

CHALLENGERS AND NEW GRASSES AVE

Publication No.17 2006-3

Chalgrave Social Diary



- Parish Council meet Village Hall 7.30pm, last Tues of the month
- Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm,
Darts Team Mon evening, Dominoes Tues & Thurs evenings
- Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm
Darts Weds, Dominos Tues & Thurs evenings
- Old Time Musical - Memorial Hall 7th, 8th & 9th December
- Book Club meetings - weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- Father Christmas is visiting the parish on Thurs 21st Dec.



Queen Elizabeth I was eating roast goose when she received news that the Spanish Armada had been defeated. She declared that roast goose should be served at Christmas throughout the land and the custom survived for nearly 300 years.

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
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"The Chalgrave News"
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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

Another season, another issue of the Chalgrave News! Well, global warming (if you believe in it!) has well and truly struck this year. Blazing hot July followed by an August when it was a rare day to see any sun followed by a lovely September and October. November has not been too bad either! Fruit has been in abundance - plenty of field mushrooms this year too. Wonder what winter has in store? Our summer holidays are but a distant memory and we have long lost that well earned sun tan, well apart from those using sun beds and fake tans or just not washing! Since the last Chalgrave News all appears to have been fairly quiet around the Parish – with the exception of the occasional days when inbound flights to Luton airport have started flying over us at 5000 feet!

Good to see Ray Willis back in circulation after a sudden serious illness put him into the L & D. Condolences to Roger, Sally and family after the death of their mother Mrs Fenwick.

The Chalgrave News Team has two new members – Paul Levy & Debbie Hampson who live in Wingfield and are going to take over the responsibility for our advertising revenue income. Not the most glamorous of jobs but essential to the Chalgrave News finances. So welcome to the team Paul & Debbie! If anyone in the parish does run their own business please consider placing an advert in the magazine, even if your business might be away from the local area as our advertising rates are not expensive and every penny of income helps ensure that we can go on producing a free, local and full colour news magazine for everyone to enjoy.

The Chalgrave News is once again looking for the best Christmas light displays in windows and gardens during the festive period. So dazzle us with dancing reindeer and waving Santa's and you could be the winner of this year's prize.

And finally just to let you all know – Santa (and The Round Table) will be coming to the parish with his usual team of helpers on Thursday 21st December sometime between 6.30pm and 8.30pm. Please spare some change to give to the collectors when they knock on your door. It all goes to a very good cause!

Happy reading.....

Back Cover

Features some of the people who did the hard work to make the 2006 Flower festival at the All Saints Church such an amazing success.

They are from the top:-

Jan McKnight, Christine Smith, Sandy Ryan,
Mary Hibbert, Diane Boustred, Margaret Perry
Margaret Chalmer, Ida Squires.



What's happened in Chalgrave since the Last Chalgrave News

Work has been carried out on the drains in Park View Lane. Read Bill's article on pages 26 & 27 where all will be revealed.

Anyone spotted the brand new sign that graces the outside of The Plough?



The wonderful Flower Festival has been held again at All Saints Church. News and pictures can be found in the centre spread and a photo of some of the people who put so much effort into making it such a success is featured on the back cover. In spite of the restoration work being done and all the scaffolding

the church looked and smelled fantastic!

A very successful night of 70's and 80's disco music was enjoyed by over 80 people on 30 September. Hosted by the Memorial Hall committee, the evening raised around £600 for the Hall funds. Please keep a lookout for the next one.

On Saturday a driver unaware that the Lane was a dead end flew straight off the road and into the stream in true Starsky and Hutch style - see Page 14 for more.

Meeting to discuss the future of the Green Belt - see page 23



AT THE
GOING DOWN
OF THE SUN,
AND IN THE
MORNING,
WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM

Pharmacy Services in Toddington



A short time ago every house in the Parish received a circular detailing a new service being offered by the Toddington Medical Centre which will deliver prescription medicines by post direct to your home.

This sounds like a great service at first sight but when you stop and think of the wider implications there is real cause for concern.

This might mean Toddington losing it's only chemist shop.

As with most chemist shops, supplying prescription medicine is a key to bringing people into the shop who then might buy other goods. If the number of people using a chemist drops, then the shop might be less viable and so have to close.

The other main advantage of having a chemist shop in any town or village is the over the counter advice provided for dealing with minor ailments as well as being able to obtain immediate medicines, prescriptions and health checks.

Your Pharmacist can provide invaluable personal service, e.g. if you have difficulty removing the lids from your medicine bottle he can provide easy-to-open containers. Four times daily the Pharmacist collects the prescriptions from the surgery and processes them. Your Pharmacist can advise you which medicines can be taken in tandem and keeps records of all the medicines you have been supplied.

How will you cope if the nearest chemist shop is in Dunstable?

TUDA Pharmacy have sent us a letter giving further details, and asked us to publish it on their behalf. It can be found on page 25 of this magazine.

Beware of callers at your door

Distraction Burglaries

Neighbourhood Watch reminds you **NOT to let anyone in your home whom you are not expecting and who doesn't have an appointment.**

Occasionally, someone may knock at your door with a pretext to get inside to steal your cash, handbag or jewellery. These 'distraction burglars' normally target vulnerable, elderly people. Displaying this bright yellow sticker in your front window is effective and can deter a distraction burglar from knocking on your doors. A warning on the back of the sticker reminds you to phone the appropriate utility number to check the caller is genuine if you are unsure of him/her.

Do you know someone elderly in Chalgrave who needs a free sticker?

Contact us bedfordhomewatch@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Dunstable Northern Bypass A5-M1 Link Road

No decision has yet been made as far as we are aware as to which route option this new road will take but it appears to be a forgone conclusion that it will be the northern route, which is closer to our parish.

There is a rumour going round at the moment that the whole new road scheme has been put back to 2015 due to lack of funding, which is strange as we discovered some time ago that the venture would be self funding.

