

MARCH

2014

PARISH MAGAZINE

Tatsfield



THIS ISSUE



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- NEXT YEAR'S COUNCIL TAX
- ROBIN TAPSELL REMEMBERED
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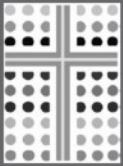
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TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. Copy date for the Magazine is 16th of the preceding month. Contributions should be sent directly to the Editor at The Briars, Ninehams Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AN (Fax: 01959 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk) or drop it into Linda's Stores.

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

Calendar Dates Our rolling Calendar usually covers 6 weeks 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.

Ideas/Opinions/Articles We are always looking for items of interest - have a word with the Editor.

Correspondence We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else.

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



Dear All,

Since the arrival of the last magazine I have enjoyed reading the Village Appraisal Report and am reminded again of the many opportunities for being involved in the life of our community. As was mentioned in last month's editorial, there does seem to be a little more reluctance these days for villagers to belong to organisations, especially if this includes any responsibilities or forms of leadership. The Scouts, the Horticultural Society, the In Bloom group and the magazine production team are just some of the village organisation that would welcome more active support. This trend is being seen not only in Tatsfield but across the country generally: there is a lot less 'belonging'. No doubt there are many reasons for it, related to the pressures and distractions of modern life. Fortunately there is still a rich and diverse sense of community here in Tatsfield – let us aim to do all we can to preserve it and to develop it.

One village resource, open to everybody, is your parish church, St Mary's. It was very clear from the appraisal that many of you value the building itself: this is not surprising as it is a wonderful building with a wealth of history attached to it. We know from the visitors' book that many come, often from far away, to visit the church on our doorstep. Elsewhere in this magazine (on page 29) you can read some of the comments they made during the course of last year. We have in our village a place where people have been coming for nearly 1000 years to, amongst other things, mark the significant moments in life and to share them, both with each other and with their creator.

Did you know that the church is open every day? Why not pop in to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, or to light a candle for somebody on your mind, or to marvel at the stones that have stood since Norman times, or perhaps to sit on a bench and enjoy the view across the Weald (on a clear day of course!). You can do all of this without any 'belonging' or membership fee!

This is also true for the other aspects of St Mary's: our services, funerals, discussion groups, social and fundraising events and individual visits are available to all. However much or however little faith you have, whatever your questions and doubts, St Mary's is your parish church and has much to offer. If you are thinking of a step that involves more commitment, such as a wedding or baptism, then you are equally welcome to talk with us, whether you are a regular churchgoer or not.

Louise Ellis

COVER

The picture on this month's cover is of the In Bloom volunteers cleaning the pond in January, ready for some spring planting. There is more about this on page 30.



Dear Editor,

AFN Frankfurt

Dennis Tapsell's letter 'Country Music Memories' in the February magazine took me back to the 1940s. I too was an avid listener to AFN (American Forces Network) although my passion was Big Band Swing. As a young RAF apprentice (that's what an App was in those days!) I used to listen to AFN – along with 39 other dormitory mates – on a wireless, powered by an illegal electrical extension which remained live after the 10pm 'Lights Out'. A battery powered wireless would have been impossible to hide, since, in addition to the large components it would have to house a 120volt HT (high tension) battery, a 9 volt GB (grid bias) battery and a 2 volt accumulator which would need frequent recharging. Now my old fashioned mobile contains a radio as well as a camera!

I was surprised to learn that AFN was on 872Khz (Kilohertz). Wireless dials in those days were calibrated by wavelength in metres (m) and frequency was stated in Kc/s (Kilocycles per second). It was some years later that 'cycles per second' was replaced by the term 'Hertz'(Hz) in honour of the German physicist Heinrich Hertz who first confirmed the existence of radio waves. Interestingly Hertz said " I do not think that the wireless waves I have discovered will have any practical application." !

I think that AFN was on 344m on the medium waveband but that Dennis converted this to Khz for the benefit of your younger readers.

Phil Stokes, Paynesfield Road

Dear Editor,

Ricketts Hill Road Resurfacing

Let's hope that Surrey County Council's future dialogue with residents regarding Ricketts Hill resurfacing is rather more careful and considerate than it managed for the first episode of works programmed for late January.

Unambiguous road closure notices appeared (see picture) at the roadside just a day or two before the scheduled works. Surrey's website confirmed the works albeit with differing dates from its prominent site notices. Bus users were told on signs at the Old Ship bus stop that the 464 would start and finish in Biggin Hill for

the duration of the works. And what happened? Precisely nothing! Good news perhaps for those contemplating a detour via Rag Hill or Lusted Hall Lane. Pretty inconvenient and expensive for those relying on the buses. Tough for those actually turfed out at Rosehill where the foreshortened service terminated. And still rough for tyres and suspensions.



Few of us would deny that, after the failure of repeated patch and mend repairs, Ricketts Hill Road, like many other key routes in the area, is long overdue for resurfacing. Should the works ever occur it would be helpful if the county council shows some thoughtfulness for local taxpayers who are paying the bill and who would appreciate accurate information.

Richard Gibbs, Maesmaur Road

David Hodge, Surrey County Councillor, responds:

As I had attended a meeting on site (see my report in the February magazine) I was surprised when a resident and Cllr Bob David brought this matter to my attention. I was unaware of this proposed works. I am sorry for the disruption that was caused but I did get to the bottom of the matter.

I can also confirm that the Highways "walk" of Ricketts Hill Road has now been completed and once all the planning has been finalised I will advise residents of the dates of the intended works.

As I have outlined before, the works to this road will be challenging and that is why I have met the Highways Engineer and the head of the contracting firm on site. I am confident that whilst there will be some disruption during the works, the end result will be a very good job.

Finally, the work to Ricketts Hill Road has been reported by me on a number of occasions in this magazine and at Parish Council meetings, and it will take place in the new financial year beginning this April as I have been saying for some time.

Dear Editor,

CRAPP AGM

CRAPP (Community Revolting Against Pervasive (dog) Poo) held its AGM recently and I am pleased to report that it was well attended. It was held in the bus shelter, where numbers could have been confused with commuters arriving and departing Tatsfield. All contributed to a lively meeting. The occasion commenced with the reading of a letter from our Public Health Adviser reminding us, yet again, of the

dangers relating to dog poo contamination, particularly for youngsters whose immune systems are not fully developed and that it is an offence (max £1000 fine) to allow a dog to contaminate public areas - so reminders should really not be necessary.

We then moved directly to Any Other Business before the pub closed. Under this heading, AOB, a proposal was made that we purchase a recently developed machine, the Poodometer, for which Lottery Funding was thought possible. It would mean that all dogs in Tatsfield would have their DNA taken and programmed into this machine. It was proposed that the Poodometer should be located in Linda's shop, somewhere between the Lincolnshire sausages and the chocolate mousse. Linda is yet to be approached but the meeting did not anticipate any problem. Following its installation the CRAPP patrol would gather any anonymous wayward poo and take it to Linda's, scrape it into the machine, wait a moment or two whilst being digested and then the result, dog's name and address, would be projected onto a 10m screen accompanied by the amplified sound of dogs barking and howling. For the first offence it is suggested 6 penalty points on the dog licence. Should there be a second offence the offending animal would have to attend, with its owner, a poo awareness course if a financial penalty was to be avoided.

Whilst on patrol at the time of the Tatsfield Beer Festival last September, it was sad to see the number of dog abuses lying in wait on Westmore Green for some poor unsuspecting soul to tread in or worse. The team will in future consider highlighting abandoned dollops by ring- marking them with a red fluorescent spray for the benefit of unsuspecting Tatsfield people but kids in particular.

Finally, CRAPP would like to acknowledge the many responsible dog owners in the village who do the right thing each day and every day.

Howard Aylett, Paynesfield Road

THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Some articles to specially look out for:

- * Your council tax next year. Pages 20-21
- Fairtrade Fortnight in Tatsfield. Page 31
- * Star local gardener Bryan Everest's return visit to Tatsfield. Page 35
- * What happened to the Canadian Tatsfield? Pages 44-47
- * Who's Dave Bishop? Pages 56-57
- Fancy an authentic curry? Pages 58-59
- * News of the village's football and cricket clubs. Page 70

COUNCIL REPORTS

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

As I said last month, the **Village Appraisal report** has given us a lot to consider. We intend to consult further on the priorities for action and hope that the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th May will give more of you the chance to hear what we plan and to comment on it. The report indicated that you want us to keep you informed of our plans but we need the community to engage with us to achieve that.

The **wet and windy weather** over the past few months has caused havoc all over the country but with some exceptions Tatsfield has been comparatively lucky. Winds have also brought down fences and trees and rain has flooded many roads, paths and gardens. We are working with Surrey and Tandridge to resolve and prevent problems. Every job has to be prioritised. We have commissioned a tree survey of Parish land to produce a tree management plan. In the last few years we have completed major maintenance programmes on the Village Hall and Aileen McHugo buildings. In addition we feel it is important to have management plans for the Greens. These are valuable assets to the village and need a long-term strategy to keep them in good condition.

There are quite a few examples of **vehicle damage** to Westmore Green and road verges around the village; we will tackle these as the weather improves. Please keep off the boggy, grassed areas as the damage can be expensive to repair and it's your money that we will be spending. The building work at the new houses by the pond is nearly complete and the builder will repair the Green there.

We were also made aware of the best - and the less good - community spirit over the past few weeks. The Oakland guys who stopped on their way home and worked so hard to clear the fallen tree in Approach Road, the team of volunteers who work every Saturday morning throughout the year to tidy and improve the village centre all personify the best. The thoughtless few who double park in the school car park - and by the shops - causing problems to other users could think a little bit more, walk a little bit further and use a little bit more common sense to make daily life less of a hassle for themselves and others.

As we look forward to better weather and lighter evenings, the Community Games Area will be opened on weekday evenings soon. On this brighter note, with snowdrops pushing through and the allotments showing signs of activity, let's hope for less rain and more sunshine over the next few weeks.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at the Aileen McHugo Building at 8.00pm on Monday 10th March. Agenda www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield/

Sue Smale, Chairman (Tel: 577660 Email: susan.smale@yahoo.co.uk)

COUNCIL REPORTS



TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Tax for 2014/15: We pay our Council Tax to Tandridge but only part of what we pay goes to the District Council because Tandridge also collects the tax on behalf of Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and Tatsfield Parish Council. Most of the Council Tax we pay goes to Surrey County Council, which is not surprising as it is responsible for the programmes with big budgets, such as schools, roads and social services. All four authorities have now decided on the amounts of Council Tax they will be charging for the year beginning in April.

The Band D Council Tax for Tatsfield residents next year and a comparison with the current year are as follows:

	2013/14	2014/15
Surrey County Council	£1172.52	£1195.83
Surrey Police	£207.55	£211.68
Tandridge District Council	£193.62	£193.62
Tatsfield Parish Council	£46.14	£47.65
Total	£1619.83	£1648.78

You will see that there are small increases in the amounts for three of the authorities and that the fourth, Tandridge, is unchanged. Taking all four together, there is a small increase in the total amount we will be paying, which works out, for Band D, as an increase in the weekly rate of 55p – from £31.15 a week to £31.70. Band D rates are usually chosen to indicate an “average” Council Tax rate. In fact, rates vary from Band A (the smallest properties) to Band H (the largest). In Tatsfield, a Band A household will be paying £1099.19 a year and a Band H household £3297.56.

As far as Tandridge’s share of the Council Tax is concerned, the rate and the budget for next year were decided at a meeting of the full council (i.e. all 42 councillors) last month. For those authorities that decided to freeze their Council Tax, the Government was offering a grant equal in value to the income which the authority would have received had it increased its Council Tax by 1%.

Tandridge decided to accept the offer and so its Council Tax is unchanged for the fourth consecutive year. However, there could be problems in subsequent years as the 1% Government grant has a limited guarantee in future years and it is uncertain what the Government of the day would decide about local authority funding, which is why the County Council and Surrey Police have decided not to accept the Government’s offer but instead to increase their Council Tax. Which is the better policy? Authorities not only in Surrey but all over the country have taken different views.

Cllr Bob David (Tel: 577357 Email: bob@bobdavid.co.uk)

COUNCIL REPORTS

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



Floods: I am sure you are aware how Surrey has been well and truly hit by the floods etc. Worst affected in our area has been the A22. I suspect it could be closed for some time. There are still worries about the Kenley water treatment plant.

Highways: As I am sure readers will understand, many SCC Highway projects are now being delayed. As County Council Leader, I have agreed to many Highway staff being reallocated to flood duties - fallen trees, structural damage to bridges/structures etc. as well as issues with water rising from the ground. Many areas have had electricity cuts over the last eight weeks. About 20 major Highway schemes across Surrey will be delayed, including the works on Titsey Hill down to Pilgrims Lane, and I trust residents will understand that at this critical time resources must be directed to areas of Surrey in most urgent need.

