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Advertising Manager • Sarah Tait **Production** • Ruth Yeeles

CHURCH CONTACTS

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Church Lane, Tatsfield, TN16 2JX, www.lttm.org.uk

Anglican • Team Vicar: Vacancy

Church Correspondence • c/o The Church Office, High Street, Limpsfield, RH8 0DG or
email: stmoffice@lttm@btinternet.com

Wardens • Marjory Broughton (541059), Chris Hancock (577622)

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Council: Clerk • Samantha Head, 33 Alexandra Rd, Warlingham CR6 9DW
clerk@tatsfieldpc.org.uk (07483 337461)

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

Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

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

Surrey County Councillor • Becky Rush Becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

OTHER CONTACTS

St. Mary's Church Hall Bookings • Sheila Cook (577443)

Village Hall Bookings Secretary • Helena Garcia-Mcleod (bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk; 07983011028)

W.I. Hall Bookings • Adam (07484663391)

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

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

Tatsfield Village Club • (577330)

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Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Cover image: "Waxwing" courtesy of Ted Shillibeer.

EDITORIAL

I hope you are enjoying the lighter evenings now that we've adjusted our time pieces and body clocks for British Summer Time. 'Spring Forward and Fall Back' I say to myself as I move the time on an hour each year. Indeed, there is a great sense of 'springing forward' around us as nature does its wonderful thing. Perhaps like me you marvel at creation as we are surrounded by growth, new life and the sense of opportunity and new beginnings that will take us through into Summer and beyond.

The sense of springing forward resonates with the Christian community at this time especially after the period of reflection and self-examination in Lent, when on Easter Sunday we celebrate in full voice our 'Glorias' and 'Alleluias' which have been silent for six weeks. We recognise the risen Christ and the new life he gifted us by his sacrifice on the cross. And there is more to come as we move forwards to Pentecost and celebrate the birth of the Christian church when the Apostles were given the gift of tongues to spread Christ's word to all Nations. Earlier at the Last Supper, Christ asked his followers to remember him in the breaking of bread, an act now known as the Eucharist. Congregations have been taking the Eucharist at St Mary's for over 900 years. What a wonderful and powerful Christian provenance to be part of!

There is also the sense of moving forward with St Mary's. Having been in vacancy for two years we recently heard from Team Rector Helen Cook, the wonderful news that Debra Elsdon we will be joining us as Assistant Curate in the Limpsfield and Tatsfield tam ministry. She will be living at The Rectory in Tatsfield on her vocational journey and we look forward to the opportunities ahead for her and the team to renew and grow the church community in St Mary's, the village and the wider team ministry. You are invited to support us on that journey in whatever way you can. All are welcome at St Mary's Tatsfield.

With every best wish to you all. Take care,

Steve Tatler, Parish Administrator, St Mary's Church, Tatsfield

TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

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

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

PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS

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



PARISH MAGAZINE ADVERTISING MANAGER ROLE

Our Parish magazine is funded by kind donations and paid advertising from local businesses. We are looking for someone with good organisational and computer skills to take on the volunteer role of Advertising Manager. There is plenty of scope to make the role your own.

A fantastic role for someone looking to increase their skill base and to contribute to the Tatsfield community. The Advertising Manager sources and invoices advertisers, manages the advert layout and may occasionally do some advert design. The workflow can be summarised as follows:

Ongoing: respond to enquiries and issue invoices for flyer distribution or one-off ads placed in the magazine. Check with Editors that they have room for ads and that invoices have been paid. Liaise with the Distribution Manager to receive flyers for distribution.

Monthly: remind those advertisers who refresh their ads (approx. 6) each month of the deadline to send their new advert.

Annual: invite existing advertisers to renew for the year (in Feb/March) and source new advertisers for available space - invoicing and checking payments received via the Treasurer.

Production: once the ads have been received, checked and possibly resized they are inserted into a Word document, pages numbered and then PDF versions uploaded to shared Google Drive for each edition.

Please contact Sarah Tait: 07468 589379 or tatsfieldmag@gmail.com



TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

On 11th March, the Parish Council met after yet another rainy wet day, our village daffodils are struggling in the mud and we all wish for brighter days ahead. All councillors were present and joined by District Councillor Martin Allen and two parishioners.

PLANNING

TA/2024/36/EIA Moorhouse Sandpit, Westerham Road, Westerham This is a periodic review (EIA scoping). No comment or response required by TPC at this stage.

TA/2024/95 1 Park Farm Cottages, Rag Hill Road, Tatsfield, Erection of a first-floor side extension, floor plan design and all associated works. Taking into account previous planning approvals this further extension would lead to the cumulative overall built form of the house being ‘disproportionate additions’ to the built form of the original house and therefore contrary to Local Plan Detailed Policy DP13(E). Objection.

TA/2024/189/NH 4 Sunnybank, Old Lane Tatsfield Proposal for a single storey rear extension under the “larger home extension policy” to an existing single storey one bed bungalow. Located in the Green Belt outside the defined Village. No comment.

FINANCE Approval was made on quotes received for continuing the new carpet through the hall and rooms one and three at the Aileen McHugo building. This is part of our refurbishment of the building.

NOTIFIED ITEMS

Furze Corner We have now received the final draft lease on Furze Corner and hope to proceed with signing the lease during early April.

EV Charging Points It was agreed to look into the possibility of installing Electric Charging Points in the Village Centre. Simon Cook will lead this project.

Footpath 21 Proposal by resident Jon Allbutt presented a proposal for SCC to repair and reinstate Footpath 21. The public footpaths and bridleways through our Parish are managed by Surrey County Council Rights of Way team. Jon will send his proposal to SCC for consideration.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN The Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan is going to referendum on May 2nd (Polling Day). Please ensure you vote and help to make a difference to the way we influence what happens in our village in the future. (More details later in magazine.)

AMB FIRE ASSESSMENT An assessment took place with Complisafe along with Councillor Martin Elmer and the Parish Clerk. I am pleased to report we passed with flying colours and were praised for our FRA and all the changes that had been made.

Full Minutes of all PC meetings are available on our PC website along with full planning decisions.

Kim Jennings, Chair, Tatsfield Parish Council

(kimjennings@TatsfieldPC.org.uk)

TATSFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

We have reached referendum, and this requires parishioners to come out to vote for the Neighbourhood Plan on the 2nd May.



Tatsfield's Neighbourhood Plan completed its examination by an independent examiner who worked speedily with us, to ensure that we were able to bring this to referendum. The examiner requested changes to some of the words and policies in order to make the plan “sound” in Planning Terms and to avoid any confusion or duplication with the National Planning Policy Framework which of course was updated during the term of our putting together the plan. We fundamentally accepted most of the changes and we are also pleased to say that the examiner accepted some of our requests to keep some of the policies in which he accepted affected the parish specifically and allowed them. **Your vote for this plan will count** and it already has had a positive effect on protecting the Green Belt when it was recently used in a Planning Application meeting where the officers had to upgrade the weight of the plan in decision making to “considerable weight”.

After all the work the volunteers have put into this plan putting it together this is a pleasing outcome, so we now ask you, the entire parish to turn out on 2nd May and give this plan a resounding Yes vote. Thank You.

This is your chance to ensure that future development in Tatsfield is led by this plan to meet local opinion and expectations. With the plan in place the Parish Council can take greater control of the framework for decision making around the Parish and this will influence the way the Parish and village centre develops over the coming months and years. This will ensure a strong and sustainable future for our area whilst at the same time protecting the special character of Tatsfield which is so valued by residents.

All the paperwork can be seen on the Tandridge District Council and the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan websites.

<https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning-and-building/Planning-strategies-and-policies/Adopted-planning-policies/Neighbourhood-Plans/Tatsfield-Neighbourhood-Plan-and-Examination>

Neighbourhood Plan website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan/>

Tandridge District Council will be advertising the referendum across all of their media channels and you will receive notice of the referendum and how to vote in it. The Parish Council and the steering group members will be available in the village centre on the weekends before 2nd May so if you have any questions about this plan please do ask. Or email me or the Parish Council with any questions beforehand. If you only vote for one thing on 2nd May please vote for this plan. It is the one vote you can be sure will count for the future. **Martin Allen (Chair) Email: martin_allen@talk21.com Tel. 577201**



ARE YOU READY TO VOTE ON 2 MAY?