M1 Widening Scheme

Having travelled through the roadwork's a few times recently and to while away the time in the traffic jams I have been counting up the number of workmen seen along the whole construction site. The average seems to be coming out between 20 and 30. One day I counted under ten and one of these was leaning on his shovel!

Can't help feeling that if major roadworks of this size were taking place anywhere else in the world there would be many more workers on the project and that it would be finished in a very much quicker time timescale!

Reminds me of the old maths question – if it takes 10 workmen 100 hours to dig a trench how long would it take 500 workmen etc.....

ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS CARD

The giving of some type of card at the festive season has been known for several centuries in various countries across Europe but it is generally acknowledged that the invention of the modern day Christmas card was by Sir Henry Cole who was the founder of London's Victoria and Albert Museum. He had so many friends who he wanted to contact to make them aware of the need to help the destitute over the Christmas period but he found it an impossible task to write each one a handwritten letter. In 1843 he commissioned John Calcott Horsley to paint a card showing the feeding and clothing of the poor. It had a centre panel showing a happy family embracing each other while drinking wine and enjoying the festivities. It also contained the wording 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you'. It was not well received by all as some people took offence as part of the scene showed a child taking a sip of wine which was considered fostering the moral corruption of children! However many other people followed his lead and so we have him to thank for the Christmas cards we all send and receive today. Another reason cards became popular was because the original cost of postage was the same as a letter – one penny – but in the 1870's this was reduced to one half penny while letters remained at one penny.

A note from your County Councillor

I don't think there are any new messages from County just after the summer break.

There are folk who are pleased with the progress in education and there is some good news. (I understand that the KS2 Figures are up this year) However, I understand that we still have not reached the national level for last year yet at GCSE (A to E) - so this is of some considerable concern to me, but it is too early to comment. Also at the time of writing our statistical performance against neighbours is still not known.

As an Administration Group - we are waiting to see what new measures are being devised to improve performance following the decisions taken at the last Full Council. As you know, this is problematic in that they had had a big push over the last two years, but it did not yield the results hoped for last year, but the better KS2 this year may be due to this in part.

Rhys Goodwin

Borage

You may have noticed the blue fields in Chalgrave this summer. Some around All Saints Church and more to the right of Lord's Hill. This was Borage, a herb which grows to about 24" high with hairy leaves and pretty blue flowers. Borage seeds are used for their oil, which is rich in GLA (Gamma Linolenic Acid).



Sold by chemists and health food shops it is called Borage Oil or Starflower Oil. Borage is also one of the best nectar plants that honeybees turn into a clear, light coloured, runny, honey with a very distinctive flavour. To pollinate the flowers the beekeepers are invited to bring their hives to the field side so that the bees do not have so far to go and they (the beekeepers) are rewarded with a huge crop of honey which flows often when other crops such as the rape and trees have finished.

Health aficionados claim that:- *"borage oil has shown to be especially beneficial in improving inflammatory problems in the body. It has proven to be helpful in reducing the pain and stiffness associated with rheumatoid arthritis. Studies suggest that the GLA in borage oil can also be used to ease common PMS symptoms, such as cramping, breast tenderness, and mood swings. Borage oil can also promote healthy circulation, which can decrease high blood pressure and its associated risks. This quality in borage oil can help reduce the occurrence of impotence in men. Borage oil also promotes healthy skin, hair and nails by supplying the body with essential fatty acids. The anti-inflammatory qualities in borage oil make it beneficial for improving the symptoms of acne, eczema, and psoriasis."*



Rudolf The Red Nose Reindeer

Was invented in 1939 by a staff copy writer for 'Montgomery Ward' which was originally distributed as an illustrated story but ten years later became the theme of a song sung by Gene Autry - who was known as 'the singing cowboy'. Rudolf's glowing nose was a foggy night navigation system.

More things to do when you retire

When the time comes to retire some people look forward to the lazy days pottering about the garden. Some enterprising members of the Parish start new businesses, some throw themselves into charity, other sit at home and become crotchety old gits. There are also the (thankfully) few who think that because they are now of an age where they have experienced most things and they have a few bob left from the office collection that they must be automatically irresistible to the opposite sex. These delusions manifest themselves in strange ways such as going on exotic holidays and finding themselves a toyboy or buying the biggest Harley Davidson, complete with leathers and the zip down to expose the huge gold medallion resting on a seriously hirsute chest wig. Of course there are some who combine the two. Now far be it for us to name names but we think the rather "in your face" advertising speaks for itself,



don't you? Once you have fathomed out to whom we are referring we think it best if you keep the information to yourselves to avoid major embarrassment to the family.

And whatever you do **don't** ask him if he wants to earn a tenner!

The Shooting Season

By the time you read this magazine the game shooting season will be well underway. Unlike our 'continental cousins' we consume very little game in this country, but I am pleased to say that in recent years there has been a considerable increase in the home market.

Game is strictly venison, hare, pheasant, partridge and grouse, but does include pigeon, rabbit and wild duck in general terms. The *processes* game industry exports tens of thousands of woodpigeon, rabbits, venison, etc, mainly to France and Italy.

Traditionally game is hung in the feather or fur, according to temperature and taste. I have hung pheasants in very cold weather for three weeks. Pigeon, ducks and rabbits should be eaten fresh.



I am delighted to see that most supermarkets are now selling a variety of pre-packed game and I know that Waitrose in particular have been promoting it for some time now. Local butchers and game dealers will supply and advise you especially in this area. If you should know a local shoot, pheasants and partridge can be bought in the feather and a butcher will prepare them for you if you are unable to do it yourself.

I was brought up on reared poultry and game and still love cooking it. One of my favourites is BBQ pigeon breast, marinated and lightly cooked and eaten slightly pink! I recently cooked Tandoori rabbit for my family who thought it was chicken!

All game is extremely easy to cook and remember, it is low in cholesterol, low in fat and hormone free. Unlike Brazilian beef, Danish pork and the cardboard, taste free chickens we find in our supermarkets today.

