

DECEMBER 2024

# Tatsfield Parish Magazine



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Facebook: Tatsfield Village Club

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Friday 8th February

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

**Editors** • Tara Barry and Tracey Syrett

**Chair** • Vacancy

**Treasurer** • Madie Langford (577114) **Distribution Managers** • Jim and Ruth Yeeles (577489)

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

#### CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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

Phone 01883 712512 / email [stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).

**Team Rector:** Revd Helen Cook email: [hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk)

**Curate:** Debra Elsdon email: [curate.lttm@gmail.com](mailto:curate.lttm@gmail.com)

**Wardens:** Marjory Broughton (01959 541059) / Chris Hancock (01959 577622)

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

#### COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

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

**Website** • [www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk](http://www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk)

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

**Surrey County Councillor** • Becky Rush [becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:becky.rush@surreycc.gov.uk)

#### OTHER CONTACTS

**Village Hall Bookings Secretary** • Helena Garcia-Mcleod ([bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:bookings@tatsfieldvillagehall.org.uk))

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

**Parish Room Bookings** • (07483 337461) email [clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@tatsfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Tatsfield Primary School Head** • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

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**Village Website:** [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://www.tatsfield.org.uk)

#### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome contributions from village organisations and individual residents but reserve all editorial rights. We welcome letters commenting on items in previous issues or on anything else. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Organisations must include contact details in their submission, which will be published. Copy date for the Magazine is normally 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tatsfieldpm@gmail.com), Alternatively they may be posted to: Tatsfield Parish Magazine, 20 Shipfield Close, Tatsfield TN16 2AU.

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

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

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

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

**Cover image:** Stock image.



## EDITORIAL



The colours from the autumnal turn of the year have been particularly splendid this year – I am told that this might be because of the wet summer we had. The silver – or maybe gold, bronze and red – lining to our clouds! We have planted our spring bulbs in the hopes for a bright display when the days may be short and dark.

Light and colour become more important to us around this time of year and our lovely countryside provides so much to inspire and lift our spirits – but the mud will stick to our boots, we will discover the occasional leak in

our guttering and leaving and returning from work in the dark can make us gloomy. So we put on a light and draw the curtains – but recently we have also been lighting candles. For Remembrance and for All Souls where we remember our fallen heroes and those who – in the words of the prayer – ‘we love but see no longer.’ There is something in this little act of defiance to the dark which speaks of hope in the midst of fear and grief; comforting and sustaining us. It is also a collective act – we gather together and are encouraged by the strength we get from shared experiences and the value we all place on maintaining memorials to the people we have lost.

By the time we meet again within these pages, the year will have turned, and so I hope we will all look out for each other as it turns colder and greyer; take the opportunity to join together to enjoy some of the many events and gatherings we have going on, especially in this season and yet be mindful of those for whom this might be a difficult time of the year.

May colour and light and good fellowship bless us all as 2024 draws to a close!

**Reverend Debra**

### **TATSFIELD ONLINE**

**Village website:** [www.tatsfield.org.uk](http://www.tatsfield.org.uk)

**Village facebook page:** search for ‘Tatsfield Village’ on facebook

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

### **PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS**

If you would like your event included in this diary in future, please send details to [tatsfieldp@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldp@gmail.com). Please also let us know if any information has changed.

## SAVE THE DATE – TATSFIELD CLUBFEST AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025, WESTMORE GREEN

We want to celebrate all that is great about our clubs and village community.  
Join us for an afternoon of fun and celebrations next May!

### ClubFest

ClubFest is an opportunity for Tatsfield's clubs and societies to promote themselves to more villagers and encourage and welcome new members. This is a call to all Tatsfield Village Organisations to think about how you would like to promote yourselves on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May. The event will be held on Westmore Green. More information will follow in early 2025.

**Volunteer Awards** Tatsfield Parish Magazine wishes to recognise the contributions of the numerous volunteers who give their time for the village and its residents and the difference these have made to our community. Our awards are:

***Young Person Of The Year (under-18).*** A young person who has: embraced volunteering for the village; overcome personal difficulties; supported and/or inspired other young people to cope with difficulties; challenged themselves.

***Good Neighbour Of The Year.*** A neighbour who goes above and beyond loaning some sugar – demonstrating true generosity of spirit, always there when you need them and happy to help with the smallest of things.

***Club Leader Of The Year.*** A club Chair/Leader who goes the extra mile to inspire, ensuring that your organisation has a varied and engaging programme of activities.

***Club Secretary/Treasurer Of The Year.*** Organisation and managing limited funds are key to any club running smoothly and often take place out of the limelight. Does your club secretary/treasurer deserve a special mention?

***Club Member Of The Year.*** A club member who is the life and soul of the party!

***Outstanding Contribution to Tatsfield.*** An individual, group, or village organisation who has made a real difference to community wellbeing in Tatsfield or indeed to our village environment.

***Long Service Award.*** A Tatsfield resident who has given their time and been instrumental in setting up and supporting organisations and facilities that benefit the village as a whole.

More information will follow about how and when to send us your nominations in early 2025, but start thinking about who you might like to nominate and why - what has been the impact of the person / group on you or the local community? Who and how have they helped? What do the volunteers do, why are they special?

## LETTERS

Dear Editor,

### **TATSFIELD REMEMBRANCE SERVICE NOVEMBER 2024**

It was a dull and overcast morning for the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our village remembrance service, but that did not deter villagers from attending this important event. It was more poignant this year as we remembered the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings back in June. It was nice to see the Revd. Helen Cook leading the service again, whilst Martyn Saines read out the Roll of Honour, Simon Cook read the poem "The Fallen" and Kim Jennings read the the Kohima Epitaph. Then came the wreath layers announced by David Pinchin. We give special thanks to all those who donated wreaths, and to Kim Jennings, Tatsfield Parish Council and Jason Syrett and all who took part, particularly the villagers who came to support the service.

**Martyn Saines**



**TATSFIELD SINGERS PRESENT**  
**"SINGING FOR CHRISTMAS"**

*Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 5.00pm*  
*Venue: Tatsfield Village Hall*

*Tickets are £5 (children are free)*  
*and are available from Sheree's Store.*

## TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Michael Wiggins	£46.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Justin Naughton	£31.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Mary Wiggins	£15.50

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

## TATSFIELD PARISH MAGAZINE ADVERTISING MANAGER

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



A fantastic role for someone looking to increase their skill base and to contribute to the Tatsfield community. The Advertising

Manager sources and invoices advertisers, manages the advert layout and may occasionally do some advert design.

**For more information, please contact Sarah Tait: 07468 589379 or [tatsfieldmag@gmail.com](mailto:tatsfieldmag@gmail.com)**

## TATSFIELD AND VERN D'ANJOU TWINNING

Easter 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the twinning with Tatsfield and Vern d'Anjou in France.

We are making plans for transport to travel there on Easter Good Friday, returning on Easter Monday. There is also the option of people driving themselves, in case you want to extend the weekend.

It is always a very warm, friendly weekend, with all the hospitality laid on by our French friends. If anyone is interested in joining the weekend, please contact Hollie Panther as soon as possible to ask any questions and express your interest.

