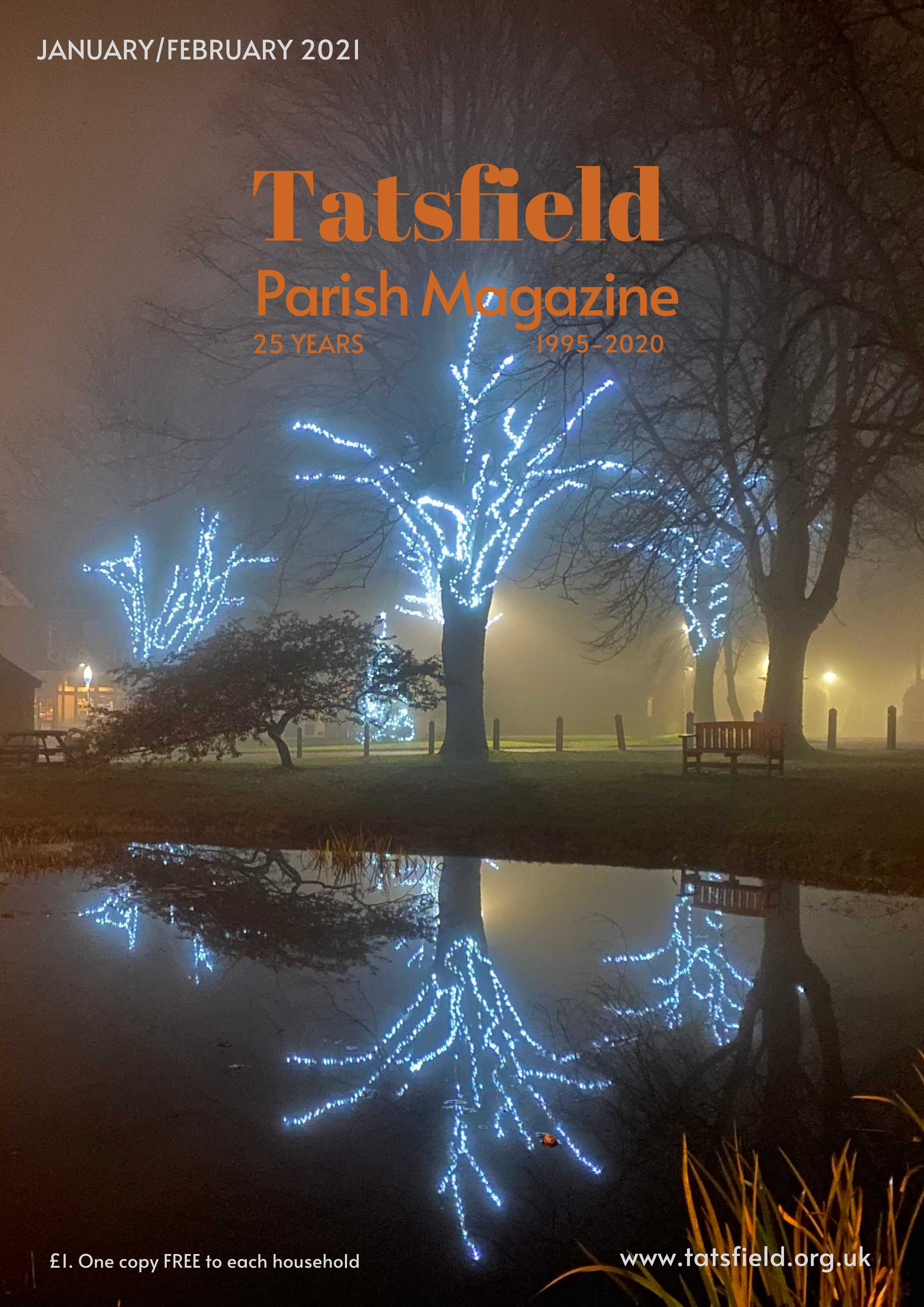


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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

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COUNCIL CONTACTS

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clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk (07483 337461)

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

Website www.surreycommunity.info/tatsfield

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)

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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, The Rectory, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, Westerham, TN16 2NA.

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

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

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

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

Cover image: Photo taken by Peter Boys.

EDITORIAL

In the Waitrose free newspaper on 10th December 2020, Alvin Hall wrote: My grandmother would say... "Why are you so concerned about what happened yesterday? Focus on the future because that's where you can make changes, where you can make your life better." My grandmother and my parents strongly believed that the only parts of the past that any of us should carry forward are the insights and wisdom experience imparts.

"Focus on the future" are the words that stuck with me. Focussing on the future means making plans, setting goals, dreaming of what might be... and yet entering the third lockdown has for many erased the plans pencilled in on our calendars and left nothing but uncertainty and anxiety. I believe that for us to look to the future we must have hope, and so I hold on to the glimmer of hope that is the COVID vaccine, but mass inoculation will not instantly take us back to where we were a year ago. Many have lost their jobs, had their livelihoods impacted, families are separated, and our children's education has been dramatically affected. I have three children. Last year my eldest was unable to sit her A levels, this week my other two children have learned they will not be sitting their A levels and GCSEs but do not know yet how they will be assessed and are in limbo. While exams are indeed stressful and most certainly not a perfect form of assessment, they are a challenge to be overcome, a hope of things to come and a stepping stone to the future – not only the future of the children sitting them but our future as well because these are our future doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, carers, gardeners, builders, artists, musicians....

Uncertainty brings anxiety and we must ensure that we do what we can to help alleviate that anxiety in our children. In "The Well Gardened Mind" by Sue Stuart-Smith*, the author refers to published studies demonstrating that "people who had greenery around them felt more hopeful and less helpless about their circumstances in life than people with little access to green space"**. In Tatsfield we are so lucky to have access to green space and woodland. We know that getting out and simply walking is beneficial to both mental and physical health and so we must, despite the current cold weather, ensure we make use of this wonderful landscape on our doorstep and stay connected with nature.

Our wonderful Tatsfield Horticultural Society has always tried to share its wisdom and experience by encouraging our children to engage with nature through the Spring and Autumn Shows and the distribution of seeds to see who could grow the tallest, biggest, most impressive sunflower. This year that won't be possible, but perhaps we could all take a leaf out of their book and buy a few sunflower seeds for children to plant out in our gardens? Our children drew rainbows for the NHS in the first lockdown, now perhaps they can plant sunflowers for hope and the future – they are good for the bees as well!

Tara

*Stuart-Smith S. The Well Gardened Mind: Rediscovering Nature in the Modern World. Published by William Collins, 2020.

**Kuo FE, Sullivan WC, Coley RL & Brunson L. Fertile ground for community: Inner-city neighborhood spaces. American Journal of Community Psychology 1998; 26(6):823-851.

MARGOT BAMBER

Margot Bamber was born in 1935 in Glasgow in Scotland, moving the Scottish Borders in when she was around 10 and eventually to London to train to be a Physiotherapist around 1956 where she met and later married Rex, who was a photographer. Rex and Margot Bamber moved into their house in Paynesfield Road in 1963. She gave birth to her only daughter Kate in 1964 and became a proud grandmother to Daisy in 2000. She worked as a physiotherapist initially in Oxted, then moved to King's College London where in 1983 she qualified as a teacher, eventually becoming a senior lecturer in Physiotherapy until she retired. She had a great love of dogs and the outside and could often be found walking around Tatsfield with them. After retiring she took up golf and became one of the founder members of Park Wood Golf Club's Ladies section, she both enjoyed the game and the companionship and went on to become lady captain twice. Rex passed away in 2015 and she continued to find great comfort in the many friends she had made there and in the village.



Margot sadly passed away on the 7th December 2020, she will be laid to rest next to her husband Rex at St Mary's Church Tatsfield.



NATIONAL LOCKDOWN: STAY AT HOME

Under the new lockdown measures, you must not leave, or be outside of your home unless it is absolutely necessary. You may leave your home for limited reasons, including to:

- Shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person.
- Go to work or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot work from home.
- Exercise with your household, support bubble or one other person when on your own. This should be limited to once per day; you should not travel outside your local area.
- Meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one.
- Seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).
- Attend education or childcare if eligible to attend. Early years settings remain open.

If you need to leave home for one of these reasons, you should always stay in your local area, unless you need to travel further for work purposes.

All non-essential retail is closed, along with hairdressers, golf clubs, indoor gyms and nail bars. Indoor entertainment venues and pubs are not allowed to provide take away alcohol. More information on the lockdown restrictions are available on gov.uk

KEY HELPLINES

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Domestic Abuse: If you are at risk, please contact East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service in confidence on: 01737 771350 or the National Helpline 0800 2000 247 which is manned 24/7. The Surrey Domestic Abuse Partnership is aware the measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 will put survivors of domestic abuse at further risk. Being unable to leave the home will make accessing support even more difficult and being isolated at home with a perpetrator increases the risk of serious harm or worse. The Home Office has published advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse during the outbreak.

In danger, need the police, but can't speak? SILENT SOLUTION is a way for the public to access help in an emergency situation even if it's not safe, or they are unable to speak. This solution allows someone to make themselves heard and let the 999 operator know the call is genuine.

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- A UK-wide directory of specialist domestic abuse support services
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- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse

You can download Bright Sky for free on the Google Play Store and App Store, where it is available in English, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu.

Surrey County Council Helpline: If you need the help of volunteers and community groups, financial support, or help with prescriptions they can be contacted on 0300 200 1008.

Tandridge District Council: If you have a business, Tandridge are responsible for administering the grants and business rate relief that you may be eligible for. You can register on <https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Your-council/Coronavirus>

Food available for parents struggling to provide family meals: Those finding it hard to put food on the table are being encouraged to talk to their child's school or early years setting, or to contact the Community Helpline set up by Surrey County Council to find out about the options available. There are various other sources of food available, including food banks and community fridges. In addition, food hampers are available for some families who need them and again schools will be able to help with allocation.

LETTERS

Dear Editors,

During the past year people have told me that they have been reading the pieces I wrote for the Surrey Mirror online rather than in the printed paper – how things have changed! For those who haven't but would now like to read online, my weekly pieces can now be found by looking up the Surrey Mirror and then "In Your Area" followed by "TN16 2AS". You will need to scroll down through a whole lot of advertising but stick to it and you will eventually come to Tatsfield.

Now for more up to date news - I am in a queue for the Covid-19 vaccination because in a few weeks I will be 9 decades old. Really strange that when, after being demobbed for the RAF, I stood outside the Bakery in the early 1950s and thought that this little Village will be alright to live in for a couple of years and - here I am - still. Mind you at that time, I thought the same about the BBC and thought that I would also "do" a couple of years before I would find a proper job. It was some 41 years later when I walked out from the best employers in the whole world.



For 64 years I have been at home and abroad, commentating (with the BBC's permission) at airshows and the picture shows yours truly, talking to one of the Breitling Team of Wing Walkers. That's me standing in the front of their American Stearman Biplane. I loved every minute of these wonderful shows and the many thousands of attendees.

Happy New Year everyone, all the best. **Dave Bishop.**

Dear Editors

Many residents will have seen the large white van that apparently overshot the junction at the end of Approach Road recently, landing in the bushes on the opposite side of Clarks Lane. Whilst hopefully uninjured the driver also successfully, and with some precision, removed the small sign indicating the way to Tatsfield for traffic travelling both ways along Clarks Lane.

Although small, this sign represented the best early warning of the turning, in dark and/or poor weather conditions, by reflection of headlights. I would suggest the early replacement of the sign should be prioritised as an important safety factor for this busy, dangerous location? Thanks.

Steve Bull

ANN LOVELACE MBE

Orpheus volunteer awarded MBE in New Year's Honours

Many of you know or know of Ann Lovelace and have heard of her volunteering and fundraising for the Orpheus Centre in Godstone. We are delighted to hear that Ann has been appointed a *Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire* (MBE) in the New Year's Honours List in recognition of her outstanding 20 years of service to young people with disabilities.

Ann said: *"I am absolutely amazed...I cried and laughed in equal measure."*

Ann Lovelace first started giving up her free time for the charity three years after the Orpheus Centre was established, directing its young disabled students in their Christmas performance. That show was the beginning of a long association with the Centre.



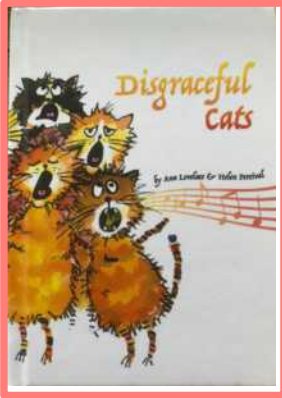
Ann spent several years supporting drama at Orpheus, turning her hand to anything from stage management, voice coaching, costumes to props. Not satisfied with this she also began fundraising for the charity, putting on concerts which have raised many thousands of pounds to support the life changing work the Orpheus Centre does with young disabled people, enabling them to build their confidence and skills to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

When she was unable to put on a show for the Centre in 2020, due to lockdown, Ann instead set herself the task of undertaking a sponsored walk around Tatsfield, initially aiming to walk a mile for each of her 84 years, but ultimately walking 100 miles in aid of Orpheus.

