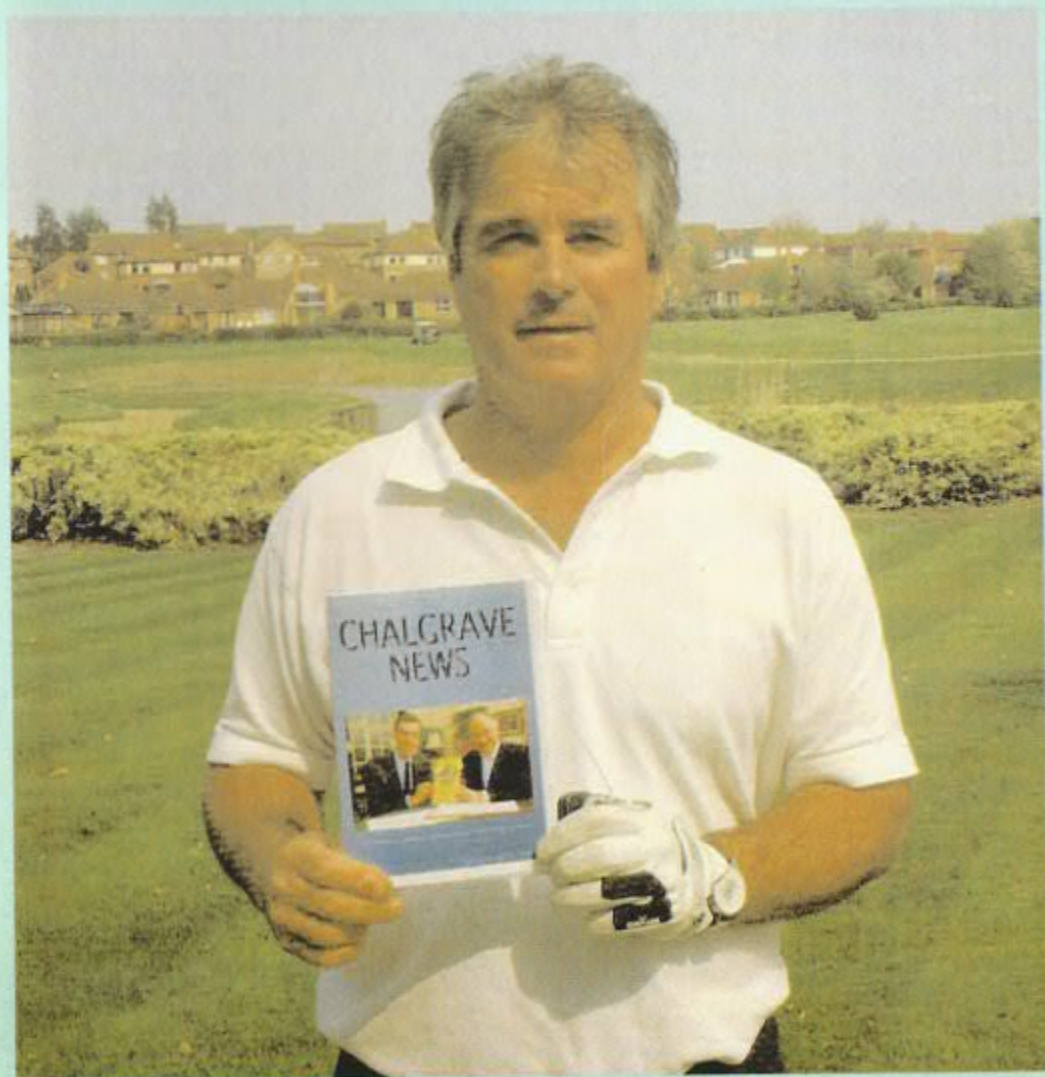


CHALGRAVE NEWS



Publication No.12 2005-2

Chalgrave Social Diary

- Parish Council meet Village Hall 7.30pm, last Tues of the month
- Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm
- Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm
- Line dancing - Village Hall, Weds & Thurs eves 7.30pm
- Cricket Season
- Pilates - Village Hall on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Pilates lessons Thursday evenings - contact Debbie Parry
- Magic Live Theatre Show. Dates to be announced
- Front Garden competition - judging has commenced
- MP village surgery - 22nd July
 - 4.00 - 4.30pm Tebworth, outside the Queen's Head
 - 4.35 - 5.05pm Wingfield, outside The Plough
- Pumpkin Competition at All Saints Church - September

If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine in future
please contact one of the editorial team.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS IN THE PARISH PLEASE LET US
KNOW FOR THE 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.

Editorial

The Editorial Team would like to thank all those parishioners who bothered to say thank you and well done for the last magazine. It is always nice to get such positive feedback from you, and thanks also for the constructive criticism, which is just as important so that we can continue to improve the quality of future issues. Your input also helps to maintain the enthusiasm within the team.

The enthusiasm just mentioned has been given a tremendous boost by the new Advertising Team consisting of such delights as Jo Finch, Joanne Cestaro, Jo Baldwin and Debbie Kingham. They will be seeking out new advertisers and possible sponsors, so if you can think of anyone who would like to advertise or maybe sponsor a page why don't you give us a ring. Telephone numbers can be found on the contacts page.

GREAT NEWS!! One sponsor is already on board, POPLARS NURSERY who has agreed to judge and sponsor the Best Kept Front Garden Competition, so a huge thank you goes to David Little of Poplars Nursery for his generosity. So keep up the good work. The Editorial Team have been lurking in your front garden taking photos.

ATTENTION all you car owners. Saturday August 6th is your lucky day! A fund raising car wash is taking place at the village hall, see inside for details.

On the same day we would like to invite all of you who remember the Second World War to come to tea at the Village Hall. Bring any photos and memorabilia that you have and have a good old gossip.
Transport is available if required so please turn up.

The last issue of this magazine had, as you know, Michael Howard on the front cover. This time we thought we would have someone who wins things, so thank you to Allan Lamb the cricketer for agreeing to pose. Who would you like to see on the next issue? Write to us or find one of the team in the pub and tell them. We would have tried Osama Bin Laden but are having trouble finding his address.

Finally that Chalgrave Cat has reared it's ugly head again, if you find it please report it to any of the editorial team, if you are the first and if we are feeling generous you might even win a prize.

What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News

Why do local residents not get warned of forthcoming road closures in their area? Around two months ago Lords Hill was suddenly closed off for a couple of days to allow for road repairs. This resulted in all Houghton Regis bound traffic having to divert through Tebworth and Wingfield and many parish residents making an unnecessary journey to Lords Hill only to be turned away and redirected along the A5 to complete their trip.

On the 23rd March 2005 there was a very serious road traffic accident in Tebworth on the Hockliffe Road when a car hit one of the dustmen as he was carrying out the days rubbish collection.

Fortunately although he was badly injured and spent a long time in hospital we now understand he is on the way to recovery and I am sure everyone wishes him well and hope that he is able to return to his job as soon as possible.

Why do some people find it so difficult to drive their vehicles in a safe and considerate manner these days? It is fairly obvious that if you see a dustcart making collections there will be people working around the vehicle and any passing manoeuvre should be made slow, wide and careful.

Have you noticed the number of defective streetlights there are around our parish? Several lights are

permanently on 24 hours a day. A couple of lights are never on and a few others have been repaired by wrapping insulating tape around the light shades presumably to stop the shades falling to the ground. A member of the editorial team telephoned the help number that can now be found on all lights to report a couple of faults including lights on 24 hours a day. In this day and age of conservation and helping the environment you would think that by reporting streetlights permanently on this would in a small way assist these aims and also help keep our council taxes down. We were surprised to be told that from a cost point of view it does not make any difference to the council whether the street light is on or off 24 hours a day as they only pay a fixed charge each year for every street light erected! However there is at present a gradual exercise to fit day/night solar switches to every street light in the district which will help the environment by reducing electricity usage.

Early morning 1st May 2005. Just about everyone in the parish seems to have been woken by the sound of heavy thunder and lightning as several storms passed over the area. For those brave enough to open the curtains and watch, it was an impressive sight of, heavy rain and then finally large hailstones battering the countryside. Fortunately - as far as we are aware - no damage was reported by anyone living in the

parish.

Did anyone else see the low fly past over Wingfield of the Royal Air Force famous Red Arrows air display team on Saturday 25th June at around 6.45pm? Very impressive! They flew over in two 'V' formations - 10 aircraft in all (or it could have been 12 it happened so fast!).