**Hollie Panther Tel: 07886 393584**



**ST MARY'S TATSFIELD  
CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 8TH  
DECEMBER**

*Carols* BY  
CANDLELIGHT  
LED BY  
"THE TATSFIELD SINGERS"

**TIME: 4.00 PM**

FOLLOWED BY  
MULLED WINE  
AND MINCE PIES

**LOCATION:  
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 21ST  
DECEMBER**

CHRISTINGLE  
&  
*Nativity Service*

**TIME: 4.00 PM**

**LOCATION:  
TATSFIELD PRIMARY  
SCHOOL HALL**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

*Midnight*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**TIME: 11.30 PM**

**LOCATION:  
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

*Morning*

**FAMILY SERVICE**

**TIME: 10.00 AM**

**LOCATION:  
ST MARY'S CHURCH**

## TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

We were lucky to have good but chilly weather for our village remembrance service, thank you to all who helped on the day to make this occasion run smoothly. The service was led by Revd. Helen Cook and we had 20 wreath layers. If anyone would like to be involved in this event next year please let me know. Organisation starts early September.

### Planning

**TA/2024/103** Tavira, Parkwood Road. Two storey rear and single storey side extensions. (Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed development). Recommendation: Objection.

**APP/M3645/D/24/3352332 TA/2024/591** The Firs, Maesmaur Road. Retention of works. Erection of a detached garage. Recommendation: No further comment.

**Finance** We approved a salary increase for the clerk as per NALAC National Pay Award and to be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

**Notified items** Martin Elmer and Kim Jennings had attended the first meeting of the newly formed Parish Assembly held at TDC offices Oxted. The aims of the assembly are for Parish Councils to be able to work together easily and use joint resources.

**Christmas Carol Singalong** The PC are very grateful to Andy Moore for undertaking the organisation of this event. It will be held in the Ship garden on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm. (See page in this magazine for more information.)

**Christmas tree** Our Christmas tree will arrive at the end of November and the lights will be switched on from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

As this will be my last report before Christmas I would like to wish all our residents a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025.

**Kim Jennings, Chairman, [kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk](mailto:kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk)**



*Claire Coutinho visited Tatsfield to place a plaque to support her 'Happy to Talk Bench project' on October 25th and met with Parish Councillors Kim Jennings, David Pinchin and Jason Syrett.*



## TATSFIELD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

You can still view the documents on the neighbourhood plan website:  
<https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldneighbourhoodplan>

## TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

It has remained relatively quiet as the concentration has now been on the Future Tandridge Programme and the medium term financial strategy. Both these need to take into account the fact that budget pressures continue into 2028/29 by approximately £1M per year for four years and that appropriate savings will have to be made. Councillors have agreed eleven principles for us to achieve this and one of the principles will be for the discretionary spend on third parties will need to be reviewed. Fees and charges will also have to go up, probably by 5% along with parking charges in the district. The new telephone system is in place which will try to encourage people to use the website and the my account system is now available for you to set yourself up on the TDC website so that you can run your transactions in the same way you would your other utilities.

The latest issue of **Tandridge News and Events** has a lot of useful information within it, including:

- Developing a new Local plan
- Council tenants' satisfaction survey
- Parking review
- Parents' voices matter
- Tandridge Household Support fund
- Updates from the Leader of the Council, amongst other things...

Please subscribe to the Tandridge District Council Newsletter and the Business newsletter and you will receive this information direct to your email and the news will be real time instead of my relating to you on a monthly basis.

I have attended the two budget workshops, a full council meeting, the Community Policing meeting along with Simon (see my separate report), and the Community Services committee, as this will be the committee that will bear the brunt of the cuts and increased charges.

I attended both an informal meeting with the Biggin Hill Airport CEO and BHACC with David Pinchin, where the airport are now talking more readily about moving the NSA further south. We now have monthly meetings in the diary to review the 'overflying and the reporting structure' as it affects Tatsfield. In mid-November I was involved with the Independent remuneration panel for councillors where I suggested that along with the annual pay increase, the starting point for the voluntary percentage of the role should be decreased from 60% to 50% thereby offering Councillors a greater compensation for fulfilling their roles within their communities. Being a District Councillor has changed a lot since I was first elected; in those days the council ran itself and funds were more

available. These days with the restriction within the budgets there has been a knock on effect of more casework being done for residents and more time in meetings and fulfilling the good governance rules that all councils have to adhere to.

**Volunteers needed to support the Tandridge Access Group** We support and work with the Tandridge Access Group (TAG), a local charity dedicated to making the district more accessible and inclusive. TAG, run by volunteers, works to improve access for people with disabilities and raise awareness of access challenges in the district. The group meets at the council offices in Oxted every two months and is looking for more volunteers to get involved to work on projects or help raise funds. If you are not able to attend the meetings in person, you can join online. For more information or to get involved, please visit the Tandridge Access Group website or e-mail [tandridgeaccessgroup@gmail.com](mailto:tandridgeaccessgroup@gmail.com). One recent success for the group has been improving a popular footpath in Oxted, connecting Granville Road and Detillens Lane, which is now accessible for anyone with a mobility scooter. New gates with special RADAR key access make it easier for everyone to enjoy the Glebe open space. TAG's website has reviews of local venues, providing important accessibility information to help people with disabilities feel more confident and welcome. New reviews or updates to existing reviews can be added via the submit a review page. TAG relies on donations and some funding from the Tandridge Lottery.

**Tandridge Household Support Fund, are you struggling to pay your bills?** Later this year, residents with low incomes can apply for a small grant from the Tandridge Household Support Fund to help with financial pressures. This support is crucial for those finding it difficult to heat their homes or buy food. This government funding is limited, so please apply as soon as possible once the fund opens. Applications will close when all the money has been allocated. We don't yet know the date the fund will open so please follow us on Facebook and visit [www.tandridge.gov.uk/supportfund](http://www.tandridge.gov.uk/supportfund) for updates.

**Toilets in Oxted and Warlingham are closed for refurbishment** The toilets in Ellice Road Car Park, Oxted and Leas Road, Warlingham are closed for refurbishment. We apologise for any inconvenience. In Oxted - an alternative facility is available on Station Road West.

**Doorstep frauds** We have heard from residents that some people are knocking on doors, asking if any repairs are needed inside. Please remember, the Council will never arrange repairs this way. Repairs for council tenants are only scheduled after you report them to us. If someone unexpected comes to your door, please remember to:

- Ask for their ID.
- Call the company to verify they are a genuine caller if you are still unsure.
- Don't share any personal information.

*If they seem suspicious and refuse to leave, call the police on 999 (in an emergency) or 101 if it's not urgent.*

**Are you eligible for Pension Credit?** This winter, changes to the Winter Fuel payment could affect you or someone you know. The Winter Fuel Payment used to be for everyone over the state pension age, but now only people getting Pension Credit or certain other benefits can receive it. Pension Credit is designed to top up weekly income



for those on low incomes over state pension age. If you qualify, it guarantees an income of at least £218.15 weekly if you are single, or £332.95 for couples. Even if your income is higher, you might still be eligible. Getting Pension Credit can also help you qualify for other benefits, like help with health or housing costs. Even though Pension Credit has many benefits, lots of eligible people aren't claiming it. If you have a low income or think you might qualify, call 0800 99 1234 or visit the Pension Credit information web page.

**Policing Your Community – Tandridge** On Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> Parish Councillor Simon Cook and I attended this event to listen to the presentations from both Surrey Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The PCC Lisa Townsend, The Borough Commander Lyndsey Whatley and the DCC Nev Kemp each gave a presentation as below, and then they answered questions and comments from the attendees. I will tell you about Simon's question at the end.

