

CHALGRAVE NEWS



Christmas Edition

Chalgrave Social Diary

- Parish Council meetings - Village Hall 7.30pm, last Tuesday of the month
- Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm
- Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm .
- Line dancing - Village Hall, Wednesday & Thursday evenings 7.30pm
- Carol service at All Saints Church 18th December
- Midnight Communion - Christmas Eve 11.45pm
- Christmas Lights competition - two weeks before Christmas
- Old Time Music Hall - March 2005
- Plough and Queen's Head - New Years Eve celebrations
- Book Club meetings - weekdays to be agreed



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

The Chalgrave News team produce The Chalgrave News in good faith and do all we can to ensure that no offence is caused to any individual or organisation. We also reserve the right not to publish articles and contributions submitted to us if these do not comply with our policy.

Deadline

Please let any member of the editorial team have your contributions or post them in the letter box at the village hall by 15th February 2005

CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

Fees and Charges effective from 1st August 2004

Period	Parish Resident Individual and Parish Voluntary Community Groups	**Non-Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	**Non-Parish Organisation/ Commercial
MONDAY TO THURSDAY			
9am - 6pm	£4 per hour	£5.50 per hour	£7 per hour
6pm - 11pm*	£5 per hour	£8.80 per hour	£10 per hour
FRIDAY			
9am - 6pm	£4 per hour	£5.50 per hour	£7 per hour
6pm - 12 midnight*	£70	£88	£100
SATURDAY			
9am - 6pm	£6.50 per hour	£8.80 per hour	£10 per hour
6pm - 12 midnight*	£70	£115	£150
12 noon - 12 midnight*	£105	£160	£200
SUNDAY			
10am - 10pm*	£6 per hour	£8.80 per hour	£10 per hour

*NB. Hall must be vacated and locked up by this time.

- Bank Holidays/New Years Eve - Rates on application
- Committee Room available for hire separately when Hall not hired - Rates on application
- *Block/Regular booking discount of 15% available
- Bookings outside above hours subject to individual rates on application.
- Non-refundable deposit of 50% of the booking fee payable to confirm booking
- £100 damage deposit required on all bookings - refundable in full subject to no damage caused to Hall, contents, equipment or grounds and the Hall contents and equipment being left in a clean and tidy state. NB should the cost of reparation to the Hall contents or equipment exceed the deposit then the Committee reserve the right to pursue the balance.

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE TELEPHONE :
07780857679 or 01525 873039

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Editorial

Hasn't this year flown by? Or does it just seem that way to us of more 'mature' years!

As 2004 comes to a close many of us no doubt will be reflecting on the past twelve months, the highs and the lows, things we have achieved, those we have not, friends and neighbours we have lost and those new ones we have gained. Someone once said:- 'If I could change the past I would now be the happiest millionaire in the world'. But of course we can't. All we can do is use the past as an experience to help enrich our future, and while we are on the subject, a meal for two awaits the most unusual New Year resolution sent to the News by the end of January.

Many congratulations to all those youngsters who have been successful in their exams this year and to those who haven't been successful - don't give up. Farewell to

those off to University, best of luck and do not forget you are our future so we all want you to do well and prosper. Many thanks to all of you who have advertised and contributed to the News over the past year and a special thank you to our sponsors Peter Kuys and Stephen Eagleton without whom we could not bring you this 'fab mag'.

Remember that if you wish to remember a loved one and you would like some help to do so just speak to one of the editorial team. There is no fee and we will be happy to help.

Finally, the Christmas lights (best display - front of house) competition will be judged in the two weeks prior to Christmas. A superb New Year Hamper is the special prize.

Here's wishing you all a
very merry Christmas and a
happy and prosperous New Year

The editorial team.

What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News

Did anyone see the September edition of Heartbeat on ITV 3? If so you will have spotted our very own Colin Edwyn, landlord of the Queens' Head in quite a large part.

Why on earth did the County Council paint white broken lines down the inside of The Lane. Daft idea at the best of times but even dafter to paint them on to loose chippings. We give them two months before they disappear!

More vandalism in the Parish. The dog poo bin opposite The Woodyard keeps getting pulled over.... on a single Sat. evening cigarettes stubbed out on a car, garden lights stolen and smashed up, wing mirror broken on a car..... Mindless!

Flailing machine used to cut a hedge in the centre of the village. It was left looking an eyesore.

Boundary gates painted white and new signs erected.

We regret to report that in September two vehicles were involved in a serious road accident along the Toddington to Houghton Regis road, close to the Chalgrave Road turning. A woman passenger died at the scene of the crash while the two drivers were taken to Luton & Dunstable hospital and placed in intensive care. This section of road has seen many accidents over the years (cars often ended up in the ditch as soon as any ice appeared on the road) although since the old road surface was replaced a few years ago the number of accidents has fallen considerably. Please drive carefully around the Parish.

Did anyone tell the residents of Chalgrave about the change in

refuse collection times which started in September? We think not judging by a mobile phone conversation between the refuse lorry driver and his depot overheard at approximately 7am on the first day - 'but we can't empty any bins because no-one has put any out!' The collection was then made later in the day at the more usual time.

Congratulations to Sam Fenwick for passing his law degree.

Did anyone notice the number of people caught speeding on the Toddington Road in Tebworth detailed in the Parish Council minutes earlier this year? Over the 7 months from February to September an incredible total of 977! Yes, once again, 977 cars were caught and fined for exceeding the 30 mph speed limit. The highest no. were caught on the 6th July between 3.30pm

and 5.30pm. How many? 283, that's how many! Over that 2 hour period the police caught speeding vehicles at a rate of one every 42 seconds!! In fact the total 977 were caught during speed checks totalling 14 hours 5 minutes. That's 845 minutes. Which means that during these speed checks a speeding motorist was caught every 52 seconds along that stretch of road!!!

On the subject of speeding in the parish, what happens to the monies the police raise in fines? Our 977 speeders would face fines of £60 each. A total income of £58,620!! Not bad for 14 hours work!! What could we do with this money if it was given to the parish rather than go into the government's coffers? Well to start with we would not have to levy and parish rates - these are around £3000 per year at

present. We could fund our own full time parish policeman. We could subsidise a village shop/post office. The list is endless - how about reopening a village school? And what if the police held speed checks over say 50 hours instead of the 14 hours. On this basis the fine income would increase to £207692!! But be aware. Just because we live in the parish does not make us exempt from being caught and fined for speeding!!!

Was this the most stupid piece of driving ever seen in Tebworth? One August

morning a motorist felt she was being held up by the car in front as they drove around the bend on the Hockliffe Road by the Queens Head towards the A5. What did she decide to do? Well of course - overtake! She started this outside The Queens Head and was side by side going around the left hand bend in the road when surprise surprise she met 3 cars coming in the opposite direction at speed! Did she brake? No! She put her foot further down to try and complete the manoeuvre! Red brake lights all over the place - with the exception of her car. Fortunately the driv-

er of the car she was overtaking realised that there was going to be a head on crash at considerable speed and so he braked hard and pulled over into the curb as far as he could. This allowed the overtaking driver to cut in and just manage to get her car through the gap left and was last seen roaring away in a cloud of dust! Once everyone else had recovered they all went on their way!

Hold the front page! Due to heavy customer demand The Plough is once again stocking bottles of light ale!

Does anyone really buy petrol or diesel at the garage in Hockliffe? Have you noticed the fuel prices? Is this the most expensive fuel in the area?

Wingfield sewerage blocked once again. When will Anglia Water sort this out.

On a similar subject a blocked drain at the entrance to park View Lane has been broken for months and despite complaints there is still a huge puddle every time it rains.



Message to the person/persons responsible for vandalising one of Chalgrave Sport Clubs benches.