The drain at the entrance to ParkView Lane is still blocked. The level of water after a rainstorm is so high it completely fills the road making it impossible for pedestrians.

A few weeks ago one of the editorial team was speaking to someone who lives in Luton and who occasionally needs to drive to Toddington. When this person learnt our editorial colleague lived in Chalgrave they said that in the past he and his wife would often drive through Houghton Regis and use the Lords Hill road for their journey. However a few years ago when driving back from Toddington they had a very strange experience, which scared them so much that they now never use the Lords Hill road.

When approaching Lords Hill they saw a figure dressed in a grey hood and robe crossing the road on Lords Hill from Chalgrave Manors field. (We know what you are thinking! But no, this was long before wearing hooded tops became the fashion!) Half way across the road the figure

seemed to disappear into the centre of the road. They both saw this figure and it's disappearance. They described the figure as what they imagined a monk would look like. When we told them that there used to be a small monastery near Chalgrave Manor several centuries ago they were even more amazed as they had no knowledge of this before telling us their story. I don't think they will be coming anywhere Lords Hill again for a good many years!! Has anyone else ever heard any stories of strange goings on and a hooded figure on Lords Hill?

Now that summer is with us and our trees and hedgerows are once again in full flower has anyone else noticed the number of dead or partially dead trees around the countryside?

Vandalism continues on the odd occasion around the parish although Tebworth seems to suffer more than most. If anyone witnesses acts of vandalism please report these to the police or parish council. To those who are causing the damage it might seem to be just a bit of fun but you do not realise the consequences of your actions in not only the cost to the owner of the property vandalised or the parish council who have to pay for repairs by raising our council tax each year. Also there is the distress to many people, particularly the elderly, who have to put up with this type of

unacceptable mindless behaviour.

As reported in the last Chalgrave News it is still the intention to arrange a meeting at the village hall to see if we can form a Residents Association for the parish but unfortunately at the time of going to press it has not been able to arrange for this to take place until later in the year. Further details will be given in the next issue of this magazine.

The roads around the village have had some patching up work undertaken but areas are still in need of more

permanent repair.

If you are not already a member have you heard Countryside Watch? This is a Bedfordshire police organisation designed to provide all members with regular information of local crimes along with crime prevention tips other useful information. All you need to have is a computer and the Countryside Watch Ringmaster will forward emails on a regular basis. You might even find that by being a member your household insurance company will offer you a discount on your annual premiums! To join telephone Dunstable police on 01582 473351.



ROGATION DAY

Stepping out.

Where is the dyke?

See page 38 for the whole story

04:00 Friday 27th May 2005

If you have a heartbeat and live in Tebworth then you must have heard the helicopter circling the village on that Friday morning.

Many people have asked what it was doing and who was it?

Well a reliable source reports that 3 men were seen getting out of a car that had driven down The Lane (where else?). They were putting on masks or balaclavas so the Police were called. They responded immediately with three squad cars including a dog patrol and the helicopter with heat seeking technology.

Two of the men were arrested in The Lane but the third managed to escape across the fields. He was found by the helicopter spotlight and tracked until caught in the Chalgrave Road by the dog patrol.

There was no further information available at the time of going to press but it is nice to know that we are being well looked after as we sleep safely in our beds.



Dirty car ?



As part of our ongoing fund raising activities we have rounded up some "volunteers" who are fully prepared and eager to give your car a jolly good wash and brush up, so if you are a car owner and would like to help support your Chalgrave News, for as little as £4.00 you can come along to

**Chalgrave Memorial Hall on Saturday August 6th
from 12:00 noon until 5:00pm**

and drive proudly away in a gleaming version of the car you drove in with. Included in the price is automatic entry to our prize raffle the winner of which will have their car professionally valeted by MOTOR-ICED of Hockliffe. The winning number will be displayed in the Parish Council notice board (opposite the Queens Head) from 6:00pm
Many thanks to that fine body of men at MOTOR-ICED for their sponsorship of this endeavour.

60 years ago

As most people know May 8th 1945 was VE Day. This was Victory in Europe day when the British and allied forces accepted the unconditional surrender of the Axis forces.

To a lot of people this marked the end of the Second World War. Not so!!

Still fighting for freedom and democracy were the “forgotten army” in the Far East and the war was to continue for another 3 long months.

On July 28th the Allies delivered an ultimatum to Japan to surrender, when this was ignored US Forces dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6th followed three days later by another dropped on Nagasaki. Also on August 9th Soviet Forces invaded Manchuria.

The Allies celebrated victory over Japan on August 15th 1945 although the Japanese administration did not officially surrender with a signed document until September 2nd

Both these dates are known as VJ Day and this was generally recognised as the end of the Second World War.

To mark the 60 years The Chalgrave News, in conjunction with The Senior Citizens Committee would like to invite all those who remember the war to come to The Memorial Hall for tea, biscuits & cakes on Saturday August 6th at 2:00pm till about 4:00pm.

*I know we'll meet again
some sunny
day.*



Come and have a chat about the things you did for fun and some of the things you had to do to survive during the war, bring any old photos or memorabilia with you.

We would love to see you there so don't be shy.

Congratulations to Darren Thomson from Wingfield on his success with Toddington Rovers under 11 football team. Darren, bottom right and the rest of the team were crowned League 1 Champions in May, having been unbeaten in the league all season.

Unfortunately they missed out on the League cup by losing in the final to Barnfield.

Darren also plays for Parkfields school Year 6 team and they have had success by winning the County Cup, Darren scoring the winning goal.

Once again, congratulations to Darren and the rest of the team, let's hope the success continues next season.



A THANK-YOU NOTE

Peter and Linda Hadden wish to thank all the members of the Old Time Music Hall production for the lovely gifts of flowers and whisky presented to them on the Saturday night. Very much appreciated! In turn we would like to thank everybody who took part on and off the stage for their hard work and enthusiasm - well done! And in music hall parlance - 'Here's to the Next Time'.

Chalgrave Church



Services and special events at All Saints this summer.

Services in church are at the usual times – 1st and 3rd Sundays 9.30 am
2nd and 4th Sundays 11.00 am

The Service on the 2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service which lasts between 30 and 40 minutes and is more informal.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Rector in regards to baptisms, weddings or funerals, or indeed any other matter.

In June this year we were very pleased to have the Girls Uniformed Organisations with us at our Family Service where we talked about God's creation, through buzzing like bees and flapping our arms to imitate birds. None of us took off. At the Family Service in May we saw what people had done with money given to 'use their talents', the most successful being our baker Marie who increased her outlay fivefold by baking some fairy cakes. Spurred on by this, one couple arranged for a raffle and did a small party and we thank Brett and Lorraine for this. We also welcomed Revd Tony Knox, erstwhile Rector of Toddington who preached for us at All Saints.

This summer, there is more in store....

Sunday 24th July – Open Air Songs of Praise 6 pm with various additions...

**31st July – Benefice Communion 9.30 am Preacher Barbara McIntosh,
Chaplain at Luton Airport.**

A bit further on we have the famous 'Pig Roast' on Sunday 4th September and our **Harvest** on Sunday 25th September with communion at 11 am and a Songs of Praise at 6 pm.....which brings me to... how are the pumpkins going? I must admit that in May I thought about changing it to a strawberry competition as the weather was so indifferent, but I'm a bit more confident about having a pumpkin this autumn. Go on gloat...there are still a few months left and I haven't seen what you've got yet!

Just a note to say how particularly nice the churchyard looks this year. Despite the rather indifferent weather of May, the area surrounding the church has been well tended, and is not only a place to remember our loved ones, but one in which we can be at peace and relax. Congratulations to all those who tend

the graves so well and particular thanks to our trinity of hard working volunteers who make the grounds the beautiful green space it is.

From the registers....

Weddings – Roshdi and Samantha Guirguis.
Paul and Lucy Oliver
Robert and Michelle Youngworth

Funerals in the parish –
Elsie Mooring,
Keith Machin,
Michael Cooke

Baptisms – Jay Atkinson



Roshdi & Samantha



Paul & Lucy



Robert & Michelle

Interesting website:- GOOGLE EARTH

A truly fascinating site. You will need to download it, but it's free.

