

Chalgrave News



Publication No.13 2005-5

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
 - Fireworks 5th November
- Cricket Season last match on 1st October
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Pilates lessons Thursday evenings - contact Debbie Parry
- Magic Live Theatre Show. Dates to be announced
- Christmas Novelty Fun Night 3rd December
- Quiz night Friday 30th September £6/head
- Pumpkin Competition at All Saints Church - see page 16
- Residents Association open meeting 17th October - see page 11

Front Cover: Our prettty butterfly face is Eloise Hall from Tebworth who fluttered in at the Chalgrave Games.

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

Well, winter drawers on!!! Yes, Dear Reader, the seasons change once more and we find ourselves in autumnal mode. Harvest Festival is coming and, with it, the inevitable conclusion of the Biggest Pumpkin competition. All entries should be taken up to Chalgrave Church before September 25th to be photographed and judged.

My own will be there. However, unless there is a separate bonsai category, I shall not expect a prize. For the records, it's not a good idea to grow your pumpkin in a wheelbarrow....something about restricted roots!!! Ah well, we live and learn.

Some show offs in the village have hinted that their entries are already too heavy to carry, and one wag (who shall remain nameless) commented that he would have to cut an arch through his to gain access to his back garden! We shall see.....

Anyhow, lots of autumnal delights await you in this issue, including wonderful pictures of the Chalgrave Games which were a great success this year due to a supreme effort on the part of the organising team and the added bonus of some decent weather!

The Best Kept Front Garden competition was also a great success, with Poplars providing the prizes and helping with the judging, which is always a difficult task. Val and Frank Griffen of The Lane, Tebworth pipped Kate and Kate Smith of Wingfield to the post in the end with a colourful and immaculate front garden, and The Plough deservedly took the Best Tubs and Window Box prize. All in all the

gardens of the village were something to be proud of this year and must have contributed to the special prize we won at the Calor Gas Best Village competition.

Finally make a note in your diaries to keep 3rd December free for an exciting Fun Night at the Memorial Hall. Lots of exciting entertainment organised by the News Team to get you all into the Christmas spirit.

So, sit down, have a nice cup of tea and a flick through your parish mag. You might even want to try the crossword compiled by Dr. Jill Jones of Wingfield.

And don't forget those pumpkins!!

What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News

Gavin White is recovering at home in Upper Tythe Farm Barns from an accident on the Hockliffe to Leighton Buzzard road last month when his motor bike was in a collision with a car. Get well soon Gavin.

Front garden competition was judged by Poplars Garden Centre. Winners were Valerie and Frank Griffin of The Lane, Tebworth. The best hanging basket was won by The Plough, Wingfield.

Annual Hog Roast day was held on 3rd September at Chalgrave Church.

Best Kept Village competition was held in July. The Parish won a well deserved prize. See page 5 for details from Phil Parry.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Ryan Anbury of Toddington Road,

Tebworth. Ryan was involved in a serious car accident on the Hockliffe Road whilst on his way to work in September.

The Chalgrave Games was supported by over 300 people. Glorious weather and excellent organising made the day an enormous success.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Pat and Nobby Cooke of Tebworth who have moved to Royston to be nearer their family. They both served on the Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee for many years and will be best remembered for their raffle ticket selling efforts at just about every event held in the Parish for the last 20 years! The Hall committee meetings will never be the same without Nobby's cry of "How much a strip"!

We all wish them well for the future.

A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all my friends, family and neighbours who supported and sponsored me in the Hydro Women's Challenge Race on September 4th 2005 in Hyde Park.

It was a wonderful day with over 20,000 women of all shapes, sizes and ages taking part in the 'Race for Life' and many charities were being supported.

Next year, I will train longer, try harder to beat my 46 minutes (5 Kilometres) and maybe persuade a few of my friends to join me. It's surprising what we OAP's can do if we put our minds to it! *Jo Baldwin*



WE ARE WINNERS!

We entered Chalgrave Parish into the Bedfordshire Village of the Year competition. Whilst we were not named as the overall village of the year (Clifton won) we did win the important category of 'Building Community Life'.

This was in recognition for all the work in our Parish making community connections - 'by looking at the needs of all their parishioners and trying to find ways of making the parish a welcoming and friendly community'.

Mid-July there was the awards ceremony in Oakley and we received a framed certificate and £250!

The judges toured Chalgrave in early July and were treated to an excellent display in the village hall showing all the activities that happen in the Parish. They also met with representatives from our local organisations.

When the display was put up it was a real eye opener to see how many organisations and events there are in Chalgrave.

Well done to everyone in the parish - and a big thank you to the team who worked hard in a limited amount of time to organise the display.

Frances Masters

Lesley Smith

Linda Hadden

Roger Masters

Roger Mence

Frank Griffin

Lorraine Smith

Larry Ryan

Ken Green

June Horne

Bill Archer

Derek Smith

Tony Dowson

Tony Smith

Norman Costin



(Many apologies if I have
left anyone out)

We aim to continue and develop all these activities in the future.

If you have ideas or would like to help, please contact the Chalgrave News, the Parish Council or the individual organisations.

