



Chalgrave News

Publication No.24 2009-1

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
- ◆ Queens Head - Live entertainment Friday & Monday
7.30pm, darts Tuesdays and dominoes Thursdays
- ◆ Book Club meets weekdays - contact Linda Hadden
- ◆ Chalgrave Games will be held 27 June 2009
- ◆ Rogation Day 17 May
- ◆ Family Quiz Night - 4 April at 6pm Memorial Hall
(see page 21)
- ◆ French Evening - 30 May, Memorial Hall (see page 16)
- ◆ Council Elections Thursday 4th June

Front cover -

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

Hello again, and a Happy New Year to you all, we hope all your Christmas party's were as enjoyable as the one attended by the terrible trio top right. In these gloomy economic times with not much good news about, it is our pleasure to put a smile on your face and a spring in your step so we hope that this issue does just that.



Our last issue brought a bit of a query from some of you like "Where in the parish is the picture on the front cover" well we can tell you that it was the brook that crosses The Lane in Tebworth, we did actually tell you that on page 2. If you have a picture you would like to see on the front cover then e-mail it to our pictures editor at lyndie@ic24.net or just give a copy to any of our editorial team. Please try and keep the image quality reasonably high.

Once again Denise Boyd gave up her time and expertise to aid some ladies of the Parish to create their own Christmas door wreaths. Thank you very much Denise.

Rumour has it that Peter and Linda Hadden are moving away from the Parish for health reasons and to be nearer their family. If this is true we wish them well for the future and will miss their enthusiasm and professionalism at the Old Time Music Hall evenings they produced.

We have also heard a rumour that we mentioned the name of someone in our last issue without first asking permission to publish a small item of news. We apologise for any upset this may have caused.

Great News ! The Parish Council has fought for a number of months for a Community Cinema and now we have one, read all about it on Page 6 All you active and not so active people will be pleased to know that the annual Rogation walk is once again being planned, more inside.

Also in this issue is the winner of the annual Christmas Light s competition (well it would be annual wouldn't it!)

Don't forget there are the Local Elections this year so if anyone would like to do something positive for their community put your name forward for nomination.

There! Told you! I knew there would be something inside to make you smile.
Enjoy!



What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News

- ◆ The heaviest snowfall for 19 years meant the Parish was covered in snow for over two weeks. There were several accidents on the roads which were mostly unsalted for over a week. See more photos on page 28.



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 for the next edition.

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Chairman's Report

From the Parish Council....

Precept. We are raising the Precept by just over 5%. This will mean an average increase of 75p per electorate for the year. The Precept is an amount added to your Council Tax which goes directly to the Parish Council to fund Council and Community activities for the benefit of the Parish. The increase was based on the rate of inflation when we made the decision. We are aware that the inflation rate has since gone down however, this increase will help maintain the level of activity of the Parish Council, as well as the level of grants to organisations in the Parish. If you would like to review our accounts please contact the Clerk.

Additionally, they will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly later in the year.

Parish Council Elections. These will be held in June. If you would like to stand for election please contact the Clerk. If you want more information of what is involved in being a Parish Councillor please speak to me or any of the other Council Members. At the time of writing, I understand that all of the present Parish Council will be standing for election again.

Crossing on the Toddington Road. We are still looking to get a crossing on the Toddington Road, possibly

near Buttercup Farm.

Bedfordshire Highways have said that the road is 'too dangerous' to put a crossing! In other words, agreeing with what we have been saying for many years and the reason why we need effective traffic calming measures. In the meantime, one of our parishioners a year 9 student, Krishan Patel, wrote to Beds. CC Highways complaining about the dangers of crossing the road to get to his school bus – 'concerned about getting hit by a car crossing the road just before the Queens Head...speed restrictions are not obeyed....could some sort of crossing be put in...I am not the only resident who feels this way' The response was 'Toddington Road has been added to our five year pedestrian crossing programme to be considered alongside other requests'.

Unfortunately, we know that there are over 160 other requests and Beds CC Highways only complete 5 or 6 crossings a year. We shall keep trying.

Millennium Youth and Community Awards. We have so far received two nominations for the Community Award – this is an award for adults for an achievement, helping others or for service to the community. We



have not as yet received any nominations for the Youth award (18 or under). Again, this is an award for achievement – sporting, academic, overcoming difficulties – or for helping others or the community.

Please can we have more nominations for both awards?

The Chalgrave Empire. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the first showing at the cinema in the Memorial Hall will have taken place. (The name of the cinema has yet to be decided—perhaps The Roxy, Picture Palace - suggestions welcome). We have received funding for this venture and it is primarily aimed at young people, although there are plans for a film night for grown-ups. The Parish Council found the funding but will not be running the cinema. We intend this to be run by the young people and the community.

Council Minutes. Our usual council activities continue. For information, please refer to the minutes of our

monthly meeting which are posted on the Parish notice boards and our website at <http://chalgrave.bedsparishes.gov.uk> Alternatively, you can obtain a copy from the Clerk.

Finally. We are sorry to see that Linda and Peter Hadden are leaving our Parish in March. At our last Council meeting it was agreed that we would send a letter thanking them for all that they have done in the Parish. Apart from producing three Old Time Music Halls (providing funds for the Senior Citizens, Chalgrave News and Memorial Hall), Linda chaired the Memorial Hall Committee for some time and has also been a keen member of the Book Club. Additionally, they both have lent their support and help to the many Parish activities. We wish them health and happiness in the future and hope they will keep in touch.

Phil Parry

Chairman Chalgrave Parish Council

Chalgrave Games 2009

It may seem early in the year, but already we are planning our Village Games for the summer.

The date has already been set for SATURDAY 27 JUNE, so put it in your diary. A small group of us have decided to meet on a regular basis to plan what will happen this year. Would you like to join us? We would really appreciate some new ideas. We usually meet early in the evening in the Queen's Head and spend no more than an hour bouncing ideas around (and drinking a little wine!!!) Our next meeting will be in March and a notice confirming the date and time will be put in the pub and on the notice boards. Please join us if you can – you don't have to make a commitment to help, but it would be lovely to see some new faces coming forward.