<http://earth.google.com/>

OLD TIME MUSIC HALL

April 2005

We arrived at Chalgrave Village Hall to be tantalisingly tuned in by our charming chairman Mr Philip Parry, with a titillating turn of Knees up Mother Brown by all the company. The show ended with a rousing finale of Land of Hope and Glory to scintillating, sensational and superbly, satisfactory piano playing by the musical maestro Mr Peter Freeman.

In between, we were treated to an assorted array of drama, dance, glamour and gallantry to mellifluent music and bare faced cheek which received many thunderous ovations from a very enthusiastic audience.

All three evenings played to a full house.

The food was fantastically flavoursome, served by a wonderful team of waiters and waitresses.

Stupendous scenery, cracking curtain raising and lovely lighting all made for a perfectly pleasant evening.





A large profit of approximately £800 was made for the Senior Citizens Fund.
Thanks to Linda and Peter Hadden for a wonderful show.

Ramblings on the Parish Council

Bill (Scoop) Archer



It has become such an uphill struggle to get things done; bad enough tending to the everyday necessities, but everything now is a veritable Everest to climb. It is a miracle to me that half our Parish Councillors don't end up in mental homes!

Take the issue of tree and shrub cut back. The trees in question are abutting the footpath opposite the Woodyard and on the right hand side entering St Mary's Close. The various authorities concerned must first establish who is responsible then get clearance (an unintentional pun) to act. Surely this should have been established years ago, but one finds the original contact has moved on and the whole process must be embarked upon again. Then comes the game of shuttlecock between District, County and Highway authorities. Then we find our original contact has gone sick. The chances are that when the job eventually gets done, Chinese whispers operate and what with the time delay, the original request is altered sometimes beyond recognition.

It now appears (surprise, surprise) that there is insufficient 'brown site' land to provide the housing that our government insists is necessary. Could it be that they intend to move the whole population south and leave the north to illegal immigrants? A sort of modern day Dane law. Come what may, they seem intent on obliterating the Green Belt even replacing democratic bodies with Quangos. Our Parish Council's unequivocal stance is 'NO GREENBELT LOSS.'

I do hope that when politicians rabbit on about mandate, they realise that the electorate majority have voted not for the better party but what they consider to be the lesser evil!

You will have seen in the last 'Chalgrave News' under the heading 40,000 houses, a response from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office signed by a Mr Jeff Rooker who states that he is the Minister for Regeneration. It actually says that some loss of Green Belt is inevitable, but beggars the issue of how much and where. He also makes the fatuous statement that local planning authorities will be expected to make good the loss. He also suggests that land should be safeguarded for a further 15,400 homes around Luton by 2031. Well, that one's a no go if safeguarding means the Green Belt. Perhaps politicians are different from us ordinary folk inasmuch as they don't hear what's coming out of their mouths!

So to my final moan. The plethora of publications issued by bodies new and existing is bewildering. My fantasy is that Councils will find it impossible to operate and 'Big Brother' will step in. – ***Don't say I didn't warn you!***

Front cover

Our front cover is Alan Lamb, the South African born cricketer of English descent who played test cricket for England between 1982 and 1992. He was apprehended by one of the editorial team and was delighted to be photographed.

During our quest to find front page celebrities we have received the following reply:-

Many thanks for your ingenious request for Archbishop Rowan to be pictured with a copy of the Chalgrave News. Sadly for the moment the request can't easily be met; promotion photographs for publications falls, I'm afraid, well outside the normal circumstances in which we arrange for photographs of the Archbishop to be taken! I will consult my colleagues to see whether there might be a way round this; we might offer the standard Archbishop photograph, but a promotion shot would be out of the question, not least because there are around 14,000 such magazines and we do try to be fair!

I am sorry to disappoint,

Jonathan Jennings

Revd Jonathan Jennings

Archbishop's Press Secretary

Lambeth Palace

London SE1 7JU

Beware - Telephone Fraud

We have been advised of a telephone fraud currently in operation -this applies to home and work telephones, landlines and mobiles. If you receive one of these calls, upon answering the telephone you will hear a recorded message congratulating you on winning an all expenses trip to an exotic location. You will then be asked to press 9 to hear further details. If you press 9 you will be connected to a premium rate line that costs approximately £20 per minute. Even if you disconnect immediately, it will remain connected for a minimum of 5 minutes costing around £100. The final part of the call involves you being asked to key in your postcode and house number, which has other serious consequences. After a further 2 minutes you will receive a message informing you that you are not one of the lucky winners. The total bill by then will be well over £100. Since the calls are originating from outside the UK, BT and other telephone companies are left relatively powerless to act. The only safe solution is to HANG UP before the message prompts you to dial 9, even safer HANG UP on any unsolicited 'free offer calls'.

There is another scam operating on mobile phones as well. A missed call comes up. The number is 0709 020 3840, the last four numbers may vary, but certainly the first four will remain the same. If you call this number you will be charged £50 per minute. People have complained about their phone bills, once they have realised the cost of the call, but apparently this is completely legal. So beware, do not call back numbers beginning with '0709'.

Richard Clarke – Bedfordshire Police

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Have you ever wondered how much of the rubbish we create gets recycled? Well I have and when South Beds Council produced their "Recycle Now" leaflet I was disappointed to see that it is only 11.7%.

I scratched my head and pondered why this was when our council will even collect 'Recyclables' from our doorstep! And yet when I looked around our parish on a recent bin-day how many orange bags did I see ... not as many as I would have hoped for.

Can I urge you all to have a think and ask yourself the question how hard is it for me to collect together articles that can be recycled? All you have to do is place the items in the orange bags, pop them out with your weekly rubbish and the council do the rest. If you need bags contact the South Beds recycling desk on 01582 472222 or log on to www.southbeds.gov.uk.

Take responsibility for the waste you produce and safeguard the environment, if not for you for your future generations.

Cathy
The Lane

Luton Airport Flight Path Changes

A final note on the subject to let everyone know that, according to the powers that be, the new route of the flight path is going to be over the Parish, but at a height of 5000 ft and only for incoming flights. So any noise will be minimal. This was explained to us at the Parish Council Assembly which was held on Tuesday April 19th 2005

Unfortunately The Parish Council found out about the changes from someone who had read about it in the Leighton Buzzard Observer, and were therefore too late to express their reservations about it at any consultative meeting. All other Parish Councils that were affected were informed months beforehand by South Beds District Council so that they could lobby their District Councillors and put forward any objections they had.

This was not the case for Chalgrave Parish, apparently Chalgrave was overlooked, which is a bit strange because the Leader of the District Council lives in - guess what parish?

Yes Chalgrave!

Millennium Youth Award 2005

Congratulations to both Margaret Asbury and Courtney Finch for jointly winning the Parish Council's 2005 Millennium Youth Award.

Normally, there is only one winner but the Parish Council had to conclude that this year they were unable to choose between Margaret and Courtney.

Margaret aged 10 from Manor Farm, Wingfield was nominated for her hard work, discipline, achievement and excellence in all sports. She is a member of the Parkfields School cross country and athletics team and was recently chosen to represent South Bedfordshire in the County final. In addition, Margaret is an excellent swimmer. As a member of the Houghton Regis Swimming Club, she has won many medals and trophies regularly competing in galas against other clubs.



Courtney, also aged 10 and from The Lane in Tebworth, was nominated for her outstanding effort in raising over £500 to purchase a mobility scooter for her school friend who suffers from Brittle Bone Disorder. This she did by raising £245 through walking neighbours dogs and organising a sponsored maths test at school, raising a further £300. Clearly, Courtney showed tremendous initiative, thoughtfulness and maturity beyond her years.

The awards were made at The Chalgrave Games on 10th July.

Well done Margaret and Courtney.

General Election 2005

On Thursday 5th May we all - or at least some of us - went along to the village hall to cast our votes in the General Election.

What was the out come? Does anyone care nowadays? These are just a few of the burning questions the Chalgrave News special handpicked election team hope to answer! (We have only shown the results of the top few candidates in each ward to save space)

Bedfordshire South West (includes Chalgrave Parish)

Andrew Selous (Conservative) 22114

Joyce Still (Labour) 13837

Andy Strange (Lib Dem) 7723

Conservative win by 8277 votes

(2001 General Election result - Conservative win by 776 votes)

Other Bedfordshire seats -

Bedfordshire North East

Alistair Burt (Conservative) 24725

Keith White (Labour) 12474

Conservative win by 12251 votes

(2001 General Election result - Conservative win by 8066 votes)

Bedfordshire Mid

Nadine Dorries (Conservative) 23345

Mark Chapman (Lib Dem) 11990

Conservatives win by 11355 votes

(2001 General Election result - Conservative win by 8577 votes)

Bedford

Patrick Hall (Labour) 17557

Richard Fuller (Conservative) 14174

Labour win by 3383 votes

(2001 General Election result - Labour win by 6157 votes)

Luton North

Kelvin Hopkins (Labour) 19062

Hannah Hall (Conservative) 12575

Labour win by 6487 votes

(2001 General Election result - Labour win by 9977 votes)

Luton South

Margaret Moran (Labour) 16610

Richard Stay (Conservative) 10960

Labour win by 5650 votes

(2001 General Election result - Labour win by 10133 votes)

Overall in Bedfordshire there was a swing towards the Conservatives and away from Labour but no seats were won or lost to other parties.

