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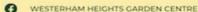
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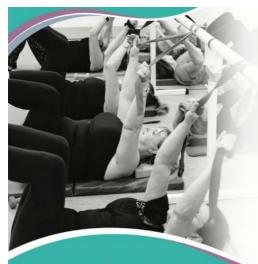


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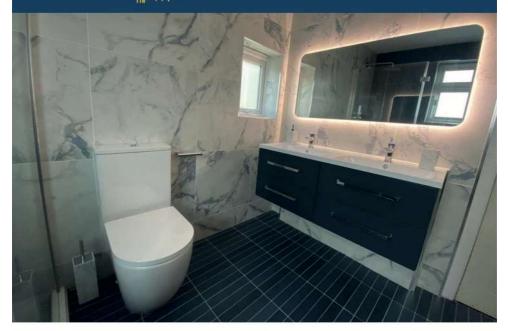






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Produced for the Village by the Parish Magazine Committee under the authority of Tatsfield Church.

Editors • Tara Barry and Tracey Syrett

Chair • Debra Elsdon

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 ODG.

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

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

Curate: Debra Elsdon email: curate.lttm@gmail.com

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

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

COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

Website • www.tatsfieldpc.org.uk

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

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

OTHER CONTACTS

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

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

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

Tatsfield Primary School Head • Rachel Jewitt (577356)

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Furze Corner Sports Pavilion Bookings • (07533 033325)

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

Village Website: www.tatsfield.org.uk

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Enquiries concerning advertising or loose inserts should be made to Sarah Tait (tatsfieldmag@gmail.com). All loose inserts need to be booked 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: View over Parkwood Golf course, Kate Bamber.

FDITORIAL

As it gets really bitter and cold up here on the Downs. I remember a night, late November, I spent sleeping in the churchyard at Southwark Cathedral to raise money for the Robes Project which works throughout the year to support the homeless of South London with clubs, advice, support and shelter. (Do have a look at their website https://robes.org.uk/)

It was dry – a respite between two very blustery weekends and actually not too cold and I managed to get a bench; not exactly a sprung mattress but better than Portland Stone pavers. But the noise! Borough Market was floodlit by massive lights and the generators were chugging away until after three in the morning. The Dean of Southwark, Mark Oakley, who had slept out with us, said at Morning Prayer the next day that we looked like zombies! And I did feel zombie like all day – reflecting that I had a warm house and hot shower to go to and how exhausting and frightening it must be to weigh up the relative security of pitching up near to a group of night workers against the need for some uninterrupted sleep.

I am sure that we all looked for ways of being generous as the Christmas season swept us through December; we all know that Christmas is more than food, telly and presents. It was encouraging to have a full church at St Mary's at the Christmas Eve Midnight Service and on Christmas Morning as well — there was generosity there; time shared, meeting and greeting around this important Christian festival where we celebrate the birth of hope for humankind in a stable; surely just as noisy and uncomfortable as any London street in the early hours of the morning.

I'll finish with a quote from one of the guests of the Robes project who was re-homed a couple of weeks ago and had this to say on his feedback form:

"Thank you so much with all my heart. You guys saved my life when I needed a place to stay when I was really helpless. I was taken in at a time when I was very desperate, homeless and had no one to help me. I love the team and I will never forget the help you gave me – you took care of me. Thank you, thank you, thank you".

As we venture into 2025, my hope is that we will continue to be a community which expresses itself in generosity, kindness and welcome. Happy New Year! **Reverend Debra**

TATSFIELD ONLINE

Village website:www.tatsfield.org.uk
Village facebook page: search for 'Tatsfield Village' on facebook
Tatsfield Talk facebook group: search for 'Tatsfield Talk' on facebook,
and ask to join to be able to view and post. Twitter: @tatsfieldtweet

PARISH MAGAZINE EVENTS LISTINGS

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

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

TATSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

We wish all our residents a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. The Parish Council met on 9th December 2024.

Planning

TA/2024/1173 Ashkirk, Maesmaur Road, Tatsfield TN16 2LD. Erection of single storey rear extension and first floor upward extension. Recommendation: No comment.

TA/2024/1198 Rosefield House, Hillside Road, Tatsfield TN16 2NH. Seeking approval for minor changes to the elevations and to change the renewable energy source. Recommendation: No comment.

Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) – Surrey Following a request from Surrey to comment on this recent review we have stated that it is not acceptable to us in its current form and content as we feel a part of Tatsfield has currently been excluded. We have responded by setting out very clearly our rationale for why the review is incomplete with compelling evidence to ensure the area in question is included.

Finance We approved the Budget for 2025-26 as recommended by the Finance Committee. We also approved grants for the following parish groups: Tatsfield Parish Magazine (£500); Tatsfield in Bloom (£1,200); Not So Young Club (£480); Composting Group (£950).

Furze Corner Playing Field We have updated the development plan, cost plan and business case for the proposed new community asset for the village. The next steering group meeting is on 21st January. We have held a consultation forum for residents to

contribute ideas as to what facilities we want/need to provide. It was not well attended but thanks to those who did participate. We are in discussions with funding bodies with whom we have shared our plans and also written to our MP Claire Coutinho to help us as we move forward on this exciting project for Tatsfield.

Biggin Hill Airport Whilst there has been a reduction in incursions into our noise sensitive areas (NSA) and overflying of Tatsfield village centre, the management of residents' complaints by the airport authorities has continued to be poor. After consultation with the airport authorities a new body called the Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) has been set up designed specifically to sort this out. We will continue to meet with the CEO of Biggin Hill Airport monthly where we will be addressing any flaws that may still exist.

Tandridge District Council (TDC) Community Assets TDC have enquired of the PC whether we can take on responsibility of three community assets (rather than the Council). Those assets are Furze Corner, the playground on Westmore Green and the outdoor gym on Westmore Green. Members deferred this item until the January meeting.

Christmas Carol Singalong Held on 13th December at the Ship we all enjoyed the coming together of families and friends to join in this festive event. Special thanks to Andy Moore for organising such a successful evening.

Trees Quotations are being sought to clear overhanging branches on the Shaw Road triangle which was obstructing the waste collection vehicles trying to pass and works highlighted in the recent tree survey carried out on land owned by the Parish Council.

Fairtrade Simon Cook attended the Fairtrade Group AGM on 3rd December on behalf of the Parish Council. Simon reported to the PC that even though the recent Fairtrade Breakfast was not as well attended as was hoped, it was good to see that £800 worth of Fairtrade goods were sold. There have also been encouraging discussions with the school who are keen to link up and champion Fairtrade. It was agreed to support the Church Teas next year and they are also looking to speak to the Village Club regarding the possibility of them stocking Fairtrade.