Paynesfield Road: Once Thames Water gives final clearance, this project will go ahead – this is critical before SCC Highways can start work. It is frustrating but this must be done before we start digging up this section of the road.

Ricketts Hill Road: This project is still scheduled for the 2014/15 financial year. The “walk” of Ricketts Hill Road by Highway officers, contractors etc. has been completed and officers are now working through the various stages of discussions with other agencies to draw up the final plans for works. All residents will be advised of dates etc. I still hope the works will be undertaken at night.

Council Tax 2014/15: Surrey continues to receive the lowest government funding of any county in the country despite being the second highest contributor to the Exchequer behind the City of London. Next financial year we need to fund 2,450 extra school places, with a further 4,500 in 2015/16 – a huge strain on our budget. Then we expect a further 1,000 adult Social Care services cases in the next two to three years. We also wish to continue with our £100m Project Horizon (the 5 year highway programme) and to support a further 500 apprentices again in 2014/15. The Council Tax freeze grant is for single years in 2014/15 and 2015/16 with no guarantee or commitment from Government to build this grant into the base funding of councils; so it is not in SCC’s interest to accept the grant. That would only create a black hole of £22m in our finances. A debate was held at County Hall on 11 February to discuss raising Council Tax to meet the cost of these rising demands with a proposal to raise the Council Tax by 1.99%. Despite the many assurances in the debate by Liberal Democrat, UKIP and Independent members that they would support these critical programmes, it was very disappointing when it came to voting that they all declined to support these services needed by residents of Surrey.

Cllr David Hodge (Tel: 020 8541 8003 Email: david.hodge@surreycc.gov.uk)

EVERY RING TELLS A STORY



Each year there are about 250,000 weddings in the UK. And the majority of people say I love you with Gold. But do we ever give a thought to where much of that gold comes from?

Around the globe over 100 million people depend on artisanal or small-scale mining (ASM) for their survival. The poor and vulnerable in Africa, Asia and Latin America turn to ASM because it can offer a way to earn a living where agriculture is not viable. In the Congo and Sierra Leone many of these miners live on just a dollar a day. They face a multitude of challenges as they struggle to survive - working conditions are hazardous and health and safety measures insufficient. They are also at the mercy of a long and complex supply chain – over which they have little control. Tracing gold from buyer, to jewellery manufacturer, to refiner is notoriously difficult and the gold industry has been slow to open its doors to scrutiny.

In Busia, Uganda, Stella Adeka, a mining mother says “...from the time of conception to the birth of my son, I have been using my bare hands to pan (for gold). The same container that I used for panning is the same that I used at home to bathe in. And when I gave birth, I used the very basin to bathe him. Today after learning about the adverse effects of mercury on our health, I realise that mercury could be the reason for my son’s eye defect.”



The unskilled handling of toxic chemicals such as mercury and cyanide poses severe risks to miners, their communities and the natural environment. You may be shocked to learn that the average gold wedding ring produces 3 tons of toxic waste!

Having read all that, you’d be forgiven for choosing to boycott new gold and only buying second hand or recycled gold – but before you do, spare a thought for those 100 million people who depend on mining for their survival.

Thankfully there is now a solution – **Fairtrade Gold** – gold whose supply chain is fully transparent and traceable. Gold that is mined responsibly without child labour and where the miners receive a Fairtrade minimum price and premium (equivalent to 10% of the internationally agreed price of gold) which assists in their communities’ social, environmental and economic development. And those miners that produce their gold without the use of mercury or cyanide earn an additional ecological premium of 5%.

In 2014 the aim is to make 50,000 of those weddings Fairtrade, that's 100,000 rings! And the extra cost to us, the consumer, is around £12 on a £250 ring. But we need to ask for it to get it. Ask your local jeweller if they know where their gold comes from and ask for Fairtrade Gold. Fairtrade gold carries the Fairtrade mark.



And if like me you know someone (our daughter) being married in the near future you could encourage them to ask 'what's the story of our gold rings?'

FAIRTRADE GOLD – THE POWER OF YOU

Barbara Hester, Tatsfield Fairtrade Group

www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com
TatsfieldFairtrade Group @TatsfieldFT

For more information go to:

www.fairtrade.org.uk/gold (includes a list of FT gold jewellers)
www.communitymining.org
www.youtube.com/user/FairJewelryTV



MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT, SAYS SAM GYIMAH MP

Active citizenship is the key to a successful community – as the Tatsfield Parish Magazine demonstrates.

The right to vote is one of the greatest privileges of our society, and a vital way in which we can shape our country and community for the better. We are fortunate to live in a democracy where everyone has a voice, and every vote counts.

Yet too many people are not registered to vote, including nearly half of adults under the age of 24. That is why, in support of the UK's first National Voter Registration Day (February), I have recently written to schools and young people in Tandridge about the importance of registering to vote, and why I would strongly encourage everyone - whatever your age and whatever your views – to make sure that you are on the register, and that your voice gets heard.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, to see for yourself how our democracy works. To arrange your visit please get in touch with me by emailing sam@samgyimah.com.

Sam Gyimah



FEDERICCI PIZZAS

Fede and Julia Ricci of the Federicci mobile pizza business regret to announce that they have had to take the difficult decision not to continue trading in Tatsfield on Tuesday evenings.

While business got off to a great start in the summer, it tailed off significantly in the winter months to the point of no longer being viable. Julia said, "We really enjoyed being in Tatsfield and had lots of lovely customers, some of whom came for pizzas almost every week. We are so grateful for each and every one of them, and for the support of the Parish Council, Bob David and the team at the Parish Magazine, and all the residents of Tatsfield who helped us get our new business off the ground."

Fede and Julia would love to come back to Tatsfield for one-off events, and are hoping to attend the Beer Festival in September. In the meantime, Thursday is pizza night in Oxted, and some Tatsfield residents have already found the Federicci mobile pizza van parked in the car park of the Community Hall in Church Lane! "We are so sorry to let everyone down and would be delighted to see our Tatsfield customers at the pitch in Oxted." Julia said.

Federicci are planning a series of one-off Saturday night pitches in a number of local villages that have no take-away or delivery services, and hope that Tatsfield will be one of them. Watch this space, or check the website and Facebook for details.

www.pizzafedericci.co.uk
www.facebook.com/Pizzafedericci
07552 014861



LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

Little Acorns have had a very successful half term. Our numbers for both the morning and afternoon sessions are on the increase and the breakfast club is also doing well. We are able to offer ad-hoc sessions for the breakfast club so please get in touch if you need to make an early start one morning and need care for your child before school.

During February the pre-school children have had fun learning about Chinese New Year – even tasting some Chinese food! They have been thinking about where food comes from, looking at fruits, vegetables and meat.

The children made paper flowers with handprint petals for Valentine's Day and I know at least two of the children exchanged cards!

I have overheard many positive comments from parents recently about how much their child enjoys Little Acorns. We are very fortunate to have such talented and long serving staff to work with the children and make it such a great experience for them.

VILLAGE NEWS

If you would like more information about Little Acorns or would like to register your child or have a look round, please contact Julie Barlow on 540775 during pre-school hours.

Little Acorns is potentially looking for an additional member of staff to work Monday to Friday mornings on a temporary basis from March to July. Previous experience of working with pre-school age children is desirable but not essential. Please contact me for further details if you think you may be interested.

Rebecca Veale, Chair (Tel: 573669)

TATSFIELD PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the 100 Club winners for January 2014

1st prize: Margaret Burton	£43.50
2nd prize: Brian Wiggins	£29.00
3rd prize: Debbie Bishop	£14.50



VILLAGE WEBSITE NEWS

www.tatsfield.org.uk

With spring approaching, we thought you might like a bit of help in getting some exercise, so we are making the contents of the 'Wallet of Walks for Tatsfield' available on the website for download. You may remember that the Wallet, which describes in detail 6 walks of varying distances around the Village, was available a couple of years ago for £2.50. Unfortunately, there are no further printed copies available, so if you've misplaced yours, or would like a copy for yourself or a friend, you can now download individual walks at no cost, by clicking the 'Tatsfield Walks' button on the left of each webpage and follow the links.



For some time now, there has been a link on the Village Website Navigation Bar to Tatsfield Primary School, but not to any other local school (other than in the Local Directory). Well, that omission has now been rectified, so you can now use this as a quick link to local school websites.

Finally, it seemed to make sense to include on the website, details from the article in last month's Parish Magazine, about the way in which you can report details of aircraft which fly low over the village, if you thought that was a problem. So, these details will now appear at the top of the Home page for a few weeks and then in the Miscellaneous section further down, from then on.



Village Web Team - Email info@tatsfield.org.uk

VILLAGE NEWS



ROBIN ARTHUR TAPSELL **2 June 1956 – 16 January 2014**

Robin was born in June 1956 in Parkside Cottages, Rag Hill Road in Tatsfield. He attended Tatsfield School along with his brother Ron and then eventually Oxted Secondary School, which he loved. Robin loved sports, in particular football, and would often be found on Tatsfield Green having a kick about with mates.

Robin left school at the age of 16 and was fortunate to find work in a greengrocers in Oxted. Tragically only a few weeks after starting his new job, doctors found a benign tumour on Robin's back which left him paralysed from the waist down.

In his late teens Robin and the family moved to 7 Lusted Hall Lane, where he was to remain living for the rest of his life. Robin wasn't one to be sitting indoors; he loved being out in the garden, especially during spring and summer when the family garden blossomed with all the flowers his Dad lovingly tended.



Robin's mode of transport for the first few years of his paralysis was his wheelchair. However, an adapted car eventually came along which gave Robin a lot more freedom. This led to a new hobby for Robin after his was introduced to the world of CB radio by his friend Mr Knight from Biggin Hill. Citizens Band radio (also known as CB radio) is a system of short-distance radio communications between individuals on a selection of channels. This opened up a whole new life for Robin and he became a familiar figure parked up on Clarks Lane, as a good reception was to be had from there, tuning in with his fellow CB contacts. It was during one of his CB sessions that Robin struck up a friendship with a young lady called Sandra. Soon they weren't just talking over the radio but meeting up in person which led to them dating. For four happy years Robin and Sandra were a couple until they just drifted apart.

Another pleasure for Robin was the games and cards evenings they used to have at home. Friends like Matthew Higgs and David Salliss would visit for an evening drink and socialise along with Robin's father, Jim. Another good friend of Robin's was Bill Hutchinson, who used to take Robin for a drink at the then Tatsfield Working Men's Club. Robin enjoyed watching sport on television, in particular snooker, cricket and golf and if the Olympics were on this took precedence over anything else.

VILLAGE NEWS

In the late nineties Robin's health deteriorated which unfortunately meant no more driving. However, this didn't stop him getting out and about as family were often around to take him for a drive to Orpington, which he enjoyed. He was also a familiar figure at our local shops or on the Green, which gave him an opportunity to socialise with passers by and watch his beloved nieces and nephews in the playground.

During December of last year Robin developed a chest infection which unfortunately led to pneumonia. This proved too much for him and he was sadly taken from us.

Betty and family would like to thank all concerned for their kind words and messages. Betty would also like to specially thank her family for being there for her through this time of need.

Kim Waite



TATSFIELD HELPLINE

Don't forget! If you need a driver to take you to the doctors, the hospital or perhaps to church on Sundays – the Helpline volunteers are happy to take you to your destination and return you safely to your home. Just ring Sylvia on 577524 to arrange your transport.



BARN THEATRE AT OXTED



CARRIE'S WAR by Emma Lewis

The adventures of evcacuees in Wales during the Second World War

Presented by the Young Oxted Players

7.45 pm on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 March

(2.30 matinee on the Saturday)

Tickets from www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk or 01883 724852

FOR SALE

One pair of brand new John Lewis 'Blue and White' patterned curtains.
Length 6'.10" x 5' wide. £30. Phone 577649.

VILLAGE NEWS

GOODBYE TO SIMON AND EVELYN DOTHIE

Over a glass of wine and canapés a crowd gathered at St Mary's at the end of January to say thank you and goodbye to Simon and Evelyn Dothie who were preparing to move from Tatsfield to Somerset. Simon has lived in Tatsfield and worshipped at St Mary's all his life, apart from a brief spell after marrying Evelyn here fifty years ago, when they lived in Chalkpit Lane, Oxted. They have both been involved in many areas of village life – it all adds up to combined years of service of over 100 years!



Evelyn and Simon opening a present at the Church Hall on 26 January

Simon was district councillor from May 1979 to May 1991 for Chelsham & Farleigh, Tatsfield and Titsey as the ward was then known (Chelsham and Farleigh have since been moved out of the ward). Their interest in and support of young people has been demonstrated in many ways at different times. As governors of Tatsfield School, Evelyn during the headships of Len Hillier and Sue Clinch and Simon serving during the 1990s as chairman during a major change as the school became a 5-11 all through Primary.