Elections take place on Thursday 2 May for Tandridge District Council, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and some parish councils.

Residents in Tatsfield will also be voting on the referendum on the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan, a community-led framework which will guide the future development, regeneration, and conservation of the area.

To be able to vote, you must be included in the Register of Electors. If you're not already registered, please submit an online application by Tuesday 16 April.

More information, including different ways to vote, can be found on the Electoral Commission's website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Polling cards arriving from 20 March

Residents should have start receiving their polling cards from 20 March. It will explain where your polling station is and will also give details of your postal vote if you've already registered to vote by post.

Your polling card is bigger, as it contains extra information about the need to bring photo ID to polling stations. You don't need to bring your polling card with you to the polling station.

Don't forget your photo ID

If you want to vote in a polling station, you'll need to bring photo ID, such as your photo driving licence or passport, otherwise you won't be able to vote. This is a relatively new requirement.

If you don't have photo ID, you'll need to apply for Voter ID by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April: www.gov.uk ([citizenship and living in the uk/voting](http://www.gov.uk/citizenship-and-living-in-the-uk/voting))

More information about these elections, including the different ways to vote, can be found on the elections webpage at www.tandridge.gov.uk

As a result of the Electoral Boundary review where hundreds of you persuaded the commission that Tatsfield should remain as a one Councillor Ward, this will be our third election in three years. So, this is another opportunity for us as a Parish to reaffirm our independence by turning out to vote for the councillor of your choice.

I have stated in previous issues that I will be happy to stand again this year and have put my name forward. I will have completed nine years as your **District Councillor** in May 2024, and believe I have done a good job of representing the ward and the district and believe that continuity within that role will be just as important for the future. If you think that I have then please tell your friends and neighbours and any new people that have come to the village in the last year.

Please support me in this and keep Tatsfield independent of the politics that would otherwise affect decisions for Tatsfield not being made in its best interest.

If you would like to ask me anything about the role that I do for you and how I do it and make decisions on your behalf I would be happy to talk with you about it. In this instance and the vote for the Tatsfield Neighbourhood Plan your vote will count so please do use it and use it wisely. Thank You.

The business of Tandridge District Council will continue but there will be a greater emphasis on getting the voting across the district correct as it will be a big task with all 43 councillors across the district standing. That includes my Independent Group colleagues Jeremy Pursehouse for Warlingham East and Chelsham and Farleigh, Judy Moore for the newly formed Dormansland and Felbridge ward and Helena Windsor for the Bletchingley and Nutfield ward.

I wish them all the best and I hope they get returned so that we can keep up the good work of the Independent Group

Purdah is the term for the period between the time an election is announced and the date the election is held. The guidance here means that I will not be writing for the May issue of the Parish Magazine, but if re-elected I will be with you again in June giving you the results of the elections and any changes of power within the District Council.

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

Cllr Martin Allen. Tel: 01959 577201.

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

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

In 'budget week' I visited Neil Riches, Managing Director of MyClub Group based in Oxted, for a meeting with former England Manager Sam Allardyce – who I am reliably informed might be better known to readers as 'Big Sam'. MyClub manufactures personalised kit for school, corporate and small sports teams. Neil, Sam and I discussed

how beneficial team sports and staying active can be for our mental health, and how grassroots sport can be better supported to help spread those benefits across our communities.

The beautiful Surrey countryside wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for the hardworking farmers toiling away, night and day, to look after the land. A new package of support to back British farmers has been announced. This includes: investing (opening the largest ever productivity grant offer for farmers, with £220 million to help them invest in new tech and equipment, robotics, rooftop solar and more; cutting red tape (farmers shouldn't have to wade through mountains of bureaucracy to develop sensible new businesses on their own farmland - we'll be passing new legislation to make it easier to create new farm shops); protecting our food security (we'll improve our monitoring with a new annual Food Security Index so that we can see exactly how secure our food supply is across the country).

Finally, I wanted to remind you that I host regular surgeries to take up your concerns and solve problems on your behalf. **If you have an issue you'd like me to help with, please contact me on claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk or call 0207 219 5972.**

TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY APRIL 20th

ONE LIFE

DOORS OPEN 7.00 SHOW 7.20
ALL SEATS - £7.00 - ALL SEATS
www.curzoncountrycinema.com
PAY AT THE DOOR * RESERVE PAY ON LINE

CURZON COUNTRY CINEMA

“ONE LIFE” - CURZON COUNTRY CINEMA

TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY 20TH APRIL, 7.00PM

The true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued 669 predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis. Nicky visited Prague in December 1938 and found families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, living in desperate conditions with little or no shelter and food, and under threat of Nazi invasion. He immediately realized it was a race against time. How many children could he and the team rescue before the borders closed? Fifty years later, Nicky lives haunted by the fate of the children

he wasn't able to bring to safety in England. It's not until a live BBC television show, 'That's Life', surprises him by introducing him to some surviving children - now adults - that he finally begins to come to terms with the guilt and grief he had carried for five decades.

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW

**SATURDAY 13 APRIL, 3.00PM
TATSFIELD VILLAGE HALL**



**All details on what you can enter and how can
be found in the Tatsfield Horticultural Year
Book 2023/24.**

**Entry forms to be sent in by 6pm on 11 April to
any member of the committee or enter on the
website**

tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com



LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL



March was super busy at preschool with Mother's Day and Easter! All these extra activities have run alongside our theme - Life Cycles. The children have learnt about fish, ladybirds, crocodiles and birds all brought to life with fun activities, crafts and opportunities to explore each of the animals and their habitats.

March also saw World Book Day, and the children came to preschool dressed either as their favourite book character or in their best pyjamas ready to cosy up and share some wonderful stories. We were also very fortunate to be visited by local author, Jan Akhtar to read her stories to children, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you Jan.

We also held our annual EASTERCISE event in which our children completed 4 activities in return for sponsorship money and were rewarded with a medal for taking part. Thank you to all our families for supporting this afternoon event and to the secretary of Tatsfield Village Club for providing an Easter egg for each of our 'competing' children.

Our next fundraising event is our ever-popular Race Night being hosted by Tatsfield Village Club on Saturday 1st June from 7pm. Please drop us an email for more information.

Our preschool sessions are now full for the remainder of this school year, but we are arranging visits and enrolling children to start in September, for which we are already super busy! If you are thinking of your child attending for the school year 2024/25, please get in touch by email if you would like to come along for a visit, office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk. Little Acorns accepts all forms of government funding for children attending preschool, including the new two-year-old funding which starts from April. If you would like more information regarding your childcare options, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

The Little Acorns Team

Email: office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for February 2024:

1 st Prize	Michael Evans	£48.00
2 nd Prize	Roger Luck	£32.00
3 rd Prize	Alan Thorpe	£16.00

Thank you for supporting sport in Tatsfield. If you know of anyone who wishes to join the 100 Club (for a modest £6 per month), or if you would like additional numbers, then please contact me at leames200@gmail.com. Les Eames

MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY



We are all very happy that Spring is finally here! At Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield we've started the new season off with having lots of fun taking part in various celebrations and activities including World Book Day, Mother's Day, and Science Week. We wanted to share some of our favourite snapshots with you all, we hope you love them just as much as we do!



World Book Day Everyone had fun taking part and dressing up as their favourite book character, the children enjoyed showing others their costumes and taking part in storytelling and activities.

Mother's Day We hosted a Mother's Day Tea for all our lovely mums to attend and take part in activities our practitioners had set up, we also provided hot drinks and sweet treats for the mums to enjoy.



Science Week Throughout science week, we had a range of science experiments and activities for all the children to take part in including sinking and floating experiments, fizzing ice trays, storms in a jar, the skittle experiment, making our own slime and lava lamps, volcano experiment and much more.



