

Happy Christmas!



Chalgrave News

Publication No.14 2005-4

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
- Karate - starting Mondays Village Hall after Christmas
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Pilates lessons Thursday evenings - contact Debbie Parry
- New Year celebrations at The Plough
- Senior Citizens Dinner postponed - new date to be announced
- Judging of Christmas Lights Competition - 19th December
- Carols by Candlelight - 17th December 7.30pm All Saints Church
- Houghton Regis Church Choir at The Plough 14th December
- Heath Band - 17th Dec. 7pm Queens Head, play Christmas Carols

Front Cover:
Christmas display at Poplars Nursery

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

If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please send a
cheque for £15.00 (4 issues) made payable to
"The Chalgrave News"
together with your name and UK address to
L Lothian, 30 The Lane, Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QB.

*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

Is it really Christmas in a few days time? Doesn't time just fly by these days! Hope everyone is getting ready for the celebrations as there are not many shopping days left to spend your hard earned cash. In this issue of your Chalgrave News look for the articles on the traditions of Christmas and the report of our very recent and enjoyable fund raising event. We think that some of the facts we have uncovered on traditions we take for granted at this time of the year are amazing. What a fantastic autumn we have just experienced. Due to the unusually warm weather the countryside has been a vivid splash of all manner of colours to brighten our days but we knew it could not last and the cold weather has finally struck with a vengeance! What does the future hold for our parish? Well next year is due to see the start of the A5/M1 Dunstable bypass construction work on whichever route is finally chosen. Let's all hope it is the southern route. We may well also see the start of the new housing construction programme which will spread from Houghton Regis and Dunstable. The change of Luton Airport flight path and proposed new runway, the possibility of Luton Town Football Club's new stadium being built somewhere near junction 12 of the M1 are just some of the issues that your editorial team will be focusing on in 2006. If there is a story or you know of something that needs investigating please let us know and we will do our best to obtain information from our various sources (who shall remain nameless as all good journalists always say!) You can contact us by telephone, letter (via the village hall letter box), or very shortly by our very own internet website on chalgravenews.co.uk which will be launched onto an unsuspecting public early next year. A few points before I go away and leave you to settle down to read the rest of this issue. Thank you to all those who entered our crossword puzzle competition in the last issue. The first correct entry and winner of the bottle of wine was Pamela Southin of Signs of the Times. A big thank you to all our sponsors and advertisers - without your financial support we could not produce the parish magazine. If anyone would like to sponsor us or place an advert in the Chalgrave News please contact any one of the News team.

And finally a very big thank you, Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to all our readers.

STOP PRESS

The editors received information just before going to print:-

1st December 2005 - It's official - Bedfordshire District Council have confirmed that they favour the northern route for the A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass)

Go to page 8 for the full story




What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News




Many congratulations to Stacey Brand and to Tom Colenutt for passing their Driving Tests.

This is no mean achievement these days because to gain a pass you now have to complete a written test as well as the practical test. This differs greatly from the test taken by yours truly, when a friend was needed to walk in front with a red flag. The real difficulty was finding a friend!

It's a shame Tom has since written his car off after an accident. There were no injuries.



Letterbox restrictor plate has been fitted to prevent prancsters posting fireworks.



The Post Office clearly trying to avoid a repeat of last

year's explosion.

New landlords Roger and Theresa Burden have moved into The Plough in Wingfield. More information about them on page33.

A bad accident happened on the stretch of road beside Chalgrave Golf Club early in November sadly ending in a fatality.

Another accident occurred beside the pond in Tebworth towards the end of November when a car was badly damaged.

Chalgrave News held a very successful fund raising evening at the Memorial Hall on 3rd December and raised over £700.00 towards the running costs of the magazine.



Receive a Copy of The Chalgrave News by Post



The editorial team have had several requests from people living outside Chalgrave Parish who would like to receive regular copies of the Chalgrave News.

Unfortunately the cost of producing the magazine in its present colour format is extremely expensive and whilst some of these costs are covered by our advertising income there is still a substantial shortfall each year.



We therefore have to organise fund raising events, such as the very successful recent Christmas Fun Night, to bring in additional income in order to keep the magazine going. Please support these events whenever you can.

Our aim is to provide every house in the parish of Chalgrave with a free copy and so we regret that we are not in the financial position to be able to give away free copies of the Chalgrave News.

However, in view of the number of requests we have received the Chalgrave News editorial team have decided to offer the following service:-

We will post each copy of the Chalgrave News to anywhere in the UK for an annual subscription of £15.00. (There are 4 copies produced each year).

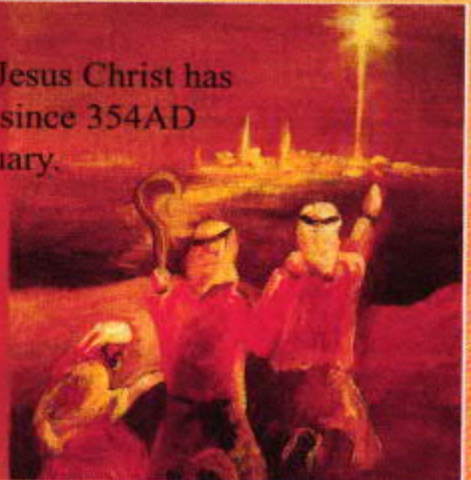
For delivery outside of the UK please contact any member of the editorial team for details.

Coming soon – The Chalgrave News website – details in next issue.

The Birth of Jesus

In the western world the birth of Jesus Christ has been celebrated on 25 December since 354AD replacing an earlier date of 6 January.

However the earliest English reference to 25 December as Christmas Day that can be found is in 1043. 25 December is in fact a nominal birth date for Jesus Christ as no one can actually be sure of the exact date.



CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

Fees and Charges effective from 1st January 2006

Period	Parish Resident Individual Parish Voluntary Community Groups	** Non-Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	** Non-Parish Organisation or Commercial
Monday - Thursday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£5.75 per hour	£7.25 per hour
6pm - 11pm*	£5.00 per hour	£9.00 per hour	£10.50 per hour
Friday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£5.75 per hour	£7.25 per hour
6pm - 12 midnight	£70.00	£90.00	£105.00
Saturday			
9am - 6pm	£6.50 per hour	£9.00 per hour	£10.50 per hour
6pm - 12 midnight	£70.00	£120.00	£155.00
12 noon - 12 midnight	£105.00	£165.00	£210.00
Sunday			
10am-10pm*	£6.00 per hour	£9.00 per hour	£10.50 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 up to 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.

