



# Chalgrave News

Publication No.21 2008-2

# Chalgrave Social Diary

- ◆ The Parish Council meet at The Memorial Hall 7.30pm, last Tuesday of the month
- ◆ Plough Inn - Quiz nights every other Tuesday 9.00pm, Dominoes every Monday and Bingo every Sunday evenings
- ◆ Queens Head - Live entertainment every Friday 7.30pm, darts Tuesdays and dominoes Thursdays
- ◆ Book Club meets weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- ◆ Chalgrave Games 12th July
- ◆ Sports Club—Cricket Sundays 2.30pm and nets Wednesdays 6.30pm, 10/10 cricket match 13th July
- ◆ Flower arranging class
- ◆ Front Garden Competition — sometime in July
- ◆ Line Dancing at Memorial Hall — watch the noticeboards for dates
- ◆ Community Police Van - St Mary's Close, 7 June.

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Many thanks to Peter Freeman  
for a very generous donation to the  
Chalgrave News

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Front cover - Some of the cast of the Murder Mystery—see page 20

*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*

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Welcome to another edition of the Chalgrave news. This really has to be my most favourite time of the year. The heavy rain and cold winter weather is now behind us and spring has come and gone. The evenings are light until well after 9pm and we have at long last seen some good warm and even hot days!! Have you noticed that as soon as the sun comes out it gives us all renewed energy and we are suddenly happy and cheerful? Never mind the seemingly almost weekly new taxes being announced by our government or the ever rising food, fuel, council tax and household bills. We can forget these for a few hours once we are out and about in the warm sunshine. If this is global warming long may it last! As always your Chalgrave News team have been very busy since the last issue hunting down those news stories that relate to our parish' as well as fund raising to be able to cover the cost of producing the Chalgrave News. We would all like to thank Peter Freeman for his most generous sponsorship donation – it is most gratefully received. Thank you Peter. Many of you will have attended our brilliant fund raising Murder Mystery event a few weeks ago and for those of you that missed it, a full report can be found in this issue. You missed out on a really enjoyable evening! Please watch out for future fund raising events, which will be advertised in future magazines. Without your support the parish would not have a magazine, which would be a crying shame as we know many residents look forward to reading it to catch up on local news. On the subject of local news your editorial team are always looking for more contributions from residents of the parish, either by way of letters or articles. We don't mind what subject you write about (within reason!) and if you prefer we will not publish your name next to the article. Tell us what you like about living in the parish, your hopes for the future of the parish, what improvements you would like to see in the parish, what your hobbies are, send us photo's of an unusual holiday or of the parish in years gone by. The range of subjects are endless, all you have to do is put pen to paper and hand your article to one of the editorial team or post it in the village hall letterbox. In particular we would like to hear from teenagers of the parish. It will only take you 30 minutes to put a story together so don't be shy, join in help diversify the content of the Chalgrave News. We look forward to hearing from you. Just a couple of points to finish on – firstly apologies to the mole and Bill Archer for not printing your articles in the last magazine. This was due to oversight and your articles are included in this issue. Secondly we have had a request that all articles published should include the writer's name. The reason we do not do this is because any article written by one of the editorial team is read and vetted by the rest of the team before publishing. We might not all agree with the points the article is making but that is the beauty of having a free press and so all unnamed articles are written on behalf of the whole of the editorial team. Now pour a glass of wine, find a sunny spot in the garden and start reading this issue of your free magazine. Enjoy your summer!



## *What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News*

- **P**arish Assembly was held on 24 April. All the local organisations contributed with a short account of past and future events. PC Martin Pennell and PCSO Sally Thompson came along to report about their roles in the community. More information about them on page 33.
- **R**ogation Day walk - see pictures on back cover & report on page 24.
- **N**ew Heritage Trail interpretation panels erected.
- **E**lectricity cables installed from Houghton Regis to Leighton Buzzard
- **I**mportant advancements regarding the J12 developments. See page 13 for more information and to find out how you can contribute.
- **M**urder Mystery - unravelled by a few serious sleuths at the Chalgrave Memorial Hall. Profits went towards the Chalgrave News.

If you know what has happened in Chalgrave and would like to share it with us then email a few words to [lyndie@ic24.net](mailto:lyndie@ic24.net) for the next edition.

Have you just received your Council Tax bill?  
Well you need cheering up then!

A man walks into a doctor's office. He has a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "What's the matter with me?" he asks the doctor. The doctor replies, "You're not eating properly."

What is the longest word in the English language? "Smiles". Because there is a mile between its first and last letters!

An English teacher wrote these words on the whiteboard: "woman without her man is nothing". The teacher then asked the students to punctuate the words correctly.

The men wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

1st Eskimo: Where did your mother come from? 2nd Eskimo: Alaska

1st Eskimo: Don't bother, I'll ask her myself!

At an auction in Manchester a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, "I'll give £150!"

# Chairman's Report 07/08

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The Parish Council consists of myself as Chairman, Ken Green – Vice Chairman and heads up the Footpaths Committee and has also been the lead on our new Heritage Trail, Frank Griffin with special responsibility for Planning, Daniel Osborne who has responsibility for Police Liaison, June Horne who monitors fly tipping and bus timings and routes, Derek Smith heading up the Traffic Calming Committee, and Roger Mence who chairs the Parish Plan Committee. And, finally our Parish Clerk Lesley Smith.

The past year has been very much business as usual. We continue our battle with the proposed housing development heading north from Houghton Regis and Dunstable, East from Leighton Buzzard and south from Milton Keynes. Our view is that there is no infrastructure to support the growth, we would lose Green Belt land and it may damage the rural nature of our Parish. No final decision has been made as where the housing will go and how close to our Parish the development will come. The various options are still being considered.

As part of our drive to protect our Parish we applied for and received a grant for a Heritage Trail through our Parish. This is a designated trail with information panels at five points along the trail. The purpose of this trail is to underline how special our Parish is and that it is worth protecting. The work on the trail will be completed over the next few weeks.

As part of the trail, there was a working party clearing the pond in Tebworth. They did a splendid job and we are grateful to them. Additionally, there is a bench there now and the back of the bench was

designed by children in the Parish. I intend to get the working party together again later in the summer to do some more tidying and to finish painting the railings. There are a few volunteers that have offered to maintain the pond on a year round basis led by Amanda Patel. Ken has led and worked hard on this project.

We continue to lobby South Beds District Council, Beds County Council, our local MP and Government. We write letters and attend meetings. We also instigated and formed a consortium of local Parish Councils called GAPP – Growth Area Parish Partnership. There are eight parish councils involved – Eggington, Chalton, Hockcliffe, Toddington, Chalgrave, Sundon, Streatley and Harlington. Others may join. I Chair the meetings with Ken as Vice Chair. We meet once a month to discuss issues that concern us all – housing, green belt, transport, etc and we agree joint action. As Parish Councils we will individually battle away on these issues but we feel that GAPP will provide another and perhaps louder voice. Andrew Selous has agreed to meet up with GAPP to discuss issues and we also hope Nadine Dorries MP for Mid Beds will come along as well.

As well as this housing growth, we are concerned about the proposal for Luton Town Football Club and extensive warehousing to be built at junction 12 of the M1. We oppose this development. And will support the work of CAST and CASH.

We are also concerned about the impact of the widening of the M1 from J10 to J13 and

proposals for a new junction, 11a, which will be the joining of the Northern Bypass with M1. At the moment it seems that there is no access to local roads. However, we learnt last week that there is going to be further research into the M1 widening and that other options are going to be considered 'which may be better value for money', such as using parts of the hard shoulder. So it may well be that the M1 will not be widened from J10 to J13. If that is the case, it will have an impact on the decision about the planning application at J12

The expansion of Luton Airport is not now going ahead. But the flightpaths are going to change again. We will benefit in some ways but unfortunately there will be a negative impact. The main effect for our Parish will be noise from outbound aircraft will be passing over as opposed to inbound flights. We have also registered our concerns and will continue to monitor developments.