Andrew Selous MP



The grim news on unemployment continues to dominate the news. Getting the right response to move our economy forward is vital and no where more so than in South West Bedfordshire where the unemployment claimant count has risen by 37% in the last year and is now higher than a decade ago. Making South Bedfordshire a great place to start, grow and keep a business needs to be a top local priority.

Local business owners and managers I talk to frequently raise with me the relationship between local road and rail capacity, housing growth and the infrastructure needed to cope with growth. It is my firm belief that we will see a better outcome for local residents and businesses if as many of these decisions as possible are taken by locally elected councillors, accountable to you for the key decisions that local people care about. People from Leighton Buzzard, Linslade, Dunstable and Houghton Regis, as well as our local villages have told me that they feel powerless in the face of plans imposed from outside our area, and some of them were local councillors. Tens of thousands of people have signed petitions about concerns affecting their local areas, only for them to be ignored. Democrats of all parties should be really worried about the effect of this behaviour on our democracy and government.

That is why I am so concerned about the Government Offices for the Regions conducting consultations on the Regional Spatial Strategies. These are binding, top-down regional plans on local authorities, issued by Hazel Blears as Secretary of State.

Many of these proposals in these Regional Plans are very unpopular and controversial, by virtue of imposing unsustainable levels of development on local communities and deleting Green Belt protection. I am pleased therefore that Eric Pickles who shadowed Hazel Blears for the Opposition is proposing a radically different alternative to scrap regional planning and the unelected regional assemblies.

It would abolish the undemocratic and unwieldy tier of regional planning across England. It would include changing the law to scrap the Regional

Spatial Strategies and Regional Planning Bodies (currently the regional assemblies, soon to be RDAs). Their powers would be returned to elected local councils.

As a logical consequence of scrapping the regional plans, if the Regional Spatial Strategies had already been implemented, it would allow councils to revise their local plans ('Local Development Frameworks') to undo the changes that the Regional Spatial Strategy forced on them. This will allow local communities to protect their local environment, and decide themselves the most appropriate level of development for their area. National planning guidance would remain to provide a framework for local authorities – although such guidance would be amended in some ways. For example, it would allow greater powers for communities to protect neighbourhoods against 'garden grabbing'.

We will be announcing in due course further proposals to strengthen local democracy and to give greater incentives to local authorities to build new homes with supporting infrastructure.

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

Flower Arranging Workshop

Following her successful flower arranging demonstration at the village hall in July Denise Boyd held a workshop in early December. With Christmas fast approaching it was decided that we would attempt a Christmas Wreath either to hang on the door or to use as a table centre piece.

The hall smelt very Christmassy as Denise produced bags of pine branches, cones, dried oranges and cinnamon sticks. We set to work, some of us with more enthusiasm than skill it has to be said. Denise, very patiently took us step by step through the process and after a couple of hours work we each had a stunning wreath to take home.

Free Range Local Honey for Sale

Gathered from the lush pastures and local crops of Tebworth.

Try local honey to banish those hay fever days of Spring, as an antiseptic for wounds, mix with cinnamon for arthritis or just spread it on toast for breakfast!

Stocks held at Signs of the Times £3.00 per 1lb jar.

Christmas Lights Competition

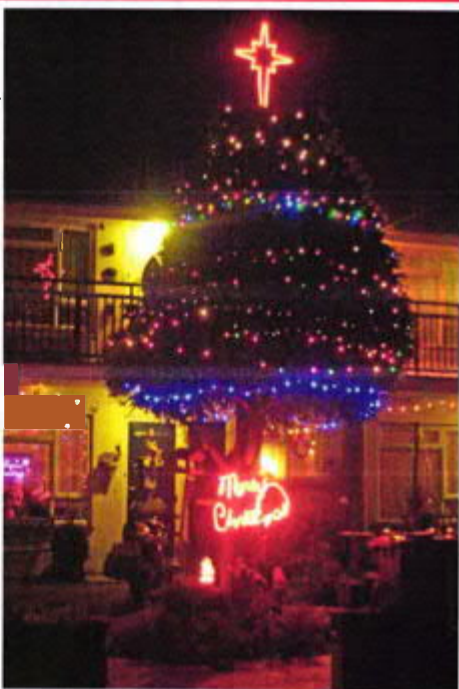
The Christmas Lights Competition was, as always, a pleasure to judge. All the usual suspects were in fine form with the glow of countless kilowatts brightening up the night sky, but thankfully there was a good number of other houses and gardens glowing strongly in an effort to compete with the "experts".

One display in particular caught our eye as we walked around the villages, this was the simple yet beautiful light display next to the pond in Tebworth, from a distance it looked like lights strung around a satellite dish, only much bigger and if you looked closely it was quite a complicated set-up so thank you and well done to Nilesch and Amanda.

Another lovely yet understated display was in The Lane. It was a combination of two gardens and although probably not deliberate as a combined effort it was quite remarkable,

So again well done to Malcolm and Jo Baldwin and Mike and Jo Finch.

Choosing the winner caused a bit of an argument in the pub so much so that Colin had to intervene as he thought things were getting a bit heated, but at last it was



agreed that the dubious honour of being the lucky winner of the much sought after new Year Hamper is

Pam and Steve at 15 Toddington for an eye watering display of festive illuminations.

So well done to them and to the *Road* rest of you. We hope you keep up the very high standard that we have come to expect from you all.



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How Does Your Garden (or Patio) Grow ??

As I write this article we are in the grips of our hardest winter for some years with heavy snow falls and hard frost. But the days are slowly getting longer and we can all look forward to the spring.

I am already planning the garden. Broad beans were sown in November and my seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots have been purchased ready for spring planting. There is nothing nicer than your very own new potatoes and other fresh vegetables that you have grown yourself - but don't be put off if you haven't got a big garden.