Phil Parry

CHALGRAVE GAMES

It was a glorious day on Sunday 10th July when the Chalgrave Games took place at the Memorial Hall. Having been opened by our District Councillor Norman Costin, the day got off to a flyer with the, now annual, dog show. Normally, dogs are excluded from the Hall grounds but the dog show is of course an exception and fortunately apart from one or two minor spats, all participants were on their best behaviour, and the dogs were quite good as well. The novelty agility competition was won by Sarah McGahy with Billy, second place going to Di Dowson with Benjie and third place was Jackie Hammons with Jodie. Best in Parish prize was awarded to Catherine Miller with Amber and runner up was Scott with Sandy. Joint 3rd place went to Danielle Finch with Useless and Sarah with Billy.

Over 300 people turned out which was in itself a record and consequently a roaring trade was had at the barbeque (which eventually sold out), the beer tent and at the Pimms/strawberries and cream tent.

The children's races which followed were very competitive and certificates were awarded to the winners.

Everybody seemed to enjoy the full day of welly throwing, tug-of-war, pole jousting, Kwick cricket, penalty shootouts, children's entertainment and the by now famous (or is it infamous) egg throwing competition.

Sadly, young Sarah Kingham of Wingfield Road accidentally injured her arm late in the day and ended up in accident and emergency. We all hope she is fully recovered by now.

Results of the competitions judged by the rector of Chalgrave, the Rev Nick McNeil held on the day were as follows:-

Photography – Adults 1st Lesley Smith 2nd Velda Cooke 3rd Peter Hadden

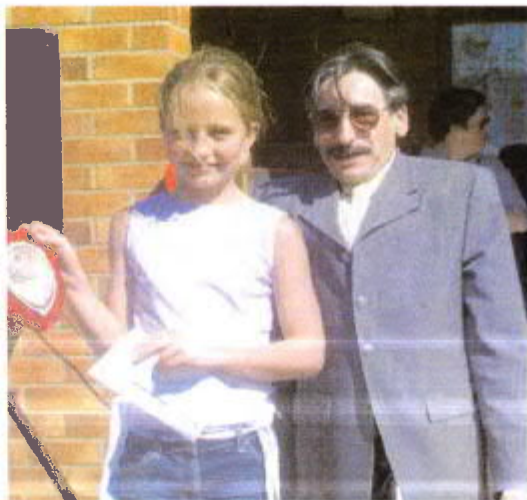
Children 1st Courteney Finch 2nd Lauren Clarke 3rd Ethan Sale

VE Cake 1st June Horne 2nd Sue Leuty

Flower Arrangement 1st Jo Baldwin 2nd Di Dowson 3rd Sue Leuty

Art Under 8 1st Jessica Bowen 2nd Phoebe Parry 3rd Eloise Hall
8 to 12 1st Charlotte Kerr 2nd Laura Jackson 3rd Imogen Parry

Story Writing Adult Sue Leuty Children Imogen Parry



The Parish Council Millennium award joint winners Margaret Asbury (left) and Courtney Finch were presented with their trophies and prizes by Norman Costin.

The Chalgrave News Best Kept Front Garden prize sponsored by Poplars was presented to Val and Frank Griffin of The Lane, Runner up Kate Smith of Tebworth Road, Wingfield.

A huge thank you to the many local businesses and individuals who generously sponsored the day and also to those individuals who gave up their time to help arrange a very successful event.

Just for the record, whilst the Games has always been run as a non-profit making event, there was a surplus of some £530 of which a substantial amount will go towards next years Fun Day.







Winner of the adult's story competition

The Hard Seller

By Sue Leuty

The house was a shambles, overgrown, boarded up, the sale sign up against the hedge. The agent showed six lots of people round but no sale. "The new girl starts on Monday and she reckons can sell coals to Newcastle." he said 'We shall see.'

The file was labelled 'Re-assess to sell'. Sue picked up the file and keys, checked on the map and grabbed her bag and car keys. She found the house and read the file, it had not been updated for a long time 'Owners Abroad, Need to Sell.' she read.

She looked at the front of the house but seemed to be drawn to the rear, the back door was open slightly and she was surprised to find it swung easily. Taking a torch from her bag she went inside. In the dim light she saw furniture but it was dusty. She made her way across the room and thought she heard a clock ticking. The back door slammed shut and she shouted out. She rushed to the door but it was locked, she panicked and got her phone out but that would not work. As she turned away from the door she saw a small girl and boy staring at her. "Who are you and where did you come from?" The girl held a newspaper in her hand and gave it to Sue. The story was about a couple who had died in a road accident. The two children had been put in care but were found dead at the family home a few weeks later. The boy said "Find our parents grave and tell them we are here." Sue didn't feel threatened by the children and said she would help.

At the churchyard the vicar listened to her story and warned her about "Things that didn't concern her", but she found the graves and did as the children had asked. As she got back to her car she found a man and woman sitting in the back seat. Sue was just about to shout at them when they smiled at her and said "Please take us to our children so that we can all be at peace together."

Back at the house, the couple left Sue in the car for a minute and when Sue went round to the back door; all four turned to Sue and thanked her for her help then slowly dissolved into a misty vapour and drifted out of the door and across the garden.

Back at the office, Sue found a note on her desk, one of the previous viewers wanted to look at the house again, so she phoned them and they met at the house an hour later.

What a difference, no boards at the windows, garden tidy, everything spic and span. Sue told the people that the owners had died and the house was under offer to settle the estate. The people were so impressed that they put an offer in there and then.