- Like all other government departments they are heading for a shortfall of £17–20 million in their budget and the savings will have to be found and they hope not to affect the main services.
- They are reporting 25% more arrests and 50% more people being charged.
- Emergency response is sixteen minutes against an expectation of fifteen minutes - both numbers are improving. We are the fourth safest county. When needed the 999 response is now just three seconds and the 111 response is eight minutes.
- For the time being, Caterham will continue to be a hub for the area. No guarantees could be given about whether it will stay there as it is considered not fit for purpose in the modern era.
- It is important for your own security if we could all use video door bells or a good quality CCTV system and always report all crime so that the Police can build up a picture of the crime and ASB happening in our area. There is a suspicious activity portal which again will help build the picture that is needed for the Police to do their job to the full.
- One neighbouring ward has installed it's own A.N.P.R. system.
- One matter close to home is that Simon pointed out that Tatsfield has no visible policing and no community involvement with the Parish Council or the village. This elicited a promise from the new sergeant that he will make a visit very shortly.

Please can I urge you to **support our local businesses** and **societies** in every way that you can. We rely on our local business so much and we need to show our support to them to ensure that they continue to operate and prosper well in to the future.

**Also please remember to help Tatsfield Good causes by buying your Tandridge Together lottery tickets.**

And finally for 2024 may I wish you and yours the best that is possible over this Christmas and the coming New Year.

If there is anything you think I can help you with, please contact me accordingly.

**Cllr Martin Allen Tel: 01959 577201 or 07484 185363**

**Email: [cldr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.martin.allen@tandridge.gov.uk) or [martin\\_allen@talk21.com](mailto:martin_allen@talk21.com)**

## CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

A lot has happened in the world of politics this month. We've seen the US Presidential Election, the new UK Government's first budget, and the election of a new Conservative Leader, Kemi Badenoch.

It was a privilege to not only be reappointed as Shadow Secretary of State for Energy, but also appointed as Shadow Minister for Equalities. I look forward to continuing to put consumers first when scrutinising energy policy, prioritising cheap energy, and bringing a common-sense approach to race, sex, and gender when speaking on equality.

A highlight this month was my visit to the East Surrey Museum to meet the curator, Peter Connolly, and Ros Rawling, both of whom gave me a fantastic tour. We discussed the fascinating history of Caterham and East Surrey, from William Garland, known as the father of modern Caterham, to the significance of Caterham Station during the Industrial Revolution, to the very different wildlife from Surrey's past. I knew that woolly mammoths wandered around prehistoric Surrey, but Peter and Ros told me that we used to have hippos as well. If you get the chance, pop down to the Museum, you'll definitely learn something new.

One of the most poignant parts of the year for me is remembering the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. I was delighted to spend the afternoon selling poppies with the Royal British Legion in Oxted Morrisons. It was heartwarming to see how many residents support our veterans. I'd like to thank Branch Chairman, Rob Cogan, for having me along. The Oxted Branch has a growing community that meets twice a month and is currently developing a permanent Veterans' Hub. If you're a veteran and want to get involved or need support, contact – [Oxted.Chairman@rbl.community](mailto:Oxted.Chairman@rbl.community)

It was an honour to lay a wreath at Caterham on the Hill war memorial and to attend the service at St Mary's. Thank you to everyone who took part. As the years go on, we will lose the nation's living memories of both World Wars, but we will never forget the sacrifices that were made by so many for our freedom.



**Tatsfield Post Office**

find us behind Tatsfield Village Club

postal services +

- Greetings cards, gift wrap, toys
- Euros, travel money cards & currency
- lottery, scratch cards
- Banking & cash withdrawals
- Amazon pick up & returns
- Drop and Go service
- Utility & Mobile top ups

**POST OFFICE**

opening hours

- Monday 9:30am-5:00pm
- Tuesday 9:30am-5:00pm
- Wednesday 9:30am-5:00pm
- Thursday 9:30am-1:00pm
- Friday 9:30am-5:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am-12:30pm
- Sunday - closed

join our Facebook group  
Tatsfield Post Office



### **Unlock More Time with Surrey Libraries Super Access!**

Oxted library is excited to introduce Super Access, a new service designed to make Surrey Libraries even more accessible and convenient for you. Whether you have a busy schedule or simply want more flexibility, Super Access gives you the freedom to visit beyond regular staffed hours, letting you use library spaces whenever it works best for you.

#### **How does it work**

New technology has been installed which means that Super Access library members can enter the library outside normal opening hours, using just their library card and individual PIN code. Then they can use library services independently when staff are not present.

With Super Access you can:-

- Explore shelves filled with bestsellers and new titles
- Easily manage your books with Self-Service kiosks
- Access free Wi-Fi and library computers
- Print with ease
- Create your perfect work or study space

#### **How can I get a Super Access library membership**

To upgrade any Adult / Young Adult (16 plus) library membership to Super Access, a short introduction is required. This will ensure that customers have a safe and thorough understanding of how the technology works. Just book your introduction through the Super Access Eventbrite page:



By extending our opening times, we're unlocking the full potential of our library buildings, providing more opportunities for everyone in the community to enjoy these valuable spaces. With Super Access, you can use the library your way, because we believe that everyone should have the chance to benefit from all that our libraries have to offer!

Visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/superaccess](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/superaccess) for further details or pop into Oxted library and ask a member of staff.

## CITIZENS ADVICE EDENBRIDGE & WESTERHAM

***A major change to this year's Winter Fuel Payment means that to get the allowance that's worth up to £300, you must also receive Pension Credit. If you don't currently get Pension Credit, but think you could be eligible, it's vital to check now and apply, otherwise you could miss out.***

Pension Credit tops up pension incomes and can help with day to day living costs. If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim Pension Credit, even if you own your own home or have savings. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get:

- The Winter Fuel Payment and other help with heating costs
- Help with rent and Council Tax
- A free TV licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the costs of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments.

You could be eligible for Pension Credit if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances, for example, if you receive a disability benefit.

Check your eligibility at [gov.uk/pension-credit](http://gov.uk/pension-credit) or by calling the Pension Service on 0800 99 1234.

**DON'T DELAY !!! - to qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment this year, you must have been eligible for Pension Credit during the 'qualifying week' of 16 to 22 September. Since Pension Credit can be backdated by three months, the last date you can make a claim for Pension Credit and still get the Winter Fuel Payment is 21 December 2024.**

It takes between six and eight weeks to process new Pension Credit claims, due to high volumes of applications. But as long as you apply by 21 December, and your claim is successful, you will get the Winter Fuel Payment.

Call our free Adviceline on **0808 278 7962**

Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 4pm.

Email us at: [enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@edenbridgecab.cabnet.org.uk) anytime.

Drop in at our offices: Eden Centre, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6BY

Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm.

# LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

As we approach the end of 2024, we look back at all the exciting things that the children have been involved in this year.



The children have been really excited for Christmas with all the special activities we have to offer. They have also been working together brilliantly in preparation for The Little Acorns Christmas Nativity Show!

We'd also like to thank all who attended our Crafty Christmas fundraising event in November. It was enjoyed by all involved and certainly created a festive feeling.

We would like to wish our children and families a very merry Christmas from all of the Little Acorns team!

**The Little Acorns Team**

**Email: [office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk](mailto:office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk)**

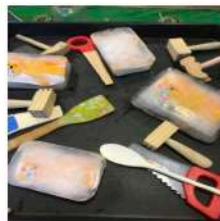
## November fun at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield



We have been taking part in Children in Need here at Monkey Puzzle!

The children have taken part in a bake day, fancy dress, crazy hair day, teddy bears picnic and pyjama day (a firm favourite).

We had a raffle, lucky dip and cake sale running to help raise money too!



We also explored Remembrance day too across the whole nursery. Preschool created artwork for Remembrance Day, they dipped the corners of a plastic bag to print 'poppy' shapes onto their paper and selected different objects to dip and stamp. The children explore using fine brushes to add leaves and stems as well as investigating herbal tea leaves to tip in the centre of their 'poppies' to resemble the seeds.