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE TELEPHONE : 01525 873039

Pride of Place for the Parish News Pumpkin

Yes, its official, the rector of All Saints has conceded defeat in the pumpkin growing competition. After 'talking up' his efforts over the last few months, he finally saw the light when the Parish News 150 pound monster was delivered to the church for the Harvest Festival. Nick was last seen shaking his head and suggesting some sort of fiddle, however, we at the News sit back smugly and wait for the next challenge. Quite a few parishioners planted the seeds we gave out in the summer, a few with some success but many withered on the vine despite all our good advice or was it because of our advice? We can now reveal that our giant was grown in a sunny spot over a bed of manure and watered regularly. As simple as that.



We Shall Remember Them

Around 40 people, including members of Toddington British Legion, attended this year's memorial service at the village hall.

The service was conducted by Malcolm Curtis while Roger Masters gave the reading.

The collection made £40.62 for British Legion funds while the sale of poppies around the village by Pat Stringer, her father and Barbara Kingham raised a total of £122.52.



The Dunstable Northern Bypass Proposals

Your editorial team has been hard at work trying to gather as much information as possible on the new link road proposals since the last Chalgrave News article on this subject.

To recap -- there are two route options.

A southern route which will join the existing Leighton Buzzard bypass at the Chalk Hill roundabout and will travel on the Houghton Regis side of the existing Thorn Road to a new M1 junction south of Chalton.

A northern route which will have a new roundabout built north of the existing Chalk Hill roundabout and swing out to the existing overhead electric pylons at the bottom of Lords Hill before turning back towards the new M1 junction to be built south of Chalton. This route at its nearest will only be a few yards from Chalgrave Parish boundary.

We have been informed from our sources that both the Bedfordshire County Council and the South Beds District Council are probably in favour of the northern route as this will allow them to build many of the new houses under Mr Prescott's plans to concrete over the countryside of the south east of England. Their reasoning is that the new road will make a natural development boundary whereas the southern route will not give anywhere enough building land to do this.

As reported in our last issue we already know that the Highways Agency is in favour of the northern route even though this will cost £70 million against the southern route's £63 million construction cost estimates. The reason given to us is that the southern route crosses a flood plain but no one we can find seems to be able to remember the area being affected by floods in living memory. If this is a flood plain why have the Council allowed a sewerage works to be built on it?

We also understand that Toddington Council are supporting the northern route.

We hope that everyone in the parish completed and returned to the Highways Agency the consultation questionnaires that were delivered to all homes a short time ago. If not this will be taken that you do not mind which option is taken!

Work on the new bypass is due to start next year.

One point we have made to both County and District Councils is what considerations have been taken into account of the many media reports seen over recent years linking

overhead electrical power lines with increased levels of illness in the residents who live near these. A report, published earlier this year, detailed research work undertaken by Oxford University into this subject which concluded that the instance of leukaemia in children who have lived since birth within 200 meters of overhead electrical pylons is higher than in children who live over 600 meters away.

Many people also believe that electro magnetic fields generated by these power lines can also create illness to nearby residents.

We will continue to report on developments on these link road proposals in future issues of the Chalgrave News.

Fireworks Night at the Queens Head



About 200 men women and children packed the Queens Head pub and garden on November 5th to watch the free annual fireworks display put on by Colin Edwynn. Many thanks to all those who contributed to the fireworks and to Paul Dicker and Mark Edwynn for taking their lives in their hands by letting them off.

A collection was taken during the evening for the Chalgrave News which raised £95 and for which we at the News would like to thank everybody.

Generally speaking, November 5th went off quite well this year with no major disasters around the Parish except down The Lane in Tebworth where Jo and Mike Finch's young dog Useless decided the noise was too much and ran away. The good news is that he returned in the morning apparently none the worse for his adventure.

Winner of the under 14's story competition

As promised, printed below is the winner of the under 14 story competition at the Chalgrave Games

Harry the Pirate Bosun By Imogen Parry of Wingfield Road, Tebworth (aged 8)

How DARE you! I'll.... I'll....."

The captain's voice tailed off, his mind unable to think of something to do to poor Harry, the ragged sailor (whom the crew nicknamed ragged Harry) who was standing in front of him shivering with fear. Captain Cutless smiled. He had an idea. A very good BAD idea. "Be off with you" he snarled at Harry. Who scuttled off to his tiny cabin. Harry knew he was going to have the most awful punishment for setting free the little girl who they had made their prisoner. Captain's tiny, piggy, beady eyes had a look of anger inside them. He drank some of his rum and swallowed quickly. The crew shrank back. They knew the Captain in this mood. "What are you doing eh? Haven't I told you to CLEAN THE DECK! Since the last storm, well, barrel rolling all over the place and you haven't done anything about it, you miserable lot! Get to work! Now where is that wretched boy of a bosun?" And Captain Cutless stormed off shouting.

That night, Harry couldn't sleep. His mind was on two things; Captain Cutless and how many bottles of rum for the pirates next morning. He tiptoed to his cabin's porthole, his bare feet made no sound at all. And he looked out over the gentle sea sighing. Then, he saw land. Oh glorious land! Tears fell down his face and splattered on the floor as he thought of his family, His mum and dad, his sister and brother and his small cousin who lived with them.

He turned round and a yelling broke out into the silent night. Harry sighed. Another little girl kidnapped to be made a bosun. This was terrible.

Well at least he brought food for prisoners so he could comfort her. He had always hated Captain Cutless and his crew but now he had a sudden dislike for the whole lot. A few yells of delight from the older children were heard as they played on the sands. He climbed into bed and blew out the candle. Harry fell asleep dreaming of being a hero because of setting free another bosun.

Harry awoke to Hookie shaking him. Hookie was in charge of letting the anchor up and down and being watch pirate. He had a plated gold telescope and a gold sword case. Hookie grinned "What you gonna cook for us this morningeh? I'm starving" Harry ran to the store room and grabbed a barrel full of pork and another full of biscuits and shortbread and the pirates lined up for Harry to dish out the food. Harry then took some bread and cheese, ran out of the room and headed straight for the prisoner's cabin. He burst in through the door and the little girl in there looked up in

surprise. She was small but her hands were strong and supple and she looked brave. Her long, dark brown wild hair was tangled and her hazel eyes were full of mischief. She said her name was Laura. Harry gave her the food and said “ the Captain said this was your breakfast.” Laura looked downcast and said “ Can we escape together? I like you.”