Well done!! You must be very proud of yourselves!! This bench has been used by many people over the years to sit and enjoy the delights of the countryside. It was donated a long time ago in memory of a former member of the Sports Club by his family. Not content with breaking one of the wood spars, which could have been replaced, you obviously decided that you would make the bench unrepairable by smashing both of the concrete - yes concrete - rear supports. Still at least it gave you a few minutes of fun!

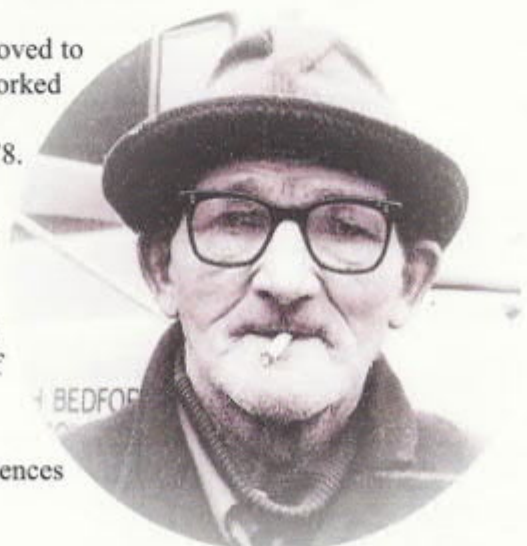
ERNEST WILLIAM STRINGER

A familiar face around the village, our Ernie sadly passed away on 25th August aged 91.

Born in St Ives, Cambridge, and the eldest of seven children, Ernie moved to Tebworth with his new wife Joyce in 1941 and for over 30 years, he worked for the local council, initially as a driver and then on the dust carts, eventually retiring in 1978.

During his 63 years in the Parish, Ernie took an interest in everything and everybody who passed his way. From running the village youth club to taking part in the annual concerts our Ernie got himself involved. Many was the time when he could be heard holding court in the Queens Head on any number of subjects, on all of which he was of course a reknowned expert!

Ernie was truly a great character and will be sorely missed. Our condolences go to his family at this sad time



A collection is being made in the Queens Head for a seat in Ernie's memory to be erected in St Mary's Close. Donations are welcome.

A Tribute to Bill Kingham

You may remember seeing Bill around the parish. He was a very distinctive, tall, upright gentleman who walked his Lakeland Terrier, Suzie along Tebworth Road and down The Lane. Born and brought up in Hockliffe he joined the Royal Marines during the second world war and served in India, Egypt and Sri Lanka (then Ceylon). He was very proud to have served in the Royal Marines and after the war he continued his military service as a Sergeant in the Bedfordshire Territorial Army for a number of years.

He was an active member of the British Legion, Toddington branch and we saw him every year collecting door to door for donations for poppies before Remembrance Day. Bill contributed a lot of time and effort to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme from it's very first days in the parish, putting up the signs and coordinating the Tebworth area. He was always very pleased to help anyone he could, and especially his neighbours in St.Mary's Close.

Bill died just over a year ago on the 22nd of September 2003.



Winner.....

of the
Chalgrave News
Front Garden
Competition
Peter Freeman
accepts his prize from
one of the editorial
team at the Hog Roast
day at All Saints
Church.

Peter's garden is in
The Meadows,
Wingfield.

CHALGRAVE PARISH PLAN....an update

There was a meeting held at the Plough at Wingfield on September 20th to discuss developments with the grant application and proposals for a village transport scheme.

TRANSPORT:

It was learned that The Countryside Agency has awarded Chalgrave a total of £8,131.88 over two years of which £2,340 (50% of the grant offered for year two) is now available.

There is some interest in a Village Care scheme with some parishioners volunteering to give help and lifts to residents, fetch shopping or pick up prescriptions for residents who are not mobile. Further details will follow.

There is a lot of interest in the idea of a taxi bus from the village to Harlington station and Beds Rural Community Charity has contacted taxi services in Toddington who are interested in offering a service. An advert has been placed at Harlington station to see who is interested.

PARISH PLAN:

£894.00 has been awarded to Chalgrave of which £447 is now available to fund the Plan and a flyer will be coming round soon to update parishioners of developments

Chalgrave Pig Roast 5th September

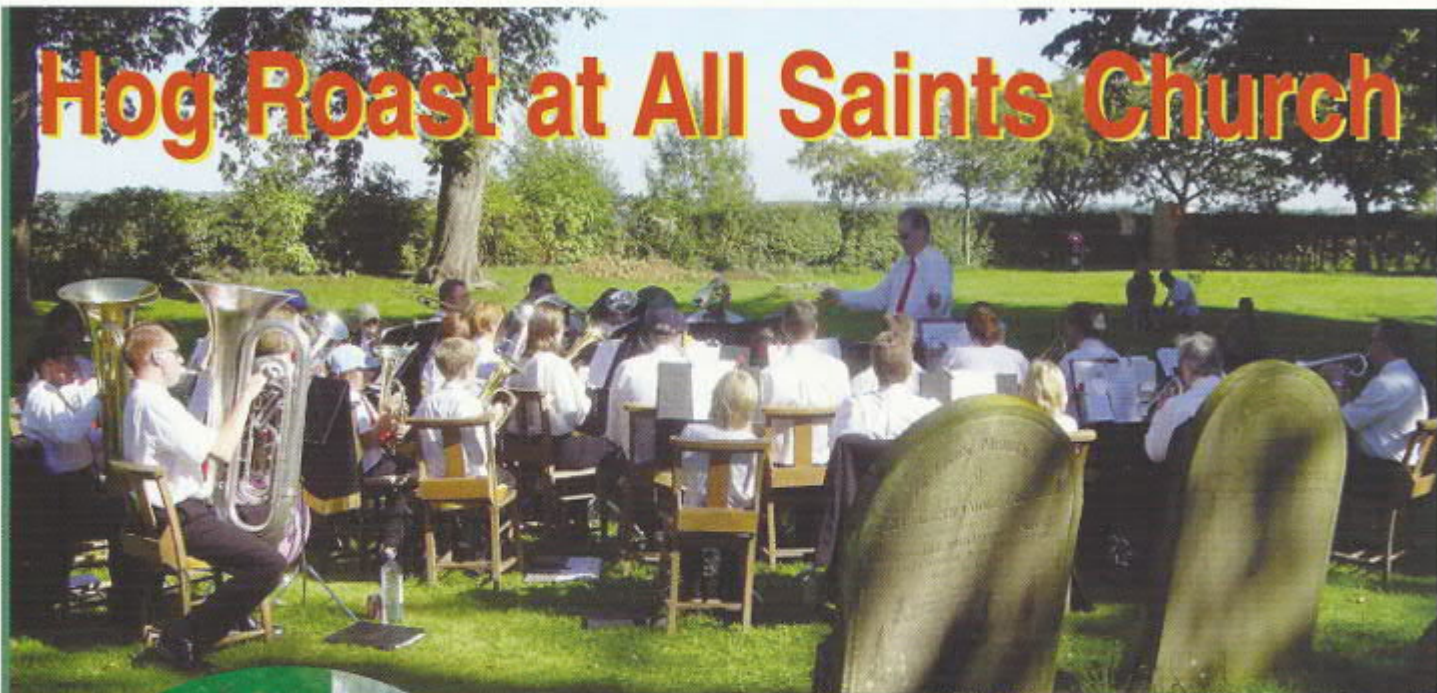
- 7.15 am. Pounding on the door as fellow warden Ian Smith comes to fetch me to collect the pig. Day dawns bright and clear.
- 7.30 am. Collect pig from Vauxhall Parts Depot who kindly loaned us the use of their walk in fridge in the canteen. Thanks Vauxhall.
- 7.45 am. Drive from Vauxhall to the church. Kids are with me so as not to miss anything. They don't know whether to laugh or be terrified sitting next to a dead pig in the Zafira.
- 8.00am. Start to prepare the pig for roasting. This is not as easy as it sounds but as this is my second time I'm feeling confident. Bit disconcerting to find a label tied to one of the toes with the name "Colleen". Sort of personalises the situation a little. Still mustn't be too sentimental about these things. Cut trotters off and sow up the belly with wire. Do all sorts of unspeakable things with U bolts, clamps and long steel rod. Can't be squeamish, it's all in a good cause.
- 9.00am. Light the charcoal to a merry blaze. Run extension cable from church to spit and plug in the electric motor. Motor doesn't work. Start to panic. Change fuse and it still doesn't work. Realise that it is not switched on at the motor. Panic over. By now the charcoal flames have died down so its time to lift the pig onto the spit.
- 9.30am. Looking good so go into Morning Service.
- 9.45 am. Sneak out of the service to check on Colleen. Make sure motor still turning etc. Completely forget that I was reading the lesson in church that morning. Thanks to Jan McKnight who stood in and read for me at short notice-like non at all!!
- 10.30 am. Remove crackling before it gets too well done. Take major risks with arteries and munch some of it in the process. Apologise to the Rector for missing the reading. Still looking good.
- 1.15 pm. The first people start to arrive. Smell of roast pork drifting in just the right direction across the car park. By now my eyes and throat are smarting from several hours of exposure to smoke. Crack the first tinny of lager. It fails to touch the sides.
- 3.00 pm. Fellow warden has disappeared to play in the band. Can't carve the pork quick enough. Line of hungry people behind me clutching empty plates. Baked potatoes, pork, salads all going like the proverbial hot cakes.
- 3.30 pm. Slight lull in the feeding of the five thousand. Pause to look around me. A beautiful 13th century English churchyard on a gloriously sunny day full of adults and children having a great time. There are times when I am reminded that I am privileged to live where I do and in the country I do. It doesn't get much better than this. Start to get a bit emotional and crack second tinny of lager.
- 5.00pm. Start to joint up what's left of the pig. Clear up mess. Look forward to cold pork sandwiches for lunch for the next week.