Woburn has a wonderful Farmers Market every third Sunday in the month where you can purchase local produce, vegetables, bread, and a variety of game in pies, sausages, pate and of course game already prepared whole for the oven or pot. Woburn Country Foods have a stall there with a nice selection including venison from the Woburn Estate.

We have included in the magazine some recipes for you to try, but do as I do and experiment a little. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

The Chalgrave Mole

From the Parish Council

We did not have a meeting during August as many of the councillors were away on holiday. However, we continued to work on many of the issues that affect our Parish.

Flightpath

Many residents have raised concerns about the number of aircraft flying directly over our area as they approach Luton Airport. There seem to be more than ever before and they appear to be flying very low. You may remember that a new flightpath was approved and has been in operation since May of this year. This meant that when the wind is in an easterly direction, inbound flights to Luton will track over Toddington, Chalgrave and Hockcliffe towards Leighton Buzzard. Once past Leighton Buzzard they will turn towards the airport. The new flightpath is about two miles wide and we are towards the southern edge of the path. Aircraft can be dispersed across the full width of the path.

On average, over a year, the wind is in an easterly direction 30% of the time. The approved flightpath require all aircraft to be at 5000 ft as they fly over us.

I went to the Airport in September to see the aircraft movements over the past few months and compare them to the previous year. From the data, I saw that the trackings were within the new flightpath and that all aircraft were at 5000 ft as they fly over Chalgrave.

What has happened since my initial meetings with Luton Airport in 2005 when this new flightpath was proposed is that aircraft are now not allowed to fly over Leighton Buzzard. This has led to a concentration of flights using a southern route within the flightpath to avoid Leighton Buzzard, instead of using the full width. Which in turn means that there are more flights directly over Chalgrave.

Additionally, there has been a sustained period of easterlies through June and July, as well as an increase in the number of flights during the summer. We will be discussing this issue at our next meeting.

Other matters ...

We have the funding for an additional vehicle activated sign. This will be positioned on the Hockcliffe Road at the top of the hill to warn vehicles as they come into Tebworth.

We are looking into creating a safer place to cross the Toddington/Hockcliffe Road in Tebworth. This may mean extending the footpath around Tythe Farm opposite the

Queens Head and Forge Cottage. The road can then be crossed at Buttercup Farm. This seems to us to be the best place to see both directions of traffic.

The Dunstable Northern Bypass has now been delayed until 2015. One of the reasons that this route was chosen was that it provided a boundary for the Houghton Regis housing development. Now there is a danger that the housing development will go ahead without this boundary. Also, Toddington Parish Council is concerned about the increase in traffic through the area without the bypass. .

In previous years the yearly Millennium Award has been for 18 years of age and under. This year we have decided to open the award to anyone in the Parish regardless of age. I will give you full details in the next issue of the Chalgrave News.

A reminder about dog fouling. Please can we ask you to be considerate - be responsible to clean up after your dog using the dog bins for disposal.

Finally, as ever you are welcome to attend any of our meetings. They are usually the last Tuesday of the month. Please check the date with any of the Councillors.

Phil Parry



Fed up with BAD ROAD conditions?

Highway & Pathway in poor condition

Bedfordshire County Council would like to hear from you!

Bedfordshire Highways are responsible for the maintenance of roads and footways in Bedfordshire. This excludes motorways and trunk roads, which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency and many private roads, which have not been adopted as public highway.

If you are aware of a road that is in need of attention, please report it!

Telephone the Highways Helpline 01234 228661

Email highways@bedscc.gov.uk

Or report online www.bedfordshire.gov.uk

The Battle of Trafalgar circa 2006

Picture the scene.....it is the eve of the battle.

'Order the signal, Hardy'

'Aye aye Sir'

'Hold on, that's not what I dictated to the signaller. What is the meaning of this?'

'Sorry Sir?'

'England expects every person to do their duty, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation religious persuasion or disability. What sort of gobbledygook is that?'

'Admiralty policy I'm afraid Sir, we are an equal opportunities employer now. We had the devil's own job getting England past the panel, lest it be regarded as racist'

'Gadzooks Hardy hand me my pipe and baccy'.

'Sorry Sir all naval vessels have been designated smoke free working environments'.

'In that case break out the rum ration. Let us splice the mainbrace and steel the men before battle'.

'Err.....the rum ration has been abolished Admiral, it's part of the government's policy on binge drinking'.

'Good heavens Hardy. ...Well I suppose we had better get on with it. Full speed ahead'.

'I think you'll find that there is a four knot speed limit on this stretch of water'.

'Dammit man we are on the eve of the greatest sea battle in history. We must advance with all despatch. Report from the crow's nest if you please'.

'That won't be possible Sir'.

'What? Why?'

'The health and safety people have closed the crow's nest, Sir. No harness. And they said that the rope ladder doesn't meet safety regulations. They won't allow anyone up there until proper scaffolding has been erected'.

'Then get me the ship's carpenter immediately'.

'He's busy knocking up a wheelchair access to the fo'c'sle, Admiral'.

'Wheelchair access? I've never heard anything so absurd'.

'Health and Safety again Sir. We have to provide a barrier free environment for the differently disabled'.

'Differently disabled? I've only one arm and one eye and I refuse to even hear mention of the word. I didn't rise to the rank of Admiral by playing the disability card'.

'Actually you did Sir. The Royal Navy is under represented in the areas of visual impairment and limb deficiency'.

'Very well, run out the guns and tell the men to stand by to engage the enemy'.

'The men are a bit worried about that Sir'.

'What! This is mutiny'.

'It's not that Sir, it's just that they are afraid of being charged with murder if they actually shoot anyone. There are a couple of Legal Aid lawyers aboard and they watch everyone like hawks'.

'Then how are we to sink the Frenchie's and the Dagoes?'

'Actually Sir, we're not. The French and Spanish are our European partners, and according to the Common Fisheries Policy we shouldn't even be in this stretch of water. We could easily start an international incident'.

'But an Englishman must hate all enemies of England as he hates the devil'.