In the next few days Laura got extra food from Harry’s own plate. But then Captain Cutless found out! “Walk the plank” he commanded. Shivering, Harry and Laura fell into the sea. Harry could not swim but Laura could.

“Right, grab hold of those turtle shells”

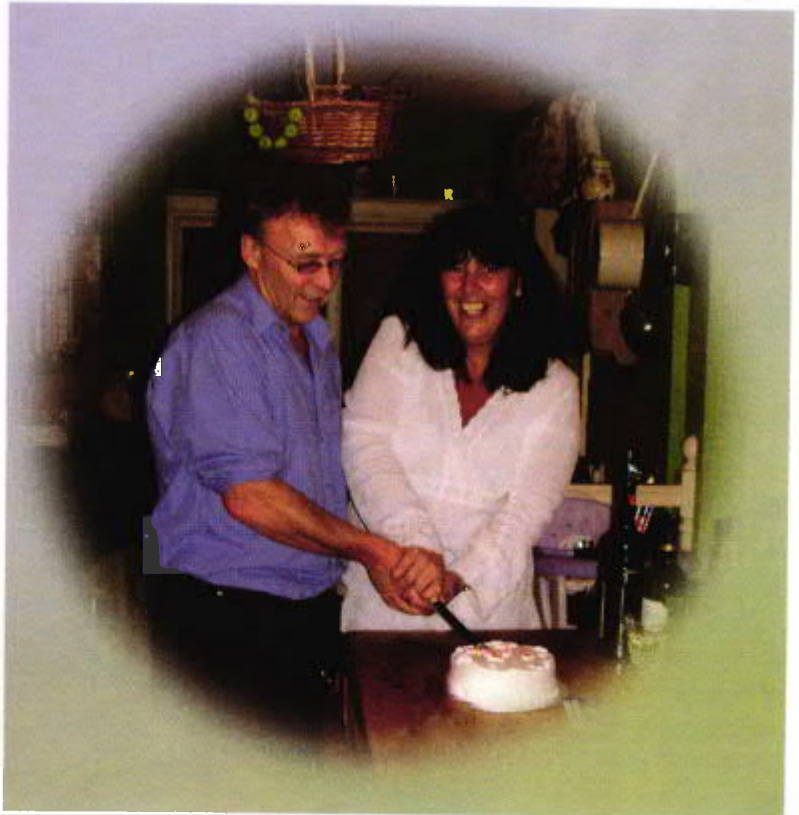
Quickly they grabbed hold of the shells. They glided through the water with the turtles. “Look! Look! Land!” cried Laura “You can let go now! I’ve got you! And sure enough when Harry let go, his feet just touched the ground. They waded to shore and lived happily ever after.



The End

Wedding Bells!!!

Sarah McGahey and Gary Colenutt surprised all their family, friends and neighbours by announcing they had married. Many locals were surprised - not because they had tied the knot but because they had no idea that they weren't already married! Very best wishes to them both



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

This is the time of year when many of us look forward to the Christmas carol concert at Chalgrave Church.

We may take for granted the parish church with its wonderful mediaeval wall paintings and attractive grounds.



But it was not always so and this old photograph provided by Barbara and Michael Kingham shows the church with its collapsed tower prior to the amazing restoration project which returned it to us once more.

Mediaeval Mincemeat!

This recipe was taken from a 15th century book called 'The Sensible Cooke'.

I made it last Christmas and can reveal it tastes fabulous!

Give it a try and amaze your family....

Find a cow and get
2lbs beef, ground fine.
4lbs apples, tart
2lbs beef suet, minced
2lbs brown sugar
4lbs raisins
2lbs currants
1lb mixed peel



Mix together:-

2 nutmegs ground

¼ oz cloves

½ oz cinnamon

¼ oz mace

1tsp salt

Juice and grated rind of 2 oranges and 2 lemons

Then mix everything together, then add 1qt good brandy. Put in earthenware jug, press down with bricks. If liquid doth not cover, then add apple cider.

Let sit on porch in shade for two weekes or more.

Happy eating and Happy Christmas...hic!

Crackers

In the early 1830's a small boy called Tom Smith worked in a London bakers and ornamental confectioners shop and took a great deal of interest in wedding cake decorations where he started experimenting with new designs. He became very successful and so opened his own shop in Goswell Road Clerkenwell East London and often travelled abroad seeking new ideas. It was while on a trip to Paris in 1840 he discovered the 'bon bon' which was a sugared almond which was sold wrapped in a twist of tissue paper. He started the 'bon bon' in his London shop and as a sales gimmick started placing a small written love motto in the tissue paper which proved very successful. He noticed however that while these sweets sold well over the Christmas period during the rest of the year sales fell away. He looked for ways of increasing his sales and one day took inspiration from the crackle that a log made when he put it on his fire and started experimenting with various compounds until he found one which would produce a satisfactory 'bang' on what he termed a 'snap'.

To incorporate the snap into the bon bon covering he had to increase to size of the bon bon and this proved a great success and the 'cracker' was born. Over the years ahead he removed the bon bon but kept the motto and added a surprise gift and renamed the cracker 'Cosaques'. He started to export his 'Cosaques' and his business expanded by moving to larger premises in Finsbury Square London where it remained until 1953. After Tom Smith's death the business was run by his 3 sons - Tom, Henry and Walter who made other improvements in the cracker design.





The Turkey

King Henry VIII is often credited with replacing the traditional festive goose with turkey. Turkeys were first introduced into Europe in 1519 by the Spanish who had discovered them being bred by the South American Aztecs. However it is more generally agreed that the Victorian author Charles Dickens' book entitled 'The Christmas Story' is credited for popularising the serving of turkey at Christmas dinner.

West Charity

The Trustees of West Charity have decided to impose deadlines for the submission of applications for grants for consideration at their July and January meetings. Applications for grants for July meetings should be received by the clerk on or before 30 June and for the January meetings on or before 31 December. Postal applications post marked prior to those dates, but which in fact arrive late, will nevertheless be accepted, provided they arrive before the meeting.

Applicants should note that it can take a long time to produce cheques after the meeting. The Trustees often ask the clerk to make further enquiries about some applications before a cheque is released. Each cheque has to be carefully checked and signed by two Trustees. Occasionally, it is necessary to wait for funds to be released from investments. The Charity does not employ a huge administrative team, because this would reduce the amount of the grants payable. Your patience is appreciated.