The work of the Parish Council is funded through the Council Tax. We get what is known as a precept every year. You will have seen from your Council Tax Bill that this year we have again significantly increased the precept. In previous years we have kept any increase to inflation level or below. We have always been one of the lowest in the South Beds area. However, the past levels have not kept pace with the large increases in, for example, our insurance, cost of auditing our accounts, the Clerk's salary - as well as our desire to give grants to local organisations (approximately a third of our precept). We are also a very active Parish Council.

The increase this year is £1:86 per electorate per annum (there are 389 electors). For a Band D house it is an increase of £3:04. Chalgrave is still the third lowest in South Beds.

Copies of the accounts can be obtained from the Clerk. The 07/08 accounts will be internally audited soon. The external audit will be in the middle of June 08.

#### Other issues:

The War Memorial. This has now been renovated and looks splendid in the grounds of Chalgrave Church. The renovation was funded by a benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Park View Lane. We are now directly involved in solving the problem of the flooding. We are looking at the options and more particularly the costing. We simply do not have the budget for major works so we need may need to find the funding from somewhere. But we are determined now to get this problem resolved.

We are working on getting the bottom of The Lane tidied. It was a mess for a while but it will be improved.

We look for and apply for grants whenever we can. We got money to improve the footpath across the road from the Old Woodyard and Woodlands. We also got new lamp posts along Wingfield Road so all is not doom and gloom.

*Phil Parry*  
*Chairman Chalgrave Parish Council*

I recently bought a bottle of brown sauce which carried the warning 'Do not use if seal is broken'. As soon as I opened it the seal broke, immediately rendering it unusable. I wonder how many other innocent shoppers, especially pensioners, have fallen for this evil scam.



## **Andrew Selous MP**

### **TRUST IN POLITICS**

I have been an MP for nearly seven years now and am very proud of the work of our Parliament. For all its imperfections, it represents a system of Parliamentary democracy that has been copied all around the world. In my constituency casework I have seen how an MP's intervention can come to the rescue of the many people who come through the doors of our surgeries every week saying "You are my last chance!"



Yet when I went away with my family in February this year, I was relieved that none of the other British holiday makers we were with asked me what I did for a living. This really saddens me, as I think that in the proper pursuit of ensuring that some individual acts of wrongdoing and some abusive practices, are dealt with, we are in danger of trashing the whole of our Parliamentary democracy. I am a great supporter of a fearless, investigative press who are totally free to criticise MPs at all times, but I do feel that there has been an element of collective hysteria among the press, which has tried to make MPs public enemy number one.

My own circumstances are that I took a pay cut to become an MP as I believe in public service. My own "expenses" are just in the bottom half of all MPs for the last year and I do claim for the cost of living in two places.

I would love not to have to claim for running a second home and to be able to see my family every night. Some other MPs may have more stamina than me, but when I leave the Commons at 11.00 pm or later on a Monday and a Tuesday, I am grateful not to have an hour and a half's journey home, particularly as I am in early the next morning. I employ no family members, but do believe that some Westminster marriages only last as husband and wife are together all week.

The word 'expenses' probably conjures up pictures of shiny credit cards, being used in plush restaurants. I had one of these when I was in business, but no MP can claim for entertaining anyone. The bulk of our expenses go on paying our very hardworking staff and the balance on running a constituency office, postage, stationary, computer equipment and so on. Our pay, about which I make no complaint, is £61,000 a year. Both the town clerk of one of my three towns and the head press officer of Bedfordshire Police earn more than this, and get to see their families every night. Of course, receipts should be produced for all money claimed and the hours and job specification of employed family members should be publicly available. There are, sadly, rotten apples in every barrel, but please do not condemn our whole Parliament, because of them.

NOTE: Andrew Selous is also Shadow Minister for Family Welfare & Child Support

***Andrew Selous is MP for South West Bedfordshire and can be contacted on 01582 662 821 or [selous@parliament.uk](mailto:selous@parliament.uk)***

# POLICE WORKSHOP

Everyone is invited to visit PC Martin Pennell in the  
Community Police Van, St Mary's Close

Martin will be holding a workshop on

Saturday 7th June 10.00–12.00am

## *Queens Head Update*

Hello everybody it's me again Colin from The Queens Head, just thought I would raise my head above the ramparts to see what's going on in the Parish and what do I find? There are all sorts of things happening, a Murder in the Vineyard, talk of village games (we used to play those games when we were young you know) and even some talk of sunshine, now I'm getting on a bit but even I can't remember the last time I saw something like that.

Anyway, I digress The pub is still standing, and so am I, and another thing I heard is that the summer league darts team who now play on Tuesdays actually won a match, thanks mainly to Alison Young who will tell you all about it if you have an hour or three to spare.

The Dommies team continue to thrive but in the summer league they only play on Thursdays .

The darts team and the domino team are always looking for new victims –sorry I mean members so why not call in one evening and check out the local “talent”

Friday evenings live music acts are still very popular and some of the “turns” we have booked for the next few months are:-

June 6th	Steve Jones	June 13th	Joe
June 20th	Keith West	June 27th	Chris Jones
July 4th	Pete Spence	July 11th	Steve Burton
July 18th	Steve Jones	July 25th	Lenny
Aug 1st	Merv	Aug 8th	Jim Turner
Aug 15th	Chris Jones	Aug 22nd	Keith West
Aug 29th	Bobby Watt	Sept 5th	Pete Spence



I hope to see you at some of the above events so for now look after yourselves and mind how you cross the road.



## *Have your say!!*

A proposal for a new Health Centre on the site at Brewers Hill in Dunstable is now in the pipeline.

Five doctor's surgeries from the Dunstable area will operate from a building covering 6500 sq meters with parking for 250 cars. If they get the go ahead this new centre will house a variety of specialist services like Speech Therapy, Occupational Health, Chiropody, Minor Operations, X Ray Dept, Diagnostics, Mental Health Services, Health visiting, Well Baby Clinics and a Pharmacy. All in the hopes of cutting down trips to the hospitals and of course waiting times.

There will also be a Walk-In Centre that will be open from 8.00am – 10.00pm. The suggestion is that this will offer a

better service to the 43,000 people in Dunstable and the surrounding villages. Improve care for the elderly and long term conditions of patients. The centre will also offer longer surgery hours and allow Health Services to grow to meet the future needs.

Do you think we should keep things the way they are? (Smaller practices with more personal service.)

Or, create these new very large purpose built centres?(That have it all under one roof.)

### **HAVE YOUR SAY -**

There are two public meetings to be held at Queensway School Dunstable

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 at 7.30pm – 9.00pm

July 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7.30pm – 9.00pm.

**If you would like to attend please telephone 01234 792188**

## *Rural Enterprise Fortnight Starting 16 June.*

During this fortnight South Beds District Council are aiming to offer a range of business support events in various local settings. Business Link have a specially adapted van from which they will be offering business advice and guidance. The van will be coming to the district on 17 June & 18 June. On both mornings it will be parked on industrial estates (Thrales End, Hyde and Barton le Clay respectively) and the afternoons of 17th at The Chequers Pub, Caddington, 18th outside The Angel, Toddington. Talks will be arranged on marketing, finance and other subjects (dates, venues and topics to be confirmed). A scheme called "let me buy you a drink" will be running in The Bull, Barton le Clay 23rd June, The Axe & Compass, Heath and Reach 26th and The Star at Chalton 25th.