### Are you looking for childcare?

We offer a high standard of care to children aged 3 months to 5 years old. Providing a range of fun and exciting activities, both indoors and outdoors all year around, exploring our local environment and all it offers on local trips, celebrating all traditions and cultures.

**We have spaces available here at Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield**, if you are interested and want to book a tour of the nursery, please contact us

Phone - 01959928427

Email – [manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk](mailto:manager@monkeypuzzletatsfield.co.uk)

## TATSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL - KESTREL CLASS EXPLORE THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM

On 12<sup>th</sup> November, Kestrels (Year 4) enjoyed a wonderful day at the Horniman Museum. Hunting for Ancient Egyptian artefacts, they took the role of archaeologists during their 'hands on' session. Our museum leader encouraged us to think about why items ended up in the Horniman Museum collection. We discussed how in the past, archaeologists wanted to make as much money as they could, so broke up treasures they found. Kestrels thought this was very disrespectful to the ancient civilisation, and are glad that there are rules to stop this happening now.



After donning their white gloves to protect the real Ancient Egyptian artefacts, the class handled authentic items that are thousands of years old. Using clues from activity sheets, they discussed what the items could be and presented their thoughts to the rest of the class. Each item was part of a person's burial.



The different objects were laid around an image of an Ancient Egyptian lady, according to their function. This



included part of the sarcophagus, a burial mask, pot to mix up the oils, a scarab beetle amulet for protection, a shabti to be a servant in the afterlife, a neck rest, jewellery, a part of the tomb wall, a hoe and other amulets. We explored what happened to the sarcophagus. It has clean cuts, leading the children to believe it was purposefully chopped up so the

archaeologist could sell the parts. The different artefacts were passed round for everyone to look at.

Next, the class were invited to think about what the Ancient Egyptians would think about their precious belongings being carved up, sold and shipped off to different locations, as well as their land being heavily developed near sacred monuments.

After lunch, the class toured the museum, hunting for other Ancient Egyptian

artefacts. We found canopic jars, a sarcophagus lid, more shabtis and amulets as well as some bone hand clappers! Ancient Egyptians enjoyed playing music in their leisure time!

Everyone had a wonderful time, deepening their understanding of this historic period, and would love to return to spend longer exploring the museum.



## FAIRTRADE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As Christmas approaches please consider FAIRTRADE gifts when you are shopping. You will have the satisfaction of supporting producers as well as buying your loved ones presents !



*Mayan Worry Doll; Elephant Shape Money Box; Tealight Holder.*

Sheree's in the village will be stocking extra fair trade gifts for the Christmas period.

Oxfam in Oxted have a variety of fair trade products, as does the Co-op which you will find in Biggin Hill and Oxted. Below you will find links to a couple of stores, and you can google fair trade gifts and you will come up

with a range of stores that stock Fairtrade items.

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/oxfam-blog/a-gift-that-keeps-on-giving-ethical-christmas-gifts-for-everyone/>

<https://thefairtradestore.co.uk/product-category/ethical-christmas-presents-and-gifts/>

Wishing everyone a very happy preparation for Christmas.

**Alizon Mooney, Tatsfield fairtrade committee**

**Website: [tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com](http://tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com)**

## TATSFIELD WI

Well this was a change! Our November meeting was a Needle Felting workshop. We were taken step by step through the process to make a cute little bumblebee. Thanks to Jane O'Keefe our little flight of the bumblebees was ready for take off in a couple of hours.



Our next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December when we will all meet up for a Bring and Share Christmas buffet at 1pm, followed by all the usual festive fun and games.

Don't forget, everyone is invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a friendly chat every Wednesday morning between 10am and 12 midday in the WI Hall on Paynesfield Road. Apart from a short break over Christmas week, our pop in runs every Wednesday of the year and has done so for many years, hosted by a small rota of WI volunteers. A great way to meet other village residents – all ages welcome. So if you are passing, pop in.

I would also like to remind you that our hall is a local, cosy, warm venue for a meeting, family party or celebration just give us a call on 01959 577684

**Susan Smale 01959 577660**





## NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Not many sleeps now until Santa arrives.

In November we started our pre-Christmas celebrations with a Christmas quiz. Members also enjoyed fish pie followed by crumble and custard.

In October and November our members visited the cinema in the village hall, we are so lucky to have the cinema visit the village for us all to enjoy for a bargain price of £8.

We will be visiting Polehill Garden Centre followed by an afternoon tea on 20th November for a spot of Christmas shopping, after we will be attending a Christmas themed afternoon tea.

Our Christmas celebration is on meeting is on 10th December at 12.30 pm in the WI hall this is a members only meeting but feel free to join us on January 21st.

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

**Keep safe, Sue Dowse**

**Email: [notsoyoung100@gmail.com](mailto:notsoyoung100@gmail.com) Tel: 07816110929**

## MILLENNIUM ART GROUP

Our Spring term starts on 15<sup>th</sup> January and finishes on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

A major event during our Autumn term was when the senior member of our group, Alan Hall reached his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Alan was one of the founding members of our group and continues to paint with great skill. Proof that art keeps you young!

Also, during this term, the group art project highlighting endangered species of flora and fauna and featured in the June publication of this magazine

was donated to the Hazelwood School in Oxted. This has been located in the school hall and will be used by the school in their lessons on climate change and conservation.

If you are interested in joining our group why not come along to one of our sessions to get a taste of what we do. We are a friendly bunch and we have room for a couple of more members. We have three terms in a year, Spring, Summer and Autumn and the cost per member, per term is £50 and this includes access to equipment such as easels. The cost of refreshments is also included in this cost, as is the cost of demonstrations. If you want to visit us to see us in action we can offer you tea, biscuits and sometimes cake, served at about 3pm. To take up this invitation please contact me using the details below.

**Douglas Dawes, [millartg@icloud.com](mailto:millartg@icloud.com)**



*Alan Hall*

## ST MARY'S MATTERS

**SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2024** In addition to our regular 10am Sunday service with hymns, all are welcome to the following during Advent and Christmas.



**4pm, Sunday 8th December *Carols by Candlelight***, led by the Tatsfield Singers. Mulled wine and mince pies follow in the Millennium Hall.

**4pm, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December *Christingle and Nativity Service*** in Tatsfield School Hall led by Bishop Chris Goldsmith and Curate Revd. Debra Elsdon.

**11.30pm, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December *Christmas Eve Holy Communion*** with carols led by Bishop Chris Goldsmith.

**10am, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December *Christmas Day Morning Worship*** with carols and hymns led by Curate Revd. Debra Elsdon.

We will again be collecting for The Children's Society at our Christmas services, and look forward to Sauro Gabelli's wonderful Christmas Tableau in the Narthex at the church which is also in aid of The Children's Society. The Tableau is an Italian tradition which Sauro loves to share with us.