Any further information and claim forms available from the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr N. Costin, Heath Farm, Wingfield, LU7 9QH. Telephone 01525 874232.

Hockliffe Double Murder Trial

The trial of the 3 people accused of the murder of 79 year old Iris Jones and 34 year old Mandy Joseph on the 20th February 2005 was due to start on 8th November at Luton County Court.

The accused are Michael Millcroft age 46, Anita Mansfield age 36 and a boy aged 15 whose name has not been released. All reside at Black Dam Cottages, Beccles, Suffolk and plead not guilty to the charge.

Legal developments have led to an adjournment in proceedings.

Details of the outcome of the trial in the next issue of the Chalgrave News.

Obituary Arthur (Nobby) Cook

Nobby & Pat Cook lived in St Mary's Close, Tebworth for many years and took an active part in village life and events. In early August they moved to be nearer their family in the Royston area. It was with great sadness that we learnt of Nobby's death (aged 78) on 1 October, so soon after they had completed their house move.

Both Nobby and Pat served for many years on both the Chalgrave Memorial Hall and Chalgrave Senior Citizens committees as well as representing the St Mary's Close Residents Committee. During their time on the Chalgrave Memorial Hall committee they helped achieve the building of the new hall which was funded by a National Lottery grant.

As those who knew Nobby realised, he was hard of hearing, and many a long and intense committee discussion would end with Nobby's question – what did you say!?. Anyone who has ever attended a local event at the village hall will have been approached by Nobby to buy raffle tickets, as both he and Pat became expert at selling these to raise funds for the village hall. Every committee meeting held to organise these events would always include Nobby's question 'how much a strip for the raffle tickets'? The answer was always the same - £1 a strip!

Goodbye Nobby, you will be remembered fondly by all who knew you and to Pat we send our regards and wish you well for the future.



Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

Services and special events at All Saints before and after Christmas.

Sunday 11th December -- Toy Service 11.am Bring a toy all wrapped up to help children living in hostels and to support the work of Christian Family Care.

Saturday 17th December -- The *famous* Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments.

Sunday 18th December -- Crib Service 3 pm -- A service of celebration for all ages, especially the very young.

Christmas Eve -- Midnight Communion with Carols 11.45 pm

Christmas Day -- Services at St. George's Toddington at 8 am and 10.30 am

Sunday 1st January -- New Years Day -- Parish Communion 9.30 am

All other services follow the usual pattern;

1st and 3rd Sundays Parish Communion 9.30am

2nd Sunday Family Service 11am

4th Sunday Family Communion 11am

Christmas comes but once a year.....so it is said. Hurrah say some, and certainly none of us surely would agree with the sentiment of Roy Wood that 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday!' Think of the expense, all those sprouts and endless repeats of the 'Snowman'. When we have something everyday it loses its speciality and surely we would at least want to keep Christmas special. Lots of things are special about Christmas, but obviously the most important thing about Christmas is the birth of Jesus. If we believe it to be true, as Christians do, God has done something marvelous in being born as a human and living among us and hence the celebrations. Christmas telly can be good, especially some of the 'Christmas specials', but this year, if you don't already, consider coming to your parish church at any of the services above, to remember again why Christmas is special and making it special in a way nothing else can.

Thank you again to all those who took part in the **Pumpkin Challenge**. It is with delight that I can announce that the entry from the Magazine staff won by a long way, well, several pounds and a foot in height. It was a fantastic achievement. The

pumpkin that won was a beast, but I have seen bigger. So, the challenge is set again for next year. Can we do better? Let's see.

Baptism at All Saints, Chalgrave.

I was glad with the response we had from my little article on weddings last time and am pleased to announce two new marriages within the parish next year!

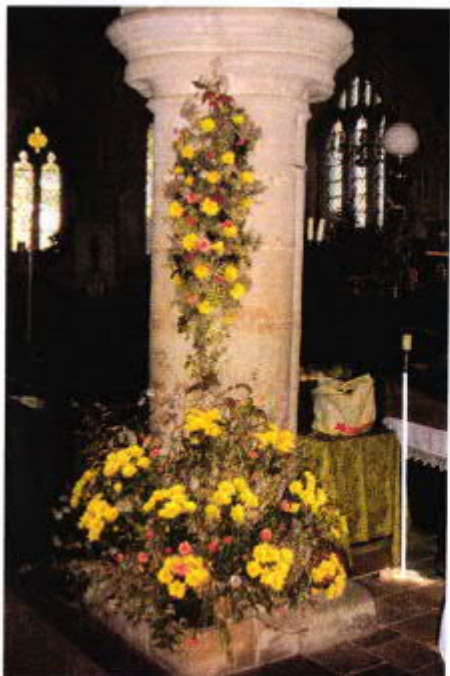
As for **Baptisms** or '**Christenings**', the 'rules' are similar to those in marriage.

Parishioners generally have a right to be baptised in their parish church and we are delighted that we have had an increase in baptisms over the last two years. However, because baptism is primarily about a person becoming a disciple of Jesus, thought needs to go into whether parents and godparents are willing to respond to the nurturing responsibility that comes with it. Baptisms take place on the fourth Sunday of the month, preferably in the morning, and sometimes in the afternoon.

The church is a wonderful setting in which to bring our children to be 'Christened' and families will receive a warm welcome.

Nick McNeil - Rector

Harvest Festival at All Saints Church



Chalgrave News Christmas Fun Night

Saturday 3rd December 2005

An excellent evening of entertainment was enjoyed by everyone at the Memorial Hall last Saturday. Some people won a lot of money, some didn't, but every one agreed it was a good fun night. For those of you who couldn't make it on the night, but still purchased a horse, a big thank you. If you won, then rest assured the your winnings were secreted away ready for collection just as soon as you turn up with proof of identity, and both sets of grandparents.