While SBDC is organising this event the majority of funding for this is coming from Beds County Council

Further details will be available on the Business pages of the website, [www.southbeds.gov.uk](http://www.southbeds.gov.uk), or you can contact Donna on 0845 849 6291 or [donna.wilkinson@southbeds.gov.uk](mailto:donna.wilkinson@southbeds.gov.uk)

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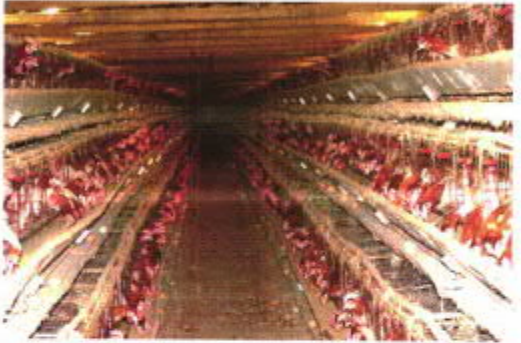
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# HOW CHEAP IS CHEEP-CHEEP????

I have in the past expressed my opinions on intensively reared poultry and the recent television programme called 'Chicken Run' presented by Hugh Fearnely-Whittingsall, which highlighted the difference between this method of production and free range, prompted this article. The way these wretched birds have been produced, could not fail to move anyone with compassion for animal welfare.

Over the last 30 years we have become accustomed to cheap chicken which at one time was a luxury. Most housewives buy on cost and are unaware of the way these birds are reared.

TWO CHICKENS FOR A FIVER must seem like good value, or is it!!



Supermarkets have supplied the demand by squeezing the poultry industries' margins to a bare minimum and according to the programme there is as little as 3 pence per bird profit for the rearer. It seems that the supermarkets are exploiting suppliers just as they did to the dairy and pork industries who now supply at less than cost due to cheap imports. Now only the BIG boys survive.

If we believe in statistics, there has been a steady increase for the Free Range product since this program was shown. Hopefully supermarkets and producers can supply the increase in demand and gradually phase out the intensive poultry systems. The sooner this happens, the better.

I am also pleased to read that Game sales this year have increase by 30% and most supermarkets and butchers are now selling it.

NOW THAT IS REALLY  
FREE RANGE!

*Chalgrave Mole*





## *CHALGRAVE ANNUAL FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION*

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Once again it is time to get out those forks and hoes and transform that patch of dirt that has suffered from neglect over the winter into something of beauty and envy.

Yes it's the front garden competition again!

We all know how much you would like to win the coveted award so go and buy your fertilizer, bedding and basket plants and get planting,

Because you never know when those devious people who we call "The Lurkers" will be creeping softly through your bushes to seek and photograph a perfect haven.

### *HEY YOU OUT THERE!*

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#### *A Message for all young people -18 and under*

We are aware that young people in our area are not really represented on the Parish Council. Because of that, we do not know what you want.

We also do not know what activities or facilities you would like or how much you would like to be involved in Parish matters.

As a first step we would like to meet you and find out more about what you would like to see happening in the parish. At the Village Games in July why not come along and meet us, because we would like to get as many views as possible from all ages.

We can then organise a meeting, hopefully led by you to discuss ideas. We cannot promise anything but we may be able to find funding for some projects.

You don't really have to wait until the games, you can send your thoughts and suggestions to the Clerk to the Parish Council Lesley Smith or to myself-or indeed to any of the Parish Councillors, Our contact details are in this magazine.

I look forward to hearing from you

*Phil Parry Chairman*

# JUNCTION 12 DEVELOPMENT

## ***CASH***

## **UPDATE**

## ***CASH***

The consultation period has now closed, and both councils are considering the responses.

We have submitted official objections and nearly 2000 letters of objection from you, the local residents were handed directly to Mid beds, and South Beds District Councils, and many hundreds more were submitted on line.

**We must not become complacent and assume success.** All Developers such as Goodmans expect their planning applications to fail at this stage have extensive funds and resources at hand to continue their fight with appeals and all sorts of other means of wearing us down.

**If you haven't made your objections in writing or by e-mail, do it now, every letter counts.**

Write or e-mail to

David Hale, Development Control Manager, South Beds District Council.  
The District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable. LU6 1LF

E-Mail [planning.online@southbeds.gov.uk](mailto:planning.online@southbeds.gov.uk) Quote Ref: 08/0230

Gary Alderson, Director Environmental Planning Services, Mid Beds District Council, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford. SG17 5TO

E-Mail [planning.processing@midbeds.gov.uk](mailto:planning.processing@midbeds.gov.uk) Quote Ref: 08/00325/FULL

Download a ready-made objection letter from our website at

[www.cash-harlington.org.uk](http://www.cash-harlington.org.uk)

**Support the campaign to stop the development**

Display the SAY NO Posters in your windows or put up an Estate Agent type board

Download a poster or order a board from our website

[www.cash-harlington.org.uk](http://www.cash-harlington.org.uk)

Attend the Council meeting, When the date is announced, we will need as many people as possible to protest peacefully outside the Council Offices to demonstrate to officers the feeling within the community and that this development is not appropriate.

Offer your practical help as a volunteer via the website.

Sign up as a CaSH member on the website to receive regular e-mail updates.

## **Millennium Award and Community Award**

### **2007/2008**

As we reported in the last Issue of the magazine the Millennium Award is given to someone who is 18 years or under and the Community Award is for anyone over 18. The Parish Council is now looking for nominations for either award which is presented in recognition of an achievement or a community service.

# *Chalgrave Church*



## Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

### INTERREGNUM

At long last the interregnum (a period of time when a parish is without a vicar) is at an end, Anne Crawford was appointed Rector and her induction took place on 30th January 2008 in both churches, and was led by the Right Reverend Richard Inman, the Bishop of Bedford.

Anne's appointment is a huge relief to the churchwardens and other church officers who kept the parish running during the vacancy.

Our thanks go to all the "flying priests" who visited us during this period to hold Sunday Services.

### SERVICE TIMES

Service times in both churches have been changed. After May all Sunday Services at Chalgrave will be at 09:30am and all services at Toddington at 11:00am.

This is because it was felt that people were becoming confused about the times of the services at both Churches, whether it was 9:30 or 11:00 on any particular day.

This will help to provide continuity of Service times

### RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

Compared to the previous reporting period when the outside of the church was covered in scaffolding for the re-covering of the side aisle roofs, this has been a much quieter year

Perhaps the most visible improvements have been the edition of a handrail to the vestry staircase, the replacement of the old chairs in the north aisle with new upholstered chairs and the addition of a brand new fitted kitchen.

The Parish has appointed a new architect and his first task will be to sort out the cracking which has occurred at the top of the chancel arch.

The War Memorial has been refurbished thanks to a very generous and anonymous benefactor.

Finally we are soon to have installed, in the car park, a notice board giving details of some of the history of the church as part of the *Chalgrave Heritage Trail*

*Larry Ryan, Churchwarden*



## *Interview with The Rev Anne Crawford*

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What a lovely lady! If you haven't met her yet, why not then find an excuse to do so. You could even visit her at work. She'll be very easy to find and makes it nice and convenient. There are a couple of big local buildings where you can find her any Sunday. All Saints (Chalgrave's Parish church) 9.30 or if you prefer the bright lights of Toddington, St Georges (yes the big one) at 8am, 11am or 6pm. So it's not like you haven't got some choice.

I met Anne by appointment at the rectory we sat in the garden and had coffee, very down to earth with a wonderful sense of humour and I suspect sense of fun, although she did try to hide this behind a large pair of sunglasses to begin with. Anne certainly seems very passionate about her role in our community and it is easy to imagine that a few feathers may be (may already have been) ruffled. Goodness I can hear them cry "a women minister!"