'I wouldn't let the ships diversity coordinator hear you talk like that, you could be up on a disciplinary'.

'Oh Hardy, how things have changed, whatever happened to rum, sodomy and the lash?'

'As I explained Sir, rum is off the menu – and there is a ban on corporal punishment'.

'And what about sodomy?'

'Oh that is positively encouraged in parliament, Admiral'.

'In that case..... kiss me Hardy!'

Santa's Coming

Watch out for Santa's float around the Parish
on Thursday 21 December.

The float is kindly being provided by the Rotary
Club of Flitwick Vale and volunteers from the
Senior Citizens Committee together with helpers
from the Chalgrave News will be collecting.

Our share of the proceeds will be going to
The Chalgrave Senior Citizen's Committee,
so please give generously.



Hold The Front Page!!! Parish Council Opens First Combined Car Park and Car Wash In Tebworth!

This exciting new initiative opened in the early hours of Saturday morning 7 October with it's first customer photographed using this amazing dual purpose facility shortly after opening.

During construction of the new Park & Wash scheme great secrecy was maintained. So much so that even the Parish Council did not know of the location, to prevent any councillor attempting to obtain unfair advantage over other residents in use of this facility.

However the Chalgrave News Special Investigations Team were roused from their office at the Queens Head and managed to find the location after many hours of undercover investigative reporting, and took this photo by use of their special long lens camera - from all of 7 yards!

We can now reveal this location in a worldwide scoop – it is in the stream at the bottom of the Lane in Tebworth!

Yes this is a genuine photo! In the early hours of Saturday morning the driver

of this car obviously did not realise that the Lane comes to a dead end, and from the tyre marks on the lane and the distance the car 'flew' to end up so far from the parapet of the bridge, it must have been travelling at quite some speed!

How it missed the gate, large fallen tree stump and metal signage and managed to go through the only gap to be seen is quite astounding, and also very lucky. If the car had driven straight into a tree at the speed it must have been travelling then this report may well have been an obituary!



QUEENS HEAD UPDATE

Darts Season has now started with the men's team winning their first two matches, lets hope that this is a good omen for the rest of the season.

Domino's season also started well for both teams who hope to continue their winning ways.

Musically, the fun continues each Friday with all the performers doing their thing from about 8:00pm.

Future bookings are:-

November 24th Chris Jones

December 8th Suzie

December 22nd Steve Burton

December 26th Steve Burton

December 1st Keith West

December 15 Merv

December 24th Keith West

December 31st Snip



Making life simple

- 1 Avoid jet lag by simply taking an earlier flight thus arriving fully refreshed
- 2 Don't waste money buying expensive binoculars simply stand closer to the object you are looking at.
- 3 Hijackers. Avoid a long stressful siege and the risk of arrest, imprisonment or death by simply making sure you book a flight to your intended destination in the first place.
- 4 Old telephone directories make ideal personal address books, simply cross out the names of the people you don't know.
- 5 Vegetarians coming to dinner? Simply serve them a nice bit of steak or veal. Since they are always going on about how tofu, quorn, meat substitute etc. 'tastes exactly like the real thing' they won't know the difference.
- 6 Be thrifty, increase the life of your carpets by simply rolling them up and keeping them in the garage.
- 7 Minor skin grafts can be performed on pigs by simply covering any cuts or abrasions with thin strips of bacon.
- 8 Annoy your neighbours every week, simply shout, scream and whoop at 8.00pm every Saturday, they will think you have won the lottery.
- 9 Invited to dinner by vegetarians? Simply point out that since you would no doubt be made aware of their special dietary requirements, tell them of yours, and ask for a nice rare steak.
- 10 Save electricity by simply turning off all the lights in your house and walk around wearing a miner's helmet.

Mistletoe and Holly Wreaths



Mistletoe is a parasitic plant which attaches itself to trees while never touching the ground. It bears
Druids regarded mistletoe
Scandinavians associated
love. Mistletoe was also
reconciliation with a kiss
Kissing under the mistle-
Roman times where it was
associations with mistletoe



fruit in the winter. The Ancient
as sacred whereas the
it with the goddess of
a token of peace and
symbolising pardon.
toe goes right back to
a custom. However Pagan
caused the church to ban its

use and substitute holly wreaths which would also represent
Christ's crown of thorns.

All Saints Chalgrave Bulletin

For all those people in the parish who took the time to visit our recent flower festival, I'm sure you will agree that all the displays were absolutely fantastic. The event raised £3420 towards the restoration of the church and my thanks go to everyone who helped over the weekend to make the festival such a success.

The flower arrangers even managed to dodge around the scaffolding poles which have been erected for the re-roofing works. In some cases they even made a feature of them! Keith Steele our former vicar said to me that rather than spoiling the flower displays it re-enforced what the flower festival is all about and that is to raise funds for much needed repairs and maintenance.

Some of those repairs are currently being carried out. After saving for approx. 10 years we have finally started work on replacing the North and South aisle roofs at a cost of £138,000. The existing felt coverings had long ago reached the end of their useful life and are being replaced with the more traditional lead. In addition French drains have been installed at each of the corners of the building to reduce the dampness inside. I'm not exactly sure what you need to do to a drain to make it French but it seems to involve digging long trenches which radiate out from the building and terminate in soakaways! This all sounds simple until you realise that not only do we have to negotiate a route that doesn't involve digging through a grave but we

have to involve an archaeologist in case we dig up any bones or artifacts from any ancient unmarked grave. (I am pleased to say we didn't).

The drains are now complete but the roof work is still in progress. The old felt coverings have now been removed and we have also had to remove the boarding in order to expose the rafters for inspection. An earlier inspection by the architect from the underside of the timbers indicated that generally they were in good condition but sadly this is not the case. Exposing the tops of the rafters has identified that some of them are rotten and will need replacement. Although it was expected that some would require replacement there is more rotten timber than we thought. The photographs show the timbers to the South aisle and you can clearly see the areas of wet rot. New timbers have been delivered but this has caused the programme to overrun

somewhat (and the costs to rise).