Lucy Wollington, Deputy Nursery Manager



OXTED & LIMPSFIELD MUSIC SOCIETY

The season continues on **Saturday 13th April** with **Three Schubert Sonatas** played by **Paul Lewis on piano**.

Franz Schubert: Piano Sonata No. 7 in E flat major, D568;

Piano Sonata No. 14 in A minor, D784; Piano Sonata No. 17 in D major, D850

Venue: Bawtree Hall at Hazelwood School, Wolfs Hill, Oxted RH8 OQU. There is a lift at and free parking. The concert starts at 7.30 pm and tickets are £30 each, with free entry for under-25s. Concert tickets available on the Society's website www.olms.org.uk or on the door. **Giles Maberly**

Year 4 's William Morris Study

This term, Kestrel class have learnt about the Arts and Crafts artist, William Morris. Beginning by exploring his many designs which were used as wallpaper and fabrics to decorate houses, we spotted how nature was a key theme.



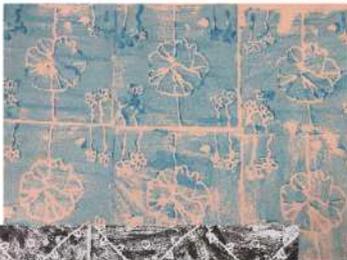
We copied his designs and tried to match his natural palette in our sketch books.



Next, we create our own designs using his as inspiration. Since Morris' designs were printed using repeating patterns, we carved our designs into polystyrene tiles ready to print.

Deciding what colours to choose was tricky: making it appropriate yet thinking which would make the best print.

Here are some of our monoprints.



NOT SO YOUNG CLUB



Our March meeting was well attended, and members enjoyed scrummy jacket potatoes with various fillings prepared by Jackie, Clare and Suzanne, followed by delicious cakes made by Pam. We participated in a quiz then finished our meeting with the raffle. However, not before celebrating one of the committees' 60th Birthday!

In February some of our members enjoyed a trip to Curzon Cinema and look forward to attending this month. We are so lucky to have this in the village and it is a real shame we risk losing it due to low attendance.

For our April meeting we will be visiting Herons Bonsai. Peter, the owner is allowing us to use his purpose-built room with fantastic views over his superbly cultivated gardens. Members will enjoy a cream tea whilst enjoying the view. We need to say a big thank you to Practical Car Hire who are loaning us their minibus free of charge for the day. We are all so grateful for their continued support. The lovely team are so friendly and helpful, and we would recommend their cars and vans to anyone who needs one. The motor homes look amazing too.

Also, in April we will be visiting the Churchill Theatre to see "That'll be the Day" a show celebrating music from the 50's, 60's and 70's.

Our May meeting will be our AGM and will be held in the WI hall at 1pm on 14th May.

Don't forget if you know anyone who may like to join us or would like to come along yourself to try out our friendly club please give me a call.

Keep safe,

Sue Dowse notsoyoung100@gmail.com 0781611092

ST MARY'S CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN FOR THE INTERNMENT OF ASHES AND BURIAL AREA



Some years ago, St Mary's Church was gifted a strip of land adjacent to the current churchyard for the creation of a new Memorial Garden and additional burial spaces. Now all planning permissions have been granted and the land has been consecrated we are able to create the Memorial Garden.



As the facility is available to all residents of Tatsfield we are opening an appeal to help with the cost of the construction of the Memorial Garden and its future upkeep and the upkeep of the additional burial spaces.

Please give generously to this cause through this QR Code – Just scan with your phone camera and click into 'givealittle' link or call Madie on 01959 577114.



TITSEY BREWERY CO. "BEER 'N' RIDE"
A GRAVEL CYCLING ADVENTURE BECKONS



JOIN US ON SATURDAY 11TH MAY

Get ready to saddle up and explore our stunning countryside on two wheels! We're thrilled to announce a new Gravel Cycle Event, set to take place on 11th May. With an array of amenities and a choice of two picturesque routes, this promises to be an unforgettable day for cycling enthusiasts of all levels.

Starting from Titsey Brewery on Clarks Lane, where there will be facilities and mechanical support for a tune up before the ride. Event photography and pick-up wagon also available if required. Let's not forget the all-important refreshment stop en-route to keep your energy levels high as you pedal through the countryside.

Participants can choose between two exhilarating routes tailored to suit varying preferences and abilities. Opt for the epic 65km journey boasting 1000m of ascent or a slightly more leisurely pace with the 46km ascent route. Whichever you choose, you'll be treated to breath taking views as you traverse the rolling hills of Surrey and the scenic landscapes of the Garden of England.

Our carefully crafted course features a mix of bridleways, byways, singletrack, cycle paths, forest tracks, and quiet lanes. With diverse surfaces to challenge and delight riders. Bikes with larger width tyres and clearances, such as gravel, mountain, or e-bikes, are recommended for optimal performance.

After conquering the ride, return to the Brewery for a well-deserved Titsey beer and refreshments awaiting your arrival. It's the perfect opportunity to relax, unwind, and celebrate your accomplishments with fellow cyclists.

So, mark your calendars and dust off your bikes for a day of adventure and camaraderie. Whether you're a seasoned rider or a newcomer to gravel cycling, there's something for everyone at our Beer'N'Ride.

If you can't make the ride, then you're welcome to come and cheer everyone on. We'll have a selection of Titsey Beers and food available in our outside bar.

See you at the starting line!

**To book tickets & for more information please check out our website
www.titseybrewingco.com or Facebook.**

TATSFIELD GARDEN CLUB WITH BRYAN EVEREST ON 5 MARCH 2024

Our garden club meeting in March was well supported with keen Tatsfield, Biggin Hill and Westerham members. Bryan was on top form and entertained us so much with his wit, humour and wisdom - he really should be on the big stage. He had us all in fits of laughter and oozed encouragement from us all to support the Society's Horticultural Shows. Bryan began the evening talking on how to grow sweet peas. You put a layer of finely sieved compost in an old margarine looking tub, water, place 10 seeds on the top, spaced out evenly, and then cover with a thin layer of compost and water. Place this in a warm position i.e. on a windowsill, above a radiator or in an airing cupboard if you don't have a Propagator. They should emerge within 10 days. When the seedlings have two leaves you must pinch out the tops as it is the side shoots that produce the sweet peas. You must then put these plants straight out into an unheated greenhouse or something similar and plant out at the end of April. The ground must be prepared beforehand with Poultry Magic or similar, but NOT fresh manure, and push in your canes at a straight upright angle, and not wigwams as sweet peas like to grow upwards. Well informed of all this info it just leaves me to say GOOD LUCK. Bryan gave away numerous pots of mixed sweet peas for us all to have a go and enter the Autumn Show.

He explained how to take dahlia cuttings and it is these new plants that will be full of vigour and give you a wonderful cut display and gave away paper bags of potted up dahlia tubers for us all to grow on and also plant out at the end of April.

Then he diverged into the vegetable world, especially onions, shallots and garlic. He buys his sets in early January – before anyone else apparently, and plants them in single cells and keeps them in a cold frame or greenhouse ready for planting out in mid-March. He sows all his vegetable seeds in single cells, often three seeds to a cell so he can thin them out. By this he meant cauliflowers, cabbages, leeks, lettuce and beetroot. You must sow parsnips and carrots straight into the ground where they are to grow as they cannot be transplanted.



*Jon Allbutt, Bryan Everest
and Sue Warren taken by
Fiona Davis.*

Bryan then moved onto our Spring Show. Last year he gave everyone 8-inch pots of daffodils to grow on for the show, and this year he is trialling pots of tulips. I was lucky enough to take home a pot. Bryan also told us how to have our daffodils at their prime ready for the show - either keep in the fridge (he must have a very large fridge), or a darkened room to hold back, or if cutting on the windowsill to encourage them to open. This only takes two days.

We had a break for refreshments, and we were greeted to steaming mugs of hot coffee and tea along with homemade freshly baked lemon drizzle cake.

We all left the hall far happier than when we had arrived with pots of sweet peas and tulips, trays of onions, cabbages, potatoes, and lots of enthusiasm.