**LECTIO DIVINA (BIBLE REFLECTION) VIA ZOOM, WEDNESDAYS 7.30-8PM** Until 18<sup>th</sup> December, Lectio Divina during Advent is an opportunity to join us as we look together at Bible readings used during services of nine Lessons and Carols, as part of our preparation for Christmas. You are welcome to see what we can learn together in one or more of the sessions. The Zoom link is:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2368511841?pwd=Ql3U0AqHd0Mhb0hiuYlYkVbqQzagK.1>

**Blessings Ellie & Chris Goldsmith 01959 467996.**

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT EVENTS

- We welcomed a group of thirty members of the Surrey Hills Society who enjoyed viewing the church and grounds, and hearing talks on the history of St Mary's and Tatsfield Village, as well as projects being planned for the North Downs Way.
- At our annual Coffee morning for volunteers, Curate Revd Debra Elsdon thanked the people, teams and Committees working so hard over the year to maintain the fabric of the church and grounds and keep the programme of services and events running.
- Bishop Chris Goldsmith led our Remembrance Sunday service which included an Act of Remembrance with two minutes silence and singing of the National Anthem. The cash plate and contactless donations were for the work of The Royal British Legion.
- This year's All Souls' service was led by Curate Revd. Debra Elsdon as we gathered to remember those we have loved and see no more, and give thanks for the lives that have meant so much to us. Names of loved ones were read out and candles lit in their memory. Refreshments followed in the Millennium Hall.

**CHURCHYARD TEAM** Our final 2024 maintenance session was 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Mature compost was bagged up ready for free collection and the remainder graded and moved across the bins to allow nature to do its work over winter months. Running repairs to the bins were also carried out. Additional major work involved preparation of the wildflower area. Beech tree lower branches were cut down, enormous amounts of leaves cleared and bluebell bulbs planted around the trunks of the trees. Wildflower seeds will be nurtured over winter ready for planting in Spring. Grateful thanks must be given to our volunteers whose hard work has enabled the churchyard to look well cared for and remain an inviting place for peaceful reflection, including: Alexa Carter; Chris Hancock; Dickon Poole; Fiona & Mike Pendleton; Hedy Gulley; Jan & Peter Maynard; Kay & Keith Roberts; and Mary Smith. Weather permitting we will begin again in March 2025!

**FOOD DELIVERIES** We support the local community through Westerham foodbank which has seen an increase in households referred to them from a variety of agencies. Some require only short-term support, some intermittently over a longer time and some for extended periods. We delivered 28<sup>th</sup> November, with Christmas themed donations and will again on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025! Items currently needed include: cereal, soup, baked beans, jam, pasta sauces, rice, tinned fish, meat, long-life or powdered milk, custard and rice pudding. Please donate if you can. Non-perishable food donations can be left in the Narthex at St Mary's church on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday from 9am to 3.30pm. Any monetary donations made will be used to purchase food. Thank you for your continued support. Hilary Vale 01959 577864

### **ST MARY'S TATSFIELD 100 CLUB RESULTS – NOVEMBER 2024 DRAW**

30 K Moffat £23      98 J Howard £14      51 R Gascoigne £9      St Mary's £44

### **RECORDS 2024**

30 <sup>th</sup> October	Interment of Ashes	John and Elizabeth Bullen
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Interment of Ashes	Revd Peter Hartley

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH OPENING TIMES**

Our pretty church is open:  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday  
from 9.am approx to 3.30pm approx.

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

The Parish Office c/o St Peter's Church, High Street Limpsfield RH8 0DG.  
Our Parish Administrator is available there 9.30am to 1.30pm each Thursday, by phone on 01883 712512 and by email at [stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com](mailto:stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com).  
Emails are checked during the week for any urgent matters and information is available on St Mary's website

**Website: [www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys](http://www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys)**

## REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

<b>Sun</b>	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, VH
	10.00 am	Church service – StM
<b>Mon</b>	9.30 am	Tots on Top – CH
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary - WIH
	1.30 pm	Bridge Club – WIH
	6.30 pm	Cubs - SH
	7.00 pm	Art Group – VH [Term time]
	8.15 pm	Bingo – TVC
<b>Tue</b>	10.00 am	Chair Yoga with Mel - WIH
	1.00 pm	Not So Young Club (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	2.30 pm	WI Meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month) WIH
	4.00pm	Paracise VH
	7.00 pm	Scouts and Explorers – SH
	6.15 pm	Barré with Fi - VH
<b>Wed</b>	10.00 am	WI Pop In – WIH
	2-4 pm	Composting Site CLOSED from 1 <sup>st</sup> October
	6.30 pm	Shape and Tone with Gary – WIH (not December 11 <sup>th</sup> )
	6.00pm	Over 8s Jujitsu, SH
	7.30pm	Adults Jujitsu, SH
	7.30 pm	Yoga – VH
<b>Thu</b>	9.30 am	Yoga with Lexy, StM
	9.30 am	Shape and Tone with Gary, WIH
	2.00 pm	Scrabble at AMB (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
	1.30 pm	Hear Here Sessions – AMB (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month)
	6.00 pm	Over 8s Judo – SH
	6.15pm	Barré with Fi, VH
	7.30 pm	Adults (14+) Judo - SH
	7.30 pm	Tatsfield Singers - TPS
	8.00 pm	Table Tennis – VH
<b>Fri</b>	9.30 am	Combat Fitness - SH
	1.30 pm	Short Mat Bowls –VH
	4.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Tots Street Dance – VH
	4.45pm	Boom Arts Academy Lower Junior Street Dance – VH
	5.30pm	Boom Arts Academy Theatre and Singing – VH
	6.15pm	Boom Arts Academy Junior Street Dance – VH
	8.00 pm	Badminton Club – VH
<b>Sat</b>	9.00 am	Under 8s Judo – SH
	10.00 am	Composting Site CLOSED
	10.15 am	Over 8s Judo - SH

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS – VILLAGE AND BEYOND

### DECEMBER

4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00am	WI Coffee and Chat, WIH
5 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
6 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar, Glow Theatre Group, barn Theatre
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	5.00pm	OLCS Christmas Concert, URC, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Jesus Christ Superstar, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
8 <sup>th</sup> Sun	4.00pm	Carols By Candlelight, StM
11 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00am	WI Coffe and Chat, WIH
12 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.00pm	A Rave Revue, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
13 <sup>th</sup> Fri	6.00pm	Tatsfield Christmas Singalong, The Old Ship
13 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.00pm	A Rave Revue, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	5.00pm	Tatsfield Singers Christmas Concert, VH
14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.00pm	A Rave Revue, Glow Theatre Group, Barn Theatre
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun	7.45pm	The Upbeat Beatles, Barn Theatre, Oxted
18 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00am	WI Coffee and Chat, WIH
21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	4.00pm	Christingle and Nativity Service, Tatsfield School Hall
24 <sup>th</sup> Tue	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Holy Communion, StM
25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	10.00am	Christmas Day Morning Worship, StM

### JANUARY

10 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	1.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
11 <sup>th</sup> Sat	6.00pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
12 <sup>th</sup> Sun	1.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	6.00pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
15 <sup>th</sup> Wed	7.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
16 <sup>th</sup> Thu	7.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
17 <sup>th</sup> Fri	7.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	2.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
18 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.30pm	Dick Whittington, The Oxted Players, Barn Theatre
21 <sup>st</sup> Tue	12.30pm	Not So Young Club, WIH
25 <sup>th</sup> Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Bob Mills and Friends, Barn Theatre
29 <sup>th</sup> Wed	2.15pm	Henry VII's State Bed, Arts Society, Limpsfield Church Hall

## NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

### CONCERT ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

I can't think why I have never attended one of the North Downs Sinfonia's inspiring concerts before. To have such a proficient and enthusiastic orchestra on one's doorstep and not come to its concerts is almost a crime.



The evening's concert opened with Hummel's Premiere overture in Bb Op.101. Jonathan Maynard, the NDS' Chairman and conductor of the night, indicated that possibly Hummel's lack of universal recognition was because he didn't write any symphonies, yet the overture was the perfect opener for the concert. Initially the work almost sounded modern with its repetitive dramatic chords followed by quieter quaver phrases, yet it soon burst into the secure classical sound readily recognised by music lovers. As the music unveiled, the orchestra's accomplished players, were able to meld together in gradual build ups of tension, and, led by their conductor, demonstrating nicely judged alternations of tempi and dynamics.