Nationally the Labour party won another 5 years in office but with a much-reduced majority.

Labour lost 57 seats giving them a majority of 66 in the House of Commons while the Conservatives gained 31 seats. The Lib Dems also gained 10 seats.

Nationally there was a 61.3% turnout of voters - only 2% up on 2001 despite widespread postal voting (6.5 million postal ballots were applied for this election) - but this figure is an amazing 10% lower than any turnout in any other General Election from 1920 to 2000!

According to media reports the Conservatives polled around 60000 more votes across the Nation than the Labour party but this only gave them 197 seats against Labour's 355 seats! (8,086,306 votes to 8,028,242 votes).

The reason given for this strange fact is that the Conservatives polled an average of 42000 votes for each seat they won against Labours average of 28000 votes per seat won.

Labour won the election with only 22% of the votes cast across the country - around 1 person in every 5 who voted!

39% of the eligible population did not even bother to vote! That's around 2 out of every 5 adults in the country!

Still according to quotes in the media by Labour they had good results and the Conservatives had poor results. According to the Conservatives they had good results and Labour poor results. According to the Lib Dems they had good results and both Labour and the Conservatives had poor results.

So that's OK then - no one had a bad result apart from us, the electorate, for failing to turn out and cast our votes for whichever party we wanted to support!

Bedfordshire County Council

We also voted for a County Councillor.

Toddington Ward (includes Chalgrave Parish)	
Rhys Goodwin (Conservative)	1871 (Elected)
Edward Keane (Labour)	771
Shirley Gilchrist (Lib Dem)	735

Overall results of the wards holding elections (only a proportion of the wards in the County are put forward each election to ensure continuity of local Government)

Conservatives won 11 seats

Lib Dems won 3 seats

Labour won 1 seat

Only 5 years to the next election and we can do it all over again! Happy days!

That's my Boy!

Who would have thought that the skinny little kid from down The Lane in Tebworth would one day run the London Marathon, and run it he did in 4 hours 19 minutes.

Matthew Kent had tried for five years to be one of the competitors and finally 2005 was his year!

He trained hard, regularly running from Whipsnade Zoo to St Albans, where he now lives with his wife and two children.

His aim was to raise £1,000 for the charities Cancer Research and Children with Leukaemia. He did in fact raise over £1,200.

A BIG thank you to all our neighbours, friends and family who helped him achieve his goal.

Jo Baldwin, The Lane, Tebworth

And oh yes, he is still as skinny!



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

The committee has held several meetings since the last issue of the Chalgrave News and wish to welcome Tony Dowson who joined us last month. His strength is his computer knowledge so we are expecting great things of him.

Whilst the Hall is being reasonably well used, you will see from the annual accounts that we need to generate more income by encouraging more use in order to maintain and improve this important community facility. The inside is now in need of a lick of paint so it looks as if that will be the next big job.

Our hard working treasurer Debbie Parry has finalised the accounts for last year and an abridged version is produced below:-

Financial Year ended 31 March 2005

Balance in hand at 31st March 2004	£10,962
Income	
Bookings	5,279
Investment Interest	218
Fund raising	<u>541</u>
	6,038
Less Expenditure	
Repairs, mtce and consumables	<u>5,016</u>
Revenue surplus for year	1,022
Less New Equipment purchased	<u>1,612</u> (net of grant)
Reduction to balances	590
Balance C/ Forward at 1st April 2005	£10,372

Linda Hadden - Chair

ROGATION DAY - see page 38



Land's End to John O'Groates

It started as one of those conversations in the tea room at work that sounded like a good idea at the time to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groates in aid of Cancer Research.

So how and why did it start? Well, a work colleague of Ian's walked into his tea room and boldly said he had always wanted to cycle from Land's end to John O'Groates. Several people (who didn't know better at the time) all came to life over their cup of coffee and said "That sounds good, I'll do it with you". Soon there was a group of 14, buying new bikes, equipment and getting into training. One of our colleagues was in remission from cancer so it just seemed natural to raise money for Cancer Research at the same time!



A year later we found ourselves at Land's End, at 7am on a wet and grey morning in May. Ian's mission should he choose to except it, was to reach John O'Groates, by push-bike, in 17 days time. The group had reduced to 9 cycling, with a very important 4 as their support team. (That was me). They rode into the distance on their gleaming new bikes. Never before had so much yellow Lycra been seen at Land's End at this time of the morning! The support team sprung into action. We split our tasks. 2 headed off in order to meet and feed them every 20 or so miles along their route. The other 2 headed off to buy the supplies, then get set up and cook dinner at the next youth hostel along route.

Our first over night stop was Padstow. 78 miles for the cyclist by bike. The first day went without too many hitches, although to the amusement of the group a few people found that pedal clips are not as easy to get out of as they look. As they slowly descended from horizontal to vertical it brought more than a smile to the rest of the group as they lay prone in the middle of the road.

The cyclists were hoping to follow the National Cycle Network all the way, as this route had never been done before and covered the longest distance. However in a places the route hadn't been finished or marked so on a few occasions they had to use the roads. On average they cycled 75 miles a day although some days they did 84, due to the location of the next hostel. Ian informs me that some of the 'so called cycle paths' ranged from rock and boulder dodging to as smooth as a baby's bum. And on that note, in case you were thinking, it is just as well that he had a sprung gel saddle to cushion the blow!

Well 17 days later Ian rode down the hill (only one of a few we can assure you) into John O'Groates. Of the 9 that set out, he was 1 of the 8 that made it. 1 chap, with great protest, had to pull out due to a knee injury that forced him to attend an A+E. Apart from that Ian didn't get a single puncture or suffer from any injuries although a few of the group suffered from the odd knee strain and some boosted the sales of Vaseline throughout the country.

On that note I will finish off by saying a **huge thank-you** to members of Tebworth who sponsored Ian. As a village you raised £202.00 towards the total amount of £7,125.00 in aid of Cancer Research. If I did miss anyone when I came round with the sponsorship form and you want to add to this amount, please feel free to let us know. Without the support of our neighbours in one way or another our involvement in this event wouldn't have achieved such a good result.

*Cathy and Ian
18 The Lane,
Tebworth*



Gathering evidence of ghosts

We have received a further article from Night watch UK which we are happy to print. We would also like to hear from any parishioner with a spooky tale of Chalgrave to tell.

Gathering evidence of ghosts is actually a fairly easy exercise. Place any believer in a "Haunted House" and they will after a few hours alone, provide you with a full portfolio of "evidence" supporting their belief in a spirit world. It becomes a much harder exercise when you apply the rules of science to your evidence gathering, in that your evidence collection methods must hold up to scrutiny especially when you start using equipment to add weight to your observations. On one of the first ghost stakeouts I took part in I learned a valuable lesson about gathering evidence of the paranormal. If you can imagine the scene, there I am a raw novice sitting in a dark pub at 2.00am in the morning, hyped up after hearing several hours of ghostly tales by my companions, many stories directly relating to the room I was sitting in. I had carefully rigged two 35mm cameras on stands at opposite ends of the room, operated by remote triggers. If anything spooky paid us a visit then I would get its photograph from two angles. I remember the incident as if it were yesterday. The nearby church clock had just struck 2.00am adding to the ghostly atmosphere. We had drawn the curtains so as to block out the light from the pub car park and street lights and sat with our backs to the window staring into the gloom of the bar area, when we heard a car pull up onto the pub car park. I remember thinking that perhaps this was the night that all I was going to catch on film was a burglar. I sneaked a peek through the curtains and could see a poor unfortunate soul scouring over a map looking totally lost. After a few minutes he drove away and I resumed my observations in the pub. As I sat back down my companion who I noticed was staring towards the other end of the room nudged me. There at the opposite end of the bar was a ghostly glow staring back. I watched it intently as it watched me. I took five photos of it but it didn't move seemingly intent on staring us out. Now comes the brave part. OK I reasoned it's probably come a long way to scare us, I should at least go and say hello. I got up. The apparition vanished. I sat down. It reappeared. I stood up it disappeared. Then the penny dropped and I turned around. There for all to see was a chink in the curtains. Lamp light from outside distorted by the shape of the gap in the curtains was creating the ghostly apparition. Rule one learned - never jump to conclusions.