Ann has also delivered over 100 talks to local community groups about the charity, sharing her enthusiasm for the Orpheus Centre's work. These talks are usually enhanced by the fact that she takes a former Orpheus student with her to sing, thus enabling them to have a platform for their talent.

She has also worked as a scribe for students at the Centre who cannot write themselves. In particular she befriended and worked with Jenny Musselle, who has cerebral palsy. Jenny is passionate about play-writing. Listening carefully, Ann writes down what Jenny wishes to say. Since her Orpheus Centre days, with Ann's assistance Jenny has written several full-length three plays, one of which, *The Whistleblower*, was staged in 2018 with Ann as producer and director.

Ann is a retired Drama/RE teacher, educational consultant and author. She also likes to write poetry and, along with cartoonist Helen Percival and designer Tom Gallant, created a book of whimsical poetry and imagery called *Disgraceful Cats* in aid of Orpheus earlier this year.



“To say she is a volunteer in no way does justice to her contribution. She has organised and produced fundraising concerts, making over £25,000 in the process. She takes disabled students to perform for Women’s Institutes, Rotary Clubs and other groups, raising awareness and yet more money. She is a “befriender” for our students, offering everything from literacy teaching to a listening ear. All this is done with unfailing cheerfulness and modesty, and her commitment and energy is undiminished,” commented Sir Richard Stilgoe, Orpheus founder and trustee.



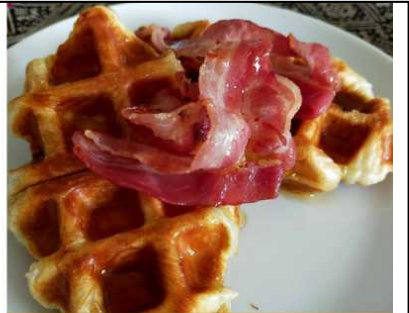
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TATSFIELD ONLINE

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

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met, once again by Zoom, on Monday 14th December just before Christmas. This remote method of working, like it or not, has now become so commonplace that it is hard to believe that this time last year I had never heard of the word Zoom before other than in the context of ‘zooming’ up to the pub for a quick drink! Now, it seems, that nearly all business is being undertaken in this remote format which, although very clever technically, leaves a lot to be desired in terms of managing individual discussions. However, I have to say that my Parish Council colleagues have all risen to the challenge extremely well; and they have been very patient with me whilst I have been chairing the Zoom meetings in Kim’s absence.

It is also hard to believe that Tandridge was still in Tier 2 of the Government’s three-tier system when we met on 14 December; things have moved on so quickly since then: Tier 3, Tier 4 and now another national lockdown. Before I move on to a few of the business items discussed at the meeting, I must just express massive thanks to all those who have already given up so much of their time and energy to helping people around the village who are most in need. There are so many examples, too many to mention individually. Do please carry on with the same caring and fighting spirit and we will all get through these difficult times. And big thanks too to both Magna Electrics and Tatsfield Aquatics for the new extended Christmas lights and the Christmas tree in the village centre, all of which made for such a beautiful spectacle over the Christmas period. I am sure you will all agree that the view from the far side of the pond showing the lights reflected in the water was absolutely stunning.

Planning

This month we had two applications and an appeal to consider:

TA/2020/1907 Anhedral, Greenway Erection of 2-storey side, rear extensions and attached garage. Retrospective application following previous consent for changes that were not carried out to the original specification. Object.

TA/2020//2003/TPO Saddlers, 54, Paynesfield Road Reduction in size of Beech tree in back garden. No comment.

APP/M3645/W/20/3256736 – TA/2020/2216 Land West of Thistle Cottage, Shaw Road Erection of residential dwelling and associated works. A detailed objection to this application was submitted in February 2020 and the application was subsequently refused. TPC remain of the view that this proposed development is inappropriate and would, by definition, cause harm to the Green Belt. Recommend the Planning Inspectorate dismiss this appeal.

Other matters

We were pleased to announce that Ben Holmes, the artist who had painted the art panels for the Battle of Britain event earlier this year, had kindly donated them to the Parish Council to be held in trust for the Parish. We are now awaiting plans for them to be re-sited, probably on the wall of the Aileen McHugo building.

Sadly, there have been several repeats of anti-social behaviour in the village, often in the early and mid-evenings and mainly around the bus stops and the village hall and school car park areas. The good news is that we have now been allocated a named neighbourhood police officer who has already attended with colleagues on a number of occasions. He is PC Tom Warwick and can be contacted by email at tom.warwick@surrey.pnn.police.uk. We know how difficult it is sometimes to decide whether or not to report something to the police, but I can assure you it is the wish of the Borough Commander Karen Hughes that we always err on the side of caution and report rather than not anything that appears suspicious or worrying. Reporting via 101 or even 999 in an emergency is advised in the first instance.

Martin Allen highlighted the range of COVID-related business support grants recently announced by the Government and being administered by Tandridge DC. Information and application forms are available from www.tandridge.gov.uk/coronavirus.

We received a detailed COVID report from our clerk Samantha Head who had attended several Community Support Zoom meetings organised by TDC. She has ensured that up to date information on restrictions and guidelines are posted on to Tatsfield Talk and the village website. Having said that, the rules are changing so regularly at the moment that it is difficult to keep completely up to date and at times there has inevitably been considerable confusion, particularly recently about the vaccination roll-out. The only two pieces of clear advice for the time being are that you must never be duped into paying for a vaccination jab – that is a scam doing the current rounds, and you cannot seek appointments, you will be contacted by either your GP practice or health provider such as your hospital consultant. Our clerk is attending a COVID update meeting on Monday 11 January just before our next meeting so hopefully we will have some more information about the roll-out after that. Tatsfield, as we know, is in a somewhat unique position with some residents attending GP surgeries in Westerham, some in Biggin Hill and some in Oxted. As a result, there will almost certainly be a lack of consistency about timetabling of appointments, about prioritisation and about where we will be expected to attend for our jabs. I guess we will all have to exercise a degree of patience during the coming weeks.

As I write this the weather has worsened and a layer of snow and ice has enveloped our village. In some respects, despite the extreme cold, it perhaps is a welcome distraction from recent events and certainly some of the views we have captured have been absolutely beautiful. But, snow always brings its dangers and we must therefore all act with extreme care particularly while out and about. Fortunately, we are well-placed for events such as this and we have our Emergency Plan in place to resort to if conditions worsen. The plan has just been revised and updated in the Autumn, it has a new section specifically relating to COVID 19 and is now being managed by our Emergency Plan Coordinators Ian Hayman and Ashley Clifton. We have a willing band of able-bodied volunteers ready and waiting in the wings to help out in any emergency. A big thank you to all those who have volunteered and a warm welcome to those who have recently offered their services. Interestingly, we recently shared our plan with TDC after it had

been much admired by Woldingham Parish Council and used by them as a template for a future plan of their own. And now, most recently, it has been shared with Warlingham and Chelsham and Farleigh PCs too!

As far as the local roads are concerned, our clerk receives daily updates from Surrey Highways regarding the gritting of Priority one routes which in Tatsfield are Approach Road, Ship Hill and Ricketts Hill Road. For other made-up roads in the village i.e. Paynesfield Road, Crossways, Westmore Road and Lusted Hall Lane up to the London Borough of Bromley border, we are fortunate to have the services of a local farmer to do gritting as required. The clerk and co-ordinators receive daily alerts from the Met Office regarding weather forecasts so that necessary arrangements can be made in accordance with the Emergency Plan.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and hopefully Healthy New Year. Let us hope for better news as the vaccines take effect and as the weather slowly improves. Do keep safe, do keep using Sheree's and the Post Office, they are both here to help us during these difficult times.

I can't wait to be zooming up to the Ship again....!

David Pinchin, Vice-Chair

Tatsfield Parish Council (email:davidpinchin@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I trust you all had a really good Christmas within the Covid guidelines. And let's all hope for a better 2021.

It was good to see the centre of the village being nicely lit up and regularly used by families and friends making use of the tables outside and the coffees from Sheree's.

To maintain this lovely centre of the village setting please remember, as soon as we are able, to continue to support the local businesses including but not limited to Cancer Trust Charity shop, the Post Office and when they open the pub, the Bakery and the Club as well as all of the small and large businesses in Tatsfield. Not forgetting the Golf Club where KJ has put in a lot of work during lockdown on the greens and landscaping up there. We wait to hear from him as to whether the PGA EuroPro Tour will return in 2021.

Yellow lines

You may have seen that further yellow lines are being considered around the village to further reflect the need for further safety at the affected junctions

The only way to avoid this in the future is for us all to park more sensibly on corners and junctions. I am told that our new parking authority have had a great effect on freeing up parking spaces in Warlingham and Caterham which have also assisted the shoppers in these areas. But fines have been issued so be aware, even in this village.

So as 2021 has now arrived my role as your District Councillor has changed quite dramatically again. As well as looking after Tatsfield's interests I am now involved in

Covid protection procedures, assisting the Council in working towards a balanced budget for this current and future years, agreeing grant payments (see below "Support Grants") as well as all of my other roles and duties within the Council.

There are tough times ahead and although every effort will be made to maintain the statutory services at their previously high levels, it may not always be possible within the budgetary limitations we find ourselves in due to Covid.

During 2021 you could help Tandridge District Council even more if everything that you need to contact them about is done online rather than the telephone.

The Offices will be closed during the pandemic to all but the most urgent matters and these will only be done by appointment, so please start to use the online services.

One of the many Zoom meetings that I have been involved with recently has been with the new **Police Borough Commander Karen Hughes**, and our good friend to Tatsfield David Monroe the Police and Crime Commissioner. I was accompanied in the meeting by David Pinchin, TPC Vice-Chair and Samantha Head, TPC Clerk.

Karen became Borough Commander of Tandridge last year and has been busy meeting the challenges this role brings. The good news is there has been an uplift in policing numbers in Tandridge. This includes five new Neighbourhood Specialist Officers (very experienced and with real passion for neighbourhood policing) bringing the total across Tandridge to seven. PC Tom Warwick joins Tandridge North (alongside PC Wayne Stephens) and will be the named contact for Tatsfield.

There are currently thirteen PCSOs. David advised us that the increasing numbers is very positive, and the recruiting 'pipeline' is working well – with a large pool of high quality candidates. The policy is now that every square metre of the county is manned by a named officer.

There is a new Community Safety Partnership for each borough, and this means the response and approach to crime can be tailored to better suit Tandridge - rural crime has been added to the agenda. PCSO Terry Pearson is the dedicated rural crime officer.

Patrols will continue using marked and unmarked cars.

Surrey Police continues to liaise closely with Sussex and Kent Police re cross-border offences. There is a zero-tolerance approach to rural crime and an aim to police as robustly as colleagues across the border do.

The real crux that we all have to deal with and respond to is actually Reporting crime - the challenge here is of getting people to report crime.

When we were talking to Karen, she had no knowledge of some of the points we were raising on behalf of villagers because the matter had simply not been reported and as such not recorded, so they could not respond as we would have wanted.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REPORT CRIME and never think it is a waste of time.

The 101 system is working much more effectively than in the past. Online reporting is the better method. And there is always Crimestoppers which is always anonymous. There is a similar scheme for younger residents - www.fearless.org

If you want to hear this and more information for yourself, the Audit and Scrutiny committee meeting will be holding a Crime and Disorder committee on the evening of 28th January 2021 from 7.30. The PCC David Munro has confirmed his attendance and Karen Hughes has accepted. If she is here, she will present, or she will arrange for one of her sergeants to stand in for her.

There will be a chance for direct questions, although they may have to be asked on your behalf.

SUPPORT GRANTS

I have received a couple of queries regarding the various support grants available to local businesses and thought, it useful to provide you with this very quick overview of the main packages available.

Local Restrictions Support Grant

Businesses required to close due to COVID restrictions, may be eligible for the following Local Restriction Support Grant:

- Eligible businesses appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of £15,000 or under when local restrictions started will receive £1,334 if they were forced to close between 5th November and 2nd December 2020 or £667 every 14 days if they are forced to closed from 2nd December 2020.
- Eligible businesses appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 when local restrictions started will receive £2,000 if they were forced to close between 5th November and 2nd December 2020 or £1,000 every 14 days if they are forced to close from 2 December 2020.
- Eligible businesses appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of £51,000 or over when local restrictions started will receive £3,000 if they were forced to close between 5th November and 2nd December 2020 or £1,500 every 14 days if they are forced to close from 2nd December 2020.
- Eligible businesses may apply for a half payment every 14 days local restrictions remain at Tier 2 or higher.

Additional Restrictions Grant

- A discretionary one-off payment through the Additional Restrictions Grant is available to some businesses impacted, but not forced to close by local or national restrictions.
- Micro Businesses including sole traders who employ less than 10 staff can apply for a one-off grant payment of £500.
- Serviced Offices or those with fixed costs such as lease fees and a rateable value of less than £15,000 can apply for a one-off grant payment of £1,334.