Evelyn was a much valued member of the Tatsfield Scout Group and it was good that many of the group she had worked with were able to come and share memories and say farewell. Evelyn was involved with Beavers, Cubs and Ventures and managed to find time for the demands of scout camps, driving mini buses as well as making friends for life with the Leaders and Scouts alike.

Many people know Evelyn as a past president of Tatsfield WI and recognise the way she drew them into the group encouraging others to take part particularly in the District WI choir. Singing in various local choirs has been a great interest, latterly with the North Downs Consort at Woldingham.

Simon has said 'yes' to almost every church job/responsibility there is at one time or another! He is practical and has often been seen pushing a lawn mower across the churchyard or up a ladder investigating. He has a knowledge and expertise about the building itself and we have relied on him for advice over care and maintenance issues relating to this 11th century building. He played a main role in the building of the Millennium Hall, and not just when it came to flint knapping! His first responsibility was in 1985 when he was asked to be a server, something he

VILLAGE NEWS

has continued faithfully to do ever since. He has served as a Parochial Church Council member for thirty five years, many of them as Church warden, and then further afield has been our elected representative on Deanery Synod.

This is no way a biography, it does not attempt to be a 'This is your Life' but we hope it captures a flavour of their lives in Tatsfield. To all of us who know them it is the people they are that we will really miss. They have given freely of themselves in a most generous and gentle understated way with their friendship, their loyalty, their commitment to whatever they were involved in, their sound judgement and common sense.

The words 'Thank you' do not seem enough but they are heartfelt and we wish them well!

Jill Hancock and Jennie South



WHAT DOES ST MARY'S MEAN TO PEOPLE?

Different things to different people no doubt. In addition to its worship and many other activities St Mary's is a place that is open to all during the day and where many visit, often unnoticed. Some of these are kind enough to write in the visitors' book and here is a selection of their comments in 2013, in some cases with their place of residence.

Such a peaceful calm and lovely church.

Going for a walk and came across this church and churchyard – a beautiful oasis of peace.

I love the atmosphere of this church and churchyard, and spent several hours here. (Netherlands)

Admiring the many varieties of butterflies in the churchyard.

Every time I come to Tatsfield there is a place to rest and pray peacefully – thank you for keeping the church open.

Precious time with God in prayer.

What peace. (Herne Hill)

Beautifully decorated for Easter – very impressive Easter garden beneath altar.

What a lovely calm atmosphere – thank you.

Beautiful church and view – lovely floral arrangements. (Purley Oaks)

So peaceful. (Beckenham)

Glory to God – what a wonderful place to worship

We are fortunate to have such a gem on our doorstep – it is there for all Tatsfielders as well as for those who come much further. If you never come to St Mary's you are really missing something!

Gerald South

VILLAGE NEWS

POND PEOPLE

Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the hail and rain; particularly the pond people of Tatsfield. As some of you would have seen during early February, two hardy souls in waders were trying to dislodge the roots of the sedge that threatened to overwhelm the pond last year. So my sincere congratulations and thanks to Doug Massey and Jim Yeeles for staying in freezing water for the entire operation! At least a dozen other nutcases were stuffing the sedge into



bags to be taken away by Tandridge District Council the following week. We have tamed the pond a little, and hope that the new plants that are being ordered from Puddleplants will help to maintain a more balanced pond, with the colour and variety that we have all wished for. The first batch of these will be coming through the auspices of the Parish Council, when it is considered the best time to plant, probably well before Easter, because the planting should not disturb any water-based wildlife.

Trying to please the majority is a challenge. The plants we have ordered are all native plants, so to some of you they are not very distinct, but we hope they will add variety and be controllable and be colourful enough to be noticed. Only time and attention will tell. Attention has been generously given during the past year by all the hardy souls among the Tatsfield in Bloom volunteers. So I am thanking them and the Parish Council's Green Spaces Committee for their wonderful support. Louis and Sandy Philibert have also spent time helping with their expertise regarding the planting and maintenance of the pond.

My thanks to all the helpers who have turned out in all kinds of weather. Let's hope by the time you read this that spring has arrived and we can get on with the next stage, planting the pond surround.

Dawn Forrester-Groom

TATSFIELD BROWNIES AND TATSFIELD SCOUTS NEED HELP

Might you be interested ? Want to find out more ? For the Brownies text or phone 07860 938839 and for the Scouts email scouts.tatsfieldscouting@gmail.com .

VILLAGE NEWS



Hope you read about Foncho in last month's magazine. Let's stick with Foncho and make bananas fair!

How you can show your support? Here are some ideas:

Watch the video on www.stickwithfoncho.org.uk

Add a #twibbon now to your twitter page <http://twb.ly/Rx11ts>

Make your Facebook profile picture a banana smile

Follow us on facebook and twitter and keep checking out our website

or twitter.com/TatsfieldFT

Find us on Facebook, locally: Tatsfield Fairtrade Group or nationally: Fairtrade Foundation

Let's see if together we can help:

Transform the banana industry

Stop putting pressure on banana farmers

Stick with Foncho and all the people who grow bananas

What will be happening in Tatsfield?

Saturday 8 March 10.00 am

Fairtrade Tea Tent outside the shops

Come and meet Mr or Mrs Fairtrade Banana

There will be free Fairtrade tea, coffee and tasters, Fairtrade goods on sale.

There will be a chance to meet Mr or Mrs Fairtrade Banana, who will invite you to sign an inflatable banana and a petition card to abolish unfair bananas. This petition will also be online during Fairtrade Fortnight at www.fairtrade.org.uk



Our Village Shops

Always look out for Fairtrade products in Linda's and in Tony and Di's but even more so during Fairtrade Fortnight!

Let's remember 'The Power of You'.

VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH SHOPPING IN TATSFIELD



Tony and Di's Greengrocers (Tel: 07563 478960)

★LOOK OUT FOR BANANAS AND OTHER FAIRTRADE PRODUCE DURING FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT ENDING ON 9 MARCH. ALSO ZAYTOUN PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL.

★Fresh fruit and vegetables ★Cut flowers and plants ★Pet food and wild bird seed ★Frozen food ★Free delivery to

your home – just ask ★Keep recycling your unwanted mobile phones, used printer cartridges (all makes except Epson), CDs, DVDs and digital cameras here. Proceeds to charity..

Linda's Stores (Tel: 577152)

★LOTS OF FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS IN THE SHOP, INCLUDING CHOCOLATES, DRINKING CHOCOLATE, TEA AND MUCH ELSE. LOOK AROUND!

★All your Post Office needs, including foreign currency

★Pick up a leaflet for the special bargains until 18 March and then another leaflet for the bargains after that.

PARENTS: YOUNG NATURALISTS WANTED



Parents, do you usually read Nigel Shaw's Nature Notes in the second half of the magazine? Well, there is a special reason for doing so this month as Nigel is putting out a call to 8-16 year olds to help "capture and identify the aquatic life of our village pond".

Might be of interest to your children? If so, please read what Nigel has to say on page 54, discuss it with your children and then get in touch with Nigel.

ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER?



The current Electoral Register was published on 17th February. Are you on it? To be able to vote in the European elections on 22nd May you must be included on the Register. You should not

assume because you were registered last year that your name will be automatically included in this year's Register. If you are not registered you could be refused credit, as well as losing your right to vote at any elections. The Register is often used to confirm an individual's address, especially if they are applying for credit such as a mortgage, personal loan or even a mobile telephone.

Being on the Council Tax Register does not automatically mean you are on the Register of Electors. The two contain completely different information.

To apply visit www.tandridge.gov.uk/voteform, contact Tandridge's Electoral Services on 01883 732716 or email elections@tandridge.gov.uk.

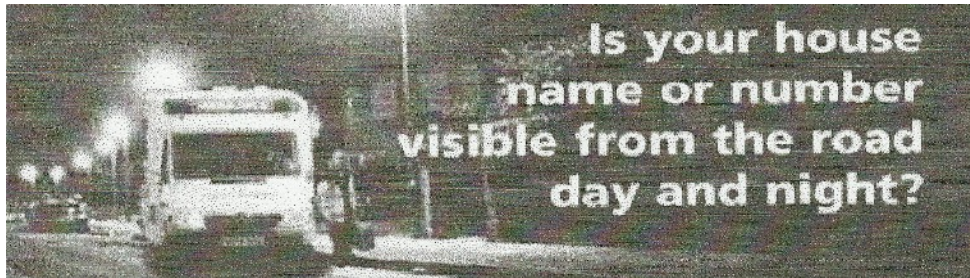


THIS MONTH'S INSERT

We have one insert this month – a card from Tatsfield resident Alex Horton, who runs a small gardening business.

VILLAGE NEWS

LOOK AT THE PICTURE BELOW. WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER? WOULD AN AMBULANCE FIND YOUR HOUSE QUICKLY IN AN EMERGENCY AT NIGHT ?



CAN THIS BE TRUE ?

A church has agreed to turn off its bells at night because they are “prejudicial to health”. The bells at St Mary’s Church in Ashwell, Hertfordshire have been chiming every 15 minutes for the past 117 years. North Herts District Council made the ruling after it had received 12 complaints from residents complaining of sleepless nights.



18 – 24 YEARS OLD? LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Tandridge District Council has launched a Young Worker Scheme to provide young people aged between 18 and 24 with a minimum of six months paid work experience. Aimed at those who are unemployed and living in the district, the placements will give young people the essential training, skills and experience they need to help them gain employment.

Tandridge is working with Jobcentre Plus, which will advertise the Council’s placements and be the main contact for enquiries. Anyone who wants to apply for a placement or who would like more details should contact Nicki Weetman at Jobcentre Plus on 01737 755888, email nicki.weetman@dwp.gsi.gov.uk or Frances Summerfield at Jobcentre Plus on 01737 755882, email frances.summerfield@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

Over the last year Tandridge has run a successful apprenticeship programme aimed at young people, but is replacing this with a young worker scheme to increase the number of work experience opportunities available to young people in the district. Paige Barlow, one of the apprentices, was quoted as saying “Before joining Tandridge I applied for lots of jobs but wasn’t successful because employers said I didn’t have any experience. Working at Tandridge has given me the experience to help me find permanent employment.”

GOING FREE

Lots of small and medium plastic and clay garden pots. Phone 577402.



SUNDAY TEAS AT ST MARY'S

Calling all Sunday Teas volunteers: the teas season starts on 20th April, so get out your diaries and chat to your friends as I will be on the phone very soon to arrange dates. If you have specific dates you would like, then contact me as soon as possible. I am always looking for new volunteers for serving teas, taking the money or baking cakes, so if you would like to help then again please contact me.

Madie Langford (Phone 577114 or email madielangford@btinternet.com)

TATTY KNITTERS



February was our first twice-a-month get together and having just had our first meeting our numbers were still good. The weather was not favourable either, but the wind and rain did not stop us. Our March meetings will be on Tuesdays 11th and 25th in the Bakery from 7.30 until 9.30 ish. Cost £1, buy your own drinks, cakes supplied. We will be sorting out our Easter Meal – details in the next update. Happy knitting.

Val Quick (Tel: 576264 Mobile: 07761 571071)



MAGAZINE MATTERS

Next issue: Contributions for the April magazine should be with the editor by 16 March. Many of the items in the magazine are regular features but many are unprompted – for example, the three letters in Forum this month. If you would like to comment on anything in the magazine, or on anything else, just write to the editor. If it is not libelous it will be printed!

Donations to the magazine: We are very grateful for the generous response from so many villagers to the annual request in last month's issue for donations to the magazine's funds. If you want to donate but have lost the little slip, don't worry – please put your donations in an envelope (if a cheque, please make payable to Tatsfield Parish Magazine) and drop it into Linda's Stores or post it to our Treasurer, Madie Langford, "Triple Trees", Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, TN16 2NB. We are very grateful too to the latest donations from village organisations: Bridge Club, Little Acorns Pre-School, North Downs Sinfonia, St Mary's Church, Tatsfield Scouts, Tatsfield Village Club and Tatsfield WI.

Advertisements: Our advertisers advertise a year at a time, from April to March. Our Advertising Manager, Maureen Perrin, has been busy contacting advertisers to see whether they wish to continue to advertise. Most have chosen to do so but some have dropped out. **So there is some space for new advertisers.** Anyone interested in advertising in the magazine from April should contact Maureen for details (Tel: 577679 Email: tatmag@hotmail.co.uk).

VILLAGE NEWS



Village contacts: You will find a lot of useful contact details in the Directory page – page 14.



Extra copies of the magazine: Every household in the parish receives a free copy of the magazine each month. If you ever would like extra copies, you can find them at Linda's Stores, price £1.



Inserts: We deliver leaflets or other inserts for village organisations free of charge. We need 760 copies in good time. Just contact the editor for details. We do this for commercial organisations too, for a fee of £40. Again, just contact the editor.