Perhaps the magic name Kanneh-Mason had been responsible for the quietly expectant atmosphere of the hall as people took their seats earlier. I personally think that the Kanneh-Mason family has done more to engender an interest in classical music amongst young people than anyone I can think of, yet



Jon's introduction of Mariatu wasn't to do with her star quality. It was to do with her professionalism as a musician. She had been a joy to work with during rehearsals, Jon said, a view shared by the playing members of the orchestra.

Jon introduced the work by saying the Saint-Saëns cello concerto No. 1 should be as well-known as those by Elgar and Dvořák. I had heard it before, but in this performance there was an assuredness in the cello playing I hadn't previously noted. There was composure; Mariatu simply seemed to know what the music is about. She has a mastery of her instrument which enables it to sing its solo soaring statements, to blend in when being a member of the orchestra, and to shine its own path in passages where the soloist and orchestra are equal partners. What was produced by the NDS under Jon's baton, with a 15-year old soloist, was a memorable work that was passionate, well-controlled, and well-executed. It was a joy to hear.

After the interval Jon introduced Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> as being "a gift to musicians .....it plays itself". Well it may have played itself, but not without the very considerable expertise of the NDS and its conductor.

The performance of the whole work was awe-inspiring, the first movement displaying a good balance of sound and uniformity of playing, and a mix and match of the strings and wind, before it danced off at the Vivace, then galloping away, the addition of the brass and timpani making it joyously triumphant, though held in control by the conductor. The second movement's steady start with the strings laying the foundations, developed into anticipation accentuated by a growing crescendo enhanced by the wind, brass and timpani, before becoming more pastoral. The third movement was certainly foot tapping, and it bounced away displaying effective interplay between strings, wind and brass. The fourth movement was dynamic, and exuberant, and, as had been the case throughout the concert, all the soloists played beautifully, executing their parts with precision and clarity.

The NDS performance was inspirational, and I am sure that I was not the only one to leave Tatsfield Village Hall feeling exhilarated and uplifted.

I would also like to record my thanks to Mariatu's and Jon's parents, and indeed to all other parents, for encouraging, fostering and nurturing the talents of their children. The commitment parents give to their children, wholeheartedly supporting them in their endeavours, benefits whole communities far and wide, large and small. Thank you.

**Katharine O'Carroll, Chair, Oxted and Limpsfield Music Society**

## OXTED AND LIMPSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Bob Chilcott – Jubilate  
Morten Lauridsen – O Magnum Mysterium

A Selection of Christmas Songs & Carols

**Date: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December Time: 5.00pm**  
**Venue: United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted**

Tickets £15.00 (including refreshments)  
To buy: call 01959 577749; or on the door; or [olcsinfo@aol.com](mailto:olcsinfo@aol.com)

[www.olcs.org.uk](http://www.olcs.org.uk)

## THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

I was taught early in my career that to get the very best value from a garden we must provide something to delight us every month of the year – quite a challenge! We also know just how important a consistent supply of flower and fruit is for our wildlife. A garden that has lots of interest all year round is also a valuable habitat for wildlife and this is especially so during the winter months when flowers, seeds, and places to find shelter can be vital for survival.

If you are struggling to think of a suitable Christmas present for the gardener who seems to have all the tools they need, just imagine their delight when you present them with a plant in full flower! For a larger garden the beautiful winter flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*) with its pink flowers, good autumn leaf colour and also tiny cherries (food for hungry birds). If you have a semi-shady spot to fill then try the Sweet Box (*Sarcococca*) with its profusion of tiny white highly scented flowers, and again plenty of black berries in the spring; and if space allows surround this lovely shrub with Christmas Rose (*Helleborus*) in various colours. Winter flowering plants are also available as small plants too, the winter Crocus (*Crocus tomasinianus*), Snowdrops, the Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) and the ever reliable Winter Heather (*Erica carnea*) – carpets of colour buzzing with bumbles on a sunny winters day. If you have a South or West facing fence why not cover it a Winter Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) or the Silver Tassel Bush (*Garrya elliptica*), or *Coronilla citrina* all superb plants. You may not find some of these plants in your local garden centre so have a look online for those specialist nurseries just waiting for your order!

A final thought, for the perfect present for someone special who has a warm South or West facing patio with room enough for a large frostproof pot, buy them a white or red winter flowering *Camellia sasanqua*. This superb shiny leaved evergreen shrub with its beautiful flowers will require planting in an ericaceous planting compost.

Growing small batches of plants from seed can be a challenge when it comes to finding a container small enough with a clear cover and then provide some heat to get it started. Have a look at windowsill propagators; they come complete with a heated tray, tiny seed trays with clear lids – just plug in and wait for the seedlings to emerge! These are available in larger garden centres or have a look on the Two Wests and Elliott website ([www.twowests.co.uk](http://www.twowests.co.uk)).

We have had an exceptional fall of leaves this autumn and there is still much to do clearing them up, or should we be so tidy? If you must clear them away, you can combine them with some grass mowings (yes, on a dry day you should continue to lightly mow the grass!) and pack them down tight into bags; please resist the temptation to burn them!! Please remember that a pile of leaves provides a much needed safe haven for wildlife both large and small so take care and look out for sleepy slowworms, dozy mice, frogs, toads and of course hedgehogs. A pile of leaves in a quiet corner, or the back of a border, is a five star hotel for wildlife.

**Jon Allbutt**



## WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER

Merry Christmas folks! I am really looking forward to seeing our early daffs welcoming in the New Year with a fabulous burst of colour. And, of course, the awesome display around the green that seems to bloom just a little bit later. They're a great reminder that the days will be getting longer, and that spring isn't a million miles away. I also like to grow them in case any bumbles need to pop out for a mid-winter forage (we started seeing bumbles in January last year). So I was stunned to find out that many daffodils don't produce any bee-friendly pollen because they are modern sterile hybrids bred purely for shows. That seems pretty weird and Frankensteinly! I'm told it is the flamboyant variants that are the worst, so I stick to the traditional native types such as Tenby & Lent Lily, along with Rijnveld's for that super early bloom. I am sure Jon will know a few more – I keep meaning to ask him to write a list of insect friendly winter flowering plants that do well up here.

OK, so maybe it's a bit late to be talking about choosing daffs when its already time for them to be growing but the same thing applies to many other plants you might be planning for Spring planting. Non-native plants such as japonicas, rhododendrons, even the humble Cherry Laurel, and many others can be bad news for wildlife so its always worth checking first before choosing a new plant. We visited a Victorian garden last springtime that had been planted with Rhododendron, and it was completely devoid of any other life – it was eerily silent with no birds, butterflies, bees or bugs anywhere. Or bluebells for that matter, while we're on the b's. The problem is that much of our mini wildlife evolved without these imported plants and they don't know what to do with them; many butterflies, for example, will only lay their eggs on native plants because that's what their caterpillars have evolved to eat. So it seems non-native plants can disrupt the whole food chain. Just something to bear in mind if you are doing any garden planning this winter.

**Interesting fact of the month.** In a BBC poll, Winston Churchill was voted the greatest Briton of all time, ahead of Charles Darwin in second place. Both men were extraordinary local heroes, and both were avid wildlife gardeners. How cool is that? We are in very good company! And their wildlife gardens are still there for us to enjoy at Chartwell and Downe, presumably without a single pollen-free daffodil in sight.

