice up here on the hill, they are more expensive but, if fitted properly, they will last a long time. A hedge of mixed native species is much less expensive, it produces flower and fruit (I am picking Damsons now!) and makes for a much better habitat for our wildlife.

If you are looking for a present for someone with a special birthday coming up, and a keen gardener, buy them a *Chimonanthus praecox* (Winter Sweet), preferably in a 10 litre pot with flower buds; it starts flowering around the turn of the year and keeps on for several months with golden bells of fragrant flowers on bare branches. This shrub trains well against a sunny wall or fence and is self supporting needing just a few ties to hold it in place.

Jon Allbutt



WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER

It seems crazy that just a few weeks ago we were in a dire drought with a hosepipe ban and dusty dead lawns – how it all changed in just a matter of days and now we're back to green grass and lawn mowers. Anyhow, back in spring we introduced a mini-pond to the garden – it's only a little thing made from an old wine barrel but in the summer drought it soon teemed with life and I was very pleased to meet a toad popping round to take a look (we don't get many of them up here on our hill). It was a timely reminder of how important it is to our garden wildlife to make sure there's a water source for them through the dry summer months.

In last month's magazine Nigel made some good points about moths and butterflies, and it coincided with some work done by the Natural History Museum that identified that our pollinators are in very big trouble because the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, with our poor pollinators suffering a massive reduction in numbers (that's mainly bees, butterflies, moths, hoverflies and beetles). The reasons are mostly to do with chemical use in agriculture and horticulture coupled with urban expansion, but it is only going to get worse with the government hell-bent on turning our rural Green Belts in to housing estates (don't get me started!).

Anyhow, it seems that the RHS have identified that the total area of UK household gardens is three times bigger than the area of our National Nature Reserves and that gardeners really can step up and be the stewards of our pollinators and other wildlife. If that's not a good enough reason to get on board, then consider that if we allowed our

pollinators to die out that it would cost the UK an estimated £1.8 billion annually to artificially pollinate our food crops, and would drive our grocery bills sky high. And wouldn't life be poorer without butterflies and bumbles busying themselves around the garden on a sunny day?

So here's some of what we can all do to help the little guys:

- Plant oodles of spring flowering bulbs this autumn. They'll cheer things up and provide lots of early forage for our pollinators (or alternatively make a donation to Tatsfield in Bloom).   
- Plant winter flowering plants that will gloomy winter's day. A list that Jon me a few years ago includes Sweet Box, Winter Honesuckle, Hellebores, flowering Viburnums, and winter flowering Daphnes. Additionally, a big winter favourite of mine is the early daffodil, 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' which is pretty reliable at flowering by New Year's Day. It's a great reminder that the days are getting longer, and Bumbles seem to favour them for a mid-winter snack.  also add a bit of colour to a gave
- Keep pruned wood and deadwood tucked away in a quiet corner to provide nesting and feeding habitats for many invertebrates including solitary bees, butterflies and beetles.
- Ivy can be a problem on buildings and fences, but it is a truly wonderful haven for a huge multitude of wildlife throughout winter with its late flowers and berries, so please do treat it kindly if it's climbing a tree or providing ground cover. 
- I know I tend to bang on about keeping lawns a bit longer than is traditional but leaving area of grass to grow longer really does help in providing a healthy habitat and floral diversity for plants such as clover, yarrow, buttercups, daisies and dandelions that provide vital forage throughout the year.



Interesting fact of the month....The UK has around 1,500 insect species that act as pollinators. While honeybees get most of the fame, they only pollinate around 10% of the UK's insect-pollinated crops. Wild bees including bumblebees and solitary bees are the unsung heroes that do most of the heavy lifting.

Jim Kenney

THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD UPCOMING LECTURES



Azulejos: Portuguese Tiles by Imogen Corrigan

Wednesday 28th October 2026, 2.30pm. Afternoon only lecture. Limpsfield Church Hall RH8 0DG. *Come early to enjoy refreshments.* Guests £10 on the door.

Imogen, a popular speaker, will take us through the history and design of this unique and colourful tile tradition. This is a craft that is in daily use in Portugal whether for house and road signs, public notices or for advertising a business. It will have started as a way of keeping a building cool and clean but developed into an art form in itself.

