

CHALGRAVE NEWS



Chalgrave Social Diary

- Parish Council meet Village Hall 7.30pm, last Tues of the month
- Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm
 - Crib Team Mon evening, Dominoes Tues & Thurs evenings
- Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm
 - Darts Weds, Dominos Tues & Thurs evenings
- Flower Festival - All Saints Church - August Bank Holiday
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Cricket/Sports Club

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

Welcome to the 16th edition of the Chalgrave News. You are receiving this a bit later than we had hoped - no good excuses except that 'life' got in the way.

Also the Chalgrave Games were nearly upon us so we waited to include some pictures of a really super day out.

We hope you are managing to keep cool during this glorious summer weather. The gardens around the parish are looking wonderful despite the lack of rain and the results of the judge from Poplars are amongst the pretty photographs featured in this edition.

The schools have broken up for the long summer break and many of you will be getting ready to go on holiday. Make sure you take adequate safety precautions to make your property safe while you are away - 50% of burglaries occur while the house is empty. Ask a friend to keep the garden tidy and collect the post.

We should have been reporting the great parachute jump which was due to take place in June, but one of the team failed the medical – would you believe it - HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE! We are waiting to see if the Doc will give the OK next month.

This edition is again full of interesting and relevant articles. You might also chance upon a few frivolities – the team are getting a bit saucy methinks!

Millennium Award Thank you

Chalgrave Parish Council

Dear Lesley

Please extend mine and Alan's thanks to the Parish Council members for selecting Jade to receive the Millennium Youth Award. It's a wonderful way to reward her for all her efforts.

I have sent a couple of photos that I took when she received her award from Phil in case you consider it news worthy enough for the Parish magazine!

Again many thanks for the recognition.

Warm Regards

Samantha and Alan Stubbs



What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News

As we go to print the grass has been cut along the verges of the roads leading in Tebworth and Wingfield.

Pity it is not early January rather than late June, as the verges would then be receiving a cut!

Still cannot believe that our council would allow it's grass cutting contractors to cut the verges in mid winter when not needed and then when the grass is growing not do more regular cuts!!

Oh well it's only our council tax being wasted!

Front Garden Competition - Page 12

Vandalism Again! Thousands of gallons of water were lost when vandals turned on the Tebworth fire hydrant on Wednesday 10th May last. The force of water was so strong that Anglian water engineers had to go to Toddington to turn off the pumps.

The vandalism took place at 2pm and it was 2 hours before the engineers could turn off the hydrant which was causing water to spurt 15 feet into the air. Well done to the idiots who caused this at a time when it is very important to conserve water.

Have you all seen the new format Toddington & District Newsletter? We at the Chalgrave News are very flattered that the Toddington editorial team have chosen to copy the format of the Chalgrave News! They do say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

Your Chalgrave News is a very local news and information magazine, concentrating on issues that directly affect Chalgrave Parish while the Toddington magazine is far more church focused at the moment.

Perhaps it should be called the Toddington and District Newsletter! Only joking! We wish them every success and hope that our two magazines can run side by side over the years ahead.

The road from the A5 and through the village has now had a new layer of tarmac. All was done well within the time they had allowed and although the traffic had to be re-routed some of the time it didn't seem to cause too much inconvenience. We won't need to wrestle with the steering wheel to stay on the stretch of the Hockliffe Road for the time being. It's now a lovely smooth ride!"

The Games - Page 19

COUNCIL TAX BOMBSHELL

Once again the annual bombshell that is our council tax has landed on our doormats.

Various promises of past years to keep these to a minimum have once again proved false – although it depends on your interpretation of ‘minimum’.

We have all now received a mass of leaflets including a glossy 30-page booklet from South Beds District Council explaining why yet another above inflation rise is needed to maintain the level of services we presently enjoy.

According to Bedfordshire County Councils figures a band ‘C’ property (the property bands range from A to H and most of the properties in our parish are in the E to H range) council tax has increased this year by 4.88%.

The government’s inflation target figure is 2% so this is a council tax rise of well over double the rate of inflation.

Probably not too much of a problem for those home owners in well paid work but for those relying on only their fixed income pensions to pay their bills this will cause yet more financial hardship, especially as most of home service bills – such as electricity, water etc have increased by anything up to 25% this year.

However some good news – did you know that Chalgrave Parish has the second lowest Council Tax assessment from South Beds District Council this year?

The South Beds District Council has a

total of 23 areas including Chalgrave, and for a band A property in Chalgrave Parish the annual Council Tax is £931.17 with the cheapest being Streatley at £926.37.

The most costly band A area is Dunstable at £994.84 and second highest is something of a surprise as it is Houghton Regis at £990.42.

The most expensive band H Council Tax area is also Dunstable at £2984.50 with good old Houghton Regis in second place at £2971.24.

Chalgrave band H tax is £2793.48 making us the second lowest tax area just ahead of Streatley again at £2779.08.

As for our Parish Council precept, a band D (the only example given in the various leaflets received) rated house pays £20.08 this year making us the second lowest precept just ahead of Streatley. Compare this to the highest paying parish, Dunstable, who’s band D precept is £115.59. So well done our parish council who set this precept.

Added to the Council Tax assessments from County Council, District Council and Parish Council are assessments from the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority and the Bedfordshire Police Authority.

The Fire Authority band D assessment is £72.18 for the year. The Bedfordshire Police assessment for a band D property is £117.55 this year.

Unlike all the other assessments making up our Council Tax bills the Fire and

Council Tax Bombshell contd..

Police Authorities do not have differing amounts for each band in each precept area but charge one standard amount for each band across the whole of Bedfordshire.

This means that if you live in a band D house in the middle of Luton or Bedford you will pay exactly the same amount as a band D property in Chalgrave or any other small village.

Is this fair? Do we in Chalgrave have the same level of policing as the residents of Luton or Bedford? When was the last time anyone saw a policeman/woman on foot in our parish? Even the occasional police car seen is only passing through the parish and not policing the parish.

Surely villages should not be expected to pay the same amount of tax to the Police authority as large towns or is it that we are expected to subsidise town policing?

The government, when facing a mass pensioners' Council Tax protest a couple of years ago after throwing elderly non payers into jail, did say that they were going to investigate other ways of raising local revenue to help all those on fixed incomes, but this promise seems to have disappeared in an all too familiar way once those protests died down.

If you want to keep this issue alive then we would suggest that everyone writes to Andrew Selous our Member of Parliament.

The Nuisance of 'Silent' Phone Calls

Just settled in front of the television to watch your favourite programme when the phone rings.

Not expecting anyone to phone you, so think it might be a relative or friend in trouble.

Drop everything and mad rush to get to the phone.

1. Just as you get to the phone it stops ringing. Who was it? Why did they not wait a little longer? Try 1471 but number withheld. Spend the rest of the evening worrying who it might have been.

