



**CHALGRAVE  
NEWS  
SPRING 2002**



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**Welcome to the first edition of the 'New'  
Chalgrave News  
Full of news and views from around the Parish**

At present we aim to publish quarterly but this could become more frequent by demand.

The editorial team want this to be a community newspaper and so your views and input are going to be in great demand.

We welcome any comments, praise or criticism as the issues come out in order for us to be able to improve the **Chalgrave News** over the months ahead.

We want people to read it, not just throw it away when delivered! So it's important we develop into a format that all residents of Chalgrave parish find interesting.

With this in mind we have decided that we would have as many differing sections within the newsletter as possible - we can therefore take contributions on almost any subject!

Please let us have any articles you would like published. You will see that we have also added an 'articles for sale' section - we are still working on the agony aunt page!

Please place any correspondence in the newly installed letterbox at Chalgrave Memorial Hall.

**Happy reading  
&  
A very happy 2002 to you all**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENED AROUND THE PARISH SINCE THE LAST CHALGRAVE NEWS?**

- **Tebworth Post Office has closed with the retirement of Lyn Green**
- **Two fatal vehicle crashes on the approaches to Tebworth**
- **Andrew Selous (Conservative) wins South West Bedfordshire Parliamentary seat**
- **Rhys Goodwin retains his Beds County Councillor seat**
- **Confirmation received from Beds County Council that traffic calming measures are to start in Tebworth this year**
- **Village games took place in September - Tebworth won again!**
- **T.V. cameras at Chalgrave Church**
- **The Plough cricket team won a game!**
- **Armed Police and helicopter chase gun thieves in Wingfield!**

**Deadline date for articles for next issue 15th March 2002**

### **ONCE UPON A PARISH MAGAZINE**

It was sometime in 1976 - just when it had been decided to close and sell St Mary's Church, Tebworth that Peter Freeman produced the first issues of a Parish Newsletter. Before then local church news had been at best two pages inserted into a prepared booklet obtained from St Albans.

For the first time Peter gave us a publication about the village for the village. Copies were produced on a photo-copier - quite a cheap way of producing the number of copies required. After Peter had produced the magazine for some years David Evers, who lived in the bungalows near The Plough, took over as editor - and named it The Chalgrave Chronicle.

David moved away from this area and for a while no magazine was produced. In the spring of 1985 Chris Neal from Harlington, who attended Chalgrave Church, brought his business expertise and flair into devising a way in which a magazine could be produced and circulated free of charge to church-goers and the Parish.

Having found a printer, Alan Clarke, who must have had a strong charitable streak in his nature, Chris set about selling advertising and using the revenue to cover the cost of printing.

The first issue had just 9 advertisers and came out in May/June 1985. Typists were Chris's wife, Christine, Margaret Perry and Marjorie Field of Dunstable. Copy was done on electric typewriters and cut and pasted to fit the page before printing. Distribution was through the Street Wardens which lasted right up to this year - and was one thing for which people would always volunteer.

In his first editorial Chris stressed the need to let him know of any news in the Parish - births, weddings, engagements, guides, scouts, parties, outings, new business ventures, sports, clubs, problems, W.I. - anything or rather everything!

The first run was for 150 copies bi-monthly, however, production was soon over 400 as more and more people found how good and informative it was - advertising revenue kept pace with the increased costs although donations from many people who enjoyed the magazine were a wonderful boost.

From August 1991 Avril Withers took over from Chris Neal - and her opening Editorial said exactly what Chris had written five years earlier - Please send us your news! Avril was a stickler for presentation (having had her own business of printing and merchandise) and of course by now computers were in and production was just a little easier. Disaster struck when Alan Clarke could no longer carry on producing copies but almost unbelievably our vicar Keith Steel managed to locate Bartham Press who took over production until the spring of 2001 when Village News ceased production. - And they really do deserve a medal for their good-natured and unstinting service.

There must be something about August - because in August 1994 Barbara Kingham took over as Editor - inheriting Margaret as resident key-tapper. Sue Russell - she of the dead straight eye and immunity to the fumes of cow gum - came in to help with graphics, boarders and all sorts of odds and ends.

It was a good editorial team with varying strengths and hardly a weakness - except for frequent stops for coffee/tea breaks and a good natter (most of which we couldn't put in the magazine!!)

Some 6 years on we knew it was time for a change and a fresh approach but appeals for help went unheard.

The old guard wish the new magazine every possible success. **BUT** if the magazine is to represent the village - then the **VILLAGE MUST SEND IN THE NEWS** - harder now than in 1985 when there was a play group, a W.I., the Methodist Chapel still open, a Tuesday Club for the over 60's, Phil Howe writing a gardening column - to name but a few. No doubt the Parish Council can produce enough articles from documents sent to them but is that what is really wanted? Of course not, it needs **Village News for Village People** - so support your new team, encourage them and enjoy their efforts!

### **YOUR NEW EDITORIAL TEAM**

<i>Jean &amp; Tony Cornes</i>	<b>874605</b>
<i>Frances &amp; Roger Masters</i>	<b>873039</b>
<i>Lyndie Lothian</i>	<b>874166</b>

*Any other volunteers from the Parish?*  
*Phone any of above numbers with news or views for the next issue. Deadline 15th June 2002*

### **And What Is This????**



Once again, more rubbish dumped by COWBOYS.

This pile of junk was dumped in the field gateway in Tebworth Road during the week ending 1st September last year.

Does anyone know what it is? Or more importantly WHO DUMPED IT? Keep your eyes open and if you see anyone dumping rubbish, take the vehicle number and report them to the police. After all, who knows what is going to be next??