Portuguese delight in them grew out of a dynastic marriage between Manuel I and Isabella of Aragon in 1503 when he filled the rooms of the palace at Sintra with azulejos to make her feel at home. They had a boost around 1700 when largely blue-and-white designs became fashionable, sometimes with whole buildings covered with them such as St Catherine's in Porto. Azulejos are now so valued in Portugal that a law was passed in 2017 to prevent the demolition of buildings with significant numbers of tiles.

Study Morning - The Art of the Mughal World by Georgina Bexon

Friday 30th October 2026, 10.00am. Limpsfield Church Hall RH8 0UD. Includes refreshments and two lectures.

The 16th to 18th centuries in India witnessed the golden artistic period of Mughal Rule, marked by a unique flowering of art and architecture. The lectures will show how Persian, European and local Indian styles influenced art and architecture.

THE OXTED & LIMPSFIELD MUSIC SOCIETY

CELEBRATING OUR 80TH SEASON

The Society is delighted to be welcoming Elena Urioste, violin, and Tom Poster, piano, to The Bawtree Hall, Wolfs Hill, Oxted RH8 0QU on **Saturday 17th October at 19.30.**



Programme

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Violin Sonata in B flat major

Camille Saint-Saëns – Élégie in F major, Op. 160

César Franck – Violin Sonata in A major

Tickets £30 (free entry for those under 25), can be purchased either on the door or on our website www.olms.org.uk

Season ticket for all six concerts is £125 (see website for details).

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2026



Fairtrade Fortnight in 2026 took place from Monday 21st September – Sunday 4th October. It is an annual two-week campaign held to raise awareness about Fairtrade certified products and the farmers and our planet. We are hugely grateful to Sheree for displaying a wider range of Fairtrade products – *thank you too if you came in to have a look at what's available this year in Sheree's Stores.*

Fairtrade highlights the struggles of exploited and underpaid farmers and workers in developing countries who grow everyday items like coffee, tea, chocolate, sugar, bananas and cotton.

Thousands of individuals and community groups across the UK came together to host events. Tatsfield Fairtrade Group has close links with Tatsfield Primary School and we were pleased to be invited to talk to the children at their launch assembly. We were also a part of Saint Mary's Church Teas on Sunday 20th September.



We baked cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients including sugar, lemons and chocolate. We also offered a range of Fairtrade products that include food as well as crafts and socks. Some people even started their Christmas shopping at our Church Tea Event.

Wherever you go shopping, please look for the Fairtrade logo on your tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas, sugar, and, for just a little bit more money, you will ensure farmers in poor countries are paid a fair wage and with money made they can choose how to spend it – maybe on healthcare centres or schools in their community.

Below is a short story from a tea plantation in southern India.



Ms Kumari has worked on a Tea plantation on a Tea estate in South India for seven years. She moved to the south to this fairtrade estate with her baby daughter determined to find steady work and a better future for her family. She says *'if we hadn't come here we wouldn't be able to educate our children, back home in my village no one studies there are no facilities'* she now has the

security of a fair wage and their community has chosen to spend the surplus on the education of their children, something we would all want for our own children.

Look out for the logo when you shop and make a positive difference with your shopping choices.

Thank you, Tatsfield Village Fairtrade Group
tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com
Facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade
tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – OCTOBER 2026

If, for one reason or another, you are about in the early mornings, there are astronomical advantages to be had even if there are very few others.

From 4am until dawn the planets Jupiter and Mars are visible in the east whilst towards the west Saturn is soon to set. Early in October, Jupiter is in the ESE with an altitude of just over 30° at 6am with Mars just a little to the north west (up and right). Jupiter is easy to spot because it is the brightest object in that part of the sky. On the 5th, a waning crescent Moon is just north of Mars whilst the following night it is just north of the brilliant Jupiter.

If you are able, note the positions of Mars and Jupiter with respect to each other and you will realise that the distance between them is reducing. This is entirely due to the motion of Mars, it being closer to the Sun than Jupiter and consequently moving more quickly. Jupiter is, of course also moving but is actually moving away from Mars although very slowly.

In the expanse of sky that lies between the two “gas giants”, (Jupiter and Saturn) we see the brilliant “winter” constellations. These include the hunter, Orion, and his retinue, some of which are bright but others which are decidedly inconspicuous. Arranged around him you’ll find a large and small dog, some twins, a charioteer, a bull, a hare, a unicorn and finally a river. Now is not the best time to describe them in detail as a relatively small number of readers are likely to rise in the small hours just to gaze at the sky. With that in mind the diagram shows just the brightest stars (named in *italics*) and the most obvious constellations (named in *capital*s). It is drawn for 6am in mid-October.