And here's a bonus interesting fact borrowed from Marie Shallcross who gave a wonderful talk to the garden club some weeks ago - apparently daffodil bulbs can last over 100 years! So maybe some of the plants on view at Chartwell & Downe were also enjoyed by those great men themselves.

And seeing as Christmas is coming, I'll sign off with a Hoe Hoe Hoe...

**Jim Kenney**

## NIGEL'S NATURE NOTES

For some unknown reason, Jan Akhtar's computer and my own have no interest in communicating. (And, yes, we both check our 'junk' files!) Fortunately, I had a hard copy of Jan's uplifting nature notes posted through my letter box. So, after considerable delay, here they are (29.08.24):

*'I have always enjoyed reading your monthly article in the Parish Mag and, probably like many people, have often thought I ought to send you some info regarding nature spotting in our garden, but never seem to get around to doing so! Anyway, having read [a recent] article, I realised that we have a few birds that I haven't seen listed. We have a very busy feeding station outside my kitchen window and have been delighted to see regular Marsh tits and, though hard to distinguish from the former, Willow tits!*

*We are so incredibly lucky living at Furze Corner, as we have such a selection of habitats; garden, woodland and open field. The diversity of birds is amazing! A daily selection currently is: **Blue tit, Coal tit, Great tit, Long-tailed tit, Marsh and Willow tit, Nuthatch, Blackcap, Dunnock, House sparrow, Wren, Robin, Chaffinch, Song thrush, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Jay, Pied wagtail, Starling, Magpie, Crow, Jackdaw, Wood pigeon, Stock dove** (we have a visiting pair at the moment), **Great spotted woodpecker**, the occasional **Bullfinch, Pheasant**, many birds of prey (mainly **Kites** and **Buzzards** flying over) and, of course, **Emus!***

*Birds give me so much pleasure and one of the best things that we added to our garden, a few years ago, was a bird bath, kindly given to me as my leaving gift from Tatsfield School. I can waste hours watching the birds bathe and sometimes there is literally a queue waiting for their dip!*

*One of the most endearing sights that I once witnessed was of two Woodpigeons taking a bath together and one was cleaning the other. They must have been in there for almost ten minutes and they even lifted up their wings to clean underneath! They are such funny birds and not everyone's favourite, but I love them.*

*Anyway, I'm now rabbiting on, but I will end with a well-known phrase that I remind myself of when I am lost in nature-gazing and reprimand myself for 'wasting' time:*

***'What is life but full of care, if there's no time to stop and stare.'***

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and observations with us, Jan. As you say, the varied habitats around your home certainly give you privileged status. I'm just wondering what any 'out of village' readers will make of your Emu observation: '*Quick, grab your camera, get in the car – Emu's have invaded Tatsfield!*' Good business for our tea rooms.

Next, I hope our readers will be able to help answer an enquiry from our friend, Howard (Aylett). It appears that he's going (gone) a bit batty in his old age! (09.10.24):

*'Just a point of interest which you may have some insight on. For many years we would of an evening enjoy the company of **bats** flying around in our garden. In fact there was one occasion where one found its way, uninvited, into the house which created an*

*almighty domestic bedlam - cats going berserk, dogs barking and us adults running around waving our arms about. Happily the intruder found its own way out and life for us returned to normal. However, we just haven't seen a bat since, which has posed a few questions: Has their habitat been disturbed and therefore they are no longer around? Is their food source, once found in our garden, no longer available? Or, most likely, have we upset the uninvited visitor who has told his mates to stay clear of 'Greensleeves' at all costs!? Any ideas?'*

There may well be good reasons to steer clear of 'Greensleeves', Howard, but I doubt whether your family panic would have been enough to frighten the bats off. In fact, I would have thought the black cats, the collection of frogs, the boiling cauldron of lizard's tongues and the besom broomstick would have attracted more bats rather than scared any residents away! My personal preference to explain the loss would be habitat disturbance or destruction. Have you, or a neighbour, had any roof repairs or major tree felling carried out since the event? The Bat Conservation Trust, looking from a broader viewpoint, suggests other factors may be in play:

*'Several news outlets have published articles reporting that there has been an increase in the reports of malnourished bats, particularly pups [immature bats] this year and have linked this to wetter than average weather and a decline in insects. It's important to remember that there are always natural fluctuations in wildlife populations, including bats, which may happen at different scales. This year's unusual spring and summer weather can only be speculatively linked to any fluctuations.'*

So, I'm sorry Howard - habitat loss, weather variation or insect decline - take your pick, your guess is as good as mine.

The correspondence then continues (15.10.24):

*'Many thanks for your reply, and I suppose it confirms my beliefs, particularly since chanting 'double, double, toil and trouble' failed to come up with an alternative answer, or the return of any bats. That, of course, could have been the cauldron not being up to temperature, what with energy costs these days. Anyway, Nigel, I just wondered whether any similar observations had landed on your desk.'*

Well, I for one have had a few close, evening encounters with a couple of local bats that were seen flitting around just two or three yards distance from my patio doors during the summer months. Let's hope others will have experienced something similar. If so, **please write in**. Thanks for the enquiry, Howard. As always, it's good to hear from you.

And finally, will 2025 be the year of the Hoopoe? Highly unlikely, but I'm both an optimist and a dreamer. With this in mind, **I wish all of our Nature Notes contributors and readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!** (And may all your dreams come true.)

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



## TATSFIELD ART GROUP

We are ending 2024 with a Christmas celebration in Ye Old Ship on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

You won't recognise us in our party outfits!



On the 4<sup>th</sup> November, artist Paolo Francis demonstrated how to paint a 'Stormy sky' and a 'Sunrise' in oils. Both paintings were 80% sky and 20% land/sea. How Paolo managed to produce these two amazing paintings in only two hours is unbelievable! Paolo's workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> November gave us the opportunity to have a go, with his support, painting either a stormy sky or a sunrise. You can see photos of this



workshop on Tatsfield Art Groups Facebook page. If you would like to join us for a demo/workshop with Paolo he will be with us again on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Zsuzsanna Pataki was born in Hungary and is a full time artist in London, creating cityscapes, landscapes, heirloom portraits and abstracts. We are very fortunate that Zsuzsanna has been able to fit in two demo/workshops with us on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, in between her painting trips and exhibitions. Zsuzsanna loves colour, light and people. She creates atmospheric paintings with bold strokes and colours.



Zsuzsanna will be demonstrating how to paint a harbour, in her own unique style. Zsuzsanna is great fun and her demonstrations are very active! Demo's, for non-members £10, workshops £15.

In the village you will see members work on display, and available to buy, at Sheree's Tea Room and Ye Old Ship. But don't forget many of our talented members accept commissions. If you enjoy art and are thinking of joining a group please pop in and see us, we will be in the village hall Monday evenings from 7pm until 9.30pm during term times, non-members are welcome to visit for two meetings to see if we suit! Our Annual membership fee is still only £150 which includes our weekly sessions, the cost of all demos and workshops and also guarantees entry to our annual exhibition, plus access to our store cupboard of equipment and refreshments. Interested? Check us out at on [Facebook Tatsfield Art Group](#) or [Instagram](#) in the coming weeks and months for the latest updates. **For further questions or intrigue? contact Carol Gaskell 07815775859 or Sandra Shury 07867502235.** We can't wait to see you. We return on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 with a workshop on 'Geologic abstracts'.

As 1924 came to an end, traditional activities were in full swing, but there was active discussion about the future of Tatsfield and its surroundings. The Westerham Herald, for instance, brought the village up to date on a project which would have transformed Tatsfield. It reported that officials were *'busy taking measurements of the land for a proposed electric railway connecting Orpington with Croydon via Downe, Cudham and Tatsfield'*. The proposal was thought to be viable for a few more years, but there was not enough financial backing and the scheme lapsed at the beginning of the 1930s.