*Someone once said, 'one man's rubbish is another man's fortune.'*

*Well there must be some very rich people around this area judging by the amount of rubbish dumped on us each month!!!!*

## Closure of Tebworth Post Office

June 30th 2001 saw the closure (we hope temporary) of Tebworth Post Office and village shop. Lyn Green has been our Post Mistress for over 17 1/2 years, taking over from Mrs Mooring in November 1983.



For the first ten years Lyn opened the post office full time running the 'supermarket'!! along side. Lyn ran a dry cleaning service, photograph processing and supplied fresh bread and vegetables. The children collected outside after getting off the school bus, spending their pocket money on a pick'n'mix pot filled up with goods from the sweet counter which ran the length of the shop.



*CCTV picture of the last shop lifter (notice pockets obviously filled with goods and shifty expression) Any one identify suspect?*

Lyn did far more than run the Postal side of things. She ran a prescription service for people who couldn't get into the Toddington Chemist, sold tickets for village events, collected sponsorship monies, took village hall bookings and much more. It was also a meeting place for a chat. We will all miss the wonderful service that Lyn gave the village for so many years and wish Lyn well in her retirement. Lyn says "The Post Office consider that the closure of Tebworth Post Office is only temporary. They hope that someone will come forward who would like a fun job while working from home and has suitable premises".



## NEW MP VISITS CHALGRAVE



**Andrew Selous** - our new MP for South West Bedfordshire visited Chalgrave recently and has promised to hold regular surgeries in the village in the future.

Andrew has written : -

*'It is a great pleasure as your new Member of Parliament to contribute to your Parish Magazine. I am extremely committed to supporting all villages throughout South West Beds, and am pledged to come to Tebworth and Wingfield to hold surgeries and to help those people who cannot easily get into Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis.*

*I am working hard on a number of issues that effect people in small villages and hamlets like yours. I want to see an end to the fly tipping that is spoiling our beautiful country lanes. I know how precious our green belt is to many people who appreciate our unspoilt countryside. I know that an increase in heavy traffic through is also a great source of concern.*

*I believe that the extension of the Leighton Southern bypass from the Thorn Turn to the M1 and the construction of the Dunstable Eastern Bypass will lessen the rat running and number of heavy lorries going through our villages.*

*If there is any matter you wish to raise with me, please ring our office on 01582 662821 and make an appointment to see me'.*

## MESSAGE FROM OUR DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I am pleased that the Parish magazine has risen again under new editorial drive and in this connection I have been asked to write a few lines as your representative on the District Council. Many of you will know that I have represented the Parish for over 25 years and currently am Leader of the Council, chairing the Executive Committee.

In addition to services supplied such as housing, refuse collection and arts and recreation services for the district I have over the years been involved in a number of outside appointments which currently consist of : -

**Environment Agency, covering local flood protection and local drainage boards**

**East of England Tourist Board, as a director representing Bedfordshire**

**National Health Service, as a director of the local Primary Care Trust**

**Education, as a governor of Barnfield Further Education College**

**Local Government Association, as chairman of Bedfordshire and Luton**

I am very happy to help with all problems covered by either my Council or the above agencies.

**Norman B Costin  
District Councillor**

### **INTERESTING WEB SITES**

Want to buy cheap train tickets? - [thetrainline.com](http://thetrainline.com)

Ever wondered what happened to those old school friends? -[friendsreunited.co.uk](http://friendsreunited.co.uk)

Interested in aerial maps and photos? - [multimap.com](http://multimap.com)

*If you know of any other interesting web sites (no we don't mean those type of sites!!) then please let us have details - remember you can pass on info to us via the new post box at the village hall.*

## WHAT'S IN YOUR DRAWERS?

BY

FLORRY BUNDA

A regular rummage through the drawers of the Parish can reveal interesting items from the past.



Here we have a mystery photograph supplied by one of our more mature residents.

He poses the question 'who are these people?'

It was taken post first world war and may be a collection of farm workers - or do you know better?

It was definitely taken outside the original Queen's Head pub (the thatched version) and shows Ernest Field as the licensee at that time.

Let us know. Any info we will publish in the next edition.

Meanwhile, we continue to pose the question - What's in your drawers?!

Send your old photos to No. 2 The Lane, Tebworth.

## THE CHALGRAVE GAMES 2001

*(BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!!)*

On Sunday 23rd September, members of the two villages of Tebworth and Wingfield, along with their families and friends from further afield, enjoyed themselves at the Annual Fete and Fun Day (known colloquially as The Chalgrave Games). Children's races, welly throwing, a penalty shoot-out and a tug of war were just some of the events for people to take part in.

In spite of the rain many people attended and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere. The children enjoyed the Bouncy Castle - thanks to Mike for supervising in the rain - whilst, inside the hall, John's rally-driving game was a popular challenge and Lyn's tombola was a great success. Thanks to Jim for commentary and Bill for keeping the score, which blew off the board during the afternoon and remains a mystery to this day! Hot food was provided by Pat and Chris who worked hard at the Bar-B-Q and Nicola kept the teas coming all day long. Alternative beverages were on sale from the traditional salesmen in the beer tent - thanks to Clive and Paul for giving up their day to work so hard on our behalf!

The Games themselves were preceded by the now annual Youth Club Tournaments held on the day before for the youngsters of the parish. A good turnout meant that table tennis, basketball and football trophies were hotly contended.