EV Charging Simon Cook has been leading on this project for the PC and there is further survey detail needed before we can take the next step.

Meeting dates 2025 Members agreed the following meeting dates for 2025: 13th January; 10th February; 10th March; 14th April; 19th May; 9th June; 14th July; 8th September; 13th October; 10th November; 8th December.

Kim Jennings, Chairman Email: kimjennings@tatsfieldpc.org.uk



TATSFIELD'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

I trust you all had a really good Christmas and New Year, stayed safe and away from all of the bugs and illnesses that were going around, and I wish you all you hope for a better 2025.

It was pleasing to see the centre of the village nicely lit up again and good turnouts for the Christmas Carol Sing Along and the Carol Singers concert. Let's hope that our village centre can get back to being a bustling hive of activity when this dreadful bout of overcast weather wind rains and storms finally subside. As I write this the daylight hours are already growing longer, so although some distance away, summer is coming.

I have been busy planting out lots of seeds and beans in readiness for the garden to get back to normality over the coming weeks.

At this year end here is a bit of a round up on matters, Tandridge District Council.

Financial matters As 2025 arrives I am no more confident than last year about the financial problems that beset Tandridge District Council and I am sure every other council in the country that each council is having to get to grips with. On 18th December the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was released, links below.

Written ministerial statement: https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-12-18/hcws342

Settlement documents: Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK

The Chief Finance Officer is working through the narrative and finer points, but on his first review it appears that the overall **funding is £135k higher** than the amount discussed previously. The main differences are a £60k increase in New Homes Bonus and £75k on other grant / business rates retention above expectations. But it's worth noting that Government funding excluding PEPR has *decreased* by £0.2m and Core Spending Power has only increased because Government assume all councils will increase Council Tax. More to follow when I know more.

This will not change the fact that this council will have to save an annual amount of £1m over the each of the next four years at the same time having to spend more on National Insurance contributions, like all employers due to the increase announced in the Budget as well as wages, costs inflated by the current situation and the fact that we are still having to employ interim staff in some major positions and fight even more appeals against spurious Planning Applications.

Ever increasing Council Tax amounts will have to happen but I will continue to vote against these increases as long as the Council keeps coming to residents before getting their house in order. I am expectant that at least the percentage of the budget for staff costs will be substantially reduced for the next term now that the Future Tandridge programme is having it's effects.

During 2025 you could help Tandridge District Council and yourself more if everything that you need to contact them about is done online rather than the telephone. The Chief

Executive announced that residents can now access recycling and waste services using **MyTandridge account** - TDC's new online customer portal.

As well as being able to easily manage council tax, benefits and business rates using MyTandridge, residents can now:

- Check their bin collection day.
- Order new or replacement containers.
- Report missed collections.
- Apply for assisted or medical waste collections.

The work to bring housing and planning services to the portal in 2025, is ongoing and will make the online the account even more comprehensive. So please can I encourage everyone to sign up to MyTandridge. It only takes a few minutes on your phone, tablet or computer – all you need is your email address.

Also, please consider signing up for the TDC Newsletters for residents and businesses where you will have all of the information you need to know delivered to you instead of having to ask on Tatsfield Talk. It also provides information on how to safely dispose of vapes, batteries and electrical items, how to obtain funding for adapting your home, details of the handyperson service, where you can get support for someone you believe is in an abusive relationship as well as a whole plethora of other information, advice and contact numbers that may make your life a little easier in 2025. If you want help with this let me know.

Tandridge District Council Housing Review 2023/2024 This has just been published and it highlights achievements and future plans to address local affordable housing needs. Use the link below:

https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Housing/Annual-Review-2023-2024.pdf?ver=FisOO2wBpS4GC-MwHlzSxQ%3d%3d

Devolution You will no doubt have started to hear the rumours about "Unitary Authorities" replacing County, Borough and District councils being a major part of the new Government's thinking. Facts can be found on line from the link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper

It includes the following: **6.1 Implementing the agreed devolution deals and Devolution Priority Programme.** Since July, devolution agreements for regional Mayors have been finalised and are progressing four foundation **non-mayoral Single Local Authority** devolution agreements. So watch this space.

My role as your District Councillor will continue much as last year, and at least we will not have to endure another District Councillor election, just that of our Surrey County Councillor. As well as looking after Tatsfield's interests, I will continue to lead the small Independent group of Councillors who I have to say are really carrying their weight since being voted in and are stringently scrutinising the items in the Council Meetings as well as working diligently for their own residents. I will continue working with the Council

delivering a balanced budget for 2025/26 as well as all of my other roles, on the Licensing and Standards committee and the Investment subcommittee. I will also be involved in Group Leaders meetings throughout the year forming the future strategy of the Council. May 2025 will bring to and end my tenth year as your District Councillor.

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. Happy New Year to you all.

Cllr Martin Allen Tel: 01959 577201 or 07484 185363

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

CLAIRE COUTINHO MP

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and enjoyed a joyful celebration to welcome in the New Year.

As some of you will know, my family and I are feeling very blessed as we're expecting a baby boy very shortly. My very capable team will be on hand to help anyone who needs it whilst I get back on my feet and I will be back doing my constituency surgeries before long too. So as always, if you need any help please do let me know at claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.



Last year I relaunched my Christmas Card competition. Following a spirited competition, Isla from Lingfield College Prep won with her patriotic drawing of a very British Christmas. The card featuring Isla's design was

sent to residents across East Surrey, to members of my charity and even to His Majesty the King. I also want to give a huge well done to the runner up,



Amalie, whose robin design came so close to clinching the top spot. The bar was set incredibly high this year and I want to thank all the pupils for making it a wonderfully festive competition.

Although there is so much joy to be found at this time of the year, my charity, The Friendship Project, reminds me that those facing loneliness often struggle the most during the festive season. Within our community, there are countless groups who are working to bring people together. These unsung heroes often go unseen. But thanks to generous donations, the Friendship Project has distributed over £15,000 to support these local community groups. The efforts of these groups, and the communities they have created, make me optimistic that we can truly tackle this issue.