So the purpose was to be able to introduce you, our happy reader, to Anne and maybe even encourage you to meet her to find out a bit about her so we had a few cunning questions, but did not ask the hard ones about the latest concerns in the synod, or whether her views are aligned with the African or American Bishops. That's for next time.

So: Anne,

◆ Where are you from originally?

Originally West Yorkshire Anne's father was a miner ( the explosives man ) they moved to Scotland, Bridge of Allan and then to Hemel. 27 years ago.

◆ How long have you been a vicar?

Well, 5 years including her training time as a member of the team ministry at Leighton.

◆ When did you first realise you wanted to become a vicar?

Always! (Anne laughs and advises her sister would say). Her family were always church goers and (acknowledging that the sisters may not have had an entirely normal view of the world), as children Anne would baptise all her dolls whilst her sister would inoculate them (with a safety pin).

More seriously Anne advises that it never occurred to her (because of course it wasn't possible before 1994) but when their youngest daughter started at school Anne took an administrative job with the education centre at St Albans Abbey and the doors started to open.

◆ What attracted you to become a Vicar?

Well Anne just knew she wanted to work in the community. "Thought it would be midwifery". Anne was considering starting a degree course associated with L&D until she used the service then the association between birth and spiritual birth or re-birth became clear .

- ♦ What challenges did you envisage in this role before you arrived? Are they the same now?

Breaking down barriers and making it easier for people to come to church and to develop their relationship with God though I suspect this means God really. Anne's Bishop makes the analogy of a man walking past a betting shop never going in and wondering how it all works. In modern life this is how people may view church. Anne cares very much that people are welcomed and made to feel comfortable in church and is passionate to remove negative preconceptions of what Church and being a disciple of Jesus is all about. Helping the Church to meet the needs of the community and helping the community feel part of the Church. To help the people of this community live life in all it's fullness, physically and spiritually. After all when ordained the bishop did entrust to her all the souls of the community not just those of the COE members. Healing people of the wounds that may have been caused by the church. Anne gives some examples of people who have had issues causing them to turn away from the church through the bureaucracy (my word) that has been presented at times of need.

I suspect these are likely to be long term

On a lighter note (perhaps....)

- ♦ What is your favourite Hymn / Carol (which Tune)?

This was the first time Anne didn't answer immediately..... she had to think and after a few "ers and ahs" replied "Oh worship the Lord in beauty of holiness" We didn't sing it and it has only one tune.

- ♦ What is your favourite Bible storey? Why?

"The stilling of the Storm" - "oh the story of Jonah?" I ask. Ermmm no not that one, the one about the disciples in the fishing boat on Galilee. We discuss how one minute it can be calm and the next stormy, but we are thinking of different things. Anne explains it's a good analogy of what happens in our lives – we leave Jesus asleep in the back of our mind, until the going gets rough and stormy and then we shake him awake and expect him to come to life for us and fix things. Adding "it's a shame that people only look for him when they are in one".

- ♦ What is your favourite Festival? Why?

Epiphany. .... because it's an excuse to use incense. It's the festival celebrating the three wise men following the star. God is doing something new. And ..... this links back to the hymn, of course you all knew that.

- ♦ For those parishioners who are not able to attend services do you / will you make house calls?

An unequivocal YES !

- ♦ How are these arranged?

By arrangement on 872298 or e-mail on [annie.anselm@btinternet.com](mailto:annie.anselm@btinternet.com)

# *From Your County Councillor*

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So after 130 years, the County Council will be no more. The change is meant to be substantial - for instance, there are no standing members for the new Unitaries and any member of any political group can put their name forward to stand for the new Central Bedfordshire Unitary.

This is a real chance for those who want to see change, protect the Greenbelt and ensure that the consequences of building substantial numbers of houses in any green belt area are fully explored before any real damage is done to key green areas, commuting residents, local business and jobs as well as vulnerable but important town centres and villages.

It is a new chance for folk who may have moved into the area with previous Metropolitan or Unitary experience to be considered. Councillors with financial skills are always needed as well as those who finished work early and have in-depth business skills to offer. Perhaps a housewife, whose children have finished school, may find the time?

There will be two Councillors for each of the old County Divisions.

Hopefully, the Unitary - with more local management of integrated services, there will be less confusion and just one place to get answers on all Local Government Services.

Eventually we hope this will reduce significantly the annual rise in Rates, but there are always strings being played - like Government diverting more funds to the north - that thwart local efforts.

The elections for Central Beds are currently expected somewhere between May and June 2009.

For me, in my retirement years, serving in Local Government has been a really worthwhile experience and I would commend it to everyone. I have been very fortunate on both District and County and enjoyed substantial support over fourteen years from eight local Parish Councils (Billington, Eggington, Heath & Reach, Stanbridge, Tilsworth, Chalgrave, Toddington and Chalton).

This gives me an opportunity to bring to your attention the crucial importance of the voluntary and often unappreciated work of local Parish Councillors. They have had my admiration for forty years, but the last fifteen has widened both my experience and support for them. Many have been frustrated in trying to effect real change over several years - it is my hope that this will change and those who want more control over what happens in the village will be able exercise it in some new and extended directions. Small changes have already taken place - hopefully a sign of much more to come.



The transition from the previous to the new form of government is very complex and will need careful monitoring and managing. Not all the management changes can take place at the most appropriate time - because it is the new Authority that will have that power and not the current Shadow Unitary.

Fortunately, nearly all those staff actually delivering services will be unaffected - it is my hope that all "in need" will experience a constant service over the next two years. Then it is hoped that some of integration benefits of being served by a Unitary will be realised.

As I write the weather has been fantastic, I hope it is a sign of a really wonderful summer. In this country, we are all so very fortunate, there are many incredible disasters occurring all round the world, one wonders if they will ever end.

What a wonderful heritage we have, let's enjoy it to the full - but remember also those whose very lives are badly afflicted and do what we can to help!!!

Best wishes

*Rhys Goodwyn*

## *McDonalds – update*

In the last edition of The Chalgrave News there was an article "McDonalds –I'm lovin' it – not" about the amount of litter in our parish originating from McDonalds in Hockliffe.

In accordance with our "Right to Reply" policy a copy of the article was sent to McDonalds customer service centre in Finchley letting them know that we would be happy to print their response.

The original letter has been followed up but to date nothing has been received.

McDonalds Restaurants Limited made over £27 million profit in 2006 according to their latest accounts – maybe they can't afford the stamp to write back.

## *Around the Organisations*

### *Book Club*

At last, some real spring weather! Hasn't it been glorious? Amazing how it changed from 'needing a coal fire in the evening days' to 'very warm and sunny, must visit the garden centre and fill the garden with colourful plants days!'

The book club continues to flourish, much like the garden, and we are pleased to welcome a new member, Debbie Parry, who hopes to attend the next meeting.

We continued with *Sepulchre* by Kate Mosse and discussing it was lively and

informative. Set in Southern France the novel moved between October 1891 and October 2007. It is a tale of obsession and revenge culminating in the secrets of the past being revealed on the Feast of All Saints, when it is said that the wall between life and death is at its thinnest.

All our members enjoyed this book and it was interesting to discover the points of interest that appealed to us individually.

We then chose something completely different! *Exit to Music* By Ian Rankin. This novel was set in late Autumn in Edinburgh in the late Autumn of Inspector Rebus' career. Trying desperately to tie up all loose ends before retirement sets in Rebus was, of course, interrupted by a murder. This had been disguised to look like a mugging gone wrong, but when a second killing quickly followed, it became obvious this was no random attack.

Inspector Rebus set about solving the case in his usual inimitable style, frustrating his senior officers and very nearly ruining his reputation. Had he overstepped the mark? Comments on this novel were not favourable. Our members found it rather bland, the characters not very well drawn, and the murder itself rather dull.