The results were as follows :-

**Table Tennis : Winner - Fred McGinty Runner-up - Jack McGinty**

**Basketball : Winner - Darren Matthews Runner-up - Stacey Brand**

**Football :**

**Winners - Adrian Webb, Fred McGinty, Darren Matthews, Gavin White, Ian Draycott, Emily Attack, Danielle Finch, Courtney Finch.**

**Runners-up : Matt Brand, Stacey Brand, Jason Harris, Carl Burrows, Jack McGinty, Lucy Colenutt, George Attack.**

**On the day itself the competitions attracted the usual stalwarts in terms of entries and the results were as follows :-**

**Art Competition : Under 10 years - 1st Lucy Glover 2nd Chaney Stubbs 3rd Courtney Finch. Over 10 years - 1st Sam Chapple 2nd Jack McGinty 3rd Meghan Chapple.**

## CHALGRAVE GAMES - CONTINUED

**Winner of the Chalgrave Church Cup : Lucy Glover**

**Flower arranging : Valerie Griffin**

**Most Unusual Cake : Danielle Finch**

**Photography : 1st Lauren Clarke 2nd Sue Leuty 3rd Jim McGinty**

*Children's races .*

*We have used this photo rather than one from this year for three reasons -*

- 1. The weather looks better than this year.*
- 2. More children took part.*
- 3. Our official photographer forgot to put film in the camera!!!*



**Local sponsors** ensured generous prizes were awarded and that there was plenty to do on the day.

**Special thanks to : -**

**King O'the Castles - Tebworth Road**

**Old Barns Nurseries - Chalgrave Road**

**Signs of the Times - Tebworth**

**The Queen's Head - Tebworth**

**Bernie Muspratt - Tebworth**

**Chalgrave Sports Club\_- Wingfield**

**Chalgrave Church**

**See you all next time - hopefully earlier in the year!!**

**Wendy McGinty**

### **Laughter & Life**

- Don't worry, I can keep a secret. It's the people I tell it to who can't!
- We've got everything on the menu today sir. So I see. Bring me a clean one!
- Retirement means twice as much husband on half as much money.
- In crime, they say take the money and run. In politics, they say run, then take the money!
- Housework is something that you do that nobody notices until you don't.

## CHALGRAVE CONCERT 2002



The last village concert took place in the old hall in 1999.

It has therefore been decided that the time has come

to stage another concert in our new hall.

The concert committee have provisionally decided to hold this towards the end of 2002.

Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee would welcome anyone willing to help out in putting on this show - we are looking for actors (any standard!), stagehands, scenery/props, publicity and tickets sales teams etc.



If interested or just want to learn more about this local event - the largest held in the Parish each year - please telephone either -

Roger Masters - 873039 or  
Tony Cornes - 874605

All profits go towards providing the senior citizens of our Parish with a Xmas present and lunch plus the occasional coach outing.



We



look forward

to hearing



## **THE CHALGRAVE NEWS PUTS A FEW QUESTIONS TO KEN GREEN - CHAIRMAN OF OUR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?**

“The difficult ones first eh!”

We do our best to act in the best interests of our community with reference to our last parish survey and interaction with parishioners in all matters. We have a need to respond and comment to the Beds and District councils but try to be as proactive as possible. We welcome the trend from both councils to make decisions in partnership with the parish councils.

### **WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL SPEND ITS MONEY ON?**

Our precept is just over £3000 so we don't have a lot to spend. Apart from the clerk's salary, insurance, election expenses, hire fees, repair costs and any legal fees we spend what we can supporting village committees and projects. In particular over the last few years we have tried to build up a fund to assist on traffic calming.

### **HOW DO I BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?**

If you are interested and feel you can give your time we very much encourage you to stand at the next election which will be next May. Think about it, we need new people with energy and ideas and commitment to invigorate the council.

### **WHAT HAS THE PARISH COUNCIL ACHIEVED?**

Considering that we have no power other than that of sound argument and persuasion I think we have achieved a considerable amount in the past few years, for example :

- The 30mph speed limit in Wingfield
- Extending the 30mph limit on the Chalgrave Road
- We are making good progress on traffic calming
- The footpath and bridleway network has been opened up
- Our influence on planning matters has, we feel, maintained the correct balance

We don't claim the new hall as our achievement, the credit goes here to the Memorial Hall Committee but we have always supported the hall and a good number of our members are on the hall committee

The re are numerous other things that we 'nag away at' and we usually get there in the end.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS?**

We cover agenda points and correspondence and follow through past points until they are cleared.

Continued on next page

## Questions to Ken Green continued

The District and County Councillors are invited, as is our village policeman. The agenda and previous minutes are always on the Parish notice boards. Meetings are 1st Tuesday each month at 7.30pm and normally close before 9.30pm.

All parishioners are very welcome to attend but cannot speak, except during the general forum, unless invited by the Chairman on points of information.

*Many thanks Ken for this insight into the workings of the Parish Council. If anyone has any comments or further questions they wish to put forward please do so by using the new post box at the front of the village hall. This is the first of what we hope will become a regular feature of 5 questions to a local personality.*

### **No - it's not the final six winners of PopStars 2002! A few of our local representatives**

**Front Row -**

**P.C. Phil Sutton - our beat officer**

**Ken Green -Chairman Parish Council**

**Brigid Heley - Clerk to Parish Council**

**Rear Row -**

**Tony Cornes - Parish Councillor**

**Rhys Goodwin - Chairman South Beds District & County Councillor**

**June Horne - Parish Councillor**

**Others not in photo - Norman Costin - District councillor, Roger Masters,**

**Frank Griffin, Dot Brinklow & Michael Leary - Parish Councillors**



### **Laughter & Life**

- A man who can smile when things go wrong has probably just thought of someone he can blame it on!
- I didn't sleep with my wife before I got married. How about you? I don't know. What was her maiden name?
- Behind every successful man stands an amazed mother - in - law!

## *ON THE WILD SIDE*

The foot and mouth crisis has kept us off the footpaths for most of the year, but they are now all open.

Wildlife has probably benefited from lack of disturbance by walkers. Rabbits, as usual, are plentiful, and there have been many sightings of badgers, foxes and muntjac deer.

What has been really wonderful is the increase in the number of song thrushes in our gardens, some good has come from the overabundance of slugs and snails, aftermath of all that rain last winter and spring!