The pig roast this year raised over £850 towards church funds. An event such as this takes a tremendous amount of organisation and hard work. Once again my heartfelt and sincere thanks to everyone who took part and helped to make the day such a success. Just as importantly thanks to everyone who came along and supported us. Without the support from everyone in the community events such as this would not make enough profit for them to be viable.

We hope to make this an annual event. Given the success we have had two years running we may become over confident and roast something even bigger like an ox next time. Now there's a thought.....

Larry Ryan
Churchwarden

Hog Roast at All Saints Church



Around the Organisations

Senior Citizens Committee

Following on from the successful Old Time Music Hall last year, the Senior Citizens Committee have decided to produce another fund raising three day spectacular Music Hall in March next year. Once again, the show will be directed by Peter Hadden and we are looking for volunteers to either take part or help in some way with the production. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact Peter on 875417 or Roger Masters on 873039.

The Senior Citizens Xmas lunch will be held on Friday 17th December at the Memorial Hall and we hope to see as many of our senior citizens there as possible.

Just a reminder, if you or any of your neighbours or indeed anyone else you know in the Parish has reached that golden age of retirement, please let anyone on the Committee know so they can be included in any future events.

Roger Masters
Chairman

Age Concern Bedfordshire

You may not be aware that Age Concern Bedfordshire acts as an agent for the selling of insurance:-

- * Motor
- * Motor Breakdowns
- * Home and Contents
- * Travel

As well as various other products such as:-

- * Funeral Plans
- * Aid Call
- * Charity Flowers
- * Energy Savings

All commissions earned from these transactions are used to finance the services we offer to the older generation of Bedfordshire.

Travel insurance may be of particular interest to all since there are no age limits.

Contact us - Tel: 01234 360510 for more information or leaflets.

Jill Emery
Insurance Administrator

Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee

When Roger Fenwick retired after many years as chairman I was surprised - to say the least - to be elected to replace him. "Rather a hard act to follow" I thought, and nearly ran a mile in the opposite direction! But after a couple of whiskies in the Queen's Head and a good nights sleep, I realised that I and several relatively new committee members must soldier on to our best of our ability.

I would like to mention that the hall has been kept in very good condition which reflects the able management of Roger and his committee over the years.

So, here is my philosophy for the future which I think and hope reflects the view of the new committee.

The village hall is for the people of the parish and should be available to them at the cheapest rate possible. Of course it would be nice to allow parishioners to use it freely and without payment, but that would be quite impractical. The upkeep is very costly. Even with many jobs being done by committee members and volunteers in their own time, for no remuneration, we are still relying heavily on grants to keep solvent. Therefore it is important to keep our hiring rates to people outside the parish competitive whilst high enough to generate the income required to to keep the hall going and subsidise the parishioners. In order to accomplish this we have to make the hall more attractive and inviting to would be hirers. We have begun by refurbishing the kitchen and are currently seeking a grant to

make the entrance and frontage more attractive. We aim to hold events to please all age groups and cover a variety of interests, perhaps discos, 60's dances, shows, mother and toddler group and anything else anyone can think of.

Well, people of Chalgrave, YOUR HALL IS HERE FOR YOU! Please let me know of any ideas you would like us to persue or of any help you would be willing to give us (there are still a couple of vacant positions on the committee). We would especially like to welcome a youth committee member. Looking forward to seeing YOU ALL in the hall sometime during the year.

Linda Hadden
Chairman

West Charity Trust

A meeting was held on 20th July when the trustees awarded payments of over £10,000 to 79 applicants from Hockliffe and Chalgrave. Information and claim forms can be obtained from the

Clerk to the Trustees,
Mr Norman Costin
telephone 01525 874232

Chalgrave Sports Club

This summer saw another successful season of cricket in our continuing 'Friendly League'. The number of teams now competing has risen to 5 and I fear we are becoming victims of our own success, with the number of games played by each team having reduced to 4 or 5 including friendlies. This is a situation that the committee will be reviewing over the winter months as the majority of players / members would like to be playing more games. Unfortunately, the only way to achieve this without reducing the number of teams would be to have access to another ground to

hold the matches and these seem to be in short supply. If anyone is aware of any suitable grounds that would be available for hire on Sundays during the summer months then please let the committee know.

The cricket itself was extremely enjoyable and highly competitive – probably the highest standard we have so far seen in our reconstituted league. All the teams taking part played very well and the winners were highly deserving of their title having won all of their league matches. Our warm congratulations go to the team from the Bedford Arms and their landlord/captain Jayme.

This season also saw the inaugural running of what we hope will become an annual event – namely the Chalgrave Sports Club Car Quiz. 5 intrepid teams took part in this highly enjoyable afternoon's entertainment, in which they had to locate 10 sites of interest around South Bedfordshire and answer observational questions about them. There were also some (loosely) related quiz questions and cryptic pub names thrown in for good measure. Congratulations to 'The Remmies' (also known as the Kirwin family ably assisted by Kevan Rowe) for taking the win. The quiz was followed by a BBQ at the sports ground and all who took part seemed to enjoy the afternoon – and learn a few things about local history at the same time! We are hoping to expand this event next year with a number of additional activities taking place for those not participating in the quiz itself. Watch our for more information next summer.

Latest News

The weekend of 16/17 October saw a major effort on the part of the committee to tidy up around the sports ground. A large amount of clutter which had been allowed to collect over the years has been cleared along with the two old clubhouses in the far corner of the ground! These had become a major eyesore and the additional space allows us to redevelop the area and make use of it for storage etc. Further efforts over

the winter months are planned to improve the facilities available.

Michael Wells,
Chairman.

Harlington Upper School

Students and teachers started this term encouraged by the good examination results received in August. GCSE performance was pleasing and Sixth-Form students performed equally well in A level examinations. We were also looking forward to the completion of the first phase of our major rebuilding programme in December. However, this project did present some challenges when we returned to school to find that some building work was a little behind schedule. The problems were quickly resolved and we now look forward to moving into our new accommodation.