In true Sporting Life style the

Winning Horses were:-

- RACE 1 MASTERS MADAM owned by BEN
- RACE 2 MASTER OF 'EM ALL owned by KEN
- RACE 3 DE DOO RON RON owned by RON
- RACE 4 HAIR OF THE DOG owned by KEVAN
- RACE 5 WINGFIELD WILLY owned by JASON
- RACE 6 ROGER THE CABIN BOY owned by MIKE
- INSTANT RAFFLE LEG OF LAMB (recently owned by TRIPOD) won by Mark & Sarah

As always there are some thank yous to be extended to those wonderful people outside The Chalgrave News Team who gave up their time to help so ably, particularly the Jockeys for the evening Miss Courtney Finch and Miss Bethany Mooring. Also worthy of a vote of thanks is the simply splendid M. C. for the evening Mr Malcolm Baldwin who held the whole thing together with such admirable aplomb. Nor must we forget those stalwarts behind the bar, Lesley Mead, Ian Lothian and Mike Finch who actually managed to serve drinks one handed throughout the whole evening, 'cos the other hand was permanently wrapped round a glass of amber or red liquid.

A final thank you goes to those very generous folk who having spent their hard earned money on various tickets throughout the night, kindly donated their winnings back to The Chalgrave News and helped the Team to raise in excess of £700:00. This is enough money to fund about one and a half issues!!! Thank you all!

Lastly a word must be said about those sad folk who were confused and confounded by the game of Bingo and it's rules, yes you! ---- you really should get out more!



View from the House – Andrew Selous MP

Let's give power back to the people

There is a village in Bedfordshire that has for many years been trying to get some more ditches dug to prevent flooding. Requests to the local council and government agencies to pay for these drainage ditches were turned down over several years as there was not the money to pay for them.



Although not welcome news for the village concerned, this decision was understandable. Central and local government can not pay for every request put to them, unless our taxes become exorbitant, in which case the overall amount of taxes raised would decline anyway, as the productive output of the economy was reduced by excessive taxes. I think there is widespread understanding of these facts, particularly as council taxes are so high throughout the country and we now have pensioners voluntarily going to prison, rather than pay them.

Imagine, however, the surprise, of those same villagers, for whom no money for ditches could be found, when they were told that they were going to receive new bicycle racks. Now don't get me wrong, I'm as much in favour of cycling as the next person. I used to cycle to work in my previous job. Bicycling has everything to recommend it, it is good for cyclists, cuts congestion, and the lack of pollution is good for our planet and local residents who breathe cleaner air, alike.

What those village people failed to understand was why there was money for bicycle racks that they had not asked for, and wasn't money for drainage ditches which they had asked for year in and year out.

I recount this story as it illustrates a very serious problem that affects the way we are governed to an even greater extent. I have no doubt that whichever government minister allocated money to a national cycling strategy, did so with the best of intentions. The effect of this action, however, was to reduce the money available to the local councillors concerned to allocate as their voters were requesting. Our democracy is weakened every time we remove discretionary power away from those we elect. The low turnout at elections, particularly local elections, is, I believe, in part because the public are aware of how much power has been taken

away from those they elect.

I have raised the £2 million pounds the Highways Agency spent on Dunstable's 'green wave' traffic system on many occasions. Local councillors warned that it was unlikely to work, but were overruled and were told that other essential roads funding would be in jeopardy if the 'green wave' did not go ahead. The views of local councillors were later proved correct, but the money, from our taxes, had been spent. I am continuing to investigate the actions of the Highways Agency in this case. The Highways Agency, as an executive agency of the Department of Transport is only accountable to the Roads Minister. What makes me really cross about this case, however, is that at the same time as the government spends £2 million on a scheme that was not asked for and has not worked, nearly £900,000 is being cut from Dunstable College, with 23 jobs having gone so far and nearly 1000 less courses being offered to local adult learners. We also do not have a full mental health Outreach Service in South Bedfordshire, as other areas have.

Winston Churchill said many years ago that democracy was the worst form of government – apart from all the others. He was right, but the concern in Britain today is not that we can not vote, but we can not vote for representatives who will have the freedom and the power to respond effectively to the wishes of those they represent. If we can give these powers and discretion over budgets back to our local councillors in particular, then we give back real control over the future of our area to local residents where it should always remain.

Please accept my very best wishes to you and your families for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Andrew Selous is MP for South West Bedfordshire.

He can be contacted on 01582 662821 or selousa@parliament.uk.

Christmas Lights Competition

It's here again!

The Chalgrave News Team will soon be lurking around the Parish once again, but this time we shall be on legitimate business and unafraid of any law enforcement agencies. We shall be looking for the most tasteful Christmas Lights Display in the Parish and the lucky winner will receive one of our Luscious New Year Hampers, famed throughout the County and coveted by all.

The Christmas Tree

The fir tree has had a long association with Christianity. Legend has it that in Germany around 1000 years ago, St. Boniface stumbled upon a group of pagans worshipping an oak tree. In his anger he cut down the oak tree and a young fir tree grew from the roots of the former oak tree which he took as a sign of the Christian faith. It was not until the 16th century that records show that fir trees started being brought into German homes. In England it was Queen Victoria in the 19th century who started the tradition of bringing fir trees into the home. She was aware of the German tradition from her many trips back to Germany on visits to her relations and where she met her future husband Prince Albert. It was Prince Albert who first brought a fir tree into the palace at Christmas. This was then decorated with hand blown glass ornaments. As happened very often throughout Queen Victoria's reign, her loyal subjects also began copying this custom. It was 1882 when Edward Johnson became the first person to light a Christmas tree with electric lights using a string of 80 small bulbs which gradually started the trend of replacing candles which were always a high fire risk.



Photography Competition

Winter time is a great opportunity to take fantastic photographs. The vegetation dies down to reveal new features and the low angles of light from the sun throw long shadows. Snow and frost make for dramatic scenery. Send in your photographs and we will print the best in the next edition.



WELLY BOOT COMPETITION



Where do you think the welly was in this picture before we magically removed it? Mark the picture with a cross - a photo copy if you don't want to tear up your magazine - and give it to one of the editors or drop it into the letter box at the Memorial Hall. Don't forget to attach your name and telephone number. We will publish the unadulterated picture next time. The person with the cross nearest to the correct position wins a Boots voucher for £10.00

Crossword Competition Results

DOWN

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. waster | 9. salads |
| 2. number | 11. value |
| 3. loan | 12. reads |
| 5. odes | 14. lie |
| 6. lest | |

ACROSS

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Wingfield | 14. lea |
| 4. symbol | 15. message |
| 7. deans | |
| 10. everest | |
| 13. rarest | |

Winner

Pamela Southin
was the winner
with the first
correct puzzle.

Thank you again to Jill Jones for contributing the puzzle

Chalgrave Games 2005

Regretfully we omitted to mention all the generous sponsors in our last issue. To correct that error we list them below. A big thanks to you all.