2. Or pick up the receiver and..... nothing! No one there! Just about to put the phone down when suddenly a strange voice asks 'please can I speak to

mr/mrs....' When you tell them it is you they then start to sell you double-glazing or a mobile phone or something similar!

Just how annoying are these phone calls.

They also cause a great deal of worry to anyone living on their own, particularly when picking up the receiver and finding no one on the other end.

They can be stopped.

All you have to do is either go to www.bt.com and register your phone number or telephone the Silent Callcard Service on 0870 444 3969.

Don't keep complaining when the calls come through – fight back and have them stopped.

A note from your County Councillor

Having waited ages for spring - as I write - I find we are in the middle of a heat wave and summer is here!

It's a bit like that at County, there seems to be no movement at all for ages and then we gain some accolade for excellent work. However, there is still much to do.

Those with children will know that the school structure is being reviewed. At Key Stage 1 Bedfordshire is top of the counties, but at Key Stage 4 we are bottom. Clearly this means there are a number of serious "added value" issues to be addressed - urgently.

Over the next few years Central Government plans to put a lot of capital investment into education - we must ensure that it benefits Bedfordshire children. There is evidence that the disruption of two school changes adversely affects many children. We are out of kilter with the rest of the country as nearly all authorities have gone back to the "two tier" system. The testing and inspection systems are designed for the two tier system.

As a general rule - if we go the two tier route - Upper schools will become

Secondary, Lower Schools Primary and Middle schools will need to decide which way they want to go.

This will be the biggest decision the County has made for years - I hope residents will understand - which ever way the decision goes.

"Infrastructure Deficit" is still the message Local Government is telling Region and Central Government. In South Beds it is a serious issue - Medical, Traffic, Local jobs (North of Dunstable), Utilities (Dunstable cannot water gardens!) - All need meaningful improvement - before any substantial house building starts. Also the Northern By-Pass and the new junction with the M1 must be in place first. In my view, too much house building has taken place in Leighton with serious effects for residents in our Division - how easy is it for you to get a Doctor's or a NHS Dental appointment?

I hope your plans for enjoying the summer are in place and that it turns out to be a cracking good one for all of us this year. Best wishes to all

Rhys Goodwin

RecycleNow!!

Following on from Cathy's recycling article a couple of issues ago we have found some websites which you might find useful.

www.frn.org.uk - recycle old furniture

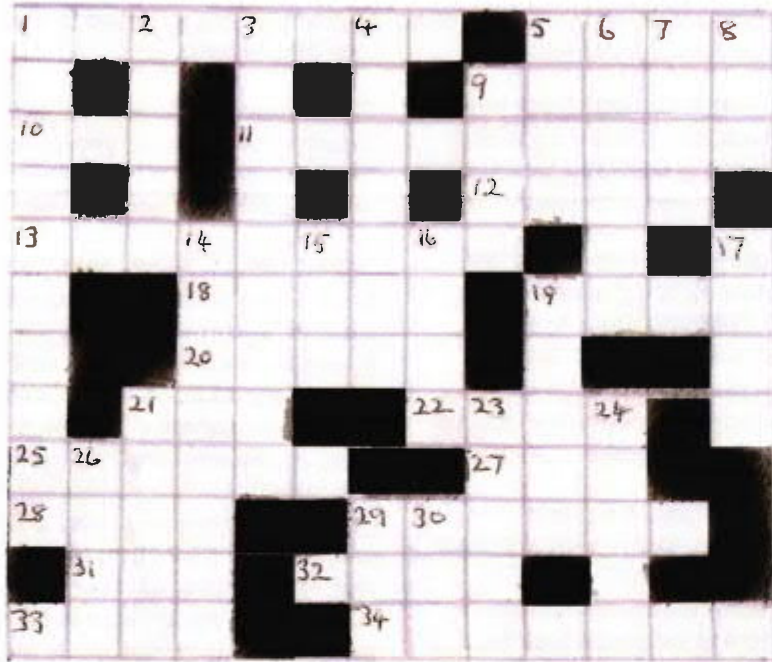
www.recyclenow.com and www.recyclemore.co.uk - for lots of leads

www.originalorganics - how to set up a womery

Take your old glasses (specs) to Poplars Nursery to be donated to people in third world countries.

The Chalgrave News Crossword

Compiled by Jill Jones



Across

1. Wet broth is around here!
5. Core an apple and make this move.
9. Crosby has nothing for this house call.
10. The Frenchwoman's vote is weak.
11. Dance and then become delighted.
12. This kiss can hasten a fall.
13. A tail and verse are accommodating.
18. A note could make things better.
19. Mean but handy.
20. A beetle will sound empty.
21. A donation holds trouble.
22. A European vehicle reverses here.
27. Having a street without a beginning.
27. A county loses two points for love.
28. No one has the time of day.
29. A try and hit will make a good score.
31. Averse for a nightingale.
32. Lined up we hear for this tip.
33. March has journeys not started.
34. A green ad can kill.

Down

1. Box without gloves!
2. This rebellion is related to one.
3. Drug share after work should be beneficial.
4. Seamstress and yachtsmen do this.
5. Join up.
6. A carrot can do this.
7. Beheaded wise men make time.
8. A container found in garden.
9. Lead is one of these metals.
14. Aridness can make a party go well.
15. Tonight holds fashion.
16. A boy, star with end of dawn.
17. I organised this country.
18. Return in revenge will not happen.
21. A positive pole.
23. An eleven is by the way.
24. The next raid will produce more.
26. Material could be of the future we hear.
29. Pull and reverse inside one.
30. Mother without an MOT.

Looking Back

A few weeks ago I took my 13 year old grandson trout fishing in Scotland. As I sat and watched him catch his first fish it took me back to my own childhood. From a very early age I was taken fishing by my father and uncles. Getting up at 3.00 am in the summer was a regular occurrence in our house.

As a teenager, I fished the river Thame and in those days you could even swim in it.

I spent all of my summer holidays (and many days when I should have been at school) along the river banks and out exploring the countryside with my friends. We made camps, cooked freshly picked mushrooms and moorhens eggs on open fires. We travelled many miles on our bikes 'birds nesting'. Although today, it is illegal to collect eggs, at the time I had a large collection like most young country lads did in those days.

I once went to Chersley Firs near Thame to collect a herons egg, climbing at least 60 feet only to find four youngsters hatched out in the nest , but

made sure I went earlier the following year, just to add to my collection. I caught newts, grass snakes and slow worms and bred rabbits and mice and raced pigeons.