It is almost a year since the builders firsts came on site. They put up their offices and established temporary buildings for food, administration and some computer facilities. Following some initial demolition the contractors started work on new science laboratories, business studies and IT rooms and a complete new block of classrooms for the English department. Our arts subjects are also well catered for with a large new 380 capacity theatre with a capacity of 380 people. The new theatre features state-of-the-art retractable seating and is situated close to new drama, dance and music suites. Some students and staff have already been on tours of the new areas and report some excellent features,



artist's impression of the new buildings

such as skylights along corridors to

make them airy and bright and a huge new foyer area.

The above is an artist impression of the new foyer

Throughout this period school life has continued with the usual wide variety of events and activities. Members of the Year 9 School Council visited our local MP, Jonathan Sayeed at the Houses of Parliament and were also able to climb up to hear Big Ben "dong" three o'clock. Music students have recently played concerts with the Army's Minden Band and at the time of writing have just embarked on a music tour of France, playing several concerts to local French people.

The school is also embarking on an exciting bid for Specialist Science Status. I hope to be able to share more details of this with you in the next edition of Chalgrave News.

Shawn Fell
Headteacher
Harlington Upper School

Unfortunately at the time of going to press we had not received contributions from the following
Police, Fire Station,
Lower or Middle Schools,
District Councillor Costin or
County Councillor Goodwin



WHAT'S IN YER DRAWERS! By Florry Bunda

A communal rummage through the drawers of the Parish for old photos And nostalgic anecdotes.....

Hello again Dear Reader, once more we rummage through the collective drawers of the Parish to reveal previously hidden secrets!!!

But first, an apology. Valerie Griffin has asked me to point out that her information for the article in the last edition about the second world war was provided by her sister, Dorothy Brinklow. Apologies to Val who we realise is way too young to remember events during the war!

This edition finds a sorry tale of death by fire which occurred way back in 1880 and was reported in the Dunstable Gazette at that time ...

It is not clear whether the fire actually occurred at the Shoulder of Mutton but the inquest was certainly held there and the article describes how Mary Hines, wife of William Hines, was alone in the house with her son and mother who had retired to bed. Upon hearing screams from the kitchen at about 1 o'clock in the morning, the son came downstairs..."and a terrible sight met his eyes. On the threshold of the back door was his mother, one mass of flames, whilst the kitchen was all ablaze. The lad ran into the street and gave an alarm of "Fire"... in a short time a large number of persons were upon the scene many of them in a half dressed state... Meanwhile, Dr. Waugh of Toddington was sent for and he arrived in a very short time.... The poor woman lingered on in the most intense agony for several hours and at times tried to speak but was unable to do so. Just before she died, however, she said "The lamp. The lamp."... The jury returned a verdict of accidental death."

*This is a photograph of
The Shoulder of Mutton
from around that time,
when it was a busy local
inn.... with thanks to
Bill and Pat Archer*



Buried Treasure?



You may have noticed recent works at the Vicarage on the main road through Tebworth.

Mick and Chris, who have lived there for the past 17 years, were intrigued to discover some old pottery buried in the ground, an example of which is shown here.

The cups and saucers show the emblem 'Chalgrave Church School' and Chris and Mick were wondering if anybody has some local knowledge of when the school operated and who would have attended there.

Please send any information and I will try to enlighten everyone in the next issue.

Useful Contacts

Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	874716
Responsibilities - Chairman	Philip Parry	873920
Vice Chairman	Ken Green	874107
	(Grass cutting, Footpaths)	
Councillors	Frank Griffin	874126
	(Planning, Street lighting, Road signs)	
	Daniel Osborn	873920
	June Horne	873965
	Roger Mence	874516
	Derek Smith	874105
	(Traffic calming)	
District Council	South Beds District Council	01582 472222
	Councillor	Norman Costin
		874232
County Council	Bedfordshire County Council	01234 363222
	Councillor	Rhys Goodwin
		210629
Chalgrave Church		
	Vicar	Rev. Nick McNeil
	Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert
	Warden	Larry Ryan
Schools	Lower	St Georges
	Middle	Parkfields
	Upper	Harlington
		872360
		872555
		873836
Home Watch Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Tree Warden		Tony Smith
		874716
Doctors		Drs A Long/J Perkins
		872222
Toddington Library		873626
Electricity Board - emergency		0800 7 838838
Water Board - emergency		0845 7 145145
Police	Beat Officer	P.C. Rick Goss
		01582 471212
Chalgrave Memorial Hall		
	Chairman	Linda Hadden
	Booking Secretary	Roger Masters
		873039
Senior Citizens Committee		
	Chairman	Roger Masters
	Secretary	Velda Cooke
		873039
		875363
West Charity		
Clerk to the Trustees		Norman Costin
		874232
Mums and Tots and Youth Club		Vacant
Cricket Club	Chairman	Mike Wells
	Secretary	David Cestaro
		877098
		873887
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts		David Yirrell
		875410
Toddington Rainbows		Gill Hiscox
		875239
Brownies and Guides		Gill Hiscox
		875239
Toddington Tennis Club		Ray Smith
		874148
Chalgrave Parish News		Tony Cornes
		874605
		Lyndie Lothian
		874166
		Frances &
		Roger Masters
		873039
		Mick McDonagh
		873012
Advertising		Jackie Hammons
		07930 391122

Advertisements

BELLA Handmade Furnishing
by Isabella Lauder
12 Sundon Road, Harlington,
Beds, LU5 6LS
Tel.01525 874033 Fax.01525 756159

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J R Evans Interior, Exterior
Decorating at Competitive prices
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- Gulleys/Local 24 Hr
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- Toilets • Manholes • Saniflow
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- Also General Plumbing

01582 864499

180 Tithe Farm Rd, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, LU5 5JE

Bellows Mill



*Attractive accommodation
in idyllic surroundings*

Open all year for
Bed & Breakfast
Licensed

Private Parties catered for
Proprietor: Mrs R Hodge

Telephone: 01525 220548

E-mail: enquiries@bellowsmill.co.uk

Website: www.bellowsmill.co.uk

Pecks Open Farm Shop

Welcome to Peck's Open Farm Shop. We offer freshly grown produce & locally made handicrafts as well as a wide range of dairy goods.

- Fresh fruit & vegetables • Fresh & dried flowers
- Free range eggs • Plants & shrubs
- Dairy produce • Woodchip & compost

We also have: • Sumptuous Home Made Cakes
• Fresh Fish on Friday • Basket Maker • Candles
• Delicious Jams & Chutneys
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All Saints Church

I wonder if we will have snow this Christmas! Probably not, but what we do seem to have a lot of in Bedfordshire is mistletoe. I have never seen so much. It's a curious plant, parasitical by nature with deep green leaves and milky white berries trailing from it's host tree. Of course mistletoe has a Christmas connotation with romance, so lucky old Bedfordshire, but all is not how it seems. If we could speak Anglo-Saxon we would not feel so happy about kissing under the stuff, for mistel means dung and tan, it's derivative means twig. Think about that next time you venture to kiss under the 'dung on a twig'! It got this name because the Saxons thought the seeds of the plant came from bird droppings, for our ancestors noticed bird droppings by the plant.... This property seemed to have fertility powers and no doubt this is where the kissing bit came in.

When you delve behind old traditions it's amazing what comes up, but when was the last time you delved behind the Christian story of Christmas? When you do you see it's more than just the sentimentality of 'Away in a Manger'. It occurred in difficult surroundings, in a difficult situation. Yet, out of that something very beautiful like a baby being born into the world happened. This was Jesus, destined to be the saviour of humanity. It's for this reason Christian people make such a fuss about Christmas. It is the beginning of a new beginning. God and humanity reconciled once and for all, not by some big dramatic event, but in a fragile child born in a stable.