At the time of writing, migrant birds are on the move. There are still some swallows and chiffchaffs about, but autumn is a time for watching the migrants pass through - some rarities too, just ask Brian Horne about the golden oriole in his garden!

Berries have appeared in the hedgerows as well as our gardens. Blackberries and sloes abound and those we find inedible also serve as larders for our native birds and for fieldfares and redwings about to arrive for the winter.

Harvests are in, fields ploughed and seeds planted already. Thank goodness we don't have to look at that typical 'set aside' at the bottom of The Lane! Set aside must have been around in 1922 to inspire T.S. Eliot to write *The Waste Land*, "What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow out of this stony rubbish?"

Never mind, a chemical cocktail will make the next crop grow and another field somewhere else will be laid to waste with weed killer for next year.

I thought set aside policy had an element of conservation in mind - wrong again!

Lyn Green  
September 2001

## **CHALGRAVE YOUTH CLUB**

On Fridays from 7:30 - 9:00

At Chalgrave Memorial Hall

For ages 9 -15

25p per evening

Drinks, crisps, sweets and chocolate on sale

Main activities : badminton, basketball, table tennis, snooker,  
computer games and music

We look forward to seeing you all next Friday.

## **CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB**

A combination of poor weather throughout the summer and a couple of opposition teams cancelling at the last moment meant that very few cricket matches were held last year. A great pity because of all the hard work in raising funds to purchase ground maintenance equipment and the dedicated efforts of the ground preparation team.

However a number of new players came forward from the parish to swell the overall membership.

The club will shortly be erecting two new football goal posts and nets to complement those already in place at the village hall. Everyone is invited to use them.

A full cricket report will be made in the next magazine issue.

Other interesting developments - the committee are presently registering the sports club as a charity - helps with grant applications and reducing other costs - e.g. council tax. Our annual fund raising quiz night will be held at the village hall - date not yet arranged. We have applied for a grant to install an all weather cricket strip which would have allowed us to play a few more games this summer.

One final point - does anyone in the parish have or know the whereabouts of any of the various trophies that were donated to the Sports Club some years ago? If so please let us know as we would like to reinstate the awarding of these trophies each year.

## **POLICE NEWS WITH PC PHIL SUTTON - OUR BEAT OFFICER**

Our Chalgrave News crime reporter met with P.C. Phil Sutton last October at his mobile unit parked outside the Memorial Hall.

He was there most of the afternoon and had already been visited by several residents of the Parish.



He can advise on anything which may trouble residents whether it is vandalism, better security in the home/car etc. or, indeed, more serious matters which sometimes arise. Phil did have some helpful comments about crime in the winter months when traditionally, the number of break-ins go up by as much as half again on the rest of the year.

### **Take these precautions to cut down your risk : -**

- Leave lights or a radio on so it looks like someone is at home
- Lock all windows - thieves can wriggle through any gap larger than a human head!
- Visible burglar alarms make burglars think twice
- Never leave garages or sheds unlocked
- Check fences on your boundary for gaps or weak spots
- A strong high gate at the side of a house will deter access to the rear of your property
- Be alert to strangers in the street. If you are suspicious, call the police
- Don't hide keys under the mat or flowerpot. Thieves look there first!

But don't lose sleep!! P.C. Sutton assures me that crime in our parish is very low although he'd be pleased to have details of whoever is dumping rubbish on our verges! It would certainly have been possible to furnish a small house with what's been dumped locally over the last 12 months! I had my eye on a rather attractive bed settee until it was towed away! Anyway any reports or comments contact - P.C. 683 Sutton on 01582 473348.

Phil and van will return through out this year. Check parish notice boards for date and times.

Call in. Take him a cake or two!

It doesn't do any harm to be on friendly terms with your local bobby!

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Toddington, Beds. LU5 6BY Tel 01525 876697*

## NEWS FROM CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

It's over 2 years now since the new village hall opened - how time flies! During this time the hall committee have been kept busy with various tasks to upgrade all the hall's equipment in keeping with a new hall facility. The kitchen is now equipped to cope with large number catering, plus tables and chairs to seat up to 150. We have sound equipment in place, including a hearing loop which we have recently fitted with a better microphone.

We have recently purchased a complete new set of glasses, cutlery and crockery.



*The 'old' Memorial Hall*

*Opened 4th June 1949 - closed 31st March 1999*

*The 'new' Memorial Hall*

*Opened 20th November 1999*

We have now also purchased our own stage extension.

A new notice board to replace the existing hall sign is our next major project.

The number of events we are putting on are increasing and we are trying to vary these to appeal to as large a proportion of the parish as we can.

One thing we do want to promote is the use of the hall by local small groups. If anyone would like to use the hall for this purpose (must be a resident of this parish and be attended by residents of this parish) please speak to our bookings clerk and we will see what we can do with hire fees - particularly if the group is going to be a regular weekly/monthly booking.

If you have never been to a function at the hall why not try out the next event—a murder/mystery evening in August. But remember to get your tickets early as these are always sell out evenings. More details in next issue of The Chalgrave News.

Just to clarify a point - Chalgrave Memorial Hall is the official title but more often referred to as Chalgrave Village Hall - they are one and the same!

Look out for the various flyers we put round (also in notice boards).

These give details of coming events.

## *ALL SAINTS CHURCH CHALGRAVE*

### OUR USE OF THE DIARY by Rev. Liam Matthews

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, we have more benefice diaries than we have ever had. Should you be looking for a diary for 2002 there are now plenty of these on sale at All Saints' Church. Thanks also to the new editorial board who have given me the opportunity to write in the new magazine.

Talking of diaries, did you know that you can now buy diaries, which begin in September or in June as well as January! This is because a 'new year' begins at different times for different people. For schoolteachers the school year begins in September, for financial experts the year begins after April 6th; for people with good resolutions it begins (and often ends) on Jan 1st!