When Sue got into her car to leave, she heard a small voice saying "The house can be sold, we are at rest."

The agent told Sue he wasn't joking when she said 'Coals to Newcastle'. He began looking for another hard seller for her. " Ghosts, who is she trying to fool?" he laughed.

The end – or is it?

The winner of the Under 14 section was Imogen Parry. Her story will be printed in the next edition of the Chalgrave News.

Formation of a Residents Association for the Parish

As reported in previous issues of the Chalgrave News, some residents have discussed the idea of forming a Residents Association covering the Parish. It has therefore been decided to hold an open meeting at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on 17th October starting at 8pm to see if anyone else living in the Parish would like to join a Residents Association.

It will, of course, be for the Residents Association committee once it has formed to decide on how the Association will run but in order to give everyone some idea of our current thoughts here are some of the suggestions we have come up with so far. Individuals involvement not to be time consuming.

Full meeting held just once a year.

To look for at least one member from all areas of the Parish.

Members to be the 'eyes' of the Parish and report on any suspicious, dangerous or unusual event around the Parish – such as abandoned cars etc. Similar to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

To promote ideas to the Parish Council or other organisations which are felt will improve the environment in which we all live.

Perhaps where members use computers use email as a fast form of contact as well as the telephone.

These are only few ideas and are not being put forward as to how the Residents Association will be operated – as stated before this will be entirely up to the committee members of the Association.

Please come to the meeting to hear what is being proposed and voice any views you might have on the proposed idea.

There will be no commitment to join the Residents Association by attending the meeting so don't be afraid that by coming along you will be roped into something you do not want to do!

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

Barbara Kingham has had a rummage in her drawers and found this most wonderful old photograph of the first crash on the A5.

It happened on 14th August 1905.

The car was a French 'Moto-Bloc' and the lady driver was unfortunately killed.



Still on the car theme....A hot Saturday in July found the Chalgrave News Team cleaning cars at the Memorial Hall to raise funds to keep our auspicious journal in ink and paper!!

Lots of thanks to those who supported us. We raised £103 on the day....just enough to pay for the osteopath we all needed the following day! Does anyone have any Deep Heat they don't want????!! Current running costs are estimated at nearly £2000 per annum, so we may have to wash a few more cars before the year is out!

Jo Cestaro won the raffle for a professional car valet, and very many thanks are due to Motor-Iced for providing this prize.

In addition to our car washing efforts, we asked for VJ Day memories and were delighted at many of the tales and reminiscences. Anyone who wasn't there will have missed out on the delights of spam sandwiches and bread pudding (for which I must apologise). Even Ken Green remarked quite tactfully that the bread pudding looked a bit better than it tasted!!! Actually, to be honest it didn't look that good

either.

However, Nichola Well's mum sprang to the rescue with her personal fail-safe bread pudding recipe which I faithfully reproduce here and leave you to try. Are there other recipes out there that have been a well kept family secret? Send them in for others to try. Anyhow, here goes.....

Nicky's Mum's Bread Pudding

450g bread (white or brown)

250-350g sultanas or raisins

175g margarine

175g sugar (brown or white or mixed)

1 egg

1 tbsp mixed spice

2 tbsp cinnamon

½ tsp ginger

Method

Soak bread in water or milk until soft.

Squeeze out excess fluid.

Mix in all other ingredients and bake in

a greased baking tray or cake tin for

50 mins at 190 degrees.

Good luck!!



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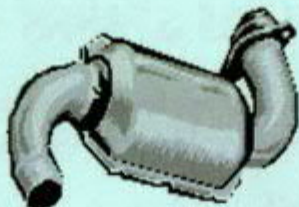
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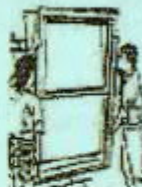
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CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

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 and grounds 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.

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For further details

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Or Email

anthonyj@clara.co.uk

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Useful Contacts

Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662621
Parish Council & Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	6747 16
Responsibilities - Chairman	Philip Parry	673920
Vice Chairman	Ken Green	674107
Councillors	(Grass cutting, Footpaths)	
	Frank Griffin	674126
	(Planning, Street lighting, Road signs)	
	Daniel Osborn	673920
	June Home	673965
	Roger Mence	674516
	Derek Smith	674105
	(Traffic calming)	
District Council	South Beds District Council	01582 472222
Councillor	Norman Costin	674232
County Council	Bedfordshire County Council	01234 363222
Councillor	Rhys Goodwin	210629
Chalgrave Church		
Vicar	Rev. Nick McNeil	
Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert	672626
Warden	Larry Ryan	
Schools	Lower	St Georges 672360
	Middle	Parkfields 672555
	Upper	Harlington 673636
Home Watch Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Tree Warden	Tony Smith	674716
Doctors	Drs A Long/J Perkins	672222
Toddington Library		673626
Electricity Board - emergency		0800 7 636636
Water Board - emergency		0845 7 145145
Police	Beat Officer	P.G. Rick Goss 01582 471212
Chalgrave Memorial Hall		
Chairman	Linda Hadden	
Booking Secretary	Roger Masters	673039
Senior Citizens Committee		
Chairman	Roger Masters	673039
Secretary	Velda Cooke	675363
West Charity		
Clerk to the Trustees	Norman Costin	674232
Mums and Tots and Youth Club	Vacant	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Mike Wells 677096
Secretary	David Cestaro	673667
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	David Yirell	675410
Toddington Rainbows	Gill Hiscox	675239
Brownies and Guides	Gill Hiscox	675239
Toddington Tennis Club	Ray Smith	674146
Chalgrave Parish News	Tony Comes	674605
	Lyndie Lothian	674166
	Frances &	
	Roger Masters	673039
	Mick McDonagh	673012

A Message from your County Councillor – Rhys Goodwin

Here's hoping you all had a terrific, enjoyable and relaxing summer break, the youngsters got the qualifications they were hoping for and we can all settle down to enjoy the Autumn with all its interesting colours.