- Businesses, including Pubs, with a rateable value between £15,001 and £51,000 can apply for a one-off grant payment of £2,000.
- Businesses, including Pubs with a rateable value over £51,000 can apply for a one off grant payment of £3,000.

Application forms for these grants, and any future grants announced, as well as information on other financial support schemes, are available on our website <https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Your-council/Coronavirus> under the Advice for Businesses and Self-Employed section toward the middle of the page. If you would like to see the Government’s “Frequently Asked Questions” document, please contact me.

Voting safely at local elections in May

Residents will go to the polls on 6th May 2021 to have their say on who represents them on issues affecting day to day life in the district. Voting will take place in the County, District, Parish and Police and Crime Commissioner elections and residents in Caterham, Chaldon and Whyteleaf will also be able to vote in the Neighbourhood Planning Referendum. You’ll be able to take part in these elections in a number of ways, either by voting in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. Plans are already in place to help you stay safe while casting your votes at polling stations, using measures introduced during the current pandemic, such as the use of hand sanitiser, face coverings and clear floor markings.

Residents thinking about voting by post can [apply now](#) to make sure their application is processed early and their postal vote can be sent more quickly. To be able to have your say at the elections, residents need to be registered to vote. The easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

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 01959 577201 cldr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk Or martin_allen@talk21.com

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

I have a number of updates to share with you all. I thought I would start briefly with updates on the bigger picture at Surrey County Council and then cover locally specific points.

SCC COVID Response

2020 has been a tough year for all, and as I write this article we can see the early months of 2021 will continue in a similar vein. From the outset of the pandemic Surrey County Council has been at the forefront of frontline operations; supporting vulnerable residents, keeping our frontline services running (adult and children’s social care and waste services) and by doing these things helping to reduce pressure on the NHS in our hospitals. By redeploying staff to frontline COVID initiatives SCC were able to provide the

support where it was needed, here are just a few examples of the help SCC has been able to provide:

- Coordinated the Surrey-wide response to COVID-19
- Established a new community hospital at Headley Court with Surrey Heartlands (Health) to accommodate hospital overflow
- Set up a Surrey-wide community helpline in 48 hours and handled over 10,000 calls through lockdown
- Sourced, sorted and delivered over ten million items of PPE to the frontline during the COVID pandemic
- Worked with 276 Voluntary, Community and Faith based groups across Surrey
- Delivered £10M in grants to help care providers deal with the impact of coronavirus
- Been named as one of the Good Practice Network of councils in the UK to help deliver NHS Test & Trace
- Acted quickly to build extra refuge for women fleeing domestic violence during lockdown

SCC Finances

Dealing with COVID as a council comes with a big cost attached. So far COVID has cost the council £52m plus specific grants (for infection control etc) and the costs are rising. In May 2020 I was appointed as Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance at SCC (my background is as a Chartered Accountant) so I have been working closely with Finance officers throughout the pandemic keeping a keen eye on SCC financial position. COVID has put a strain on all councils, however SCC finances are robust having already got them in order, delivering £200m of savings since 2018 and setting a balanced 2020 budget without using reserves. Despite COVID, SCC are on track to deliver the balanced budget for 2020/21 (basically SCC has not overspent) and are in the late stages (December) of setting a balanced budget for 21/22. This basically means the council has the resources to manage finance properly and spend money on services within the money it receives from council tax, business rates and government grants. This is a fantastic achievement given the current circumstances and in fact as a reflection of this SCC Finance Team has been highly commended in the Public Finance Awards 2020, and Leigh Whitehouse (Finance Director) won the award for Finance Leader of the Year. The strong financial team plus robust financial position have enabled SCC to weather the COVID storm so far and continue to deliver services required; challenges remain in the medium term future though with pressure on funding and increasing demands for services.

Looking locally, I have been working hard throughout the pandemic with your Parish Council and residents. Whilst face to face has been more difficult, we have kept in touch via zoom and phone to address matters arising.

Tatsfield Highways

Earlier in 2020 new signs on yellow backed board were erected to signal the turning to Tatsfield (Approach Road) off Clarks Lane. I hope now we are in the fog season you have found them better at indicating the turning! It feels like Tatsfield has experienced a high number of road works (particularly utilities) around the village but acutely felt on Ricketts

Hill Road. I have been working very hard with the Highways Works Planning team to establish a better system for communicating and managing these very inconvenient road closures which impact buses too. There are two types of road closures each with their own procedures:

- *Planned closures:* Ricketts Hill Road is now "red flagged" on the highways system so all teams are aware that road closures need to be carefully planned and communicated. What I have requested is that where possible planned works are carried out overnight and during school holidays keeping disruption to a minimum. This was successful trialled with repair work carried out on Old Lane/Ricketts Hill Road junction, initially planned for beginning of September when schools returned after summer, however I was able to move it to October half term. Disruption was minimal and a very good repair job was carried out.
- *"Emergency" closures:* I use "..." because there is a very loose definition of emergency and SCC highways have very limited powers to challenge this work and its duration. By its nature it can't be planned, and no notice is given (utilities don't need to notify SCC until they have been on site for 24 hours even). We have had a couple of instances of this recently and I am grateful to residents for contacting me so I can get on the phone to highways and ask them to intervene.

Width restriction enforcement. I know many roads in Tatsfield suffer with wide vehicles using them and blocking them. Roads like Church Hill have an enforceable width restriction and I share everyone's frustration at the lack of enforcement action taken by police. Good news is that SCC trading standards, from early 2021, will be taking on enforcement action for width and weight restrictions. A team will be in place and deployed across the county to take enforcement action. I believe that once word gets out, and fines are issued, wide vehicles will think twice before illegally using a route. Once this team is up and running, I will be championing for them to visit Tatsfield and deter some offenders!

Enforcement action, Old Forge. Many residents will have noticed the building activity at the Old Forge which includes retaining walls at the back of the property. The land to the rear is SCC land and enforcement action is now underway to return the land to SCC. Many thanks to Martin Allen and Jim Yeeles for raising this with me and keeping me up to date.

Community Allowance. I am pleased to be able to support local community projects through the SCC Community Allowance. I am a keen supporter of your fantastic Tatsfield Composting group with Phil and now Martin - I look forward to a coffee one Saturday morning when we can all meet in person again! Last year I was very happy to fund fire alarms for the Young At Heart Group and this year I am also funding a new notice board for the Parish Council.

Policing In November I met with Karen Hughes - Borough Commander for Tandridge Police - to discuss policing, or lack of it, in our rural division. I was delighted to hear from her then that more police officers were joining her team towards the end of the year and that the Warlingham division would be assigned an officer to work closely with. You will

find elsewhere in the magazine the details of Tom Warwick whom I am sure we are all very pleased to welcome to the neighbourhood.

YOUR FUND SURREY I am so excited that SCC YOUR FUND SURREY was launched on 16th November. The Fund is £100m from SCC, to deliver local community projects, so start thinking – and THINK BIG! Get in touch with any ideas for Tatsfield and let's make Tatsfield an even better place to live - I'm already speaking with the Parish Council about ideas, but I can't wait to hear from you! It could be anything - playgrounds, running tracks, outdoor gyms, community buildings or renovations; anything that would bring your community together. The interactive map is now live so you can put your ideas on and see what others might be thinking. Just visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/yourfund for full details.

Let's Make It Happen!

#MakeItHappen #ThinkBig

If you would like to contact me about anything email becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk

CLAIRE COUTINHO, EAST SURREY MP

It was the privilege of my life to be elected as your MP just over a year ago. From dealing with the pandemic, securing more money for pothole filling, and protecting the Surrey Hills, to assisting with local businesses and supporting the Chancellor with the Covid-19 economic response in my role as PPS to HM Treasury, last year was certainly a busy start. As a newbie MP, still learning the ropes, I wanted to make myself as accessible as possible. I carried out virtual constituency visits, held remote surgeries, and hosted Facebook Live Q&As. But this year I hope to meet many more of you in person.

Unfortunately, the exponential rise in coronavirus infections recently meant that the Government had no alternative but to implement a stronger lockdown and a national stay-at-home order last week. These new strains of coronavirus are spreading up to 70 per cent faster than previous transmissions, and they risk the NHS being overwhelmed within just 21 days.

I know that being back under these restrictions is really difficult to take for everyone. However, there is a clear difference between this week's announcement and those made last year. The Government is now rolling out the biggest vaccination programme in British history, which has already seen us vaccinate more people than the rest of Europe combined. Over a million have received their Covid-19 vaccinations, including at East Surrey's own vaccination centre.

Indeed, the NHS expects to have offered the first vaccine dose to everyone in the four top priority groups by the middle of February. This group of 13.5 million people account for almost 90% of the tragic coronavirus deaths we have seen over the past year. Once they have all been vaccinated, we will be able to lift many of these restrictions and provide a clear timetable for the normality we all crave.

It is also no exaggeration to say that Britain has led the charge on the vaccination front. The Government has secured access to over 350 million vaccine doses through agreements with seven separate developers. We were the first country in the world to have a clinically approved vaccine for supply. We should not take that for granted. It has been nothing short of a scientific triumph and an example of global coordination at its best.

However, despite the optimism that the vaccines provide, I know that businesses will be feeling a great deal of pressure yet again. I am delighted that the Chancellor decided to issue top up grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses – worth up to £9,000 per property – to help them through these next few weeks. A £594 million discretionary fund has also been made available to support other impacted businesses. This is in addition to £1.1 billion in further discretionary grant funding for Local Authorities, Local Restriction Support Grants worth up to £3,000 a month, and the extension of the furlough scheme.

At my end, I will continue my work with the East of Surrey Local Economic Taskforce that I set up last June with Crispin Blunt, our neighbouring MP. We meet fortnightly with Surrey County Council, Tandridge District Council, Reigate and Banstead District Council, the LEP, and the Federation of Small Businesses to drive a local economic plan to support jobs, skills, investment and much needed infrastructure.

Finally, I know that 2020 brought unprecedented challenges. It is very much my hope that 2021 will bring unprecedented recovery. After four and a half years of division, I was pleased that Britain secured a free-trade agreement with the European Union – the first deal based on zero tariffs and zero quotas that the EU has ever agreed. I very much look forward to continuing to work hard for local residents in Tatsfield over the coming months to ensure that we can embrace the many opportunities that 2021 provides for East Surrey and Global Britain alike.

POLICING

Hello! I am PC 40495 Tom Warwick and I am one of your new Neighbourhood Specialist Officers covering the North of Tandridge, primarily Warlingham, Woldingham, Chelsham, Farleigh, Tatsfield and Titsey.

I have been a PC with Surrey Police for almost ten years, working primarily out of Reigate Police Station on one of the Response teams based there. This means that I have attended and dealt with all manner of crimes over the years, usually being one of the first Officers on scene.

I have recently joined the Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team as I feel that Community based Policing is a key part of fighting and preventing crime. Neighbourhood Policing has seen a growth of Officers in recent months, taking the Tandridge Team from two PCs to seven PCs since September which is great news! One of these new Officers, PC 41542 Christian Mansfield will also be assisting specifically with your area. Christian is a recently recruited Police NOW Officer. Police NOW is a newly developed recruitment process that

identifies Graduates and equips them with core Policing skills required in modern day Policing.

During the winter months, theft related (or inquisitive) crimes always rise due to the earlier nightfall (thieves seem to like the cover of darkness). So far this year the increase has not been as high as it has been in past years, although I suspect that restrictions aligned with COVID-19 may have something to do with this.

The main issues that we have encountered in the North of the Borough recently seem to be Shed Burglaries, Catalytic Converter Thefts and Poaching. Vehicle Crime also appears to be fairly consistent throughout Surrey, although does not seem to be massively impacting North Tandridge at the moment.

Below are a few simple things, that you can do to assist with combatting these crimes:

- Ensure that you close and lock any doors/windows/side gates/garages/sheds
- CCTV, I am a huge advocate for these systems. They are a great deterrent, affordable and can be a very valuable tool for us with regards to identifying offenders (I am happy to come to your property to advise where they would be best placed)
- Make sure your vehicles are locked and you remove any valuable items.
- Look at investing in a steering wheel lock (these really deter would be vehicle thieves)

The list is not exhaustive; however these are some of the key points that can assist you and us. To contact us email: Tom.warwick@surrey.pnn.police.uk or Christian.mansfield@surrey.pnn.police.uk.

Be advised that these emails are not monitored 24/7, therefore for emergencies or crimes in progress please call 999, or for general crime reporting please call 101.

TATSFIELD POLICING UPDATE

Hello Tatsfielders, welcome to 2021. Might be more of the same from 2020, but let's hope for better. Despite Lockdown three (possibly the worst sequel ever) doing its worst to disrupt our lives, I am in no doubt this is invoking in us a continuation of the 'wartime spirit', as we are essentially in a war situation, battling against an invisible foe. Let's do our very best to help others around us who are in greater need.