We certainly hope that all the work will be completed in time for our candlelit celebrations at Christmas.

Finally, I regret to say that our Rector Nick remains on long term sick leave. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family in this difficult time.

Larry Ryan Churchwarden



National Trust South Bedfordshire Association

4 December, Monday 2.30pm - The Unicorn in Art and History

Chloe Cockerill

22 January, Wednesday 2.30pm - Llamas at home and Abroad

Joan and Rodney Newth

12 February, Wednesday 2.30pm - The Wonderful World of Willow

Sandra Barker

7 March, Monday

- Wimpole Gardens, Past, Present and Future

Philip Whaites

4 April, Wednesday

-Life Downstairs at Shaw's Corner

Paul Williamson

All talks start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated and are held at the Salvation Army Centre, Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable. Visitors Welcome at £1.00.

For Further information phone 01582 527790

The Flower Festival

27th - 29th August 2006

What a fantastic display of flowers arranged to the theme of "Songs you have loved". Over 1000 people visited the church to view the displays and £3,240.70 was raised to help with the renovation works to the church. If you missed it or you would just like to see more photos visit the website www.allsaintschalgrave.co.uk later in the year.







All Saints Church Flower Festival August 2006

Key to the display.

2 Circle of Life	16 Jersalem
6 Gold Finger	17 My Way
10 The Lord is my Shepherd	18 Che Sara Sara
11 Moon River	20 I Could Have Danced All Night
12 Twinkle Twinkle Little Star	24 Smile
14 Easter Bonnet	27 The Folks Who Live on the Hill
3 Stardust	28 Memories

The Plough

The Plough Inn entered the Fullers Brewery garden contest in the newcomers category and were delighted to receive second prize for the front garden and third prize for the rear garden.



The demand for food grows greater by the week it seems and it would appear that our popularity is spreading. Therefore it would be wise to make bookings if you are looking to eat on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday lunchtimes.

Every second Tuesday we hold a quiz evening which is good fun. A number of people come early and eat so they have their table reserved for the quiz. Although well populated we would welcome more local people to take part.

Dominos - We entered a team in the Ampthill and District domino league last season and we became champions of division 2. We also won the knockout league trophy and Theresa won the landlords cup. The new season commences on second Monday in October 2006 when we start in division 1. We have also entered a team in the Barton and district league which commenced on Thursday 28 September. Anyone wishing to play for either or both teams will be welcome.

We entered a team in the Toddington domino summer league and we finished up champions of that league as well. We have entered a team in the Maulden and District crib league and at the time of writing with one game to go we are fourth out of 11 teams. We are also in the final of the league knockout cup. Kevan Rowe and Jim McGinty have also reached the semi finals of the individual doubles competition. Both the team final and the individual semi finals and finals were held at the Wingfield club in Ampthill on 9 October.

Neville Andrews is the current in house crib champion for 2006.

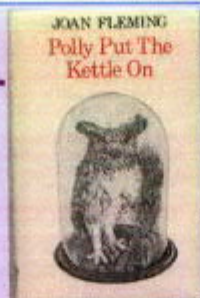
On every Thursday evening at approximately 9pm we have a contract whist evening featuring around 6-12 players. This is a fun event and if anyone wishes to join in they will be welcome. This event started some years ago with Jim McGinty and Kevan Rowe playing crib at both the Plough and the Queens Head and has evolved somehow into contract whist with more players taking part.

The Christmas menu is now available and bookings are being taken.

There will be a ticket only party on New Years Eve.

The Continuing Search For Polly

Dedicated readers of the Chalgrave News will have read of our continuing research and investigation into the mysterious Joan Fleming, author of *Polly Put The Kettle On*, and no doubt be waiting with baited breath for the next instalment in our efforts to track down the history and background of this literary classic which is quite clearly set in the village of Wingfield.



We have discovered that Joan Fleming at one time had a holiday cottage in Hill Close that has long been demolished and this is how she came to know this area.

Joan Margaret Fleming was born in Horwick Lancashire on 27 March 1908 and died in London on either 10 August or 15 October 1980. She wrote a total of 33 works of fiction the first being titled *Two Lovers Too Many* which was published in 1949. *Polly Put The Kettle On* was published in 1952 and was Joan Fleming's fifth book. Her final book was published in 1978 and titled 'The Day of the Donkey Derby'.

One of her books was turned into a film in 1958. The book title was 'The Deeds Of Doctor Deadcert' which was published in 1955. This book was also published as 'The Merry Widower'. The film had several titles but best known as 'RX Murder' but also as 'Family Doctor' and in the USA it was released as 'Prescription For Murder'. Almost unbelievably the film was actually banned in Finland! Wonder what it was all about!!!!

Joan Fleming has twice won the British Crime Writers Association Golden Daggers Award. In 1962 for her book *When I Grow Rich* and in 1970 *Young Man I Think You're Dying*.

The intriguing mystery of *Polly Put The Kettle On* is that the introduction pages of the book clearly state that "All characters in this book are fictitious and are not intended to represent any actual persons, living or dead", and yet Joan Fleming has used the real names of one or two locations while giving other identifiable locations quite strange names. One example is the Plough in Wingfield, which she has called the 'Red Letter'. Anyone ever heard of a pub with the name the Red Letter – no thought not!

To add to the intrigue Joan Fleming has added a dedication in the front of the book to Frank Evans Hope of the C.I.D. with the wording 'this manuscript is dedicated, with some diffidence, in the belief that it may shed light in dark places'.

Pity this was Joan Fleming and not Ian Fleming – now that would have been a story!!

Our investigation continues.....

Meeting held on 14 November 2006 at the Memorial Hall to discuss Green Belt changes in and around our parish

Chalgrave Parish Council organised and chaired this important meeting, which was attended by just under 50 residents.

It was disappointing to note that neither our County or District Councillor were present at this meeting although we understand they were invited.