Horticultural Society

GARDENING CLUB



GROWING DAHLIAS, SWEET PEAS AND VEGETABLES

A TALK BY BRYAN EVEREST

8pm on Tuesday 11 March
WI Hall

Bryan is one of the best known growers of top class flowers and vegetables in the area. Knowing Bryan, he'll be talking about much more than dahlias, sweet peas and vegetables. And as before he will be bringing a good supply of flowers and vegetables – all to be given away free! An occasion not to be missed!

ALL WELCOME




EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER AVAILABLE

Hi - I'm Alex Watkins and I am trying to raise money to go and help on a community project in Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the summer of 2015. I am a reliable and responsible 15 year old who has lots of experience of looking after children and I work as a Young Leader at Tatsfield Beaver Scouts. I can babysit during the week and at weekends. Please contact me on 577178 (references available) if you need my help.

I'm afraid our phone was not working for much of last month, so I apologise if you phoned and did not get a response. The phone is now working, so I hope you will try again.



It's for all ages
It's fun
It's family friendly



Come together for crafts
and other activities,
followed by a service in
church and share in a
cooked meal together.

**Limpsfield and Tatsfield
Team of Churches**

**3.30-5.30pm
St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield**

Themes

Sunday 9 March – Coming Home

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday

Sunday 18 May – The Holy Spirit

Sunday 6 July – Faith

Children should be
accompanied by an
adult.

A contribution of
£2 per child would
be appreciated
from those who
are able.

Please contact
Pat Davies, Parish Office Tel: 01883 712512
e-mail: info@parishoflimpsfield.org.uk
to let us know you are coming



JOB VACANCIES IN TATSFIELD

Applicants are needed to join our group of In Bloom volunteers to cover these roles:

- Media liaison with the press
- Photographer
- Compiler of information for RHS Awards
- Computer skills
- Treasurer
- Planting of flower beds, hanging baskets, mangers, troughs, Usually twice a year in May/June and in Autumn
- Weeding, summer watering, dead heading, Saturday morning or at another time to suit applicant - you say what time you have to offer us.
- Litter picking in and around the village
- Carpentry
- If you have any special skill or interests do let us know

It is not all about gardening - we are looking for candidates with a range of skills

*We are sure you will find being part of the team rewarding
As good or maybe better than a work-out in the gym*

Contact: Angela on 577434 or Jon on 577100

TWINNING TWEETS



Tatsfield is twinned with Vern d'Anjou in France and many villagers are now preparing to travel to Vern for an exciting Easter weekend.

Our hosts have hinted at what's in store – we are visiting Puy du Fou, a medieval theme park, on the Saturday.

Apart from this promising day, we have been assured a relaxing few days, with all our accommodation, food and drinks free.

Travel is the only cost and, thanks to a generous grant from Tatsfield Parish Council, this has been held at £100 per adult and £75 per child.

A gathering has been arranged for 18th March for those making the trip to get together beforehand.

We are delighted that the coach is now full with villagers ranging from 6 months of age to seventy years young! However, if you are still interested we can keep you informed in case of any alterations.

Sue and John White 570097 fab@waitrose.com





LOCAL POLICE NEWS

Greetings to all residents in lovely Tatsfield! I am PCSO Rupert Kelley, the newest member of the local Neighbourhood Police Team that covers Tatsfield. I previously had been looking after just Woldingham last year, and prior to that Whyteleafe and parts of Caterham. I know that some of you might still be mourning the move of Rachel Gridley, if only down to Oxted, but don't panic.....I am friendly too! And I have seven years of experience in the role, to help deal with any and every issue that may arise.



So, you now have a team of four collectively covering the area, and I join PC Andy Harvey, PC Steve Cresswell and PCSO Terry Pearson in making sure you are all as safe as possible. But I am also asking you to play your part in being our 'eyes and ears' in your own roads, and networking with us to stop criminal activity before it even starts. I have a very pro-active approach, and plan in time to meet and get to know better all businesses, land-owners and residents, to install confidence in your local Police team.

Linda and I already have an agreement for me to have what we call a Police 'Surgery' in the Stores every Tuesday morning from 9-10am. I look forward to bumping into you !

PCSO Rupert Kelley



TEA DANCE SOCIALS

Every fourth Wednesday in the month gives everyone a chance to come and enjoy an afternoon of ballroom dancing at the Village Hall, where the four-weekly Tea Dance Social takes place from 2.15 - 4.50pm. The next events will be held on 26th March, 23rd April and 21st May.

Beginners are especially welcome and there is a large free car park at the rear of the Hall with access via the school entrance. There will be a cream tea and you can drink as much tea as you wish. Also there will be a free quiz and a raffle both with prizes and you can bring along any other drinks that you might like as well. The cost is just £6 each, so come along and listen to some music that is guaranteed to bring back some nice memories. All enquiries to me please.

Dave Bishop (Tel: 577550)

THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE
HOSKINS ROAD, OXTED
(OPPOSITE THE LEISURE POOL)



SPRING SALE

THURSDAY 27th MARCH 2014
10 a.m. - 12 noon

CAKES - COLLECTABLES - CARDS - RAFFLE
BOOKS - FANCY GOODS - COFFEE



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

VILLAGE NEWS



TATSFIELD IN BLOOM NEWS

Not much blooming at present but there has been plenty of activity by the In Bloom volunteers on Saturday mornings. In recent weeks there have been two sessions of clearing the pond of the invasive plants, one of mulching the school car park beds with two lorry loads of chippings kindly provided by Ken Thurgood of Acacia Tree Surgeons and another of mulching the beds behind the Village Hall and behind the Aileen McHugo Building with one more lorry load of chippings after pruning the shrubs.



Pruning behind the Village Hall



Mulching the school car park beds

Taking part in all this and in regular litter picking all round the village are six youngsters doing this as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We have had two recent additions to our volunteers – Pam Bishop and Jill Hancock. We can do with more help, as you will see from the “Job Vacancies” advert on page 37. You would be made very welcome!



*Sam Keenor and Russell Greenwood ,
two of the Duke of Edinburgh Award
Youngsters, at work in the village centre*

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 577100) and Bob David (Tel: 577357)

The Marsden March

Sunday 16th March 2014

Walk with us to take on cancer

On Sunday 16 March 2014

Les Eames (President - Tatsfield Village Cricket Club)
and Anne Eames

will be taking on the challenge of walking the **14 miles**
between The Royal Marsden hospitals in Chelsea and Sutton,
to raise money for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

**Please support us and together we can
make a difference for people with cancer**

You can sponsor us at

www.justgiving.com/Les-Eames

To find out more visit

www.royalmarsden.org/march

Registered Charity No.1095197

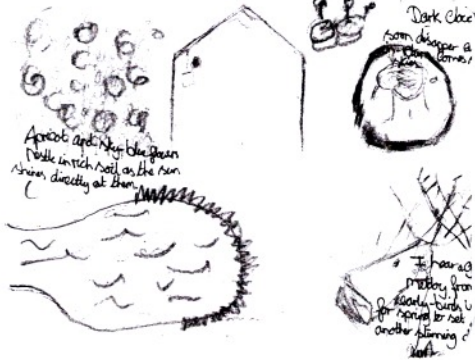
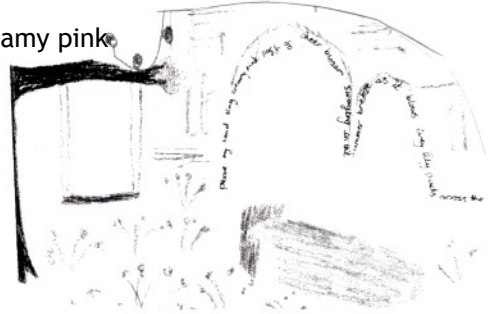




Our Year 5 class have been writing about 'The Secret Garden'. Below are some extracts of their 'secret' sentences hidden in the garden.

"Above my head tiny, creamy pink puffs of cherry blossom swaying in the summer breeze as it blows ivy lily pads across the blue lake full of tiny orange fish"

By Joanna Readwin



"Apricot and sky-blue flowers nestle in rich soil as the sun shines directly at them. Dark clouds soon disappear and in return comes sunny skies. I hear a gentle melody from the early birds waiting for spring to set for another stunning day!"

By Francesca Browne

"It's a chance for the creatures to come alive before they're dead. Walking past the trees there is a butterfly hatching out of the multi-coloured cocoon"

By Beau Hodges



"Relaxed deer lie down on the lush grass"

By Ted Cribbens



A TATSFIELD MYSTERY

Robin Jones writes: *Tatsfield had once been a thriving township but had now disappeared from the maps and from history! This was 'the other' Tatsfield, the one in Saskatchewan, Northern Canada. Ian Mitchell saw an article in the December 2012 Parish Magazine by my daughter, Hannah Jones, describing her life in the Canadian Mouties and which mentioned that she was based in Saskatchewan. Ian asked me: Could Hannah do some 'detective work' on the lost Tatsfield – what had happened to it and could she turn up any explanation of how it got the name Tatsfield?*

Here is Hannah's story.

THE CANADIAN TATSFIELD

I was delighted to find that *Tatsfield, Saskatchewan* is still on Google Maps and even more delighted to see that it was not too far from my posting, a township called Onion Lake. According to Google Maps, *Tatsfield* was only a couple of hours away, which is nothing given the vastness of Canada (and Saskatchewan!).

In fact the journey took over five hours! I was accompanied by my friend Tracey and it was just before Christmas; the road conditions were icy, with snow blowing across the highway and temperatures truly frigid (and beyond the imagination of you folks back in England).



Eventually the SatNav (Google Maps) told us we were getting close to 'Tatsfield' – but with the winter sun soon setting, it was a race against the clock as the sky was growing dark. We reached a place called *Cut Knife*, and my heart was beating with anticipation as the next junction would be to 'Tatsfield'. This turned out to be an unmarked road, not much more than a track. And we eventually arrived at the spot which according to the map was 'Tatsfield' –

but where was it? According to the satellite view there was supposed to be some sort of building, possibly a farm.

The light was now fast failing but yes indeed we could now make out a solitary barn. We headed to it although it was becoming clear we were probably driving across

A TATSFIELD MYSTERY

the farmer's private property. I was driving really slowly and just before we reached the barn we passed an upside-down cow, frozen solid with its four legs poised straight up in the air! I'd never seen such a thing. The snow was getting deeper and we were concerned about getting stuck. We decided we ought to turn around and go back. But at that moment we noticed a man working in the barn. We parked and the man came over to us and asked if we were lost. I then saw another man, and a child, behind him. I told him we weren't exactly lost but were looking for 'Tatsfield'!

The man behind took an instant interest. "You're looking for Tatsfield?" he asked, with apparent delight. I told him my story, that I was from the English Tatsfield and that my dad had wondered if I could go and investigate the Canadian Tatsfield, as I was based at Onion Lake.

The men finished up in the barn and welcomed us in to their house, where their wives were cooking up supper. A book was brought out, and a photograph, and we listened as they told us all about the Canadian Tatsfield.

This is what we were told.....

Tatsfield, Saskatchewan no longer exists. It had been a farming hub. There were three grain elevators to serve the rural area, where all the farmers would bring their grain. The three elevators were: the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool (of which the farmer showed us an old sepia photograph), the Searle Grain elevator and the Scottish Cooperative elevator.



The Searle Grain elevator

In the 1940s, one of these three grain elevators burnt down to the ground. The man told us of his childhood memories of the concrete foundation where the elevator once stood.

The Scottish Cooperative elevator, which was built in 1912, was bought in 1930 by William Stonehouse, who then subsequently tore it down in 1932 and used the wood on his farm. The third elevator was also torn down at some point.

During Tatsfield's era, two railways went through the area. One of them ("Canadian National railway") had a stop in Tatsfield and was vital to the town's grain economy. The other, the Canadian Pacific, did not pass through the town and was some distance away. The Canadian Pacific line went coast to coast and survived; the Canadian National

A TATSFIELD MYSTERY

did not. The line went out of business and this had a disastrous effect on Tatsfield's viability. At the time, farmers did not have the use of trucks to transport their grain - horses and buggies were much more common. With the closure of Canadian National, and Canadian Pacific stations being too far away for horse drawn transport, Tatsfield's economy declined rapidly and over the decades the population dwindled away.

All the buildings of what had once been 'Tatsfield' were eventually torn down and the land reclaimed and tilled, turned back to farm land. The grain is nowadays taken by road to major centres with large scale elevators and processing plants. The farmer we spoke to, in fact, now farms those fields.

Nowadays there is no marker or sign to signify that Tatsfield ever existed, bar a simple tree-line for those in the know. And of course it still exists virtually on Google Maps!

The farmer's grandmother, who is now 92 years old, is the only surviving member of the generation who would remember the grain elevator and Tatsfield as it once was. It was not possible for us to meet her on that trip – but we will try again, maybe in the spring!