We are now reading Jean Paul Sartre *The Age of Reason*. This is set in the volatile Paris of 1938 and follows two days in the life of a Philosophy teacher and his circle of friends in the café and bars of Montparnasse. It involves money, sex and an abortion – all

against the backdrop of the distant threat of the coming of World War Two. We look forward to our discussion at the next meeting – in French? Have a good summer!  
*Linda Hadden*

### *Chalgrave Sports Club*

The new cricket season is upon us once again and the reigning league champions, Toddington, have started off comfortably winning their opening match against Dunstable Road Runners.

Last season saw the weather interfere with the matches but due to some sterling work on the ground by Nev Andrews and his team saw all the matches played. The highlight of the season was the 10 overs a side competition won by The Plough Inn with Toddington runners up – a reversal of the league table.

The 10 overs competition was a huge success with a lot of people contributing to it. We managed to obtain some heras fencing which provided a safe area for the children to play in. There was a barbecue and a bar and everyone taking part enjoyed themselves, especially as the sun decided to come out for once.

This year's 10 overs competition will be held at the Wingfield cricket ground on Sunday 13 July 2008

And we welcome anyone who wishes to see a good sporting spectacle played in good spirits.

*Roger*

A horse goes into a bar and the bartender says "Hey buddy, Why the Long Face?"

# *Murder at the Chalgrave Vineyard*

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There was murder and mayhem at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th April when the highly acclaimed cast of "The Murder at Chalgrave Vineyard" did the murder bit by completely butchering the script so carefully and lovingly written by the Bard of Chalgrave, Mr Roger Fotheringay Masters.

The mayhem was created by the "sound department" who forgot to perform at a crucial moment but the thoroughly professional cast soldiered on as though nothing untoward had happened.

The good bit of the evenings was the superb meal created by Lorraine and Derek of Hepworth's Catering who served up what was regarded by nearly everyone as "delicious" and the dessert sent everyone into raptures. So a great big Thank You to Lorraine and Derek from all at the Chalgrave News.

Other big portions of gratitude go to the magnificent bar staff, the lady what done the raffle, Jo Baldwin, and the bloke who did the job of stage manager and also stood in for the sound department when the going got tough, the dependable??? Tony Cormes.

Finally to all of you who decided to support your local Parish Magazine by buying a ticket. Thank you, we made about £540.00 so this issue would probably not have happened was it not for your continued support. Thanks again.







# *Bills' Ramblings*

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Greetings my readers, I'm told that the saga of Parkview pond will soon be over. Unfortunately, with my health playing up, my interest in pursuing the problem of the pond waned. However my good neighbour Bernie took up the cudgels and got things moving again. From him I learn we have been promised the earth...well at least a small chunk of Tebworth. So the chance of paddling in the pond this summer has become a dream (I hope). People will never believe that a road system was built with a section of drain gulley missing.

My next bone of contention concerns a well known publishing company. Some considerable time ago I received a letter giving the impression that I had won a considerable sum of money and a free gift if I returned the coupon. At least by returning it, my greedy little fingers could be within grabbing distance of a fat cheque. My mother used to bounce me on her knee and sing me a lullaby that went something like this:- 'Sonny Jim, there may be a Santa Clause and perhaps a tooth fairy....but there is no such thing as a free lunch!' With this in mind, I returned my coupon duly completed within the prescribed time and sat back in anticipation. I received my free gift – a small glass coaster, a fancy biro pen and ..... a book. A coupon for stage two with my name splattered all over it was also included. With my mother's caution still in mind I returned the second coupon. I must have missed the small print agreeing the purchase a further book since this subsequently arrived with a bill for £17.00. I haven't read the book incidentally but I believe it concerns an aircraft crash in South Africa where the survivors allegedly indulge in cannibalism (this being some 20 years ago).

Not being much interested in both at the time, I ignored both the book and the bill. A further bill was ignored together with the final demand number 1 and 2. Then came a letter from a firm of debt collectors and a further bill for £5 processing charge. I telephoned the publishing company and was told the bill stood together with the processing charge. A further letter arrived inviting my appearance at court in Kingston upon Hull unless the debt was cleared. I finally gave in and sent a cheque cursing my failure to read the small print.

So my readers, a salutary lesson. Don't even answer the yes/no envelope, just heave the lot into the recycle bin having removed your name from the correspondence. Remember Mothers' words.... 'No free lunch'.

Bless my soul; I received an unsolicited letter from a mail order company promising nay, guaranteeing my winning large chunks of money. Reading the small print carefully, my winnings would be deducted from orders placed.....no free lunch

To cap it all, another letter has arrived from company one 'How to do things for free' (they haven't given up on me as a bad debt!), tells you how to repair a washing machine with a hair clip. The only thing it doesn't tell you is how to stop this infernal intrusive mail pouring through the letterbox!

**Editors note:-** *Sorry to hear of your health problems Bill but we all hope things will begin to run a bit more smoothly for you.*

## *West's Education Foundation*

We have had some enquiries from people in the parish who do not fully understand what this is all about so the following is to put you all in the picture.

The charity was founded on 31st March, 1690 by Mr Francis West when he left £400 in his will to assist the education of young people resident in the Parishes of Hockliffe and Chalgrave. The money was invested in farm land and the rent from this was used to further the education of the children. After a compulsory purchase of the land by Milton Keynes Development Corporation the money was invested and the income from these investments is now used to continue the payment of grants.

The Trustees meet twice a year, January and July. They are made up of two people from each Parish Council, a County or District Councillor and one other person from each village co-opted for a term of five years.

Parishioners have the opportunity to apply for grants if they have been living in the Parish for at least two years. Applications close the 30th day of the previous month and can be made by submitting invoices and a written brief explanation requesting grants for anything which may further the education of young people up to the age of 25 years old. Parents can apply for their younger children and those older children can apply themselves. There is a form to help you with this obtainable from

**The Clerk, West's Education Foundation,  
Mr Norman Costin, Heath Farm, Wingfield, LU7 9QH.**

The Trustees will consider the applications and award the monies in accordance to the amount gained from the interest received from the investment.

Grants are awarded towards school uniform, extra and out of school lessons, swimming, travel costs, books, instruments, tools, help at 6th Form College, University or other educational establishment. Help with costs towards school trips and other travel which furthers education is also considered.

Grants made are at the total discretion of the trustees.

So if you feel that your child could benefit from this scheme ask for a form. Norman will be pleased to help if you have any questions.



## *Rogation Walk—Sunday 27 April*

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This was the first Rogation Walk I had done when it was not pouring with rain as we set off from The Queens Head, this was rectified an hour later when the sun came out again after a short, sharp hail storm and left us all steaming.

Last year heavy rainfall had turned a couple of narrow streams into raging torrents which had to be crossed, so this year we were delighted to find that a lovely new bridge, with wheelchair access had been built. Sadly the bridge follows the footpath and not the boundary so it was back to clambering up and down muddy banks.

Eloise Hall kindly allowed us to beat her head on the boundary markers in time honoured tradition, but on condition that we did not report her Mother to social services and then it was time for a well earned break at The Fancott.

12 walkers started this year, 3 gave up at the pub but the remaining 9 completed the boundary walk back to The Queens Head. *(More photos on the back cover)*



# WATCH THIS SPACE

## ALL YOU BUDDING FLOWER ARRANGERS

There is a flower arranging demonstration being organised for the end of July, it will be held at The Memorial Hall and an entrance fee of about £3.00 will be charged. There will be a demonstration of various skills involved in flower arranging by Denise Boyd and the title of the demonstration is *Oh Happy Days*.

Denise is a newcomer to the Parish and is an area demonstrator for the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies and she is kindly giving her time and expertise for free.