Apologies for changing the subject to the more mundane, but global pandemics sadly fail to deter certain types of criminals it seems. In recent incidents locally, all are vehicle-related, numbering three.

- During November, a vehicle windscreen was smashed on Johns Road during the night, with a large footprint found on the bonnet. Due to the more rural location, no lines of enquiry could be pursued.
- Also in November, two mopeds were stolen across the road from The Old Ship pub, shortly after the owners had left them there. Thankfully, a local contact of one victim had spotted the dumped mopeds the following day in woods off Ninehams Road, and despite being damaged, have been reunited with their owners.

- Finally, in early January a vehicle parked outside a property on Old Lane was broken into, with one item taken from inside. Again, without CCTV footage or witnesses, no lines of enquiry existed.

So, it is frustrating that these types of crimes are still occurring, despite all else happening of a more impacting nature. You will be aware of the government's guidance and instructions for communities, and us on the local Neighbourhood / Response Teams will continue to do our best to keep you all safe, but please do your bit regarding the rules on who we can meet, how many, and where. We will be around the village to monitor any social activity and give advice to any groups we may come across.

Police are still advised to treat each report with the four **E's**... **1) Engage, 2) Explain, 3) Encourage, and purely as a last resort, 4) Enforce.**

KIDS: I know it's tricky indoors but keep going. You are all very brave (garden) campers.

Warning: with increased computer game use, try not to develop a case of 'thumb-itis', ouch!!

Keep Calm and Carry On. See you around the village.

Rupert PCSO 12599 Kelley, Surrey Police, Caterham

WATCH THE TANDRIDGE CRIME SUMMIT – THURSDAY 28 JANUARY

Residents are invited to watch the Crime Summit meeting on Thursday 28 January online at <https://tandridge.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>. The meeting is being hosted by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and starts promptly at 7.30pm.

The event will be introduced by our Community Safety Officer, Amanda Bird who will give an overview of community safety.

Inspector Karen Hughes from Surrey Police will provide an update on policing across the district, including the key challenges for the year ahead.

David Munro the Police and Crime Commissioner will talk about policing across the county.

The event is an opportunity for Tandridge residents to hear about community safety work in the area, raise the issues affecting them, discuss how these can be solved by working together and ask questions.

Anyone who wants to ask a question of the Inspector or the Police and Crime Commissioner should send it in advance to committees@tandridge.gov.uk.

KEEP YOUR MONEY SAFE

Surrey and Sussex Police Fraud Newsletter January 2021



Each month we see many incidents of fraudsters targeting our residents in an attempt to defraud them. We're working hard to prevent this and support vulnerable victims of fraud or scams. By following our tips and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to do so too, you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

T/Detective Chief Inspector Rob Walker, Surrey & Sussex Police Economic Crime Unit

Thinking about making an investment? Think twice... Investment fraud often starts with a phone call from someone claiming to be from an investment company. They will try to persuade you to invest in something they're selling or have possession of, with the promise of large returns on your money.

Typical investment scams include buying diamonds or rare metals, wine, land and alternative energy.

The scammers have often done background checks on you to trick you into thinking they're from a legitimate organisation because they have your personal details. They're particularly likely to target pensioners who might have large sums of money, but these types of scams come in all different forms, as seen in this case study below.



Male, 66-years-old, Surrey: The victim found an investment scheme through a Facebook link which his friend had 'liked'. He contacted the company who persuaded him to invest in a stock trading scheme. He was contacted again by the same company who advised him to invest a large sum of money in gas and gold trading. The scammers continued to contact the victim asking him for more money because there was an issue with his initial investments. Following this, the victim contacted his bank who advised him to cut all contact with the investment company, but he had already lost £70,000.

Please remember, never send or give money to someone who has asked you to invest in something over the phone, on your doorstep or online. Before handing over any money, carry out rigorous background checks via an independent financial advisor registered with the Financial Conduct Authority or seek the advice of trusted family and friends first.

Keep your money safe

Parcel delivery scams... Parcel delivery scams usually involve fraudsters contacting the victim on the phone and pretending that they have a parcel which hasn't had the correct postage paid for it. What seems like a small amount of money to cover the postage often

turns out to be a bigger scam; the fraudster will ask for the victim's bank details in order to take more money from their account.

Please remember: The Royal Mail will post a 'fee to pay' card through your door or contact you via text or email if you need to pay the balance of postage on a parcel, they will never contact you over the phone. To check a request to pay a fee is genuine, contact the Royal Mail. Do not give your banking information to anyone you don't know and trust.

Amazon Prime scam... We're seeing a rise in scams relating to Amazon Prime. They typically include a phone call from someone pretending to be from Amazon and stating that an amount will be taken from their account to renew a subscription. Many victims are advised to press a number on their phone as an option to not pay for the subscription. The scammer will then talk them through installing an app on their phone or tablet and confirming their personal and banking details in order to stop the payment. This is all an attempt to get the victim to transfer money to the caller's bank account. In this case, the victim was tricked into downloading an app on her mobile after she made an order from Amazon.

Female, 89-years-old, Surrey: After ordering something from Amazon the day before, the victim was contacted on the phone by a man pretending to be from Amazon trying to sell her Prime. She refused this offer but he persisted and offered to update her recent order, she just needed to download an Amazon support app for him to do so. After doing this and entering the details given by the caller, he was able to take control of her mobile, which she was unable to stop. The victim quickly contacted her bank to make them aware of the scam and they were able to stop any fraudulent transactions. The victim said: "I don't usually fall for these scams but this one made me feel brainwashed – I couldn't believe how intelligent this fraudster was."

Please remember: if you receive a call from someone saying they're from Amazon, it's most probably a scam. The safest thing to do is to hang up the phone. They will also never ask for payment information or for remote access of your device.

How you can help us

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud call:

Surrey Police on 101 or visit www.surrey.police.uk Sussex Police on 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk

Keep your money safe

Report fraud or attempted fraud, by contacting Action Fraud at http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or call 0300 123 2040

TANDRIDGE WELLNESS NEWS

Helping improve our residents' health and wellbeing



WELLBEING PRESCRIPTION, a team of wellbeing advisors, is funded by the NHS to help improve your health and wellbeing on behalf of Tandrige District Council.

The advisors have a broad range of knowledge and are experienced in helping people make positive changes to their lives to benefit their health and wellbeing. They will work with you to agree achievable goals and set a plan to suit you.

All advisors are fully trained on all current health and wellbeing issues and have in-depth knowledge of other services available in East Surrey.

They keep up to date with what is happening in your local community, so they can direct you to any suitable local information or support.

Support available to suit you

The team's wellbeing advisors offer tailored help and support to meet your needs and circumstances, whether that's a one-off appointment to help you with a particular short-term concern or issue, or ongoing support to help you achieve your long-term goals. The advisor can support you in a variety of ways, dependent on your needs, either by telephone appointment, video appointment or an appointment in your home.

Contact the team today

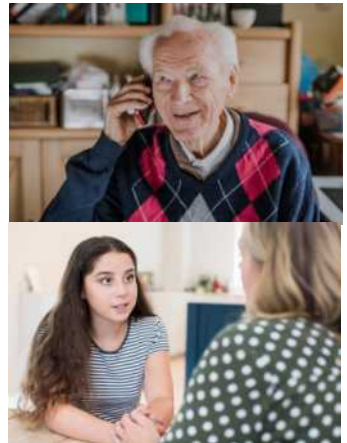
If you are struggling with any aspect of your health and wellbeing or would like to be connected to other local services which can help, get in touch:

- Call the team on: 01883 732787
- Visit the Wellbeing Prescription website: www.wellbeingprescription.org
- Email: wellbeingprescription@tandrige.gov.uk

Delivering results

In November alone, the team supported almost 150 new clients with a range of issues, including:

- Losing weight and helping maintain a healthy diet.
- Improving their physical activity.
- Managing and improving low mood, worry, social isolation and stress.
- Improving sleep.



- Support to remain independent and living at home.
- Support with housing, employment or financial concerns.



The team is constantly striving to keep improving its service and regularly talks to clients to understand how they're doing:

- 97% of clients recently asked said they found the Wellbeing Prescription service 'helpful' or 'very helpful'.
- 79% of clients recently asked had made a positive change to their health and wellbeing, as a result of the team's help.



The team has also received some great feedback from its clients:

"My wellbeing advisor was a blessing. She really understood and helped me a lot. She guided me through some difficult times and was incredibly patient. She always listened and was really understanding. Everyone who gets a wellbeing advisor is so lucky because they really do help a lot."

"My advisor was really supportive the whole way through. Talking to her made a massive difference and not only have my diet and exercise levels improved, but also my mental health. I have kept up with the changes and am doing well."

Follow the team

Wellbeing Prescription has also recently joined Twitter. Follow the team [@WellbeingPresc](https://twitter.com/WellbeingPresc) for the latest wellbeing advice, handy tips from the team's advisors and to read about the team's recent good news stories.

Please also visit Tandridge District Council's website, Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor accounts for other updates.

Managing alcohol consumption

Managing the amount of alcohol we drink is vital to our good physical and mental health, so it's helpful to understand the effect alcohol can have on us.

The NHS's alcohol support website has some useful tips and advice on how to reduce our intake. An Alcohol Change Unit Calculator is also available to help us keep track of the number of units we are consuming.

We would recommend taking a look at the recent Alcohol Awareness Week campaign (www.alcoholchange.org.uk) too, which helps you to understand more about alcohol, its links to mental health and some interactive tools if you would like to cut down the amount you drink.

If you are worried about the amount of alcohol you are drinking, or you would like some advice and support to help cut down, our team of wellbeing advisors are on hand to offer some help and support.

Banish the blues and get active

Staying active gives our health and mood a real boost, helps us stay in touch with people and can also help us shift those extra lockdown pounds and calories. Here are a few different ways everyone can stay active this winter, whatever the weather:



- Why not try the NHS Active 10 or, for a bigger challenge, start the NHS Couch to 5K running programme? Details of both can be found on the NHS website (www.nhs.uk).
- If you prefer to get active from the comfort of your own home, the NHS Fitness Studio has a range of exercises to try out.
- If you're living with a long-term health condition and you're unsure how to remain active, the We Are Undefeatable (www.weareundefeatable.co.uk) campaign can help.
- Active Surrey (www.activesurrey.com) also has a great to help Surrey residents get active.

Be kind to yourself

Sometimes it's difficult to switch off at one of the busiest times of the year, but why not try one of these tips to help you recharge the batteries and relax during the festive period?

- Try to continue those new hobbies you've acquired, whether that's using technology to stay in touch with friends or keeping on top of your daily exercise regime.
- Make it a priority to take some time each day to relax and reflect on how you're feeling. Sometimes talking to a friend or family member can really help too.
- Take a break from social media for however long you feel comfortable and spend some time outside in one of our many parks and open spaces.

The past year has been tough for so many and has naturally put a strain on our mental health, but it's also offered us the chance to evaluate what we want from our lives and take stock about what really matters.

If you are struggling with your mental health, don't be afraid to ask for help. Wellbeing Prescription is on hand, ready to support you and there's also a wide range of advice available, including the NHS Every Mind Matters scheme.

Helping vulnerable residents

The Wellbeing Prescription team is on hand to support and there's also a range of other help and support across the district:

- A variety of local options are available to help people who might be at risk of having a fall, including advice on fall prevention, strength and balance exercise programmes, help with adapting your home and obtaining walking aids to help maintain your independence. To find out more about what's on offer, visit www.firstcommunityhealthcare.co.uk/.
- YMCA East Surrey is running a free six-week virtual programme, (it started in January), designed to help residents diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes or Pre Diabetes improve their wellbeing and physical activity and manage their diabetes. To sign up for the programme, visit the [YMCA's website](#).
- Residents struggling financially might find themselves at risk of being exploited by lenders who might, for example, offer loans with incredibly high interest or APR, take your belongings until you make payment or simply fail to give you any paperwork. Help and support is available (www.stoploansharks.co.uk), so please don't suffer in silence.

If you are concerned about any of these issues, or anything else affecting your health and wellbeing, the Wellbeing Prescription team is ready to help, so please get in touch:

www.wellbeingprescription.org

Tel: 01883 732787 Email: wellbeingprescription@tandridge.gov.uk)



AMAZING ANGEL

Steve Gaskell created this wonderful creative CD Angel in response to the suggestion in the December edition of the magazine.

AVIAN FLU – UPDATED ADVICE FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Poultry and other captive birds

Further testing has confirmed the case of avian influenza H5N8 in broiler breeder chickens near Leominster in Herefordshire to be a highly pathogenic strain.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared across the whole of England effective from 5pm on 11 November 2020. The decision to implement this AIPZ follows a risk assessment containing the latest scientific and ornithological evidence and veterinary advice.

The AIPZ means a bird keeper in England (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions. Further details of the measures that apply in the AIPZ can be found in the AIPZ declaration and our biosecurity guidance. Bird gatherings are not permitted within the AIPZ. The general licence for bird gatherings was revoked on 11 November 2020.