Christmas is a great time of celebration and that is reflected in the Church's worship at this time. Our Christmas worship gives us an opportunity to delve behind the tinsel to see what Christmas is really about. Details of services as follows.

Services at Christmas at Chalgrave Parish Church

Saturday 18th December - Carol Service at Chalgrave - 'Carol Service' does not give this very popular service full credit. A great deal of thought and prayer is put in as we reflect upon the marvelous events of Christmas through words and the joyous and beautiful music of this time. Not only that, but the church is truly coloured in Christmas, with green, red and white everywhere giving the perfect setting within our beautiful medieval church for our Christmas festivities.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion 11.45 pm.
The first true Christmas celebration in candlelight and the stillness and peace that comes from worshipping at this time.



These are the main services at Chalgrave at Christmas and all are most welcome. For details of these services and worship at Toddington over the Christmas period, please call the Rector on 01525 872298.

A very happy and joyous Christmas to you all!

Nick MacNeill
Rector.

A challenge! - The Rector throws down the gauntlet to all vegetable growers, indeed more precisely, pumpkin growers. Pumpkins are lovely at Harvest Festival, but next year I am determined to grow the biggest pumpkin in the benefice. Whether I succeed or not remains to be seen, but you also are welcome to try. It would be lovely to see the thing resting below the pulpit at next year's festival, that is if we can get a wheel barrow big enough to get it into church! Let me know if you will take up the challenge and how you are getting on.

We at The Chalgrave News pick up the gauntlet Nick - be prepared to be humbled!

Over the past few months we were very sad to say goodbye to Daisy Masters, Ernest Stringer and Gary Kingham.

We were delighted to baptize Marcella and Kyla Moss, Jake Murray, Hazel and Stewart Blackledge. Carly Shotbolt and Maisie Ward.

We were also please to marry Steven and Donna McLaughlin, Henry and Helen Little and Stewart and Hazel Mellon

Albert and Gracie Bird

As many of you know, Albert and Gracie have been wonderful fund raisers for All Saints Chalgrave and in September they opened their house to us for a party and presented the Rector with a total of well over four and a half thousand pounds towards the upkeep of the church. This means that they have raised over fifty thousand pounds in all, an extraordinary total, greatly received, and appropriately used. Albert and Gracie were thanked for their tireless efforts on the day, but I and the congregation at All Saints, Chalgrave would like to thank them in our village magazine for all that they have done for the Church. Without people like Albert and Gracie, the church and indeed the whole country would be much the poorer. Albert and Gracie, well done!



WINNER

Baskets and tubs 2004

SECOND

2004 baskets and tubs were a real joy to judge and we are sure you will agree that the ones photographed here are among the very best. The winning baskets of Linda and Eric Bowen from The Lane, flowered beautifully for many weeks.

Second prize went to Chris and Sheila Osborne of Park Farm.

FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT FOR SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE

My response to the government's plans to build 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire.

As the local MP, I know very well that South Bedfordshire needs more affordable housing for local people to rent and buy. Indeed, more people come to my weekly surgeries about housing than any other issue. Many people that are adequately housed also have concerns that their children will not be able to afford homes locally so that families can stay together, with children living near parents and other relatives.

There are over 2000 people on South Bedfordshire District Council's housing waiting list and the Council already has plans in place to enable the building of 6,000 - 8,000 more houses locally to meet this need. So I am a firm supporter of providing local houses for local people.

Many South Bedfordshire residents would also like to be able to work locally, rather than have to commute out of the area to get to work. I certainly greatly prefer being able to work locally rather than in London, on the days when parliament is not sitting. Local people also want to be able to travel on uncongested roads and trains, to see a doctor easily, to have sufficient school places, police officers, social service facilities and other local amenities. They also greatly appreciate our beautiful countryside, and the distinct character of our towns and villages.

These are the criteria against which local residents, local councillors and I will judge the government's plans to build an additional 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire. With 2000 people on the Council waiting list it is quite clear that the vast majority of these new houses are for people from outside the district, very many of whom will come from London and the rest of the south-east.

The strains on our area will be enormous if these plans go ahead. The major jobs growth planned around Luton airport and the old Vauxhall plant appear very unlikely to be able to provide the jobs needed for these new residents. There will be even more pressure on our already very overcrowded roads and trains. The gridlock on our roads is likely to continue even after the A505 is extended to the M1, with the additional cars on our roads from the extra 80,000 or so residents overriding the benefit this new road will bring. Grave doubts remain that the Translink guided busway will meet out transport needs. There are, even at present, not enough GPs in Leighton Buzzard to care for the residents that have moved into the new houses that have been built there recently.

There are better ways to provide new houses than these proposals. Developing the transport and economy of the north of Britain would ease the strain on the already very overcrowded south-east. Spreading growth organically and proportionately across the widest range of existing communities across the UK would be better for the environment by reducing congestion and pollution and would enhance social cohesion. Large edge-of-town

housing estates do not always produce thriving communities. Trying to solve all of London and the south-east's housing problems by imposing vast numbers of houses on four areas only around London is not a sustainable solution for the residents in those four areas or for the new inhabitants proposed, many of whom will be travelling long distances to work. We can be more imaginative in developing brownfield sites, filling the 100,000 plus empty homes in the south east and developing the flats over shops, many of which would make ideal first homes, would regenerate our town centres and increase security in them.

This is the biggest local issue to affect our area for very many years. Living in a democracy, these decisions should be taken by local councillors, elected to represent the concerns and wishes of those of us who live in South Bedfordshire. Instead of letting each local authority decide on the number of houses needed for their residents, the government's plans span covers several local authorities. The body that will oversee the imposition of this unprecedented level of housebuilding in South Bedfordshire will be a development corporation with a minority of elected councillors on its board. Thus the will of local people will be overridden. All but one of the representations made to me by my constituents have expressed strong opposition to the nature and scale of the government's proposals for South Bedfordshire.

Be in no doubt that wherever you live in South Bedfordshire the government's house building proposals in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-regional strategy will affect you in terms of congestion, access to local services and the quality of your environment.

I have had concerns expressed to me about these proposals from residents in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and almost every village in South Bedfordshire.

Is there anything we can do to put South Bedfordshire's views to the government? I pledge to raise your concerns with the government, in parliament, at every opportunity. The decision to extend the A505 to the M1 [the Dunstable northern bypass] was greatly helped by the 25,000 signatures on the petition I presented to the House of Commons. People power has worked before and can work again. Wherever you live in South Bedfordshire, please sign the petition we are launching on 2 February so that together we can fight for what is right for South Bedfordshire.

'I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year' as this is the Christmas Edition.

ANDREW SELOUS MP

Competitions

Winner of 'Find The Cat' competition last time was Connor West who has won £10.00.

Notes from the Asylum.....continued from last edition.

Whilst working in Wednesbury Rep, Colin was asked to pretend to be the boyfriend of one of the young actresses who was receiving unwanted attention from the leading man. Of course, he jumped at the chance of being the hero. The young actress was Elizabeth Ashton and was very grateful to Colin. So grateful that a few years later she married him. Colin still maintains that Liz didn't marry him for love but out of revenge!

During the sixties, Colin and Liz continued to work in theatres across the country including several in the West End. Colin secured a number of parts in Coronation Street (once as a policeman who had to arrest Ken Barlow and once as a policeman trapped in the rubble with Ena Sharples when the viaduct collapsed.

It is not just Rep that Colin has tried. In 1970 he spent over a year with the Royal Shakespeare Company based at the Aldwych, and it was at this time that Colin, Liz and their young son Mark moved to Harlington where between jobs they worked behind the bar of The Sun. Colin continued to work in theatre and appeared in television productions such as *Grace and Favour* with Molly Sugden, John Inman and the cast of 'Are You Being Served' where he met a young Wendy Richards with whom he would appear years later in *Eastenders* as a mate of Arthur Fowler. He must have a 'soapy' face because he has also appeared in *Emmerdale* on a few occasions.