County will wake up with a bang in September, following a lot of planning that has gone into improving services and getting into shape to provide better value. I've served as a councillor for nearly eleven years (7.5 on District and 8 on County) and our work is constantly changing. Both Region and Government are more comfortable in dealing with Metros and Unitaries and so they experience some difficulty in dealing with the devolved services we have in a county like Bedfordshire.

So bringing us more into line, Local Government will be inspected on its ability to deliver integrated services through partnerships. This has been happening now for some time on Community Safety, but it will be moving across to many if not all other areas soon.

There used to be a County Plan for Environment - with much more detail in the District and Parish Plans. This concept will move across Adult and Children's Services and include contributions from Health as well as Local Government and the Emergency Services.

Councillors in all sections of local Government will need to work together to monitor this to help ensure it achieves the benefits planned - a different and rather more complex task. Local and Strategic Forums as well as the County Wide surveys have rather more influence on what should be happening and their input has been included in planning at all levels.

Councillors will try to keep you informed - mainly through the Parish Council and local magazines - to augment the documents distributed by the Authorities themselves. I have heard no more news on Housing Planning for some months now, but no doubt we will hear more before Christmas.

West Charity

A meeting of the trustees on 1st August awarded a sum in the region of £12,000.

If you would like to apply for a grant contact:-

Norman Costin

Clerk of the West's Charity

Heath Farm

Wingfield

Leighton Buzzard

LU7 9QH

Tebworth to Edinburgh

(via Buckingham Palace and New York)

A young man's interests vary greatly, but it is safe to say that the majority of young men are mostly concerned with wine, women and song.

However, Matthew Chinery is slightly different.

Matthew, who lives at Home Farm, Tebworth, whilst very interested in the women part, specialises in the song bit. That is to say he and a bunch of fellow students at Oxford University have formed a group, or more specifically a sort of choir.



They sing in a rather unusual style called A Cappella, which is music without instruments. They sing rock and pop songs, with everything from guitars to drum kits performed by the human voice, and judging by their musical C.V., they are very good at it. You don't get invited to perform as the guest of the Officers of the Irish Guards, just across the road from Buckingham Palace unless you are pretty damn good, nor do you sing to a sold out show at the Edinburgh Festival by just being OK. Other stamps on their musical passport include the Empire State Building, and even performing on the same bill as Welsh rappers, Goldie Lookin' Chain!

But you must judge for yourselves.

Go to the Queen's Head and ask Colin for a copy of their new CD,

or visit their website at www.ootb.org.uk

Matthew is second from the left in our picture.

Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

Services and special events at All Saints this autumn.

Life has been happy and hectic of late, with all the weddings and baptisms, and a very successful **Pig Roast** which raised over £1000 pounds. Thank you to the villages for supporting it. I would also like to write how much I enjoyed myself at the Games this year. Perfect weather and perfect fun. Thanks to those who ran it.

We now enter the Autumn period and our first great celebration in church is for **Harvest**. How about those **pumpkins**? I had one the size of..... an orange, but we have got a normal one a little bigger than that, somewhat pecked by the chickens. So if you have that super-doooper sized pumpkin let me know. We would love to have it for our **Harvest festival** at the end of the month. After this we have the more solemn time of **Remembrance**. We were delighted to see so many people in the Memorial hall for our service last year showing that people have not forgotten the personal sacrifices of previous generations. Then we have **Christmas**. Not only will we have the famous Carol Service and our Midnight Communion, we shall also have a Crib Service on the Sunday before Christmas.

Of course we worship every Sunday and the parish is always prayed for.

Usual Sunday Services

1st and 3rd Sunday – 9.30 am Parish Communion

2nd Sunday – Family Service 11 am

4th Sunday – Parish Communion 11 am

Please see the board for 5th Sundays or phone the Rector.

Special services.

Harvest Sunday 25th September – 11 am - Harvest Communion

6 pm - Harvest Songs of Praise

Patronal Festival Sunday 30th October 9.30 am A celebration of All Saints

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 13th November 3 pm. Memorial Hall

Christmas 17th December – Carols by Candlelight 7.30 pm

18th December – Crib Service 3 pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.45 pm

There is no service on Christmas Day, but there are services at Toddington

Over the next few editions I would like to take the opportunity of clarifying some of the rules regarding church life. I don't like using that word 'rules', but for anything to function you have to have some order. That said, the church is actually a lot more flexible on things than we often imagine.

Marriage in the parish church.