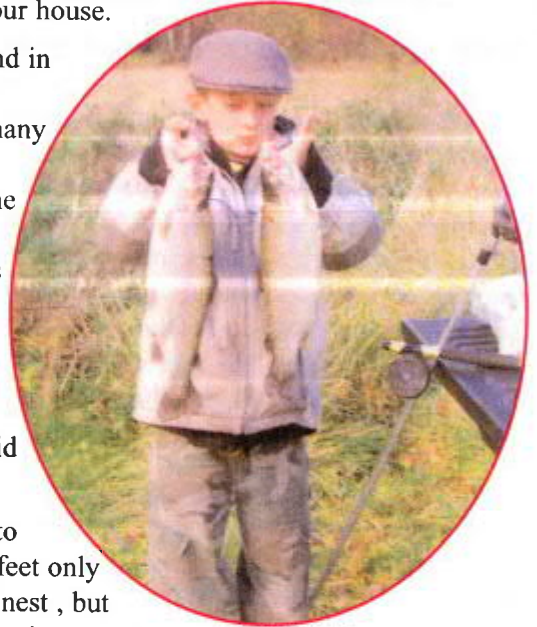
I was eventually allowed my first air gun and shot rabbits and grey squirrels which I sold for pocket money, two and six pence for the rabbit and sixpence for its skin (from the rag and bone man) and two bob for the squirrels tail. One old gentleman used to buy rooks from me for a shilling a time for his annual "Rook Pie"!

Although I am no scientist or ornithologist I have based my opinions, knowledge and observations on my experiences of wild life and nature. Most youngsters today would not know the difference between a rabbit and a hare or a blackbird from a rook.

As I sit around with my many grandchildren with their lap tops, i-pods, gameboys and mobile phones, I cannot help thinking how much they are missing in life, especially if we as adults do not encourage them to appreciate our wonderful countryside and nature, as I have over the last 50 years.

So, as I helped my grandson to net his first fish, I could not help wondering how much longer we will be allowed to even fish, as our rural way of life is under threat.

The Chalgrave Mole



Chalgrave Parish Plan Update June 2006

CURRENT ACTION BEING TAKEN IN THE PARISH PLAN

Traffic Calming - Interactive Speed Signs.

A Vehicle Activated Sign was installed in May on Toddington Road. With the help of another grant from Bedfordshire County Council to the parish council another Vehicle Activated Sign is planned to be erected on Hockliffe Road, Tebworth next year. Interactive speed signs have proved, in use, to be an extremely effective way of slowing down traffic to the speed limit. Where the police have set up speed checks, both before and after installation of these signs, they have found that most vehicles slow down when the sign is activated proving to them that we drivers often innocently break the speed without realising it. The minority, approximately 10%, are just plain law breakers who do not care how many people they kill or injure in their quest for speed and, therefore, ignore any attempt to slow traffic down in built up areas or wherever else speed restrictions are in force.

Highways to Improve Road Surfaces.

Road repairs continue to be ongoing. Some potholes have been filled in but much remains to be done. There had been an indication from Highways that Hockliffe Road will be extensively repaired in June 2006. The parish council continues to monitor the situation.

Community Safety.

PC Pennell, the Rural Beat Officer is in constant contact with the parish council over local issues. All residents have access to his mobile phone number if they have concerns, subject to him being on duty. His number is 07946 368292.

Also see the article Dun-Ringmster in this edition page 27.

Road Gritting.

Wingfield Road and Tebworth Road will again be gritted next season. Although Chalgrave Road has been gritted on occasions during the past winter it has not been confirmed that it will be gritted as part of the normal schedule. Confirmation is presently being sought.

CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

Although Chalgrave was awarded a substantial grant (in excess of £8,000) to start up a scheme here the general response to running a 'Care in the Community' scheme has been a little thin due, in the main, to us being such a small community.

THE HARLINGTON HOPPA

Part of the scheme is for the setting up, initially, of a Transport Scheme to run to and from Harlington Train Station. The proposal was to create a Taxibus service but this did not appeal to those who needed the service. Toddington, however, has a similar transport need so we opened up discussions with Toddington Parish Council to try and work something out between us. As a result a regular community bus service is planned to begin as soon as possible when all licences and contracts are complete.

It will start from The Plough in Wingfield at 06.50, travel to Tebworth and then to Toddington via Leighton Road arriving at Harlington station at approximately 07.15. The service will be a 'Hail and Ride' scheme paying the driver on entry. The cost is £3 return, valid for one month or £2 single price wherever you board.

The return journey leaves Harlington Station at 18.45 and takes the opposite route on the way back. It is the intention to extend the service by making more runs to and from the station as the service becomes more popular and to modify the route if necessary

VILLAGE CARE SCHEME

This has also grown to include Toddington. Just to recap, the concept of Village Care Schemes is based around the traditional 'Good Neighbourhood Scheme' principle. They are run entirely by volunteers and are overseen by a volunteer committee. It is staffed on a rota basis by volunteer co-ordinators who are part of the Village Care Scheme volunteers. A mobile phone is used as the main contact point for residents needing help. When a call is received a suitable volunteer is matched with the request for help.

Anyone willing to help this scheme can declare their interest by making contact via the details given at the end of this article. A public meeting to explain the scheme fully and to begin to build a team was held in Toddington Village Hall on 22 June 2006.

It is important that Chalgrave remains part of this scheme, not only because we are initially in control of the grant and all the work that entails, but more importantly we may miss out on the potential of other community facilities such as transport runs to and from Hospital etc.

For more information or to register your interest, if you haven't already done so, in any of the schemes please call:

Lesley on 01525 874716 or Roger on 01525 874516

Or e-mail chalgravepc@btinternet.com

Front Gardens and Baskets Competition

Pages 12, 13 and 34 .

WINNER



Some cracking gardens this year - so many pretty little corners to photograph! Winners are Paul and Debbie in The Lane with very pretty baskets, tubs and pots. Next door are the runners up, Sarah and Gary with a very small front garden just brimming with colour. Samantha and Alan Stubbs in Toddington Road won the best baskets with England colours!



Front Gardens and Baskets Competition

RUNNER-UP

WINNER



Beating the Bounds Rogation Sunday 21.05.2006

This is the one day in the year when we can walk parts of the boundary that are not footpaths. The origin is still a little puzzling to me.

If you are on the web look at <http://www.crick.org.uk/rural/rogation.htm>

A couple of excerpts are:-

This Sunday was originally so called because of the words in the Prayer Book gospel for the day: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give to you". (The Latin is 'Rogare' - to ask.)

By the 17th century, the old Roman festival of 'Terminalia', or "boundaries", had been adapted by the church and served a practical purpose. In days before Ordnance Survey maps, there were not always clear lines of demarcation between the parishes, especially where there were open field systems. During the procession, boys were bumped on prominent marks and boundary stones, or rolled in briars and ditches, or thrown in the pond to ensure they never forgot the boundaries.