In 1981, Colin and Liz now with two young boys moved to the Queen's Head in Tebworth and quickly became an institution in the village. While Liz ran the pub, Colin continued to work in various TV productions such as *Begerac* with John Nettles, *The Bullion Boys* with David Jason and of course the famous Kit-Kat advert starring Colin, 20 sheep and a dog. Other programmes include an episode of *Heartbeat* shown in September and yet to be screened, *Rose and Maloney* starring Sarah Lancashire.



So, Colin continues to do some theatre work and some TV work interspersed with the odd pint pulling episode at the Queen's Head. He remains an integral part of the village and you will still find him sitting on his favourite stool in his favourite corner of the bar chatting insanely to no one in particular and sometimes to no one at all. Rest assured however that he would make you very welcome and make sure you will never forget him.

As for me, the head psychiatrist assures me that I am making good progress and that as soon as I stop dribbling he will remove the restraints.

I must be off now, its time to invade Russia again

Napoleon B aka *Mick McDonagh*

GARY CHARLES KINGHAM



Sadly we have to report that Gary Kingham passed away on 6th September aged just 43 after a short illness which he bore with typical courage and fortitude.

Born in Toddington in 1961, Gary moved to Tebworth in 1989 and was a regular player for the Chalgrave cricket club prior to his marriage to Debbie in 1995 at Chalgrave Church.

He worked for Data Post initially then Parcel Force in Milton Keynes, both for a total of 26 years, before ill health cut short his career in 2003.

We at the News are sure you will join us in offering sincere condolences to Debbie and the twins Matthew and Sarah on their sad loss.

Debbie has asked us to pass on her and her family's thanks for the friendship and support they have received at this particularly difficult time.

Plough vs. Queen's Head Annual Cricket Match

This not to be missed major event on the sporting calendar took place on Sunday 26th September. The weather was quite good and the conditions perfect for a spectacular match between two well honed and skilful sides. Sadly this was not the case.

A ragbag of players (a very loose term) from the two pubs gathered at the cricket ground following a warm-up session at The Plough. Having lost the toss, The Queen's Head team batted first and posted what was considered a reasonable score of 96 in their allotted 25 overs, of which the top scorers were extras(33) and Matthew Chinery (23). Tea was taken after that exhausting innings kindly and expertly provided by Frances Masters, ably assisted by Nicola Wells, Jo Finch and Elizabeth Hall (thanks also to Linda Hadden for the lemon cake). The Queen's Head team felt quite confident at this stage knowing their opponents were bloated with sandwiches, tea, beer and anything else they could get their hands on but it was not to be. Following the loss of three quick wickets, Tony Cornes and Tim Petzing crafted a masterly stand of 52 between them to virtually win the match between them.



The final scores being Queens Head 96 for 7, and the Plough 97 for 5.

Commiserations and the debriefings were undertaken at both The Plough and the Queen's Head following the match.



Back row Simon Hall, Brian Squance, Tony Cornes, Chris Squance, Mike Wells, Gary Brown, Neville Andrews, Matthew Chinery, Joe Davis

Front row Dave Cestaro, Tim Petzing, Mike Finch, Roger Masters, Pip Bull (Chris Bull in the loo)

As part of the ongoing long term ground improvement plans the two former old pavilions have been taken down and will shortly be replaced with a more secure storage facility.



FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

As a result of the election in May, there is new Parish Council - although most of us were re-elected. We have one new member - Roger Mence. June Horne stepped down as Chairman and we thanked her for all her hard work. Fortunately, she is still a member of the Council. I was elected as the new Chairman with Ken Green as Vice Chairman.

So what do we do? We are an elected tier of local government. We strive to play a vital part in representing your interests improving the quality of life and the local environment of Tebworth and Wingfield. The issues that concern us include planning, highways, traffic, policing, community safety, transport, village hall, shelters, litter, graffiti, and not forgetting dog bins! Even though we are a small community we can influence other decision makers at District, County and National level.

Each member of the Parish Council has a particular responsibility, which you will find on page 11 of this magazine.

We receive a yearly precept or grant of about £4,200 to help support the aims and work of the parish council, and we are able to give grants to organisations in the village like the village hall, sports club, Parish Church and the Senior Citizens' committee.

So what are we doing at the moment?
Basically a lot, including;

Planning

There are always planning issues for us to consider. We try to find the right balance between preserving the character of the Parish and your development needs. While the planning authority does not have to agree with our recommendations, it must consider our view.

We have - and continue - to express our concerns for the Governments proposed development of Luton and Dunstable. We recognise the need for more housing but are opposed to the use of Green Belt land for this development. Additionally, we are yet to be convinced that there is the right infrastructure for a development of this scale i.e. roads, schools, surgeries, jobs, etc.

Traffic calming

We have bought an illuminated speed sign, which we use from time to time. This has had a good affect with most drivers. We also work in conjunction with the police and have our sign out at one end of Tebworth with a police speed trap at the other end. Just when the drivers think they are safe having passed our sign, if they then speed up the trap catches them.

We have also asked the police to use their speed camera whenever possible. During the past year they have been out 10 times and fined 977 motorists - no cautions!

You will also notice that the gates into Tebworth are now painted white. It has taken the hard work of Derek to get that done by the District Council.

We want to use the speed signs in other parts of the Parish.

Flight Path

We are concerned that the flight path into Luton airport is going to be changed. One proposal under consideration passes over our Parish. We have only just been made aware of this and are making our feelings known through our MP Andrew Selous.

Highways

Always onto the District and County Council to improve roads, hedge cutting, and other related issues. It's a constant battle to try and get them to move quickly - or at all.

Parish Plan

Roger Mence and the team are doing a great job. The idea of the Parish Plan is to draw in residents of Tebworth and Wingfield to produce an action plan for improving the quality of life and the environment. You will have received questionnaires from Roger and the team regarding transport. There will be other issues that will need your input, and if you have particular views please let Roger or any of us know.

Other issues

New road signs for Tebworth and Wingfield (money for these signs is not coming out of our precept), possible new notice board on the corner of Wingfield Road, repair of dog bin, replacement of salt bin, repair of War Memorial, new trees, the bus stop in Wingfield road, development of the Chalgrave web site (more about this to come), sprucing up St Marys Close, and much more.

The Parish Council may seem 'quaint' but we are hard working and we welcome your views. Please contact us at any time or come to one of our meetings. Your views will be heard at the beginning of the meeting so you do not have to stay to the end. We now meet on the last Tuesday of the month. Any changes to this time will posted on the notice board or, again, contact us.

Best wishes

Phil Parry
Chairman

Readers' Letters

Dear Editors
Congratulations!

We would like to thank the editorial and production teams and the distributors for the time they must spend, voluntarily producing such a delightful parish magazine. Giving enjoyment to all those lucky enough to live within the Chalgrave Parish.

Free of charge!!

We look forward to it's arrival on our doorstep with interest. The lively articles, photographs and reports on local events, all help us to keep up to date with things past and to come in the life of the village.

It is a breath of fresh air.

Kate and Kate
Wingfield

Dear Editor

Congratulations to the Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee for the healthy finances shown in the annual accounts published in the last Chalgrave News.

Does anyone know what the committee's plans are for the £10000 reserve funds being held?

RETURN OF THE CHALGRAVE CAT!

We received this unsolicited letter from a parishioner recently and we respect her wish to remain anonymous

Dear Editors

I realise that in writing this letter I may be opening myself up to ridicule from your readers and so, with the interests of my children in mind, I hope you will respect my wishes to remain anonymous....