In the national picture, I voted against the Government's Family Farms Tax which will drive up food prices for everyone. I have also co-sponsored the Safer Phones Bill. This piece of legislation is designed to make it harder for companies to push addictive content on children, one of the main causes of smartphone addiction. As Children's Minister, I heard time and time again how parents' number one worry was how to handle their

children's access to digital devices. While I would like to go further and see a ban on social media for under 16s, this Bill is a crucial step in the right direction.

And finally, as we said goodbye to 2024, it was wonderful to see so many incredible East Surrey residents recognised in His Majesty The King's New Year Honours – from Dr Thomas Balchin, Vivien Jones and Zoë Harris from Lingfield, to Ben Commins and Robin Clements from Caterham, and Her Honour Sehba Haroon Storey from Whyteleafe.





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 for further details or pop into Oxted library and ask a member of staff.

SHAPE & TONE



FITNESS CLASSES

Monday - 9:30am - 10:30am Wednesday - 6:00pm - 7:00pm Thursday - 9:30am - 10:30am

VENUE -WI HALL-

(Paynesfield road, Tatsfield, TN16 2AR)

ABOUT THE CLASSES

Everyone works at their level and ability
The classes are aerobic and weight-based
They are varied, and as challenging, as YOU want to make them
Great for weight-loss, improving strength, flexibility, mobility,
balance and co-ordination, stamina, energy & confidence
Above all they WILL be great-fun and rewarding!

PRICES £8:00 on a pay as you go basis

CONTACT - TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, OR TO KNOW MORE PLEASE CALL ME ON - 07548 225 004

Look forward to meeting and helping you.



Nothing changes - if nothing changes -

TANDRIDGE JOB FAIR THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025

The Tandridge Job Fair is free to attend and open to everyone. Thursday 13 February, 10.30am to 2pm. Venue: Tandridge Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted RH8 OBT The job fair is for:

- Residents looking to meet employers, get advice and explore career opportunities.
- Local businesses showcasing job vacancies and apprenticeships.
- Vacancies across a wide range of sectors, such as retail, hospitality, security, cleaning, design, sales and marketing, administration and office work.

Why attend?

- Meet employers and talk directly to businesses to learn about job roles organisations.
- Explore job opportunities at all levels and industries.
- Access skills workshops, get training advice and gain insights into career paths.
- On the spot interviews. Some employers will hold interviews during the event. Bring your CV and dress for success.

Workshops will be delivered by Tara Woodford from National Career Services and Julia Searle from Empoweru:

- **11.30am CV workshop and covering letters** Build or update your CV to stand out; learn top tips for creating a positive first impression.
- **12.30pm Searching for work** Get practical tips for finding a new role.
- **12.30pm 1 to 1 career advice** Bring your CV for free, personal advice from a career advisor.

1pm - How to get interview ready Boost your confidence and prepare for interviews.

The National Careers Service provides high quality, free and impartial careers advice, information and guidance to anyone aged 13+ no matter what stage of the careers journey you're at. For more information, visit National Careers Service website.

Support and guidance

- East Surrey College: Find out about courses from entry level to higher education. Visit their stand to explore how to boost your skills for education and employment.
- Local Jobcentre: Access advice on financial support, returning to work and interview preparation.

For employers We are offering local businesses with job or apprenticeship vacancies a free stand at the job fair. Benefits include:

- Connect with local qualified talent.
- Gain positive PR by investing in local people.
- Shape the skills of tomorrow's workforce.

Partners The Tandridge Job Fair is supported by Jobcentre Plus, East Surrey College and other local businesses and training providers.

LITTLE ACORNS PRESCHOOL

Here at Little Acorns Pre-School we welcome children from ages 2 to 4 years. We are located in the heart of the beautiful village of Tatsfield, within the Village Hall.



We run sessions five days a week during term time, including:

- Morning sessions
- Lunch Club
- Afternoon sessions

Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday- Thursday 8.30am-3.20pm

Fridays 8.30am-1.00pm

We offer weekly clubs included in our sessions:

- Monday afternoon is Science Club
- Wednesday is **Dance club**, run by an external dance instructor
- Thursday morning is Gardening Club
- Friday is alternating extra Messy Play and/ or Cooking Club

We accept all forms of funding and currently have some availability for new starters.

We have a fantastic team of staff here at Little Acorns and we are proud of our continued success in preparing our children for their first steps into primary education.

Our team is friendly, caring and importantly they are highly qualified in all required levels of preschool education and first aid.

If you are looking for a preschool for your child, we would love to welcome you and your family for a visit.

The Little Acorns Team

Please call: 01959 540775 or Email: office@littleacornstatsfield.co.uk

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

MONKEY PUZZLE DAY NURSERY

Happy New Year from Monkey Puzzle Tatsfield





We hope everyone had a restful Christmas and a happy new year! The children at Monkey Puzzle loved the lead up to our Christmas break with lots of fun activities to take part in. All of our lovely staff and parents got involved in the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal 2024 this year – providing children less fortunate to wake up with a present at Christmas!









We will be taking part in lots of different events and celebrations throughout January and February.

One of those being Children's Mental Health Week where we will be focusing on happy minds with activities like yoga, sensory play, emotions and lots more! MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS!



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

TATSFIFLD SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Tatsfield Singers held its annual Christmas Concert on Saturday 14th December. We chose the earlier time of 5pm so as not to clash with the final of Strictly Come Dancing and despite the BBC moving the programme to 6pm (!) we were absolutely delighted to welcome a sell out audience.

The singers sang a variety of Christmas music ranging from traditional carols to the not so well known Christmas music. The audience were in great voice joining in with many of the songs, including singing Mistletoe and Wine accompanied by the Ukelele group.

A rousing rendition of "Jingle, Jingle, Jingle" brought the concert to an end, with the finishing touches added by the tenors and basses playing their kazoos, much to everyone's amusement. It was a really fun and festive evening enjoyed by everyone.

We were very pleased to have Doug Hewitt accompanying us on the keyboard, and as always a huge thank you to Sarah Fryer, our Musical Director for all the enthusiasm, hard work, time and patience that she gives to Tatsfield Singers.



New members are always welcome. We meet

at Tatsfield School on Thursday evenings at 7:45pm, starting on 23rd January 2025. If you enjoy singing why not come and join us for what promises to be a busy year.