When working with Mediums the same rule applies. I have worked with many mediums over the years and have exposed many who were exploiting "a chink in the curtain", in other words feeding the beliefs of those present to impress, but out of all of them one medium continues to baffle me. Her name is Marion Goodfellow. Marion is different in that she has the uncanny knack of providing information about

a venue despite my rules of gathering evidence. Let me explain. If I use a medium on a ghost hunt its normally under the strictest of conditions. Firstly the medium has no idea where she's going. She is collected and driven to the location of the ghost hunt thus avoiding any chance of prior research. She starts work the minute she steps out the car. Marion has always impressed me with the detailed descriptions she provides even under these conditions but one occasion stands out for me.

We had travelled to Pennsylvania USA, guests of two good ghost hunting friends called Cathe and Rick. They drove us to a hotel in the middle of nowhere. During the investigation she sat in a corner of a room and cried. She told us that there was a spirit in the room called "boy". "Boy" had lost his mother and was all alone. She told us he was aged 9 years and was black. He was a slave. What followed was a moving ceremony to put "boy" at peace and re unite him with his mother. As we all relaxed again as the ceremony was over we turned to leave the room. The owner of the hotel was standing in the door way ashen faced and crying. She told us that about three months ago the unmarked grave of a 9 year old slave boy had been found on the edge of the garden of the hotel. Local archaeologists had said he had suffered during his life, proof of this was evident in the boy's bones. Marion had described the boys height and build, giving much detail to his skinny appearance, bruises and cuts that she claimed she could see and his injuries she said she could feel. Her description fitted the emaciated skeleton found in the grave exactly.

All I can say is the experience moved me, and left me questioning my scepticism. The experience remains one the most tragic but uplifting I have ever had.

Hardened sceptics will no doubt offer the explanation of coincidence, but Marion got too many details correct without prior knowledge, age, sex, height, build, and even gave an approximation of where he was buried, (the bones were re buried after examination). Was Marion exploiting a chink in the curtain, in other words was the account more believable because we wanted to believe it? The entire episode was filmed, so my recollection of it is therefore accurate. Marion has continued to impress me with the knowledge she unexplainably accesses when she enters a building for the first time, so there are still many more ghost stories to tell.

At **Night Watch UK** we use a range of scientific equipment to search for that "other 1%" experience as well as drawing on the talents of anyone who claims they can connect or communicate with ghosts. Throughout our investigations of a building we are always looking for the rational, logical or scientific explanation to an initially unexplainable event. We seek to gather evidence of the existence of ghosts, as proof is a personal thing for the individual to decide.

So if after reading this article you conclude that something spooky is going on where you are and you don't mind a dedicated bunch of volunteers staying the night with you, give us a call. We promise to provide someone to hold your hand.....

Graham Matthews, Chairman Night Watch UK -Tel 07759117495

Around the Organisations

Chalgrave Sports Club

The AGM was held on the evening of 4th May at the Plough Inn, Wingfield. The Chairman of the club, Mike Wells congratulated the members for contributing to a successful season on the cricket field where the club managed to finish mid-table in the local league. Big issues this year will include ongoing negotiations regarding the potential purchase of the Sports Ground and progressing quotes for a new pavilion.

The following officers were elected:-

Club Chairman – Mike Wells

Secretary – Dave Cestaro

Treasurer – Tony Cornes

Fixtures Secretary – Jim McGinty

Head Groundsman – Neville Andrews

Captain – Roger Masters

Other Committee members – Tom Petzing, John Kirwin (also chief scorer), Sam Fenwick

Fees - Membership £10, Match fees £4, Students £2

Fund raising events coming this year:-

Car Treasure Hunt

Race Night

Quiz Night.

The Sports Club have many fixtures and events lined up for this year. Please visit our website at

www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk for more details and contact any member of the committee if you wish to join in. We are looking forward to another exciting cricket season and will be in attendance at this year's village games - hope to see you there.

Mike Wells,

Village Hall

AGM 20th June

The year started quite eventfully – with myself being elected as chairman and Roger Fenwick – who was chairman and Wendy McGinty who was secretary, resigning. I wondered, as I am sure others did, how we would manage, but of course we have with the help of the hard work and enthusiasm of new members. Even more recently we have acquired two more new members, Paul Whitton and Tony Dowson.

The Games 2004 was our first big event, which was a great success and received lots of compliments. A real village event. We also had a coffee morning for McMillan Nurses which raised more money than expected and we hope to repeat it this year.

We were granted our public licence, although this is causing concern for next year as the laws have changed and we are discussing the best way forward.

Our bookings have kept pretty constant,

although, while we have lost one line dancing group we have gained Pilates and hopefully badminton.

We have obtained, through grants, new white goods for the kitchen and a stage lighting bar which currently holds two spotlights. More to follow!!

Storage space has been cleared, daffodil bulbs planted between the trees.

Crockery has been brought out of boxes and the kitchen is now well equipped for hirers. A big heartfelt thanks to all the committee.

We have great plans for the future.

Sadly we lost two of our committee members at the AGM this year, Frances Masters and Sandy Ryan both stepping down. However, Ron Harris of The Lane has been elected to the committee and that takes the membership to thirteen with two vacancies if anyone else wishes to join!

So, the committee now consists of:-

Linda Hadden Chair

Ken Green Vice Chair

Velda Cooke Secretary

Debbie Parry Treasurer

Roger Masters Booking Secretary

Sarah Ralley

Bill Archer

Paul Whitton

Tony Dowson

Mike Finch

Nicola Wells

Elizabeth Hall

Ron Harris

Linda Hadden

The Book Club

Members of the book club are still enjoying visiting different homes in turn and enjoying scrumptious refreshments!

White Out by Ken Follett was enjoyed by most members over Christmas and was about the theft of a deadly virus from a laboratory - causing international worry. This book was cleverly written and included a family - all with hidden secrets - spending Christmas together in a tremendous snow storm. The jealousies, hidden rivalries, elements, and a dozen missing vials containing a lethal virus all combine together to make a very exciting read.

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold was very different. Written in the first person by a 14 year old girl who was murdered by a man living close to her family home. Her heaven is of her making - swings, ice creams, counsellors to help newcomers adjust and friends. However she cannot quite let go of earth and the book is made up of what she looks down on and sees during the next few years. Enjoyed by most members.

Small Island by Andrea Levy This is the book we have only just finished, receiving mixed reviews from us, but provoking long discussions on the way different races have settled in England over the years.

Anyone wishing to join - we still have one or two places - please call 875417

Linda Hadden

Sports Club

The Plough vs. the Queens' Head Annual Cricket Challenge

Despite the portends of rain from the national weather forecasters, the annual challenge match between The Plough and The Queens' Head (otherwise known as Wingfield vs. Tebworth) was played at the cricket field in glorious sunshine on Sunday 5th June.

Two teams of mainly aging gladiators plus a few 'ringers' met at the Plough to discuss tactics before facing each other on the field of combat an hour later.

The Plough team ably captained by Mike Wells of The Meadows was fortunate to win the toss and elected to make The Queens' Head team bat first.

After a very shaky start, and a few loose shots from the Queens' Head team, the innings was held together by a magnificent stand from Dave Cestaro (26 not

out) and Nilesh Patel (26 not out) which finally enabled the team to go for the tea interval having completed its 25 overs with a respectable score of 103 runs for 4 wickets.

Having partaken of a sumptuous tea kindly provided and served by Jo Finch, Frances Masters, Nicola Wells, Elizabeth Hall, Linda Hadden (ably assisted by Courtney Finch), and after a few refreshing beers, the Plough team took to the field.

Two superb innings from Tony Cornes (28) and Mike Wells (31 not out) together with some dubious decisions enabled the Plough to pass the Queens Head total with two of its allotted overs left. The final result being a win for the Plough by one wicket.