You really do not need lots of room to grow a nice crop of runner beans. Half a dozen or so beans planted against a fence or in a large pot, in a sunny position and watered well will not only give you a good crop but will produce lovely red flowers that will attract the bees. Black fly can be a small problem but can be sprayed, if really necessary, with diluted washing up liquid. Having said that, ants and lady birds love them! Salad produce can be expensive, so why not plant a packet of mixed salad leaves that keep growing and can be picked throughout the summer. Radishes, rocket and chives can be grown in a small area for fresh summer salads.



A grow bag or flower pot on a patio takes up little or no room and is great for tomatoes, peppers and chillies and if you have hanging baskets, how about one with hanging cherry tomatoes in them they look good and taste wonderful but you must water them well as they do dry out very quickly.

Last, but not least, my favourites are new potatoes (Rocket) which is an early variety and can be grown in a large plastic barrel or potato cropper. I buy all my seed potatoes, seeds, fertilizers etc from 'Selections' in Leighton Buzzard who stock good quality seeds and can be bought in small quantities for the smaller gardener at a reasonable price.

How about saving money by having your own small Composter for kitchen waste, shredded paper, lawn clippings etc. This will convert into a rich compost quickly if you add a little organic liquid composter for quick results.

Happy Gardening

The Chalgrave Mole



Queens Head Update

Hello everybody, and a very Happy New Year to you all! Please let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who visited The Queens Head over the Christmas and New Year period. It was fabulous fun here during the holiday, particularly on New Year's Eve, everybody seemed to want to get on stage and sing, much to the amusement of their friends and the embarrassment of their families.



One of the reasons people of all ages and persuasions wanted to let their hair down (apart from Mr Masters and Mr Parry who would dearly love to) was the standard of the musicians we are getting recently. They really are getting much better. Why don't you give us a visit and see for yourself.

The acts we have booked for the Friday night sessions over the next few months are:-

March 6th.....	Chris Jones
March 13th.....	Jim Turner
March 20th.....	Pete Spence
March 27th.....	Keith West
April 3rd.....	Lenny
April 10th.....	Steve Jones
April 17th.....	Merv
April 24th.....	Chris Jones
May 1st.....	Pete Spence
May 8th.....	Keith West
May 15th.....	Steve Jones
May 22nd.....	Lenny
May 29th.....	Joe and Frankie

Don't forget there is music on Monday nights as well. So come on down and I look forward to seeing you in the not too distant future.

Colin

The host with the most (of what we do not know!)

Rogation Walk

This year Rogation Sunday is 17 May. The one day in the year when you can walk around the boundaries of the Parish. The walk starts at 10am outside The Queens Head and we break for lunch at The Fancott around 1pm

If 10am on a Sunday sounds a little early then join us at The Fancott and if it all sounds a little strenuous at least half of the walk has been completed by children of 6 and last year a 75 year old did the whole thing!

So no excuses, and we hope to see you 17 May



**Do you have a computer,
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Of course you would, so read on

If your computer crashes, your printer won't print or you can't synchronise your iPod, you may spend hours trying to fix them, only to realise that you can't. At which point you track down a local technician – normally £35 - £50 per hour and who may not even be available for days

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Chalgrave Church



Welcome from All Saints Parish Church

All Sunday Services at 9.30am They are Sung Holy Communion.

On the first Sunday in each month we have a shorter service, sometimes accompanied by a band, and as the service is child friendly we do not have a Sunday School.

A Message from Anne Crawford, Vicar of All Saints, Chalgrave

As I write this article the snow is falling thick and fast outside my study window and winter seems to have arrived with a vengeance. It's hard to imagine that in a few short weeks we will be celebrating Easter and, hopefully enjoying a little warm sunshine. I always feel better when I spot the first snowdrops peeping through the frozen earth, but this year I seem to be having a rather long wait.

Of course before we get to the joys of Easter we have to live through Lent, that Christian season which has a reputation to be all about denial of simple pleasures and giving things up. But that's not so. Lent should be a time for taking things up as well as giving things up, a time when we can clear out the rubbish and clutter from our lives and put something more worthwhile in place. Lent is a God-given opportunity to take stock of our relationship with Him, to see where the cobwebs have gathered. Our houses are used to having a Spring clean, but we don't often see the usefulness of giving our spiritual lives a good dusting down, and yet without a good sort out now and again our faith can become stagnant and dull.

There are lots of ways in which Christians can use the 40 days of Lent to enrich their spiritual lives, without, dare I say it, giving up chocolate or gin (too often we give things up which benefit our physical bodies but don't do much for our souls, let alone our state of mind !). The most productive way to cope with Lent is to join a Lent course and share with other people the difficulties and joys of living a life of faith and discipleship. Its only be being alongside fellow pilgrims and sharing in their journey with God, listening to

other experiences and discoveries and learning together, that we will feel more fulfilled and less likely to falter when life gets tough.

If you would like to find out more about what it means to be a follower of Christ, or if you simply feel that your spiritual life could do with a bit of a spring clean, or perhaps you need some help to kick start your relationship with God, then come along to the Lent courses being held jointly by the Anglican Church and the Methodist Church. Vindra and I will be really pleased to welcome you and look forward to sharing the journey with you.

Lent Course entitled 'These three.....Faith, Hope and Love'

Tuesday evenings in the Wilkinson Church Hall in Toddington
8pm – 9.30pm for 5 weeks beginning on Tuesday 3 March.

or

Thursday mornings at Harlington Methodist Church Hall
10.30-12noon for 6 weeks beginning on Thursday 26 February.

With my love and prayers for a good Spring clean and a Holy Lent
Anne

Anne Crawford, Vicar of All Saints, Chalgrave

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Energy Saving Light Bulb Myth Buster

Why use them?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 80% less electricity, save you about £3 a year each, and last up to 12 times longer than old fashioned tungsten bulbs.

What are they?

Think of them as compact versions of strip lights in work places since the 1950s.

Have they improved?