Thank you, Bryan, for sharing your expertise and good sense of humour. You are worth your weight in GOLD 😊

Important Dates for the Diary

Composting Site Opening – from 6th April 10-12pm open to members of the society.

Spring Show, Saturday 13th April 3-4.30pm Village Hall – PLEASE look out your Yearbook and enter at least one class. There are lots of exciting classes to enter. We really do need your support in keeping the society going. If you wish to volunteer to help on the day, please text me - Sue Warren 07555120427 or Carol Gaskell 07815775859.

We NEED more members of the village to help.

Plant Sale, Saturday 4th May 9.30am – Please bring along any surplus plants for us to sell. Bryan Everest is bringing along sweet peas and his usual 'Offerings'. We will also have the usual high-quality plants delivered straight from the Nursery on the morning.

Wisley Visits Saturday 18th May 10am & Saturday 19th October 10am. The October date is the Start of Half Term which might interest families. There is plenty to see and do for all the Family and these pre-booked days are a perk of our RHS Membership, so free entry. If you wish to go on another day, Jon Allbutt has two discount cards which admit 4 people with 50% savings, available from Jon on 577100.

An Adult Entry Day ticket is £20.35 with Gift Aid or £18.50 without and for a Family of 4 it is £45 or nearly £50 with Gift Aid, so do think about using this benefit for free, and enjoy yourselves in these wonderful famous gardens.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY

Sue Warren

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

The next NDS concert is on Saturday, May 11th, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Liz Worth will be conducting, and the programme will start with Eric Coates 'Countryside Suite'. Eric Coates was an early 20th century English composer of light music, including such favourites as 'By the Sleepy Lagoon' (the theme music of Desert Island Discs) and the 'Dambusters March'. His 'Countryside Suite' (composed in 1915) although lesser known, is just as tuneful. This will be followed by Hummel's Trumpet Concerto, where the soloist will be Joanne Claeys. Although not many of his other works are played these days, everyone will recognise the stirring third movement of this.

Next the orchestra will be playing Beethoven's 8th Symphony. Beethoven composed this in the country in 1812. It is generally light-hearted, but not lightweight, and in many places loud.

Tickets are available by emailing northdownssinfonia@gmail.com, or by phoning 01959 577659. They can then be picked up and paid for (cash only, please) on the door. They will also be available in Sheree's Stores in due course. Adult tickets are £10, and concessions are £8. There may well also be some tickets available on the night, if you decide at the last moment that you would like an evening out! **Peter Maynard**

TATSFIELD WI



Open the box! No it was not about the choice between Opening the box or Taking the money – are you old enough to remember that TV game show?



On March 5th our speaker brought along a selection of her collection of boxes - from tiny snuff box and vesta case to larger writing compendium, needlework box to tea caddies. The talk ranged over the changes in our lives that required the safekeeping of items in durable and sometimes locked boxes of all sizes.

In April the speaker, in full costume, will introduce us to "The Kilted Tommy". The month of May will be our AGM and we will have the programme for the 2024/25 season. This includes varied talks, demonstration, craft workshop and a fair sprinkling of food and drink events. We also have serious discussion of local and national subjects of interest.

If you would like to come along as a guest at any time to see what we get up to please just give me a call, you will be very welcome.

By the time you read this we will have had the opportunity on 16th March to thank our friend Dave Bishop for his years reporting on our events in the local press.

Don't forget, everyone is invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly chat every Wednesday morning between 10 and 12 in the WI Hall in Paynesfield Road. A great way to meet other village residents – all ages welcome. So, if you are passing, just Pop In.

Susan Smale 01959 577660

FAIRTRADE BEAUTY AND WELLNESS



Fairtrade coffee, chocolate and bananas are often in our shopping baskets. But did you know you can buy beauty products made with Fairtrade ingredients?

Fairtrade moisturisers, body butters, bath oils, hand creams and cosmetics can all be found on the high street, in supermarkets, and online. For example, Primark's Wellness Collection, available in selected stores, now includes six products that contain Fairtrade-certified shea butter and olive oil.

From lipstick to night cream, there are **over 250 Fairtrade-certified beauty products**. You can find beauty 'must-haves' made with indulgent Fairtrade oils from olive to coconut. As well as moisturising Fairtrade **shea and cocoa butter, pictured below**, you can even find Fairtrade aloe vera.



By choosing beauty and wellness products with the FAIRTRADE Mark, you can support farmers and workers to access better prices and the Fairtrade Premium to invest in their communities, businesses, and environment.

Natural, nourishing shea butter is apparently this year's hottest beauty trend and is made using Shea nuts harvested from trees that grow in the wild from west to east Africa, an area known as the shea belt. It is widely used in many cosmetic products because it is **moisturising, anti-inflammatory and vitamin rich**. Yet shea producers – who are mostly women – face arduous days, often with unfair working conditions. Switching to Fairtrade shea products means these entrepreneurs have the safety net of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and can invest their Fairtrade Premium in the local community. You can purchase Fair Squared products from naturalcollection.com who stock a wide range of ethical clothes and household goods.



Thank you for supporting producers in developing countries who grow and make the products we like to use and eat – together we can make a positive difference in the world every time we shop.

There is a wealth of information about Fairtrade at fairtrade.org.uk and at www.tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com. Facebook: facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade
Email: tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com

Hilary Harber

Orpheus

STRICTLY YOUTHFUL

4 MAY 2024

2:30PM & 7:30PM



We are delighted to be hosting our 8th concert in aid of The Orpheus Centre. This popular show will feature past Orpheus students, staff, friends and founder Sir Richard Stilgoe.

You can expect song, dance, acoustic performances and poetry, along with a live auction, raffle, bar and ukulele interval entertainment.

Tickets - £15

**The Orpheus Centre
North Park Lane
Godstone
RH9 8ND**

WWW.ORPHEUS.ORG.UK/STRICTLY24

For additional information contact

Ann Lovelace: 01959 576212 or 07771 698610

ST MARY'S NEWS

An important message from Team Rector Revd Helen Cook 'I am delighted to announce we will be receiving a part-time assistant curate at Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team Ministry who will be living in the vicarage in Tatsfield. Debra Elsdon is currently an Ordinand (Priest in training) with the South Croydon Benefice. Having met Debra on several occasions I feel very confident that she will settle into the team quickly. Her pastoral nature and good teaching will I know be a gift to us all.

Debra will be ordained as a deacon at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 29 June and her first Sunday will be at St. Peter's (10am Parish Eucharist) on Sunday 30 June where we will welcome her and her husband Ashley with refreshments after the service - you are all welcome to join us. Please pray for Debra as she prepares to take this step in her vocational journey'. **Revd Helen Cook**

Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's Our thanks to Bishop Chris Goldsmith for leading our 10am Services on Palm Sunday and Easter Day and to Ann Vatcher and the team for again decorating the church beautifully, including the Easter Garden. traditional Easter Lillies and other pretty seasonal displays.



Friendship Lunches Thanks to Maryrose Fawke and her team for their hard work in organising the series of three 'Friendship Lunches' during Lent. Our visitors enjoyed a relaxed 'pick and mix' selection of delicious warming homemade soup, bread, mixed salad, cheese and pickles, whilst catching up with old friends and making new ones.

St Mary's Church Tatsfield Annual Meeting 2024 At 11.30am on Sunday 12 May in the Millennium Hall we will have our Annual Meeting of Parishioners followed by our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Anyone resident in the Parish whose name is entered on a register of local government electors, as well as anyone whose name is on the Electoral Roll, is entitled to attend the Annual Meeting of Parishioners at which the Churchwardens are elected. All Lay persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll are entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and take part.

St Mary's Church Electoral Roll 2024 – 2025 The Church Electoral Roll is your parish church's register of electors – it is a list of those entitled to attend and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where the elections take place for:

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

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

Preparation for the revised Electoral Roll will take place from Saturday 13 April to Saturday 27 April 2024. Under the Church Representation Rules any persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they:

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

Should you wish to be considered for entry on the Electoral Roll, please contact Chris Hancock (01959 577622) or collect an application form from the Church Narthex (at the rear of the Church). Please return the completed form by Saturday 9 April 2024 to: Chris Hancock, Electoral Roll Officer, 12 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield, Kent TN16 2AU.