One frosty morning last March I was about my tiresome daily task of wiping the condensation sodden windows when I spotted a movement in the fields behind the house. About seventy yards away I could clearly see a large feline creature carefully making its way across the paddock. The black panther sized animal was moving with stealth and keeping close to the hedge. I tracked its progress for about twenty seconds until it disappeared into the undergrowth. I stood with my sight fixed to the spot where it had been, hoping to get another glimpse. By now I realised I had witnessed something special.

When I eventually gave up and made my way downstairs I decided to keep this sighting to myself. I knew others would rationalise my tale and try to convince me I had seen nothing other than a rather tubby cat. I walked into the sitting room to find my husband standing near the window. 'You'll never believe what I've just seen' he said.....

I hope this is of interest to your publication.

Kind Regards.....

Makes the hairs stand up on the back of your neck, doesn't it?

Please let us know of any more sightings

Cause for concern?

One of the editorial team noticed a front-page story in the Leighton Buzzard paper recently.

The article highlighted a final town council meeting that was taking place to give residents the final chance to voice their views to the proposed change of Luton Airport flight path which according to the map accompanying the article will switch from one side of Leighton Buzzard to the Chalgrave parish side putting us well and truly inside the new flight path!!

The article stated that some 50/60 aircraft a day will be using the new flight path to land at Luton flying at only 3000 feet above Leighton Buzzard!

Further investigations found that not only had no one on the Chalgrave News editorial team heard of this possible change of flight path but Chalgrave Parish Council had also never been informed.

It seems neither our District Councillor or County Councillor had told our parish council about this possible extremely important change to our life styles even though we understand the plans have been known since 2003!

Further investigation has found that Toddington Council are fully aware of these plans and have been debating the issue for many months!

We have also discovered that all parish councils should have been issued - we believe in 2003 - with full details of the new flight path proposals for discussion but for some reason Chalgrave Parish Council have never received these proposals!

We also understand that the consultative period is or has now closed!

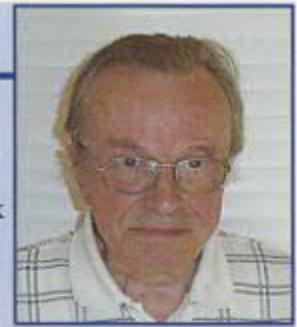
What is going on here? Why have we not been informed of this highly significant change, which is going to affect us all? Why has our Parish Council not been told of these plans by anyone including our elected representatives at District and County Councils? Are we now too late to express our views on the proposals?

Our parish council are looking into this situation as a matter of urgency and we will provide a further report in our next issue.

In the meantime we recommend that everyone read the Parish Council minutes - which are posted on the parish notice boards each month - for progress reports in this matter

Ramblings on the Parish Council

Bill (Scoop) Archer



Dear Readers,

I have to tell you that my departure is a gross exaggeration. I was unfortunate (some may think fortunate) that due to a mishap, my article for the last Chalgrave News was mislaid. So I launch into the July meeting where seven Parish Councillors, one County Councillor and a member of the public attended plus one guest speaker - Mr Mike Wells.

County Councillor Goodwin appraised the meeting of the proposals to have a 'Dunstable Gateway' built on Dunstable Downs. Councillor Goodwin is concerned that car parking charges could be introduced and the view over the escarpment could be spoilt.

Mike Wells was invited to explain the workings of the website which the Council have decided to use. So now chalgrave.org will gain you access to our very own website on the World Wide Web - provided of course you have a computer! Information may include Parish history, minutes of the Council meetings, events diary, topical information, and information for new residents. The site will provide links to the Chalgrave News, Memorial Hall, Sports Club and South Beds District Council etc.

Due to holiday absences, no meetings were held in August but two were held in September. On the 7th, five Parish Councillors, one County Councillor and one member of the public attended plus Mr Philip Stanbridge who spoke on 'affordable Housing'.

Summarising,

- * Young people move away as they cannot afford housing, thus disrupting communities.
- * Older people are downsizing.
- * Affordable housing is currently a spin-off from larger commercial developments and usually consists of 15 or more houses which is not appropriate for small villages.
- * Exception sites may be available e.g. at village fringes for a maximum of 10 houses and which could be owned by a Housing Association.
- * Planning permission only being given for Housing Association houses and for people within the Parish for perpetuity.

Councillor Goodwin made the point that development would have to be phased as not all of the houses would be required at the same time.

A running theme through most meetings is the repair of the war memorial at Chalgrave Church. The Council are still awaiting quotes.

.....and another is the bus stop opposite St Mary's Close.

.....and yet another is concern over new housing within the region.

I hope the sharper-eyed amongst you have noticed that the village entrance gates have now been painted white!

I would like to reiterate that I have never claimed that my ramblings are comprehensive. For a fuller report please read the Parish Council minutes which are always pinned up on the parish notice boards.

I have been asked to advertise the fact that owing to the democratic process, Parish Council meetings will from now be held on the LAST Tuesday of the month and that every meeting will include an open forum for parishioners to air their views. So if you want to turn up for a 'toot' it's the last Tuesday in the month.

.....and a very happy Christmas to you all.

Bill Archer



New Signs erected for Wingfield and Tebworth

Chalgrave News Comment

In the last issue of The Chalgrave News we bemoaned the disappearing events at the annual Chalgrave Village Games due to the ever-increasing demands of the village hall's insurance company as a direct result of the litigious and politically correct society in which we now all live.

This gave us the idea of monitoring the national press for a couple of months to see what other activities and events were being stopped for these reasons. The following are all true stories we found reported in the national newspapers.

Guy Fawkes Night at the Houses of Parliament banned – to avoid upsetting Catholics

Reforms announced in September - personal circumstances will be taken into account when universities receive applications. This could mean students from deprived backgrounds with C grades at A level being given university places instead of A grade students. Oxford Universities response is to now consider becoming a private institution possibly at some stage in the future charging students at least £10,000 a year while offering bursaries to less well off students to avoid taking lesser exam graded students

Around 500 members of the Welsh Development Agency sent on training courses at a cost estimated to be £17500 each to learn how to avoid upsetting minority groups. As part of their training they were told never to use words like 'brain storming' (considered insulting to people suffering mental illness) nit-picking & nitty-gritty (references to the slave trade)

Youngsters taking donkey rides on the Bognor Regis beach must wear safety helmets

Railway station ticket clerk regularly chalked jokes on a board to cheer up commuters at Hove station East Sussex. One day he wrote – Hear about the dyslexic who went to a toga party? He went dressed as a goat. Although most commuters laughed at the joke 3 complained and he was suspended from his job with the threat of being sacked.

Up to 20000 revellers turn up each year to the 200 year old 9 day Whitstable Oyster Festival in Kent. This year organisers were forced to write no less than 53 risk assessments including one for the Punch & Judy show. Amongst these checks were to ensure that the face painter's materials were non-toxic and issue advice to the crowds to wear sun lotion and hats. The chairman of the event resigned in disgust after 10 years in that office stating that the form filling has driven away volunteer organisers and the events public liability cover has risen from £100,000 ten years ago to £5million today

A teenager has been granted legal aid to challenge the Governments policy of imposing curfews on under 16's at nighttime trouble spots in Richmond upon Thames Surrey. His case is being backed by civil liberties group 'Liberty' who say this infringes his Human Rights

Jailed for life for murder in 1992 but this 38 year old man has been granted his demand to have a sex change operation costing £32,000 on the National Health – compare this with the other National Health story in this issue!