Chalgrave News	Chalgrave Sports Club
Chalgrave Computers	Signs of the Times
Country Properties	Chalgrave Equine Clinic
Chalgrave Livery	Geoff Mayhew - Garden Maintenance
Chalgrave Manor Golf Club	Poplars Nursery
Nightingales	TK Maxx
Sty's the Limit - Domestic services	Woburn Safari Park
Daniel Osborn, Park Farm	Accenture
Aromassage	King of the Castle
June Horne	K&K Petfoods
Queen's Head	
Chris and David Hunt, Watergate Farm, Hockcliffe.	

Memorial Hall Committee

Table Top Sale

Saturday 12th November saw another fundraising spectacular at the Memorial Hall organised by Nicola Wells and Elizabeth Hall to raise much needed funds for the Memorial Hall.

There were numerous stalls laid out in the hall selling a formidable array of new and second hand articles. Tea and cakes were also sold by Nicola and Elizabeth.

A big 'thank you' to those who attended and just to let you know that over £100 was raised for the funds.



Lyn Green and Lesley Smith

Letters

Dear Editor

I really don't know how to express the gratitude that I feel for all the help given to me by my friends in the village and surrounding villages. Without their help I would never have been able to get the car park and garden ready for Bonfire Night, which was a great success.

Please can I use the services of The Chalgrave News to say a very heartfelt thank you to all those who gave up their time and worked so hard over many weeks and weekends for this curmudgeonly old man

Thanks again

Colin Edwynn The Queens Head

THE CHILD TRUST FUND – TIME TO ACT

Children born since 1 September 2002 and living in the UK are eligible for a £250 voucher (£500 for low income families) to open a Child Trust Fund (CTF) account. By the beginning of October around one million accounts had been opened but the Revenue has launched a further publicity campaign to persuade others to follow suit.

The latest campaign focuses on the extent to which the child will miss out if the parents fail to open a CTF account.

A new guide to the CTF together with a list of fund providers can be found at www.ctfhelp.com or phone the CTF helpline on 0845 302 1470.

THE NATIONAL TRUST South Bedfordshire Association

Herbs in the House & 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.

Ramblings on the Parish Council

Bill (Scoop) Archer



We are hit by yet another ‘whammy’ from above, and I believe HIGH ABOVE. It arrived in a ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ presented at the Parish Council meeting by David Hale, head of Planning for South Beds District Council and Andy Johnson, head of the Policy Regeneration Scheme SBDC.

It could even have originated from Johnny Prescott himself after he wiped the egg off his suit. The whole pitch is that we will be involved in planning before it is even a twinkle in a developer’s architect or builder’s eye. We already have a Local Plan which is quite a copious document updated at regular intervals (requiring re-reads to find out which bits have been altered). Not good enough! This now has to be replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF). This LDF is a series of Local Development Documents (LDD’s), and at the heart is the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Confused? It gets worse!

LDD’s will consist of Development Plan Documents (DPD’s), that will form part of the LDF and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD’s). Understand? Well, I will try again. LDF is made up of LDD’s, the SCI, DPD’S and SPD’s. Failure to understand now may qualify you for an Open University (OU) course.

Incidentally, should you wish to formally object to a LDD after it’s’ drafting, you will need to submit reasoned alternative proposals that have been subjected to Sustainability Appraisals (SA’s) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Now, understandably I am quite baffled by the above. A directive from on high might have initiated it but the statement itself (SCI) has all the hallmarks of being planned by a committee with nothing better to do.

Now, having attempted to find our way through this beaurocratic bumbledom which has a high flavour of Edgar Allen Poe and Alice through the Looking Glass, we try to apply it to a practical example.

Let us assume we plan a long promised and awaited new road (does this ring any bells yet?). The shortest practical route is proposed and with no other alternatives this becomes the generally accepted course, written into the development plans and with the LDF inbeing but gathering dust. Then bingo, as the construction start date approaches a more expensive and controversial alternative rises above the horizon (what happened to the SA and SEA). Not only is the new proposal more expensive but it will take longer to construct. However, it will now avoid the flood plain.

‘What flood plain?’ I hear you say, ‘We haven’t had a flood in seventy years and anyway, the original costs took into account flood alleviation measures didn’t they?’ The real reason of course is that the original road attempted to define the new

development boundary but now since developers will be paying for it, we can shift the goalposts. With this sort of cynicism, the only way to guarantee your future security is to move next to an MP since it never seems to happen on their back doorstep.

So it seems the only thing we get from my opening paragraph is the appearance of democracy. From the rest of the article you get a load of tosh and the reality. I only hope the elected representatives and beaurocrats who dreamed up this nightmare can sleep easily in their beds at night.

So dear readers, a very happy holiday. I had best not use the X word unless it gets censored. Let us hope that fellow with the red outfit and white beard (whose name may soon not be acceptable) really exist

P.S. I am sure another episode of this enthralling saga will be forthcoming in the next issue of the News.

Local Newspaper Deliveries

Following the withdrawal of morning newspaper deliveries to the parish by Cheddington Village Stores after the sad death of the owner we are pleased to announce that Edlesborough Post Office & Stores agreed to take on this service. However due to the distance they have to travel to the parish and the minor problem that they can not find a driver to do the job the deliveries will cease on December 31st! So if you want a newspaper you will have to get it yourself or just be blissfully ignorant!

*****M1 Road Widening Scheme*****

The Highways Agency have provided us with the following information.

The widening of the motorway between junction 6A and junction 10 is due to start early next year with completed scheduled in 2008.

Subject to decision by the Secretary of State for Transport and completion of statutory procedures, the widening from junction 10 to junction 13 is programmed to start following completion of the Junction 6A to junction 10 works, with final completion date anticipated in 2011.

Incorporated into the junctions 10 to 13 will be a 'crawler lane' for slow moving vehicles on the southbound uphill section of the M1.

These roadwork's will no doubt cause a great deal of disruption on the motorway and it is very probable that the surrounding roads, including those in our parish, will see a heavy increase in motor traffic looking for alternative routes for their journeys to avoid the traffic jams that are already an all too common feature of this stretch of motorway.