Guest speaker was Richard Woolnough who is director of the Greensand Trust – a local environmental charity whose aim is to conserve the landscape, wildlife and history of the area whilst improving public access.

Mr Woolnough has recently represented the Greensand Trust in production, together with both District and County Councils, of the Green Infrastructure Plans dealing with the subject of the new housing being imposed on the green belt around the South Beds area. (Is having a foot in both camps a good or bad thing?)

Although it was obvious that many residents, and the Parish Council, were expecting the meeting to be some form of protest against the new housing proposals it transpired that it was in fact called by the Greensands Trust to identify key wildlife and conservation areas around the parish, that we wanted to be preserved from future housing development.

This brought forth many comments voicing dissatisfaction that insufficient was being done locally to object to these new housing plans and protect our parish from encroaching urbanisation over the years ahead.

The parish council explained what actions they had already taken including having our Member of Parliament put a question to the House of Commons.

Mr Woolnough will be holding a further meeting before the end of the year to explain the outcome of our efforts in identifying wildlife and other conservation sites and in view of the importance of this subject - which will effect us all -- please try to be at the next meeting (date etc. will be advised by flyer) where we hope to expand the discussion onto the subject - what can we do as a parish to stop green belt land around us being turned into a massive housing estate of over 40000 new homes.

Letters to the Editors

**TUDA Pharmacy
14 High Street
Toddington
01525 872093**

Dear Residents of Chalgrave

A letter about a remote pharmacy (Pharmacy 2U – **based in Leeds**) which was sent to you recently may have caused some concern.

We are writing to reassure you that you can and will continue to be able to get your medicines from us exactly as before.

It is important that you understand that this pharmacy will continue to be able to supply and sell you medicines. This includes the dispensing of prescribed medicines that you need to treat long term conditions (e.g. high blood pressure) or that you buy from time to time when you feel under the weather (e.g. for a cough or cold) and we will also be there in person to support you when you ask for advice. To ensure that the medicines that you buy can be safely used with your prescription medicines, we may need to look at records of those medicines you already take.

The NHS has recently introduced some new pharmacy services so that pharmacists can spend a little time with you in a confidential area to explain how to take or use and understand your medicines.

**Remote pharmacies like the one mentioned,
will not be able to provide such a service.**

We believe we can:

- Provide fast and efficient dispensing service
- Help in an emergency if you run out of medicines
- Liaison with carer/relative
- Repeat prescription arrangements
- Collection from surgery several times a day
- Ordering your prescription for you if you so wish

If you are unsure of anything please come along and have a chat with us.

BUT WE URGE YOU NOT TO SIGN UP WITH Pharmacy 2U

BARBIE 2006

One day a Dad leaves work early so that he can buy a birthday present for his little daughter. After peering in the window of the local toyshop for a while he enters and asks the sales assistant 'how much is the Barbie Doll in the window' 'well' says the assistant 'which one do you want, we have

Work out Barbie at £19.99, Shopping Barbie for £19.99,
Beach Barbie for £19.99 or Divorced Barbie for £286.99'.

'What!' exclaims the shocked father 'Why is the Divorced Barbie so expensive' The assistant answers 'Sir the Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's car, Ken's boat, Ken's house and one of Ken's friends'.

SUNFLOWER

Winners of the Sunflower competition were Michael and Barbara Kingham of Wingfield Road, Tebworth.

Pictured on the front cover with the giant sunflower, Michael and Barbara will be receiving a nice bottle of wine to toast their success.

Barbara also composed this little poem just in case the wind and rain blew the giant down before we had the chance to photograph it.

The Sunflower

(A poem with a moral)

I began my life, a tiny thing
That someone planted in the spring.
But very soon my world had changed
And everything looked very strange.

I had this urge to be the best
And grow much taller than the rest.

And so I tried with all my might
And grew six inches overnight.

Then all day long it poured with rain
I grew three feet without much pain.

The sun came out, I grew so tall,
I could see right over the garden wall.

I WAS the biggest, I WAS the best
My face shone brighter than the rest.

I was admired around the land
No sunflower ever looked so grand.

But then the wind with fury came
And cut me down to earth again.



Lovely!

The Continuing Story of Parkview Lane

Bill (Scoop) Archer

You will recall from the last episode that it finished with the bright sunshine of hope appearing over the horizon. However the slight cloud on the scene was when I at last understood that the blockage which I thought was causing the problem was a full stop. There was no connection between the drain opposite Parkview Lane and the next one towards the Queens Head road junction, which when they broke through the crust at the bottom was two feet deeper. Also when a paving slab in the asphalt pavement was lifted a manhole was revealed. This has now been made good with a proper manhole cover. Fortuitously no-one had fallen through the cracked paving slab cover!

So in the intervening years between Caesar's departure and civilisation again coming to Tebworth, the road drain system has been flowing via a pipe under the road into the Parkview Lane drain and on to a mysterious terminal somewhere on or adjacent to the old woodyard site.



Be that as it may, the 21st Century hailed the coming of a gang of two and some smart shovel work on the public highway drain opposite Parkview Lane. My impertinent enquiry elicited the reply that they were digging a soakaway which would drain away the water filling the impromptu pond. I tottered home and laced my coffee with an extra rum – could the august Dr Ray (who taught me physics) be wrong and water did flow uphill? Further reinforcements arrived with a mechanical

digger and a length of large diameter flexible pipe. Hello, I thought, with the direction of the dig and the pipe they **are** going to connect the drain run. A short span of time later they all disappeared and the waterflow increased along Parkview Lane. Later I learned from Signs of the Times that a buried water pipe had been found by the mechanical digger and now awaited repair by Anglia Water. The Parkview Lane canal closed through lack of water and the diggers returned, **not** to



connect the drain system but dig a soakaway. Not on Parkview side as that was private – the gloom improved when I told them it was council property but returned when I explained it was the Parish Council. To me all would have been solved by a large soakaway in Parkview at no extra expense.