Perhaps we should produce a benefice diary, which begins in November, for that is when the Church year begins. This means that we have reached the final weeks of the present year. On 1st November, we celebrate All Saints day and on the following day the commemoration of All Souls. It is very much a time for looking back over the past year. It is a solemn time. But November is not a sad time - despite the falling leaves and dark evenings. For reflection on the past brings home to us how yesterday's sacrifices have born fruit in today's prosperity. We have only to look around our own homes to see endless examples of how humanity's enterprise in the past helps us today: the tap that we turn on for water: the switch that we touch for light. It is the same in our spiritual lives.

As Christians we walk beneath the smile of God. We have comfort in sorrow, guidance in problems, help in temptation and assurance of eternal life, all purchased through the cross and passion of Christ. And we know this to be true because we have the lives of the saints to inspire and encourage us. And we also have an overwhelming debt to all Christians who have lived before us, who have made their contribution to the continuance of the faith and its triumph over fear and despair. Often they lived simple, faithful, uneventful lives but they are part of our life of faith today; just as the insignificant leaf, which falls, has its own gift towards enriching the soil for next year's harvest.

In the following weeks try to think about the richness and blessing, which the past has given us. Those who have gone before us, for all their faults, have bequeathed us a great inheritance in our faith. We must now live worthily ourselves. This obligation to the future is our own debt to the past.

**PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**  
**A PERSONAL VIEW - COMPILED BY**  
**BILL (SCOOP) ARCHER**

Just when you settle down to enjoy life, back I come with my perverse views on local government and things in general. I'm already at cross purposes with the editorial team as I think that this publication should be called Phoenix! While on the subject of flames, I think it is a tribute to Barbara and Margaret that the torch has not been dropped. Other hands have grasped it and the cycle begins again.

Although I report on Parish Council meetings the views are my own so don't go lambasting our august councillors for the comments I add to their words. This report covers the Parish Council Meetings of July, August and September. I have not attended any of these meetings (which makes me fully qualified to comment on them!!) but glancing through the minutes it seems as if I've never been away.

The St. Mary's Close bollards have now descended into farce. Having agreed to repair the pavement a crossover was added to enable invalid access when crossing the road. Now the responsible county authority is quoting 'lack of funds', never mind that lack of direction which put a bollard in such a stupid position in the middle of a disabled crossing in the first place.

You will all be pleased to learn that a rural police van is touring our hamlets, by such means it is hoped to maintain contact with the public.

The cost of a survey and scheme for the *total?* traffic calming measures - and this does not include the actual cost of implementing the recommendations - is £1600. For free I suggest we revert to the cobblestones of days of yore!

I note that during the barn conversion at Park Farm, part of the old barn building fell down. I do hope that none of the builders were injured and that the rest has been properly shored up so that it can be incorporated into the new dwellings as per planning permission.

I also see that Hockliffe McDonalds have adopted that 21st century excuse

*Continued on next page*

### 'Scoop' Archer continues his ramblings

'it's not us it's our customers' so their takeaway bags and containers litter our country lanes. I wonder if our cousins across the water suffer the same problem and if not, why not?

Parish Council have received a promise that road signs within the Parish will be repaired and renovated. The St. Mary's Close damaged sign is to be replaced by a sign of a new format and material as many signs around the county are being vandalised.

Our chairman attended a meeting on 'A charter for local councils'. He raised the matter of Parish Council letters which go unanswered and questionnaires that arrive too late to respond to within deadlines. I don't think they wanted to know as he got waffled at!

Each member of P.C. now has set subjects to monitor and check whether action is taken within target times. A concentration of effort may improve the situation.

Chalgrave has been reshuffled into a different ward in the county. Part of the new deal perhaps?

At long last P.C. have received maps of the grassed areas to be cut by District council, together with the information that areas mowed by hand will get 13/14 cuts per annum and those mowed by tractor 4 per annum.

As I stated at the beginning of this article, this is a biased synopsis of the meeting covered. If you want detailed reports, minutes are available.

And finally, it has just occurred to me that this is the first copy of the new year - so I hope you had a very Happy Christmas and an even better 2002.

*If you would like to comment on any points Bill has raised in his article, or on any other topic, please forward your letters for inclusion in the next issue of The Chalgrave News.*

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Mid Beds Tourist Information Centre at 5 Shannon Court, Sandy -  
01767 682728**

**have a special offer for off peak day return train tickets for the Bedford - Brighton line**

**Adults £10, Children (aged 5-15) £1, and group tickets (max 4 in group)  
£20**

**All bookable in advance**

**Have a day out in London and leave the car behind!!!**

## CHALGRAVE SOCIAL DIARY

- PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - VILLAGE HALL 7.30PM  
1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY
- GILT & GASLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY - VILLAGE  
HALL SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 8.00PM
- CHALGRAVE VILLAGE CONCERT - VILLAGE HALL END  
NOVEMBER 2002
- PLOUGH INN QUIZ NIGHTS - EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
9.00PM
- QUEENS HEAD LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - EVERY FRIDAY  
7.30PM
- LINE DANCING - VILLAGE HALL EVERY WEDNESDAY &  
THURSDAY EVENING
- CHALGRAVE YOUTH CLUB - VILLAGE HALL EVERY  
FRIDAY EVENING (HELPERS NEEDED!)
- CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB QUIZ NIGHT - DATE NOT  
YET SET
- CHALGRAVE MURDER MYSTERY EVENING—AUGUST
- CHALGRAVE VILLAGE GAMES—DATE TO BE SET BUT  
AROUND JUNE

OTHER ACTIVITIES - BUT ORGANISERS REQUIRED

- CARPET BOWLS
- BADMINTON
- FLOWER ARRANGING

COMING IN 2002 - MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS -  
TRACING 100 YEARS OF POPULAR MUSIC - RICHARD  
GOLDSMITH & RICHARD REASON

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS IN THE PARISH PLEASE  
LET US KNOW FOR NEXT ISSUES SOCIAL DIARY

### POPPY DAY APPEAL COLLECTION

DISTRICT TOTAL - £4153.00

TEBWORTH - (P & G COOK) £83.23. THE QUEENS HEAD £17.99.  
WINGFIELD - (MRS A WATTS) £43.67. THE PLOUGH £43.31.