This year we had 13 of us on the morning walk and 6 made it there and back! It started off quite fine when we all met at the Queens head but started to rain at 10 am when we started off. Still raining at the Fancott arms where we had a good lunch and a couple of jars and it didn't stop until we walked back into the village around 4.15 pm!

Great fun was had by all !! Actually everyone I've spoken to since really did say they enjoyed it Hope they weren't just being polite!

I started off in summer walking gear and there was a slight (some say more than



slight) delay when I asked the others to walk on a bit whilst I changed into my wet gear necessitating taking off my boots and changing trousers and top !

David Dokk-Olsen put on his rain jacket with what he called his "Millet's Zip" (3 clothes pegs).

Tori Wells and Eloise Hall did really well and we didn't actually bang their heads on the boundary stones or throw them into any ditches as threatened.

The main problem was not the rain which was never heavy but more the wet vegetation and crops. As we emerged from the edge of a rape field we were all adorned with yellow flowers from head to foot.

Here's to next year and I hope I haven't put off too many potential walkers.

Ken Green

BE SMARTER IN THE SUN

Stay in the shade

The sun is most dangerous between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm. Find some shade, either under umbrellas, trees canopies or indoors.

Make sure you never burn

Sunburn can double your risk of skin cancer.

Always cover up

Sun screen is not enough. Wear a T-shirt, hat and sunglasses as eyes can get sun damaged too.

Remember to take extra care with children

Young skin is very delicate and sunburn can do long term damage. Babies burn very easily and must be kept out of the sun completely.

Then use factor 15+ sunscreen

Apply sunscreen generously, 15- 30 minutes before you go outside (most sunscreens do not work immediately), reapply often.

Even dark skins can burn, so keep using sun screen after you have a tan.

Remember – Cancer of the skin is serious so be smart and cover up!

Nurse Shona Mersee



MP Surgeries – Andrew Selous MP

Instead of writing us an article for this magazine Andrew was in the village on 21 July for you to speak to him personally. We hope you made the most of this visit to let him know about some of the items you have read about in your Chalgrave News.



*Andrew Selous is MP for South West Bedfordshire.
He can be contacted on 01582 662821 or selousa@parliament.uk.*

40000 New Houses

Now that our Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has been relieved of most of his governmental duties, plus his grace and favour home, having been caught out earlier this year with his pants down, many of us hoped that this might lead to a rethink of his policy to concrete over the south of England, and in particular the designated land outside Houghton Regis on which he planned to build 17000 new homes.

In an effort to keep John Prescott in some form of governmental role, Prime Minister Tony Blair has set up a new Local Government Department, stripping (probably an unfortunate phrase when referring to Mr Prescott these days!) him of most of his former duties and powers and passing these over to Ruth Kelly the former head of the Department for Education & Skills.

Any hopes that she might take a more balanced view of the need to build over the green belt land of southern England were quickly quashed during one of her first televised interviews. When she was asked about this subject she said something on the lines of 'this will be pursued by her and her new department with even more vigour than seen before'.

Ruth Kelly is no stranger to controversy as she encountered a great deal of anger and protest during her time in charge of the Department for Education and Skills for a range of school reforms. They included proposed changes in schooling in England, including the introduction of trust schools. The discovery that several sex offenders were being employed in the school system, and she was criticised by the teaching union after rejecting proposals to replace GCSE's & A levels with a new diploma.

Dunstable Northern Bypass A5-M1 Link Road

Nothing much further to report here other than the favoured route by almost all parties from the consultation period is for the 'northern' road which brings it closer to Chalgrave Parish Boundary.

Also, the original intention was not to have a junction on and off the new road where it crosses the existing Toddington/Houghton Regis road in order to direct traffic to the A5 (existing Leighton

M1 Widening Scheme

This is well and truly underway now, as long tailbacks of traffic heading both to and from London are brought to a halt on an almost daily basis.

Just as a reminder to anyone using the M1 through the roadworks please remember that the speed camera's are set to record average speeds through the length of the roadworks rather than the actual speed a vehicle is travelling at when passing a camera. That is of course if you can reach 40 mph through the works!

Department of Transport Initiative

Due to the nature of the quality of driving in England the Department of Transport has devised a scheme in order to identify poor drivers and give good drivers the opportunity to recognize them.

As from May 2006 those drivers who are found to be driving badly, which includes the following-

- Overtaking in a dangerous place
- Driving within two inches of the car in front
- Speeding in residential areas
- Pulling out without indicating
- Performing U turns inappropriately in busy high streets

Bypass) junction near Chalk Cutting, but the consultation period has apparently shown that there is a wish for a new junction. Presumably this will cater for local traffic from ourselves and Toddington plus Houghton Regis.

There is no date set yet in the public domain as far as we know for a final decision but as soon as we hear we will publish details in the Chalgrave News.



Undertaking on motorways

Hogging the middle lane at a slow speed on motorways.

These drivers are issued with a white flag with a red cross on it, signifying their inability to drive properly.

The flag must be clipped to the door and clearly visible.

Those drivers who show extreme lack of driving skills will have to display TWO flags (one on each side of the vehicle).

Please display this notice to inform the public of the meaning of these flags.

Exclusive!

Worlds best Spinner joins Chalgrave Sports Club for 2006.

The sporting world was in shock recently, when it was revealed that the worlds best spinner had joined little known cricket club, Chalgrave, for the 2006 season.

In a shock move, Wayne Shawn has signed a deal estimated to be worth "Unlimited free beer during the games" to play in the 5 team league this summer. A spokesman close to club said "We're over the moon". It was revealed that the introduction of a 20/20 style competition this year is what clinched the deal. Hampshire and Essex, who were in the running for his signature, are said to be "Disappointed" at his decision.

The signing came about after Club Groundsman and chief scout, "Big" Nev Andrews travelled to Australia over Xmas and New Year in the attempt to sign some up and coming players from down under. But during a night out he took the opportunity to engage Wayne in conversation and, after an undisclosed amount of drinks, secured the final details at around 3am. Big Nev told us "The search for young players was not going well, they don't really have much of sporting culture in Australia. Then I spotted Mr Shawn and decided to make the most of the opportunity, it cost me fifty bucks in VB, but it was worth the expense"

We have gauged reaction to the signing by interviewing the major names in the sport.

David "Bumble" Lloyd says "What a great coup for English domestic cricket. Well done Chalgrave and good luck"

Ian "Beefy" Botham adds "Well, I have seen it all now. What a fantastic advertisement for English grass roots cricket, amazing!"

Chairman of Chalgrave Sports Club Mike "Hit a six and out" Wells agrees "This is just what cricket in this country needs, top names playing for top sides. If he's selected, I just hope he takes his turn at Pitch Prep on Sunday mornings!"

Cricket Australia were unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.