The following 3 cases of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds have now been confirmed:

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 was confirmed on the 10 November in broiler breeder chickens at a premises near Leominster, in Herefordshire. A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8 was confirmed on the 2 November at a premises near Frodsham, Cheshire. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premises.
- Low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 was confirmed on the 2 November at a premises near Deal, Kent. A 1km low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) Restricted Zone has been put around the premises.

Wild birds

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds submitted via public reports and warden patrols. As part of this surveillance of wild birds, the following have all tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N8:

- a number of geese near Stroud in Gloucestershire
- several swans near Dawlish in Devon
- a goose near Weymouth

The following wild birds have also tested positive for avian influenza H5N8 (pathogenicity to be confirmed):

- a goose and a buzzard near Ormskirk, Lancashire
- several different species of geese and ducks near Boston, Lincolnshire

If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77).



Tatsfield Primary School



This year, our school Christmas productions went virtual!

In the Juniors, each class added their own parts to Tatsfield's "Magical Christmas Jigsaw" and they were filmed for parents to watch from the comfort and safety of their own devices.

Here are some images to capture the festive feel of the production from Eagles class – Year 6 and Wrens - Reception



Our return to school in 2021 has been a little different, as we rise to the challenge of another National Lockdown. However, this year we have been treated to Tatsfield Snow in the first week of term. The site looked sparkling, and we have had some fabulous snowmen created at home and at school by the children of Keyworkers. Whether at home or at school, snowballs have been thrown all over Tatsfield!



LITTLE ACORNS PRE SCHOOL

Wishing everyone in the Tatsfield community a very 'Happy New Year' from the Little Acorns Team!



Before the Christmas holidays we had a fantastic time hosting two parties for the children with games, party food and dancing. We also had some brilliantly creative entries for our Christmas decoration competition, raised some funds for the preschool with our Christmas Hamper and 'Guess the name of the teddy', and also raised £40 for 'Save the children' on our Christmas Jumper Day! A very big thank you to all our families for their generosity.

Breakfast club didn't miss out on the fun when we prepared a special Christmas breakfast including hot chocolate and games in the lead up to Christmas.

Reflecting on a very challenging year, we would like to thank our staff and management committee for their continued hard work in 2020, and all of our Little Acorns families for their patience and understanding throughout the changes that we've had to put in place. As we head into the Spring term, we're optimistic that a return to normality is just around the corner!

Thank you for reading and we wish you all a very happy 2021!

The Little Acorns Team

office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk



ST MARY'S NEWS

Christ the King and Advent 2020 The Sunday immediately before Advent is celebrated as Christ the King. During Advent itself (mainly on Zoom), the theme for each week was represented by a new banner – with the first one, “Hope”, seeming particularly fitting now that vaccines are being administered to combat the Pandemic.



Joining together for a special service during Advent In early December, Vince and a group from St Mary's joined with members of St Ambrose Church, part of Oxted and Warlingham Roman Catholic Parish, for an 'online' Advent service via Zoom. This comprised prayers, scripture readings and music in a 'reflective' setting. Some of the songs were performed by Steve, our Administrator, who is the music leader at St Ambrose and who also compiled the prayers and readings.

After the service Vince shared concerning local news and initiatives in the Limpsfield and Tatsfield Team of churches. Fr Stephen Hardaker responded and also shared some fascinating facts and stories of the historic connections between the two parishes. It was a prayerful but joyful start to the Advent season and both churches look forward to praying and singing together at a future time when restrictions are lifted.



Open the Bible monthly All Age Service (currently on Zoom)

On 3rd January we celebrated Epiphany, when the wise men came to Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Our **January 31st service at 10am on ZOOM** (link can be accessed in the notice sheet via the home page of our website) will include the opportunity to remember our Baptisms – children and adults are invited to have their Baptism candle with them at home.

Christmas We are very grateful to Sauro Gabelli for his Nativity Tableau and our Flower Arrangers for decorating the church at Christmas. In addition to the beautiful displays throughout the church, we were pleased to have a Christmas tree and lights at the lychgate, with thanks to the donor and the arrangers.



Flower arranging team Thank you so much to Sue Warren, Pat Walsh, Sam Vatcher, Sue Saunders, Pauline Conlon, Christine Rosenbaum, Sara Williams, Kay Longley and Jan Maynard for making the Church look beautiful for the Christmas season. Ann 577207
Jan 577659



Christmas giving to The Children's Society Many thanks to those who gave directly or in the collecting pot at Sherrie's or at the Narthex collection point in response to Sauro Gabelli's Christmas Tableau in the church. In addition to the £500 set aside by the Parochial Church Council, a further £196 has been received, making a total of £696 (at the time of going to print) which will be further enhanced by some gift aid.

Angels update Well done to those who made and displayed angels for the Christmas season in response to the suggestion in the December issue. We enjoyed seeing them.

The Robes Project – ~~Sleep-Out~~ Sleep-In 2020 2020 was a different and difficult year for many; whilst our lives have had to adapt to an unfamiliar environment, what hasn't changed is homelessness where vulnerable people continue to find themselves on the streets. Add in the absence of tourists, passers-by or commuters stopping for a friendly word or to give a cup of tea, life on the streets becomes even more isolating and challenging. During these unprecedented times the work of charities like The Robes Project becomes even more important. Robes provide winter night shelters, drop-ins and food banks in the Southwark Diocese, of which St Mary's Church is part, amongst other valuable services to those living on the streets; where they seek to "empower people who are homeless and help them re-build their lives".

Rather than cancel their annual Sleep-Out fundraiser in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral given social distancing rules and the tier system in place, they re-invented the event holding a Sleep-In instead. Well done them. Afterall, a virus doesn't distinguish a homeless person sleeping rough from someone who has a roof over their heads.

I have done the Robes Sleep-Out for 4 years and I wasn't going to miss this one particularly when I read that the Sleep-Out is ordinarily their biggest source of income. So I set about engaging support and my Mum, Sheila Cook and my nieces Madeline and Bridie Budgen agreed to give up their cosy, comfortable beds to join me, albeit from the

safety of our respective homes and gardens. Mum decided to sleep on an unforgiving living room floor, no mean feat, and Madeline and Bridie like me slept under the stars in what thankfully was a dry night.

Why do we do this each year? Is it the challenge of getting through a miserable, uncomfortable night? No, it is to raise awareness of a social issue that really shouldn't need addressing and to remind ourselves that being homeless is not exclusively for 'others', it can happen to anyone if life suddenly throws a curveball and there is no-one to catch you. One night for charity is nothing compared to every night on the streets without the protection of your garden fence or the walls of your home. Nothing can compare to that – that is why we do this each year.

If you would like to donate then Robes will gratefully accept donations directly or via their Justgiving page (close 31.01.21) which has so far raised over £30,000, a magnificent achievement in a challenging year.

www.rob.es.org.uk <https://justgiving.com/campaign/RobesSleepIn2020>

Thank you. **Susie Cook, Sheila Cook, Madeline and Bridie Budgen**

Toy Collection A big thank you to those who responded to this year's Christmas appeal.

St Mary's Christmas Food Collection A huge thank you to everyone who donated food and money to enable us to support the local food bank in Westerham and Christ Church, Brixton Road, over the Christmas period. A delivery of food and Christmas goodies was made to Westerham at the end of November. Also, we delivered a large car load of the donations to Brixton on Monday 14th December, with everyone's Christmas wishes. This was gratefully received by Marcel, the Parish Administrator. The perishable food was distributed in the food parcels the following day. The remaining food will help to sustain the food cupboard into the new year for the provision of food parcels which are given out every Tuesday, providing a much-needed service to the local community. Both food banks are continuing to see an increase in the number of people needing their help. It is planned to take further provisions to Westerham in January 2021 and Brixton in March, so please keep the food donations coming and thank you again for your continued support. **Hilary Vale 577864**

Revd Ruth Rainbird – St Andrew's, Limpsfield Chart

On Sunday 6th December, Revd Ruth Rainbird and her husband, Michael, joined us at St Mary's for our 9am service in church. A presentation of a card and gift was made to Ruth in thanksgiving for her 18 years of ministry, following her recent retirement from regular contribution to the work of the Limpsfield and

Tatsfield Team of churches. Ruth recalled that almost immediately after her ordination she was seconded to help out at St Mary's for a time and that she has always enjoyed her visits "up the hill".



We congratulate Revd Helen Cook on her institution and induction as Team Rector for the Limpsfield Team of churches (St Peter's Limpsfield, St Andrew's Limpsfield Chart and St Mary's Tatsfield). This took place on Sunday 13th December with a special service at St Peter's, Limpsfield, led by the Bishop of Croydon, the Rt Revd Jonathan Clark. Revd Paul Perkin (Limpsfield Chart) and Revd Vince Short (Tatsfield) look forward to continuing to work with Helen in the Team, following her recent much-valued help during the interregnum at St Peter's.

St Mary's Tatsfield is currently open for private prayer at the following times: 10am-1pm on Thursdays and 1pm-4pm on Sundays Visitors are required to wear a mask. Please read and follow the **safety guidelines** by the entrance porch, including the use of the **hand sanitiser** provided on entry and exit.

Wednesdays 7.30pm - 8.00pm - An invitation to learn from the Bible together Lectio Divine (Bible reflection) with Chris and Ellen Goldsmith. The Zoom link can be found in our notice sheet which is accessible via the homepage on our website.

Churchyard Extension We hope that a topographical survey will be completed in January. Plans are then to be progressed for the professional removal of the existing hedge (a new hedge is already taking shape on the new boundary).

Records

7th December Baptism of Amy Dell
7th December Baptism of Frederick Gibbs
21st December Funeral of Margot Bamber

St Mary's Church 100 Club results for the January draw:

8. M & R Smith £25 3. D Vale £15 72. R Painter £10 St Mary's £50

A prayer following the commencement of the new lockdown

O God our constant in this ever-changing world,
have mercy on us in these difficult times, we pray.
As we long for the vaccine to bring change, grant us hope;
as we long for restrictions to end, grant us resilience;
as we long to see family and friends, grant us restraint,
as we long for your Kingdom to come, grant us vision.
And so may this time of waiting become a time of growing faith
and lead us onward into life. **Amen.** [source: *Discipleship News - Diocese of Southwark*]

The Millennium Hall remains closed at present, but we continue to review when we may be able to re-open to our regular groups.

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

TATSFIELD WI



At this time, just as we start a new year, I have been thinking about why the WI exists. The name 'institute' was chosen because as a women's branch of the Farmers' Institute it was in common usage as a term for an educational body. Inspired by the establishment of the Canadian National Council of Women, in 1896 the model was adopted for using scientific knowledge to improve nutrition and livestock care in the community through good practice in the family.

In 1915 the first WI of Great Britain was established and any woman over 18 years of age could become a member. What a time to start a movement! A movement that could have significant impact on the Home Front, both within the family and also in the wider community. The three main purposes of the WI are all clearly stated to be for the public benefit:

- to advance the education of women and girls,
- to promote sustainable development,
- to advance health.

So you see what we do, and have done for over a hundred years, is for YOUR benefit as well as ours.

2020 has stress-tested all of us to the very top of our limits, but our WI members have kept an eye on each other, exchanged greetings and gifts and truly cared what happens to us all. Hopefully, everyone has been able to call on others if they needed a hand or been able to provide that support for other members if they can.

Our members have been at the centre of the village for a long time but unfortunately we are, like many other organisations, victims of the dreaded "too busy to join in at the moment but I will when I have more time" syndrome. Why not start 2021 instead thinking, "time is so precious I want to spend a little moment of it doing something that



makes me happy"? Please start 2021 with a thought for the older members of the community and reach out to them, whether you think they need it or not. Your simple act could be just what someone needs!

Susan Smale, 01959 577660



FILMS AT THE VILLAGE HALL



I am afraid that the Government's coronavirus restrictions mean that we cannot show films at the Village Hall for the present. Curzon Country Cinema were going to show "42nd Street" and "1917" in November and then in January but all have had to be cancelled. It looks as if the restrictions will continue into February, so no further dates have been fixed. Once dates are fixed, we will advertise them in the magazine, on Tatsfield Talk and on village noticeboards. **Bob David**

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The Tatsfield Not So Young Club have had a great start to 2021 with one member having had the COVID vaccine and others waiting for their immunisation date.



Also our amazing Parish Council have agreed a grant enabling us to plan a fantastic visit to Biggin Hill Memorial Museum followed by refreshments. This is such good news for us and our members as we all have something to plan and look forward to as soon as we are allowed.

Over the Christmas period the committee visited all members delivering Christmas goodies and of course a raffle prize, they were all in good spirit and looking forward to celebrating in the safest possible way.

The committee would like to thank members for all our wishes, cards and gifts they are greatly appreciated.

Finally we would all like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2021. Take care and keep safe.

Sue Dowse 07816 110929, notsoyoung100@gmail.com

ARE YOU FEELING LONELY? HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT *IT'S GOOD TO TALK?*

It's Good to Talk has been operating since the beginning of December and is an initiative set up by Tatsfield residents in conjunction with the Parish Council and St Mary's Church.