He showed us a book called "Time Marches On – A History of the Alfred, Formby, Wardenville and Wembley School Districts", in which Tatsfield is mentioned on a couple of pages as it lists the "elevator agents" in Tatsfield and includes a photo of one of them, Robert McKinnon (I looked it up, and you can actually view all the pages of the book online at <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/page.aspx?id=923826>). Extracts from the relevant pages are at the end of this article.



Robert McKinnon, elevator agent at Tatsfield



This was an interesting quest, and we are glad that we stumbled across the farmer who had such a wealth of knowledge about the former Tatsfield, and who was also kind enough to show us the book and photograph. Sadly, we had no luck finding out how the town got its name or whether there was some distant link with the 'original' Tatsfield, but we will keep trying!

A TATSFIELD MYSTERY

My Mum and Dad are shortly moving from Tatsfield to Burgess Hill. Maybe it too has a Canadian version – and maybe another historical quest lies ahead!

Copies of extracts from “Time Marches On - A History of the Alfred, Formby, Wardenville and Wembley School Districts”

SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL ELEVATOR AGENTS

Tatsfield

George Peterson 1926/30
J. M. Dyck 1930/31
L. Rayner 1931/32
M. W. Murray 1932/38
G. W. Greenwood 1938/40
V. C. Weller 1940/42
H. C. Kornder 1942/47
R. A. Larmour 1947/48
H. C. Kornder 1948/51
D. R. Vance 1951/52
R. M. Painter 1952/52
A. H. Carpentier 1952/57
D. J. Crittall 1957/72
B. W. Kuchler 1972/73
Elevator closed July 31, 1973.

SEARLE GRAIN ELEVATOR AGENTS AT TATSFIELD

Robert McKinnon	Elmer Cowar
Monty Robinson	Robert McInnis
Holden Hodgins	Russel Boulton
Steve Schaefer	Owen Turriff

Searle Grain Elevator at Tatsfield was closed August 1, 1907.

TATSFIELD WHEAT SIGNERS 1920-27

SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL

Original "Wheat Signers List" kept by Tom Hampson

Mr. Ernest Atkinson,
Notakeowan, Alta.

Mr. A. G. Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Mr. F. Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

.. .. .

Mr. F. Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Mr. Harry Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Mr. George E. Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Mr. James Beckett,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Mr. Josiah Biggart,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Elizabeth G. E. Bingham,
Perdue, Sask.

Mr. L. M. Bingham,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Samuel F. Bingham,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Albert E. Brebner,
Carruthers, Sask.

Mr. Charles Brebner,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Charles Bullerwell,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Wm. F. Carr,
527-12th Ave.,
New Westminster, B.C.

Mr. Alfred E. Collins,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Angus B. Cook,
Cut Knife, Sask.

Ada Corney,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Corney Bros.,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Charles H. Corney,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Wm. Creelman,
Tatsfield, Sask.

Mr. Wm. Yeats,
c/o C. F. Campbell,
Nokomis, Sask.

Hannah Jones, formerly of Ricketts Hill Road

EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT ENDS ON 9 MARCH

- 1 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery
- 2 Sun **10am Open the Book - All Age Service- StM**
11.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) - StM
1pm ST.MARY'S ANNUAL DINNER - CH
- 3 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH
6pm Beavers - SH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
- 4 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm WI Meeting - WIH
- 5 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 6pm Cubs - SH • 8pm Yoga - VH
8pm Ash Wednesday Service at St.Peter's
- 6 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 10am Over 50s Yoga - WIH
2pm Scrabble Group - Scrumdoone, Greenway • 3pm WI Darts - WIH
5.30pm Brownies - CH • 6.15-7.15pm Vets Football - VH
7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH • 7.30pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8pm Table Tennis - VH
- 7 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors-VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
- 8 Sat 10am FAIRTRADE TEA TENT - Outside the Shops
11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery • 12.30pm Lent Lunch - CH
- 9 Sun **10am Sung Eucharist - StM**
10.15am Ramblers Walk - Westerham Green
- 10 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS
8pm Parish Council Meeting - AMB • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
- 11 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores
2pm Not So Young Club - WIH • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm Tatty Knitters - The Bakery • 8pm Gardening Club - WIH
- 12 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 6pm Cubs - SH • 8pm Yoga - VH
- 13 Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 10am Over 50s Yoga - WIH
3pm WI Darts - WIH • 5.30pm Brownies - CH
6.15-7.15pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
- 14 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
- 15 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery • 12.30pm Lent Lunch - CH
- 16 Sun **10am Sung Eucharist - StM**
- 17 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
- 18 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores • 7pm Scouts - SH
- 19 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 6pm Cubs - SH • 8pm Yoga - VH
- 20 Thur **9.15am Said Eucharist - StM** • 10am Over 50s Yoga - WIH
3pm WI Darts - WIH • 5.30pm Brownies - CH
6.15-7.15pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30 pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH

EVENTS CALENDAR

- 21 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
- 22 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery • 12..30pm Lent Lunch - CH
- 23 Sun **10am Sung Eucharist - StM** • 11am Ramblers Walk - Hosey Common
- 24 Mon 9.30am Tots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH • 6pm Beavers - SH
7.30pm Art Group - VH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
- 25 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores • 1.30pm Whist - WIH
7pm Scouts - SH • 7.30pm Tatty Knitters - The Bakery
- 26 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 2.15pm Tea Dance Social - VH
6pm Cubs - VH • 8pm Yoga - VH
- 27Thur **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM**
10am Over 50s Yoga - WIH • 3pm WI Darts - WIH
6.15-7.15pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
- 28 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
- 29 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery • 12.30pm Lent Lunch - CH
- 30 Sun **10am Sung Eucharist for Mothering Sunday - StM**
11.30am Holy Communion - StM
7-9pm St.Mary's Youth Group - CH
- 31 Mon 10amTots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH
6pm Beavers - SH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 7.30pm Art Group - VH
8.15pm Bingo -TVC

APRIL

- 1 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores • 7pm Scouts - SH
7.30pm WI Meeting - WIH
- 2 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 6pm Cubs - SH • 8pm Yoga - VH
- 3 Thu r **9.15am Morning Prayer - StM** • 10am Over 50s Yoga - WIH
3pm WI Darts - WIH • 5.30pm Brownies - CH
6.15-7.15pm Vets Football - VH • 7.30pm Duplicate Bridge - WIH
7.30pm Tatsfield Singers - TPS • 8pm Table Tennis - VH
- 4 Fri 2pm Short Mat Bowls - VH • 5pm Badminton Juniors - VH
8pm Badminton Club - VH
- 5 Sat 11am-12noon PC Café - The Bakery • 12.30pm Lent Lunch - CH
- 6 Sun **10am Open the Book - All Age Service- StM**
11.30am Holy Communion - StM
TATSFIELD SCHOOL HOLIDAY 7 APRIL-21 APRIL
- 7 Mon 10amTots on Top - CH • 1.30pm Bridge Club - WIH
6pm Beavers - SH • 7.30pm Yoga - TPS • 8.15pm Bingo -TVC
- 8 Tues 9-10am PCSO Rupert Kelley Surgery - Linda's Stores • 7pm Scouts - SH
- 9 Wed 10am-12noon WI Pop In - WIH • 6pm Cubs - SH • 8pm Yoga - VH

Venues

AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CGA - Community Games Area • CH - Church Hall • FC - Furze Corner
SH - Scout Hut • StM - St. Mary's Church • TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club
VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women's Institute Hall



Open the Book

At the February OTB we were joined by many recent Baptism families. We thought about what it means to 'Shine as a light in the world', and lit our baptism candles as we remembered together our baptismal promises. This month OTB fall within Fairtrade fortnight and so this will be our focus.



Messy Church

St Mary's is part of a team of churches along with St Peter's Limpsfield and St Andrew's Limpsfield Chart and we run some projects together. Messy Church is one of them. Launched two years ago it is held at St Peter's hall (it is bigger!)

What is Messy Church? A worldwide initiative, at its heart Messy Church aims to create opportunities for parents, carers and children to come and enjoy expressing their creativity, share a meal together, experience worship and have fun within a church context.

Full details of the sessions coming up and how to book are in the advert on page 36 and the next Messy Church is on Sunday 9th March.

The format is that we start in the hall for lots of making and doing, move to church for a short time of lively sharing and worship and then back to the hall for food!



What's for dinner tonight?

January marked the start of a new initiative at St Mary's which Hilary Vale is organising. There will be an on-going collection of non-perishable food items here for local food banks. At the moment we are collecting on Sunday mornings at church but we are exploring ways of having a more central collection point throughout the week in due course, if we can find a simple and

convenient way to do this. Ideas welcome! These gifts will be divided between our link church, Christ Church Brixton Road, for their 'store cupboard' which opens once a week and provides the makings of a simple meal for those in immediate need and for the Food Bank at East Grinstead. Churches Together in Oxted and District (CTOD) are working with Oxted CAB and the Hurst Green Children's Centre to provide emergency food for local people in crisis. The East Grinstead Foodbank (currently our nearest) is supplying the food and values donations to replenish their food stocks.



David and Shelley back from Argentina, 8/9th March

Our mission partners David and Shelley Stokes, who are working in Argentina, will be back for a short while over the weekend 8/9th March. There will be two opportunities to meet them and hear about the work they are doing among the Wichi people in Argentina. On Saturday 6:30-8:30pm there

will be an informal bring and share supper at Torridon where David and Shelley will share some stories and pictures. They will also be at the 10:00 am service on the Sunday and will give a talk. Everybody welcome!

ST MARY'S MATTERS



Youth Group

The group continues to meet on the last Sunday of each month. The last meeting included making Pizzas, table tennis, air hockey, Jenga and of course the tuck shop. The Youth Group is open to all young people in school years 7-11. If you would like more information or registration forms please contact Louise on 577289 or email vicar.tatsfield@btinternet.com .



Ash Wednesday, 5th March

We will join the people of Limpsfield at St Peter's for a Eucharist service with optional imposition of ashes at 8pm.



Lunches in St Mary's Millennium Hall 12.30pm til 1.30pm on Saturdays during Lent

Enjoy delicious home made soup and, bread, cheese, drink and accompaniments, all for £4.00. Lent lunches start on 8th March and continue on each Saturday up to and including April 12th, and are served between 12.30pm and 1.30 pm. All proceeds go to the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal. This will support many projects in Zimbabwe including a new water bore hole and a nutritional garden. In the wider world it will help those who need to recover from having lived through dreadful traumas and, nearer home, it will support artistic and creative work in Croydon with deprived and disabled children. More detail at: www.southwark.anglican.org/what/lentcall.



Mothering Sunday, 30th March

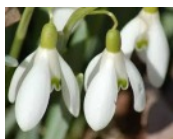
At 10 am there will be a family friendly Communion service with daffodils to give to our mothers. The Children's Choir will also be singing. Come along to say a special thank you.

100 Club

100

Winners for January 2014 are No. 23 Margaret Grover, £25; No. 60 Angela Burlinson, £15 and for February are No. 76 Tom Chorley, £25; No. 48 P.Probert, £15.

Those wishing to join should contact Maureen Perrin on 577679.



Flowers

Rota for March: March 2nd Jan Maynard.

There will then be no flowers in the Church during the period of Lent. Lilies will be used in the Church at Easter in memory of loved ones who have died. If you would like to contribute towards the cost of the lilies, please send or give your donations in an envelope marked 'Easter Lily donations' to Jan Maynard, Sylvan Bank, Ship Hill or Jennie South, Clouds, Ricketts Hill or Mary Smith, Beechwood, Old Lane.

We will be decorating the Church for Easter on Saturday 19th March at 09.30 hrs. If you would like to help with the floral arrangements, you will be most welcome. Do please let me know if you are available.

For all enquiries about church flowers, please contact Jan Maynard on 577659.

ST MARY'S CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2014-15



The Church Electoral Roll is your parish church's register of electors - it is the list of those entitled to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for:

- (a) the parochial church council
- (b) the parish representatives on the deanery synod.

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

Revision of the Electoral Roll takes place from Saturday 8th March to Saturday 22nd March 2014.

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

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

If you wish to be considered for the Electoral Roll, please obtain a form from Chris Hancock (01959 577622), Rev Louise Ellis (01959 577289) or from the Church Narthex.

Please return completed forms **by Saturday 22nd March 2014** to:

Chris Hancock
Electoral Roll Officer
12 Shipfield Close
Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2AU

THE 'GREAT WAR' AND TATSFIELD



ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

As the spring of 1914 approached, Tatsfield's pre-occupations were low-key compared with what was to befall Europe in the months to come.

In March 1914 there was renewed satisfaction that "after some 20 years of agitation" tarmac had finally arrived with the making up of the roads in the centre of the village.