GVS 858

was originally purchased on 11.04.1937 by Mr George Weatherspoon of Aston from Pritchards Ltd, the main Austin agent in Birmingham at that time. He was just 24 and had raised the £87-9s-4d purchase price from a part time job and a recent inheritance from his Aunt Harriot. He had graduated from Sheffield University with a degree in civil engineering and was so proud and very privileged to own a new gleaming black car. This was no ordinary Austin 7, it was the latest model, the Big 7 with the new larger 900cc engine and a 4 speed gearbox. Sadly his motoring was brought to an abrupt halt with the dire events of 1939 when he was called up and joined the



Royal Engineers in France. GVS 858 was consigned to the shed at the bottom of his mother's garden, who lived alone, her husband having succumbed to TB some 6 years previously. She did not drive so had no use and no petrol anyway, for the Austin. Meanwhile George was killed during a bodged Bailey bridge erection which collapsed over him, drowning him in the Somme. George's mum had fallen on hard times and in 1947 after the war, sold GVS 858 to a Miss Wooding who paid her cash, all in one pound notes, for a total of £69, a number which had brought her much income in her street based profession. She had recently struck gold and was now living in a small apartment as the kept mistress of James Appleby, a Birmingham businessman who had achieved a personal fortune in the munitions industry. Poor old GVS 858 now lived its life parked outside on the streets of Birmingham in all weathers and was not serviced half as well as its owner, if at all. James Appleby was killed by a tram on a visit to Hull in 1951 at which point Miss Wooding coerced a large sum of money from his widow to keep her relationship with George a secret. Miss Wooding went straight out and bought a new Humber Snipe and traded GVS 858 in part exchange to car dealer Harry Gilbert. Harry was a bit of a spiv and would not have been seen dead driving an Austin 7 and because there was little sales opportunity for such cars, the Austin was consigned to the back of his car lot and GVS 858 was gradually engulfed in the undergrowth.....

By Tony Smith

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT EDITION

Local Coarse Fishing

Did you know that angling is the biggest participant sport in the world? It is estimated that about 20,000,000 people are anglers, either Sea Fishing, Freshwater Fishing or Fly fishing in the UK alone.

Sea Fishing is relatively easy for those folk who live close to the coast but not so easy for the Fishermen of Chalgrave who live a fair distance from the Sea.

There are various lakes in the area where you can fish but our attention has been drawn to a site that no one I spoke to was aware of, just outside Toddington, on the road to Milton Bryan. Toddington Fisheries has 3 lovely lakes stocked with Roach, Carp, Chub and other coarse fish. There is a nice picnic area and cafeteria available for the whole family, providing the children are well behaved.

Prices are from £7:00 for one rod and £10:00 for 2 rods with discounts for Senior Citizens and children.

A 10% discount will be available for the whole of January providing you bring this article with you or just give them a ring and mention The Chalgrave News (number in the advert section). "Happy Fishing".

Residents Association Meeting

A meeting was held at the Millennium Hall on 17th October to see if there was any interest from residents of the parish in forming a Residents Association group.

Despite this meeting being publicised in the last two issues of the Chalgrave News, and although several residents having previously expressed an interest in forming a Residents Association, not one resident turned up to attend the meeting.

This is very disappointing and it is difficult to understand why no one seems very interested in helping to look after and protect the environment in which we all live.

After all there are a number of important changes being proposed which may have a detrimental effect to the quality of life within our parish.

Examples are:-

The probability of the northern M1/A5 bypass route being chosen which will run within yards of the parish boundary at one point, and the noise that this will bring with it. John Prescott's 40,000 new houses that according to some reports will surround our parish plus the additional construction traffic this will bring with it. The alteration in Luton Airport's flight path to come over the parish and proposed expansion of Luton Airport which will bring with it more aircraft movements.

Our voice means very little in isolation but as a group we may have been able to exert some pressure on matters which may affect us all but sadly this is not to be.

Around the Organisations

Village Hall

I am very happy to report that the painting of the hall is complete and looks great. So fresh and clean and all done with the minimum of disruption, thanks to the management of Roger Masters. Following the decorating, several of the committee turned up to a working party giving the hall the WOW factor of an extra special clean! Riding on the success of this another working party was arranged to clear the rubbish from backstage, but unfortunately this had to be postponed due to an outbreak of unforeseen circumstances!

The Committee have now agreed a small rise in the charges for the Hall to cover the ever rising cost of inflation. However, the good news is that charges for hall hire to parishioners will remain unchanged.

The new charges operating from 1st January 2006 are on page 6.

Happy Christmas from the committee.

Linda Hadden.

Book Club

This review is overshadowed by the news I have just received of the sad death of one of our founder members, Kate Smith. Kate was a lovely, bright, intelligent member of the book club, attending every meeting and adding her thoughts to the reviews with enthusiasm and wit. She approached her illness in the same way

that she approached life, with courage and dignity. God bless you Kate.

We are very happy to welcome a new member, Sheila Osborne, and possibly after the next meeting, also Louise Luyk. Do hope you both enjoy the books and the social aspects, not to mention the cakes and biscuits!

Graham Greene's 'Travels with my Aunt' was enjoyed by most members - although some found it a little tedious and quite a lot of discussion ensued on the personality of the main characters. Our current venture is something completely different! 'Don't kiss them goodbye' by Allison DuBois, the true story of the woman who inspired the TV series Medium. This is about a woman whose extraordinary gifts help to solve crimes and pass on messages from the afterlife. Should provide some interesting discussion!

Our book, the one we are all writing between us, is coming along nicely, although I think it is going to be more difficult than we envisaged. I bet you can't wait to read it when it is eventually serialised in the news!

That's all for now. Happy Christmas.

Linda Hadden.

Sports Club

Chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

A successful summer season of cricket was seen once more at Chalgrave Sports Club in Wingfield. The Chalgrave &

District Friendly League welcomed a new cricket team – Old Dunstablians – who played their home games at Dunstablians Rugby Club. Unfortunately due to the poor weather conditions not all the league matches could be played but the all-weather pitch proved it's worth this year.

The final league table was as follows: -

	<u>Points</u>
The Bedford Arms	255
The Victoria	175
Chalgrave Sports Club	157
Dunstable Road Runners	141
Old Dunstablians	110
Lea CC	80

Fund raising activities continue with a successful end of season quiz night at the village hall.

Negotiations to secure the sports ground for the parish continue with the landowners.

Ground improvements this year include the demolition and removal of the former club changing rooms that had fallen into disrepair some years ago and the construction of a mobile practice net.

Plans continue to replace the existing clubhouse with a new building.