In March, Tatsfield Singers are entering the Coulsdon & Purley Music Festival, but in a different category this time, as the children from Tatsfield School choir will be singing with us. Our Summer Concert will be on 5th July and our Christmas Concert on 13th December. Sara Williams

TATSFIELD 100 CLUB

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

1 st Prize	Pete Harrison	£45.00
2 nd Prize	Dave King	£30.00
3 rd Prize	Craig Seamons	£15.00

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

1 st Prize	Nigel Gracie	£45.00
2 nd Prize	Michael Evans	£30.00
3 rd Prize	David Parker	£15.00

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

TATSFIFLD FAIRTRADE GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT 2024

Since the last AGM in April 2023, the Tatsfield Fairtrade Group has continued to run stock Sheree's Stores with Fairtrade Products, write monthly reports in the Village Parish Magazine and run events to bring the community together and raise awareness of the range of Fairtrade Products available.



Fairtrade Status – we were delighted to renew our Fairtrade Community Status in June 2023 meeting the 5 required standards:

- Action Area 1: Boosting Fairtrade
- Action Area 2: Connecting Fairtrade
- Action Area 3: Fairtrade Changemakers
- Action Area 4: Fairtrade Ambassadors
- Action Area 5: Fairtrade Influencers



This work includes linking with the Parish Council, connecting with local businesses to stock Fairtrade goods, advocating for Fairtrade at local events, linking with the Village Organisations such as the School, the Church and the Scouts, encouraging Village groups to support Fairtrade with their choice of teas and coffees and this includes the Horticultural Society and the North Downs Sinfonia. All our articles and events aim to influence positive change in shopping habits.





There is no doubt that the **Tea Tent** attracted fewer people this year, but the innovation of running a Tombola was very successful and seemed to draw more people to the stall and spread good cheer.

Our support of St Mary's Church Sunday Teas continued and both events in July 2023 and September 2024 were very well supported

and included a sale of Goods supplied Movna Bridge from neighbouring Oxted.

The **Parish Magazine** articles have been

written by members of the committee have and varied deliberately in content, presentation and style. Some articles have been reports on inter-













national issues whilst others have included puzzles or reported back on village Fairtrade events. All have intended to raise awareness amongst readers of the positive impact their shopping choices can have on producers from all over the world.





The **September 2024 Fairtrade Fortnight** included 3 main activities. Hilary Harber attended the Primary School Assembly at the end of a week of activities run by each class in the school. The students were very attentive, and the school leaders remain extremely supportive of Fairtrade. They promoted the breakfast in their weekly newsletter to parents.

The Fairtrade Breakfast attracted a small number of villagers who enjoyed an opportunity to get together and chat whilst eating their muesli and toast with Fairtrade spreads. Moyna Bridge's stall sold over £800 of goods at our two events at that time which is very pleasing. A student from the primary school

came along with her parents as part of her school project on Fairtrade.

Social Media We have chosen to focus our attention on Facebook. Thanks to Hilary Vale for updating our page with news and events. In addition, she promotes our events on Tatsfield Talk which reaches many households in the village and is an active forum.



It remains very pleasing that some village organisations continue to support Fairtrade without the need for extra encouragement from the group. The cchool, the church, Sheree's store and the Scouts have been particularly active this year and we thank them for all they have done to raise the profile of Fairtrade in Tatsfield.

The Tatsfield Fairtrade Group website is updated after key events and is a place where visitors can find out about Fairtrade in Tatsfield as well as

informing readers about wider international issues. It is not accessed often, but serves as a useful record of our activities.

Our committee lost two key members in 2023 as both Bob David and Barbara Hester moved out of Tatsfield, however, it has been a pleasure to welcome Hilary Schultess Young to the group. As 2024 closes, we have time to recognise our successes, plan events for 2025 and build on the successful platform that Barbara Hester created with



her active and influential tenure as the co-ordinator of our group for seven years. Thank you Barbara for all you gave to our group.

Hilary Harber Email: tatsfieldfairtradegroup@gmail.com
More info: tatsfieldfairtradevillage.weebly.com / facebook.com/tatsfieldfairtrade

NORTH DOWNS SINFONIA

After the sellout success of the November concert, we are looking forward to welcoming back **Haru Ushigusa** on **May 10th** to play the much-loved Bruch Violin Concerto No 1. Haru has played with us many times before, most recently in November 2023 when she played – to great acclaim – the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. We will also be playing Schubert's Overture in the Italian Style, and Mendelssohn's 'Lost' Symphony. This is his String Symphony No 8 which he re-wrote to include wind parts. He was only 13 when he wrote the original symphony (he wrote 13 between the ages of 12 and 14!) but it shows a maturity far beyond his years. The concert will be conducted by Ben Knowles, who has conducted NDS on several occasions before.

It has been six years since we increased our prices, but rising costs have forced us to do so for this concert. Tickets will be £13, with concessions £10, but each ticket will now include a programme, which we currently sell separately. As usual, they will be available from Sheree's nearer the date of the concert, and will also be available to book by phoning 01959 577659, or by emailing northdownssinfonia@gmail.com.

Peter Maynard



ST MARY'S MATTERS



Advent and Christmas at St Mary's A big 'Thank You' to all who helped deliver the programme of Advent and Christmas services, in particular Bishop Chris Goldsmith, Curate Revd Debra Elsdon, our pianist Sarah Coop, the Tatsfield Singers, our Flower Team leaders and members for decorating the church. Titsev Estate for the greenery. Rachel Jewitt Head of Tatsfield Primary School for hosting Christingle, Nick Smith for providing music on Christmas day, our Churchwardens and all who provided refreshments in the Millenium Hall

following services.

Nativity Tableau Our thanks to Sauro Gabelli, who again built a magnificent Nativity Tableau in the church narthex, an Italian custom which Sauro likes to share and is enjoyed by our many visitors. As in previous years, money collected during our Advent and Christmas services and the Nativity Tableau goes to our nominated Charity, The Children's Society.



Christmas Food Deliveries Thanks to all who donated food and money to for Westerham foodbank this Christmas. The high cost of living along with a drop in foodbank donations means our local community still need our help. Our next delivery is Thursday 13th February 2025. Food suggestions include; canned vegetables and meat, tinned fish and fruits, ready meals, baked beans, milk, fruit juice, porridge, biscuits, cereals, coffee and tea as well as rice, pulses, and toiletries. You can leave non-perishable food donations in the church (opening times below) or please contact me. Monetary donations made are used to purchase further food. Thank you again for your valuable support. Hilary Vale 01959 577864



Outreach Curate Revd Debra Elsdon had a busy Advent and Christmas engaging with the church and wider village communities across all age groups. In addition to her involvement with key services she met children and parents from local toddler and nursery groups as well as visiting Tatsfield School.She also visited elderly/housebound Parishioners. Left: Revd Debra dressed as Angel Gabriel to greet children visiting St Marys from a local toddler group based in the Millennium Hall, as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Holy Communion for the sick and house-bound Those unwell and/or house-bound who wish to receive Holy Communion at home or place of residence can contact our Church Office. Details below.