This was tempered, as far as Parish Council members were concerned, by the need to tackle overflowing cesspools at premises close to Westmore Green and the number of 'insanitary' houses in the village, coupled with the need for new homes. There was concern too about the increasing number of caravans appearing on vacant plots and there were calls for steps to be taken to "suppress what is a growing nuisance". Both issues were to be tackled by the Sanitary Committee.

The departure was recorded of the rector, Rev G.H. Marten, who had been the leading light in the erection of the Village Hall some years before and in the enlargement of the school, which was still run by the church.

The allotments, established during the previous decade, were thriving and nearly all were let. The Parish Council was asked to provide a spraying syringe for allotment holders to use.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project: Email: Tatsfield.history@talk21.com
Tel: 577376**



ST. MARY'S CHURCH Saturday Lunches in Lent



St. Mary's Millennium Hall
12.30 to 1.30 pm on March 8, 15,22,29 and April 5, 12

MENU

Soup
Cheese Ploughman's
Tea/Coffee

Adults £4 Children £2.50 Raffle

In support of the Bishop's Lent Call to raise money for charities at home and abroad. Please come and do spread the word among your friends and neighbours!

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Correspondence:

The first contributor to post a comment this year is Linda (Bennett) (02.01.14):

'So far this winter the birds seem to have gone off the peanuts and fat squares (usually their favourite). I know that last autumn was a great one for berries, so perhaps they are still eating those. Also, maybe the abundant rain and lack of frost has led to more worms being available?'

The question I'm most often asked when out and about is, 'Where have all the birds gone?' Well, I wish I knew. But, as I've said before, there are so many possible factors that affect the seasonal distribution of birds that it's not possible to give a definitive answer. All I can suggest, Linda, is that you keep on supplying the foodstuffs the way you always do ... and wait. The situation is sure to improve.

Young naturalists wanted:

Without adult guidance, there is probably no reason whatsoever why any child would choose to read this magazine. This is why, I tell myself, they rarely respond to my requests for active participation. You see, parents keep the exciting opportunities to themselves. Tut, tut. Now, come on parents, it's time to share. And why would you want to do that? Well, the latest offering will not only be fun, but educational too! *'So, what is this 'educational', fun activity?'* I hear you ask. Pond dipping! *'What? Playing with nets in the pond? You call that educational?'* Well, yes. Because, although it may seem like a morning's (or afternoon's) jolly, it's actually a quite serious attempt to capture and identify the aquatic wildlife of our village pond. Why now? Because with the changes taking place in terms of clearance and replanting, the Parish Council's Green Spaces Committee have decided that it would be worthwhile recording any variances that may occur within this isolated habitat. There will be pond dipping and mud sampling. There will be analysis and observation. There will be recording and reporting. I, therefore, reiterate my claim that this activity will be educational. And I'll further ensure that whilst health and safety will be duly considered and applied, it will be fun! In terms of age, I suggest 8-16 would be appropriate. The date will depend on the weather and the availability of the group members, but with the Easter holidays approaching, that would seem to be an obvious target. **So, with only a small number of places being available (for practical purposes), please register your child's interest as soon as possible using either the contact details at the bottom of this page, or by 'phoning 577258.**

Coming up next month – John Rosenbaum's bird observations from the second half of 2013 and a 'correspondence catch-up'. Heron! Egret(s)! Peregrine! (?)



Any news, views or observational reports? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Linda's Stores' or 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Tatsfield and Titsey Bird Register Results : July to December, 2013 (semi-standardised).

Observations made at various locations in and around our two neighbouring Parishes.

Number of participants (Jul-Dec): 2011 - 20, 2012 - 20, 2013-12

As they have not been sighted during this period within the past three years, the following species have been removed from the 'July to December' register results: Cormorant, Little Egret, Red Legged Partridge and Yellow Wagtail. None have been added

	Jul-Dec	Jul-Dec	Jul-Dec		Jul-Dec	Jul-Dec	Jul-Dec
Year (for comparison)	2013	2012	2011		2013	2012	2011
Observed by	%	%	%		%	%	%
Blackbird	100	100	100	Goldcrest	15	25	20
Blue Tit	100	95	100	Mistle Thrush	15	10	25
Collared Dove	100	95	100	Pied Wagtail	15	25	20
Magpie	100	90	95	Stock Dove	15	30	10
Robin	100	100	100	Tawny Owl	15	15	25
Woodpigeon	85	85	95	Willow/Marsh Tit	15	10	20
Wren	85	80	80	Blackcap	10	0	10
Chaffinch	80	75	40	Black-headed Gull	10	10	5
Dunnock	80	65	70	Garden Warbler	10	5	0
Great Tit	80	75	50	House Martin	10	5	5
Nuthatch	80	45	55	Kestrel	10	15	15
Pheasant	80	45	60	Les Sp Woodpecker	10	5	0
Carrion Crow	65	40	55	Mallard	10	0	0
Coal Tit	65	65	55	Peregrine	10	0	0
Goldfinch	65	60	60	Redpoll	10	0	0
Jay	65	85	95	Redwing	10	10	15
R-necked Parakeet	65	60	60	Rook	10	5	5
Song Thrush	65	70	60	Swift	10	20	35
Grt Sp Woodpecker	60	50	45	Willow Warbler	10	5	0
Greenfinch	60	55	55	Y'hammer	10	5	0
Starling	60	65	70	Fieldfare	0	5	0
Green Woodpecker	50	35	45	Grt Blk-backed Gull	0	5	0
Long-tailed Tit	50	45	60	Lapwing	0	0	5
Bullfinch	40	40	25	Meadow Pipit	0	5	0
Grey Heron	40	40	10	Moorhen	0	0	10
House Sparrow	40	65	65	Mute Swan	0	5	0
Jackdaw	35	15	10	Red Kite	0	0	10
Sparrowhawk	35	35	35	Skylark	0	0	10
Swallow	35	15	20				
Buzzard	25	25	30				
Chiffchaff	25	5	15				
Feral Pigeon	15	20	0				

TATSFIELD PEOPLE

THE DEBATER - A PROFILE OF DAVE BISHOP by Sue White

The tables were turned for Dave Bishop recently as he became the interviewee and I the interviewer. Unlike Dave, I was armed with pen and paper as opposed to a dictaphone and it was a challenge to keep up! I am not the first to have grilled Dave for the Parish Magazine - that accolade is awarded to Jan Akhtar, who crossed his threshold in October 1998. For that reason I have decided to bring us up to date.



You no doubt know about Dave's passion for aeroplanes and broadcasting, but did you know he has written fifty-six articles for aeroplane magazines and is an honorary member of twenty-seven aeroplane clubs world-wide and all the main model aeroplane organisations in the UK? He also ran the very successful Family Model and Craft Show at Plumpton Racecourse for twenty years – his last year being 1999. That was also the year he was invited to Dubai to broadcast at an aeroplane show, even though they hadn't even built a runway yet! Dave and his wife Jan have travelled to many shows, both here and abroad, but Dubai left a lasting impression. The airfield (including the newly constructed runway!) was built to perfection and they were treated like royalty.

Dave continues to commentate at both full aeroplane and model aircraft shows around the country, 'painting a story' with his words. The last fifteen years have also seen him writing a weekly Tatsfield news column for the Surrey Mirror. This began when he picked up the newspaper in Linda's one morning and rang the editor to bluntly ask 'What's the point selling the Surrey Mirror in Tatsfield when it doesn't contain any information about the village?' The short reply was 'Well write it then!' and write it he certainly has done. So much so that the newspaper office in Redhill ran a weekly sweepstake as to how many words Dave would write!

Dave's Tea Dances in the Village Hall have been a regular feature these past ten years. Realising that, on reaching retirement, once - active people can suddenly find themselves sitting quietly alone at home, he enlisted the advice of the doctor who prescribed the following: an hour's dancing, something sweet to eat and plenty of fluids. Dave goes one step further and follows this up with a twenty questions quiz, a raffle and more dancing! All this results in about 25 people enjoying musical memories, a sing-along, a waltz, foxtrot and even sequential dancing. A coach party from a residential home in Redhill even arrived one week, including one excellent dancer at ninety-one years of age!

The Christmas Carols Sing-along each December can be attributed to Dave too. A must for many villagers, it consists of a merry gathering outside The Ship singing

TATSFIELD PEOPLE

along to the Lewisham Concert Band and Father 'Trevor' Christmas and his elves distributing presents to the excited children. This year the hammering rain miraculously stopped just in the time for the yearly tradition to begin.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Family Picnic was the result of much thought and hard work from Dave, Jan and the many other villagers who Dave approached for help. 'D.B. Sound' can also be heard across the village on the night of the school's PTA Fireworks Display. 'D.B.' continues to give Father Christmas a helping hand each Christmas and of course we can all read his column 'Debater' in this magazine every month. I'm sure there will be many more ideas and events from 'our Dave Bishop' and I can't wait to find out what's round the corner!

WI POP IN



every Wednesday

10 till 12



WI Hall, Paynesfield Road

Come and meet new friendly people whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee

Mothers and children very welcome

TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL

- Available for events and meetings of all kinds – parties, dances, dinners, talks, displays and almost anything else you can think of.
 - Can be hired for periods of one hour or more.
 - Special rates for Tatsfield village organisations and residents.
 - Contact Helena Garcia, Booking Secretary
- Email: tatsfieldvillagehall@live.co.uk Tel: 07983 011028

ST MARY'S ANNUAL DINNER 2014, 1 PM ON SUNDAY 2ND MARCH IN CHURCH HALL



Three course dinner, coffee, mints, raffle
£8.50 for adults and £5 for under 12s



Tickets available from Sheila Cook on 577443

BYO drink. Fruit juice provided

A LOCAL BUSINESS

Editor: Some readers will remember visiting Little Betsom's Farm in Chestnut Avenue, home of Diana and William Emus, as part of last June's Tatsfield Garden Tour. Since then, Diana and her close friend, Kay Khaleeque, have been developing *The Creative Curry*, providing authentic Indian curries delivered to your home. Their story is below.

THE CREATIVE CURRY

The Creative Curry was launched in the summer of 2013. The venue was the school fete in Sevenoaks. It was the hottest day of the year and some 60 kilos of curry was sold. - a sell out !

With the success of the fete, Kay and Diana approached the Tatsfield Beer Festival (held on Westmore Green last September) to enable a wider audience. It proved very popular and yet again sold out, confirming they had a very marketable product.

Six months into the launch of *The Creative Curry*, they have a steady flow of dinner parties to cook for, having successfully catered for parties of 30 over the Christmas period. In their diary they already have parties booked for 50+. This involves setting up *The Creative Curry* tent and preparing everything for you.



The concept of the business is to provide frozen curries delivered to your door. Their mission is to bring a more traditional, flavourful curry to the table. The curries are delivered in individual foil containers. Kay and Diana suggest you defrost the curries, cover with foil (which they can provide) when you are ready to re-heat, taking the stress out of home entertaining. Re-heating instructions are included.

The Creative Curry delivers free within a radius of 6 miles for a minimum of 10 people (at present a minimum of one week advance bookings only). Since the success of the past 6 months they are delighted to announce **they can now cater for parties of 6**. Depending on the distance there may be a small delivery charge for this service - however, **it would be free for Tatsfield**. Pick up from Chestnut Avenue, Westerham Hill, or Keston is an available option. Please contact us for more information.

The Creative Curry experience includes six different curries, two meat dishes and four vegetarian, rice to accompany the meal, and mixed Pakoras (spicy Indian canapies) to hand around before the meal with a spicy dip and Mango Chutney.

A LOCAL BUSINESS



Diana and Kay at the Tatsfield Beer Festival.

Kay's mother and grandmother came from Punjab so, from an early age, she inherited the family techniques of Punjabi cooking. Later she introduced some Kashmiri elements into her repertoire. Kay has been cooking curries all her life, using all the different colourful spices. Creating wonderful dishes is Kay's passion and she believes the British palate is now ready for her unique and authentic creations!

Following a career in catering Diana visited India in the mid 1990s and fell in love with the country. In 2001 she returned and spent eight months travelling around, settling for three months in Udiapur, Rajasthan. Here she learned, from her landlord's daughter, to cook the authentic curries the family ate every day. Each morning Diana was given the recipes and, jumping on the back of a moped, she would tear off to the market to buy the ingredients. Diana continues her passion for curry today, and enjoys re-creating her authentic Rajasthani flavours, so very different from the curries available in the UK.

Kay and Diana first met 5 years ago in the school playground - their sons walked out of the classroom on their first day together hand in hand. From then on, they have all become firm friends.

You can contact Diana on 07843 202559 or Kay on 07761 332592. There is more on their website www.thecreativecurry.co.uk.

PROGRESS?

