

NOVEMBER 2026

Tatsfield Parish Magazine



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

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Chair • Debra Elsdon

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CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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St. Mary's Church Hall Bookings • Sheila Cook (07504 988897)

COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

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

Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

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

Surrey County Councillor • Cllr Jacquie Thomson

OTHER CONTACTS

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

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

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

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

Tatsfield Village Club • (577330)

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

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

Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). All loose inserts need to be booked 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: Westmore Green Remembrance service and poppy display 2025, by Tracey Syrett.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



HONOURING THE PAST.
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SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2026



10:45 AM



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LEST WE FORGET



*Organised by Tatsfield Parish Council and
St Mary's Church*

EDITORIAL

It's another Harvest Festival!

I had the great annual pleasure of joining Tatsfield



Primary School for their Harvest Festival. We sang

to a salsa beat about cabbages and greens,

broccoli and beans, cauliflower and roasted potatoes ... I expect

you know the tune. Harvest wouldn't be Harvest without

considering 'the broad beans are sleeping in their blankety bed'!

It was a fun time – and we were so pleased to collect their

donations for the Westerham Foodbank to join with our own

gifts gathered together on Sunday.



Our Flower Team had, again, done a wonderful job with the last of the summer's offerings; courtesy of The Titsey Estate. Our 'Bring and Share' lunch in the Millenium Hall after the service was a lovely expression of community and generosity and we were further blessed with glorious sunshine.

Lots to be thankful for; it's a good habit to nurture – especially as the summer fades and the mornings get darker.

REMEMBRANCE 2026

Scarlet poppies grew on the ravaged fields of France. In spite of, indeed because of, the churned-up earth which poppies require to germinate.

That something so beautiful can grow from such ugliness is an image of the hope that we cling to when there is violence and chaos in our society and in the natural world.

On Sunday 8th November we will gather on the village green for our annual Act of Remembrance. Its simplicity and familiarity are an invitation to all of us – from the very young to the very old, for those of all faiths and none – to dedicate ourselves to supporting everyone committed to peace and justice.



In our looking back – we will also look forward and work to make ourselves worthy of the sacrifice made by so many by doing all we can to create a safer, fairer world for all our children.

Blessings Rev Debra

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Hello everyone, what a great start to Autumn -the beautiful crisp mornings and sunny days and, of course, the 'Tatsfield Mist' reminds me of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful village.

I am pleased to report that the Tatol Bed has now been fully refurbished, and the new subtle lighting will hopefully assist with road safety. The planting is beginning as I write and will be finished by the time you read. A huge thank you to Tatsfield in Bloom team led by our amazing Jill Hancock for the planting scheme. They have managed to recycle many of the existing plants by caring for them in the polytunnel at the allotments. Tatsfield Aquatics have done a fantastic job with design and build we thank Ian and his team. The Tatol sign which was a little worn has been completely repainted by the Parish Council's own Simon Cook. So, take a look when out for a walk and if driving past (slowly).

PLANNING

Application ref 2026/916 Land West of Orchards, Approach Road, Westmore Green. Outline application for the erection of twelve dwellings with associated infrastructure, vehicular and pedestrian access (all matters reserved except access).

Summary: This planning application seeks outline permission (with all matters reserved except access) for an unallocated residential development of up to twelve dwellings on a 1.33 hectare greenfield site situated in the Metropolitan Green Belt outside the Defined Village Boundary. While the applicant proposes 50% affordable housing, an on-site infiltration drainage basin, and a new vehicular junction off approach road, the scheme represents an inappropriate residential expansion that fails to satisfy national 'Grey Belt' or 'Golden Rules' criteria. Furthermore, the application is procedurally defective by omitting an illustrative masterplan for layout and parameter plan drawings for building heights/massing, rendering its submitted Landscape & Visual Impact Appraisal fundamentally incomplete. The proposal relies on a new access route requiring hedgerow clearance and a junction constructed on Parish Council owned common land (Westmore Green); it also introduces a highway safety hazard on to the known 'accident bend' by the Tatol Bed which is subject to frequent accidents in dense winter fog. Recommendation: **Objection**

Application reference 2026/1128 Hill Cottage Johns Road. Erection of raised roof with dormers to front elevation to provide additional habitable accommodation within loft space. Recommendation: **No Comment**

Application reference 2026/989 The Manor House Ricketts Hill Road. Installation of Air Sourced Heat Pump Heating System. Recommendation: **No Comment**

Application Reference 2026/1225/T Moorhouse Sands and Pit, Westerham. Proposed base station installation. The removal of existing lattice tower and six antenna apertures. The installation of new 25m lattice tower. The addition of two dishes. Works within equipment cabin. Recommendation: **No Comment**

The full reports on the above applications and the Parish Council's further response to the Ship Hill Development can be found on the Parish Council Website.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 10.40AM, MEMORIAL TRIANGLE

Please join us together with St Mary's Church for our Annual Service of Remembrance. *Please note there will NOT be a separate service at St Mary's on Remembrance Sunday, as this year we have joined together on Sunday in the village centre.*

EMERGENCY PLAN Our Emergency plan has been reviewed. Thank you to those who have offered their services in case of an emergency. We have reviewed our support for vulnerable residents in severe heat, drought conditions, and being aware of long/dry grass which could pose wildfire risk.

NEW PLAYGROUND UPDATE We had a fantastic evening of Musical Bingo in the Ship thanks to Tina and her fabulous team. Many thanks to Greg and Kate Watkins for the amazing support and excellent organization. We raised £1,229 towards the playground fund. To date along with some very generous recent donations to our go fund me page we have raised £8,300 so we are well on target for the £10,000 by Christmas. You still have time to donate, and we will be raising funds at our Xmas Lights Switch-on together with a Craft Fair on Saturday 5th of December. Full Details will appear in next month's Magazine and on Tatsfield social pages. Oh, and I'm told Santa will be popping by on 19th December along with his Elves.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Kim Jennings, Chairman Tatsfield Parish Council Email: kjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOCAL PLAN At the time of writing, the Local Plan is pretty much complete and will be subject to scrutiny and rigour, firstly internally by the councillors, including myself, that have had an input to the plan along with all other interested parties across the district. It will be presented to the full Council on 22nd October and if approved it will then be sent out to the public for its Regulation 19 Consultation for six weeks. Any relevant changes will be incorporated and then prepared for full Council approval on 17th December, within the Government's timeline, thanks to the work of a group of dedicated Officers and Councillors to meet this very tight deadline. After that a Planning Inspector will give his views and hopefully this will be followed by adoption until 2042.