You can now get all shapes and sizes, fittings and levels of brightness, including 150W equivalent and dimmable options. A recent blind test of 761 shoppers, found that 64% preferred the light from them.

Is it better to leave them running?

No, switching them on uses the equivalent electricity as leaving them on for a few minutes. Most now light instantaneously.

How should I dispose of them?

Use the service your municipal tip provides for safe disposal of fluorescent tubes.

Is mercury an issue?

Ironically, installing CFLs ought to help reduce the need for coal-fired electricity production - a major cause of global mercury emissions. CFLs contain mercury - about 5mg. Locked into its tube, this is harmless.

What should I do if I smash one?

Ventilate the room for 15 minutes. Put on your rubber gloves, brush the bits into a bag, seal it and drop it at the tip next time you go.

Are tungsten bulbs banned?

No. Manufacturers have agreed to withdraw them for sale, starting with 100W this year, 60W in 2010 and 40W in 2011.

Where can I find out more?

Contact the Energy Saving Trust on **0800 512 012**.

FRENCH EVENING at the Memorial Hall

A family Evening of French Food and Wine with Music

30 May - see noticeboards for more information

What's in Your Drawers?

Dr William Dodd (29 May 1729—27 June 1777) Was an English Anglican Clergyman and a man of letters. He lived extravagantly and was nicknamed The Macaroni Parson. In the year 1772 he obtained the post of Rector of Hockliffe, at this time he also held the post of Vicar of Chalgrave.



In 1774 in an attempt to rectify his depleted financial situation he tried to obtain the lucrative position of Rector of St Georges in Hanover Square, London. He wrote a letter to Lady Apsley, wife of the Lord Chancellor offering her £3000 if she could help secure the position, when this was found out he was dismissed from his posts and became the subject of public ridicule, so much so that he fled to France and Geneva only returning to England in 1776. In early 1777 he forged a bond for £4200 but the forgery was discovered and he was imprisoned in London pending trial. He was found guilty,

and sentenced to death. Samuel Johnson, the celebrated author wrote several papers in his defence, and some 23,000 people signed a public petition seeking a Royal Pardon. Nevertheless Dodd was publicly hanged at Tyburn on 27th June 1777. The last person to be hanged at Tyburn for forgery and the only Vicar of Chalgrave to be publicly hanged.

Rich Chocolate Sorbet

It will be Easter before you know it so I thought that as Easter is associated with chocolate (the Vicar may not agree) I will let you into a tasty little secret of my mother's.

INGREDIENTS

115g/4oz molasses sugar 50g/2oz cocoa powder
100g/4oz good quality dark chocolate, roughly chopped

- 1 Put the sugar, cocoa powder and 600ml/ 1pt water into a saucepan, then bring to the boil stirring occasionally to prevent the sugar sticking, simmer for 5 mins.
- 2 Take off the heat, then add the chocolate. Stir until the chocolate has melted then leave the mixture to cool.
- 3 Pour into an ice-cream maker and churn until frozen, or place into a freezer proof container and freeze. After about 45 mins whisk with a fork to break up the ice crystals. Repeat 3 times then freeze for at least 6 hours.
- 4 Remove from the freezer 15 mins before serving to soften.
Try to save some for the children!

Around the Organisations

Book Club

I am writing this in front of a roaring fire, looking out the window at a garden covered in a beautiful white blanket of snow. Annoying though the weather may be to adults wanting to get on with their day-to-day business. It surely makes up for any inconvenience to see the children's' happy faces. Most of them have never seen snow like this before and it has given them a chance of a 'family' day with Mum and Dad at home – no school, no work just play and fun!!!

The book club enjoyed a Christmas dinner at 'The Red Lion' Milton Bryan in December and several coffee and cake mornings during the dark wintry days.

We have now finished NO TIME FOR GOODBYE by Linwood Barclay. Gone without a trace - is the intriguing by-line and the theme of the novel. It is the story of a young woman haunted by her past. Twenty-five years before we meet her she was a fourteen-year-old girl who rowed with her parents over a boyfriend one evening (haven't we all been there?) and then awoke in the morning to find all her family gone! She is plagued by unanswered questions 'were they murdered? Abducted? If so why was she spared? If they are still alive, why did they abandon her?' We all enjoyed the book tremendously – a book you just didn't want to put down, and I, for one, await his next novel with baited breath.

Our current read is very topical.

BARACK OBAMA 'DREAMS FROM MY FATHER' which is going to give us an insight into the character and the amazing background of the man who is now President of the United States of America. More of this book next time.

While on the subject of next time, if things proceed as planned, Peter and I will no longer be living in Tebworth. We are moving to a bungalow in Chesham – a concession to pending old age!! We have enjoyed seven years in Tebworth and are very sorry to be moving. Thank-you everyone for making our lives here so enjoyable. We found you all very friendly, helpful and caring. So many wonderful neighbours! I shall continue with the book club, so no doubt you will still see something of us. You are all welcome at 52 West View; it is only a half hour drive.

Best wishes and love,

Linda Hadden

The Memorial Hall

Now that spring is almost upon us, the Memorial Hall Committee will be busy spring cleaning the Hall.

There is a lot of work to do deep cleaning and repairing, so if anyone would like to volunteer some labour we would be extremely grateful.

One of our ex-chairmen – Linda Hadden with her husband Peter will be leaving the village for pastures new shortly and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the whole

Committee for the work she put in as

Chairman and Trustee, and wish them both well for the future.

In April, the Hall Committee are taking advantage of the cinema equipment provided by the Parish Council to host a Mama Mia evening. So watch out for the posters and come along for a sing along! Finally, the World famous Chalgrave Games are scheduled for SATURDAY 27 JUNE. Our biggest hurdle every year is getting sponsorship and it seems to get even harder persuading local companies or individuals to give money or prizes. This year I think is going to be the toughest yet. If anyone would like to offer some sponsorship we would be extremely grateful.

Roger Masters

Chalgrave Senior Citizens

Good News!

This years' Senior Citizens dinner and entertainment is to be held on a Friday 27 March .