Dedication of St Mary's Memorial Garden Following the 10am service on Palm Sunday the Rt Revd Bishop Chris Goldsmith led a short Dedication service for the new Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes. We hope the attractive setting, with neatly laid out plots and tranquil views over the downs will be a peaceful place to remember loved ones. For more information, please contact the office: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.



Services at St Mary's Our main 10am Sunday service with music, led by visiting clergy and/or lay people continues. All are welcome. Further information is in our Notice Sheet which can be accessed via the link on the home page of our website: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys.

Looking forward

Sunday 5 May 10am 'Rogation Service' at Titsey Tap led by Revd Helen Cook.

Thursday 9 May 6am Ascension Day Service led by Revd Helen Cook, outside the Millennium Hall (followed by breakfast).

Churchyard Team Despite almost incessant rain on Saturday 2 March the voluntary churchyard team had a successful morning clearing up all the twigs, branches and leaves that had blown down since our last meeting in November. Peter and Jan Maynard visited the churchyard during the previous week, in a successful attempt to beat the forecast rain for Saturday and burnt up the pile of hedge trimmings that had been cut earlier in the year. The grass is now clear of all such debris and is now ready for cutting! Pruning

of the Buddlejas took place and Foxgloves, grown from seed by Mary Smith, were also planted out during the morning. Our next meeting in the churchyard will be on Saturday 6 April at 10am. **David Gulley**

Supporting Westerham Foodbank We continue to support our local community at Westerham Foodbank which faces a 14% rise in the number of households needing help and a reduction in donations received. Currently they support 75 adults and 62 children referred from a variety of agencies who require short, intermittent and longer- term assistance. We delivered on Thursday 21 March and will do so again on Thursdays 18 April and 23 May, Please help by donating if you can. Items currently needed include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish, meat and long-life or powdered milk, custard and rice pudding. Non-perishable food donations can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's church on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday from 9am to 3.30pm approx. If you would like to make a monetary donation this will be used to purchase food. Thank you for your support. **Hilary Vale 01959 577864**

Holy Communion for the sick and house-bound If you are unwell and/ or house-bound and wish to receive Holy Communion at your home or place of residence, please contact one of our Churchwardens or email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Personal Prayer Requests For those wishing to have prayers said on their behalf please note there is prayer request book near the Baptism Font. If you are unable to visit St Mary's personally you can email your prayer request to: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Baptisms at St Mary's Tatsfield We welcome all enquiries relating to Baptism for those of any age, including adults. For further information please email the office: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

Millennium Hall Our well-equipped Millennium Hall is open for bookings. Enquiries from individuals and groups are very welcome. **Sheila Cook 01959 577443**

Records 2024

20th March Interment of ashes Carolyn Anton
25th March Burial of Fiona Newton

Church opening times St Mary's is currently open for viewing, prayer or personal reflection from 9am – 3.30pm approx. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

St Mary's Tatsfield Church Office Please note the Church Office is currently based at the Parish Office at St Peter's Church, High Street Limpsfield RH8 0DG. Our Parish Administrator will be available 9.30am to 1.30pm each Thursday in Limpsfield, by phone as above and by email. Emails are checked during the week for any urgent matters.

St Mary's Church Website: www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys

Email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01883 712512 (via St Peter's Church Parish Office)

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Sun	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
Mon	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	9.30 am	Over 60s, 70s, 80s fitness class with Gary - WIH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	6.30 pm	Cubs - SH
	7.15 pm	Adult Ballet - TPS
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
Tue	10.00 am	Chair Yoga with Mel - WIH
	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 nd Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 st Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
Wed	10.00 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	2-4 pm	Composting Site CLOSED from 1 st October
	6.30 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH
	6.00pm	Over 8s Jujitsu, SH
	7.30pm	Adults Jujitsu, SH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
Thu	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	10.40 am	Over 60s, 70s, 80s fitness class with Gary - WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 nd Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 st Thursday of the month)
	4.45 pm	Under 8s Judo - SH
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	6.15pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH	
Fri	9.30 am	Combat Fitness -SH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	4.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Tots Street Dance – VH
	4.45pm	Boom Arts Academy Lower Junior Street Dance – VH
	5.30pm	Boom Arts Academy Theatre and Singing – VH
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Ju Jitsu- SH
	6.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Junior Street Dance – VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (16+) Ju Jitsu – SH
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
Sat	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00 am	Composting site CLOSED from 1 st October
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH
	11.45 am	Adult Judo – SH

UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

APRIL

2 nd Tues	2.30pm	The Kilted Tommy, WI Talk, WIH
6 th Sat	10.00am	Composting site open (until 12.00pm)
6 th Sat	10.00am	Churchyard Tidy Up, StM
10 th Wed	2.00pm	Composting site open (until 4.00pm)
13 th Sat	3.00pm	THS Spring Show, VH
13 th Sat	7.30pm	Three Schubert Sonatas, OLMS, Hazelwood School
17 th -19 th	7.45pm	9 to 5 The Musical, Oxted Musical Theatre Co, Barn Theatre
20 th Sat	2.30pm	9 to 5 The Musical, Oxted Musical Theatre Co, Barn Theatre
20 th Sat	7.45pm	9 to 5 The Musical, Oxted Musical Theatre Co, Barn Theatre
23 rd Tues	7.30pm	Madagascar Jr The Musical, LCA Juniors, Barn Theatre
24 th Wed	7.30pm	London's Country Houses, Arts Society, Limpsfield Church Hall
25 th Thu	7.30pm	Anything Goes Youth Edition, LCA Seniors, Barn Theatre
26 th Fri	9.00pm	Ghosthunters, Barn Theatre

MAY

2 nd Thu	7.00am	Elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, VH
4 th Sat	9.30am	THS Plant Sale, Westmore Green
4 th Sat	2.30pm	Strictly Youthful concert, Orpheus Centre
4 th Sat	7.30pm	Strictly Youthful concert, Orpheus Centre
14 th Tues	1.00pm	NSY AGM and Meeting, WIH
14 th -17 th	7.30pm	September Tide, the Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
18 th Sat	10.00am	THS Wisley Visit, Wisley Gardens
18 th Sat	2.30pm	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition and Sale, VH
18 th Sat	2.30pm	September Tide, the Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
18 th Sat	7.30pm	September Tide, the Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
19 th Sun	11.00am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition and Sale, VH
21 st Tue	7.15pm	Centenary Festival Gala Dinner, Barn Theatre
26 th Sun	3.00pm	St Mary's Church Teas, StM
26 th Sun	2.00pm	All-England Theatre Festival Eastern Area Final, Barn Theatre
26 th Sun	5.30pm	For One Night Only, NDCO, Woldingham School
26 th Sun	6.30pm	All-England Theatre Festival Eastern Area Final, Barn Theatre
27 th May	7.00am	Chartwell Cancer Trust Brands Hatch Charity Day, Brands Hatch
29 th Wed	7.30pm	Centenary Festival Quiz Night, Barn Theatre
30 th Thu	7.30pm	Jukebox, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
31 st Fri	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Centenary Show, Barn Theatre

JUNE

1 st Sat	7.00pm	Little Acorns Race Night, TVC
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Venues: AMB - Aileen McHugo Building • CGA - Community Games Area • MH - Millennium Hall • SH - Scout Hut • StM - St. Mary's Church • TACG – Tatsfield Allotments and Community Garden • TVC - Tatsfield Village Club • TPS - Tatsfield Primary School • VH - Village Hall • WIH - Women's Institute

TATSFIELD ART GROUP



In March we had two fun workshops with Zsuzsanna Pataki. Zsuzsanna's style is very free and amazingly fast. She uses bold strokes with a limited colour palette, kitchen sponges, her hands and a variety of pallet knives to create her atmospheric paintings.