Altogether a very enjoyable game, thoroughly enjoyed by all participants and the huge crowd of spectators which at its height numbered ten!



Back row from the left:- Chris Bull, Tom Petzing, Mike Wells, Sam Fenwick, Dave Cestaro, Nilesh Patel, Paul Whitton, Mike Finch, Tony Cornes, Roger Masters, Jim McGinty, Paul Bannon. Front row:- Nev Andrews, Pip Bull, Simon Gutteridge.

Parish Council

Parish Assembly

The Assembly this year was a great success. It was well attended and included representatives from local organisations – Sports Club, Senior Citizens Committee, Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee, Chalgrave News, West trust, who gave us an update on their activities. Our District and County Councillors also attended. It was an informal occasion and was an opportunity to meet and discuss issues. We shall repeat the format next year and hope even more can attend.

Proposed Flightpath

Lesley Smith (Clerk to the Council) and I went to Luton Airport to get the facts about the new proposed flightpath.

In brief:

For safety reasons Luton Airport want to create a new flightpath for arriving aircraft. Chalgrave is within this new flightpath. The flightpath is for arriving aircraft only when they are making an Easterly approach.

Most flights into Luton use the Westerly approach (which does not affect us).

Over a year, on average, the Easterly approach is used 30% of the time.

Over a year the average number of movements (arrivals and departures) are 250 per day.

On the days when the Easterly approach is being used not all arrivals will use this new flightpath. On these days we can expect 60 – 75 flights per day using this flightpath.

The flightpath is approximately a mile and a half wide. The aircraft will be at

5000 feet over Chalgrave.

This flightpath is the only option being considered – all other options are not feasible

Local MP Andrew Selous is asking for the flightpath to move further north so that it is not directly over Leighton Buzzard. If he is successful it may mean the flightpath misses Chalgrave altogether.

The proposal seems likely to go ahead and will come into operation in September 2006.

Proposed Housing Development.

You may have seen the article in the London Evening Standard written by Andrew Gilligan. Although a little ‘over the top’ we are pleased for any publicity raising the concerns about the development of all these houses. As you may know, the Parish Council is opposed to the use of any Green Belt land for these houses. We have also raised our concerns regarding the impact of an increased population on our already inadequate infrastructure – jobs, roads, schools, surgeries, etc.

In the article, Gilligan suggested that the housing development would reach Wingfield. We are not aware of this and have not seen this on any plans. We are making further enquiries. In the meantime, we continue to voice our opposition.

County and District Councillors

We have good communication with both Rhys Goodwin (County Councillor) and Norman Costin (District Councillor). Rhys attends most of the Parish Council meetings and Norman will attend when he can. Both Councillors are prompt in

Around the organisations.....continued

replying to our emails and calls.

Notice boards

The new notice boards for both Wingfield and Tebworth have arrived and will be put up as soon as possible.

Traffic Calming

We may have a grant to buy a repeater sign. This is a permanent sign that illuminates if it detects a vehicle exceeding the speed limit – it will flash ‘30’. You may have seen them in operation in other villages.

We plan to use our mobile speed sign in Wingfield.

The minutes of our meetings, along with the date of the next meeting, are posted on the notice boards. As always, you are welcome to attend our meetings – there is an open forum at the start of the meeting.

Breaking News!

Calor Award

The Parish has been successful in winning the Building Community Life section.

The Village Games were held just as we were ready to go to print so all will be revealed in the next issue of the Chalgrave News.

A Message from your County Councillor – Rhys Goodwyn

When Rhys wrote this, he had just been re elected to the new and smaller Toddington Division. He wishes to thank all who supported him and to assure all that he pledges himself to ensure Chalgrave issues are seen and understood in County. He will continue to support the Parish Council and try to keep them informed on planning issues that concern us and the action he has taken at County, Region and at Parliament through our MP.

Rhys would like to make many more pledges, but does not want to create an expectation that cannot be delivered. He will continue his scrutiny work to help ensure better value for money and to ensure that key transport issues are dealt with as effectively as operators and County funds allow.

Those with problems - do feel free to contact Rhys, however, it is normally better to raise issues through the Parish Council - who can add their weight with his to help to get it sorted.

He hopes that all have an interesting and relaxing summer break and sends his

“Best Wishes”

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor,

Please can you confirm or deny the rumour that the Sports Ground in Wingfield is to be sold?

I am a bit concerned because although I no longer live in the parish (I moved to Toddington) I do play cricket for Wingfield each year and am worried that we would have no venue for future matches including the Annual Derby between Tebworth and Wingfield.

Yours sincerely,

P. Bull

Conger Lane,
Toddington.

The Sports Club reply:-

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your recent enquiry regarding the future of the sports ground and its ownership. This has been raised publicly on a couple of occasions and I am glad to be able to clarify the situation.

I can confirm that the landowner has indicated that he wishes to sell the ground used by Chalgrave Sports Club and that the committee are currently in negotiation with his agent with a view to securing the future of the ground and the club. As we are sitting tenants, and indeed have been for a considerable period of time, we feel that we are in a strong position to bring the matter to a successful conclusion. We are actively pursuing sources of funding while we negotiate a mutually agreeable price for

the land and are confident that the matter will be settled such that the club can continue to be an asset to the parish.

The committee has put a considerable amount of effort into getting the club into the healthy position we are now in, with many games scheduled for this season in our mini-league along with an increasing number of friendly games (home and away) being organised. The time and effort required to achieve charitable status is not to be under-estimated and we are determined that this should not be wasted.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to continuing to be able to invite you to play cricket for many seasons to come.

Michael Wells,

Chairman, Chalgrave Sports Club.

Late one night, a burglar breaks into a home. He is looking around for valuables to steal when he hears a voice say "Jesus is watching you". Alarmed, the burglar cautiously looks around for the owners of the home. Not finding anyone, he continues his search for booty. Again, he hears a voice say "Jesus is watching you!". Immediately, the burglar honed in on where the voice came from, and walked over to a bird cage. The burglar raised the veil from the bird cage. Looking at the bird, the burglar asked "What is your name?" The bird replies "Kalamazoo". The burglar says "What kind of idiot would name a bird Kalamazoo?". The bird replies "The same idiots that named a doberman Jesus".....

View from the House – Andrew Selous MP

Last September Labour announced that South West Bedfordshire was one of four seats that they intended to take from the Conservatives at the General Election. In 1997 and 2001 the Conservative majorities had been 132 and 776 respectively and so the 2005 General Election was one in which the result locally could have gone either way.



On election night, I was thrilled and humbled that the result, a Conservative majority of 8,277 was very different from what had been predicted, the Conservative majority in South West Bedfordshire is now larger than the Labour majorities in Luton North and Luton South.

In spite of Labour's majority of 67 in the House of Commons, Labour in fact got less votes in England than the Conservatives and only 700,000 more votes than the Conservatives across the whole of the UK. The Conservatives also had a net gain of 2 seats from the Liberal Democrats as well as taking 31 seats from Labour, including locally, Hemel Hempstead, Milton Keynes North East, Peterborough, Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans. I am not surprised that proportional representation (PR) has resurfaced as an issue since the General Election. Many Labour seats have much smaller electorates than the average of 70,000 or so (the number in South West Bedfordshire) with some Labour seats only having 55,000 or so electors. As a result, it takes, on average 26,000 votes to elect a Labour MP, 45,000 votes to elect a Conservative and over 90,000 to elect a Liberal Democrat.

The Boundary Commission will redress some of this imbalance in this Parliament by abolishing a number of seats with low electorates and creating new constituencies with a more average number of voters. This move alone should ensure the Conservatives gain around 15 more seats, mainly from Labour.