Life Events We welcome enquires for baptisms, weddings, funerals and interment of ashes. Further information is on our website www.lttm.org.uk/stmarys or email the Parish Office at stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com.

St Mary's Churchyard Team Weather permitting the churchyard Team plans to return to work on Saturday 1st March 2025.

St Mary's Tatsfield 100 Club Results - December 2024 Draw

50 M Langford £23 73 D Gulley £14

30 K Moffat £9

St Mary's £44

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

Forward Look - Lent 2025 Looking ahead, Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March this year. Although there is no service planned for St Mary's, all are welcome to the 8pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St Peter's Limpsfield village. For your diaries our Lent 'Friendship Lunches' begin on Saturday 29th March. Watch this space for details.

ST MARY'S CHURCH OPENING TIMES

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

CONTACTS

St Mary's Church Office: The Parish Office, High Street, Limpsfield RH8 0DG.
Phone: 01883 712512 Email: stmoffice.lttm@btinternet.com
Open Thurs 9.30-13.30 - emails are checked regularly for urgent matters.

Team Rector: Revd Helen Cook 07530 609511 Email: hjwcook@yahoo.co.uk (day off Friday)

Curate: Revd Debra Elsdon 07436 172130 Email: curate.lttm@gmail.com (days off Mon & Fri)

Parish Administrator: Steve Tatler - Church Office Thurs 9.30 -13.30 (details above)

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

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

REGULAR TATSFIELD EVENTS AND INFORMATION

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

UPCOMING EVENTS - VILLAGE AND BEYOND					
JANUARY					
21st Tue	12.30pm	Not So Young Club, WIH			
25 th Sat	7.45pm	Oxted Comedy Bob Mills and Friends, Barn Theatre			
29 th Wed	2.15pm	Henry VII's State Bed, Arts Society, Limpsfield Church Hall			
FEBRUAR					
1 st Sat	2.30pm	St Mary's School – Thank You for the Music, Barn Theatre			
1 st Sat	7.30pm	St Mary's School – Thank You for the Music, Barn Theatre			
8 th Sat	7.45pm	Big Love (Fleetwood Mac songbook), Barn Theatre			
14 th Sat	7.45pm	Randy and the Rockets, Barn Theatre			
24 th Mon	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
25 th Tue	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
26 th Wed	-	History of Art in Wallpaper, Arts Society, Limpsfield Church Hall			
26 th Wed	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
27 th Thu	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
28 th Fri	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
MARCH					
1 st Sat	tbc	Churchyard Tidy Up (weather permitting)			
1 st Sat	12.30pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
1 st Sat	7.00pm	Southern Counties Drama Festival, Barn Theatre			
5 th Wed	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield			
13 th Thu	7.00pm	Blue Stockings, Young Oxted Players, Barn Theatre			
14 th Fri	7.00pm	Blue Stockings, Young Oxted Players, Barn Theatre			
15 th Sat	2.00pm	Blue Stockings, Young Oxted Players, Barn Theatre			
15 th Sat	7.00pm	"Lee Miller", Curzon Cinema, VH			
15 th Sat	7.00pm	Blue Stockings, Young Oxted Players, Barn Theatre			
19 th Wed	7.30pm	Wonder by Tailfeatgerdance, Barn Theatre			
20 th Thu	7.30pm	Amy Johnson's Last Flight Out, Barn Theatre			
21 st Fri	7.45pm	Johnny Cash Revisietd, Barn Theatre			
22 nd Sat	12.30pm	The Ultimate Bubble Show (magic show), Barn Theatre			
22 nd Sat	3.30pm	The Ultimate Bubble Show (magic show), Barn Theatre			
29 th Sat	tbc	Lent Friendship Lunch, MH			
		,			
APRIL	7.00	"The Cuitie" Courses Cinema VIII			
26 th Sat	7.00pm	"The Critic", Curzon Cinema, VH			
MAY					
4 th Sun	11.30am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH			
5 th Mon	11.30am	Tatsfield Art Group Exhibition, VH			
4 a+b a .					

Haru Ushigusa plays for North Downs Sinfonia Concert, VH

Tatsfield ClubFest and Volunteer Awards, Westmore Green

10th Sat tbc

11th Sun tbc

THE TATSFIELD GARDENER IN FEBRUARY

Here we are at the start of a new gardening year, maybe you are already having thoughts about how your garden will look this year; what plants, vegetables and fruit to grow, maybe you are aiming to be more self sufficient or determined to find that balance between looking lovely and being wildlife friendly too, now there is a challenge!

Fortunately this magazine has not just Nigel, but Jim also giving excellent advice, not to mention a host of exciting projects both local and national to help you get that important balance just right.

Recently I overheard a gardening conversation between two friends where one was explaining with enthusiasm that now is the time to get out in the garden with the loppers and saw to prune all the garden shrubs into a nice rounded shape, explaining that this is something they do every year. Imagine my dilemma - a social event is not the place to try and explain the 'rules' for pruning shrubs! It reminds me of my college days when we were informed that every shrub must be pruned according to its 'horticultural merits'. In plain language that means to prune in such a way to get the best value possible e.g. flower, attractive fruit, or foliage or a lovely natural shape. So started a professional lifetime of learning about the merits of shrubs, not just their proper names but all their features that make them an ideal subject for a particular location and of course suitable for the local soil type.

When advising someone on the best shrubs for their garden it is very important not to bamboozle them with horti tech talk. So here are a few pruning guidelines for your new year project:

- Many shrubs do not need regular pruning to look their best, they grow naturally into a pleasing shape with plenty of flower.
- If you have a plant, and you don't know its name, that has grown too big for its position and needs reducing, prune if after flowering. Try to maintain its natural shape and make sure to stimulate new shoots low down by cutting out old shoots as low down as you can reach.
- Shrubs that flower early in the year generally do best if they are pruned after flowering has finished. This is particularly important for early flowering roses (like the shrub rose 'Canary Bird' and the rambler type 'Albertine').
- Many of the large group of shrubs that flower later in the year can be pruned in early spring.

Confused? Worry not, help is at hand! There are many books, large and small, that give detailed guidance, but probably the best information can be found on the Royal Horticultural Society website (www.rhs.org.uk) put in the search box RHS Pruning Groups and there it is all laid out for you, be patient, there are thirteen groups for shrubs and an additional eight for roses!