## MURDER AT THE CHALGRAVE XMAS DINNER

A full house witnessed the latest Murder Mystery at the Memorial Hall on December 15th last when the Senior Citizens committee took to the stage. A magical performance by **Ken Green** as Strongfellow the victim was sadly marred by a vastly overacted death scene but this was soon forgotten as the mystery unfolded.



Whilst some cast members (who shall remain nameless) managed to fluff a few lines, despite the suspicion that some lines were being read, overall scintillating performances were given by :-

**Larry Ryan** bravely playing Phil McCavity, a man of dubious origin and sexuality

**Mike Wells** as Buster Hoover, a bit of a rough diamond and 'Jack the lad'.

**Nicola Wells** as Lucy Lastic, a model of disrepute

**Frances Masters** as Wun Ung Lo, Chinese drug pusher with a dodgy bra

**Tony Cornes** as the drunken Hugh Jampton. His portrayal of a drunk at 4.00am the next morning was brilliant

**Chris McDonagh** as Lady Goodie Twoshoes. NOT typecast!

**Wendy McGinty** as the fancy free Ophelia Dingle

**Lucy Kirwin** as Stringfellows glamorous floozy.

The audience were greatly assisted (or confused) by the marvellous detective work of Inspector Closely played by that wonderful actor **Roger Masters** and his assistant DC Aysee, played by **Nurse Sarah Ralley**.

When the plot finally unravelled, it was time for the audience to deliver their analysis. Unfortunately only two tables of the eleven managed to come up with the right murderer and the only table (with Mick McDonagh as the tedious spokesperson) managed to come up with some vague reasoning.



**John (Huston) Kirwin** ably directed the play, and

**Roger Fenwick** was the man to be blamed for the sound effects and comparing the evening.

*Continued on next page*

Special thanks go to all those youngsters who helped out during the evening –**Tom & Lucy Colenutt, Fred & Jack McGinty, Richard & Katherine Masters, Stacey Brand, Emily, Martha & George Attack, Sarah Harris, Danielle & Courtney Finch, Carl Burrows, Gavin White & Aaron Smith.**

Many thanks also go to those unseen helpers, **Lyndie Lothian, & Bill Archer and family** for the scenery and The Plough & Queens Head for selling tickets. As usual, the food was fit for a king and provided by the lovely **Lorraine** of Hepworth Catering (Tel 01525 874105).

All in all a great evening enjoyed by all.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR THE THIRD MURDER MYSTERY  
SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST THIS YEAR!

### CHRISTMAS AT CHALGRAVE

**Wednesday 28th November 7.30 - 9.30.** 'Preparing for Christmas'. The ladies at All Saints Church are arranging a 'hints and tips' of flower arranging and cooking for Christmas. Venue - Chalgrave Church.

**Saturday 15th December 7.30pm** Carols by Candlelight'.

**Sunday 23rd December 9.30am.** Parish communion, the celebrant and preacher, the Rev. Keith Steel, formerly Priest - in - Charge of All Saints, Chalgrave.



#### **Monday 24th December**

Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass  
(first communion of Christmas).

#### **Tuesday 25th December**

Children's communion service at St George's Toddington

#### **Sunday 30th December**

A benefice parish communion at St George's Toddington.

Rev. Liam Matthews

*This page will hold the Church Diary in future issues of Chalgrave News*

## THE CHALGRAVE NEWS

### Advertising Rates:-

	Single	Annual
Quarter Page	£5.00	£17.50
Half Page	£12.00	£35.00
Full Page	£20.00	£70.00

We are also including a 'small business ads' section at a cost of £10.00 per annual advertisement.

If you are interested in promoting your business and helping to support this local magazine please send text required or copy of your advertisement with remittance payable to 'Chalgrave News' to Mrs L Lothian, 30 The Lane, Tebworth, Beds LU7 9QB.

## THE NATIONAL TRUST

### South Beds Association

#### **Programme for early 2002**

#### **February 4th Monday 2.30pm**

'The Metropolitan Police' Speaker Mr Ken Bland

#### **March 6th Wednesday 7.45pm**

'Wild Bedfordshire' Speaker Richard Revels

#### **April 3rd Wednesday 7.45pm**

'Palaces & Forts in India' Speaker Anthony Hudson

All meetings at Salvation Army Hall Bull Pond Lane Dunstable

Guests welcome at £1.00

## DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

#### **Programme for early 2002**

#### **February 4th Monday 7.45pm**

Dunstable Trades Evening—The Hat Trade Speaker Vivienne Evans

#### **March 4th Monday 7.45pm**

9th Annual General Meeting of the Society plus 'pictures of old Dunstable'

#### **April 29th Monday 7.45pm**

West Wycombe Park & the Dashwoods Speaker Don Varney

#### **May**

Special meeting - date to be arranged - National Local History Week

All meetings at Salvation Army Hall Bull Pond Lane Dunstable

Visitors always welcome £1.00 Hon Sec. 01525 221963

# THE TODDINGTON AND DJSTRJET RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

By Pat & Nobby Cooke

This organisation has been up and running for around two years. There are around 10 committee members and any other local residents are always welcome.

Many issues have been discussed and addressed - most with a happy outcome.

Examples are - installing water meters for the elderly, working with the police on traffic calming and parking, road resurfacing, grass and tree cutting to name but a few. As you can see these are all local issues to our area.