I do not like proportional representation as it would be likely to produce a series of Lib-Lab governments. PR would also break the link between a local MP and their area and make MPs answerable to party bosses and not their local electorates. In countries like Germany which have PR, people are more likely to contact the party headquarters or the relevant Ministry in Berlin with their concerns, rather than an MP from their region. German MPs thus have less direct experience of how laws are causing problems for

their constituents than British MPs do. Hopefully, British laws are all the better as a result of the encounters that MPs have with their constituents in their surgeries, who tell them where the shoe is really pinching. Since the General Election we have had the European Constitution referendums in France and the Netherlands which have removed any mandate from the European Commission to proceed with further European integration. We must remain vigilant that the provisions of the Constitution are not sneaked into force, despite its rejection. There is a real opportunity to give back greater democratic control over Europe's future to its peoples. Locally, given both the General Election and County election results in South Bedfordshire, I do not believe Labour has a mandate to put 43,000 houses into South Bedfordshire, especially since there are other better ways to meet housing need and to help reduce demand for housing by strengthening family stability.

www.boilerjuice.com

An estimated 2 million homes across the U.K. use oil for domestic heating. Most people buy their oil individually and pay higher prices than necessary. Boilerjuice, a new oil users' buying group, is tackling this problem in a new way by offering on-line buying to oil users across the U.K. By co-ordinating the buying patterns of consumers there is a positive effect on the environment with fewer journeys for oil tankers. This benefits oil users, distributors and the countryside. Boilerjuice has already successfully placed orders for homes nationwide using collective buying power to negotiate the lowest bulk oil prices for members. It automatically selects the lowest oil price in any given postcode area and allows the oil user to place their order online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Behind the website lies a powerful database that enables members to join forces with other users in the same postcode area so they can obtain favourable quotes, and place orders based on their group's total volume requirement, thus achieving significant cost savings. Boilerjuice, established in 2004 is an e-buying group for users of oil for heating which covers all of the U.K. It exists to encourage communities to engage in collective oil buying.

For further information contact

Paul Ward on 0870 3646898

E-mail paul@boilerjuice.com

Or visit the website at www.boilerjuice.com

40000 Houses

On Saturday 23rd April the parish had a couple of surprise visitors. No less than Andrew Gilligan (remember the fairly recent WMD and Hutton report saga) and his photographer – both reporters on the Evening Standard.

They were in possession of information relating to Mr Prescott's plans to build 40000 houses in the area. Up until speaking with Andrew Gilligan most, if not all, of us believed that these new houses would be built outside Houghton Regis and stop on that side of the new bypass road which is due to join the Leighton Buzzard bypass to the M1.

According to his report published in the Evening Standard on the 25th April this is not the case. A map of the new plans published with his report shows a forthcoming huge loss of green belt land stretching all around Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis and crossing to include Leighton Buzzard and as far north as the Flying Fox on A5!

This leaves Chalgrave Parish right in the centre of this new development land!

The time scale for all this new housing development is to build 170000 houses in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire over the next 16 years then a further 100000 houses in the following 10 years.

So in just a few years time if Mr Prescott cannot be made to change his mind (but it appears the decision has already been made) our lovely parish will be surrounded on all sides by housing estates with Leighton Buzzard joined to Houghton Regis and Dunstable as one massive 'town'.

For those who did not see the article Debbie Parry of Tebworth made her modelling debut in the picture used to highlight the story. She was on page 17 not page 3!! (Yet anyway!)

On 12th June the Dunstable on Sunday ran a similar front page story which confirmed that this is a done deal by the Government so make the most of our countryside while we have got it!

This is such an important matter that will adversely affect all our lives in the near future but very little information seems to be coming to us from our various councils. Surely with such a massive imposition of development that will forever change the character of our countryside and parish into that of a suburb of a very large town we, the present residents, should be consulted or at the very least receive a copy of the proposed green belt changes in order that we can express our views. If the plan was to build a large factory or new road we would have seen plans and no doubt various organisations such as Friends of the Earth etc. would be out protesting in force but for

this development – larger than anything ever seen before – there has not been even one protest poster/banner erected in the area.

Is this development deliberately being kept quiet by the powers that be to avoid mass protest???

Does this development also now mean that planning rules will be relaxed for existing houses around the parish?

Your editorial team will keep investigating and bring you more news in our next issue.

Council Tax

Well we have now all had our 2005/2006 Council Tax demands. Anyone found their assessment less than last year?

No, we thought not!

Council Tax is assessed on the 1991 value of your property (a revaluation exercise is to be undertaken by the Government in the near future) which is placed into one of 8 charging bands labelled 'A' to 'H'.

Whenever figures are quoted in the press they are usually based on band 'D' property values (£68001-£88000) although it is more probable for our parish that the majority of properties fall into band 'E' (£88001-£120000). A band 'E' property will pay a total of £1637.62 in Council Tax this year. This tax will be split - £1209 to Bedfordshire county council. £174.88 to South Beds District Council. £136.86 to Bedfordshire police Authority. £84.15 to Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority and £32.73 to our Parish Council. Which incidentally is the second lowest parish precept out of the 23 parishes's in Bedfordshire so well done to our parish council for keeping a tight control on income and expenditure!

Are you sure that if you are eligible for Council Tax discount you have claimed it? For example if a single adult lives in their

own property they are entitled to a 25% discount on their full Council Tax bill but you have to claim this and just not assume that the Council know you are living on your own.

Did you also know that if you are living on your own but have children up to 18/19 years old at school or just left school you could still be eligible for your 25% discount? There are a number of other criteria which also still allow you to claim this single occupant benefit which are set out in the councils handbook sent to every house earlier this year. If in any doubt telephone the council who will be able to provide more guidance.

We noticed one national newspaper reporting that next year all council tax payers will have to pay an additional £20 each within their council tax to cover the shortfall in pension contributions for local government employees! The Tory work and pensions spokesman David Willets is quoted as saying 'Labour has presided over an absolutely preposterous situation in which people with modest incomes and no pensions are paying even higher council tax to provide good pensions for other people'.

We have tried to find a Government spokesman response but unfortunately without success at time of going to print.

Reeves Muntjac Deer

Anyone who lives in or around the Bedfordshire area could not help to notice the increase in deer population, whether alive or having been killed by motorists. In Bedfordshire we have four wild species of deer, The Fallow, Roe, Chinese Water Deer and the Muntjac.

The Muntjac is one of the oldest species of deer in the world and therefore prehistoric. The Indian Muntjac and Reeves Muntjac were introduced by the Duke of Bedford in the nineteenth century. The Indian Muntjac was larger than the Reeves but was eradicated by the Duke before becoming feral as one killed his favorite Labrador. The most significant release was in fact from Whipsnade Zoo in 1921 and in the last eighty years it has spread rapidly throughout the country with the exception of the very north of England, Devon and Cornwall but is only a matter of time before they colonize in these areas too.

In summer their coats are a deep chestnut red but change from dark brown to grey depending on the age during the winter.

Only the male (bucks) have antlers which are cast every year. Both sex have canine tusks which hinge forward when feeding or fighting, although these are usually only visible in the bucks.

They stand about 46cm and weigh about 18kgs, the female (Doe) being slightly smaller. Both have white tails which are carried erect when moving and they are solitary animals who live in woods, thick hedges and dense cover, feeding approximately every four hours on young saplings, fruit, acorns, brambles, bulbs and are very fond of bluebells.

Muntjacs are prolific breeders, as they are sexually active at seven months. The doe will mate within 36 hours of her single fawn being born and will cast it off at six months. The gestation period is seven months so the female of this species is pregnant for most of her adult life.

Like the Roe and Chinese Water deer they make a sound like a dog therefore they are commonly known as the "Barking Deer"

The control and culling of Muntjac like all deer are subject to UK firearms

legislation, but as yet have no closed season, although at one time they were thought to have no effect on the countryside their increase in numbers are fast becoming a cause for concern.



The Chalgrave Mole

CHALGRAVE BEST KEPT FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY POPLARS NURSERY

This year's competition is being judged by
David Little of Poplars Nursery during July and consists of
3 categories:-

- Best Kept Front Garden £50 Poplars Nursery voucher
- Best Basket £25 Poplars Nursery voucher
- Best Tub or Window Box £25 Poplars Nursery voucher

Judging criteria is based on Plant Quality, Tidiness and Garden Design. The Editorial Team have been sneaking around the Parish taking photos of the gardens/baskets/tubs that they think deserve consideration, so far no prosecutions have resulted!

Thank-you to all the kind people in Tebworth who supported our son-in-law Dominic Sale, running the marathon.

It was his first attempt and he made it in good time - 3 hours 43 minutes!

He raised £1500 from his sponsors.

Donations went to Multiple Sclerosis.

Thank you all again.

Linda and Peter Hadden



Rogation Day 2005

Sunday May 1st. 10.00 am. Our gallant group gathered outside The Queens Head ready to 'beat the bounds', this involves walking the boundary of the Parish supposedly to teach the children of the Parish where the boundary ran, this was achieved by beating the heads of the children on the boundary posts as they passed, sadly a lost tradition, anyway no one wanted to beat the lovely Ellie and Tori who were the only children to brave the walk.