You may recall that officers presented the Spatial Strategy for the Local Plan at the AMB earlier in the year where the call for sites responses were shown and seen by over 100 Tatsfield residents. These were sites included in the HELAA (Housing Economic Land Availability Assessments) and whilst some were rejected since due to Green Belt issues some have gone forward and will hopefully contribute to the housing need numbers across the district that Tandridge must attempt to fulfil during the Local Plan period. The government's standard formula dictates that we have to try and fulfil an obligation for

housing at 12,235 units which will prove incredibly difficult with our 94% green belt and other constraints, which now include such thing as “odour” from sewage works. We are proposing to Government that we can offer 10,016 unit some 80% of the number, which is more realistic within our green belt.

Tatsfield’s allocation will be around 135 units through the plan period with the emphasis that sites will deliver 50% affordable homes; and I have requested to be included they be delivered subject to a local connection cascade giving priority, in the first instance to eligible households with a local connection within the parish of Tatsfield. If I can get that clause through the Inspector, I believe that will be a good win based on the number of houses that are proposed for us.

The consultation for the Local Plan document will be widely advertised. I warn you it is a massive document, but you must read it and respond to the consultation when it starts; so stay in touch with the news on the Tandridge website or sign up for the newsletter that will remind you if this and all other matters for the future.

By the time you read this my ability to call in planning applications in Tatsfield will have gone under the new **national scheme of delegation** that came in to force on 31st October 2026. However, I will continue to press the Chief Planning Officer to bring to committee the planning application in Ship Hill which at the time of writing had not been determined as there are outstanding issues, hence why they are not on the agenda for October’s planning committee.

I continue to work closely with Group Leaders and Senior Officers in monthly meetings to try and get TDC ready for a smooth takeover, right across the full spectrum of Tandridge District Council roles and obligations. Having delved into the workings of both **BIFFA** and **Freedom leisure** we are now doing so with Housing and Planning Enforcement to resolve outstanding issues. Having said that, there is a historical total of 331 cases outstanding, but pleasingly the number in Tatsfield were reduced by four recently.

BUSINESS AS USUAL continues at TDC, but with increasing workloads that must now include the LGR transition, not least for budgets and other statutory requirement things will struggle at times.

I continue to have meetings with the CE and senior officers and other group leaders whilst continuing to fulfil my own roles within the Council such as licensing, attending committee meetings and supporting my Independent Group colleagues who are also dealing with their own challenges during the transition.

I continue to report **overflies** of the NSA with six occurring in September but none in October. It took me two phone calls, but I finally got the street furniture and lights removed from Paynesfield Road guessing that no instruction had been issued for reinstatement until I reminded them. Regretfully the news on Titsey Road has gone backwards a little - despite some work being undertaken, SCC do not expect to complete the works until 30th November 2026. I remain hopeful. It also looks like further work will

cause a road closure at the top of Ship Hill on 4th November 2026 and will be carried out between the hours of 8pm and 6am, during time it takes to complete the work.

A reminder that this year the Remembrance Service will be held on Remembrance SUNDAY at 10.40am at Memorial Triangle, Westmore Green. I look forward to seeing you there.

NOTICES FROM FURTHER AFIELD....

The **Tandridge Winter Support Scheme** opens for applications from 10am on Monday 9th November. Residents can find further information and frequently asked questions at www.tandridge.gov.uk/wintersupport.

The **Tandridge Job Fair** takes place on Thursday 26th November from 10.30am to 2pm at the Council Offices. The event is open to all residents and will bring together local employers, training providers and support organisations. Visitors can explore job opportunities, apprenticeships, training and careers advice. Find more information available at www.tandridge.gov.uk/jobfair.

Networked Women Stand out, sell more and build your brand. The next Networked Women event takes place on Wednesday 4th November at Herons Bonsai Nursery. These sessions help women in business gain practical insights, share experiences and make valuable connections. To find more information and book go to our website: <https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Business-support-and-licensing/Business-events>

Grant for charities and voluntary groups Local charities and voluntary groups that are supporting residents' health and wellbeing can apply for a grant of up to £2,000 from the Tandridge Together Community Fund. Applications close on 20th November. Find out more at www.tandridge.gov.uk/communityfund.

Council tax reduction scheme consultation Residents can have their say on the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for East Surrey Council. The consultation closes on Thursday 3rd December 2026. The consultation will help shape the scheme which will apply from 1st April 2027, when East Surrey Council publicly opens.

Remember to support all our local businesses who our support to ensure they continue to operate well into the future.

Cllr Martin Allen Tel: 01959 577201 or 07484185363

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

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

*While Claire takes some time off after the birth of her son, we will want to provide residents with an update on what we are working on locally and what has been happening in Parliament. Claire's casework and constituency teams are working as normal and are here to help with anything you may need. Please do keep in touch with us at **claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk**.*

At the end of summer Claire welcomed dozens of volunteers involved with her charity, The Friendship Project, to Herons Bonsai in Newchapel to thank them and celebrate all they have achieved over the past year. The Friendship Project provides grants to brilliant community groups across East Surrey who tackle loneliness by creating friendships. Since its launch four years ago, the project has distributed more than £20,000 in grants, helping fund coffee mornings, trips to the seaside, venue renovations, and everything in between. *We still have some funds available*, so if you help run a community group and would like to learn how the project might be able to help, get in touch with us using the email address above.

Many commuters have been in touch with Claire in recent weeks to share frustration about the disruption on the Uckfield Line. With no date pencilled in for normal services to resume, Claire wrote to Network Rail requesting for a timeline for repairs and for the Oxted route to be prioritised. Both the local rail operator and Network Rail have acknowledged that their performance has not been good enough. Frustratingly, the timeline they shared with Claire has since slipped to the start of November at the earliest. Claire has joined local Conservative MPs Tom Tugendhat and Mims Davies to request an urgent meeting with the Transport Secretary to discuss the line's performance. We will report back to residents on if the meeting goes ahead.