At the end of the session there will be a raffle for the flower arrangements, the proceeds of which will this time go to The Chalgrave News. If the event is successful then a workshop can be organised where you will be able to get hands-on experience of arranging flowers and the proceeds of that will go to another good cause within the Parish (Senior citizens or Memorial Hall maybe).

### **Friends of Parkfields Fights of Parkfields Family Quiz Night**

**Date: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Time: 7:00pm for 7:30pm**

**Venue: Parkfields Middle School,  
Park Road, Toddington**

**6 players per team  
[pupils welcome]**

**£20 per family [maximum 2 adults]  
or £5.50 per person, includes fish or  
sausage with chips.**

**Licensed bar.**

**Prizes for the winning team  
and raffle prizes to be won!**

**To enter contact Jackie Harper  
01525 873356 or 07791574932  
and please state your food order.**

## **STEP BACK IN TIME**

### **CARERS WEEK EVENT**

**Venue: Rufus Centre, Flitwick,**

**Date: Friday 13th June 2008, Time: 6.30-10.00pm**



**Step back In time 'Street Party'**

**Dancing and Music from  
1940's to present day.**

**Opportunity to meet other carers.**

**FREE EVENT**

**Phone 0800 039 1234 for more information**

**Event organised by the Bedfordshire Carers Exchange**

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# Chalgrave Memorial Hall

## Fees and Charges from 1 November 2007

PERIOD	Parish Resident Individual Parish Voluntary Community Groups	** Non-Parish Resident or Parish Comercial	** Non-Parish Organisation or Commercial
Monday-Thursday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£6.50 per hour	£8.00 per hour
6am - 11pm	£5.00 per hour	£10.00 per hour	£11.50 per hour
Friday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£6.50 per hour	£8.00 per hour
6pm - midnight*	£70.00	£105.00	£115.00
Saturday			
9am - 6pm	£6.50 per hour	£10.00 per hour	£11.50 per hour
6pm - midnight*	£70.00	£130.00	£170.00
Noon - midnight*	£105.00	£175.00	£230.00
Sunday			
10am - 6pm	£6.00 per hour	£10.00 per hour	£11.50 per hour

**\*NB Hall must be vacated and locked up by this time.**

Bank Holidays/New Years eve - Rates on application

Committee Room available for hire separately when Hall not hired—Rates on application.

\*\* Block/Regular booking discount of up to 15% available.

Bookings outside above hours subject to individual rates on application.

Non-refundable deposit of 50% of the booking fee payable to confirm booking.

£100 damage deposit required on all bookings - refundable in full subject to no damage caused to Hall, contents, equipment or grounds and the Hall and grounds being left in a clean and tidy state.

NB. Should the cost of reparation to the Hall contents or equipment exceed the deposit then the committee reserve the right to pursue the balance.

**FOR BOOKINGS - PLEASE TELEPHONE 07831 148 2556**

# *2008/9 Council Taxes*

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The annual threatening letter from the council has once again dropped through our letterboxes. More often referred to as the Council Tax Bill.

We were assured by the Government that council tax increases would be kept to a minimum this year but once again the same old promise brings with it the same old result – yet another large increase in council tax bills for all homes in South Bedfordshire.

The calculations below are based on Valuation Band F properties as these are the figures readily to hand but the principle will be similar to all other Band properties in the parish.

Looking at a Valuation Band F property bill the increase for the 2008/09 year is 4.4%. Doesn't sound too bad put like this but when 4.4% is considered a small increase what do the authorities class as a large increase!?

At the turn of the century a Band F property council tax bill (for the year 2000/01) amounted to £1334.67. 8 years later and that same bill now stands at £2197.80.

An increase of a massive £863.13!!

So in the last 8 years Band F property owners have seen their council tax bills rise by 61%! Probably a better way of illustrating this huge rise is to say that in the tax year 2000/01 the monthly direct debit on a Band F property was £137.67 but this year that same direct debit has risen to £220.00 – an increase of £82.33 per month!

The Bedfordshire Police Authority has increased the amount each household pays to them by a massive 9.6% this year. Lets hope that this brings with it an increased policing presence on the streets of our towns and villages rather than just spending more on speed camera's and other measures targeting the motorist.

You will have noticed that Chalgrave Parish Council have increased their precept amount by 13.6%, which on the face of it is extremely high. However you will also see that on a Band F property the actual amount comes only to £36.66 for the tax year and which out of the overall council tax bill of £2197.80 is under 1.75% of the total tax levy. Our parish is still one of the lowest parish precepts in South Bedfordshire.

As all monies raised by Chalgrave Parish Council through the annual precept are given to the parish to spend directly on the parish, and the fact that our Parish Councillors are the people who know just what is needed in the parish, perhaps there is a case for the parish precept to be substantially increased to say £100 next

year. After all this would only be an increase of £63.34 or £5.28 per month. These extra monies would then allow our parish council to make many more improvements around the parish in future years to the benefit of us all. At present many of the improvements seen in past years have had to be done by applying for grants, which are not always available, and this makes planning for improvements very difficult.

What if our Council Tax Bills continue to rise by 61% over the next 8 years? In the tax year 2016/17 when that bill comes through the letterbox a Band F property will find its council tax standing at a massive £3538 – an increase of £1341 (an increase that strangely is almost the exact amount of the full council tax bill in 2000/01!)

Also remember we have the forthcoming Governments rateable value revaluation of all our properties in around 2 years time and the one thing you can be sure of is that as Chalgrave Parish is already considered a high priced property area many householders will see their properties put into higher council tax bands!

Council Tax must really be one of the most unfair methods of taxation in the country at the moment and although many promises have been made to review it (what happened to the Governments promise to review pensioners council tax situations following the mass protests of a few years ago?) nothing changes apart from year on year escalating council tax bills while at the same time we have to put up with ever declining services.

There must be a fairer way for everyone to pay for local services than this!!!

## *Letter to the Editors*

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Just an observation. Strange isn't it that when Chalgrave Parish Council were looking for support a couple of years or so ago from other parish councils against the new proposed 40,000 houses to be built in the Houghton Regis area, Toddington Parish Council took the view that, as they understood that the new A5/M1 bypass would form a boundary to further house building and that as this boundary was far enough away from Toddington, they would not object to the building proposals.

However now that the new industrial estate and football stadium proposals are being

floated as development on the junction 12 side of Toddington (around the same distance away from Toddington as the new proposed A5/M1 bypass), they are seeking support to oppose this development from all local parish councils including Chalgrave!

Whether any of these proposed developments goes ahead is anyone's guess but if new housing is to be built where are the new occupants going to find work? Would it not make sense to create jobs for them in this proposed new industrial estate?

*Name and address withheld.*



## *Restaurant Review .....Special?*

Well thank you all of those that wrote and advised what they thought of the last review. What I really wanted was your views on the restaurant! Regretfully they have still not arrived but that fact really shouldn't stop me thanking you though the postman is concerned that I keep asking him if he is sure there are none.

Well this time a special meal, yes "She Who Must Be Obeyed" was another year older, and so (as you chaps out there will appreciate) whilst on the one hand we are not to mention it at the same time, we are to celebrate and enjoy.....

So off to Flitwick Manor on a Tuesday evening.

Drinks in the bar, very nice room, big sofas, so ladies please be careful and I suggest you chaps don't sit back but perhaps it just says something more about me rather than "you's all"

Now with two parties in separate dining rooms, the main dining room was not full and that suited us..... a nice large table with space a plenty for all the things you need on a table. Big colourful (if different not matching) chargers, fine linen a very nice selection of breads served with a big smile and an urge that we "Enjoy". Now remember this was why we were there.....so initially this was very encouraging. But the staff were going to encourage us to do so every time they brought us something, from the bread, jug of water, the wine (which was warm as the welcome, "so not chilled then" I hear you say). This worked well with the pre-appetiser, of Smoked Duck and Pear Salad, but was fast losing any appeal by the main (Skate Wings from Brixton, sorry that's a typo and should have been Brixham, and Lamb from ... well it seemed important enough to mention on the menu, even if it was not where you'd expect and was clearly not (memorable) which followed the starters of Quail and House Gravadlax. All of which were OK.