As I said above, Saturn is also visible in the west as it prepares to set. This is because, during October, it rises in the very early evening and so has been visible throughout the evening and night. Actually, this month is the best time to see Saturn during 2026 because it has

reached the point in its orbit that astronomers call “opposition”. This is where any planet that orbits beyond the Earth is at its closest to us so is best placed for observing. Opposition means it is opposite the Sun in the sky so, in effect, the three bodies, the Earth, Sun and the planet in question (Saturn in the current example) are all in a line with the Earth in the middle. This means that as the Sun sets on one horizon, Saturn is just rising on the opposite horizon after which it remains visible for the hours of darkness. Then as Saturn sets at dawn, the Sun will be rising. **Brian Mills FRAS**

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

... and it wasn't long before I did see something unusual, thanks to Adventurer Jim:

(06.08.26) (Jim Yeeles) *'It's been a few years since I've seen a local **Clouded yellow** but I've recorded one or two on our last three walks around Hill Park. There was even one flitting about the allotment plots this afternoon. Keep those peepers peeled!'*

(07.08.26) *'Finally managed to get a shot of one of the four bombing round the top field (below Chestnut Avenue) this morning. [See photo.]'*

'My field guide states, 'easily disturbed and hard to approach', and yet you managed a brilliant shot, Jim. Perhaps you were wearing your wildflower meadow camouflage outfit? Whatever your technique - great job! I must try to get over there in the next day or two. I was going to ask you about the best time of day but you've already provided the answer.'



So, armed with binoculars and despite the oppressive heat, I visited the top field around midday on the 11th and to my joy saw three yellows. I thought there might be too much wind for them but they didn't seem to be worried by that. Anyway, a first sighting for me and, at long last, something I can truly classify as 'unusual'. Many thanks for the tip, Jim.

(13.08.26) (Jim) *'Very pleased with your success, Nigel. This species is having an exceptional year popping up all over the place and is likely to be with us until the season closes. Their offspring rarely make it through winter but with our changing climate, who knows? It may even become a common resident one day.'*

Meanwhile, Steve (Gaskell) had been busy (carefully) catching moths in the hedgerow, including a **Jersey Tiger** feeding on a buddleia opposite his house. And then, just a short time later, more good news was on the way:

(15.08.26) (Steve) *'I'm on a roll! **White admiral**, today on patio. Caught, photographed, released. Underside very attractive so took two shots. [See photos.] Could be my next artwork! Gonna need more pages in the mag.'*

(17.08.26) (Jim) *'You are indeed, Steve! I can't tell if it's male or female but perhaps you have some honeysuckle nearby that will be raising next year's generation. The late stage caterpillars are quite stunning and don't wander too far from the egg site. Talking of egg-laying, I've just spent ten minutes watching a **Small white** plastering my Olive tree. Mr. A.I. emphatically tells me that 'this species does not lay eggs on olive trees'. Oh well, let's see... Looking forward to the artwork.'*



'You don't seem surprised that Steve has seen a White admiral, Jim. Is that because you see them over at the meadows? I haven't seen one for around 20 years! Incidentally, I've also researched the possibility of a Small white laying eggs on an olive tree and, as you say, it shouldn't happen! Might be worth a controlled experiment to see if the emerging caterpillars enjoy munching olive leaves.'

(17.08.26) (Jim) *'Like you, Nigel, I've only seen one at home (many years ago) and we've never recorded one at Hill Park, probably because the environment doesn't really suit it. They prefer a woodland with sunny glades and require honeysuckle, particularly in shady areas. I've always thought that Millennium wood, Limehouse Bottom and Park wood would be suitable but, despite finding the larval host plant, I've had no luck confirming presence. We do regularly record them over on Limpsfield Chart during July and August. I'll keep you posted about the odd Small White behaviour if anything develops.'*



And finally, this month, we have a message from Linda (Lambert) who has been visited by a couple of real beauties:

(28.08.26) *'Saw this the other week – a **Jersey Tiger** moth. [See photo.] I think it's pretty rare here. Also a **Hummingbird Hawk-moth** that joined me looking at a plant, so I got a good look at it. Marvellous feeling to have experienced it.'*

Both of these moths love the hot weather which is why we are seeing them in our gardens, Linda. So glad that they chose to visit you. Thanks for the report.