The reinstatement of the Caterham to London Victoria rail service also continues to be a priority for Claire. She has written to both the Secretary of State for Transport and the Rail Minister to press the case. The challenge is the availability of rolling stock, with the Brighton Main Line being prioritised over local routes. As residents have voiced their wish to see the route reinstated, Claire has now launched a petition to call on GTR and the newly nationalised Great British Railways to rethink their approach. Please **visit [clarecoutinho.com](https://www.clarecoutinho.com)** to add your name to the petition.

Natural England has now formally submitted its proposal to significantly expand the Surrey Hills National Landscape. Claire helped to secure this long overdue review more than five years ago, and it marks the culmination of years of campaigning by local groups. Claire has written to the Environment Secretary to throw her full support behind the submission.

POLICING

Dear Residents

Section 59 powers have changed – and so has the way police can deal with anti-social driving.

If you're using a vehicle in a way that causes alarm, distress or annoyance to others, you could now lose it immediately. Previously, drivers would usually receive a warning before their vehicle could be seized under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. That requirement has now been removed. This means officers can seize a vehicle on the first occasion if they reasonably believe it is being driven: carelessly or inconsiderately; or illegally off-road, and the manner of driving is causing, or is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to the public. Examples include:

- Dangerous driving at car meets
- Wheel spins, burnouts and drifting
- Revving engines in residential areas
- Riding off-road bikes or quad bikes where they're not permitted
- Driving that intimidates or puts others at risk

These changes give police the ability to take swift action against those who choose to use their vehicles irresponsibly, helping to keep our communities safer and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Inspector Rob Staplehurst, Tandridge Borough Commander



**Tatsfield
Singers**

**Christmas
Concert**

at Tatsfield Village Hall

on Saturday 12th December

5pm

Tickets £10

(under 16s free)

**available from Sheree's Stores,
Tatsfield or on the Door.**

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

As we begin the second half of the Autumn Term, we are looking at celebrations - Bonfire Night, Diwali, The King's birthday and Nursery Rhyme Week - to name a few.



We'll also soon be getting busy with Christmas crafts next month too!



The children have enjoyed Autumn activities, collected natural objects in an Autumn Treasures bag over half term, and explored the contents of natural Tuff Trays together.

We enjoyed getting messy making leaf prints using paint rollers, creating some lovely, detailed patterns.

We are delighted to have new starters joining Little Acorns this term. If you and your child would like to come and visit, please do drop us an email.

We'd love to welcome you for a play/taster session.



The Little Acorns Team

Email: office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

A chill was definitely not in the air for our October meeting! We had windows and doors open to cool us down! Not sure if it was entirely the weather but could have been the heat of the 'Name That Tune' quiz. Members enjoyed delicious cottage pie followed by apple strudel then cakes.

We have a busy Autumn/ Winter programme, apart from our normal meetings we are going to Haskins Garden Centre, taking a ride on the Santa Special Train, having a super festive lunch, hosting a race afternoon and having a mystery outing. Some lovely days to look forward to in the chilly dark months.

Our meetings are always the second Tuesday of the month please contact me if you would like to join us.

**Keep safe,
Sue Dowse**

Email: notsoyoung100@gmail.com Tel: 07816110929

TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL 'DO IT FAIR'

On Monday 21st September, our Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 started with a special assembly, led by Hilary Harber and Hilary Vale.

This year's theme is: "Do it Fair – for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay", highlighting the severe impact of unfair low prices, the climate crisis, and rising production costs on smallholder farmers and workers who grow products like coffee, tea, chocolate, bananas, and cotton.



Hilary Harber spoke to the children about Oliver, a tea farmer in South India and how he works with nature to support the biodiversity of the farm.

We learnt that buying Fairtrade products helps support the Fairtrade Premium to:

- Plant native trees
- Protect forest areas
- Install solar lighting
- Make life safer for people

Over the course of the two weeks, each class deepened their knowledge of Fairtrade and we shared our learning in assembly at the end of the fortnight. Activities included learning about the tea timeline – the production of tea, how tea grows, the tea farm food web, fascinating tea facts and a letter of thanks to the tea farmers. Every child also wrote a Fairtrade pledge on a paper tea leaf to adorn our tea bushes for display!

Louise Knock

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

North Downs Sinfonia will be giving an extra special concert on 14th November, at 7.30pm for their 20th anniversary. We usually have one soloist, but this time there are two, both of whom have played with us several times before, and always to great acclaim.

Firstly, there is Mariela Cingo, our favourite pianist, who will be playing the Scherzo from Henry Litolff's Concerto Symphonique No 4. The English (born in London) and French (died in Paris) composer, also lived in Belgium, Poland and Germany, and was renowned as a piano virtuoso. All his five Concerto Symphoniques are essentially symphonies, but with piano, and it is the piano scherzo from his fourth concerto which is by far the best known of all his works.

Then (after the interval) Haru Ushigusa, who has a magic touch on the violin, will be playing the Vaughan Williams Lark Ascending. One of the most popular works ever written, and regularly topping the classical charts, this was the piece that Haru first played with NDS in 2018. Those who heard it will never forget it!

But before these two pieces will be a first for NDS. Indeed, it will be a world first, as the composition of the North Downs Overture was commissioned this year by NDS from Daniel Pengelly, and it has never been played in public. (I have heard it in rehearsal and is well worth listening to!) Daniel first came to our notice in 2020 when he played in our Young Soloist concert, and he returned in the 2025 concert to play his own flute composition. Now at music college, he is astonishingly good and will undoubtedly be a name to watch in the future.

The concert will conclude with the first of Emilie Mayer's eight symphonies. A German composer of the 19th century, she was known as the female Beethoven, and her music, which deserves to be played much more frequently, reflects this.

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 **September 2026**:

1 st Prize	Michael Wiggins	£42.00
2 nd Prize	Simon Hendry	£28.00
3 rd Prize	Stuart Hendry	£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 WI



In September we had 22 members meeting at The Lookout Café in Biggin Hill for a sumptuous Afternoon Tea with so much delicious food that almost everyone took away a little box of extras.