CHALGRAVE NEWS

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CONTACTS SECTION

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tonycornes@clara.co.uk

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

CHALGRAVE GAMES 2006

Despite being on a Saturday rather than the usual Sunday, the Games on 15 July were a resounding success.

Over 150 people turned up to enjoy the annual extravaganza. It was also a welcome return for the water games, particularly in view of the beautiful summer weather.

The dog show brought out the usual competitors and was of course fiercely competitive.

It was a close run thing but the dog agility was won by Poppy, handled expertly by Natasha Scanes. Best trick went to Gromit and Katherine Masters, best 'six legs' was won by Sarah Ralley and Tiny, Shiniest coat was won by Bertie and Imogen Parry, waggiest tail went to Clyde and Sarah and the prize for the dog looking most like the handler went to Ben.



Following the dog show, most of the adults retired to the barbeque or the beer tent to watch the children's races.

The Welly Wanging competition was well attended this year. The egg-throwing competition and penalty shoot-out were all fiercely contested and whilst there must have been winners, nobody seems to know who they were! During all this hectic activity, Madame Zola continued to tell fortunes to anyone who would listen.

Inside the Hall, there was something for everybody. Bric-a-brac, face painting, tombola and lucky dip, books for sale and the 'win a bottle of wine' stall.

The Memorial Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who came and participated in the Games Day and all those who gave up their time to help organise and run such a successful day. Whilst we cannot list all the people who helped out, particular mention must go to Gary for supplying the bouncy castle, chairs, tables and other equipment, all our sponsors and to Robert Upchurch for ensuring the field was cut for the day.



CHALGRAVE GAMES 2006 continued



CHALGRATE GAMES 2006 continued



POLLY PUT THE KETTLE ON

Regular readers of the Chalgrave News will know that your editorial team heard a rumour last year of an author who lived in Wingfield in the late 1940's/1950's going by the name of Joan Fleming.

It was said that she (or he) wrote a 'who done it' novel based on 'goings on' around the village which was published in 1950.

Never ones to turn down a challenge, the Chalgrave News commissioned it's special purpose investigations team (known as SPIT) to track down the author and the book.

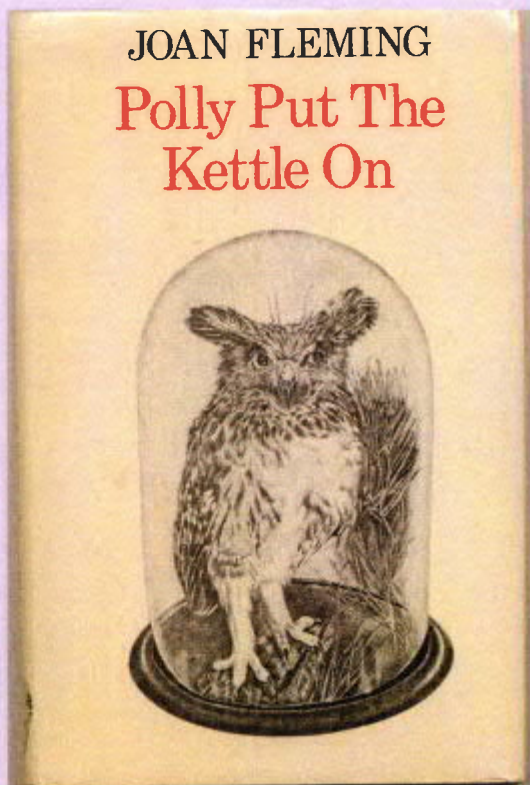
On departing the editorial headquarters and walking the streets of the parish for all of 2 minutes the SPIT team found itself in familiar territory – the local pub – where it began and indeed finished it's investigations.

Outcome? Absolutely nothing!

The following day – once fully recovered - the search continued and although so far we have not established any background details we have managed to find a copy of the book.

Can anyone help us put some history together about Chalgrave's own Will Shakespeare?

Unfortunately the only details we have established so far is that the author wrote a good number of books – all fiction and mostly crime thrillers – some of which won prizes - before dying in the 1980's.



Letters to the Editors continued..

Dear Editorial Team

Further to the article in the last Parish News you might be interested in the following extract from Beds County Council . To me at least the eventual answer has some merit but I certainly don't recall as full width cutting previously at that time of year.

Regards

Ken Green

Vice chair Chalgrave Parish Council.

This is the basic policy for BCC.

5.24 STANDARDS

The standards for rural grass cutting are as follows

1. April to May full width cut of bends and visibility sprays.
2. May to July cutting of a 1m swath from the edge of the carriageway plus bends and visibilities.
3. Aug – Sept 1m swath cut from the edge of the carriageway plus bends and visibilities.
4. Full width cut of all rural verges once every three years.
5. No cutting shall be carried out on road side nature reserves without the consent of the County Ecologist.
6. The grass cutting contractor is encouraged to avoid cutting wild flowers and planted bulbs where practicable.

5.241 MANAGING HIGHWAY VERGES AS A HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE

In order to manage the roadside verge biodiversity, it is recommended that a full width cut is carried out once every three years. This helps prevent the incursion of scrub whilst encouraging flora and fauna.

Full width cutting should not be undertaken when birds may be nesting. Therefore no full width cut shall be carried out between March and the end of August.

Between August and September fruiting trees and shrubs provide food for birds and other animals.

It is therefore recommended that the full width cut should be carried out between December and March.

Letters to the Editors

The Chalgrave News
c/o The Parish Hall

Dear Sir/Madam

I just wanted to thank you for letting us know about the Council Tax rises. This is something that you do not talk about. You just assume that everyone has the same percentage rise. This does not affect me directly as I live in Upper Tebworth, but my parents still live in Lower Tebworth and are wondering whether they will be able to afford what will probably be above inflation rises as they are now trying to live on a pension. My husband has written to the County Council but no-one has replied yet.

Thanks again

M. Oron

Leighton Rd

The Chalgrave News Team
Chalgrave

Dear Editor,

This is just a short note to commend you on your investigative skills. Without the reporting ability of you and your team we in the parish would never have known about the proposed unfair increases to the Council Tax for the parish. I myself live in Upper Tebworth so am smugly satisfied with the Council's intentions, but can sympathise with my many friends who are unfortunate enough to live in Lower Tebworth.

Yours sincerely

P. Lonker

Toddington Rd.

The Chalgrave News

Sir,

I find it unbelievable that the Council would try to implement such measures like the ones you reported about without first informing the people. I refer of course to the Council Tax hike leaked to you by your council mole (not the same one who writes so proficiently for your magazine I hope). It is typical of the ruling classes of today; give them a little bit of power and they think they can get away with anything. Absolutely disgraceful! I fully intend to write to my MP about this and urge others to do the same.

O. U. Traged

Wingfield

Anyone who has recently moved to the parish and hasn't a clue what this is all about needs to get hold of the last copy of the magazine. If after reading that they are not any the wiser get in touch with Andrew Selous. See Page 16.