Jon Allbutt

WILDLIFE GARDENING TIPS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Happy New Year folks.

And what a fabulous time of year for enjoying your garden, though mainly from indoors looking out through a window. I was really chuffed to see our daffs already blooming on Christmas Eve, and we've got plenty more on their way, but this time of year there is a real pleasure in feeding the birds and seeing so many species thriving despite all the pressure on their natural habitat.

Much of our wildlife is suffering tremendous harm from intensive farming and urban development such that our gardens are fast becoming an essential sanctuary for much of our native fauna. So, in this time of goodwill to others, bird feeding goes a long way to helping them survive. And it's really rewarding to see and hear plenty of birdlife flitting around - they are an unmistakable sign of a healthy garden. And, of course, come springtime, they will nest and raise their brood close to a food source. Hence feeding them now will bring you dividends because as their population grows, they will help with pest control (they'll manage the garden spiders & bugs), and by serenading you when the evenings warm up enough to relax outside with a glass of something. Who knows, you might even get to hear a nightingale or turtle dove, both of which were once commonplace but now as rare as the proverbial hen's teeth. Sadly, we have unwittingly chased these two species into massive decline by destroying their habitat. In fact, we have caused the UK wild bird population to fall by 73 million since 1970. For most of us I think that matters, after all, why would anyone want to deprive their children of the wildlife that their grandparents enjoyed? If that were the case, we'd all be a bit less fond of David Attenborough, and all be a bit more Atilla the Hun.

I know there's plenty of folks out there who do feed the birds, but sometimes you can't get too much of a good thing. After all, our buildings, farms and roads have covered up the natural spaces where they used to live, so its good to give a little back; if you want to see them, feed them.

Interesting fact of the month.... Think of the weight of a modern penny piece. That wee little coin weighs the same as Britain's smallest rodent, the harvest mouse. I found that quite mind boggling – how do they fit everything into such a tiny body? But then comes the other wonderful fact about our tiniest mammal – it is the only British animal to have a sophisticated prehensile tail which can grab and hold things just like a monkey can, unlike the tail of a cat and dog.

Harvest mice don't hibernate, so they need to feed through winter, and they have similar diets to many birds. Hence if you feed the birds, they won't be competing with the mice, so you'll be doing the little guys a favour too, and consequently you'll help the whole ecosystem in which the tiny little harvest mouse is an essential part.

Jim Kenney

NIGFL'S NATURE NOTES

Well, it's time to finish off your offerings for 2024, and what an interesting set of notes they are, beginning with this one from Mary (Smith) who had a fungi query:

(26.10.24) 'I saw these fungi in the school car park when I was litter picking this

morning. I showed them to several people at the allotments but no-one was sure what they were.'

I did some research online and came up with a couple of possibilities, one of which was 'Bleach Cup' fungus. I sent photos. What did Mary think?

'The bottom photo looks very like the ones I saw. However, via Ruth Yeeles' phone it came up as X--- Pados (that is the nearest to the name I can remember). Bleach cup fungus is apparently Disciotis Venosa which is a



completely different name. I think the bleach cap might be the answer.'

I hope it was, Mary. I must say, the multitude of photo references online is immensely helpful when trying to identify difficult plant forms. In the old days it may well have necessitated a trip down to the library. Hang on a minute, what am I saying? Libraries are wonderful: Ban the internet! Ban mobile phones! Let's get back to paper pages!

The photograph of a bird, sent to us by Greg (Watkins), was somewhat easier to identify. The blood and guts in his sideway were a giveaway:

(07-08.11.24) 'Just saw your article in the Parish Mag. Think the **Sparrowhawk** is a serial offender - this was outside our back door last week. What was left looked like a Tarantino movie!' (Disturbing photo received but unpublished with Greg's approval.)

Luckily, Greg, I'd finished breakfast before opening your email. Presumably, this harbinger of death simply carried on eating while you were watching. These birds are a living nightmare. Unfortunately, there's nothing that preys on *them*, so they'll just carry on in their murderous way with impunity. Particularly sad in this case as someone has lost one of their 'pet' doves - a pure white dove, symbol of 'Peace on Earth'. Let's hope this isn't an omen of things to come. No, of course not. Why should it be? There are only half a dozen or so power-crazed, autocratic, missile-happy warmongers on the planet. What could possibly go wrong?

'Sorry to ruin your lunch! Yes, I too couldn't help but draw the same geopolitical parallels. Even more so after this week's shock from across the Atlantic [US election]. In happier news, I am loving the **great spotted woodpecker** and **nuthatch**, who are regular visitors to the feeders, along with the **greenfinches** and **goldfinches**. Not seen the green woodpecker yet, but am keeping an eye out. Bought a second-hand scope and tripod from eBay and really enjoying the close-ups!'

I've recently thought of buying a mini or compact scope, Greg. One that fits into a trouser pocket. Easier to carry than binoculars when out and about. Perhaps I'll buy one for my birthday? It's either that or a decent microscope. Like yourself, I've bought loads of good stuff on ebay. I must resume bargain hunting!

Next we have Jim (Yeeles) recounting his experience with a prickly character he came across on Ship Hill... at night... spooky!

(27.11.24) 'As we drove up to last night's meeting [?] we were surprised to encounter a static **Hedgehog** rolled into a tight ball in the middle of Ship Hill, just after the school entrance No doubt it had fingers firmly stuck in ears while repeating, "La la la, you can't see me". Ruth parked in the village centre and by the time I'd got back to it I was relieved to find it still 'intact' despite several vehicles passing over it. Many thanks to the local driver who stopped to offer help as I moved it to the side of the road for a quick inspection. Finding no obvious signs of injury I relocated it to some thick undergrowth off the footpath below the school. On the way home from the meeting I went back to the release spot and, unable to find 'Sonic', was hopeful he/she had ambled off to find some more suitable habitat for refuge and had not been snaffled by an opportunistic badger! It was my first 'live' sighting of a local Hog for many years and a reminder to keep those eyes peeled when out and about.

I do have another interesting observation, but more of that later...'

Okay – nothing spooky, but promising, in as much as this shows that our Hedgehog friends are still with us, albeit in limited numbers. They should be asleep right now but as they emerge, with the onset of spring, we may be able to build a clearer picture of how many are around. So, if you are visited by a Hedgehog, please send a message. It will be gratefully received. And remember - **don't** feed them with bread and milk! They will be quite happy gobbling up a few juicy worms and those pesky garden slugs. Which is one very good reason why you should **never** use chemical slug pellets.