We also had enough little cakes to share them at our Wednesday morning Pop In the next day. We met again on our usual Tuesday meeting in October for a Harvest Lunch.

Our next meeting is a talk entitled “The Wonders of Winter” and our Christmas Party is at 1.00pm on 1st December.

The WI will have a Bakes and Produce stall at the Craft Fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 5th December, the day that Tatsfield’s Christmas Lights are switched on. Any profits from our stall will be donated to our 2026 local children’s charities Aoife’s Bubbles and the Lily Foundation.

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 and bright venue available to hire at very reasonable rates for a meeting, activity, family party or celebration, please just give us a call on 01959 577684 to find out more.

Susan Smale 01959 577660

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/>

TATSFIELD ART GROUP



Why join an art club? Just about any town or village that has more than a handful of artists is likely to have a local art group. Here are just a few of the benefits to being an art group member:

Socialise and make new friends Most artists work in solitude. Art group meetings provide an opportunity to interact with other artists, get input from them, and share your common interests. With access to a supportive art group, full of potential friends, you can experience so much that the art world has to offer. Not only can you visit art shows and festivals with fellow group members, but you can organize and participate in shows together.

Enjoy common interests You are likely to have a great deal in common with other artists. Being an artist can mean a lot of things: being a painter, sculptor, photographer, potter, graphic designer, printmaker, and so on. Finding a group in which you can not only learn but also share with others which will allow you to grow as an artist and a mentor to others.

Inspire and encourage Art groups are a good place to receive encouragement. You are likely to receive praise, support, and advice that should help you become the best artist you can be. The art clubs that will help you are places where other members want what is best for you. Your inspiration is one of your most important tools as an artist. Feed it with new input from others. There may be more experienced artists in your group, so why not ask for some advice?

Provide positive peer pressure Perhaps one of the greatest benefits to joining an artist group is this gentle pressure to produce art. Being a part of an artist group can often provide a boost to your work ethic, pushing you to finish projects that you might not have otherwise completed. Having the strong backing from other members keeps an artist motivated. Artists who are part of a successful group will be excited to share their latest work and will most likely find themselves working harder to have new things to share with the group. Questions from other members, such as, "what have you been working on lately?" form a positive form of peer pressure. See what other people are doing and learn from them. Each artist works differently. Whether this difference arises from the preferred type of medium, painting style, or subject matter, you'll typically find something new at art group meetings. Fellow members are great sources of one-on-one advice. You can ask about good art supply and frame shops, find who is giving workshops, or attend a group meeting where one of the artists is presenting their art and techniques. Tatsfield Art Group regularly bring in professional artists who run workshops demonstrating their artistic skills and techniques.

Share knowledge Continually learning and expanding your art skills can be fun and rewarding. Group exhibitions are a great way to get your work seen, not only by more artists, but also by the public.

Participate in art shows Being part of a successful art group may give rise to a lot of opportunities that are not available to you as an individual. Many art galleries, libraries, and local businesses host exhibitions of their local art groups. In these exhibitions, the only way to participate is by being a member of that group. Most art groups put on shows that feature the work of its members.

Volunteer Many art groups require members' participation, and you will have an opportunity to help arrange the exhibition and learn what is involved in keeping an art organization going. Creating art is an act of self-expression.

I hope this helps you see the benefits to being in a local art group.

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. Why not Join us for two free sessions. The annual memberships fee covers all demonstrations, workshops and participation to our annual exhibition where you can showcase and sell your art. If you don't fancy becoming a member you can always join us at any of our workshops, for just £15, we would love to see you. You can join us any time of the year or just pop in for a chat.

Autumn timetable

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

If you would like further information, please contact Sandra Shury 07867502235 or Carol Gaskell 07815775859 You can find us on Facebook *Tatsfield Art Group* and Instagram *tag_tatsfield_art*

Sandra Shury

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.

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.

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



CHURCHYARD TEAM Our penultimate monthly maintenance session was Saturday 3rd October when various strimming and pruning tasks were completed. On Friday 9th October we were delighted to welcome back seven volunteers from the Pfizer organisation who have joined us for one day a year in recent times in memory of their late colleague and former St Mary's parishioner, Paul Laugharne. Members of the Pfizer team are shown in the photo. Together with our own volunteers they

worked tirelessly bringing enormous piles of branches and undergrowth from across the churchyard to a central point for burning. They each must have walked several miles completing this huge volume of work, a task we were unlikely to be able to begin tackling ourselves. Many had travelled several hours to join us, and their enthusiasm, hard work and comradeship were very inspiring and a credit to Pfizer. So huge thanks to the Pfizer volunteers and their management in allowing their staff to join us and help keep our churchyard well maintained and attractive for our local community and many visitors.

Weather permitting our final maintenance session for this year will be 10am Saturday 7th November. If you would like to join our churchyard team for 2027, please contact stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com or make yourself known to me at our November session. We are a friendly bunch, and you would be made very welcome!

David Gulley

'THANK YOU' TO PARK WOOD GOLF CLUB We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Dr KJ Rhee and Park Wood Golf Club for their kind donation covering the purchase and installation costs of a new security gate to the Car Park opposite the church upper Lychgate.

Chris Hancock (Churchwarden)

HARVEST 2026 A big 'Thank You' to the Flower Team for decorating the church so beautifully again this year and to Tatsfield School and all who donated food produce that went to support Westerham Foodbank.



SUPPORTING WESTERHAM FOODBANK We help our local community in need during these difficult times and will deliver on Thursdays 5th and 26th November, and 14th January 2027. Visit <https://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/westerhams-foodbank> to check for the most needed items or to donate funds. Non-perishable food can be left in the Church when open (times below). Please see the note of thanks below for the recent Harvest food *donations* from St Mary's and the children & families of Tatsfield School.
Hilary Vale 01959 577864

'Please pass on our huge thanks for all the wonderful harvest donations. They are greatly appreciated. Your support and the support from the community means the Foodbank continues to be able to take on new clients. Thank you. Fiona Owen Trustee & Chair'.



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 8.30am–3.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays for viewing, prayer or reflection. You can also enjoy splendid views over the Downs from the Churchyard.