On the 8 and 15 April Emil Nikola will lead our next two workshops I will post more information about these on Tatsfield Art Groups Facebook page, Tatsfield Talk and Tatsfield Talk 2, each workshop is only £15.



TAG'S annual art exhibition is on Saturday 18 May 2.30pm – 5pm and Sunday 19 May 11am – 4pm. Come a take a stroll round the exhibition, stay for a cuppa enjoy our home made cakes and savouries. Buy a few tickets from our raffle and you could win a Summer Picnic Hamper or free entry to one of

our workshops.

Tatsfield Art Group is here for everyone that is curious and wants to learn more. We are affordable, fun and educational you will be amazed at your own creativity.

We meet Mondays at 7.00pm until 9.30pm in the Village Hall during term times. Your first two sessions are free.

For further details please contact Sandra Shury wallernuttytart@aol.com 573338 or Carol Gaskell carol.gaskell1@btinternet.com 577724

North Downs Sinfonia



MAY CONCERT

Saturday 11th May 2024 at 7.30 pm
Tatsfield Village Hall TN16 2AG

Coates - Suite "From the Countryside"
Hummel - Concerto for trumpet and orchestra
Beethoven - Symphony No. 8 in F Major

Conductor *Liz Worth*
Trumpet *Joanne Claeys*
Leader *Sylvia Seaton*

Tickets £10 Concessions £8

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ART EXHIBITION

Art Sale

**Original Paintings
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Local Artists**

Sat 18th May
2.30pm – 5pm

Sun 19th May
11am - 4pm

Tatsfield Village Hall
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Refreshments available

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Facebook: Tatsfield art group
Website: tatsfield-art-group.weebly.com

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NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

Let's begin, this month, by returning to John's (Rosenbaum) 2023 bird observations. I felt I had to ask about his wondrous raptor sightings. Sparrowhawks in the garden I understood, but the others - Kestrels, Merlin, Hobbies, Peregrines, Buzzards - did they fly over or did they actually visit his garden? If they visited, what was the attraction?

*'In the garden and trees we have had **Kestrels** and **Sparrowhawks** (quite common), a **Peregrine** feeding on a Collared Dove on the lawn, a **Merlin**, and **Buzzards** in the trees. A Buzzard nested in the trees of my neighbour's garden for about three years producing young. Currently, we frequently have flyovers of **Red kites** and Buzzards. The **Hobbies** I see are normally flying at the same time as the migration of the hirundinidae. The raptors, I am sure, are attracted by the other birds on the feeders. I have also seen Peregrines flying up and down the valley and sometimes perched in trees. Kestrels are not as common as in the past, maybe because of the increase in Buzzards and Kites.'*

Thanks to John for the development of his notes. He has certainly found an entertaining place to live. Pasting 'Excel' charts within these notes has proven to be beyond my ability. Consequently, if you would like to view John's detailed monthly observations, please email me and I'll send them on. What I can do is list the birds John saw over the entire course of 2023. The monthly count varies between 22 (February) and 33 (October). I wonder how this compares with your own sightings:

Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed gull, Blue tit, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal tit, Collared doves, Cormorant, Dunnock, Fieldfare, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great spotted woodpecker, Great tit, Green woodpecker, Heron, Greylag goose, Herring gull, Hobby, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser black-backed gull, Long-tailed tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mistle thrush, Nuthatch, Pheasant, Raven, Red kite, Redwing, Ring-necked parakeet, Robin, Song thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock dove, Swallow, Tawny owl, Treecreeper, Willow warbler, Woodpigeon and Wren.



One winter visitor John did not see, but others did, is the Waxwing. An anonymous contributor sent this message (06.03.24):

*'Just been watching a flock of 20 or so **Waxwings** along unmade Paynesfield Road. The first time I've ever seen them! Some were up in the trees and some at eye level, eating the rose hips. I've seen other people's posts on the 'Tatsfield Talk', Facebook page and had been longing to see one or two this winter. Really made my day! There have been other sightings in Vern Place this*

winter. My attention was mostly drawn to them as there were quite a few and I didn't know what they were, so stood still and just watched for a few minutes. They are really beautiful birds, and I was really grateful to have been in the right spot at the right time!'

Wow – lucky you! Unfortunately, by the time I arrived they had moved on. They arrive in varying numbers on our shores most winters and this year bird watchers have reported a noticeable influx of them nationally. But to see them here in Tatsfield is exceptional. (thanks to Ted Shillibeer for his cover photo this month – Ed)

Our other news this month comes from Doris (Mitchell), who was delighted to see Redwings at her bird bath, via her webcam, and Martin (Allen) with his regular (and welcome) garden visitors update. Doris asked whether the Redwings had visited me, a little further up the road. Well, Doris, the answer is yes; I had a mini-flock of four constantly stripping berries from my weeping cotoneaster for a period of several days. It now stands naked. Oh, well – we can't have everything. Birds or berries, take your choice. Martin had no Redwings to report but his so-called 'unspectacular' observations do hold a little gem (16.02.24):

*'The happenings at No.38 have been spectacularly unspectacular over the winter period, but just this week, as well as our resident flock of [House] sparrows, we have twice seen a **Siskin** on the sunflower hearts, a single **Long-tailed tit** on the fat balls, and among a flock of **pigeons** having their breakfast this morning were seven **Jackdaws**. We still get our sprinkling of **Blue tits**, **Goldfinch**, **Robin** and both male and female **Blackbirds**, so we hope things will at least not be worse than the last few years. Also, I don't know what it is but our garden is having holes dug into it. What they are looking for I do not know but at least it is irrigating the lawn!'*

Thanks for your contribution, Allen. Regarding your holes, I am suggesting either squirrels or Jays. Both bury acorns in lawns and return to dig them up during the winter with the hope of recalling where they were buried. The worse their memories, the more holes get dug. Of course, if the holes are enormous, it could be badgers! Of equal interest is your sighting of a Siskin; not often seen and not included in John's 2023 list. Attracting one to your garden is what I would consider a major success. Well done. And how heartening that someone should mention that star of the spring songsters – the Blackbird. A grossly underrated bird, in my opinion, until one stops and listens. I find early evening to be the best time for a mind-enhancing serenade. Step outside and see.

Following my period of self-imposed, winter hibernation, I am now once more looking forward to getting out and about on a regular basis. Hopefully, you are too. If you come across something of interest, don't forget to send a message. What you find mundane others may find fascinating. Your audience awaits!

**Any news or views? Contact: nigelshaw2000@hotmail.com
Alternatively, drop a note in to 'Primrose Ridge', Greenway.**

BEEKEEPING AT POSTACRE

It has been just over six years since we moved from Hayes to Tatsfield and have continued our beekeeping journey at Postacre. It was lovely to find there are other 'beeks' in the village and as a result we have been able to rehome some of last year's swarms to locations close by.



As we begin to enjoy the first signs of spring and emerge from our winter 'hibernation' and enjoy some warm sunshine at last, the bees are no exception. During the cold winter months, the bees are quiet and need little attention. Bees will recognise the rising temperatures and on a sunny day we might see some activity around the entrance of the hive which is an indication that the colony has survived the winter. Bees don't hibernate they "overwinter" which is the term we use for when bees reduce the size of the colony down from 50,000 to around 10,000. The queen will stop laying in winter months so there is a natural decline in numbers. The queen and colony huddle to keep warm, conserve energy and only move to feed on honey stores we have left or sugar fondant we may have added.



What is inside the hive? As many as 50,000 bees and just one queen. A queen usually lives between 3-4 years. The colony isn't run by the queen, her job is to lay eggs and if she doesn't do that to the satisfaction of the colony, the colony will decide to swap her for a new queen! She can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day! 95% of a hive are worker bees, these are all females and they do all of the work from feeding the queen, nursing new bees, building new wax

comb, cleaning & guarding the hive and even removing dead bees! It's the workers that you see foraging in your gardens. The remaining 5% are drones – these are the males who have no other purpose than mate a new queen. They are usually removed by the workers towards the end of the season as they have no use and it's another mouth to feed! The boys can't sting either!