For those of our parishioners who have just (or about to) reach that mature age, please let either myself (873039) or Roger Fenwick (873768) know so that we can include you on our invitation list.

Roger Masters

Chalgrave Sports Club

Preparations for the new season are being hampered by the weather but hopefully all will be well for the start in April. The clubhouse is still standing which in itself is a minor miracle.

Net practice will commence in late March /early April.

The West Trust Charity

The first meeting of this year was held on 16 February. The current down turn in economic events means that there will likely be less return on investments so the Trustees asked for some professional advice for the management of The Trust portfolio. Mr James Martin, Investment Director of Rathbone Investment Management discussed the various options open to the Trustees.

At the meeting this month the Trustees allocated nearly £13,000 in grants to 79 school children, college and university students. While funds allow the Trustees are making twice yearly grants of £100 to students aged 16-17 and £200 to students aged 18 and over who are receiving full time education. A uniform grant of £40 is also made available to all school children.

It is important to realise that grants are only considered upon request.

Submissions must be made using the forms available from Mr Norman Costin, Clerk to the Trustees. Receipts must accompany any requests made for all other educational activities and any travel to and from the educational establishment. Allocation of grants is strictly at the discretion of the Trustees following guidelines laid down and is limited by the return of investment.

Next applications should be with the Clerk by the end of May 2009.

Write to The Clerk for the Trustees
 Mr Norman Costin,
 Heath Farm, Wingfield.

Chalgrave Helps Residents to Survive the Recession with Community Allotment Scheme!!

Great news has reached your Chalgrave News reporting team which we are pleased to publish as a real scoop for this magazine and its reporters.

The Chalgrave News has learnt from a 'source' (we never reveal our source to protect their identity) that there is going to probably be an announcement very shortly that the village hall committee have agreed to a request by a group of residents to allow them to turn half the present village hall football pitch into a communal allotment for the benefit of the rest of the residents of the parish.

This information has only come to light a few days ago when the Chalgrave News Committee were holding an important editorial meeting in the Queens Head and 'accidentally' overheard our 'source' discussing this proposal with other parties involved.

The new allotment will take up all the land behind the village hall as well as half the present grass area used as the football pitch.

Apparently the goal post furthest away from the road is going to be moved nearer to the road so that the football pitch can still be used.

The obvious problem here will be that the football pitch will now only be half its present size but anyone using the new pitch will be asked to use a smaller football and this will then resolve this particular problem as it will give the players the impression that the pitch is still the same size.

Unfortunately our 'source' will not reveal the names of the new communal allotment committee even though we offered to buy him a few drinks!

The new communal allotment will be managed and worked by volunteers and all vegetables grown will be distributed free to all residents of the parish subject to the strict criteria that to qualify you must have been a resident of the parish for a minimum of 12 months.

There are, we understand, going to be a few other rules to ensure that everyone receives a fair distribution of these vegetables.

Once a resident has qualified they will be given a membership card. There will be three levels of membership.

Entry level one - residents who have lived in the parish for less than 3 years. Your membership will only allow you to qualify to receive root crops such as carrots etc.

Entry level two - residents who have lived in the parish for between 3 and 10 years

- you will qualify for both root vegetables and any fruit or vegetables growing above ground up to a height of two feet which will include vegetables such as brussel sprouts, peas etc.

Entry level three will be for residents who have lived in the parish for over ten years . You will qualify to receive any vegetables or fruit no matter what height or depth they grow to. This will include items such as runner beans, tomatoes etc.

When we asked our 'source' for the names of the residents who were going to start this project he declined to release them but did add that he was only able to act as part time chairman as he had a business to run and this meant he could not often leave the Queens Head for long periods. However he has asked for more volunteers to step forward to help with the work at the communal allotment.

The Chalgrave News editorial team think that this is a brilliant idea that has many benefits to those who like gardening or just want to do something to keep fit as well as the benefits of free fruit and vegetables to all residents towards your five fruit and veg per day healthy eating regime.

Late news!

It has now come to our attention that the communal allotment scheme will also include the Tebworth pond! Starting a little later this year an experiment by some of the communal allotments volunteers will see an attempt to grow rice in the pond to take advantage of the coming climate change.

FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

Fish and Chip Supper

Children's round of questions

Teams of up to eight including children

Cash prize on the night and a loser's prize

4th April 2009

6 pm start at the Memorial Hall

Tickets

Adults £8.00

Children under 16 and Concessions £4.00

Entry by ticket only available from
Su 873963; Barbara 877617 and Signs of the Times

Chalgrave News “The Big Interview”

Andrew Selous Conservative Member of Parliament for S W Bedfordshire
I met Andrew after a busy surgery in Leighton Buzzard. If you have met Andrew then you'll know he is tall. Well over 6'2". A researcher is shadowing him for the day and sits in. For 30 very brief minutes we talk about his background and his role.

Where are you from originally? Were you always involved in community matters?
Andrew explains that he's from Chobam, in Surrey, but left there when he went to University. He was active in the church, scouts and local agricultural shows.

How long have you been here now and what first attracted you to the area?
My wife and I moved to Studham 8 ½ years ago when I was selected in 2000.

You are a man with a career that keeps you busy and also have a young family. When did you first think of entering Politics and what was it that prompted you to do so?
Andrew smiled and explained that he was an 'armchair politician' living in Stockwell, South London where he was concerned by ever increasing council tax bills and where he saw that the local authority had more properties boarded up than there were numbers of homeless. This led him to join the conservative party. He laughs that actually you probably learn more about politics in a diverse area like Stockwell than in an area where the majority hold similar views. A test of politics in reality.

What challenges did you envisage for your role when you started as an MP?
The biggest challenge was the time I would be away from my family while in Westminster. He is in "The House" until eleven pm or midnight 2/3 times a week, so he stays in town.