So by the time we got to the pre-desert "sparkling wine" sorbet; which was too warm, almost if not quite slush, and the selection of cheeses (instead of desert sorry dear reader but I will only go so far for you, so no not both), when we were encouraged, once again, with the too oft repeated command "Enjoy!" the urge to reply rudely had to be suppressed.

Coffee back in the lounge with delightful Chocolates didn't go far enough to repair the damage but I did enjoy the chocs and the coffee was good too. ....but please mind those sofa's. You have been warned!

Well they tried a bit too hard and yes they did get the wine chilled down at the table but it just wasn't special enough for me and whilst "SWMBO" said it was great, it didn't sound like when we went to .....

# Chalgrave Heritage Trail

On 15 May, Richard Woolnough of the Greensand Trust led a nature walk on part of our new Chalgrave Heritage Trail. There were 24 of us, including 5 children, and though it was chilly and spitting with rain we all had fun.

Richard pointed out our wonderfully preserved medieval ridge and furrow fields that are fast disappearing nationwide. He mentioned the unusually wide hedgerows we have in this area and that due to the number of different species they probably are not so very old. Trees we saw included Ash, correctly

pollarded Willows and "English" Black Poplar which is quite rare. Birds were few because of the rain, but kestrel, robin and crows did show well.

In boggy meadow we saw Lady's Smock, Great Willowherb, Field Rushes from which people used to make rush lights to light their houses and lots of other grasses. We also saw Pignut which, in the days before sweets, children used to dig up and eat the roots which, I understand, are rather tasty!

There were many rabbit holes, but much more exciting were the badger setts that Richard showed us how to recognize and confirm residence.

Anyone interested in pond dipping and/or bat detecting?

*Lyn Green*



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Theresa, Roger and Ben Burden

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## News from Toddington, Chalton and Chalgrave

(Part of the Toddington and Barton SNT)



**PC Martin Pennell**



**PCSO Sally Thompson**  
01525 876642

**Tel: 01582 473427 e-mail: [SNT.Todd&Barton@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNT.Todd&Barton@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)**

### Neighbourhood Priorities

- Anti social behaviour: Luton Road, Toddington
- Speeding
- Distraction Burglaries

These are the priorities that have been identified through consultations with members of your local neighbourhood.

### Events

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30**  
Toddington PCM, Village Hall

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30**  
Charlgrave PCM, Village hall

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 10:00**  
MAG Meeting Toddington Guide Hall

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
- Craft and Produce Market Toddington Village Green 9.30 -13.00  
- Community Police Van Toddington Village Green, times to be confirmed

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**  
Fun Fair, The Glebe, Toddington

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 09:30 – 13:00**  
Craft and Produce Market, Toddington Village Green

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team is here to make where you live safer, and to give you a better quality of life by reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Please feel free to contact the team if you have any concerns or issues.

**In an emergency always ring 999**

### Priority Targets

1: Operation Lead. This is a dedicated van crew specifically dedicated to targeting nuisance behaviour especially on a Friday night. The van is deployed to hot spot areas. It is resourced by extra officers in addition to the normal patrol officers currently on duty.

2: The hand-held speed gun has been used in all the villages again and continues to bring positive results.

3: Operation Cocoon. When a burglary occurs in a street, officers will visit everyone in that street to inform them that a burglary has occurred. They will also inform them of the method used to gain entry and give them crime prevention advice. It is an excellent initiative to give reassurance to members of the public, especially the vulnerable and the elderly.

### Crime Overview

There have been a number of crimes involving nuisance vehicles. Most of these involve mini motos (very small motorbikes). If you do see anyone riding a mini moto please can you contact us using the information at the top of the newsletter.

There have been several Road Traffic Collisions in the Toddington area recently. We are hoping to slow people down by using the hand-held speed gun and issuing appropriate advice and guidance to motorists we stop. Residents can set a good example by keeping to the speed limit.

It is encouraging to note that since last month's newsletter there have only been 5 reports of nuisance youths. This is great news! AND There have also not been any reported burglaries in Toddington, Chalgrave and only 1 in Chalton!

### Forthcoming Surgeries

- Dates to be arranged

Please contact the SNT Office for future dates of surgeries using the contact information at the top or visit [www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk)

**Making neighbourhoods safer, together**

## *Now they want to change the flight paths again!!*

**If you live in the Parish of Chalgrave these proposed changes will effect you.**

The NATS (National Air Traffic Services) brochure titled, Terminal Control North, Proposed Changes to Airspace, Chilterns and Luton area, gives an overview of the proposed changes. There is a NATS web site [www.nats.co.uk/TCNconsultation](http://www.nats.co.uk/TCNconsultation) that provides more detail. This includes a post code search in the tab 'How this effects you'. A hard copy of the proposal consultation document should be available for public viewing at local libraries.

I have used the NATS web site to provide input for the following summary, based on the LU7 9QH postcode. This lies midway between Tebworth and Wingfield, fairly accurately representing Chalgrave's centre of population.

### **Summary of impact on Chalgrave Parish**

Easterly is when the wind blows from the east. Westerly from the west

#### **Luton Easterly Arrivals**

**Existing:** This is the main source of aircraft pollution for Chalgrave with commercial flights passing low, directly over the parish, from the direction of the M1. These aircraft are descending on the downwind leg of their Luton approach before U turning around Whipsnade, onto their landing 'finals'.

Chalgrave is south of the centre line of this flight path. The southern edge of this flight path provides the shortest route into Luton and is probably why Chalgrave suffers so much from this flight path.

**Proposed:** This flight path is to be moved north, and whilst still very, very close to Chalgrave, it will no longer pass directly over the parish. If the proposal is to be believed, and aircraft follow a more accurate central flight path, they will pass directly over Westoning and Milton Bryan. If the pilots choose the shortest route within the flight path width, then they could pass over Toddington and Hockliffe.

**Conclusion: This proposal would benefit Chalgrave noticeably.**

#### **Luton Westerly Arrivals**

**Existing:** Chalgrave lies right on the southern edge of this flight path but again the paths southern edge represents the shortest route into Luton. This path can cause some nuisance to Chalgrave but has more impact on Hockliffe, Toddington and parishes to their north.

**Proposed:** Whilst there are significant changes to the present holding patterns over Royston, there looks to be little in this proposal that will effect Chalgrave. If aircraft

followed a route central to the flight path, and avoid the southern edge, there could be an improvement for Chalgrave.

**Conclusion: This proposal will have little impact on Chalgrave.**

### *Luton Westerly Departures to the North*

**Existing:** Chalgrave lies within and towards the east of this northerly flight path. The present preferred departure route is a straight line north over Leighton Buzzard, passing a few miles to our west. Whilst these departures are perceptible to Chalgrave, they are not our major nuisance.

**Proposed:** The flight path relevant to Chalgrave appears to alter very little. But, and it is a big but, the proposal will bring the preferred departure route within the flight path, about 60% closer to Chalgrave. This is because the route will loop to the east of Leighton Buzzard and closer to Chalgrave, then head out directly over Woburn.

**Conclusion: This proposal will have a negative impact on Chalgrave.**

It will bring departing aircraft much closer to the parish. Also, my experience is that departing aircraft generate more noise than those arriving do, as they are using power to gain altitude.

### *Luton Westerly Departures to the South East*

**Existing:** Presently, Chalgrave is nowhere near this flight path. It loops southward from the Luton runway over Harpenden and off to the southeast. It has no impact on Chalgrave.