We have overwintered five hives from 2023 in our apiary and hoping to start 2024 stronger than any previous years. This means we will be 'busy bees' at Postacre! From March onwards the bee population will start to increase as the queen begins to lay again.

This leads into the 'swarm season'. It usually happens on warm sunny days from May to end July between 11-4pm. It's one of the most interesting things that bees do. Swarming is a natural instinct of reproduction where one colony becomes two. It is the bees' way of solving a space problem within the colony. Typically, it will be the existing queen leaving with half the colony, leaving the other half in the hive with a newly hatched queen. Swarms can be alarming and dramatic involving tens of thousands of bees in a large noisy cloud and scary if not experienced before. Once the 'scout' bees



have found a suitable home (not always in a sensible place) they will begin to settle with the queen somewhere in the cluster. Most swarms are not aggressive but if you notice a swarm, we would be very happy to come and collect and rehome (Andrew – 07889 156180).



The best bit about keeping bees is that they produce honey. A good hive will give two harvests of honey each year, once in early June and again in August/September. One bee will make just 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its life. So, each spoonful is very precious. You may have seen our 'Honey for Sale' sign on our Postacre gate – if the sign is there we have honey! If anyone is interested in bees and would like to join us for a hive visit – you are more than welcome. **Andrew**

and Sally Lake.

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN APRIL

March was mild with reduced rainfall and spring got off to a very good start. The Met Office forecast for April is for average temperatures and rainfall.

Over the years I have had many comments about our summer floral displays in our mangers and hanging baskets; is there a secret I hear you say? Well, yes there are a few – buy good quality plants and plant them in their containers early, that means by mid-April. Choose good quality general purpose, peat free, growing compost. In trials last year I found that a 50:50 mixture of a proprietary compost with our wonderful Black Gold (collect from the Community Composting Group on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 – 4.00pm or Saturdays from 10.00 – 12.00 at just £1.50 per big bag) was very successful, why not give it a try?

Before you fill your containers thoroughly mix a slow-release fertiliser and water retaining granules with the compost. If you are using mangers or hanging baskets, line them with coir matting making sure you cut the liner about an inch above the top edge of the container. Fill the containers firming the compost gently into the corners but do not compact the compost too firmly, plant roots need air as well as moisture to grow well. Before planting your chosen scheme make sure the plants have been thoroughly watered, putting dry plants into dry compost will set them back and take weeks to recover.

After planting thoroughly soak the compost by applying the water in two or three lots to avoid it spilling over the top edge. You will know that the compost is soaked when it runs freely out of the bottom of the container. You will not need to water again for at least a week unless the weather turns warm and dry. Find a sheltered sunny spot where the plants will settle and grow well but make sure you have some protective fleece or a light towel to put over the plants if the forecast indicates a cold night or cold winds by day. After about four or five weeks they will look very good and be ready to place in their

summer position. Buy a general-purpose liquid feed, preferably based on seaweed, to feed your containers every couple of weeks.

I have a feeling that, after such a wet winter, we just might be struggling for water this summer. Using mains water for watering plants should be a last resort, now is the time to plan for storing rainwater. It is important to choose a water storage container with a closely fitting lid to avoid it becoming a breeding ground for mosquitos and other bugs. If possible, buy a container made in the UK and of recycled plastic e.g. info@britishrecycledplastic.co.uk If your water store becomes smelly, treat it with an anti-algae product. Be careful about measuring the correct amount as a strong solution can be damaging to plants.

Jon Allbutt

NO MOW MAY

It's that time of year when the best thing you can do for garden wildlife is to keep the lawn mower in the shed for No Mow May. The reasoning is that we have lost over 95% of our flower-rich meadows since the 1930s and with them gone are vital food needed by pollinators such as bees and butterflies. It's a sad story but your lawn can help, and it won't cost you a bean! All you must do is let some, or all, of your lawn grow for a month so that those pesky daisies, buttercups, clover etc can spread their petals and leaves for the Bumbles and Painted Ladies to feast and let nature take its course.

How it works is that most lawns contain a wide range of small native meadow plants unless the lawn is very new or recently treated with chemical pesticides (aka lawn treatment). So if these beautiful little plants are allowed to grow and flower they will provide a welcome jump-start to the food chain for our much declined wildlife population. Just by taking a more relaxed approach to grassy areas can give insects, birds and small mammals a so-much better chance to thrive. Not convinced? In which case I should mention that the initiative is encouraged not just by the RHS, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts, but by David Attenborough who has publicly voiced his support. Enough said? No Mow May was started by the conservation charity Plantlife in 2019 with the hope that many of the UK's millions of gardens will take it up and help protect and promote the nation's plants and pollinators. They're at www.plantlife.org.uk.



Interesting fact of the month. Painted Lady butterflies migrate to the UK from North Africa, the Middle East, and central Asia. They fly at an incredibly high average altitude of 500m (over 1600') which is too high for us to spot them. And in 2009 their migration was measured on radar with 11 million entering the UK in spring and 26 million departing in the autumn. That's a lot of mouths to feed.

Jim Kenney

THINKING OF A NEW OR RESURFACED DRIVEWAY?

Subsidence, flooding, insurance claims, angry neighbours and costly legal wrangles are all things most householders would like to avoid. Yet they're all too commonplace for the unwary when surfacing/resurfacing a new or replacement drive. This isn't a sales-pitch, it's a cautionary neighbourly warning because it seems to happen frequently that an unintended calamity slips in under the radar whenever a driveway gets built or resurfaced. I have heard of a couple of recent occurrences in the village hence I was minded to write this piece.

The nub of the problem is that Tatsfield gets a whole lot of rain, and it will either soak into the ground, or run downhill – you only have to look at the torrents that run down roads on a rainy day to see the problem. But if you tarmac a drive the rain cannot soak in and hence it can only run downhill. And if your house is at the lower end of the drive and adequate drainage hasn't been installed, you're going to be on the receiving end of a whole lot of rainwater. I've seen this happen many times, and it can lead to all sorts of difficulties. And of course if it freezes it will turn into an impromptu ice rink. However, if the rainwater flows onto a neighbour's property, then things can get pretty tense – the worst case I've seen frequently submerged their next doors' garden under eight inches of water lapping against the conservatory walls.

Driveways can have some very unpleasant consequences and many of them can be harmful not only to people and property but also to the local environment. For this reason, Local Authorities have clear guidance about how to deal with the rainwater that will run very predictably downhill on a new drive. Depending on the circumstances, Tandridge may even require a formal Planning Application to ensure the job is done properly. Thankfully, most recommendations are simple, and they apply to any hardstanding, not just driveways:

1. Perhaps most importantly, first check with the council planning dept because any new drive over five square metres is likely to need Planning Permission. It took me a little while to work out that this is about half the size of a car parking space; it is tiny.
2. Maximise the retained area of lawn and vegetation. A minimum of 25% of the front garden must be retained as soft landscaping.
3. Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and permeable or porous materials that reflect the character of the area.
4. Do not direct run-off into the drainage system. *Water companies may apply a surcharge if you do.*

Effective sustainable drainage systems can be as simple as a grill-top channel drain running to a soakaway but the more imaginative gardeners out there might want to think about creating an attractive wetland garden feature – it's great for garden wildlife too.

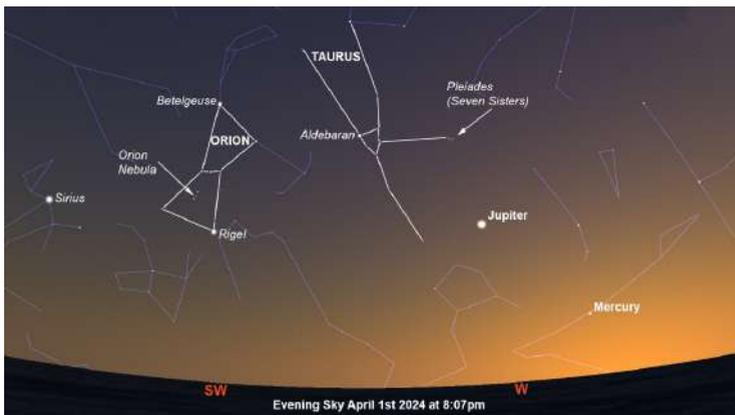
Jim Kenney

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – APRIL 2024

I suppose size has a lot to do with it, but yet again America comes out on top with another total eclipse of the Sun. This one is on April 8 and surprisingly the British Isles, whilst not included at the top table, does at least get to pick up a few of the eclipse crumbs. However, that isn't *all* of the British Isles and that means us here in the southeast I'm sorry to say. The best views are to be had in Ireland and in general terms, the further west the better where just over 40% of the Sun will be hidden.