Our intrepid leader set off with steely determination and a firm step followed by a motley bunch of stragglers who were more concerned with the fact that we were heading away from The Fancott which was the halfway point and the lunch stop, we first headed past The Grange in Tebworth then diagonally across the fields following the marked path to Hockliffe, where we turned right along the Watling Street and up the Woburn Road until as our leader Ken Green informed us we reached the ford where we again turned right along the brook to the second ford.

At this point it was about 11:30 and as we passed a metalled road on our right someone asked what road that was, I think it was either Mike or Nicola Wells who answered that is the bottom of The Lane Tebworth, this did not impress Chris McDonagh as she realised she had been walking for one and a half hours and only got to the bottom of The Lane. But she soldiered on and from there we continued up to the spring and followed the edge of the field to the dell, then Ken started to ramble on about dykes and somewhere there were two of them I was going to have a quiet word with Lynn until Tony Dowson told me that a dyke was a big ditch.

By this time the less fit amongst us were starting to flag a little but with Elizabeth Hall's strident tones encouraging everyone onwards and upwards and Lorna striding out I was too frightened to say anything.

When we reached Cynberg Well we stood and gazed around and, with the sun shining brightly we could hear no traffic, and with just green fields, small woods and Chalgrave Church in the distance we realised that we really do live in a beautiful part of the country.

We crossed the Toddington Road and then made our way towards Chalgrave Church where we skirted the churchyard and then downhill alongside the golf course and with the smell of the hops or possibly the steak and chips wafting on the breeze we reached our sanctuary, The Fancott.

After a very good lunch or three and a nice ride on the miniature railway the group, who had diminished to three intrepid souls, Elizabeth Hall, Tony Dowson and Ken Green continued along the parish boundary following the Rithe to the Highway then to yet another dyke then through Wingfield and finally reaching The Queens Head at about 4:30 pm footsore but happy.

A big vote of thanks goes to Ken for his knowledge and enthusiasm which gave all those who turned out for Rogation Day a very satisfying and enjoyable day.

ROGATION DAY - OBSERVED BY CHRISTIANS AS DAYS OF SOLEMN SUPPLICATION AND MARKED BY PROCESSIONS. (COLLINS DICTIONARY)

ROGATION SUNDAY - THE SUNDAY BEFORE ASCENTION, CHRISTIANISATION OF PAGEN RITUALS WITH PROCESSIONS THROUGH THE YOUNG CORNFIELDS TO PRAY FOR PRESERVATION OF THE CROPS. (DAILY MAIL 18/05/05)

The Great Pumpkin Challenge



Hopefully, the seeds you planted are now sprouting vigorously and just to let you know, the world record was broken again this year. After all, the record has been broken every year since 1996. And so, on a sunny October day in Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada, Al Eaton brought his 1446 pound pumpkin to be weighed. This giant pumpkin is a whopping 66 pounds heavier than last years' world record.

Although pumpkin plants produce a profusion of flowers throughout the life of the plant, however, as a rule of thumb, about 2 pumpkins per vine can be expected. All pumpkins produce separate male and female flowers on the same plant for natural pollination.

While pumpkin size is generally controlled by genetics, any factor that limits plant growth will adversely affect it's size. This includes water, temperature, insects , diseases, pollination, fertility, soil type, plant population, weeds, etc.

It is not uncommon for some pumpkins to wither or rot and die soon after flowering. This condition may be due to either to poor pollination or the natural tendency for a plant to let some pumpkins die so that the good ones will live, natural selection. Other factors that can contribute to the dying off of some pumpkins include overcrowding of plants, prolonged periods of cool and cloudy or rainy weather or drought.

Don't forget, pumpkins are shallow rooted, so water slowly with at least one inch of water per week if rainfall is not adequate. More water may be required during hot, windy summer days. Water during morning or early afternoon hours so foliage dries

by evening. This helps prevent the spread of leaf diseases.

Some Pumpkin Problems: You might run into a couple of problems while trying to grow your pumpkins. Disease and bugs. Bugs are a problem because the cucumber beetle is a carrier of plant disease, which leads to..... Powdery Mildew, a white powder-like bacteria. Powdery mildew thrives in hot, humid weather, in the middle to late summer, just as your pumpkin is really getting big. It spreads rapidly and will quickly destroy the plant.

Another problem disease is Bacterial Wilt. This disease is evident by a wilting and browning of the leaves. Sometimes the leaves will firm up at the end of the day, only to repeat itself the next morning, and get worse each time. This can sometimes be confused early on with wilting due to lack of water. Wilting from lack of water results from either a literal lack of water in the soil or the vine ends not getting enough water as the fruit is sucking up all the nutrients. The best test for bacterial wilt is to take one leaf and cut it an inch or so from the vine. If the sap that drains out is yellow and stringy, your pumpkins have this disease. There is no known cure and the plant will certainly die. The best course of action is to remove the diseased plant.

Some ways to keep either of these from happening are as follows:

Water only in the morning or during the day. Avoid late afternoon and evening, Powdery Mildew and other diseases thrive in humid weather and watering at night can add extra humidity.

Water only to the roots and vines. Using a soaker hose is perfect because it allows the roots and vines water but doesn't get the leaves wet. Wet leaves can lead to mildew if they don't get a chance to dry out. Make sure that the soaker hose is face down.

If any plants do become infected, remove them immediately. Throw them away and don't add them to a compost pile or to anything that would come in contact with another crop. The bacteria can survive and infect the next patch.



Haymaking

It's that time of the year once again when farmers are hard at work collecting hay from their fields. A tradition that goes back many centuries.

How is hay made? Well the process starts much earlier in the year with the hay fields being sprayed to kill weeds – some of which can be extremely harmful to horses. The field is often also fertilized to produce more grass.

The farmer must then keep a careful check on both the growth progress of his grass as well as the weather as he will need up to 7 dry, hot days.

From early June to July, as soon as a dry spell is forecast, hay making starts.

First the grass in the field is cut and left to dry.

Grass has high moisture content and must be completely dry before bailing.



The next stage is for the grass to be 'turned'.

This process brings the bottom layer of grass to the top in order that it can also dry. Storing damp hay can cause fires by generating



heat in the haystack or hay barn.

Once all the grass is dry it is collected by using a bailer. The sizes of bails can vary depending on what use the hay is being made for. Horse feed tends to have smaller bails, being easier to carry.



As soon as the baling process starts so does the collection and storage, as no farmer wants to leave his crop of baled hay outside in case it rains, as this can spoil the hay and reduce it's value.

Once all is gathered in the grass fields can be used for grazing once more although sometimes if an early cut of hay can be made it might be possible to take a second cut from the field later in the same year. Just another part of a farmer's busy lifestyle!

Many thanks to Roger Fenwick for the pictures in this article.

WHAT'S IN YER DRAWERS...by Florry Bunda

When Mick and Chris first moved into The Vicarage nearly twenty years ago, they knew that a house of that size, age and stature must hold many secrets.

The gothic proportions of the house has revealed interesting clues to its own history, like the recent discovery of old china in the garden marked Chalgrave Church School.

However, it was on a steep climb into the loft area of the property that one of the most intriguing finds was made.

This would have been the area where servants and housemaids slept, with tiny fireplaces and steeply sloping rafters, the accommodation would have been basic and austere.

It was surprising when, as Mick and Chris explored this area, they became aware of a face peering down at them. In between the beams, a painting of a Victorian gentleman had been stuck to the sloping ceiling. Now peeling and faded, they could not help wondering who he was and how he got there!!!

Here is a photo of the painting....and if you can raise £1,150,000 he can be yours as he's up for sale....with the house thrown in for free!!!!!!!



Police Information Notice - GO-PEDS

We are increasingly concerned at the growing number of motorised scooters that appear to have been sold.

Go-peds are being given to children as presents and you should be aware that anyone driving one needs to have a driving licence by law.

You need insurance and a crash helmet for your own safety.

If you own one of these scooters, keep it for your garden, and even then, think safety.

Supervise children and always make sure they are wearing a crash helmet.

Richard Bratton, Casualty Reduction Officer, 01234 842481

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

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

To Miss 'X' of the parish who wrote to me worried about her forthcoming summer holiday travel arrangements.

Apparently her boyfriend wants to take her to Rhyl and Bangor in the back of his van.

Although this might not be the most comfortable way to travel as long as you make sure you belt up you will have a wonderful time.

Well until our next issue - goodbye dear readers.....