If at least one of a couple live in the parish of Chalgrave, you have a right to be married in the parish church. If one of or either of you have been married no more than once before it is possible to be married in the parish church at the discretion of the Rector. This usually means that he is satisfied various pastoral needs are met. In other words, divorcees *can* be married in the parish church, provided we adhere to pastoral guidelines laid down by the church. The cost of a wedding from legal fees to chimes would be over £500. This may seem a lot, but some of the newer venues charge more and in comparison to most wedding dresses or suits.....

But above all, our parish church of All Saints is a superb place to get married. It has a lovely setting and the interior is easily one of the best in the county. And what better than to begin your married life in an atmosphere of prayer and worship and of beauty and as your parish church, a spiritual home.

Please call the Rector if you wish for further details.

Nick MacNeil

CHALGRAVE PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

All those in the Parish who have picked up the gauntlet thrown down by our worthy Rector should by now be seeing the fruits of their labours.

We at the Chalgrave News have seen our pumpkins grow from tennis ball size to orange size to melon size to large football size and now they are so large that they can hardly fit in a wheelbarrow!

Serious competitors need to deliver their specimens to the church for the Harvest Festival.

But what are we to do with them afterwards?

Other than using them for decoration at Halloween, there are a couple of good recipes on the back cover of this magazine - if you like that sort of thing!



Wednesday 15th August 1945

It was a most unfortunate that due to the fickle finger of fate I was unable to attend the gathering at the Memorial Hall to celebrate the VJ Day anniversary. Anyone with meaningful memories of that occasion must be over 70 by now and people of that age tend to talk at you and not to you. So as this is a less frenetic season for newspapers, I am taking the opportunity to relate my VJ Day story and it's no good flicking over the page as I shall interrogate you when I see you!

Now, in those times, apart from the odd motor cruiser and pleasure steamer, fuel rationing meant that to travel the Thames for more than a day, one had to resort to the skiff or punt. They were both about the same length, the punt being more comfortable with its flat ends; its rectangular shape gave more room and comfort. The two facing seats collapsed backwards and two could sleep side by side on the seat cushions. It was propelled by a paddle or a pole.

The skiff was a racier affair with a seat towards the rear from which the boat was steered by two ropes attached to a rudder. The steerer sat facing the one or two

oarsmen who sat on crossbenches pulling a pair of skulls apiece. Faster of course than a punt both vessels had metal hoops which supported a removable canvass cover end to end, waterproof and snug but with large flaps either side so you could watch the world go by even in the rain.

These epitomes of delight could be hired for the princely sum of two pounds ten shillings (£2.50) per week (with a two gallon stone jar of water thrown in). Four teenage boys could just about raise this sum, so Ted, Derek, Bert and Bill decided that during the summer of '45 they would do a week up the Thames, Staines to Oxford and back. However, Bert's Ma decided that her little cherub could not be entrusted to these ruffians and he had to withdraw.

So three teenage youths readjusted their finances and embarked on a hired skiff from Staines on Saturday 11th August. The journey was foreshortened by a kindly lock-keeper who advised that a lock pass to Henley would prove more economical. I could write a book on their adventures but will concentrate on only one day.

10am on an overcast Wednesday following a late night Tuesday found them approaching the lock downstream of Henley. The lock-keeper informed them that the war was over as the Japanese had surrendered and the ensuing celebrations would see all the shops shut in Henley at 12 noon. So the lads had a problem. Minimal provisions and no bread with at least three hours rowing to reach Henley. Solution, land

one member to walk to the town and pick up bread and provisions and meet the others by the bridge. Derek was landed in the rain, Bill rowed on and Ted steered outside the covers for visibility. The boat party arrived some time after one o'clock, Bill exhausted and Ted soaked but Derek was nowhere to be seen. When he finally arrived with arms scratched and shoes soaked, he had a sorry tale to tell.

He'd been landed in a private estate surrounded by barbed wire and a veritable assault course to tackle to gain his time consuming freedom. A further rummage through supplies provided a bag of flour, some milk, dried egg and mustard powder which converted to pancakes or

flapjacks or dampers – call them what you will. The victory celebration, the dropping of the atomic bomb, the freeing of PoW's and internees, the sheer joy of the finish of the then current hostilities, the whole momentous shebang passed by our three adventurers as they sank into exhausted sleep in the very late afternoon.

The funny thing is that I was in the very thick of the VJ celebrations in London but I can't remember a thing!

Bill Archer



Chalgrave Manor Farm

Thursday 9th June saw one of the largest farm auctions ever held around the local area when Robert Upchurch sold off all his farming equipment on his well earned retirement.

The weather on the day of the auction was hot and sunny and this led to a very good turn out of bidders.

The Upchurch family have owned and farmed Chalgrave Manor for many years and all at the Chalgrave News wish Robert a long and happy retirement.

However we are sure that he will still be kept busy helping out at the very popular livery yard side of the business from time to time.

View from the House – Andrew Selous MP

“MAKING CLIMATE CHANGE HISTORY TOO”

August, as a holiday month is a time to reflect on some of the more serious longer term problems that affect our world. MPs are tied up, even in August with the day to day problems that affect their constituents' lives. Looking to longer term issues is something that can get pushed to the side by the urgency of each day's demands.



The G8 summit in Gleneagles was a time when world leaders did look to two extremely important issues – Africa and Climate Change.