**Proposal:** This is the BIG change. The proposed flight path will now loop northward from the Luton runway over Edlesborough and Houghton Regis then out over Hitchin.

**Conclusion: This proposal will have a major negative impact on Chalgrave.**

Chalgrave lies right on the north-western edge of the proposed flight path and will be subjected to aircraft pollution it has never had before. The effect will be greater on Wingfield than Tebworth as the aircraft come in from Eaton Bray bank in their turn towards Houghton Regis. These will be departing aircraft so my earlier comments on noise will apply here also.

### **Recommendations**

Distribute the available leaflets to the parish residents as soon as possible.

Encourage resident feedback to Chalgrave Parish Council.

Co-ordinate action and share information with other parishes local to Chalgrave

Make feedback available to your County Councillor, MP and the CAA as well as NATS

Remember that these are my personal interpretations of how the proposals will impact Chalgrave.

*Tony Smith*



# How Safe is Your Garden?



Now the summer has finally arrived most of us have already dusted the cobwebs off the barbeque, cleaned the birds' droppings off the garden furniture and started to regularly mow our lawns, all in the optimistic hope that this year will be a good one to spend some leisurely time enjoying the safe environment of our little pieces of God's earth. But how safe is it really?

More accidents happen in the home and garden than anywhere else, so with a few sensible precautions these can be mostly avoided.

Children love to explore and this puts them at risk. Garden sheds are a great playground/hideaway- so where do you keep your weed killers, Growmore, fertilisers and sharp garden tools? Are they out of reach or locked up?



Do you have a pond or water butt deep enough for small children to drown in? Can children get into your garden when you are not at home? Many children have lost their lives in neighbours' ponds. So be more aware if you have kids next door.

Know what you are growing - not all trees, shrubs and plants are safe and if anyone has a reaction to sap, pollen or has ingested seeds or pods and needs medical treatment always remember to take the a sample of the offending item with you to enable medical staff to make an accurate diagnosis and treat accordingly.

Of course we still have to contend with the dreaded WASPS! It is a good idea to have some type of allergy medication in the home , in case someone gets stung.

The old fashion remedy of an unwashed jam jar half filled with water and hook up in a tree or on a high fence to keep them at bay still works quite well, but do remember to put it away from where you are all eating!



Do enjoy, relax and have fun in your gardens this year but above all BE SAFE!!

*Nurse Shona Mercy*

**QUESTIONS YOU CAN'T ANSWER** Whose idea was it to put the 's' in the word 'lisp'?  
Why do we press harder on the remote when we know the batteries are flat?  
If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?

The following counterpoint published as presented, arrived by post.

Dear Ed

I have been hearing a lot recently about one development after another.

Thing is, right, that if your gonna have one then, strikes me, you gotta have the other.

So if you got 6000 (Yeah six fousand) 'ouses down the hill round to Leighton then where are they all gonna work right? They been closing the factories down in Leighton and even that Bra place went an all.

So say right that only free fousand people in the 'ouses they gotta work so they better ave some jobs nearby.

Where better then then Toddy. I no thers some in Dunstable but it's a Brilliant Idea.

Close to the moterway and not far to commute so the trip into Leighton wont get worse when the missus drives the kids to school.

That s my view but no one cares wot I fink do they?

## *Plough Inn*

### **Bingo comes to the plough.**

Every Sunday at 8pm we play bingo with all the monies purchasing the bingo cards going out as prize money. We have a quiz evening every other Tuesday evening which is a great success and anyone who wishes to attend will be very welcome.



Our domino teams have completed their seasons with various degrees of success with the Monday night team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the first division with Roger winning the captains cup. The Thursday night team won the league title for the 2nd year .

The crib season has just started and we hope to improve on our runners up spot in the cup competition for the second year running.

The Thursday night Whist and Tipple Session is still very popular and anyone who wants to join will be very welcome.

The cricket season is underway and we have yet to play due to the adverse weather. We have net sessions on a Wednesday night at 6.30pm and any would be cricketers are welcome to join.

Also we sell meals and drinks and these are going well too!

*Roger*

# Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

*Personal problems resolved with a smile*

*A great big spring time hello to all my readers but I must once more apologise for yet another error in my help column in the last but one issue of the Chalgrave News.*

*A very worried Mrs X of the parish wrote to me asking for my advice as she had just won a competition run by the church to have a special, once in a lifetime meeting with the primate and wanted to know how she should dress and act on the big day which she described as going to be the highlight of her life.*

*I don't think that I can take all the responsibility for the mix-up here as I have explained to Mrs X had she been more careful with her handwriting or used the word archbishop I would have realised that she was not referring to meeting primates which are of course not archbishops but monkeys!*

*Now I would have thought that anyone would have realised there was a misunderstanding in my reply but unfortunately Mrs X took my advice to wear Wellington boots and the oldest clothes she could find as I pointed out primates are very messy creatures. I also suggested that she take a dozen bananas to give as a gift and to humour the primates by jumping up and down on the spot making monkey noises during the meeting.*

*Mrs X tells me that when her turn came to approach the front of the cathedral in front of the selected 2000 dignitaries and television cameras she started to think all was not right as her Wellington boots kept making a slapping sound against her legs as she approached the archbishop. Furthermore she also felt people were looking at her worn and torn clothes when everyone else were wearing their Sunday best outfits. She also felt self conscious of the Tesco carrier bag she was carrying in which she had the bananas which she handed to the archbishop, but it was, she tells me, when she started jumping and making monkey noises that the archbishop had her forcibly removed from the service!*

*Mrs X states that this was the most embarrassing episode of her life but I do feel that locking yourself away in your house for the past 3 months is not going to help you forget this meeting.*

*You must look on the bright side. After all the archbishop, thinking you were destitute, did hold a collection for you at the service and you came away with over £5000 to help you buy new clothes and food for your family!*

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



# Useful Contacts

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Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	874716
Chairman	Philip Parry	875169
Vice Chairman	Ken Green (Grass cutting, Footpaths)	874107
Councillors	Frank Griffin (Planning, Street lights, Road signs)	874126
	Daniel Osborn	873920
	June Horne	873965
	Roger Mence	874516
	Derek Smith (Traffic calming)	874105
District Council	South Beds District Council	01582 472222
	Councillor Norman Costin	874232
County Council	Bedfordshire County Council	01234 363222
	Councillor Rhys Goodwin	210629
Chalgrave Church	Vicar Rev. Ann Crawford	
	Secretary Mrs M Hibbert	872828
	Warden Larry Ryan	
Schools	Lower St Georges	872360
	Middle Parkfields	872555
	Upper Harlington	873836
Home Watch Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Tree Warden	Tony Smith	874716
Doctors	Drs A Long/J Perkins	872222
Toddington Library		873626
Electricity Board - emergency		0800 7838838
Water Board - emergency		0845 7145145
Police Beat Officer	P.C. Rick Goss	01582 471212
Chalgrave Memorial Hall	Chairman Roger Masters	873039
	Booking Sec. Debbie Hampson	877149
Senior Citizens Committee	Chairman Roger Masters	873039
	Secretary Velda Cooke	875363
West Charity	Clerk to the Trustees Norman Costin	874232
Mums and Tots and Youth Club	Vacant	
Cricket Club	Chairman Mike Wells	877098
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	David Yirrell	875410
Toddington Rainbows	Gill Hiscox	875239
Brownies and Guides	Gill Hiscox	875239
Toddington Tennis Club	Ray Smith	874148
Chalgrave Parish News	Tony Cornes	874605
	Lyndie Lothian	874166
	Frances & Roger Masters	873039
	Mick McDonagh	873012



*Top* Start of the Rogation Day walk outside the Queen's Head.

*Bottom* A stop for lunch at the Fancott Arms.