Was that assessment correct and were those challenges the priority? What is now?
Yes and time with my family remains the biggest concern. Having recently moved up to the shadow front bench the pressures have increased. There is more travelling around the country on top of the existing job. For example, having made a 40 minute speech in the House the day before our meeting this required preparation and research and he was assisted by his researcher and the research service to the House.
He also added that there is no manual or training scheme about how the job of being an M.P. works and you just have to hit the road running. (He didn't add that you daren't make a mistake!).

What is your favourite part of the role?
The variety of the job, and most importantly, when possible, solving issues for individuals is the best bit. And of course making a difference on any matter in Parliament. Andrew really enjoys engaging with his constituents and believes that with 645 MPs all holding local surgeries, (like he had the morning of our meeting), they are all regularly reminded of why they are doing what they are doing as MPs. This can be sorting out someone's phone bill or dealing with the representations of local interest groups etc. "This should all flow into better legislation". As he says this he smiles and there is a small part of me wanting to

ask if he really believes that.

What is the most frustrating part of the role?

Being away from the family, first and foremost (I can hear some of our readers asking is this a mantra Family, Family, Family!)

But then he opens up a little. "I hate ministers not answering questions" but then admits "it is not all one sided". He goes on to relate a story of Mrs Thatcher who is reported to have arrived to be interviewed by Robin Day and passes over a sheaf of papers. "What is this?" asked Robin Day. "The answers to your questions whatever they might be" She is said to have replied.

Andrew said that another frustration is "the time it can take to do things"

My next question was - what do you think our community thinks about Parliament its workings and role?

Before Andrew answers I turn to Andrew's researcher and explain that whilst the voters of Chalgrave Parish will probably not really influence the result of the next election, and so it could be said are immaterial we do like to think we are included. Andrew looks aghast "all my constituents are important". He went on to say that he thinks voters are concerned that "Central Government is remote and powerless, having given up its power to regional bodies and Europe". But he says, and tells me he is quoting Churchill, "Democracy is the worst form of government apart from all the other forms"

If not positive.....How might we change this?

Oh there is no doubt individual MP's need to be responsive, show their faces and communicate regularly with their communities.

You were in the TA for many years, what lead you into this?

I might have surprised him with this question.... and he answers in such a way that you understand that there is an expectation sometimes on us that is imposed by others.... "Well it was an assumed duty really. Seven members of my family died in combat in the last century fighting for this country". His father was in the Navy but Andrew could not serve as a deck officer because of his eyesight so it was the Army.

For those members of the community that would wish to discuss matters with their MP, how do they contact you?

Well they can write to me care of The House of Commons, or call the constituency office on 01582 662 821 and book an appointment at one of my surgeries. In order to be more accessible weekly surgeries are rotated to different offices in Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard or Houghton Regis or they can Email me on selousa@parliament.uk.

You are involved in several local charities for the homeless and also Parkinson's disease – what drew you to these particular charities?

These are all local charities but homelessness has always been an issue close to my heart and I have always raised money for the cause. Andrew is also very committed to the South Bedfordshire based Community Family Trust called "Two in Tune".

Restaurant Review - The White Hart, Flitton

The White Hart at Flitton

Sunday 1st Feb. saw a group of us locals gather at the White Hart in Flitton for Sunday lunch. We had heard that it had reopened and were surprised to find out that it had been open for over a year, obviously our ears are not as close to the ground as we thought!

We were warmly greeted by the owner Phil Hale and his wife Clare as we arrived at the bar and made comfortable whilst having a pre-lunch drink and perusing the menu.

There was the obligatory Roast Beef with all the trimmings but there was also a good selection of other dishes to suit even the most pernickety appetite.

We settled on a very tasty Seared Duck Breast with balsamic sauce, Slow Roast Pork Belly and two of us had Chicken Breast stuffed with mozzarella and wild herbs and wrapped in Palma ham. The majority of us had the Roast Beef and the children had spicy meatballs on spaghetti. They all arrived piping hot and with a good selection of fresh vegetables and both boiled and roast potatoes.

Everyone also had a dessert and we all agreed that our lunches were delicious, and at £13: 95 a head for 2 courses, very good value for money.

There were also two or three fish dishes on the menu along with one or two vegetarian options.

All in all a very enjoyable meal.

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Chalgrave Price Comparison

This month we see cornflakes with the largest rise across the supermarkets, due to the effect of the dollar but rice almost unchanged. Maybe if we switch to Rice Krispies it will be cheaper.

Well done Tesco total price rise 2p. Not sure what Morrisons excuse is, their list is up £1.61.

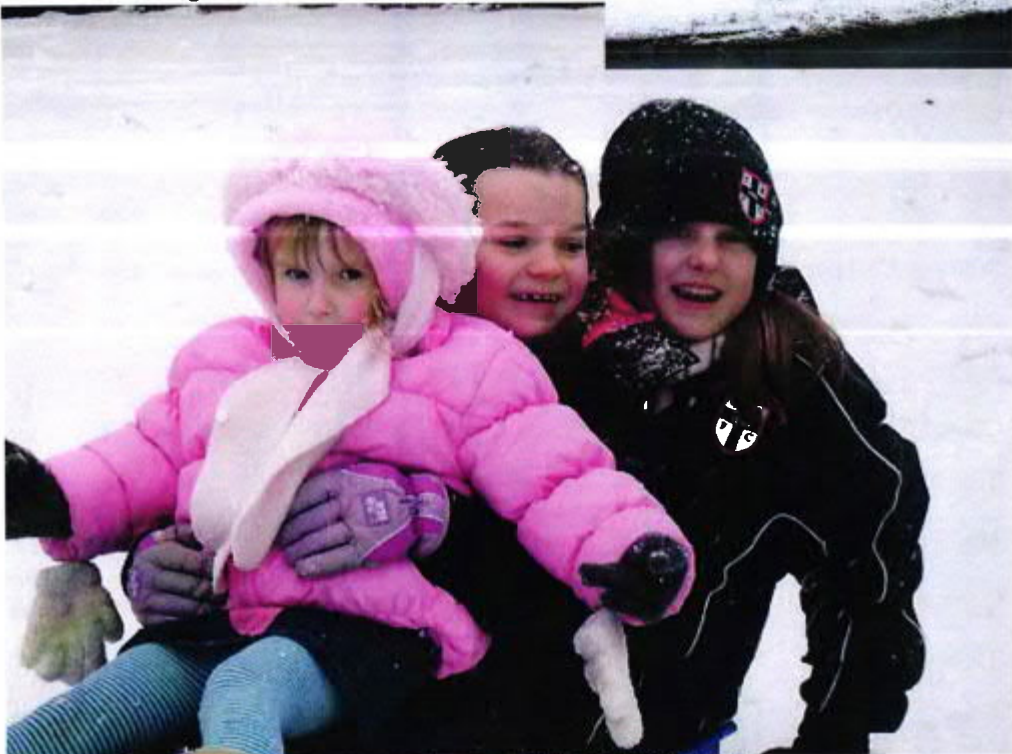
Petrol on the way back up, the dollar again but not so high as it was.