Jan and I share a birthday in January/February so we usually go to London, "do" a show and have a nice meal somewhere. We've been doing this for years and so for 2014 we decided on something different - the Grosvenor House hotel in Park Lane, London for an afternoon champagne tea. We booked it before Christmas, . Now the snag was that the date we chose coincided with the date a sunburnt secretary Bob and his team had pulled the plug on the London Underground. As well, the wind and rain belted down that day, making us wonder if we should bother to leave our Tatsfield house in the first place. After driving to Croydon, we fast-trained to Victoria and then we met real trouble. To get to Marble Arch (for Park Lane and the Grosvenor House), we needed to go by Underground to Green Park, change to Bond Street and then a final change to Marble Arch. Three trains should have been involved but sadly there were no trains available from Green Park. OK we said, let's go and catch a taxi and upstairs we went to meet a three lane total gridlock. Traffic on the road was stationary with multitudes of buses and taxis hardly moving. The grinning Mayor Boris had said on TV that many extra buses would be available but unfortunately they have to travel along the main roads and share those roads with other users.



We had planned our day and we had left in plenty of time to get to our birthday treat destination. We leaned into the wind and rain and walked to our destination. Yes we did get there with time to spare and the afternoon was spent in much luxury and feeding on so many delicious items that we felt we wouldn't need to eat anything more for a week at least.

What was the strike all about? Well it seems that the proposed closure of umpteen booking offices at many of the Underground stations is the cause of it all and Bobby says that many staff were threatened with being without a job. Blonde Boris apparently said that no-one would lose their job and there would be no redundancies, only redeployment.

Previously, we had bought from Linda's Stores an Oyster card each. This is the obvious future and without a doubt it is a winner for everyone. No more queuing, just a touch on a special yellow pad as you walk through a gate. When we arrived back at Croydon, the card registered how much we had spent on our journeys throughout London.

Also when we emerged from the Grosvenor House hotel, the traffic going back towards Victoria was actually steadily moving and so we hopped on one of the many buses going that way. The buses are so different nowadays with a full TV screen and a clear commentary on each approaching stop. There is no more awful diesel smell either and the seats are comfy. To sum up, without a doubt the Oyster cards are the obvious future and all that remains to see now is whether the London Underground staff are not redeployed so far away from their homes that they will be forced to resign their jobs.

Dave Bishop

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD

MARCH 2014

The evening sky is in a state of flux at the moment with the winter constellations still very much in evidence (see last month's star map), whilst the spring groups of Leo, Virgo and Hydra (the Water Snake) are becoming more prominent. If you look due south at 7pm around the middle of the month, the planet Jupiter is some sixty degrees high. Incidentally, the giant planet is the subject of this year's National Astronomy Week which runs from March 1st to the 8th. Below Jupiter, but much closer to the horizon, is the brilliant star Sirius - the brightest star not only in Canis Major but indeed in the whole of the night sky. Sirius, sometimes colloquially called the "Dog Star", appears so bright due to both its comparative closeness to us and also because its luminosity is twenty five times that of our own Sun.

Light pollution has many effects upon us, our surroundings and our wildlife. The Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS) and The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) have joined forces once more to carry out **a survey to measure how our view of the night sky is being eroded**. Anyone can take part by counting the number of stars visible in the area of sky bounded by the four "corner" stars in Orion. For more details see <http://www.astronomyweek.org.uk> and scroll down to the "Star Count 2014" link. The count finishes on March 8th.

The Story of Time (Part 7)

Although the third timekeeper, H3, was ready for its trial voyage to Barbados, John Harrison had for some time been contemplating an altogether different tack in finding accurate time whilst at sea. From the 1750s he had been experimenting with watches to see if he could improve their accuracy. Around that time a fellow clockmaker (John Jeffreys) had built a pocket watch specifically to Harrison's design which the latter adjusted and finished himself. At the time, a gentleman's pocket watch would not be more accurate than a minute or two per day, but the one that Harrison had designed was far more accurate than this. One reason for this was that the balances in such watches had always been made almost feather light so that they self started after winding. Harrison stood this principle on its head and designed one that was not only much heavier but also one that oscillated five times per second. He had, in fact, spoken about building two watches to the Board of Longitude at a previous meeting when requesting funds for H3. One he said would be the size of a pocket watch (The "Lesser" Watch which we will discuss later) whilst the other would be larger. It seems that Harrison had realised that the answer to the Longitude problem could be resolved with an altogether smaller and lighter timepiece than he could ever have previously imagined. And thus after four years of work "H4" was born. Weighing in at a little under 1.5kg and measuring 130mm in diameter, it is of course large in terms of a pocket watch but was tiny in comparison to the 43kg that H3 weighed including its case. H4 incorporated the improvements from the "Jeffreys Watch" as well as using shaped diamonds in part of the escapement. To this day horologists are unsure how Harrison achieved the accurately curved surfaces that were needed.
To be continued.....

Brian Mills FRAS

PUZZLE PAGE

MARCH PUZZLE

Find a word to put in the brackets that will go with the word before the bracket to make a word or name and will also go with the word after the bracket to make another word or name. In each question there is a Tatsfield and/or local connection e.g. if the question were:

PARK [.....] LAND then the answer would be WOOD, giving PARK WOOD and WOODLAND.

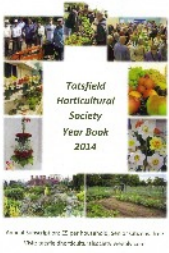
1. TATSFIELD [.....] GROCER
2. STATION ROAD [.....] MORE
3. THE [.....] DANCE
4. GREEN [.....] SIDE
5. SHIP [.....] FARE
6. KINGS [.....] WAYS
7. VILLAGE [.....] HAMMER
8. LIVE [.....] HILL

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE. The doors are:

1 – Village Hall; 2 – Village Club; 3 – St Mary's Hall; 4 – The Ship; 5 - Greengrocers; 6 – WI Hall; 7 – Aileen McHugo Building; 8 – Linda's.



Set by Doug Halters



TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

How to join the Society

By the time you read this, volunteers will most probably have completed their rounds of knocking on the doors. So if you were out or away or unfortunately missed, have only recently moved in or have now had a change of heart and you wish to join the Society, then please contact me on 577201 or by email membershipths@gmail.com and I will happily make arrangements to enrol you.

If you have rejoined and would like to be kept up to date with the Society during the year, then please send me your email address and I will put you on the circulation list for not only events but special offers that we receive as a society from local gardens and nurseries which may be of interest to you.

What do you get for your £5 family membership fee? For a start, you have the benefit of a 10% discount scheme we have with Knights at both their Chelsham and Woldingham garden centres for most products that they sell. You are able to attend Society events, use its composting scheme, perhaps have an allotment if one is available, and also be part of an organisation which provides financial support to all the Tatsfield in Bloom activities.

If you are interested in the Society and would like to become involved, please also contact me for a discussion.

Martin Allen

Encouraging Birds to your Garden



It may be too wet to garden, at least for those on the clay seam that cuts across Tatsfield, but there are still things we can be doing, apart from tidying up what the gales have left behind! Despite the rain and wind, the relatively mild weather over winter will have benefited a number of species, assuming we don't get a nasty cold snap in March or April.

Bird boxes are easy to put up and not expensive to buy – they must face the right direction though or you will be wasting both time and money. They are best put up in the autumn as that gives them time to naturalise, but you can still do it now with a chance of a 2014 brood!

Where to site a nest-box depend on the species it is intended for. Boxes for tits, sparrows or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall. Unless

CLUB NEWS



there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, face the box between **north and east**, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds.

Make sure birds have a clear flight path to the nest without any clutter directly in front of the entrance. Tilt the box forward slightly so that any driving rain (not that we ever get any of course) will hit the roof and bounce clear. House sparrows and starlings will readily use nest-boxes placed high up under the eaves.

Open-fronted boxes for robins and wrens need to be low down, below 2m, well hidden in vegetation. Those for spotted flycatchers need to be 2-4m high, sheltered by vegetation but with a clear outlook. Woodpecker boxes need to be 3-5m high on a tree trunk with a clear flight path and away from disturbance.

Fixing your nest-box with nails may damage the tree. It is better to attach it either with a nylon bolt or with wire around the trunk or branch. Use a piece of hose or section of car tyre around the wire to prevent damage to the tree. Remember that trees grow in girth as well as height, and check the fixing every two or three years.



The quickest way to attract birds to the garden is by feeding them:

- Insects for tits
- Berry-based feeds for finches
- Finely chopped animal fat and grated cheese are welcomed by small birds, like wrens
- Sparrows, finches and nuthatches enjoy prising the seeds out of sunflower heads. Also, leave seed heads on **herbaceous plants** overwinter
- Niger seed for goldfinches
- Peanut based food for starlings, parakeets, nuthatches, jackdaws
- Fruit is favoured by thrushes and blackbirds. Scatter over-ripe apples, raisins and song-bird mixes on the ground for them. Consider planting berry-luscious shrubs and trees, including favourites such as *Malus*, *Sorbus*, *Cotoneaster* and *Pyracantha*

Be aware that feeding birds can result in unwanted visitors. Peanuts certainly attract squirrels, which are avid nest robbers, and tend to destroy feeders too! So unless you are prepared to deal with them, it may be best to stick to squirrel proof feeders.

Magpies and wood-peckers are also renowned for taking nestlings. Difficult to judge, as they are birds after all! If you are putting up bird-boxes, make sure holes are small enough to stop these larger raiders helping themselves to breakfast. Wood-peckers will even enlarge holes in bird-boxes to get at the contents if they can!

Next month's report will be focused on insects – which are a key part of the food chain and will, in turn, attract other species, including birds, bats and amphibians (especially if you have a pond).

The Gardening Club in March is at 8pm at the WI Hall on Tuesday 11th and is by the locally renowned Bryan Everest, who is covering dahlias, sweet peas and vegetables – a perfect build up to exhibiting in our Spring or Autumn shows. For more details see page 35.

Keep up-to-date with the Society's activities by looking at our website: tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com.

Guy Deterding

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDENING CLUB



Continuing with the biodiversity theme from January, the Gardening Club talk by Jon Albutt at the WI Hall on 11th February was entitled **Turning your Lawn into a Meadow.**

Jon through his working lifetime has had much experience with lawns of all types from lawn tennis and bowling greens to meadows. Maintaining standards with a lawn requires time and energy and money and latterly he has become more interested in letting the 'weeds' (wildflowers in the wrong place) grow. Jon was keen to dispel the myth that creating a meadow will take many, many years.

In Tatsfield we are lucky to live in a chalk downland area with its ability to support a rich diversity of flora and fauna and Jon referred to Surrey Wildlife Trust's Hill Park Estate (off Chestnut Avenue) and how it has changed in the last 10-15 years since it has been under conservation management and now has sheep grazing it regularly.

Wildflowers love exactly the opposite conditions to that of lawns. Maintaining grass requires nitrogen in the soil, which is achieved by feeding a lawn in the spring but in order to achieve a meadow we need to impoverish the grass to stop it exercising control of the area and we do this by diminishing the amount of nitrogen present in the soil and the first way to do that is to NOT FEED. In time the nitrogen washes out of the soil and within two years the coarse grass will go and finer grass (fescues) will appear naturally. This in turn gives space for wildflowers to grow; the seeds of many will already be in the soil profile just waiting for the right conditions to enable them to make an appearance.

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Dependent on the season conditions, Jon advised STOPPING MOWING in mid-March (can't say we're even begun that early in our garden!) and leaving the meadow until at least the end of July.

And finally, water – grass hates drought but wildflowers love it, so NO WATERING.

Once the meadow has set seed (around late July) it can be cut, either collecting the seed or allowing it to scatter. The hay should be raked up and removed (so as not to add nutrients to the soil) and then the meadow can be left or kept lightly strimmed until the following March.

How long the meadow will take to develop will depend on how rich the soil is to begin with. Many areas of Tatsfield have chalk at the surface: further down Ricketts Hill, Lusted Hall Lane and Kemsley Road for instance which is ideal for meadows. In the centre of Tatsfield is a cap of clay and here a meadow will take longer.

Lawns support zero species whereas a meadow will quickly support dozens if not hundreds of species. A meadow is important to pollinators, bees, caterpillars and later butterflies, moths and grasshoppers and birds of course and the understorey is a habitat for beetles, spiders, grass snakes, slow worms, voles and mice. Its importance to the chain of life cannot be over emphasised. Wildflowers that we could look forward to in Tatsfield include orchids, wild violets, primroses, foxgloves, cowslips and of course buttercups and daisies. There are some species that will try to dominate and will require control such as nettles and creeping thistles although all other thistles are a favourite with bees. Ragwort, which is a popular host to the Cinabar Moth caterpillar, must also be managed as it is a danger to grazing animals, especially when it is cut and left to become hay as it loses its bitter taste. If ragwort is grown adjacent to farmland, the grower has a responsibility to make sure it is not allowed to set seed.