Last year some of the youngsters of Toddington and Chalgrave were invited by Chalgrave Golf Club to try out the delights of our local golf course. In fact some enjoyed it so much that they are now members.

Our meetings are held at Toddington Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (evenings) and all are welcome.

Why don't you give this association a try if you have any real local issues you want to raise.

## **AUNTIE AGNES PROBLEM PAGE**

*personal problems resolved with a smile*

My Dear Readers

It is with great regret that I must offer my sincerest apologies to Mr 'Worried' of Tebworth for a most unfortunate typing error in my last column.

My reply and solution to your difficult problem should have read - 'tell your wife' - and not as printed - 'sell your wife'. We of the Chalgrave News will assist all we can with your fund raising in order to buy her back even though you tell us that this has actually solved your problem. Until next issue readers.....

### **Laughter & Life**

- Money can't buy you happiness, but it helps you look for it in a lot more places!
- Look on the bright side. Twenty years from now they'll be calling these the good old days!

## CHALGRAVE SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Having done sterling work at the Murder Mystery evening two days earlier, it was back to the Village Hall for Hepworth Catering to provide another Christmas dinner, this time for the Senior Citizens of the Parish.

Once again a superb meal was produced and was greatly enjoyed by the 35 people who came to the hall on 17th December. In addition to healthy appetites there was, I am pleased to say, a high demand for the sherry, wine and beer on offer and my thanks to Brian Horne for assisting with the bar duties. I know many people enjoyed the chance to either make new acquaintances or chat to old friends and neighbours, so if you have yet to attend this dinner why not give it a try next time.

Once again thanks to Lorraine and Brian for their work and also the 'customers' who remained until 5.00pm just to save me having to carry any beer home.

P.S. The Senior Citizens Committee obviously do their best to make sure that they have a comprehensive list of names, however, with the loss of the Post Office and more people moving into the village this is becoming more difficult. If anyone is being missed who would like to be included, please let me know.

Roger Fenwick. Tel 873768

### *Laughter & Life*

- A man I know won a free trip to China. He's out there now trying to win a trip back!
- My doctor has advised me to give up those intimate dinners for four unless I have three other people eating with me.
- The great thing about fishing is that it gives you something to do while you're not doing anything
- A businessman can't win these days. If he does something wrong he's fined; if he does something right, he's taxed.

## WEST TRUST

The West Trust was set up in the 17th century by the Reverend West for the sole purpose of giving educational assistance to the children of Chalgrave and Hockliffe. The Clerk administers it together with a board of Trustees which meets around four or five times per year. The last meeting was in September.

The current Trustees are as follows : -

FRANK GRIFFIN	Chalgrave
ROGER MASTERS	Chalgrave
PAUL DICKINS	Hockliffe
NICOLA BENDER	Hockliffe
ALAN SHADBOLT	Hockliffe
RHYS GOODWIN	County Councillor

Currently the Trust has assets of some £350,000, which is invested on the Trust's behalf by professional fund managers to produce income of around £20,000 per year.

After reinvesting sufficient income to cover inflation, the Trustees are then able to dispose of the balance to meet the Trust's objective. Approximately 80 children received assistance last year for educational activities ranging from horse riding to purchase of special educational equipment.

The Trustees have absolute discretion on how they distribute the funds so long as it meets the Trust's objectives. The current criteria for assistance are as follows : -

- Must have resided in the Parish for a minimum of two years.
- Aged between 4 and 25 and receiving full time education.
- Appropriate claim form to be received by the Clerk with all receipts for expenses attached.
- No claim (other than uniform or student grant) to be entertained without the appropriate receipts.
- The Board meets twice per year to consider grant distribution and these are normally held in June and December so claim forms should reach the Clerk to the Trustees before these dates to be considered.

For an appropriate claim form or for further information please contact in the first instance -

Norman Costin, Clerk to the Trustees.  
Heath Farm,  
Tebworth Road,  
Wingfield, Tel. 874232.

## CHALGRAVE CHURCH

### A TALK BY PETER FREEMAN

A warm, early summer evening found us at Chalgrave Church with members of several W.I.'s. Peter Freeman gave a talk on some aspects of the long and varied history of our church, followed by an enjoyable organ recital.

The church building he explained, had stood on that site for nearly 800 years. There was a church attached to the manor of Chalgrave in the 12th century and the current building appears to have been erected on the same site. It was dedicated to 'All Saints' and consecrated on Holy Cross Day - (September 14th) 1220.

At that time there was clearly a significantly larger Chalgrave community than there is today. Now there are only around 6 houses in the proximity and a Saxon estate is mentioned in a document of 926 AD.

But today the church stands in almost total isolation encircled by chestnut trees - a silent witness to the faith of those who first built it and those who have looked after it down the centuries to the present day.

It cannot have been easy to maintain and there have clearly been long periods of neglect.

In 1846, John Martin, librarian to the Duke of Bedford, wrote of Chalgrave - *'Few churches present so deplorable an appearance as this. It has been shamefully neglected and the interior is damp and dirty. One part is appropriated to the reception of ladders, brooms and various other abominations, most painful to contemplate. It is melancholy to reflect that a church which even now - in spite of the neglect and abuse it has undergone - contains some beautiful specimens of ecclesiastical architecture, should be in so fallen a condition. The nave is ceiled. Through the roof, a hole has been made for the escape of smoke from a stove which, as well as disfiguring the inside, exhibits a most unsightly appearance externally. In passing through the hamlet which is in this parish, we observed a large Chapel for dissenters - tasteless enough, but affording a marked contrast to the neglected Church of the Establishment'*.

CHALGRAVE CHURCH CONTINUED -

A few years later, the then Vicar tried to persuade the parish to pull the church down and rebuild it on a more convenient site.

Fortunately, the plans were rejected on the grounds of cost - estimated at £2000!!