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

NOVEMBER

1st Sun	3.30pm	All Souls Service followed by refreshments, StM
3rd Tue	2.30pm	The Wonders of Winter, WIH
3 rd – 7 th	various	All Shook Up (Oxted Musical Theatre), Barn Theatre, Oxted
4 th Wed	12.00pm	Networked Women Event, Herons Bonsai Nursery, Lingfield
8th Sun	10.45am	Remembrance Service, Village Centre
14th Sat	7.30pm	NDS 20th Anniversary Concert, VH
19 th – 21 st	various	The Magic Flute (New Aquarian Opera), Barn Theatre, Oxted
21 st Sat	7.30pm	Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society Concert, Bawtree Hall, Oxted
25 th Wed	2.30pm	British Stable Through Time, St Peter's Church Hall, Limpsfield
26 th Thu	10.30am	Tandridge Job Fair, Council Office, Oxted

DECEMBER

1st Tue	1.00pm	WI Christmas Lunch, WIH
3 rd – 5 th	various	The Addams Family (Glow Theatre Group), Barn Theatre, Oxted
5th Sat	3.00pm	Tatsfield Christmas Craft and Produce Market VH
5th Sat	5.00pm	Tatsfield Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, Village Centre
5 th Sat	5.00pm	OLCS Christmas Concert, United reformed Church, Oxted
10 th – 12 th	various	Chicago (Glow Theatre Group), Barn Theatre, Oxted
13 th Sun	7.45pm	Not the Rolling Stones, Barn Theatre, Oxted
19th Sat	tbc	Santa and his Elves, Village Centre

JANUARY

8 th – 16 th	various	Panto - Ali Baba and the Ever-Decreasing Number of Thieves, Barn Theatre, Oxted
30 th Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Night, 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

Oxted & Limpsfield
Choral Society

Christmas Concert

with
Traditional Carols
and
Magnificat by Pergolesi

Saturday 5th December
5pm

United Reformed Church,
Bluehouse Lane, Oxted,
RH8 0AA

Tickets £18

(under 16s free)
to include Refreshments.

www.olcs.org.uk



THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD UPCOMING LECTURES



The British Stable Through Time by Christopher Garibaldi

Wednesday 25th November 2026, 2.30pm. Afternoon only lecture. Limpsfield Church Hall RH8 ODG. Guests £10 on the door. *Drinks and Nibbles afterwards - please stay and enjoy the company.*

In so many country houses open to the public both stables and carriage houses have been converted into either the restaurant or gift shop. Often the focus of important architectural commissions, they were fundamental elements to the house and estate. This lecture aims to look at the architectural history of the British stable through a wealth of artistic sources, examining their design and evolution from the late medieval period to the end of the 19th century when literal 'horsepower' started to give way to its mechanical alternatives.

THE OXTED & LIMPSFIELD MUSIC SOCIETY

Celebrating our 80th Season

The Society is delighted to be welcoming

Emma Abbate and Julian Perkins: One piano, four hands

to The Bawtree Hall, Wolfs Hill, Oxted RH8 OQU **Saturday 21 November 2026 at 19.30**



A rare chance to hear two outstanding performers in classic duet repertoire.

"The Duo plays with infectious verve ... lovely tone and supple phrasing", Fanfare.

Emma Abbate has been described as "an amazingly talented pianist" by leading Italian magazine 'Musica'.

Julian Perkins "plays with demonic intensity" as described by BBC Music Magazine.

PROGRAMME

Johann Christian Bach (1735–1782): Duet in F Major, op. 18 no. 6

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791): Sonata for piano four hands in C Major, K. 521

Peter Warlock (1894–1930): Capriol Suite

INTERVAL

Robert Schumann (1810–1856): Kinderball, 6 leichte Tanzstücke, Op. 130

Maurice Ravel (1875–1937): Ma mère l'Oye

Tickets for each concert £30 (with free entry for those under 25).

Either on the door or on our website at www.olms.org.uk

Season tickets available at discounted rate (see website for details)

TATSFIELD GARDENING CLUB

PLANTS FOR FREE! A SUCCESSFUL EVENING OF GARDENING TIPS, EXPERT ADVICE AND FREE CUTTINGS!

Another evening event was enjoyed by members and guests of Tatsfield Gardening Club on Tuesday 13th October, when Jon Allbutt returned to the WI Hall to share his knowledge of taking hardwood cuttings assisted by the equally experienced and knowledgeable Marie Shallcross.



Jon brought along not only his enthusiasm and expertise, but also a selection of cuttings for everyone to take home and try for themselves. Among them were climbing roses and the beautiful wisteria — a lovely opportunity to grow new plants for free!

Guests were also encouraged to bring along their own cuttings to prepare during the evening. This gave everyone the chance to get hands-on, ask questions and receive valuable advice on how to give their cuttings the best possible chance of success.

As always, Jon rounded off the evening by answering questions from those attending, ensuring everyone went away with useful tips and ideas to try in their own gardens. It was another informative and enjoyable event, with plenty of inspiration to take home alongside the cuttings!

For more gardening advice, news and information about upcoming activities, visit the Tatsfield Gardening Club website at tatsfieldgardeningclub.org.uk.

You can also keep up with Jon's Garden Diary, which features monthly gardening hints and tips. While you're visiting the website, be sure to look out for Jim Kenney's monthly **Wildlife Gardening Tips**, as well as **allotment advice and updates** from Alan Armitage.

With expert advice, practical demonstrations and the chance to grow something new, there's always something to inspire gardeners of every level at Tatsfield Gardening Club!

Helen Walker

Tatsfield Gardening Club is sponsored by



THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN NOVEMBER

October saw the beginning of the end of a very long and damaging drought with some very useful rain. But were you up early enough on 8th to see our first ground frost? By dawn it was gone! The grass seed I sowed in mid-October is now growing well and mowing has resumed. I am expecting to be cutting grass through this month and probably up to the end of the year. Regular mowing with the cutting height raised will thicken the sward and discourage those more vigorous coarse grasses.

Now, a word about Badgers. I wish I could talk badger - I would ask them to please explain why this year they have behaved like the dreaded wild boar digging up the lawn and the borders, yes, they dug up some of my fuchsias! The tell-tale poo sitting neatly in the bottom of some of the holes is a dead giveaway so don't tell me "It wasn't us"! Oh, and I have you and the family on my wildlife camera too! I love to see just how busy the garden is at night, I just hope that they will get bored and do their digging somewhere else.