	Waitrose	Sainsburys	Morrisons	Asda	Tesco	Nisa
Pint milk	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.49
Kelloggs Cornflakes	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.89
Choc Biscuits	1.29	1.22	1.22	1.26	1.31	1.42
Tuna	1.39	1.39	1.25	1.25	1.38	1.39
Granary loaf	1.59	1.59	1.48	1.58	1.09	1.19
250g butter	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.22
1kg Tilda rice	4.49	4.49	4.71	4.49	4.49	1.69 / 250gm
Chicken per kg	2.99	2.79	2.74	2.79	2.79	n/a
Typhoo teabags	1.95	1.95	1.92	1.95	1.56	1.99
	17.25	16.98	16.86	16.86	16.16	

PETROL		Unleaded	Diesel
Morrisons	Leighton Buzzard	88.9	99.9
Shell	Leighton Buzzard	88.9	99.9
Total	Leighton Buzzard	92.9	97.9
Tesco	Leighton Buzzard	89.9	100.0
Tesco	Dunstable	89.9	100.9
Sainsburys	Dunstable	88.9	99.9
BP	Toddington	91.9	101.9
Toddington	Motorway Service	95.9	107.9

Snow!

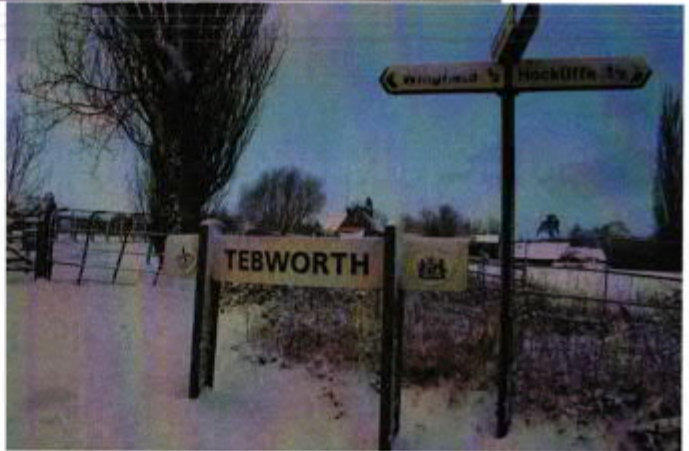
February hit us with a bang this year. On the morning of 2 February Chalgrave woke up to several inches of snow. For the next two weeks snow fell, disrupting travel and closing schools and businesses.





View from the
Queens Head

The school's closure labelled the day FUN and children were out in force building snowmen and igloos. The sledges came out and snowballs were lobbed at any one brave enough to get too close.



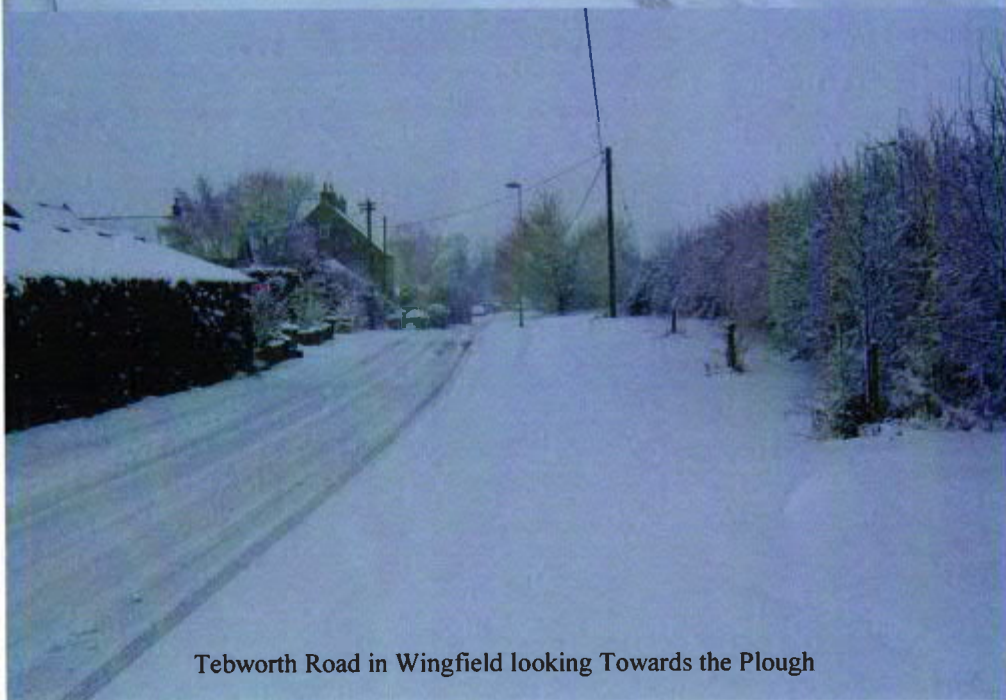
Eggcited chickens left searching in the snow for their newly laid eggs!



Wingfield wakes up to a winter wonderland!