Africa certainly caught the public imagination in a major way with Make Poverty History white wrist bands and the Live 8 concert in Hyde Park bringing wider public attention to Africa. It has been excellent to see the public so engaged with this issue. If you remember only one statistic about Africa, remember this – at present four million children under five die in Africa every year.

The word poverty can seem a bit abstract. What it means in Africa is four million young children, every bit as much loved by their parents as British children, dying every year through disease or not enough to eat or drink.

Climate change has not made such an impact as an issue on the public. There are still some people who seem in denial that it is happening. At the main hustings debate for the general election candidates in South West Bedfordshire, one of the candidates tried to deny that climate change was actually happening. I am pleased that his views were not well received by the audience, but nonetheless, the denial of the existence of climate change, or its seriousness by some public figures is not helpful.

If you are unsure yourself about whether climate change is happening or whether it matters, can I invite you to consider three proven facts:

Already sea ice in the Arctic has shrunk by one million square kilometres

The hottest ten years on record have all occurred since 1991

And sea levels are rising.

While the effects on the UK may not be immediately apparent, the effects on the developing world are already apparent with changing weather patterns leading to increasing drought and conflict as displaced peoples fight over the remaining fertile land – this has already happened in southern Sudan for example.

While it is imperative that we reduce emissions of carbon from fossil fuels and other sources, we also need urgently to develop cleaner energy sources such as hydrogen. I was recently shown a Vauxhall Zafira powered by cylinders of liquid

hydrogen at Vauxhall's Luton headquarters. It was capable of 60 miles an hour and had a range of 250 miles before the cylinders needed to be changed. The only by product of liquid hydrogen is water which causes no harm to the environment. It is the development of technology like this on a really widespread scale that we need to press ahead with at full speed.

This way we can make **Climate Change History** too.

Andrew Selous MP

FIREWORKS ARE FUN



STAY SAFE AND BE BRIGHT

Fireworks are great fun to watch, but each year lots of young people get hurt and your child is more likely to get injured than you are, so do take care and follow the "Firework Code"

NEVER play with fireworks, they are explosive and can injure you badly
ONLY adults should light or hold fireworks, always light them with a long taper and read the instructions on each firework.

WHEN you watch fireworks, stand well back.

NEVER go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it has not gone off, it could still explode.

FIREWORKS will frighten your pets, so keep them indoors.

IF you are given a sparkler, always wear gloves, hold them at arms length and when it goes out NEVER touch it as it will still burn.

NEVER give sparklers to a child under five.

REMEMBER you have to be 18 years old before you can buy fireworks in a shop

Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114

NEVER let fireworks off after 11.pm



Get wise or get hurt. Fireworks are explosive.

High Flying Birds

Congratulations to Albert and Gracie Bird, currently living in Dunstable but previously of Wingfield who, having raised more than £51,000 for the upkeep of All Saints Church were invited to the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace in recognition of their amazing achievement.

The Rev Nick MacNeil paid tribute to the 84year old couple, saying "As a congregation we are delighted at this royal recognition and wish them every blessing at the party itself and in the future. We are thankful for all the work they have done to make the church building at Chalgrave what it is today"

Well done Albert and Gracie!

The picture below is of the couple just before setting off for the Palace.



How will this all affect us? Well if the Northern route is chosen we will be blighted by traffic noise as a dual carriageway will encourage traffic to travel at increased speeds.

Traffic should reduce through both Tebworth and along the Toddington/Houghton Regis Road.

It is possible that the A5 junction at the bottom of the hill out of Tebworth will prove more difficult to get across as traffic speeds will increase when vehicles head further down the A5 to the new link road and not as many slow down to turn left when coming out of Hockliffe.

Please send in the Highways Agency questionnaires with your views as soon as possible as the consultation period ends on 2nd December 2005 with the preferred route being announced towards the summer of 2006.

The Chalgrave News will do all we can to keep everyone informed of this major new road system in future issues.

THE NATIONAL TRUST South Bedfordshire Association

Wednesday 5 October 7.45pm

Insurance Scams - Major Alan Gilmore

Friday 21 October 7.45pm

A History of Taxidermy - Dr Pat Morris

Monday 5 December 2.30pm

Herbs in the Houe & Ways with natural Cleaning - Phil & Linda Young

Wednesday 4 January 7.45pm

Pyrography & Decorative Knots - Jeff & Lesley Wyatt

Monday 16th January 2.30pm

50 Years on the Fiddle - Lorna Stephen

Monday 13 February 2.30pm

Not Just Churches - Anna Conti

Meetings are held at Salvation Army Hall, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable

Guests are welcome £1.00 each. For more information call 01582 527790.

Sea Britain - Les Jones

Wednesday 2 November 7.45pm Eaton Bray Village Hall.

Tickets £5.00 All proceeds to the Neptune Coastline campaign.

Front Gardens Competition



Winners Valerie and Frank Griffen, The Lane, Tebworth



Second place Kate and Kate Smith, Tebworth Road, Wingfield

Front Gardens Competition



The Plough, Wingfield, Winner of the Hanging Basket Competition



**...and more beautiful
baskets and tubs**



More gardens ,
baskets and tubs.



31/01



31/01



Christmas Fun Night

Lets cheer ourselves up before the usual hectic pre Christmas rush with a night out at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on Saturday 3rd December 2005.