You may have noticed that the ivy in our gardens has done very well this year, it is a drought tolerant plant. Please do not be tempted to cut it back now, especially if it is in flower. Ivy is a vital late-flowering plant for bees and other pollinators; it also makes a secure and warmer place for winter roosting birds especially wrens; you can tell if they are using these plants by looking on the foliage and underneath for the tell-tale tiny spots of poo.

At our annual plant sale back in May I offered seedlings saved from my Brugmansias (Angels Trumpets) and have had reports and pics of them flowering for the first time – well done Tatsfield gardeners. Remember that these lovely plants are not frost hardy so make sure to bring them into a frost-free place, water only sparingly and they will rest until next spring.



This is an ideal month to plant shrubs and trees, the soil is still quite warm and new roots will develop, this will be a great help next spring and summer especially to reduce the amount of watering needed to ensure they survive their first year. Don't forget to put plenty of compost in the planting hole and a layer (6" deep) all round the plant. Our award-winning Black Gold compost is ideal for this but remember the composting site is closed for the winter. If you are desperate call me on 01959 577100 and I will arrange for you to come and collect – make sure to bring your own bags! Fancy a superb show of fragrant, yellow flowers over the winter months - buy Mahonia × media 'Winter Sun', there are other varieties of Mahonia but make sure to check the label as some are not as fragrant. Mr Bumble tells me that they are his favourite winter flowers!

Jon Allbutt

WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

I've mentioned before that badgers mate in the summer and then the females do that incredibly amazing thing of pausing their pregnancy until wintertime when the weather is too cold to go out much, so they stay indoors and go through the whole gestation tucked up in bed. For this to be successful they need a healthy plentiful diet from October through to Christmas to build their bodies up to be in a fit state to properly develop their cubs. Now, I always put a little food out for badgers just because we give them a hard time by putting up buildings all over their feeding grounds, but it occurred to me that they could do with a little extra this time of year to help give the expectant mums the best chance of a healthy litter. So, I started putting out an egg every other day or so. And it turns out that badgers love eggs, and it's a very natural source of the protein and calories they need. Perfect! And cheap too, or a handy way to dispose of eggs that are just out of their use-by date.



Moving on from fauna to flora, I try to have flowers blooming all year round but especially from autumn through to early spring, partly because it adds some cheer to the drab grey seasons, but there's still plenty of need to keep the food-chain going. One of my absolute Autumn favourites are Mexican Asters, or Cosmos. Ours are blooming magnificently at the moment, at five and a half feet tall, they are a real tower of flowers in a range of lilac, purple and pure white, and always with attendant bumbles. These Asters seem to keep flowering for ages, and we've often had them last until the ultra-early daffs (Rijnvelds) that come out at Christmas.

Interesting fact of the month... Parakeets are not indigenous British wildlife, but they certainly are a rowdy reality for many of us, especially if there's an apple tree nearby - apples seem to be a very firm favourite with them. There are now an estimated 50,000 of the noisy little green characters living wild in the Southeast, but how did they get here? There is a popular romantic story that the legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix set a mating pair free in London as a display of love, peace and freedom back in the 1960s. It's a nice story but DNA tests have proved that today's birds come from a lot more than just one pair. There are a few other theories too but, for me, the most credible explanation is that they were released from the set of the 1951 film *The African Queen*. This romance-adventure classic starred Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn and was set in East Africa in 1914 but was filmed in West London, and so a supporting cast of parakeets was enlisted for some realistic background ambience. Allegedly, the film crew got so fed up with the relentless raucous squawking that as soon as the filming was over, they couldn't get rid of the birds quick enough and they set them free to get a little peace and quiet. And 75 years later, they're still over here screeching away and pinching our apples.

Jim Kenney

FAIRTRADE PLEDGES AT TATSFIELD SCHOOL



Having shared with you last month Fairtrade Fortnight in Tatsfield, we wanted to say **Thank You** again for the support we received from all those who engaged buying Fairtrade goods from Sheree's Stores and shopping and eating cakes at the church teas.



This month we particularly wanted to share with you some of the amazing contributions made by Tatsfield School. The commitment of the staff and students was wonderful.

This beautiful and imaginative presentation in the foyer of the school showed many aspects of what students had learnt and understood about Fairtrade during the fortnight. They focussed their thoughts on tea and made this pledge.

BREW IT FAIR

The youngest students learnt how to spot the Fairtrade logo, about how tea is grown and made. They even used playdough to play at picking tea leaves just like Tea farmers do! Other students learnt about Oliver's Tea farm. Oliver manages a tea farm in southern India. Apart from growing Tea his farm stresses the need for Biodiversity. The farm takes care to Protect the surrounding forests, planting native trees, allowing insects, birds and animals to thrive ensuring the best environment to grow Tea without the need for pesticides. This farm provides employment to the local community, as well as working to mitigate the impact of climate change and is supported by the Fairtrade Foundation.

It was inspiring to see how engaged the children were and how they understood and learnt about how interconnected their lives are with food producers across the world. Students were encouraged to write their own pledges made in response to what they had seen and learnt. The pledges were written on paper made to look like leaves from a tea plant and then displayed. They were personal to them but described their commitment to fairness, caring for the planet, and taking the opportunity to make a difference by supporting Fairtrade in working and supporting food producers across the world.

Fairtrade means we can all make a positive difference and create a brighter future for us all.



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NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Nicola (Reeves) leads the cast this month with her sighting of a reptile. And no, it wasn't a snake. It was a Slow-worm:

(02.09.26) *'A first for me ... have no idea how it suddenly appeared on our patio. I quickly moved it into a flower bed so it wasn't harmed! We have plenty of adult **Slow-worms** around but had never seen a juvenile before.'* ☺

Wonderful, Nicola! What a great sighting. I recall finding one beneath a slab when I was a boy but haven't come across one since. I wonder how common they are around the village. Hopefully, your news will encourage others to keep an eye open and report any findings. Incidentally, Slow-worms generally have their young between August and September and usually produce between six and twelve young ones, so don't be surprised if you find one or two more while you're out gardening!