Next month we begin with the unexpected discovery of a reptile; harmless and garden-friendly. Definitely not a King Cobra! If **you** have something to contribute, our readers would **love** to hear from you.

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

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

A number of familiar issues – talk of a railway station on Westmore Green, calls for changes to some road names or the cleaning out of the pond – were reported in the local papers as the autumn of 1926 set in. A fresh local issue picked up by the Surrey Mirror at the beginning of the month was a suggestion that the old school at Titsey be re-opened as a handicraft centre for Tatsfield children to provide more space for children from Limsfield and Tandridge at the Oxted centre - and provide Tatsfield children with facilities closer to home.

Nationally, 1926 was the year of the General Strike. Its consequences, social and political, were clearly of local concern. One Tuesday afternoon, Mr Potter's Tea Room and Bakery was the venue for the Tatsfield Women's Liberal Association. Members were told by a visiting speaker that there were three attitudes that were being adopted to the coal strike. There were those who did not think miners should ask for more wages; those who said they should get more money and those who never studied the question, thought it was a great nuisance and hoped the strike would soon end. Members were given a description of poor living conditions of mining families in Derbyshire and the working conditions of miners themselves and heard a call for a scheme of profit-sharing or co-partnership to overcome the problem of low pay for miners and minimal profits for mine owners.

Labour and Fascism

The only sort of policy which can be effective against the present Government is one which binds together all shades of honest Socialist faith from respectable Right Wing to Communist.

The Labour Party will most certainly lose the support of the masses unless they turn their backs on the silly trappings of Feudalism and any sort of Continualism in foreign policy.

RUTLAND BOUGHTON.

Tatsfield, Surrey.

[Mr. Rutland Boughton's letter is typical of the "somebody suspects somebody" attitude, which conceals not clear thought, but muddled feeling.—Ed., D.H.]

Also in October, a national newspaper, the Daily Herald, published a letter from the opera composer, Rutland Boughton, who owned Tangland Castle in Goatsfield Road. This is where earlier in the year he had hosted Labour Party events. In the letter, he called on the party's leaders to work wholeheartedly for workers' control.

The letter was published, but the editor reckoned that its content revealed '*not clear thought, but muddled feeling*' at a time when both left and right-wing extremism were growing in continental Europe.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project

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

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

FIVE MINUTES WITH... HUSEYIN SEVKET

Welcome to our regular feature that's been hibernating for a while, featuring a local resident with a story to share. This month we are talking to Huseyin Sevkett, owner of Eight Mediterranean, an exciting new coffee shop and restaurant concept that has recently opened at The Bakery.



When did you move to Tatsfield?

I moved to Tatsfield from Warlingham two years ago. I love the village and community spirit and glad I moved.

What are your favourite parts of the village?

My favourite part of the village is the pond and the ducks. And Eight Mediterranean of course! I love enjoying a coffee overlooking the green on a sunny day and watching the grapes grow.

Tell us more about the concept behind Eight

The Eight Concept was born out of my desire to provide a healthy alternative, offering a diverse range of menus to include breakfast, daily lunch specials, afternoon teas, lunch, Sunday lunch and dinner, whether you work in a business or office environment or are a local resident, visitor, or shopper.

The menus are designed to appeal across all palates and unlike alternative offerings in the market, Eight does not rely on one core product with variations on that product.

Why did you choose Tatsfield and The Bakery for Eight Mediterranean?

When I moved into Tatsfield the Bakery immediately caught my eye, and I became fascinated by why it was constantly closed. On closer look, it became apparent that it was perfectly suited to my Eight brand with a coffee shop at the front (becoming a bar at night) and a restaurant behind (changing mood at night).

Do you have a favourite dish at Eight?

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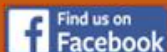
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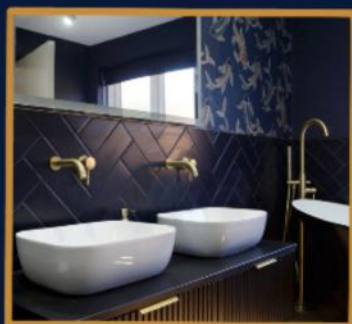
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