Novelty Horse Race Night
Housey Housey (posh term for Bingo!)
Christmas Decorations
Special Christmas Raffle
Christmas Music
Party Poppers and Hats
Bangers & Mash Supper
(Vegetarian if requested)
Mince Pies
Bar

It's going to be a great atmosphere and
thoroughly enjoyable evening
starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets only £6.50 each for adults and
£4.00 each for pensioners and under 14's.

Book your ticket early to avoid
disappointment as we have to
limit numbers for this event.



Tickets available from
any member of the
Chalgrave News Team
or from Signs of the Times.



Around the Organisations

Village Hall

We have only held one meeting since the AGM allowing the committee a summer break!

The main items on the agenda were:-

1) The success of the village games.

Even the weather was kind to us and a rough count of 300 people enjoyed the glorious afternoon spending money and having fun. A big heartfelt thank you to everyone involved on and off the committee, and a special thank you to Elizabeth, Debbie and Sandy who formed a sub-committee working selflessly organising everything with such thought and care.

2) The new licensing laws have been discussed ad-nauseum. Sue Norman of BRC attended a meeting to give us a better understanding of the implications. Many villagers have written to parliament and should have received a reply from the Minister by now. Thank you for writing. We have decided to apply for the temporary event licence, which will mean we can only hold 12 functions a year where alcohol is served. As this will cut down our income we shall have to get busy with new fund raising - any ideas?

3) We have had several estimates for painting the inside of the hall and hope to have this completed by Christmas. Our web site is now up and running thanks to Tony Dowson.

Hope you are all enjoying the summer. Take care.

Linda Hadden

Book Club

The book club has not met for two months over the summer holidays, but members were kept busy reading 'Baggage' by Janet Street-Porter. A book our members had mixed feelings about, disliking her intensely as a person but admiring her achievements.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kate Smith well. She has been in hospital most of the summer and we do hope she is now on the road to recovery - we miss you Kate, hurry back!

We have been joined by a new member, Sherry Bowen from Tebworth who we are very happy to welcome to the village and hope that she enjoys the book club as much as we do.

You may be surprised to learn that book club members are writing their own book!

Each of us in turn writing one page and passing on. We are looking forward to selling the film rights once the finished article has been published in the Chalgrave News.

We feel this is an honour for the Chalgrave News and have agreed not to charge them!!!!

Our current book is Graham Greene's 'Travels with my Aunt' - more about this next time.

We have one or two places left for anyone wishing to join us -please contact Linda Hadden 875417.

Parish Council

Planning

We continue to protest about the proposed use of Green Belt land for the use of building of housing.

You should have received information about the A5-M1 link (the Dunstable Northern Bypass). Two routes are proposed. The northern route is very close to our parish. We are looking at the proposal very closely and urge you to complete and return the questionnaire. Make your views known.

Village Pond

There has been interest in working on the pond to encourage wildlife and plants – and cut back the nettles. If you don't know where it is - it's on Toddington Road opposite Home Farm. Some improvements have already been made and we hope to have a group of volunteers to work together to develop and maintain the pond. Please contact me if you are interested in helping.

Parking

We are aware of the problems of finding somewhere convenient to park cars and vans in our Parish. However, we should point out that South Beds. District Council has taken over control of parking enforcement from the police. They will be looking into any contravention of the on-street parking regulations – which includes parking on the pavements. Please park with care and

consideration. Ensure that you do not block pedestrian, wheelchair or buggy access; park on or near bus stops particularly where the school bus picks up children; prevent emergency services reaching an incident; or park on any other areas that may give rise to concern and draw the attention of the SBDC.

Winter Gritting

We are starting our yearly campaign to make sure that BCC properly grits our roads in the winter.

Phone box

Because of the very low usage, the phone box at St Mary's close will become 'cashless' ie. cards only.

Emergency calls and reverse charge calls can still be made.

As always you are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings – there is an open forum at the beginning where you can raise issues.

We usually meet at 7:30 on the last Tuesday of the month

Phil Parry

Sports Club

Chalgrave Sports Club – Review of summer 2005

We have enjoyed another exciting and successful season of cricket this year at Chalgrave Sports Club. 11 games have been played at the ground in Wingfield with a further 3 taking place at Dunstable Rugby Club. The latter is a ground provided by the newest addition to the league, Old Dunstablians, who prepared a

pitch very quickly just prior to the start of the season. Although the wicket itself received mixed reports, the fact that they were able to provide the facility in such a short space of time should be commended and we sincerely hope that they will continue to participate in next year's league.

The team has had a reasonable season ending with victory in our final league game against our old foes LEA CC (previously representing The Carpenter's Arms, Harlington). This victory, coupled with a win against Dunstable Road Runners (when I took over the captaincy for a game!) means that the team ended the season soundly mid-table, which is probably a fair reflection of our standing. The Bedford Arms (now Toddington CC – too many team name changes!) once again appear to have romped away with the title – many congratulations to them.

The season draws to a close tinged with a little sadness, as one of our stalwarts (and committee members) makes his way to pastures new. Sam Fenwick has been a part of the team for many years despite his tender age and has been a great asset not only when playing but also helping the club in various ways. He has now completed his Law degree and, after a trip to Australia, will be moving to Bristol to work and live. I would like to thank Sam for all his help and wish him all the very best.