Meanwhile, along Crossways, Jon (Allbutt) is missing his daily invasion of Parakeets:

(08.10.26) *'For many years now we have been regularly invaded by flocks of greedy **Parakeets**. Every morning and evening they chew through the plastic of my bird feeders to get at the food! This year we saw them as usual in the spring but then they seem to have disappeared apart from just the odd one. Is this general across the village I wonder? I know they are prone to Psittacosis, maybe caused by hot dry conditions?'*



Well, John, although you are just around the corner from me, I haven't had any Parakeets in the garden for several years, although a 'flock' of half a dozen flew over a couple of days ago. I said I would carry out some research and here's a brief summary of my findings:

According to the Natural History Museum, Psittacosis (also known as Parrot Fever) is not currently causing a major decline in the wild parakeet population and rarely causes severe population crashes. In fact, historically, it seems likely that psittacosis outbreaks played a major role in **establishing** the UK's wild parakeet population rather than suppressing it or causing a long-term decline. This may seem strange but, being a zoonotic disease, a few major public health scares regarding the cross-infection of psittacosis from birds to humans in the 1930s and 1950s led to panic and the consequent mass release or abandonment of captive pet parrots and parakeets by fearful owners. These liberated or escaped birds adapted to the British climate, forming the initial wild

breeding clusters such as those seen in Greater London and Kent and led to the subsequent spread across the south-east of England.

How about the weather. Could the unusually hot, summer weather be responsible for the local population decline? According to Science Direct, Ring-necked parakeets are naturally resilient to wide temperature swings, having thrived in various global climates including that of the Himalayas. During extreme heatwaves they use behavioural cooling like panting, wing-drooping, and resting in dense tree cover during peak mid-day temperatures. In fact, milder winters and hotter summers mean **higher** survival rates year-round. It looks like global warming will suit them rather well.

I'm going to throw in a third possibility. If a large proportion of local people who normally keep their bird feeders well stocked decided to follow the advice of the RSPB and kept them empty over the summer period, there would surely have been far fewer nuts available for avid nut eaters such as Parakeets. What would they do? Go elsewhere to feed! It will be interesting to see if they re-appear when normal service is resumed during the coming months. Thanks for the query, John, and please keep us aware of any developments. (Does anyone else have a theory, sensible or otherwise? Please share it!)

And finally this month - **A bedtime story for children** (and others) **everywhere**.

Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin:

Once upon a time, on one of those long, hot days in the distant summer past, Jenny (Davies) arrived at Nigel's door carrying a lunchbox. Excellent, he thought, a kind and generous delivery of freshly baked brownies; just what the doctor ordered. However, disappointment soon befell him. Upon opening the lid all he found was a pile of privet leaves. 'What madness is this?' he wondered. Suddenly there was movement from within and to Nigel's amazement a giant caterpillar emerged from the greenery – a **Privet hawk-moth caterpillar**. Jenny had saved it from the midday heat and had come to have the identification confirmed. Together, Jenny and Nigel now had to decide what to do with it. Luckily there are privet hedges all around, so they decided to release it into one of those. Although they visited three different locations, the silly caterpillar made no attempt to co-operate, simply refusing to latch on to any leaf or branch. Eventually, Jenny decided to adopt the caterpillar. It went home with her where it was placed in a well-ventilated, covered plant pot full of compost with a privet branch planted in the middle. The theory was that the caterpillar would enjoy the privet until it was ready to bury itself in the compost and become a chrysalis. As it soon disappeared, it is to be assumed that this is what happened. So now it's a waiting game. One morning, Jenny will peer into the pot cover and, as if by magic, the chrysalis will have opened and there before her tear-filled eyes will be a magnificent moth in all its colourful splendour. Upon its release it will blow Jenny a gentle kiss of gratitude before flying upwards and onwards into our flower-filled gardens for us all to admire and appreciate. And the moth will of course live - **happily ever after**. The End.

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

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

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – NOVEMBER 2026

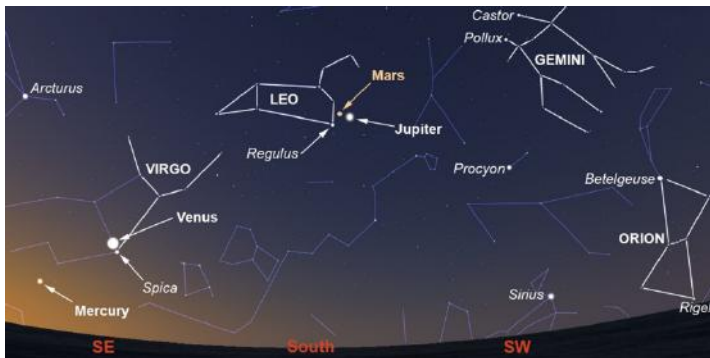
I mentioned previously that if you were awake in the early mornings, during November, you would be able to see two bright planets pass close to each other, something known as a planetary conjunction.

The planets concerned are Mars and Jupiter with the former making all the running because it moves the quickest of the two whilst Jupiter is, very slowly, moving away from Mars. At the beginning of November, the planets are 6° apart which is equivalent to 12 full Moons. You might think the Moon is huge, but if you look when it is well away from the horizon, and high in the sky, you will realise that it is quite small. The pair are joined by a waning crescent Moon on the 2nd and 3rd providing a photo opportunity. Then, by 16th the two are as close as they can get, being just over 1° apart (2 Moon diameters). After that they move apart again even though both are moving in the same direction, towards the east (left).

Then on 27th Mars passes less than two degrees to the northeast of the bright star Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation of Leo, the lion.

However, before that, a day or two either side of 21st, look low down in the southeast to find both of the inner planets (Mercury and Venus) making an appearance. Venus is very close to the bright star Spica which is the brightest star in Virgo, the virgin. I would suggest looking at 6:30am because the Sun will still be approximately 10° below the horizon which means we are still in nautical twilight.

If you have a low westerly horizon, you will be able to see Orion preparing to set and to the east (left) of it, Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky which is nearly in line with the three stars in Orion's belt. Despite its apparent brightness, Sirius only holds that number one position because it is very close to us and not because it is unusually bright. The nearest star to the Earth (apart from the Sun) is Proxima Centauri which is four light years away whilst Sirius is eight light years distant. Compare that to Rigel, the bottom right-hand star in Orion which is 860 light years away and yet it is still the 7th brightest star in the night sky. Rigel is a type of star known as a blue supergiant which could be more than 300,000 times more luminous than the Sun. One light year is equal to 9½ trillion km.