Pupil - Please Miss, would you punish anyone for something they had not done?

Teacher - No, of course not.

Pupil - Good, because I haven't done my homework!

Summertime Burglaries - Warning from the Police

Bedfordshire Police officers are warning people to be extra vigilant at the moment while detectives try to catch people responsible for a spate of "walk-in" burglaries.

This week, because of the hot weather, North Bedfordshire police have had nine such offences reported in the Bedford and Kempston areas. The criminals are complete opportunists and will take advantage of householders who have left doors and windows open while they have been gardening, mowing the lawn or sitting outside enjoying the sunshine.

Usually the burglars rifle through handbags to find cash, mobile phones or cards, or look for other small portable objects that can be easily carried or hidden in pockets. Owners do not notice they have slipped into the house – if they are spotted and challenged, they will often make up a plausible story such as looking for a lost dog or retrieving a child's ball.

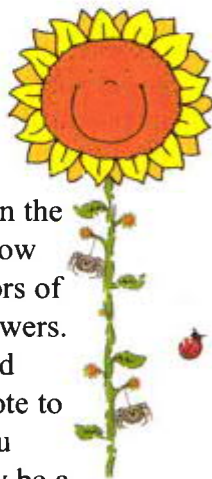
Unfortunately, police find themselves dealing with these types of offences every summer, particularly during the first period of good weather. The good news is that such burglaries, like most acquisitive crimes, can be prevented quite easily by using a few simple precautions.

"Even an open fanlight can be a temptation to a thief, since all they need do is slip their hand in to open a bigger window," said Sgt Dick Ketley.

"If you are out enjoying the fine weather, pottering in the back garden or are going to bed, make sure all windows are shut especially at ground floor level. Lock your external doors behind you - even if you are in the garden just for a short time. If you must have ground floor windows open, for example you live in a bungalow, invest in some window limiters that prevent someone from slipping their hand through. Simple precautions like this don't cost a lot, but they could save you a small fortune," he said.

Sunflower seeds

With all the sunny weather we have had, those of you who have taken up the challenge to grow the seeds we gave away in the last issue should by now be the proud possessors of three foot high sunflowers. Take a photograph and send it to us with a note to tell us the height. You never know there may be a prize awaiting!



For those who did not plant their seeds – they really taste quite good.

The Throwaway Society

Bill (Scoop) Archer

You know, they say as you get older, time seems to speed up 'Archer's Theory of Relativity'. Well, I must be becoming a regular Methuselah because time seems to be passing with indecent haste. No sooner have I flopped exhausted after my last article than my Bette Noire on the editorial committee is prodding me with his trident again and demanding more copy. I'm toying with the idea of writing a book and publishing it serial fashion in the mag.



My particular peregrination is on parsimony. Since about halfway through the last century the whole world seems to have become a throwaway society. During the Pacific conflict Stone Age tribes were discovered in New Guinea. They cleared jungle space, built homes and deposited the detritus of living on the outside of the village. Eventually the smell became unbearable so they moved on and started anew. Does this ring a bell yet? KFC and MacDonal'd's muck down The Lane, debris dumped in laybys and farmgates etc. England now has the second largest population per square mile in the world. Sadly we cannot move on to the next patch and start again. On a larger scale we cannot keep dumping our dirt in landfill sites. In an earlier existence I was involved in looking for building sites. One large new industrial estate on reclaimed land included the provision of a golf course. A whisper reached my ear that methane gas was escaping from the land as a result of the rubbish that had been deposited.

So, we must change our attitudes and be prepared to recycle, recirculate and move away from the throwaway society. Commerce will not, of course, be pleased. Cars and domestic appliances with a much longer lifespan – heaven forbid!

I am not totally clear on what our Council can recycle so I will list as many articles as I can in the hope it will help. I have to thank three young ladies for their assistance. Two I met with their recycling trailer at French's Avenue tip.

Here is the list:

Plastic butter tubs Black bin Plastic margarine or spread tubs Black bin Plastic biscuit boxes Orange bag Plastic Yoghurt pots soft and hard Black Bin Plastic Carrier bags Black Bin Plastic cling film Black Bin Plastic plant pots and trays Black Bin Plastic cups Black Bin Plastic cake trays Black Bin Plastic medicinal containers Black Bin Plastic coat hangers Black Bin Plastic pegs Black Bin Vinyl records Black Bin CD's, DVD's Black Bin Plastic belts Black Bin Plastic toys (unbroken pass on to friends or charity shops) Black Bin All Bottles Black bin Thin card and cardboard boxes Orange bags Tins both aluminium or steel Orange bags Newspapers, magazines, directories, brochures and all scrap paper Orange bags Junk mail call 08457 034599 (mail preference service) and get it stopped.

Otherwise Orange bags

An estimated £430 of food per person is thrown away in the UK every year. Do not buy, cook or take more food than you can eat.

Happy saving

Bill

Dun - Ringmaster

Anyone ever heard of Dun-Ringmaster?

If you have then you will know it is a Bedfordshire Police scheme that has been operating for a couple of years now. The pre-fix Dun stands for Dunstable Police. It is a very straightforward system, which operates a little like the more well known 'Neighbourhood Watch'. All you need is a computer with an email address or any type of telephone, fax or even receive information via letter. Whenever the Police hear of an incident that might be of interest to anyone living in Chalgrave Parish they will send details to all Ringmaster members so that if necessary we can take precautions to ensure it does not happen to us.

For example if there have been a series of thefts from sheds in say Toddington, the Ringmaster system will broadcast a warning message to all members.

The Ringmaster system can also be used as any easy and convenient way for members to forward information to the police.

There is an application form to be completed to become a Ringmaster member, available from the Chalgrave News. If the demand is going to be large enough we will arrange for an application form to be delivered to every home with the next Chalgrave News.

When completing the application form you will be asked to choose one or more 'watches'. For example Business Watch, Home Watch, Horse Watch, Pub Watch, Countryside Watch etc.

This allows for specific messages to be targeted to you rather than to receive every message being broadcast.

I have been using the system for about two years now and have found it very informative and useful and have no hesitation of recommending it to everyone.

There are two other benefits you might also like to consider.

Firstly Ringmaster is entirely free and secondly when I told my house insurance company that I was a member of Ringmaster they gave me a discount on my annual insurance premium!

★★★SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY★★★

On these long hot summer evenings when you get home from work and it is still light enough to sit out in the garden and enjoy a quiet relaxing half hour before the kids find you, just reflect on the changes that have occurred within the Parish since you moved here or at least in the last twenty years.

When I moved into the Parish of Chalgrave it was a lively and thriving place to live, there were numerous volunteer groups doing superb social work and making the whole parish like one big friendly community.