Tebworth Road in Wingfield looking towards Hill Close junction



Tebworth Road in Wingfield looking Towards the Plough



The Queen's Head on Monday - the first day of snow.

Santa's Visit to Chalgrave

Santa's visit started at The Plough in Wingfield on a cold winters night last December. A gallant band of volunteers also gathered there to assist Santa as he endeavoured to visit every home in Wingfield, Tebworth, Chalgrave and Hockliffe. There were so many happy and generous people along the way who all contributed to the collection buckets that were thrust at them, but the night was really for the children and the look of wonder on the faces of the little (and not so little) ones made the whole evening worthwhile.

Big yummees thanks to Sue and John Keetch and Debbie Parry who plied Santa's little helpers with Mulled Wine and mince pies and Chris and Shiela Osborne who supplied a huge meal of Chilli and stuff afterwards, for that we thank you very much!

The whole thing was organised by the Flitwick Round Table with half of the collection going to the Chalgrave Senior Citizens fund. The collection raised nearly £600.00 which was a very good total considering the financial situation at the moment, so thanks again to everyone who contributed and Bah Humbug to all those who hid behind their curtains until the float had gone!

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Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Fees and Charges from 1 November 2008

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

ACHOOOOOOO!

Coughs and sneezes of winter will soon be past and we can all look forward to the Spring, or can we??

Yes, it will soon be **HAY FEVER TIME**, and for the poor hay fever sufferer it means streaming noses, puffy eyes, the misery of continuous sneezing and walking around with a box of tissues for weeks on end.

Now is the time to do something about it. Early treatment in some cases can reduce some of the symptoms so visit your G.P. and don't leave it too late.

It is not just allergies to pollen that can cause us problems. More and more people are developing allergies to a whole host of everyday things that we all take for granted. Insect bites, bee stings, foodstuff, nuts, some drugs and a whole host of indoor problems give us allergies, so it pays to be ever mindful.

So what can we do to reduce our allergies?

When the weather improves try throwing out the air fresheners and open the windows for a couple of hours to give the house a good old fashioned airing.

Reduce the amount of chemically based products we use for cleaning and try some old fashioned remedies like lemon and vinegar!

Vacuum your mattress regularly to reduce the dust mite. You could be sleeping with 10 million of the horrid fellows and they cause sneezing, coughing, wheezing and itchy eyes to name but a few.

Mould, especially around windows after a damp winter carries spores that folks can be allergic to, so spring clean thoroughly in any area where mould is found.

Very often a mild allergic reaction to something can build in the system, so next time you are exposed it will be much worse and in some sad cases even fatal if there is an Anaphylaxis reaction.

If you are one of these people and have any kind of reaction from a bee sting, such as a rash, swelling, especially around the mouth and throat, tummy pains, nausea, vomiting, seek medical advice immediately as this can very quickly change to something far more serious.

No doctor will think you are wasting his or her time. If you do have a reaction, early medical treatment could save your life!

Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden" ...and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The following is a copy of an email that is currently doing the rounds which we thought you might like to see.

A European Defence Force? Some Pros and Cons

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." Londoners have not been "A Bit Cross" since the Blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out. Terrorists themselves have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was during the Great Fire of 1666.

Also, the French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "surrender" and "Collaborate." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

It's not only the English and French that are on a heightened level of alert. Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides." The Germans also increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose."

The Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

The Plough

The domino season continues with The Plough challenging for the league title in The Barton and District league. More wins are required in The Ampthill and District league if we are to challenge.

The crib season starts in April and we are looking for players so anyone interested in playing on Monday evenings please contact Roger at The Plough.

The next PIGS golf day is 20th March at Weston Turville golf club. Anyone interested in playing please let us know. It costs £ 30.00 for a round of golf, bacon rolls and coffee before and lunch afterwards.

The Whist and Tipple card school on Thursday nights goes from strength to strength and is an enjoyable evening.

The quiz evening which is held on alternate Tuesday nights is still very popular and anyone wishing to take part in the quiz will be very welcome.

We are entering a team in the cricket league again and we would be delighted to hear from anyone young or not so young wishing to play.

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal Problems Resolved with a Smile

Hello once again dear readers. While you have all been struggling with your finances don't think that I haven't been thinking about you as I relaxed over the winter months in my Caribbean island luxury villa.

I have received so many requests for advice upon my return that it has been difficult to select just one for publication and so instead I will recount a story told to me by the lady who was holidaying in the luxury villa next to me.

It transpires that she is the Mother Superior at a well known but extremely poor Bedfordshire convent which only just managed to raise the money she required for her annual 3 month holiday break.

This left the convent with no money to spend on desperately needed redecorating costs and so the nuns all volunteered to do this themselves.

Two of the new and very good looking nuns were given the task of painting the dining room but were warned not to get any paint on their habits as there was no money available to replace these outfits.

They decided that the only thing they could do was to lock the dining room door, take off all their clothes and paint in the nude which would ensure that they did not get paint on their habits.

A little later there was a knock at the door.

"Who is it?" Asked one of the nuns.

"Blind man and I have a delivery the Mother Superior has asked me to drop off in the dining room." came the reply.

"What shall we do? " asked one of the nun's.

"Well we must obey the Mother Superior but we can't put our habits on as we are covered in wet paint. Still as he is blind he will not know we are in the nude so there is no harm in letting him in."

So they opened the door and in he came.

"Nice bodies. Now where do you want me to put these blinds!"

Until next time dear readers.....

Useful Contacts

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	872298
	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	PC Martin Pennell	07908 519311
PCSO	Sally Thompson	01525 876642
Chalgrave Memorial Hall	Chairman Roger Masters	873039
	Booking Sec. Debbie Hampson	877149
Senior Citizens Committee	Chairman Roger Masters	873039
	Secretary	
West Charity	Clerk to the Trustees Norman Costin	874232
Mums and Tots and Youth Club	Vacant	
Cricket Club	Chairman Roger Burden	873077
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
	Roger Masters	873039

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