We have thirteen volunteers ready to call you for a friendly chat either on a regular or occasional basis. So please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like one of us to give you a call.

Please 'phone 07834 635891 or email: tatsfield.itsgoodtotalk@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Barbara Hester, Hilary Vale and all the *It's Good to Talk* volunteers

2021: TIME TO CHOOSE THE WORLD YOU WANT

This issue we share an excerpt from the Fairtrade Foundation's CEO Michael Gidney's blog as he reflects on a tough year and looks forward to a brighter 2021.



Dah Oho, Fairtrade Cocoa Farmer,
ECAKOG co-operative, Côte d'Ivoire.

'If there is one good thing to come from this tough, tough year, it's that we've recognised more than ever that we are all in this together. We cannot go it alone. That's why we've clapped for carers; why neighbourhood volunteering schemes have seen such support; why donations to food banks have reached unprecedented levels. It's a response to a crisis imbued with compassion and a determination to act.

Covid-19 has shown us how inter-dependent we are globally. People in developing countries who grow and make products for the UK have been particularly hard hit. Millions of farmers growing coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas for the UK have seen their incomes fall and are struggling to feed their families and send their children to school. This is where Fairtrade comes into its own. A cornerstone of Fairtrade is the requirement for farmers to be organised at a community level. For many that's been a lifeline – Fairtrade producers have used their premiums to help their communities', for example:

- Colombian farmers took the fight against Covid-19 to the streets using banana disinfectant, spraying the roads of their local towns.
- Flower growers in Kenya used Fairtrade-funded sewing machines to sew masks for the local community.
- Many producer groups organised food distribution for vulnerable people in their communities.
- COMSA organic coffee co-operative in Honduras donated biosafety equipment to local healthcare professionals.

Many companies have rallied round. The Co-op has played a lead role both in protecting producers overseas and vulnerable people here. We've also seen standout commitments from companies determined to lead the way in ensuring a living income for farmers. Tony's Chocolonely and Ben & Jerry's, for example, will pay significantly more than the Fairtrade Minimum Price, helping farmers become even more resilient. It shows that another way of trading is possible, that social good can coexist with shareholder return.

This is a wonderful note of optimism for the future. None of this is possible without Fairtrade's extraordinary public support, which if anything has grown stronger, perhaps because of that sense of togetherness. In this year of all years this really matters. Thank you to everyone who has taken home a Fairtrade product.

Covid-19 has shown why farmers need to be valued and fairly paid. The same is true as we face future challenges like extreme weather damage – if we don't invest in farmers, we'll all be more vulnerable. 2021 will see Fairtrade's new global strategy put the fight for climate justice front and centre and Fairtrade is involved in plans for Glasgow's COP26.

As we look forward to a brighter 2021, what kind of world do we want to see? I hope this is the opportunity to reset our economy to Build Back Fairer.

1. Remembering how much we depend on producers in low-income countries for the food and products we buy every day. It's scandalous that they should toil in poverty so we can have cheap products. We rely on farmers every day; shouldn't we then treat them as our partners and ensure they are able to earn a living income?
2. Committing as consumers to join the dots. If we are worried about the climate crisis, about child labour, about exploitation of women around the world, about racial injustice, we must make the link to what we buy. Poverty is the missing link in so many corporate 'sustainability' schemes. Fairtrade aims to tackle the cause, where others address the symptoms. We have the power as consumers to bring about amazing change.

There is huge value in working together. We've seen it in the million acts of kindness for others through the pandemic, here and abroad. We can see how we can make trade work for all of us. 2021 is a year to be hopeful and to carry these stories with us.'

Fairtrade Fortnight, this year, will focus on the reality for farmers of the double-whammy of the climate crisis and poverty. In Tatsfield you can get involved by visiting Sheree's where a greater variety of Fairtrade products will be available - please see our notice elsewhere in the magazine. Nationally there will be an exciting online Festival, for more information, please email tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com



EMERGENCY INFORMATION – DEFIBRILLATORS

The following Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in and around Tatsfield. No prior training is required as instructions and audio guidance is provided:

Village Hall, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Crossways Court, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day

Mayfield Stables, Ricketts Hill Road, Tatsfield, 24 hours a day, on left hand side of entrance.

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for November 2020:

1 st Prize	Mary Wiggins	£48.00
2 nd Prize	Matthew Perrett	£33.00
3 rd Prize	Keith Woolfrey	£16.50

Congratulations to the winners of the Tatsfield PFA 100 Club for December 2020:

1 st Prize	Margaret Burton	£49.50
2 nd Prize	David King	£32.00
3 rd Prize	Simon Hendry	£16.0

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 les.eames@ntlworld.com.

Les

RICHARD PISKORZ FREE CAREER ADVICE AND MENTORING

Contact: richard@piskorz.co.uk



*Recently retired senior executive offering free job seeking advice:
determining career direction based on personal strengths and preferences
researching relevant sectors/companies
completing CV and job applications
preparing for interviews
coaching for effective networking
negotiating job offers*

Richard is a chartered accountant and chartered banker with 35 years international experience most recently leading an Operation with 1,000 staff. Having benefited from a fruitful corporate career he is keen to “give back” to society.

NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

07/11 – Solitary **House Martin** overhead. A late leaver. Will it survive the journey to Africa? Unlikely, in my opinion.

22/11 – **Blackcap** in the ivy. Should have migrated by now but there are reports of a few remaining throughout our milder winters. The recent harsh conditions will doubtless prove challenging.

01/12 – Flock of **Redwings** (40/50+) in the woods behind 'Furze Corner' enjoying the Hawthorn berries. Several **Blackbirds** and at least two **Fieldfares** journeying with them.

18/12 – Reports that the **Redwings** had flown on soon after my sighting but, to my delight, three appeared on the weeping cotoneaster in our Greenway garden, which was heavily laden with berries!

00/00 – Plenty of **Pheasants** to be seen around the village. They generally fly off upon approach but one or two are quite bold. I had one follow me along the path above Pilgrim's Farm and butt into my leg! It looked fat and juicy: It had a lucky escape.

Correspondence

This may seem a strange time of the year to be mentioning butterflies, but Adventurer Jim (Yeeles) has exciting and important news that can't wait until later, particularly if you should be planning to prune a native hedgerow.

25.12.20 – *'Nice spot with the **Redwings**. We saw Steve Gaskell when out delivering the Parish magazines and he had a large flock in his back garden snaffling the holly berries. I've not been so lucky on my rambles - I can hear lots of chatter in the tree tops but they all disappear before I can positively id them as I clumsily approach. We have had large flocks of **Goldcrest** over on the reserve busy on the teasel and thistles, though.*

*I do have some exciting butterfly news (as you know, I'm easily pleased). I found a **Brown Hairstreak** egg on the **Blackthorn** scrub to the rear of the Scout hut. I struggled to get a decent photo, but using a 10x hand lens you can easily pick out the 'sea-urchin' features. The partially developed occupant will over-winter, hopefully emerge in April, and swiftly head for a leaf bud to feed and hide from predators. I'm sure there is more evidence of breeding to be found locally and I will continue scouring other Blackthorn stands before winter is out. (Update 23/12/20 - More eggs found at southern edge of Hill Park and in St. Mary's Churchyard)*

*I'm a little reluctant to share this next bit of news because it may come to nothing. After many years of casual searching I finally stumbled upon some **Elm** trees, right under my nose less than 5 minutes away from my doorstep. I will be keeping an eye out next year and, as long as I haven't mis-identified the trees, we may be able add White-letter hairstreak to our local butterfly records. It's very much a long-shot, though.*

Finally, in your article last month you mentioned Plantlife's campaign for management of road verges to benefit wildflowers. I think the message is finally getting through to many councils around the country and the delayed cut of Clarks Lane this year delivered a much extended display of flowers for hungry pollinators. It was certainly buzzing every

time I walked it and such a contrast to the green desert down Approach Road. I also wish Jon good luck in trying to get a change to the mowing regime and ongoing management.'

28.12.20 – *'They're popping up everywhere now! We've just found some more eggs [see photos] on the southern fringe of Millennium wood bordering Tatsfield Green, a stand of Blackthorn I 'laid' in 2016. It's true - if we create the right environment 'they will come'. I'm beginning to think that we can safely say this butterfly is now a permanent Tatsfield resident rather than an occasional vagrant.'*



Your news just keeps getting better, Jim! Interestingly, I recently read this in my Readers Digest field guide (1984): *'The Brown Hairstreak has now become extinct in East Anglia and the south-east of England. The process has probably been hastened by hedge-cutting which can kill about half the [pinhead-sized] eggs laid on the young growth of Sloe [Blackthorn] each year.'* With this in mind, is there specific hedge-cutting advice to be followed in terms of butterfly conservation?

03.01.21 – *'Yes there is, courtesy of 'Butterfly Conservation'! I also sent Vince [Short] a copy for consideration by his 'garden team' up at St. Mary's. The key points are to avoid an annual cut of the whole hedge and to create young growth by coppicing/laying sections of the hedge, if possible. Over at Hill Park I will probably only cut a third or quarter of each area where I have found eggs. I appreciate that this advice may be difficult to follow for gardeners that crave a 'tidy', well-clipped hedge but I do wish some of our Blackthorn and Hawthorn-laden roadside hedges were allowed to bloom for a few years before a visit from the flail.'*

A problem for us all, Jim. Aesthetically, a well-shaped hedge can be so appealing. I love walking along Pilgrim's Lane when the hedgerow has been newly trimmed - such seductive lines. On the other hand ... (For further information on hedge management go to www.butterfly-conservation.org and search for, 'Hedgerows for Hairstreaks'.)

And finally, this month, Jon (Allbutt) sent an email to remind us that we can participate in the RSPB Birdwatch anytime between Friday 29 and Sunday 31 January. Simply spend an hour counting the birds in your garden, or in your locality, then tell the RSPB what you saw. Google 'RSPB Birdwatch 2021'. (More news from Jon in the next issue.)

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

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021

A quick glance at the night sky in the early evening (around 7pm) at the start of January let you see Mars due south at an altitude of 50° among the stars of Pisces. If you remember from your school days that the angle between the horizon and the overhead point (the zenith) is 90° then Mars is approximately half way between the two. Mars was at its best in October when it was at opposition (its closest to Earth) but now we, who are closer to the Sun and therefore moving more quickly, have left the red planet behind and will not rendezvous with it again until December 8th 2022. However, Mars will remain visible in our evening skies through into June because its swift eastwards motion amongst the stars counteracts the gradual movement of the constellations that set slightly earlier (approximately four minutes) each night. By the 1st of February Mars will be due south, although at a slightly higher altitude of 55° , at 6pm.

The two other planets that had been a mainstay of our evening skies recently, Jupiter and Saturn, are close to disappearing into the solar glare. If you were quick you may have caught a glimpse of them just 10° above the horizon in the south west around 4:30pm during the first few days of January. They were still close together (just over one degree apart) following their conjunction towards the end of December. If you looked for the two planets with binoculars, or indeed any optical aid, hopefully you made sure the Sun had set before you did so to avoid irreparable damage to your eyes.



The diagram gives the view looking north at 8pm around the middle of January. The brighter constellations are highlighted and named in capitals whilst the brighter stars are in italics.

If you go outside mid-evening on a clear night during January and look north you will see the Plough, or more correctly Ursa Major (The Great Bear), standing on its tail. The two stars furthest from the tail, known as the “pointers”, can be used to direct us towards the pole star, Polaris, that marks the location of the north celestial pole (NCP) about which the sky seems to revolve. The NCP is simply the Earth’s north pole projected out into space and onto the celestial sphere, which was believed by our ancestors to be a sphere upon which the stars were fixed. We know, of course, that no such thing exists but it still has value to astronomers because we can draw imaginary lines of right

ascension and declination on it, that are the sky's equivalent of earthly latitude and longitude, and use the two co-ordinates to pin-point an object's position in the sky. It is also useful when describing to non-astronomers a number of celestial principles.

Polaris always remains in the same place regardless of what time of day or year you look. It does however change position when you change location. If you were to move to a latitude that was more northerly then Polaris would move higher in the sky until, standing on the north pole, the pole star would be directly above your head at the zenith and the equator would be around the horizon. This means that the stars that are below the celestial equator (the Earth's equator projected out onto the celestial sphere) would never be seen from your new location.

If instead you had travelled south from your original position, Polaris would appear lower in the sky the further you went until you reached the equator. At that location the north celestial pole and the south celestial pole would be on opposite horizons and the entire sky would revolve above your head in the course of 24 hours, though naturally some would be during daylight. In the course of a year though you would be able to observe the entire night sky as the natural progression of the seasons brought with them the constellations that they are associated with.

In February the brilliant winter constellations are close to the south and displayed to greatest effect at a reasonable hour. Orion, the mythological hunter, is exactly due south in the middle of the month at 8pm. Around him is spread his entourage of the twins, two dogs, a bull, a hare and even a unicorn.