The map is drawn for 6:30am on 21st November.

Constellations are named in block capitals whilst star names are in italics.

Brian Mills FRAS

In the autumn of 1926, 18 residents signed a petition to the Parish Council calling for three Tatsfield road names to be changed. They wanted: Emily Road with all its shops to be called High Street; Louisa Road to become The Crossways; and called for Union Road to be re-named Greenway. In response, the District Council ruled that if

RE-NAMING OF TATSFIELD STREETS.

The Highways and General Purposes Committee reported the receipt of a letter from Tatsfield Parish Council forwarding a petition, signed by 18 residents and property owners, in the under-mentioned roads, stating that they considered it would be an advantage, not only to them, but to the whole village,

'two-thirds in number and value of the ratepayers in such streets' agreed, an application would be made to the Ministry of Health (the government department then responsible for local government) for the changes to be approved. In early 1928 changes were indeed made, but by then,

Westmore Road – since it leads to Westmore Green – was a more fitting name. The idea of Tatsfield having such a thing as a High Street was also thought to be inappropriate and Crossways had the suggested 'The' dropped. The original names are said to have been those of children of Charles Field, the builder of so many of Tatsfield's houses.

A year after its formation, Tatsfield's Women's Institute had set up a 'Children's Welfare Centre' at the Village Hall. This would be open once a fortnight to meet what the Westerham Herald described as *'the want of mothers in sound advice for their children'*.

And as November's account in the Westerham Herald suggests, strained relations between Britain's political left and right after the General Strike prompted Tatsfield's Rector to underline in his Remembrance Day sermon what he saw as the need for true reconciliation across the divide. The Rev BG Popham had been a stalwart figure in the village since the start of the First World War.

IDEALS.—Preaching on Sunday morning at the Armistice service in church, the Rector, Rev. B. G. Popham, took for his discourse the ideals which animated all those who took part in the Great War. Rich and poor, he said, then rubbed shoulders together for the common cause, and they should all strive to carry out in their everyday christian life those noble ideals of self-sacrifice and love for their fellow men. Collections were made in aid of Earl Haig's Fund.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project

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

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

KCH DECISION ON INPATIENT HAEMATOLOGY CARE AT PRUH – STATEMENT FROM MICHAEL DOUGLAS

Dear Supporters,

It has been some months now since KCH confirmed its final decisions around the future of inpatient care for haematology cancer patients at PRUH.

Under the new arrangements set out in July, the dedicated inpatient haematology ward in Chartwell Unit will close. Patients who need specialist inpatient haematology care will no longer be admitted locally at the PRUH but will instead be treated at King's College Hospital in Denmark Hill. KCH plans to establish a Haematology Day Unit at the PRUH in its place, providing planned, urgent, and emergency day-case care.

As many of you will know, The Chartwell Cancer Trust has strongly opposed the removal of inpatient haematology provision from Chartwell Ward. Over the past year, we have raised serious concerns about the impact of this change on local patients, particularly those who are elderly, vulnerable, immunocompromised, or reliant on family support close to home. More than 34,000 people signed the petition, and hundreds of patients, families and local residents shared their concerns with us.

This outcome is a source of great disappointment to us, and to the local community that has stood so firmly with us over the past 12 months. We are not satisfied that the new model adequately addresses concerns around access, safety, and continuity of care, and we believe it removes a vital local service that our community needs and relies on.

Following the KCH announcement, we have continued to press for answers and proper scrutiny. Local MPs and councillors have been actively raising concerns with Matthew Trainer, the new Chief Executive of KCH, including questions about patient safety, capacity, the new Denmark Hill bed arrangements, the Day Unit, transport, and how the transition will be managed.

Last month, Bromley's Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held a further meeting with KCH on the proposed new model. We worked closely with councillors to ensure detailed scrutiny questions were put to the Trust. At the meeting, KCH confirmed that inpatient activity is now expected to transfer from PRUH to Denmark Hill over the weekend of 24–25 October 2026, subject to ward works and safety assurances. They also confirmed that the full Standard Operating Procedure is still being developed, and that the new Chartwell Haematology Day Unit will initially operate Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm, with six clinical treatment spaces. Minutes from the meeting can be viewed here <https://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=445&Mid=8473&Ver=4>

We will continue to press for clear safeguards, transparent monitoring and proper support for patients and families as these changes are implemented.

Alongside our continued advocacy, we are now focusing on ensuring that the patients affected by the change are fully supported. We are currently developing a free transport

service for haematology patients who may struggle to travel to Denmark Hill, or to appointments connected with the new Haematology Day Unit at the PRUH.

The service will be targeted at patients most likely to be disadvantaged by the change: those in outlying areas with poor public transport, elderly, or unwell patients, those facing long journeys with multiple changes, and people without family or friends able to take them to appointments.



Support will be matched to need, including private ambulance transport where required, car pick-ups from home, and funded return journeys by taxi where appointment timings are unpredictable. We are finalising the practical arrangements and will share further details once confirmed.

In my opinion, the decision to close our inpatient ward was forced through against patient's wishes and best interests. We will continue to apply scrutiny where concerns remain and in the fullness of time get this decision reversed.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign, signed the petition, written to local representatives, shared personal experiences, or helped keep this issue in the public eye. Your support has mattered enormously.

If you have any questions about the issues raised above or would like to contact me directly, please feel free to contact me by email (see below).

Kind regards,

Michael Douglas, Founder and Trustee, The Chartwell Cancer Trust

Email: michaeldouglas@chartwellcancertrust.co.uk



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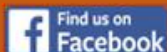
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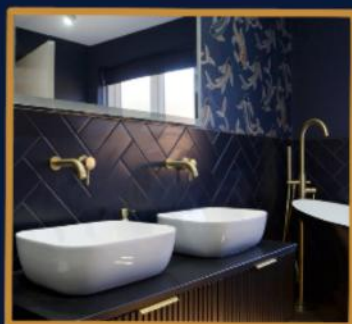
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