**TATSFIELD CHILDREN ENTERTAINED.**

**A JOYOUS TIME.**

The Parish Hall echoed with the merry laughter of nearly two hundred village children, who were entertained by the parish on Saturday afternoon, under the auspices of the Red Triangle, Mr. W. F. Pierotti and Mr. W. E. Head acting as joint secretaries. Amongst those present were the Rector, the Rev B G. Popham, Mrs. Popham and Miss Popham.

A wealth of decorations was displayed composed of evergreens, flowers, bunting, flags interweaved with clusters of coloured balloons. The central attraction was a great Christmas Tree laden with presents.

Tea was set out on tables adorned with flowers, and the children were waited upon by an army of ladies and gentlemen. At the conclusion they were given a real treat with a

At the height of the Christmas season the local predecessor of the YMCA provided nearly 200 children in the Village Hall with entertainment which included a Punch and Judy Show.

It concluded with a rendering of the *'Star of Bethlehem'* by Mrs O'Reilly of Kemsley Road, followed by her eight children performing a *'dainty song and dance in Dutch costume'*.

Another new idea in 1924 was that of setting up a Women's Institute in the village. The first had been established in Britain in 1915, and one had already been

set up in Westerham. A meeting in Potter's Tea Room (later to become the Bakery) to discuss forming a branch was addressed by the leader of Westerham WI, Mrs Granville Streetfeild. She spoke of the aftermath of the First World War and initial financial help from the government for women setting up the WI. She was then quoted as saying that women had now *'discovered a way with their Institute movement, of helping themselves in the rural districts, and of making life richer and wider by helping their men folk. If they made women satisfied in the country they would go a long way towards making the men satisfied.'* By the time of Tatsfield WI's first meeting in the following spring there were between 40 and 50 members.

**Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - [Tatsfield.history@talk21.com](mailto:Tatsfield.history@talk21.com) Tel: 577376**  
**Website:** <https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/>

## THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – DECEMBER 2024

In astronomy, as in life sometimes, it's all or nothing. During December the bright planets are dominating the evening sky after what seems an inordinately long wait.

Early in the month, when the Sun is 6° below the horizon at around 4:30pm, the brilliant Venus can be seen a little over 12° above the SSW horizon. As the sky darkens Venus sets in the south west, but soon after it does so, by way of compensation, Mars rises in the ENE. The result is that by 9:30pm Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are all on view and reasonably well positioned.

Towards the end of the month, look at 7:30pm to see them in similar locations with the bonus that Venus has moved to join the group and is low down in the WSW. Its position will continue to improve for the rest of 2024 and into 2025.

You can use the map printed in the November issue to locate the planets which will be accurate at 8pm in the middle of December apart from the position of the Moon.

Although Venus is by far the most brilliant object in the early evening sky, and still brightening, once it has set Jupiter, although not quite as striking, is very obvious towards the east. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month, it reaches "opposition" which is when it is closest to Earth and therefore at its largest and brightest.

If you get the chance to look at it through a telescope you will see the bands of cloud that envelope the gas giant, and if you're lucky the Great Red Spot may be visible. This is an anti-cyclonic storm in Jupiter's atmosphere where winds can blow at up to 400mph. It has been present since at least 1830 and may possibly date back to as early as 1665. You may also note when viewing that Jupiter is not actually round, rather it is "oblate" which means it is flattened at the poles. This is caused by centrifugal force due to the massive body rotating in just ten hours. If you have binoculars, you will be able to watch the daily dance of the four Galilean moons as they orbit the planet, although you are unlikely to see them if your binoculars are hand-held. They really need to be tripod mounted or, at the very least, rested against a fence post or wall.

The winter solstice in the northern hemisphere occurs on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:21am. This is when the Sun is as far south in the sky as it can get, meaning that we only have 7 hours 52 minutes and 5 seconds of daylight that day. This contrasts with the summer solstice on 20<sup>th</sup> June when we had 16 hours 35 minutes and 43 seconds of daylight.

2025 should be an interesting year astronomically speaking with strong meteor showers in January and December that will be unaffected by moonlight. Also, we have a partial eclipse of the Moon and a partial eclipse of the Sun, both of which are in March as well as a total eclipse of the Moon in September. So, plenty to look forward to.

Don't forget that on the night of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> January the Quadrantid meteor shower will reach its peak. The point that the meteors appear to radiate from is close to the end of the handle of the "Plough" so watching an area generally in the north should provide a few shooting stars if the weather cooperates.

**Brian Mills FRAS**

## THE ARTS SOCIETY LIMPSFIELD



**Henry VII's State Bed** by Jonathan Foyle.

**Date: Wednesday 29 January 2025. Lecture starts at 2.15pm** at Limpsfield Church Hall and refreshments will be served before the lecture. Note: there will not be an evening lecture. Guests: £10.

In 2010, the elaborately carved, incomplete oak bed frame was removed from the honeymoon suite of a hotel in Chester, to be auctioned as a Victorian relic. The speaker has spent six years studying and attributing it, now featured in press around the world. Featuring five royal arms, six single roses, and deeply esoteric symbols of fertility, it turns out to be covered in medieval paintwork, and its proportions respect the mural of the lost Painted Chamber of royal Westminster Palace abandoned in 1512. Scientific analyses, documentation and art history agree to demonstrate it is an astonishing national treasure: the marriage bed of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, made by 18th January 1486.



**The History of Art in Wallpaper** by Jo Banham.

**Date: Wednesday 26 February 2025. Lecture starts at 2.15pm** Limpsfield Church Hall and refreshments will be served before the lecture.

Note: there will not be an evening lecture. Guests: £10.

Wallpaper is often regarded as the Cinderella of the Decorative Arts – the most ephemeral and least precious of the decorations produced for the home. Yet, the history of wallpaper is a long and fascinating subject that dates back to the 16th century and encompasses a huge range of beautiful patterns created both by anonymous hands and by some of the best-known designers of the 19th and 20th centuries. This lecture explores the history and development of this product from earliest times up to the present day. It includes a discussion of the changing ways in which wallpaper was made and a survey of designs from the first black and white patterns, the creation of elegant flock hangings, the fashion for Chinese hand-painted papers, the introduction of machine-printing, the designs of Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement, and the taste for Modernist and Contemporary designs in the 20th century. It also includes a discussion of the ways that wallpapers were used within grand and more ordinary homes and hopes to justify the claim that they were indeed a truly Decorative Art.

# TATSFIELD ART GROUP

## SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR 2025



24 <sup>th</sup> February	Project 8 Sandra Shury workshop 'Geologic abstracts' inspired by Carol Nelson
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Own work
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Project 9 Zsuzsanna Pataki TBA
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Project 9 Zsuzsanna Pataki TBA
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Project 10 Sheila Alexander Sea and skies in ink and bleach
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Own Work
7 <sup>TH</sup> – 27 <sup>TH</sup> April	Easter Break
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Horticultural Show (Titles: Fur; New Beginnings, Narcissi, The Easter Bunny)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Exhibition preparation Own Work
Bank Holiday	Art Exhibition
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Private View 3pm - 7pm
4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> May	11am – 4.30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> May	Project 11 Paolo Francis TBA
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Project 11 Paolo Francis TBA
26 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Project 12 Hannah Franklin TBA
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Project 13 Ian Henderson TBA
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Project 13 Ian Henderson TBA
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	TBA
30 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA
7 <sup>th</sup> July	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup> July	TBA
Summer break	Social event to be arranged



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