However, the alternative is to view a live stream and watch the whole thing from the comfort of your armchair. There are a few sites that have already declared that they will have a live feed with www.timeanddate.com and www.exploratorium.com being just two.

Turning to something a little more current, Jupiter still dominates the evening sky but by the end of April it will be lost in the twilight. If you haven't seen its four Galilean moons then look now, as they are visible with binoculars, before it reaches solar conjunction on May 18th and is lost to astronomers for a while. For planets whose orbits lie beyond that of the Earth, solar conjunction refers to the moment when the planet in question, the Earth and Sun all lie in a straight line with the Sun in the middle. The planet is then behind the Sun as seen from Earth. When it emerges, it will be to the west (right) of the Sun and visible in the morning sky before sunrise.



The map is drawn for 1st April at 8:07pm which is when the Sun is 6° below the horizon signalling the beginning of nautical twilight. You'll notice that Mercury is still on view but is making its way back into the

solar glare and will only be visible for the first week of April.

By the end of April, the evening sky is bereft of bright planets. As I said, Jupiter is too close to the Sun although technically still an evening object. Venus is also too close to the Sun but will move into the evening sky in the coming months whilst Mercury, Mars and Saturn are also morning objects, but they too are still hidden by the morning twilight.

Brian Mills FRAS

School Report At the beginning of the month, it was time for the annual prize-giving at the school. Parents were told that in spite of many difficulties, sickness and changes of staff, the year had been very successful. The Board of Education had expressed satisfaction with '*all the new arrangements in the building*'. The school was receiving a grant from the London Charities for Schools.

However, one of the many items stored in the National Archives at Kew is the report of an inspection of Tatsfield's school carried out that April but not completed until the following month. It paints a different picture of the state of the school in previous years and is not happy reading, reporting on the '*unsatisfactory state; the discipline was poor; the children were torpid*' when the current Head had taken over in 1921. The school was then in a bad physical condition too. Since then there had been improvements. The Head '*had given much of his own spare time to repairing with the help of the boys and with his own hands such glaring defects as broken desks, broken fences ... and repairing the torn maps, charts and pictures.*' At the same time levels of attainment had improved despite being held back by a steady turnover of supply teachers.

'Industrial Exhibition' There was more positive news in the Westerham Herald later in the month with the headline '*TATSFIELD IN A NEW LIGHT*'. The village hall was taken over one Wednesday, aimed according to the promoter at '*stimulating village industries*'. It was endorsed by the presence of the leader of the constituency Conservative Party and the local county councillor. Displays included objects from all corners of the world, home-made household goods as well as demonstrations of spinning, leather work and basket-making. Prizes were awarded in more than a dozen classes for adults and children. And there was a novel attraction – '*wireless entertainment*'.

Tangland Castle For sale for the third time in our records. It seems to have changed hands in 1894 and 1919 and was now up for auction again, including its contents and a relatively new 12 horse-power Rover touring car. A couple of weeks later, land attached to Tangland Castle, described as a three-acre miniature estate, also came up for auction and included what was described as a '*freehold small residence*', 'Whyte Thorne' a five-bedroomed property in an acre of land. The Tangland Castle estate ran from Goatsfield Road to today's junction of Crossways and Greenway.

Rag Hill dangerous Later in April 1924 came a call for a sign to be put up at the top of Rag Hill warning drivers that it was dangerous. This arose from an accident in which a motorcyclist from Erith, with his wife and son in a sidecar, were all injured when it overturned on their Easter Monday excursion up to the North Downs.

U3A Finally, the History Project has been approached by a member of a U3A group, Dr Paul Mortimer, who has been researching into the life of Edyth Goodall. She was an actress who had a holiday home at Junes Close in Goatsfield Road a hundred years ago

and who is buried in Tatsfield churchyard. The plan would be to put on a performance joining up events of her life sourced from personal letters, manuscripts, unpublished research, magazines and newspapers. This would need twelve local people with an interest in acting to read the parts of famous people involved in her life. He has already organised a test performance in private at the Royal Exchange, Manchester and says he got a standing ovation. If you would like to be involved in such an event being staged in Tatsfield or would like to know more, please get in touch.

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

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

THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD

London's Country Houses: The Villa and the Capital by Caroline Knight.

Date: Wednesday 24th April. Lecture starts at 7.30pm at Limpsfield Church Hall, refreshments from 6.45pm.

Note: there will not be an afternoon lecture.



Following London's expansion many country houses, such as 17th century Ham House and neo-classical Osterley are now within Greater London. The houses were once the country retreats of courtiers, government ministers and City merchants. Whilst many are open to the public, some are privately owned, and others are schools or offices.



Sorolla: The Master of Light by Arantxa Sardina.

Date: Wednesday 29 May. Lecture starts at 7.30pm at Limpsfield Church Hall, refreshments from 6.45pm. Note: there will not be an afternoon lecture.

In this lecture we will look at Sorolla's life and art. Claude Monet said that "painting in general needed more light in it", while Sorolla believed that he could only "approach the truth of it". He captured the light of the Mediterranean beaches he loved and the energy of Spanish life. Quickly painting what he saw, he captured the moment in brightly lit, colourful works.



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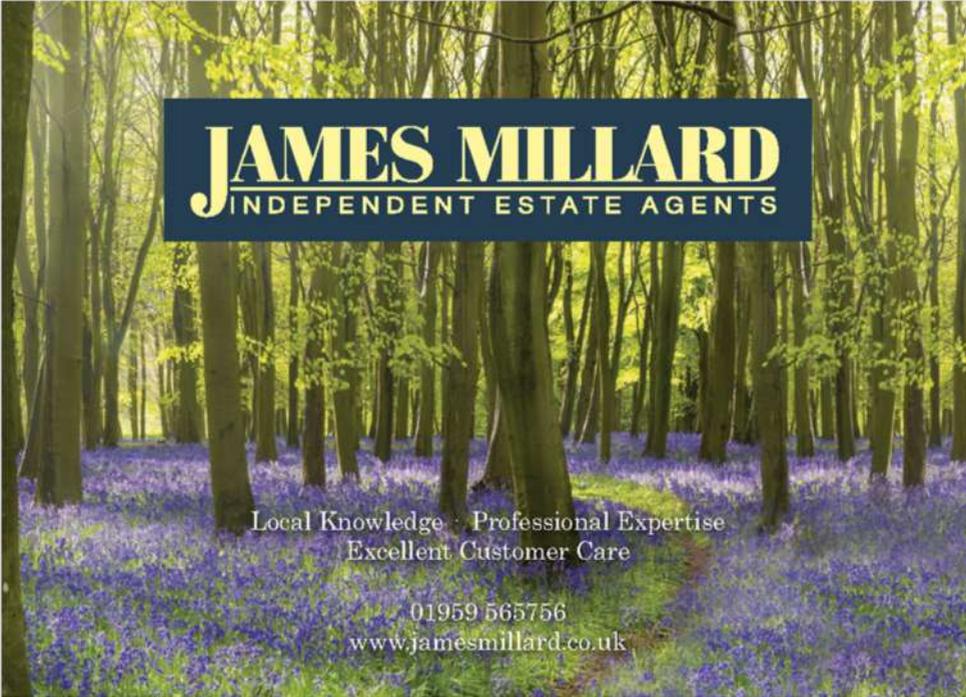


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