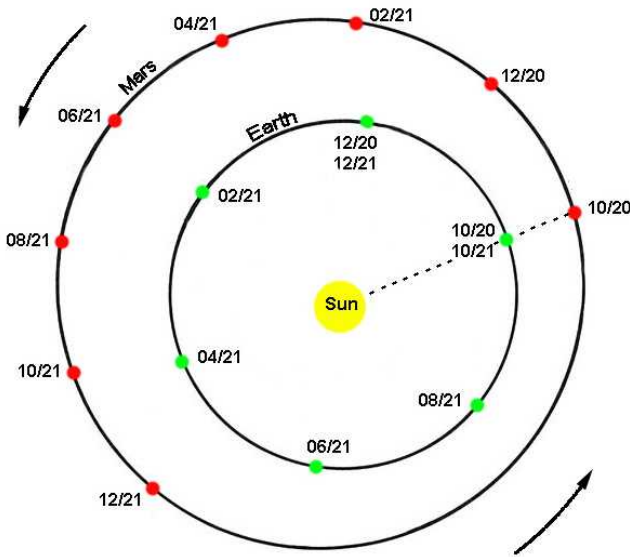
If you look due south around 6pm at the start of February you will find Mars at an altitude of 55° above the horizon. It was at its closest in mid-October but is becoming fainter and smaller because the Earth has caught up with it, passed it and is now currently rushing away from it. The point where the two planets are at their closest (astronomically called "opposition") only occurs every other year in the case of Mars, in fact to be more precise the time between oppositions is, on average, 780 days. The Earth, as we all know, takes about 365 days to orbit the Sun once whilst Mars takes a little less than twice that at 687 days so by the time the Earth has caught up for the next opposition more than two years has elapsed.

As mentioned previously, the red planet is moving swiftly eastwards when compared to the starry background. It begins the month in Aries but crosses the border into neighbouring Taurus on the 24th in preparation for a close approach to the star cluster, the Pleiades or Seven Sisters early in March.

Jupiter and Saturn, that put on such an impressive show last year and very early this year, have disappeared from our evening skies. They both passed behind the Sun as seen from Earth (referred to as "solar conjunction") during January and in the coming months will be reappearing in the morning skies just before sunrise.

The movements of the planets can sometimes be difficult to comprehend because all these bodies, including the Earth, are in motion around the Sun which means our

observation point is constantly changing. It's not as if we are viewing from a remote and fixed point, our own yearly movement plays a large part in how we perceive the other planets to be moving. To try and understand this more let's begin by looking at how the planets beyond the Earth's orbit seem to behave.



The diagram shows the orbits of the Earth and Mars for just over one year and begins in October 2020 (10/20) when opposition occurred which is where the dotted line is. You can see that the Earth, on the inside track, is moving more quickly and it soon leaves Mars behind. If you follow the lines of sight from Earth to Mars for each date (2 months apart) you can see that for the rest of 2020 and the first part of 2021 Mars appears well away from

the Sun. In fact, back at the time of opposition when we observed Mars, we were looking directly away from the Sun. However, by the time we arrive at June, and more particularly at August 2021 (06/21 and 08/21) if you draw a line from Earth to Mars (our line of sight to the planet) you will see that line now passes very close to the Sun.

After a year's journey the Earth is back at its starting point (10/21) and Mars is behind the Sun in solar conjunction as seen from Earth. After two more months, if you draw a line between 12/21 for both the planets, Mars will appear to have moved to the other side of the Sun as seen from Earth. This is when it will have changed from being visible in the evening to being visible in the morning.

You can see from this that it is not only the movement of Mars that affects where it appears in the sky but, to a larger extent, that of our own planet. However, this is not the case with all members of the solar system as we'll see next month.

Brian Mills FRAS

THIS FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT...

It's time to choose the world you want.

Come and buy Fairtrade products from **Sheree's Village Shop** and make a difference.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
22 FEBRUARY – 7 MARCH



FAIRTRADE

TATSFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – 2021

As you all know, 2020 has been a complete disaster for the Society with managing only the two Garden Club meetings in February and March before the Covid restrictions ruined so much of the social life in Tatsfield and the closing down of the Societies, shops and businesses.

It is especially sad that the Yearbook for 2020 was one of the best presentations that we had ever put together, but the good news is that it was a three-part Yearbook and already contains dates and information for the first half of 2021 in it. **So do not dispose of your Yearbook too soon.** We may also keep the handbook and use the Spring and Autumn 2020 show schedules for Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022. This will all be confirmed at a later date when the committee has had the opportunity to review the practicalities.

There will still be an opportunity for you to purchase the Yearbook if you were unable to do so last year. All you have to do is contact the Subscription Secretary on 577803 and she will arrange to enrol you.

At the last committee meeting of 2020 we still had to consider the Society Year for 2021 and I am pleased to advise that we will try to put the following programme on for 2021. *So please put these dates in your diary but stay in touch through the website or Tatsfield Talk or with one of the committee members as to whether this programme will again be affected by Covid or other unforeseen circumstances.*

Programme for 2021

Gardening Club	Feb 9	7.30 W.I. Hall
Gardening Club	Mar 9	7.30 W.I. Hall
Spring Show	April 10	3.00 Village Hall
Plant Sale	May 8	9.45 Westmore Green
Wisley Visit	May 23	10.30 at RHS Wisley
Tatsfield Gardens Tour	June 6	1 – 5pm
Autumn Show	Sep 11	3.00 Village Hall
Gardening Club	Sep 14	7.30 W.I. Hall
Gardening Club	Oct 12	7.30 W.I. Hall
AGM and Big Talk	Nov 9	7.30 Village Hall

Website Request. Lastly but very importantly the Horticultural Society is looking for some help from someone with the knowledge and time to spare to keep our website up to date, current and of interest to the membership, the wider village and for those from Tatsfield who have moved away but still want to keep in touch. If you are that person or know someone who can help us then please go to the website <http://tatsfieldhorticulturalsociety.weebly.com> to have a look and satisfy yourself that it will not be an onerous task and then contact either myself on 577210 or Martin Allen on 577201.

Pamela Bishop

Chairman, Tatsfield Horticultural Society

TATSFIELD IN BLOOM

The volunteers had one session at the beginning of December to clear up Westmore Green, especially outside the shops, but apart from that it was decided that only individuals or couples would do any work around the village with deadheading the violas, collecting fallen branches, litterpicking, etc.



The large bed in the School car park has been cleared of brambles and other weeds by James Longley which was paid for by the Parish Council. This will now mean that the volunteers will be able to prune the shrubs and generally maintain this, when the virus restrictions allow us to do so! **At least the daffodils will do their stuff without us having to help!!!!**

This regular work of the volunteers is very important as it is easy to see how quickly the general appearance of the village centre, school area etc starts to deteriorate without our group keeping it all under control. It is not only the floral planting in the spring and summer which keeps the village looking attractive but also the clearing of gutters, sweeping of leaves, litter picking and general tidying up all the year round which keeps the village looking clean and tidy.

To do all this we need sufficient volunteers, who do not have to be available regularly at set times. If you are interested in joining in and helping to keep the village tidy **please contact Angela and Roger Sawyers on 577434 or email acresroger@aol.com.**

The Committee are meeting again early in the new year to finalise the schemes for the summer. The two themes suggested are being worked on – 25 years of Tatsfield In Bloom and celebrating the work of the NHS and volunteers during the coronavirus outbreak. However, this will all depend on the unfolding of the virus during the spring and the ability of the volunteers to carry out the work.

Thank you to all our friends and volunteers who have helped in 2020. Our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to you all.



Jill Hancock (577622)

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

A very happy Tatsfield gardening year to all those who relish the challenge to grow in our waterlogged clay and flint soil! Unless of course you are lucky enough to benefit from years of careful cultivation or are living near to the narrow band of greensand below the village to the South.

We continue to have near record rainfall levels but luckily not much in the way of very cold weather. November rainfall ended up at 64 (the average is 88mm), but December was well above average (84mm) with 130mm and just a few frosts. The wind continued

to bring challenges with gusts of over 50mph, but luckily Tatsfield seemed to get through the storms without major damage or loss of big trees. The long-term forecast shows the weather to remain changeable with more cold weather in February.

If you have tender plants now is the time to wrap them in bubble wrap, make sure to leave the tops open to avoid it becoming too damp.

At this time of the year, we get ready for a new season and after a bit of planning we get out the plant and seed catalogues to choose our crops, yes there are lots to see on the webby thingy too! Members of the Tatsfield Horticultural Society can get as much as 50% discount off the prices in the Suttons Seed catalogue, contact a committee member if you need the unique Tatsfield code.

A question I am often asked is “why would we pay more to buy F1 hybrid seed”? F1 hybrid seed is an exclusive and very carefully selected strain of a plant owned by a single producer; if you save the seed from an F1 hybrid it will not produce the same plant next year. This process is not genetic manipulation, in fact it is an old art much refined over one hundred and fifty years since the benefits of selection was discovered by that clever monk Gregor Mendel with his life changing experiments with peas.

The Advantages

- Uniformity of size and ripening of the crop.
- May have claims of pest and disease resistance.
- Bred for a specific soil type or region eg Aubergine Pot Black (Fothergill F1) for a UK climate; Courgette Tuscany (Fothergill F1) UK climate; resistant to mildew; Cucumber Lili (Fothergill F1) sheltered outdoor, downy mildew resistant.

The Disadvantages

- A packet of F1 hybrid seed can contain as little as 10 seeds.
- Uniformity – F1 hybrid vegetables were developed for farmers so that they would ripen all at the same time – not a great idea for us amateurs, we would rather harvest our crops gradually to eat fresh eg beans and peas.
- May be bred specifically for a soil type or location and not suitable for Tatsfield.

Read the product descriptions and claims in the catalogue before making your choice, discuss with neighbours and friends – a carefully distanced chat with the allotmentees would be a rich source of local information on what grows best in Tatsfield!

This year I will be growing peppers, aubergines, chillies and tomatoes from seed using a small propagator and a grow light – sowing commences in mid-February/early March – watch out for surplus plants on sale at the THS plant sale in May. If you don't have the facilities to start your own plants from seed this early, you will be able to buy small plug plants from your local garden centre or online. These plants grow very well in large pots and grow bags – go on give it a try and pick your own crops – good luck!

Jon Allbutt

'INSPIRING VIEWS' IN TANDRIDGE

Experience Art on the North Downs Way

***Inspiring Views* is a project that restores hidden viewpoints across the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), improving access and celebrating these views through innovative, sculptural seating.**

Surrey Hills Arts is a partnership between Surrey Arts, Surrey County Council and the Surrey Hills. It aims to engage and inspire people with the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and its unique natural, cultural and industrial heritage through the arts. In Tandridge, we discovered a wonderful panoramic view at Clarks Lane adjacent to the Surrey Hills boundary marker by sculptor Walter Bailey. This location is directly on the North Downs Way National Trail and we will be creating an innovative sculptural seat from which to rest on a journey. Part of the Titsey Estate this open grassland provides views South to the High Weald and beyond. We will be providing access to this location and working with Titsey Estate and the North Downs Way to improve the experience for visitors.



Surrey Hills Arts are experienced in delivering high-quality arts projects throughout the AONB. Out of forty submissions a panel selected 'Portal' by Philip Walker, a stunning circular artwork made of curved English Oak sections, joined using traditional framing techniques. The structure will serve to frame the incredible view, drawing the eye through it as it tapers from the outside inwards. It will also provide seating as a curved and intimate

bench. The inner face will be textured and tactile while the outer face will bear carved words inspired by the location.

Once 'Portal' is installed in March, there will be an inspirational learning programme engaging people through sculpture workshops, walks and nature conservation activities. Young people will make their own temporary outdoor artworks exploring and learning about their local landscape. Guided outings will lead people on a range of walks experiencing the artwork, local producers and the stunning views.

Peter Morris, North Downs Way Trail Manager said 'We're incredibly excited about Portal. The site is located at one of the highest points of the trail and provides panoramic views from the top of the scarp. The installation will attract new visitors as a standalone location in one of the oft overlooked sections of trail on the Surrey/ Kent borders, and

forms part of a series of installations along the trail which we hope will encourage more people to use the trail more often.'

This project is funded by the Interreg France (Channel) England Programme and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. It is supported by Surrey Hills Arts, Titsey Estate and the North Downs Way.



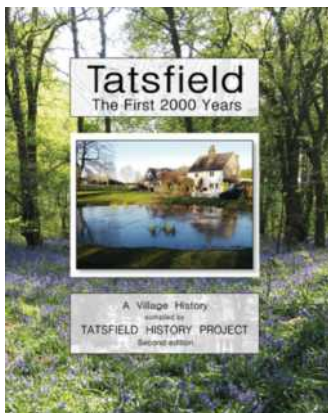
To see other *Inspiring Views* projects, visit:

www.inspiringviews.org. For further information contact: Ali Clarke, Arts Programme Manager surreyhillsarts@surreycc.gov.uk or telephone; 07968 834657 or Caroline Price, Marketing & Communications Officer caroline.price@surreycc.gov.uk or telephone; 07979 358003.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

At the beginning of 1921 the housing shortage that had been building up for decades was on its way to being solved - in Tatsfield at least. Godstone Rural District Council had started building a first development of 'cottages' for rent in Lusted Hall Lane. They were to be for people working in the neighbourhood who needed to live near their work. At its first meeting of the year, the parish council decided to ask Godstone for a say in the allocation of tenants to ensure that they qualified and because of what was described as the council's "use of its local knowledge and representational role in the parish".