Thanks for your notes, Jim, and I'm sure we are all looking forward to reading about your other 'interesting observation'. Intrigue and suspense in Nature Notes; who would have thought it?

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



TATSFIELD ART GROUP

Happy New Year everyone, welcome to 2025! TAG ended 2024 with three workshops - the first with Carol Gaskell who asked us to designed plates,

cups and teapots in the style of the ceramicist Clarice Cliff. Clarice produced over 2,000 designs so we had a great deal of amazing designs to inspire us. Carol also provided us







Maggie Garstang

Natasha Tetley

Simon Cook

with ceramic examples and templates plus setting up a still life of Clarice Cliff ceramics. Clarice was inspired by the organic forms of flowers and trees often outlined with black. Colours often found in her work were orange, yellow and sap green.

The last two workshops 'Harbour' were led by professional Artist Zsuzsanna Pataki. Zsuzsanna shared her photos of Folkstone

Harbour, viewed from the railway bridge which is a similar to a view from the sea; which she explained gives a nice angle shore that leads the eye. Zsuzsanna's art tools include kitchen sponges or make sponges, palette knives, baby wipes, wet rag and lots of fun.

















Then it was our turn to have a go! These are a few of our unfinished paintings.

The Art Group takes a break over the winter months, but will return to the Village Hall on Monday 24th February 7pm until 9.30pm fully relaxed and raring to go. Our door is always open if you fancy trying something new this year, just pop in and have a chat. Each year the group holds its Annual Art Exhibition showing paintings in oils, pastels, acrylic, watercolour and other media. This exhibition has become a notable event in the social life of the village. Starting with the popular Private View on Saturday 3rd May, invited guests will enjoy refreshments and meet all the participating artists. On Sunday 4th May and Monday 5th May the exhibition will be open from 11am until 4.30pm. Entry is free and all are welcome to buy or merely wishing to appreciate the talents on display. Homemade cakes and savouries will be available to buy and of course tickets for our fantastic raffle prizes.

If you would like more information, please contact Sandra 07867502235 or Carol 07815775859.

TATSFIELD'S PAST



November gave rise to several dozen copies of items from the archives being provided to visitors to the *History Weekend* at which there was also a steady demand for copies of our publications, especially *Tatsfield – The First 2000 Years*. Most

requests were from Tatsfielders keen on knowing about the history of where they now live and who their predecessors were. If you have asked for some documents from the archive and have not received them, please contact me as below.

A few days later and out of the blue, we received a visit from BBC Radio Surrey, who were following up a Manchester Guardian report about the winter of 1927/28 and the Salvation Army chartering a plane to fly low over Tatsfield to drop urgently-needed food supplies. We told the reporter there had been several other snow emergencies in Tatsfield in living memory and two long-term residents were happy to be interviewed about them.

A further delve into the archives at the time revealed a Maidstone Gazette report of May 1st 1849 that the Sevenoaks to Croydon coach had run into 10ft snowdrifts at Tatsfield Court, the horses had to be uncoupled and passengers obliged to walk back to Limpsfield!

That wasn't the first time Tatsfield appeared in the press. The British Library has 263 mentions of us in 1849 and earlier, although most concerned property sales or official announcements. Others recorded regular local activities, such as hunting. On 1st February 1825, for instance, among the hunts in the London area listed by the *Star* newspaper were the Surrey Foxhounds. They were to meet two days later at Crown Ash Hill which leads down to Oaklands Road in what was then Cudham but is now Biggin Hill. Their successors feature in a number of postcards in our archives, showing the hunt assembled outside the Old Ship.

100 years ago: At the beginning of 1925, Godstone Rural District Council (Tandridge DC's predecessor) decided to take action over traffic speeds in Tatsfield. There had been several mentions in local papers during previous months of growing concern about speeding traffic. In its first edition of the New Year, the Westerham Herald reported that an application was to be made to the Automobile Association for warning signs to be erected – "one on the road through Tatsfield Green opposite the Post Office box in Old Lane, and the other at Ship Hill". In more recent years, these positions were where volunteers operating Speedwatch were to be seen checking speeds and reporting offenders to Surrey Police.

A few weeks later, a 22-year-old Tatsfield motor cyclist was seriously injured in a collision on his way to Beckenham. The Surrey Mirror reported his being taken to Croydon General Hospital suffering from a fractured skull and arm injuries. The parish council had been making representations about how the behaviour of motorists was being controlled. Its January meeting was told that the local police Superintendent had denied giving permission for local 'motor road trials'. He had underlined that any infringement

of existing regulations, including excessive speeds, would lead to proceedings being taken.

At its February 1925 meeting, the parish council was moved to complain at the way the district council was offering tenders for repairs and maintenance of council houses in the village. The assertion was that the local building surveyor was not aware of the names of Tatsfield builders when tenders were being prepared.

As 1925 got under way, the Westerham Herald reported that the Working Men's Club had entered the Edenbridge District Games League and was meeting with success. The Club had also been encouraging boys of the village school to take greater interest in gardening, whilst the Surrey Mirror was reporting that the Gardening Society itself was experiencing a large attendance at meetings, one of which had included a detailed lecture on how to prepare vegetables for the autumn show.

Ian Mitchell, Tatsfield History Project - Tatsfield.history@talk21.com Tel: 577376 Website: https://e-voice.org.uk/tatsfieldhistoryproject/

NEWS FROM OXTED & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Oxted & District Probus is a great link for business and professional men, who are retired or almost retired, to meet, chat, take a tasty lunch, hear an interesting speaker and support local charities. Probus clubs originated in 1965 when a group of Rotarians, wishing



to continue their friendship after retiring from work, met in Welwyn Garden City. The idea was taken up a year later in Caterham (yes! Caterham) where the name Probus was adopted. This reflected the PROfessional and BUSiness membership, which in fact embraces anyone who has held a position of responsibility during their professional life. There are now 247 Probus clubs in the UK and 45 in Surrey.

Oxted and District Probus Club meets in St Peter's Hall Limpsfield on the third Wednesday of each month. A bar opens at noon and lunch is served at 12.30, followed by the speaker who will often support a charity rather than taking a fee. Talks this year include Scotland Yard, the 1915 Zeppelin raid on Croydon, UFOs, Bygone Limpsfield, St Catherine's Hospice and The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Club's Visits Secretary organises several visits each year for members, with wives and other guests. Recent visits have included the Medway Queen a ship which rescued troops from Dunkirk in 1940, Bazalgette's Victorian Cathedral of Ironwork at Crossness, Farnborough Air Sciences Trust, Pashley Manor's tulip festival and the annual musical revival at Chichester Theatre.