Next issue - more tales of the church and its Parish, including the scandal of the drunken church wardens who stole gates from their hinges and dumped them into the pond - in 1718 !!!

Who says nothing ever happens in Chalgrave!

**LIZ EDWYNN**

Mark, Gareth and I would like to take this opportunity afforded by the new parish magazine to thank all our friends for their sympathy and help.

Liz loved Tebworth and she would have been, as we were, overwhelmed by the number of offers of help we received.

From our hearts we'd simply like to say—THANK YOU.

COLIN EDWYNN

**Elizabeth Ashton Edwynn (Liz)**

*An Actress Turned Publican*

To us (the residents of Tebworth & friends)  
A central lady in our village  
A welcoming host to every visitor  
A beacon of trust and support to the village elders  
A caring ear for anyone's problems  
With patience, humanity, humour and honesty  
And always giving  
A special lady, from who we are parted  
A lady we will cherish, honour and remember

**TIME OF OUR LIVES MUSIC THEATRE LTD**  
**(Formerly Gilt and Gaslight)**

Once again Chalgrave Memorial Hall is pleased to announce  
that we have booked this very popular company.

**SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2002**  
**8.00PM**



**TICKETS**  
**ADULTS £6.50**  
**CONCESSIONS £4.00**  
**(Senior Citizens & children under 16)**  
**FAMILY TICKET £16.00**  
**(Two adults + two concessions)**  
***Includes free refreshments in the interval***  
**ON SALE NOW**

AVAILABLE FROM ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER OR BY CONTACTING  
TONY CORNES 874605 / ROGER MASTERS 873039

## COMPETITION PAGE

### PICTURE PUZZLE



Where is it?

A bottle of wine for the sender of the first correct answer opened.

CLUE : Somewhere in Chalgrave!!!

Please deliver your entries by using the new post box at Chalgrave Memorial Hall

**WIN £10 !!!!!**

Write a story for the next issue of the Chalgrave News.

Any subject - hobbies, holidays, fiction etc.

200 words plus a photo/picture or 300 words

Open to all ages

Please put your entry in the new village hall post box together with your name, address and telephone number

Any photos/pictures will be returned to you

*Come on and help us to make the new Chalgrave News an interesting read over the years ahead.*

**FOR SALE/ WANTED**

Sell all those unwanted gifts, second-hand items etc here

Your advert is free

Just place it in the village hall letter box by 15th March 2002 for our next issue in April 2002

**BENCHES** - Solid hardwood benches for sale. £75 each.

Contact Wendy McGinty, Secretary, Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee - 874043.

**WINDOWS & FRAMES** - Plastic laminated, double glazed. new (3 in all) - offers.

Contact Wendy McGinty, Secretary, Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee 874043

**DIGITAL CAMERA** -Kodak DC280. F3.0-3.8 lens, 30-60 zoom, auto focus, built in flash, Many function choices. Cost new £399.00. £210.00

OVNO - phone 873160

**CANON EOS 620** - 35mm Camera. Canon EF 35-70mm zoom lens. Canon EF 70-210mm zoom lens. Culmann C28 flash.

Excellent condition £300 ONO - 873160

**HORSE RUGS** - second-hand, NZ 6ft 3" vgc £20. Jute rug 6ft 3" very warm £5. Set travel boots vgc £5. Summer sheet £5. - 874605

**SADDLE** - 16 1/2" Coleman Croft Sovereign vgc £100 complete with stirrups, leathers and balding girth - 874605

**DREAMCAST & GAMES** - price on application 873039

**MATHS PHYSICS** - 'A' level & GCSE revision books - 874166

If anyone wants to place an ad here - no trade ads please - write your ad out and pass it to any of the editorial team or use the new letter box on the wall of the village hall, and we will print your ad in our next issue.

Well, that's the end of our first issue of the 'New' Chalgrave News. Hope you liked it. Please, please let us have your own contributions via the new mail box at the village hall or phone to one of the editorial team. It's going to be the only way we can make the mag more interesting.

Finally a very big thank you to the following for all their help in producing this issue of The Chalgrave News.

Mike Wells, Stephen Eagleton and Peter Kuyes

Next issue due - **JULY 2002**

# USEFUL CONTACTS

Member of Parliament		Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council	Clerk	Mrs Brigid Heley	01234 381913
	Chairman	Ken Green	874107
	Vice Chairman	Frank Griffin	874126
	Councillors	Dot Brinklow	874228
		Michael Leary	874201
		Roger Masters	873039
		June Horne	
		Tony Cornes	874605
District Council			01582 472222
	Councillor	Norman Costin	874232
County Council			01234 363222
	Councillor	Rhys Goodwin	210629
Chalgrave Church	Vicar	Rev Liam Matthews	872298
	Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert	872828
Schools	Lower	St Georges	872360
	Middle	Parkfields	872555
	Upper	Harlington	873836
Home Watch		Dot Brinklow	874228
Doctors		Drs A Long/J Perkins	872222
Toddington Library			873626
Electricity Board emergency			0800 7 838838
Water Board emergency			0845 7 145145
Police			01582 401212
Chalgrave Memorial Hall			
	Secretary	Wendy McGinty	874043
	Booking Secretary	Lyn Green	874107
Senior Citizens Committee			
	Secretary	Lyn Green	874107
West Charity			
	Clerk to the Trustees	Norman Costin	874232
Mums and Tots		Vacant	
Cricket Club	Chairman	John Kirwin	876349
	Secretary	David Cestaro	873887
Chalgrave Youth Club Leader		Wendy McGinty	874043
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts		David Yirrell	875410
Toddington Rainbows/Brownies/Guides		Gill Hiscox	875239
Toddington Tennis Club		Ray Smith	874148
Chalgrave Parish News		Tony & Jean Cornes	874605
		Lyndie Lothian	874166
		Frances & Roger Masters	873039

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