By February, the district council had written to say it was unable to delegate any of its responsibilities to the parish council. It would nevertheless send an application form to any resident of Tatsfield that the parish council wished to recommend. A dozen forms were asked for as well as details of rents.



It was also a time when people were being encouraged to grow their own food, so the parish also wrote to the Titsey Estate, asking what the cost would be of taking over a further one-acre plot to provide allotments.

You will find much more about the village's past in the new, second, revised and expanded edition of 'Tatsfield – the First 2000 Years'. The book is on sale at Sheree's Store and Tea Room at £10 a copy.

To order by post from outside Tatsfield, please email:
Tatsfield.history@talk21.com

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project

Tel: 577376. Website: <http://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE – 25 YEARS AGO

A few snippets from January 1996...

GOOD GARDENING

THE ANSWER LIES IN THE SOIL!



When I first started in horticulture I was introduced to Middlesex clay, a beast of a soil that is sticky and impossible to dig one minute, and in another is as hard as a rock, splitting and opening fearsome cracks big enough to swallow an average dog.

Our soil in Tatsfield is as interesting and diverse as any you will find along the North Downs Ridge. In the main it is a flinty clay, sometimes in a thick layer, but you will also find only the thinnest of coverings over the dreaded chalk. In one or two spots there are thin belts of greensand, typified by a wealth of rhododendrons and birch. But do not be fooled into thinking that all the areas of the village that support rhododendrons are greensand, because in places our clay is sufficiently acid to support calciphile (acid loving) species.

So, when deciding what to grow, the first step is to find out what sort of soil you have. For larger gardens it is possible that you could have several different types, with a part, or just a corner of the garden being a totally different soil type. If you are lucky enough to have an old garden and are reaping the benefits of the hard work of previous gardeners, you might be lucky enough to have that rare commodity - garden loam! That lovely brown crumbly soil that is so obliging it almost turns itself as you dig!



If you are keen to grow plants that the "book" tells you are not suitable, then you can change your soil. This is a gradual process and will be a fight against nature. For example, if you have clay and want to have a lighter soil, then dig it early in the winter and leave it in rough lumps to let the frost do its work. Use large quantities of garden compost or well rotted manure, and work it into the top layer using a fork or a cultivator. If the soil is still heavy and wet, leave it until the surface has dried out - you will gain nothing by trying to force clay to your timetable, it has its own!

When sowing seeds, you can speed up the surface drying by the addition of sharp sand, working it into the top few inches carefully. But remember, if it sticks to your boots, keep off!

If you want to increase the acidity of the soil, then use lots of organic supplement. Please do not use peat for this job because, apart from the conservation argument, it is not acid enough (usually about pH 6.0). Use very small amounts of Sulphur and Sequestered Iron as granules or diluted and watered on. Regular watering with Iron based liquid feeds will help to increase the acidity and counteract our hard water.



The Sorry Saga of the Snow: On Tuesday, 5 December, both Tatsfield and Warlingham were virtually cut off from the outside world because of 2 inches of snow. If it hadn't been so inconvenient it would have been laughable - particularly when you think of countries like Switzerland where everything keeps running regardless of much deeper snow than we had. To add insult to injury when I rang East Area Office at 5.45 pm to find out what was happening - or not happening - I got no reply and no emergency number.

The next day when I spoke to the Area Director he gave the following explanation: gritting lorries were out from 4 am on that Tuesday in our area and were keeping roads gritted throughout the day. Problems arose when the M25 snarled up in the late afternoon and traffic came off it and on to our roads, causing enormous traffic jams and trapping the gritting lorries. One lorry was stuck on the Caterham Bypass while trying to get back to the Godstone depot.



TATSFIELD - IS IT A HORSE OWNERS HEAVEN? by Marian Godfrey

Almost everywhere you look in Tatsfield you will find horses. For some like myself it's heaven, to others no doubt hell. I love to see them quietly grazing in the fields, much in the way I receive the same pleasure from watching sheep and cattle, but with one major disadvantage - you can't ride sheep or cows!

With the demise of traditional farming and the advent of E.C. regulations, quotas, etc., rural communities such as ours face the alternatives of being surrounded by set-aside farmland or the land remaining in cultivation/retained as pasture with the added complication that the E.C. may not be inclined to pay set-aside forever. Horses, being a grazing animal, demand that landowners keep the land sweet and in good condition.



Have you ever wondered what makes a horse rider tick? Were they born in the saddle? Do you obtain that rather stiff, haughty air about you when you buy your first pair of jodhpurs? I would wager that most are like myself, who have lived with the dream of owning a horse from an early age. My passion started with a sixpenny (sorry - two and a half pence) ride at the seaside on a little pony called Happy, with whom I fell passionately in love. I thought my Dad was being most unreasonable not letting me take 'Happy' home to live in our garage in South Croydon, but I was only four years old at the time! Like many others that desire stayed with me until I was old enough to take myself off to ride anything, anywhere, and I would help at stable yards in return for perhaps a few minutes on one of their horses.

When I married and moved to Tatsfield, I think the fact that a horse and foal were in a field practically next door to our house re-awakened my dream.

Dreams, of course, are one thing. In reality the horse owning has to become a way of life, as it is not simply a matter of finding a field or stable and leaving them to it. Up early for their first feed, grooming, exercise, rug up, turn out into their field or paddock, muck out then, later in the day, do it all again but in reverse!

Keeping a horse is also not only time consuming but also very expensive. Vets bills and yearly injections, worming, teeth rasping, etc., farriers for shoes every 5 to 6 weeks, feed, hay additives, bedding, night rugs, day rugs, etc., etc. Why do we do it? Simply - it's that passion again.

Tatsfield is ideally placed to cater for all equine pursuits, from a simple hack to competing locally in Show Jumping, Sponsored Rides, Dressage, Endurance Riding, etc., there really is something for everyone within easy reach.



Although Tatsfield is set in beautiful countryside, the downside is that there is very little safe, off-road riding, although Woldingham, Warlingham and, of course, Limpsfield Chart have a good network of bridlepaths, and it would help no end if the M25 could be dragged about 5 miles south. The lanes are a nightmare. We seem to attract far more heavy lorries and cars using the lanes as a 'cut through' than I ever remember before and this can make riding a very dangerous activity. Unfortunately, no one has yet invented a totally bomb proof horse and riders definitely have to be 'made of stern stuff'.

However, on a good day (quite rare) you cannot beat the peace and tranquillity, just you and your horse, a friend and companion sharing an outing, enjoying the elements and changing seasons in the countryside, much in the same way as our forefathers did for many hundreds of years before the advent of the motor car. So, to answer my own question - yes, Tatsfield is a horse owner's heaven, but I must be honest and say that anywhere is heaven as long as you have a horse as a friend and companion!

THE OLD GRANARY FORGE by Sally Moloney

I went one grey drizzly morning to the Old Granary Forge in Clarks Lane to meet Michael Cerullo and his team. As I approached the Forge the first sounds I heard were probably the sorts of sounds that have been associated with farriers and blacksmiths throughout the centuries; the syncopated beat of hammer against metal, clearly advertising the Forge's activities. Inside, a welcome rise in temperature confirmed that even in 1995 furnaces are required to beat and bend metal although the furnaces are now gas powered.



Paul Hollis

Settling down with the obligatory mug of tea, Paul Hollis, a qualified Farrier, told me among other things what the differences are between a Blacksmith and a Farrier. A Blacksmith works with sheet metal and wrought iron and associated repair work, but does not work with horses; a Farrier can be a Blacksmith but mainly specialises in shoeing horses and working with Vets in respect of any surgical or remedial work required.

Today, there are probably more horses in Britain than there were during the times when horse was the main form of transport, and yet there are fewer than 2,000 qualified Farriers. Many of the original forges became workshops catering for the advent of the car earlier in the century. There is clearly a great demand for more qualified Farriers, and Michael receives many letters enquiring about apprenticeships - far

more enquiries than it would be possible to accommodate. This form of on-the-job training is still the only means of achieving the School of Farriers Diploma. During the four year apprenticeship a total of thirty weeks are spent at Hereford Technical College gaining knowledge of appropriate veterinary science and anatomy. Michael Cerullo is both a very busy Farrier and a registered and approved trainer.

Tony, a second year apprentice, told me of the financial difficulties that apprentices face today. Previously, such apprenticeships were government grant aided; increasingly parental financial support is now needed. None of this, however, had affected his evident enthusiasm for the work. Like the others, he told me he loved working with horses and this job provides not only constant contact with horses but is an outdoor job with plenty of variety.

Not knowing anything useful about horses, I needed to find out exactly what was involved in producing equine footwear. Apparently, horses need new shoes on average every four to six weeks, depending on wear. As horses' feet grow faster in the summer than in the winter, summer is the busy time. At the beginning of each week the shoes are made for the following week's work. Although it is possible to fashion shoes from standard templates, the majority of shoes made at the Old Granary Forge are hand made. This not only ensures high standards of shoes being made, but is also required as part of the apprenticeship training. Strip bars of metal are guillotined to the right lengths and then the traditional fashioning of the horseshoe shape begins. The furnaces are roaring hot and the anvils are at the ready, around which the molten strips are beaten to shape. The methods are traditional and Paul told me that the making and fitting of shoes has changed little since Roman times: the shoes are either nailed or burned onto the horses' feet. Despite many attempts to "modernise" the approach, the traditional method remains the most effective.

George, the Old Granary Forge's resident specialist Blacksmith, was working hard at fashioning the railings, gates, balustrades, lanterns and wall lights, surrounded by fine examples of his work. There is an increasing interest in ornamental architecture, particularly where re-creating period style hinges and brackets are required.

The Old Granary Forge was converted ten years ago to its present layout. The building has been part of the Tatsfield landscape for many years - originally a granary complete with oast houses at the rear before being converted into a dairy and stables. For some years it was derelict before Michael bought and rescued it and it has now been built into a thriving business, not only serving the local area but offering local employment too.

LAUGHTER

No sooner had we locked down in March 2020 I started than my phone started pinging and cartoons, jokes, funny vidoes started arriving. As the summer arrived and restrictions eased so the number of pings lessened. Lockdown two and the Tier system brought more and as we have entered 2021 they have started again. I know that we have become slaves to the constant pinging of our phones but these pings bring light relief...a chance to smile and LAUGH in the face of the adversity that faces us all. I hope you don't mind if I share just one with you...

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Everyone PLEASE be careful because people
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I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster
while drinking my tea, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine,
because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!!

Certainly, couldn't share with the fridge,
'cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out.
She said the situation isn't all that pressing
and all the wrinkles will soon get smoothed out!

The vacuum cleaner however, was very unsympathetic...
told me to just suck it up!

But the fan was VERY optimistic
and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed
but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion.

But the front door said I was becoming unhinged
and the doorknob told me to get a grip!!

You can just about guess what the curtains said to me:
they told me to "pull myself together!"

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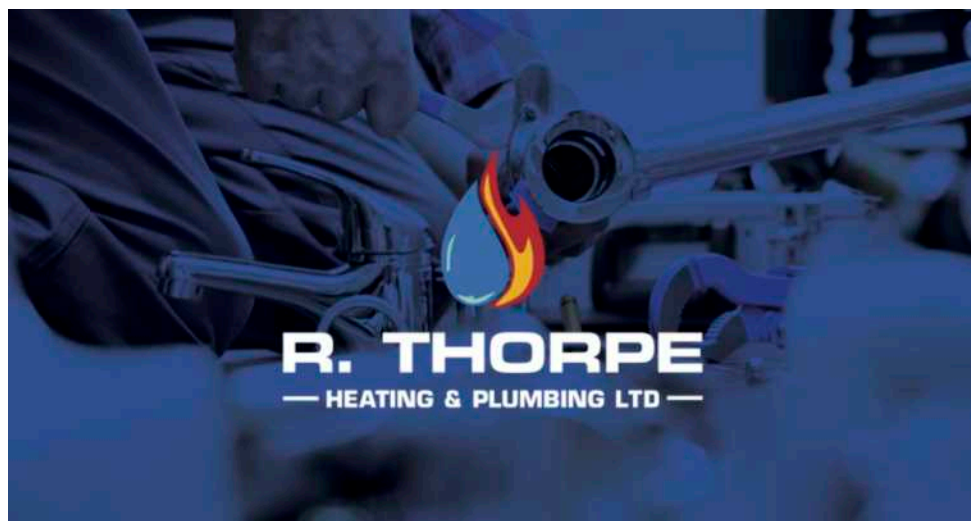


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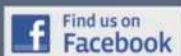
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