Ragwort

Jon also covered developing a meadow either by introducing seed (there are a number of companies that specialise in this area, including seed for specific soil types) or harvesting our own seed and sharing with neighbours or by the planting of plugs. When doing so a tile size square should be cut and a group of plugs planted, but don't add fertiliser - just a little water.

During the question and answer time the practice of sowing a meadowland with Yellowrattle was discussed because of its ability to suppress grass and nutrients. Jon also advised those of us with a woodland garden and the joys of a mossy lawn to consider introducing ferns to improve biodiversity.

Jon recommended that we take a look at how our very own sledging field (at the end of Goatsfield Road) has changed over the past few years since Whelan Farms

CLUB NEWS

have had it under meadow management – Jon sometimes goes and sits on the bank with his grandchildren and watches the wind rippling through the grass, listening and watching the bees, butterflies and grasshoppers and sometimes even a young fox or badger puts in an appearance. I'm very much looking forward to doing just that one summer's evening later this year!

Barbara Hester



RAMBLERS

Do you fancy trying one of the Ramblers walks ? This month's two walks, details of which are below, start nearby in the Westerham area and are not very long - 5 miles and 6 miles. All welcome, including dogs and their owners. Just turn up or phone one of us if you would like to know more.

Date Sunday, 9 March
Meet 10.15 am Westerham Green or 10.30 am Hosey Common
(Map ref: TQ446540 or TQ453531)
Walk 6 miles from Westerham Green. To Emmetts via Pipers Green and Toys Hill. Back via Toys Hill, French Street to Hosey Common. Two hills.
Leader Dudley Turner

Date Sunday 23 March
Meet 11 am at Hosey Corner (Map ref: TQ453531)
Walk 5 miles To the Carpenters Arms, Limsfield Chart
Leader Carol Vening

Angela and Roger Sawyers (Tel: 577434)



WI

'Twas a cold and stormy night in the old hill-top village of Tatsfield when a group of ladies assembled together to hear mystic tales.....
Nope, not that! It was certainly blowing a gale though, which stopped a lot of W.I. members coming along to hear an excellent talk. They will never know what they missed.

Janet Barrett came along to tell of her **Prison Visiting** experiences. What an inspirational woman she is and someone who is totally dedicated to helping others. She was a Magistrate in Bromley from 1982 to 2002 and was also a School Governor. It was suggested to her that she was ideal to be a Prison Visitor and was

CLUB NEWS

recommended for training to work with prisoners. However, she developed cancer and after two operations had to regain her strength which rather delayed things. However, not a woman to be daunted by personal matters she was later eased into the job via the Chaplains Office, given training which involved visiting six or more prisons, then allocated a prisoner. Over the years she has visited in many prisons around the south of England and has amazing tales to tell about the inmates, some of whom she became extremely fond. She chose to work with men rather than women because she found she was more able to communicate with men. Women tended to bottle things away but it was easier to get the men to open up.

In the beginning she was required to meet her people in cells with a guard or out on the gantries but now most prisons provide a proper visiting area in a hall and there are usually refreshments on sale too. First of all she is given the name of a new "friend" and she will write to him to introduce herself, the area where she lives, her hopes to visit etc. She seemed to quite like Highdown Remand Centre - her first. The men do not stay there long but often they are new to prison and will open up their hearts to her. She stays in touch when they move on. We were asked to consider the life behind the crime – those who had been abused by drunken parents, those with disabilities or those who had fallen prey to paedophiles. That happens a lot when a youngster leaves home and has to fend for themselves. An older criminal may offer help, then lead them in to crime. There are so many reasons. Janet said that she never asked what crime they had committed, or indeed, too many questions at all. She lets the prisoner tell her himself without prompting. Over the years she has taken many prisoners under her wing and become very fond of them. They often write and she always replies. She has kept all their letters.

In later years things have improved in the prisons. Janet told us that Highdown now has an excellent training scheme especially for catering work. They have a very good restaurant on the premises called aptly "The Clink" and train chefs, waiters etc. up to City and Guilds standard. She was particularly interested in Highdown but has a wide knowledge of many other prisons and told us that things are improving rapidly. She has visited Bellmarsh several times and told us of the security arrangements there and the time she had used Tiger Balm for a frozen shoulder and how the sniffer dogs had been very interested! She was sad when one of her "boys" got sent there for a seemingly innocuous remark he had made. He rapidly deteriorated afterwards.

Janet told us about the people who turn up for visiting times – whole families sometimes arrive and treat it like an outing – feet up on chairs, laughing and shouting, eating fit to bust, children running wild. Janet found it very upsetting to see small children treat the experience as completely normal. There are often youngsters kissing and cuddling in a corner getting carried away! On the other hand there are the very sad cases where there are tears. Of course, a lot of prisoners do not have visitors at all.

CLUB NEWS

We were then told about individual prisoners she has known and a little about their problems. Several had undiagnosed conditions both mental and physical which had put a jinx on their lives. Conditions like dyslexia that had prevented a lad being able to write legibly. It wasn't until he had access to a typewriter in prison that he learnt to type and did it beautifully. Some disabled or even sick people were not helped and their conditions got worse and more pronounced. Consequently, behaviour altered too. Many prisoners turned out to be highly talented but uneducated. She met brilliant artists and writers through her work. There is actually an exhibition of work by prisoners coming up at the Festival Hall.

What an inspiring woman Janet Barrett is and what a life she has lived. She has ceased visiting for a while because of ill health and is awaiting operations on both knees, but is still in touch with many of her "boys".

Our next meeting is on 4th March at 7.30 and the subject of the talk is "Women Famous, Infamous and Unsung".

There is a lot going on for members this month with the regular Craft, Keep Fit, Darts, Whist, as well as the Annual Council Meeting at Tunbridge Wells on the 11th with some excellent speakers plus (unfortunately on the same day) a District meeting in Chipstead. Some energetic souls are going to both!

Don't forget our friendly Pop-In on Wednesdays from 10-12.

Toni Holley



NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

This month we celebrated our 65th birthday with the usual tea and cakes. After the minutes were read out, Enid read a couple of rather saucy anecdotes provided by George Shaw. The club then enjoyed a glass of port and lemonade, with Stilton cheese and biscuits. All in all, a very enjoyable afternoon.

We will be very sad to lose three of our committee at the AGM next month and, in recognition of many years of hard work for the Not So Youngs, Amy Burbage, Thelma Keeble and Jean Richardson were presented with a bouquet of flowers. Enid asked if any of the members would be willing to take over from them, but no luck. However, some have offered to lend a hand if needed.

Our next meeting on 11th March is the AGM. Members, please be there at the usual time of 2 o' clock.

Babs Heffernon (Tel: 540602)

SPORTS ROUND UP



TATSFIELD ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB

The end of last year saw Tatsfield Rovers bowing out at the 5th round in the Surrey County Cup after a 3-1 defeat against Smallfield FC - a team in the league above us. A strong start to the season, however, sees us sitting at 10th place in the league table after being promoted last year, with many games yet to be played.

Unfortunately, the Rovers are yet to play a single minute of competitive football in 2014, with their League Cup Quarter Final fixture originally due to be played at Furze Corner back on 11th January being postponed every subsequent weekend due to the adverse weather conditions.

The team currently trains every Tuesday night at Charles Darwin School from 8pm-9pm. If you would like to come along we charge a small fee of £3 to cover the cost of hiring the AstroTurf. **New players are always welcome.** If you would like any further information please contact Mark (07825 336581) or Gary (07552 920583) or alternatively email tatsfieldroversfc@yahoo.co.uk. *Follow us on Twitter: @TatsfieldFC for regular updates.*

Mark Cannings, Manager,

<http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/tatsfieldroversfc/248081/Home>



TATSFIELD VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB

Tatsfield Cricket Club are pleased to share their fixture list for the 2014 season (printed on the next page). There are twenty-five fixtures this year, with seventeen of these at Furze Corner. In addition, following the successful tour to Cornwall last year, this year the club is visiting Gloucestershire. The team is made of players with mixed ability levels and we are always on the look out for new members. Pre-season nets are underway and are weekly at Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill on Sundays, 11:00-12:30. The team is very friendly and social. Please don't hesitate to contact tatsfieldvillagecc@hotmail.com if you are at all interested.

David Parker, TVCC Fixtures Secretary



BADMINTON CLUB

The club's members cover a range of standards from a modest level to a strong league level. Our club night is on Fridays from 8pm at the Village Hall, all through the year. We have mixed and mens teams playing in local leagues. We welcome new members with some playing experience. We also have a thriving junior clubs for boys and girls up to the age of 16. Juniors play at the Village Hall between 5 and 8pm on Fridays. Anyone interested should contact one of us.

Ollie Carr (Tel: 07709 817347) Gordon White (Tel: 01342 832702) Bob David (Tel: 577357)

SPORTS ROUND UP

Tatsfield Village Cricket Club Fixtures 2014

Month	Date	Venue	Time	Opposition
April	27th	A	2pm	Cudham Wyse CC
May	4th	A	1:30pm	Verdayne Green CC
	11th	A	2pm	Nutley Hall CC
	18th	A	2pm	Chevening Amblers
	25th	H	2pm	Addington 1743
June	1st	A	2pm	Petts Wood CC
	7th	H	TBD	Swingers (BBQ after)
	8th	H	2pm	Broadway
	15th	H	2pm	Chadwick CC
	22nd	A	2pm	Downe
	29th	H	2pm	Verdayne Green CC
	30th-5th	A		Tour of Gloucestershire
July	6th	H	2pm	Nutley Hall CC
	13th	A	2pm	Addington 1743
	20th	H	2pm	Snodland Community CC
	27th	H	2pm	Lamborey Park CC
August	3rd	H	2pm	Locksbottom
	10th	H	2pm	Cudham Wyse CC
	17th	H	2pm	Chevening Amblers
	24th	H	2pm	T20 (Chevening/Nutley Hall)
	31st	H	2pm	Commonwealth 1920
September	7th	A	2pm	Broadway
	14th	H	1pm	Edenbridge
	21st	H	1pm	London City CC
	28th	H	12:30pm	Downe
October	5th	H	1pm	Petts Wood CC

MARCH NOTES



Will it ever stop raining? Oh yes it will and in no time at all we will be busy catching up, even if this very strange winter runs into early summer, maybe forgetting that we are supposed to have spring in between! In a recent conversation with another 'old weather watcher', he told me of a saying by his grandfather "In a wet mild winter, when the rain stops there is going to be a drought because all the rain has fallen and there is no more left up there". It is interesting to also note that the long term average rainfall rarely changes significantly, so, with over two thirds of our average rainfall already on the ground maybe he is right? One thing for sure: I think, with all the aquifers overflowing surely we can't have a hosepipe ban!

A very obvious casualty of the winter storms are our **fences and hedges**. Some will need replacing and any late plantings will need regular watering. Those hedges that were badly damaged should respond with a hard pruning to stimulate strong re-growth. Some of these hedges are also overgrowing adjacent pavements and now is a great opportunity to cut them back and keep them within their boundaries!

We will have some **frost** this month, we always do, and maybe we will have a wintry shower or two possibly into April that could cause damage to spring bulbs and early soft growth. Even though we are going to be late sowing and planting, we need to take care and be ready to protect our vulnerable plants.

We are not yet able to assess the damage to our **wildlife** but we can be sure that many species will have suffered. We need to take extra care not to disturb nesting sites and do our best to help to give them the best chance to recover.

As soon as the ground is workable sow parsnips, early carrots, early lettuce varieties, spring onions, plant onion sets, shallots, start chitting potatoes, but wait until the ground is warmer before sowing peas and beans - there is plenty of time for these to make good plants and crop well.

Jon Allbutt (Tel: 577100 Email: jon@jonallbutt.co.uk)

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO GARDENERS IN THIS MAGAZINE

- * Page 35 Bryan Everest's talk at the WI Hall on Tuesday 11 March on dahlias, sweet peas and vegetables, with lots of samples.
- * Page 63 How you can join the Horticultural Society.
- * Pages 63-65 Tips from Guy Deterding about how you can encourage birds to your garden.
- * Pages 65-67 A report on Jon Allbutt's talk last month about how you can turn your lawn into a meadow.

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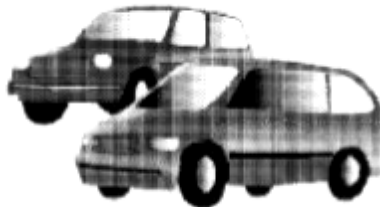
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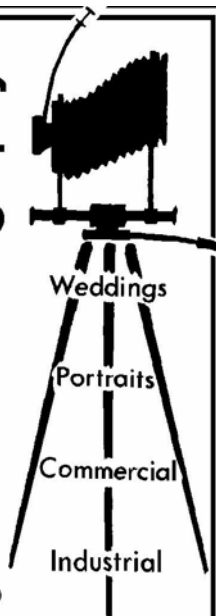
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