At last however, the work was completed and the squad departed leaving cards in doors which I thought was a nice gesture. Now you will recall that the last weekend in September had a constant steady downpour. The Parkview puddle reappeared, the soakaway made little difference but the puddle did drain away, not by the soakaway as the water level reached the top.

I am told that the connecting pipe across the road between the two drains has been sealed, so the Parkview puddle is now Parkviews'. My contention that when the new soakaway fills up, the water will flow over the road was met with the reply that the camber will take care of this. Time will tell, do not gather your rubber ducks together as I may be proved wrong.

West Charity - Remember!

All claims for assistance must be submitted to the Clerk to The West Charity by 31st December 2006

Around the Organisations

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

First of all, let me thank all those that supported the Boogie Night at the Memorial Hall on 30 September. It was a great night and the profit will be going towards our advertising programme.

The last meeting of the Committee decided to revise the charges for letting the Hall and within this copy of the News you will find the revised charges which operate from 1 December. You will of course note that letting charges for residents of the Parish remain unchanged so why not book the Hall for that special event?

On a more sombre note, please remember that the Hall grounds are not a public open space. Whilst the Trustees want to see the football pitch and the play area used by Parishioners, it is important to ensure that those booking the Hall and or grounds are not disturbed.

Finally, some good news for the coming year. From January next, a Saturday morning Stage Dance and Drama School will be held at the Hall from 9.30 to 12.30 for children between the ages of 8 and 16. Anyone interested in enrolling their little darlings should contact Sally Burr 27, Spinney Road, Sundon Park, LU3 3DF.

Roger Masters



Sports Club

chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

The sports club has enjoyed another successful summer with a busy friendly cricket league programme, participation in the Chalgrave Games and the inaugural running of our 20/20 cricket competition.

The friendly league was again closely fought with Toddington CC (formerly The Bedford Arms) running out eventual winners. Unfortunately, we have lost a team from the league – LEA CC had to withdraw early in the season due to a lack of available players, although some think it was because Chalgrave beat them in the first game of the season! Seriously though, it is a shame to have lost a team (previous League winners in 2000 (playing as The Old Sun) and 2002 (playing as The Carpenter's Arms)) and our thanks go to John Scales for all of his efforts in keeping the team going for as

Q: Why does Santa wear pink underwear?

A: He's a man. He did all his laundry in the one load.

long as he did against increasing odds. We are hopeful that the league will be back to full strength next year, and with the strong possibility of a second pitch being available for league matches it looks like even more cricket will be played next year.

The 20/20 competition was a success as well. It was held over two consecutive weekends with the crown going to Toddington CC (do you see a pattern developing here?).

Mike Wells, Chairman

Book Club

The book club met again this week after a long summer break. It was good to see everyone again and to enjoy the usual, tea, coffee, home made cakes, gossip and ----- Oh yes ----- literary discussion!!

Our summer read was *The Women's War* by Alexandre Dumas (better known for *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*). The book is set in France during the reign of Louis XIV with two powerful opposing women as the main characters, Nanon de Lartigues and Viscountess de Cambes. The futility of war was highlighted along with political intrigue and a potent love interest. Although quite complicated and difficult to follow in places we found the book humorous, thought provoking and enjoyable.

For our next book we have chosen *Glass Houses* by Sandra Howard. This tells the story of an attractive female housing minister at the start of her career who, it seems, is quickly involved in a scandal. A light read about the whispers and waywardness of Westminster!

You will all be pleased to learn we are back on course with our own 'homespun' novel which, hopefully, will be ready to go to press sometime in the new year. No doubt you are waiting with baited breath to read the serialised version in the Chalgrave News.

I hope you all had a good summer.

Linda Hadden

Parish Council

see pages 10 and 11



Boogie Night

at the Memorial Hall

A very successful night of 70's and 80's disco music was enjoyed by over 80 people on 30 September.

Hosted by the Memorial Hall committee, the evening raised around £600 for the Hall funds.

Please keep a lookout for the next one.

Restaurant Review

The Birch, situated just the other side of Woburn takes pride in serving good quality fresh food which is all cooked on the premises. We popped in for lunch on a Thursday when the restaurant was very busy and told our waiter that we had a limited amount of time as we had (unfortunately!) to return to work for a meeting with a client.



We chose a lunch menu with a pudding to follow and the service was excellent and the timing impeccable. All five of us thoroughly enjoyed our meals. The male members of the party had Ciabatta with fillet steaks with chips and salad. Our vegetarian (and a vegan to boot) had pasta with roasted peppers and black olives and asked the cook to leave out the cheese. The pasta came with extra herbs and bits and pieces to compensate and looked very appetising. My pasta with Cajun chicken in a lovely creamy sauce was delicious.

All the dishes were extremely well prepared and presented and the service was friendly and unobtrusive. We all declared that we would go back one evening as the dinner menu looked so interesting. We were told that there will be a new menu next month.

Oh! and we left the restaurant with just the right amount of time to get back to work!

Software

Have you ever tried out some of the software packages available on the internet for FREE?

For some time now many programmes have been developed and released free of charge as an alternative to Microsoft who are dominating the market. There are some very good quality programmes out there for most applications from web browsers (Firefox), virus protection (AVG), Thunderbird (resembles Outlook) to Open Office which replaces and interacts with Microsoft's Office package.

Visit	www.download.com	www.opensource.org
	www.tucows.com	www.sourceforge.net
	www.freewarefiles.com	www.nonags.com

Andrew Selous MP



September is always a month I enjoy as I get the chance to talk to all sorts of groups whose meeting times make it impossible for me to be with when Parliament sits. It is also a joy to be able to live and work locally. My personal experience of both commuting and not commuting throughout the year is one of the reasons why I continue to fight for a proper balance between new housing and new jobs for our area. We do not want to become even more of a dormitory district than we are now.

Last month, I wrote about the importance of training and not just importing people to fill our skills gaps. This is the subject I return to this month, largely as a result of visits I have made to large and small employers in Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard, last week.