This will leave the club with some work to do over the close season to recruit new

players ready for next year. This is a very different story to this year where the captain has had the luxury of selecting a side (rather than desperately phoning anyone he can think of who can walk!). If anyone would like to take part, or knows someone who does, then please contact one of the committee members – details elsewhere in this magazine or on our website

<http://www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk/>.

Other news

Nev Andrews will be completing his groundsman training course in the next few weeks. With his increased knowledge and some assistance from the rest of the team we hope to be able to play on grass again next year.

We are holding a Quiz Night on 30th September at the Memorial Hall in Tebworth. Tickets are £6 which includes a light buffet. Refreshments will be available. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any committee member or behind the bar in the Queen's Head and The Plough.

Arrangements are being made for a last game of the season in early October, possibly between a Chalgrave side and Toddington CC (previously the Bedford Arms). The date and arrangements are still to be finalised – keep an eye on the website for details.

Mike Wells,
Chairman.

Strawberries & Cream **& The Chalgrave News**

Summer would not be summer without strawberries & cream. Never mind the fact that we have had rain, wind and temperatures more fitting to the North Pole this summer, because on the day of the Chalgrave Games we were blessed with a brilliant summers day! Out came the tents, tables and crowds and the Chalgrave news caravan and marquee! Our strawberries & cream were washed down with Pimms and a wonderful afternoon was had by all – although we suspect that judging by the number of Pimms bought by a few members of the parish (and we include one or two of the Chalgrave News team in this number) the games might have been just a faded memory by the next morning! Thank you to all who supported our fund raising event which proved successful – this is just one of many fund raising events we hold each year to help raise the money needed to produce the Chalgrave News.



THE CHALGRAVE NEWS PIMMS TENT LADIES

IS MODERN FARMING COMPATIBLE WITH WILDLIFE??

A few villagers will remember the days when huge numbers were employed within the farming industry. Average family farms had up to 10 men working for them

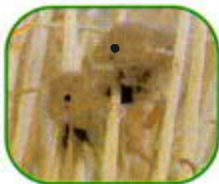
The farms were mainly mixed farms with livestock and cereal crops. After the war, farmers were encouraged to produce more for the nation, grants were given for drainage schemes, hedgerows were cleared and any rough corner was converted into food production. Ancient meadows and pastures, which had never been ploughed, were put into cereal production. With the removal of hedgerows, large fields were created and 'prairie farming' had arrived. These modern farming methods have had a devastating effect on much of our natural wildlife.

Within days of harvesting, the fields are re-ploughed and seeded for the next crop and with modern machinery very little food is left. We no longer have winter 'stubble' and most of our hay making has been replaced by silage, which is cut earlier in the season, disturbing ground nesting birds.

The grey partridge, turtle dove, green plover, skylark, thrushes and our much loved sparrow are in serious decline as is the harvest mouse and water vole.

In truth our farmers have done too good a job with farming where we are now over producing crops and ironically grants are available for replanting hedgerows and reflooding wetlands. Arable land is now being left fallow and thus being taken out of the food production chain, which hopefully will go some way to restoring our countryside, but I fear it will certainly be too late for many of our once common birds.

The Chalgrave Mole



Harvest Mice



Turtle Dove



Water Vole

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

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

I can fully sympathise that because your wife and your neighbour are passionate lovers this is causing them to spend a good deal of spare time together and that when you come home from work your tea is never ready for you.

However I think that you should support their activities. Why not consider joining in with them on the odd occasion as you might find this very rewarding?

Well of course this should have read -


I can fully sympathise that because your wife and your neighbour are passionate animal lovers etc.

I can only apologise for this omission in our last issue and suggest that you try holding a piece of rump steak to your black eye for a few hours, which should help the bruise heal faster.

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

Skinny Puppy Pumpkin Ale

(for 5 gallons)




3 lb light malt extract
2.5 lb Amber malt extract
1.5 oz leaf hops (60 minute boil)
2 lb. pumpkin
(chopped into 1 inch cubes)
1 Tbsp. nutmeg
1/2 Tbsp. cinnamon.
1/2 Tbsp. ginger
Ale yeast

Boil the malt and hops in an appropriate amount of water for 1 hour. During the final 5 minutes of the boil, add the pumpkin to soften and sterilize, then add the spices. Remove the chunks of pumpkin from the hot wort and place them in the fermenter (I guess that a plastic one was used). Cool the wort and strain it into the fermenter. Top up to 5 gallons with boiled, cooled water and add the yeast.

Rack into a secondary fermenter when the beer has fermented out, leaving the pumpkin behind. If the ale is very cloudy when racking, fine with 1 Tbsp. of gelatin. Prime with 3/4 cup of sugar at bottling.

Pumpkin Ice Cream



16oz pumpkin puree
4 cups heavy cream
2 cups milk
6 egg yolks
1+1/2 cup sugar
nutmeg and cinnamon to taste

Mix 1 cup cream with 1 cup milk & spices and scald them

Beat egg yolks with 1 cup sugar

Softly whisk hot milk mixture into egg mixture

Pour the new mix into a warm saucepan

Stir over a low flame until it thickens

Strain this into a bowl and stir in the rest of the cream

Refrigerate for an hour

Mix the puree and the remaining sugar

Add this to the now chilled mixture and mix well

(Freeze according to manufacturers directions in an ice cream maker)