There are currently over 80 members and new members are always welcome. See the club's website for more information: search "Oxted Probus". If you are interested, contact the Membership Secretary on cjboxted@aol.co.uk.

Henry Webber, Probus Chairman 23-24

THE NIGHT SKY IN TATSFIELD – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2025

The sky, as I'm sure you know, rises and sets carrying with it the stars, Sun, Moon and any number of other celestial bodies. A process that is nothing to do with the sky itself, rather it is a result of the Earth spinning on its axis giving rise to the illusion that the celestial sphere is rotating about the north and south celestial poles (NCP and SCP). These poles are simply the Earth's poles of rotation projected into space and onto the inside of the imaginary celestial sphere. You probably know that the north celestial pole is marked by the star Polaris, which is in the constellation of Ursa Minor (the little bear). However, not all of the sky moves in the way I've just suggested with a portion centred on the NCP (and SCP for those south of the equator) that in fact never sets at all. The size of this circle of sky is determined by where on the Earth we are situated, or to be more precise, how far from the pole we are.

If you were standing at the north pole, the (NCP) would be overhead and your latitude would be +90°. However, our location on the Earth's surface gives us a latitude of about 52° so, for us, the north celestial pole is 52° above the horizon. To take this to its logical conclusion, if you were on the equator, latitude 0°, you would have the NCP on one horizon and the SCP on the other. This means that everything in the sky would be visible to you at some time during the year.

To go back to my point about some of the sky not setting, it follows from what I said above that anything you can see that lies between the NCP and the northern horizon will never set from our latitude. Admittedly, it will be in different positions throughout the year, note how the position of the Plough changes with the seasons, but it will never pass below the horizon. We call anything that doesn't set "circumpolar".

Should it be clear on the nights around January 17th - 20th, have a look towards the south west where you will see the brilliant planet Venus as it makes a close approach to Saturn. The two bodies pass less than 2½° apart before Venus moves off northwards.



The map is drawn for 1st February at 6:30pm and shows the positions of the four naked eye planets visible at that time. Mars is close to the two bright stars in Gemini, Castor and

Pollux, whilst Jupiter is in Taurus and just north of the bright star Aldebaran which has an obvious red hue. Saturn and Venus are both below the Square of Pegasus although Venus is moving quite swiftly away from Saturn since they were close ten to twelve days ago. A 13% illuminated waxing crescent Moon lies roughly between the two planets on 1st February. **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 th February	Project 8 Sandra Shury workshop 'Geologic abstracts' inspired by Carol Nelson
3 rd March	Own work
10 th March	Project 9 Zsuzsanna Pataki TBA
17 th March	Project 9 Zsuzsanna Pataki TBA
24 th March	Project 10 Sheila Alexander Sea and skies in ink and bleach
31 st March	Own Work
7 th – 27 th April	Easter Break
12 th April	Horticultural Show (Titles: Fur; New Beginnings, Narcissi, The Easter Bunny)
28 th April	Exhibition preparation
	Own Work
Bank Holiday	Art Exhibition
3 rd May	Private View 3pm - 7pm
4 th and 5 th May	11am – 4.30pm
12 th May	Project 11 Paolo Francis TBA
19 th May	Project 11 Paolo Francis TBA
26 th May	Bank Holiday
2 nd June	Project 12 Hannah Franklin TBA
9 th June	Project 13 Ian Henderson TBA
16 th June	Project 13 Ian Henderson TBA
23 rd June	ТВА
30 th June	ТВА
7 th July	ТВА
14 th July	ТВА
Summer break	Social event to be arranged



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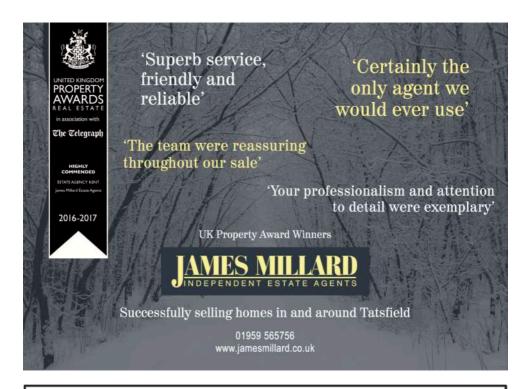
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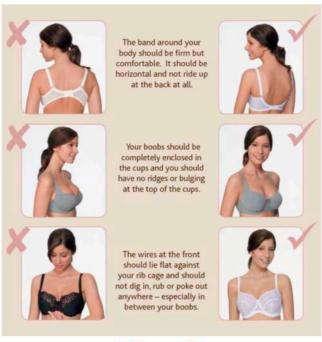
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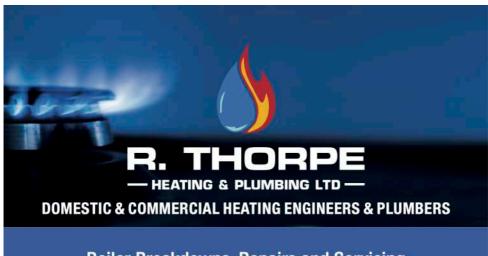
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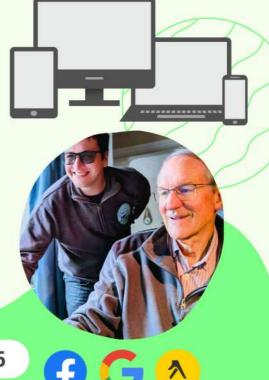
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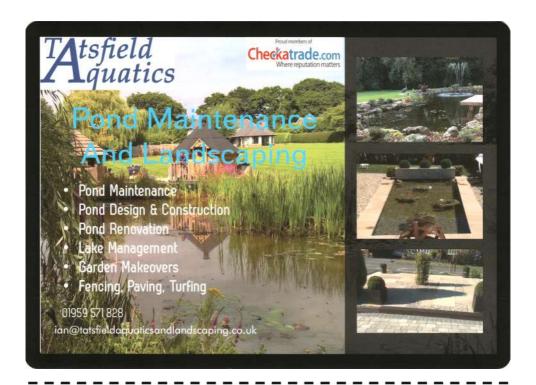
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