The Annual General Meeting of the Chalgrave Sports Club will be held early next year at the Plough Wingfield and anyone who would like to either play cricket (standard or age not important!) or just support the club are welcome to attend. The date will be posted in the next issue of this magazine.

**For further details of the club
why not visit our website.**

Parish Council

First of all, on behalf of the Council, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

We are continuing our fight against the use of Green Belt land for new housing.

We also stress the lack of infrastructure to support the increase in population – as well as pointing out the lack of jobs.

We are concerned about the proposals for the A5/M1 Link road. The council favours the Southern Route. Why?

Many reasons, including:

It was the original – and only proposal for consideration. This route was supported by the Highways Agency.

The area between the Link Road and Houghton Regis is targeted to accommodate housing growth imposed on South Beds by the Government. The Southern Route was supposed to be the boundary, containing the spread of housing into Green Belt countryside.

It is more environmentally friendly and uses less of the Green Belt. (This view is supported by the Campaign to Protect Rural England). And it is cheaper.

The Northern route will have the opposite effect. The talk coming out of South Beds DC is that this route will provide the new boundary for housing development. This means more of the Green Belt is swallowed up. There is no guarantee that this route will be the boundary for further development. It is £7 million more expensive. It spoils a fine sweep of landscape. It will have a negative environmental impact on our Parish.

Around the organisations.....continued

We also want to see this as a Bypass – in other words there should be no junction on this stretch of road with the A5120.

Any junction will increase damage to the environment and increase the volume of traffic on the minor roads in the area.

We wait for the decision.

We are also monitoring the proposals for the development of Luton Airport and the proposal to site the new football stadium for Luton Town near Junction 12 of the M1. (I hear rumours that there is government pressure to get this built for 2012 Olympics).

We continue to work hard on other matters concerning our parish, particularly repairs to roads, pavements and signs; traffic calming; maintaining footpaths and work on the pond; and, as

we head towards winter, gritting.

A reminder about parking – please park with consideration. We are aware of the problems but there is concern about the parking of vehicles on pavements. It is an obstruction and is illegal.

As always, you are welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings and put forward your point of view or raise issues.

Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Memorial Hall.

Phil Parry - Chairman

Chalgrave News has approached the following organisations for contributions but to date no copy has been received:-

*Lower, Middle and Upper Schools
Cllr N Costin*

Carol's

The word 'carol' comes from the Middle East 'carole' which means 'a ring dance with a song'. They were originally folk songs for celebrations. By the 14th century carols were associated with the religious observance of the birth of Christ. The most popular Christmas carol is 'Silent Night' which was originally written as a poem in Germany in 1816 by a young priest Joseph Mohr. In 1818 he and his friend Franz Gruber composed guitar music for the piece and sang it for midnight mass.



The Plough Under New Management

In November Jim & Sue Carr decided to take well earned retirement from the Plough and we all wish them well for the future.

We welcome the Plough's new landlords, Roger and Theresa Burden, and son Ben.

Roger, Theresa and Ben intend to build upon the reputation of the Plough as a family pub serving good food by extending the present menu and adding a number of 'specials' including fresh fish.

Seasonal offerings such as soup and hot puddings in the winter will become part of a changing menu.

They are also very keen to become part of the community by supporting local events and encouraging more 'locals' to visit the Plough.

In the New Year the Plough will once again be opening on Sunday evenings and see the occasional 'Sunday evening Theme Night' events.

Other new activities include domino's on a Monday night - anyone who might like to join the Plough domino's team please come along - and in the summer it is hoped to run a crib team - so any crib players make yourselves known!

Current events taking place at the Plough are -

Wednesday evening 14th December welcomes once again the Houghton Regis Church Choir for carols around the fire.

This is a really good evening and gets everyone in the mood for Christmas. It is a free event so no need to book. Just turn up and enjoy the evening.

New Years Eve Party. Tickets £12.50 which includes a disco and buffet. Numbers will be restricted due to space and are on sale now at the bar.



*It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner,
"What are you charged with?"*

*"Doing my Christmas shopping early", replied the defendant.
That's no offence", said the judge.*

"It is if you do it before the shop opened", countered the prisoner.

WINTER VISITORS

By the time you read this article our summer visiting birds will have long flown to warmer climates and our winter visitors will have settled on our shores in their thousands. Wild geese, ducks, and swans will arrive from the far north and the resident woodcock, snipe and duck will have their numbers hugely increased by migrants.

Here in Tebworth, the Fieldfare and Redwings (members of the thrush family) will have arrived and large flocks can be seen in the surrounding fields. These birds migrate from northern Europe and winter here until March or April. Many of our wildfowl move ahead of the hard weather and this year I have witnessed the Pinkfoot geese arriving on the Solway Firth in Scotland at least two weeks earlier than usual. Large numbers of Widgeon were also reported early on Martin Mere in Lancashire. Is this the sign of a hard winter, I wonder?

For those of you who feed the birds, look out for unusual varieties on your bird tables during bad weather and try keeping a diary of them, you will be surprised how many different species we are lucky to have in our surrounding areas.

Can anyone tell me why the farmers massacre the hedgerows unmercifully at a time of year, when they are full of winter berries for the wildlife? I can understand if the fields are arable and ready for planting, but pasture fields and those with a margin around could surely be left until March or early April.

Look out for the seasonal Mistletoe growing in the tops of the trees. It's a partly parasitic, evergreen plant which shows up like dark clouds, now the trees have shed their summer foliage.



The Chalgrave Mole

I remember when Father Christmas first passed his sleigh-driving test. He came skidding down in front of the toy factory. "Have you passed?" I asked. Father Christmas pointed proudly to the front of the sleigh. "See for yourself!"

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

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

You will remember that one of the residents of our parish wrote to me to ask for advice on what sort of Christmas presents he should buy for his new wife this year as he wanted to make their first Christmas together very special.

Well Mr X, my reply should have read – 'to make this Christmas really special I would recommend that you buy her some diamante'.


Due to a typing error my printed reply read – 'to make this Christmas really special I would recommend that you buy her some del monte'.

You tell me that you have spent the last 2 weeks individually gift wrapping 200 tins of pineapple chunks but really do think that it was most unimaginative of you to only purchase one type of fruit!

My advice to you now is to cancel the turkey and have gammon for Christmas lunch to start making use of the pineapple!

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

SPONSORS



We are very grateful to our latest sponsors:
Peter Freeman, Poplars Nursery, Daniel Osborne, Chris Osborne.
If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine in future
please contact one of the editorial team.