The centuries old tradition of Punch & Judy shows have been banned by Bodmin Council following a protest led by the director of the local Women's Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre

In September The Appeal Court overturned a High Court ruling that three Gipsy families could continue to live in the permanent homes they had built on land they bought even though planning permission was turned down – as the families had the right to do this under the European Convention of Human Rights. Their appeal was backed by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott

32-year-old shopkeeper lost £100 worth of goods in the latest of several raids on his shop over the past few months by gangs of youths. He and a friend tracked the gang to a local park where they were drinking the stolen bottles of wine. On trying to reclaim his goods he was smashed over his head with a bottle of wine and stabbed in the back with a knife two inches from his spine. Now he has been arrested after one of the gang accused him of assault. He is facing two charges of actual bodily harm and two of common assault

The EU plans to ban 'girl only' flat-share adverts to ensure 'sexual equality in access to goods and services

Six horse chestnut trees have been reduced to bare branches by South Tyneside Council to stop youngsters gathering conkers

On the subject of conkers a school has made youngsters wear safety glasses if they want to play the traditional game of conkers

A police officer on sick leave claiming bullying by senior officers had threatened to take his case to an employment

tribunal claiming racial discrimination were he dismissed from the force. He was then in a collision causing the occupants of the other car to need hospital treatment. He did not stop and drove off trying to cover up his accident by repainting his car and asking others to say they were driving at the time. After he was arrested it was discovered he had no car insurance. He faced a fine of up to £5000 and a lifetime driving ban plus 6 months in jail. The Magistrates fined him £575 plus £35 costs and banned him from driving for 1 year. The police force fined him 1 weeks wages and he kept his job

An Afghan refugee veered on the wrong side of the road and killed a motorcyclist. He had no driving licence or insurance. He admitted causing death by dangerous driving which has a maximum sentence of 14 years. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment. (the newspaper also reported that at random police road checks one in five motorists are found to have no insurance, which means up to 5 million people are driving illegally in the UK!)

Morley Art College London are considering having to take down their many nude life drawings hung around the college as examples of their students works following a complaint by a female member of staff who complained that pictures of the naked human form offended her religious Muslim beliefs. College officials have put up warning signs alerting people that there are nude artworks in the building.

Customers ordering rare or medium-rare burgers at a hotel in London's Docklands were asked to sign a disclaimer to waive the hotels responsibilities should they get food poisoning

The title 'ethnic minorities' has been deemed offensive by the Law Society. Solicitors now have to reverse the term to 'minority ethnic'.

But all is not lost! Plans to slim down the chubby trademark chef of the Little Chef chain of restaurants who some had deemed not Politically Correct because of fears over promoting obesity have been shelved following massive protests from customers!

Every one of these examples has been taken from the recent media and printed in good faith. None as far as we are aware are made up. Welcome to the lunatic asylum. You couldn't make it up if you tried!

What activities will be left in the Chalgrave Games in 10 years time!

Answers on a postage stamp please!

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

It is with considerable regret that I once again have to apologise for a misprint in one of my replies in the last issue of The Chalgrave News.

A resident of our parish wrote and asked me if I had any time saving ideas to help her over the forthcoming busy Christmas festive.

I suggested the following recipe as a quick way of preparing and baking cakes.

Ingredients - 4 oz cooking fat. 2 eggs. 4 oz castor sugar. 4 oz plain flour. 1 1/2 tps of baking powder.

Preparation - Line sandwich tin with greased greaseproof paper.

Sieve flour and baking powder into mixing bowl. Add all other ingredients into the bowl and beat.

Bake at 35 minutes at 375F or gas mark 4.

Unfortunately not only was the 'Bake at 35 minutes etc.' instruction not printed but a typesetting error caused the instruction 'Add all other ingredients into bowl and beat' to read 'Add all other ingredients into bowl and eat'.

I must apologise on behalf of the typesetting team for this error and to the unnamed family who tried my recipe.

I do hope that your unfortunate stomach problems will have settled down by Christmas day!!!!

Well until next issue - goodbye dear readers and a very merry Christmas to you all.....

The MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund

To all our friends who popped into the Memorial Hall on 24th September for a cup of tea and a chat.

We raised the fantastic sum of £215 for the MacMillan Cancer Relief Fund. The morning was a great success and in response to requests we are planning another 'drop in' sometime early next year.

Keep an eye on the notice boards for the date. Thank you so much for all your contributions for such a worthy cause.

(Nicola wishes to express again her apologies for the scones and promises to get them from Waitrose instead!)

Elizabeth Hall and Nicola Wells



40,000 Houses

In the last edition of The Chalgrave News we set out the case for and against building new housing in or near to our parish and sent copies of the article to all interested parties for their comments. Particularly on the proposals to build over 40000 new houses outside Luton/Houghton Regis.

Readers might be interested to see the response we had from the Chairman of South Bedfordshire District Council:

'Thank you for your letter of 30th September enclosing a copy of the Chalgrave News. I have passed a copy of your letter together with the Chalgrave News to Cllr. Tom Nicols who is the Portfolio Holder covering housing as I am unable to comment on the new housing proposals for the Luton/Houghton Regis area.

Marion Mustoe, Chairman of the Council'

Unable to comment on the largest ever proposed increase in new housing in South Bedfordshire ??? Surely the Chairman of our District Council must have some views on the imposition of over 40000 new houses by the Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott which will affect everyone living in South Bedfordshire and who our Chairman is supposed to represent?

I am sorry but this response is just not good enough but we will have to await Cllr Tom Nicols reply.

Lets hope he has something to say on the matter!



Roger Fenwick carries out one of his last duties as Chairman of the Chalgrave Hall Committee, putting up the new notice board.



Our compliments and thanks to you all. For it is thanks very largely to you for so loyally and so helpfully working with us that at this, the fourth Christmas at war, the nation's health is on a sound footing. But though "good living" must now be taken in the sense of healthy living, instead of luxury living, and we all must go carefully with fuel, we can still make Christmas fare hearty, appetising and tempting to look at. Here, with our very best wishes, are some ideas which may help you:

★ Christmas Day Pudding

Rub 3 oz. cooking fat into 3 tablespoonfuls self-raising flour until like fine crumbs. Mix in 1½ breakfastcupfuls stale breadcrumbs, ½ lb. prunes (soaked 24 hours, stoned, chopped) or any other dried fruit such as sultanas, 3 oz. sugar, 1 teaspoonful mixed spice, ½ teaspoonful grated nutmeg. Then chop 1 large apple finely, grate 1 large raw carrot and 1 large raw potato; add to dry ingredients. Stir in a tablespoonful lemon substitute. Mix 1 teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda in 3 tablespoonfuls warm milk and stir thoroughly into pudding mixture. Put into one large or two small well-greased basins, cover with margarine papers and steam for 2½ hours. This can be prepared overnight and cooked on Christmas Day.



★ Christmas Fruit Pies

This mixture is a good alternative to mincemeat.

Warm 1 tablespoonful marmalade (or jam, but this is not so spicy) in small saucepan over tiny heat. Add ¼ lb. prunes (soaked 24 hours, stoned, chopped) or other dried fruit, 1 tablespoonful sugar, 1 teaspoonful stale cake crumbs, or half cake, half breadcrumbs, ½ teaspoonful mixed spice. Stir together until crumbs are quite moist. Remove from heat, add 1 large chopped apple; also some chopped nuts if you have any. Make up into small pies, or large open flans. The mixture keeps several days in a cool place.



★ Stuffed Mutton *With apple or bread sauce, this is as delicious as any turkey!*

1 leg of mutton, or loin of mutton (half a leg does, but is more difficult to stuff). Bone with a sharp carving knife and small kitchen knife, or get your butcher to do it. Spread the meat flat, stuff one end with your favourite savoury stuffing, one end with sausage meat, the two meeting in the centre. Fold meat over, reforming into shape, sew with sacking-needle and stout thread, place sewn side down in baking dish, spread liberally with dripping. Put halved potatoes, peeled or in jackets, in the baking dish. Allow about 40-50 minutes before joint is done.

★ Emergency Cream

Bring ½ pint water to blood heat, melt 1 tablespoonful unsalted margarine in it. Sprinkle 3 heaped tablespoonfuls household milk powder into this, beat well, then whisk thoroughly. Add 1 teaspoonful sugar and ½ teaspoonful vanilla. Leave to get very cold.