At one employer, I learnt that there are 20,000 applications for apprenticeships as an electrician every year, but only about 4,000 apprenticeships are offered. With the government planning a huge housebuilding programme and the Olympics coming in 2012, the demand for electricians will grow hugely. At present, instead of training the electricians of the future, the industry prefers to import electricians from abroad. Action needs to be taken to shake up the rather old fashioned practices in the electrical industry that are failing to offer the training that British youngsters and older workers are looking for.

Another employer I visited is in the car repair business, and has a large and loyal customer base built up through good work over many years. The business is looking to grow and the biggest constraint on the business, is again, the lack of skilled workers.

I had a fascinating talk with the owner of the business, about how in several areas, craft and technology education in our schools has actually got worse rather than better in recent years. The owner of the business was in a good position to know, as he had been a school teacher before going into business.

Craft education in schools does not involve making things to the extent that it used to. Design tends to dominate the syllabus, which does not give the satisfaction or sometimes thrill to 14 and 15 year olds that

making things does. There are a number of reasons why this had happened over the last 20 years or so. A greater emphasis on health and safety discourages schools from keeping equipment such as lathes. More lathes in schools would be very welcome, as would more involvement from those working in industry in craft teaching in schools. These three measures would bring more practical skills into schools. Hopefully, over time this would lead to less 15 year olds arriving in businesses for their extended work experience, not knowing what a Philips screwdriver is. Fifteen to twenty years ago there were 14 year olds who had learnt excellent welding skills in school. There are not many now. College technical education could also be delivered in a way that suits students and businesses better than the current arrangements. There is no reason why a good practical grounding at school could not be followed by an intensive 3 or 4 month course that would enable a student to turn up and be reasonably useful to an employer, having maintained the interest of the student. The third ingredient would be some financial support until new entrants were up to speed, like the old Youth Training Scheme [YTS]. Then, we would have a better future for our workforce and businesses like the ones I was with last week.

Andrew Selous is MP for South West Bedfordshire and can be contacted on 01582 662 821 or on selousa@parliament.uk.

Don't forget the dates for the (now internationally famous)

CHALGRAVE OLD TIME MUSICAL

“The War Years”

**On 7th 8th and 9th December.
At The Memorial Hall
Tickets on sale now
from Signs of the Times or call
any of the Editorial Team
Food provided and bar available**



Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

Services and special events at All Saints.

Usual Sunday Services.

First and third Sundays of the month – 9.30am Parish Communion

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

Fourth Sunday -- Family Communion 11am

Christmas Services

Carols by Candlelight Saturday 16 December 7.30pm

Crib Service Sunday 17 December 3.00pm

Communion Service Sunday 24 December 11.00am

Midnight Service Sunday 24 December 11.45pm

Everyone is sure to receive a warm welcome

Nick McNeil - Rector



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, 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.

PHEASANT POT ROAST

PREPARATION TIME 10 MINUTES

COOKING TIME 2 HOURS (APPROX)

PRE-HEAT THE OVEN TO 180 C (350 F)-GAS MARK 4

INGREDIENTS

4 rashers streaky bacon

2 pheasants, prepared by the butcher and trussed

3 oz (75g) butter

2 tablespoons cooking oil

2 tablespoons Cognac or Armagnac

Salt and pepper

¼ pint (150 ml) game or poultry stock

Tie 2 rashers across the breast of each pheasant. Heat one third of the butter with the oil in a frying pan, put the remaining butter in a warm place to soften. Fry the birds on all sides until lightly browned. Warm the Cognac or Armagnac in a ladle or small saucepan, set it alight and pour it flaming over the birds. Transfer the pheasants to an ovenproof dish with close fitting lid.

Spread the remaining butter over the birds and season with salt and pepper. Pour in the juices from the frying pan and cover the dish. Seal the lid tightly with foil. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 1 ½ hours or until tender.

Remove and discard the bacon, and transfer the pheasants to a warm serving dish.

Heat the stock and stir in the juices from the casserole. Simmer for 1 minute to allow the mixture to thicken, season if necessary.

Serve with creamed potatoes and a green salad, serve the sauce separately.



T	E	B	W	O	R	T	H	L	E	A	P
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L	A	X		E	N	C	H	A	N	T	E
E	E	R		K	S	K	I	S			
V	E	R	S	A	T	I	L	E		C	I
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	O	D	E			C	U	E	D		R
I	D	E	S			G	R	E	N	A	D

The Chalgrave Crossword

What happened to all you crossword buffs?

Was this one too difficult?

We did not receive one correct answer!

Here is the answer.

Better luck next time!

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 another printing error in the last Chalgrave News.

In particular I wish to apologise to Mr X who wrote to me asking for advice on how he could generate support to be elected onto the Chalgrave Memorial Hall committee.

Unfortunately at the time that Mr X's problem letter arrived I was taking a short 3-month well earned summer holiday break at my large holiday home and luxury yacht in the Caribbean which I managed to buy out of savings over the years from my jobseekers allowance.

Although this letter came as an unwelcome intrusion into my holiday arrangements but not wishing to let any loyal bleeder (editors note – we assume Auntie Agnes meant reader but her mobile phone signal started to fade at this point of the conversation) I immediately telephoned in the following reply.

Unfortunately on my return to England by private jet I see that there has been the all too common type setting error in my reply.

It should have read 'you must make a point of going around the parish canvassing votes and the best way to do this is to buy them all drinks, take them out for trips to the theatre, get them to wear badges with your photo and the slogan 'give me your vote'.

Instead the reply read 'you must make a point of going around the parish canvassing voles and the best way to do this is to buy them all drinks, take them out for trips to the theatre, get them to wear badges with your photo and the slogan 'give me your vole'.

A simple mistake but I am sorry to learn that by following my advice you have been declared insane, particularly for attempting to get 500 voles into Milton Keynes theatre even if it was to see a production of Wind in the Willows.

However it now sounds to me as if you have all the qualifications needed to want to be elected onto the Chalgrave Memorial Hall committee!

Until next time dear readers.....



Flower Ladies