Sadly a lot of these groups have now disappeared due to what can only be described as lack of interest. These include The Women's Institute, The Mothers and Toddlers Group, The Youth Club and now I hear that the Line Dancing Club has folded because only three people bothered to turn up!

This type of unity was essential in a community as small as ours because it helped everyone get to know each other and form the kind of spirit that is sadly lacking in the parish today. I bet that you cannot name more than three or four people in your road, and this is predominantly due to the fact that there are very few places left for people to congregate and get to know each other so you should really make good use of the ones that are left.

Get up and go to the functions in The Memorial Hall. Someone has worked hard to set these up and even if you don't particularly enjoy that type of thing you are contributing to the community and getting to know a few more people and hopefully making a few more friends.

The same goes for The Sports Club they will be only too pleased to see you and will give you a warm welcome.

If sport is not your forte then how about The Book Club? I know they are on the lookout for new members, someone with new ideas for books to review.

There is also The Senior Citizens Committee. You don't have to be a senior citizen to be on the committee, it is open for anyone from eight to eighty plus and it does some really good work for the elderly of the Parish.

And of course there are the two Pubs in the Parish. Where better to meet new friends and have a laugh?

It is very worrying to think that in another few years all these groups could disappear because without "new blood" things have a habit of withering away. Who knows, in a few years time it could be you reflecting on the days when there used to be two pubs in the parish instead of those blocks of flats.

So please don't wait for someone to find you and beg you to join their little club or group, go and knock on a few doors and ask to join! Or better still start your own.

Because if you don't use it, you will lose it!!

Queen's Head Update

Since the last review The Queens Head has continued to play host to various unsavoury characters, but enough about Colin and his family!

The Pub now has two Darts teams, one, the ladies team of last years fame and now a second men's team inherited from the Nags Head Toddington, which as you probably know was closed some time ago. The numbers have been boosted by some locals who volunteered to throw a few 'arrers on those cold winter evenings. This is in addition to the two dominos teams that still practice their skills in the bar during the break in the season.

The music continues at the Queens Head every Friday evening, some of the future musical engagements are:-

DATE ARTISTE MUSICAL PERSUATION

Friday August 4th Keith West Easy Listening

Friday August 11th Jim Turner Folk/Rock

Friday August 18th Steve Jones 60's-80's

Friday August 25th Lenny Easy Listening

Friday September 1st Snip Heavy Rock

Friday September 8th Pete Spence Musical Nutter (arrive early for a seat!)

Friday September 15th Chris Jones New booking so unknown

Friday September 22nd Suzie Sing-along

Don't forget the prizeless quiz night on Thursday's, the question master is dyslexic and the majority of the contestants are thick! So you could have a good chance of winning nothing at all.

Brighten up your day!

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. Well for example, just the other day I went into town and went into a shop. I was only in there about five minutes and when I came out there was a traffic warden writing out a parking ticket. I went up to him and said; "Come on, how about giving a senior citizen a break"? He ignored me and continued writing the ticket. I then called him a Fat Pig! He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn tyres, so I called him a Smelly Skunk. This went on for about twenty minutes after which there were some nine tickets on the windscreen the more I abused him the more tickets he wrote.

Personally I didn't care, I came into town on the bus, but I do try to have a little fun each day, it's important at my age.

Around the Organisations

Village Hall

Quite a lot has been accomplished by the committee this year – looking around I'm sure you will appreciate the nice clean look the new paint gives.

New lighting (with the help of a grant) has been put in to place and will be of great benefit when putting on a show.

After great deliberations and a lot of advice we replaced the boiler and purchased some plug in radiators, which we used when the heating wasn't working. These radiators will remain useful for any future emergency!

With the help of a grant we hope to purchase some more new light weight tables, which should make life easier for hirers.

New beech hedging has been planted which will improve the first impression for people looking to hire.

We have also had a good clear out again – amazing the amount of rubbish accumulated! And altogether made the hall more inviting and comfortable.

We have a web site – not quite complete – but getting there.

The new licensing laws caused quite a lot of concern – but we now have our new licence a copy of which is in the foyer.

We have been considering applying for a grant to make a small arbour (arch), to enable wedding parties etc. to take photographs with a pretty background.

We slightly increased our cost of hiring – but managed to keep it the same for non-profit making events for Parishioners.

We are hoping to repeat the games this year. Coffee mornings and a table top sale all made sociable as well as profitable use of the hall.

The Parish council entered the village in “Village of the Year” competition and we were proud to receive £250 in the “Building Community Life” category.

Members of the committee attended a dinner at The Globe earlier this year. This was a very good evening.

Thanks to all the committee members for their hard work and best wishes for the future.

Linda Hadden

Book Club

The Club has been meeting regularly since my last report. After reading ‘Buddhism for Dummies’ I was expecting to feel tranquil and calm. That didn't happen, but I think it's true to say most of us found something that we could apply to our everyday life. Not a book to read from cover to cover – but an

Around the organisations.....continued

interesting one to dip in to. It is a way of life rather than a religion and holds a lot of wisdom.

Our next read was a novel, 'Sandstorm' by James Rollins; this could be described as Indiana Jones meets The Davinci Code. A book all of us enjoyed, it has adventure, pace and excitement. I, for one, couldn't put it down.

We are now embarking on 'Without Reservations' by Alice Steinbach, which looks as though it will be an easy summer read about a woman of a certain age leaving her safe life and setting off to chosen destinations of her choice without making firm bookings. Probably something we all dream of! More of this in the next issue – unless I've disappeared with a ticket to? If this does happen – please, you who know me, make sure to examine the big hole in our back garden!!

Our homespun novel is getting longer and longer – I'm sure you are all getting impatient and looking forward to reading the first chapter in this illustrious magazine. You will be amazed how exciting, extraordinary and amazing it is! Have a good summer,

Linda Hadden.

Sports Club

chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

The last few months have seen plenty of activity within the Sports Club as we prepared for another cricket season. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of our ground staff (Nev & Tom), ably assisted

by the other members of the committee, the ground was ready for the first match of the season three weeks earlier than we have ever managed before! Thus the season opener between The Plough Inn and The Queen's Head took place on Sunday 7th May.

At the AGM we were glad to welcome three new members onto the committee, Paul Bannon, Chris Bull and Pip Bull. Paul has stepped in as secretary while David Cestaro is otherwise engaged. Also, after many years loyal service, John Kirwin decided to resign from the committee. John has not lived in the village for a couple of years but remained a stalwart supporter of the club.

He led the club for many years as chairman and was responsible for our achieving charitable status and helping us to enjoy our current level of success. We wish him all the best.

Our league campaign has also started well, with a win against our oldest rivals LEA CC (previously The Old Sun or The Carpenters, Harlington). Let us hope that we can maintain this form throughout the season. A pre-season friendly against Toddington CC showed that our team has plenty of potential.

We also have our involvement in the Village Games to look forward to - running a Kwik Cricket game in the same format as last year. And finally we are arranging a 20-20 tournament over a couple of weekends at the end of the season. This is a new innovation which we hope will be a success. The 'Festival

Around the organisations.....continued

of Cricket' will be on 3rd September with matches taking place throughout the day and a BBQ being provided for teams and spectators. Make a note in your diary. For the latest news and scores visit us at <http://www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk>

Mike Wells- Chairman

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 7 June. Sadly we lost Linda Hadden, Mike Finch, Nicola Wells and Elizabeth Hall from the committee but I would like to record a big thank you to them all for their sterling contribution over the years. In particular, our thanks go to Linda for her patience and wisdom over the last year as chairman.

The good news is that we have a number of new members.

Lisa Scanes from Wingfield
Barbara Jackson from Tebworth & Mick McDonagh from Tebworth 'Heights'

So the new committee is as follows:-

Chair Roger Masters

Vice-chair Ken Green

Treasurer Debbie Parry

Secretary Lisa Scanes

Booking Secretary Tony Dowson
(telephone 07831482556)

Bill Archer, Velda Cooke,

Sarah Ralley Paul Whitton,

Ron Harris Lisa Scanes,

Barbara Jackson Mick McDonagh

There are still vacancies if anyone would like to join us.

Roger Masters

The Fox – Friend or Foe?

Have you noticed the increase in the fox population around the Parish this year?

The Chalgrave News undercover investigation team have been told from a (fairly) reliable source that there is a 'do gooders' group based in London who are trapping foxes in the city and then travelling up the motorway and releasing these around the Thorn area.

If this is true it would explain the sudden increase in local fox numbers.

This group might think they are saving these animals by releasing them in the wild but they have not taken into consideration the problems they cause to livestock in the countryside. We are presently making further enquiries to establish more facts about this group and their activities.



Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

Services and special events at All Saints.

Usual Sunday Services.

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month – 9.30am Parish Communion

2nd Sunday – Family Service 11am (For people of all ages lasting about 35mins)

4th Sunday – Family Communion 11am

Nick McNeil - Rector

CHALGRAVE NEWS



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 to non-residents. 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 of the editorial team for details.

CHALGRAVE NEWS



Front Gardens and Baskets Competition

A few more pretty corners around the parish.



Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

Once again Dear Readers I find myself in the embarrassing position of having to apologise for yet another printing error in the last Chalgrave News.

In particular I wish to apologise to Ms Z (worried of the parish).

Yes, I know that in your letter you sent me, setting out your weight problems, you asked for my advice on a health and fitness programme for you.

Following my recommendations for a healthy diet I then suggested that you took up tap dancing as this was a very active form of exercise and the only equipment you needed to buy was a pair of dancing shoes.

Unfortunately due to the all too common type setting error my reply ended up telling you to take up lap dancing after buying your pair of dancing shoes.

Now I would have thought you would have realised this was a typing error as it was not my intention that all you should be wearing was a pair of shoes never mind enrolling in the local lap dancing club!

However I was pleased to hear that after a few weeks and a few bent poles you have actually managed to lose weight and also earned yourself a considerable amount of money into the bargain.

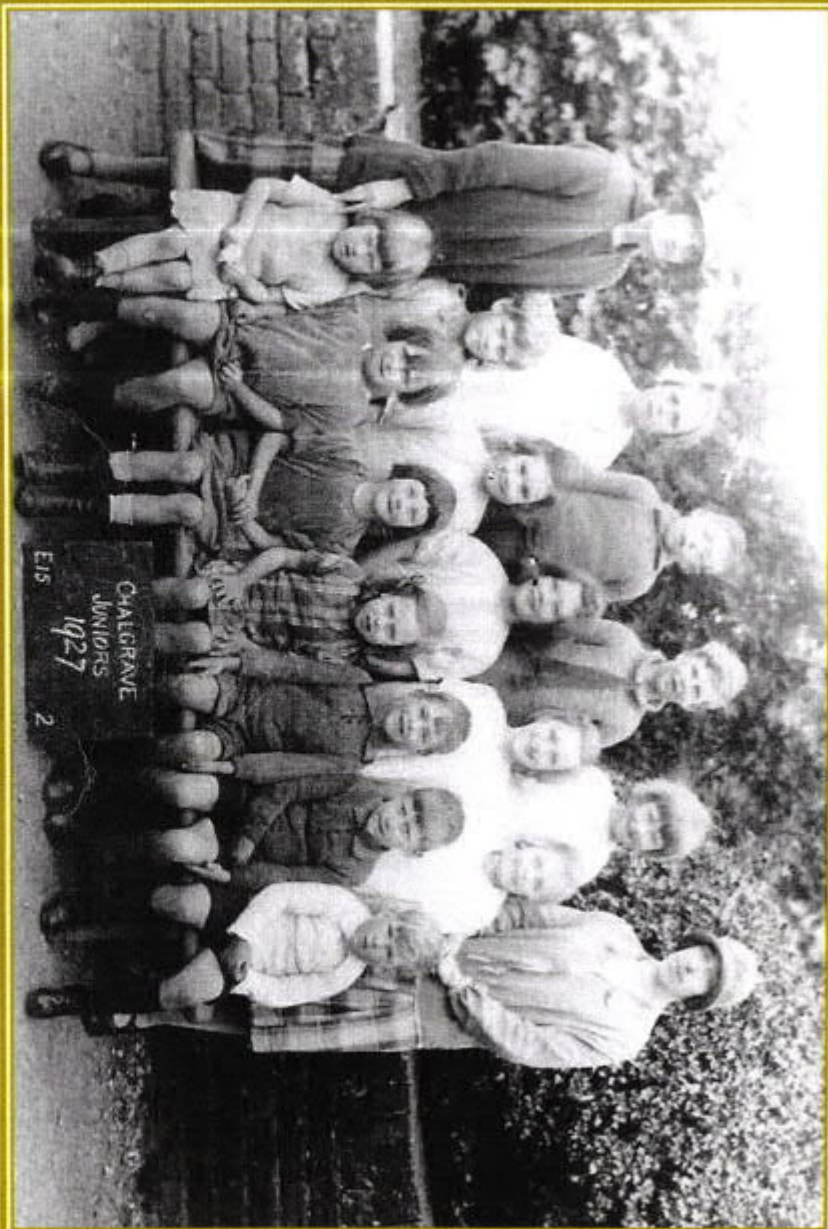
Not bad for an 87 year old great-grandmother!!

All's well that ends well.

Until next time dear readers.....

SPONSORS

We are very grateful to all our sponsors.
If anyone would like to sponsor the magazine in future
please contact one of the editorial team.



ANYONE RECOGNISE THESE PUPILS AND TEACHERS?