



Paul Levy with Winner of the Chalgrave News shoot



Kerry and Denise coax their border collie through the tunnel.



Chalgrave News

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
- ◆ Shambles - Memorial Hall - date to be decided



Phoebe competing in the agility stakes takes Bertie through the tunnel

Front cover - Water Sports at the Chalgrave Games.

The Chalgrave News team produce The Chalgrave News in good faith and do all we can to ensure that no offence is caused to any individual or organisation. We also reserve the right not to publish articles and contributions submitted to us if these do not comply with our policy.

Editorial

Welcome to the summer edition of the Chalgrave News.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Bill Archer, or 'Scoop' as he became known through his humorous reports of our parish council meetings. Bill was a great supporter of the Chalgrave News and will be missed not only by his family but all who knew him. Please read our tribute to Bill in this issue.

It was only a few months ago that the weather 'experts' were telling us to expect a long and very hot summer this year. When I heard this I thought 'how many times in past years has this type of forecast been made only to find that the weather has turned out to be the exact opposite'! Sure enough, apart from a few very hot days and the occasional warm day, the summer so far has been a mixture of cool, wet and very wet days. In fact the national media reported that one rainy day in July was the wettest since records began back in the middle of the 19th century! There is time yet for a good spell of 'old fashioned' summer weather and soon may it arrive! Where is global warming when you need it!?

Mind you when did the weather ever stop this parish from putting on events? Never is the answer, so come rain or shine the show will go on!

The annual Village Games were held towards the end of June on a lovely sunny day and was enjoyed by all - see the photo's in this issue.

The Sports Club held another very successful and well attended 10/10 competition in June. Again see the photo's on Page 33.

We entered the annual Calor Gas Bedfordshire Village of the Year competition putting up a strong entry but unfortunately did not win - report Page 30.

Turning to other matters, your editorial team have recently been discussing the future of the Chalgrave News. The majority of the editorial team were founders of the magazine when it was first published back in 2001 and we think that it is now time to hand over the reins to others in order to keep this valuable parish asset alive by bringing in new ideas. We are therefore looking for people of all ages who would like to join the editorial team and if you feel you would like to join us or just learn more about what would be involved please contact any of the present team - our phone numbers can be found on the contact page in this issue.

After producing the Chalgrave News for the past 8 years we feel that we need a rest but hope that we can find people to replace us otherwise the magazine will have to, with great regret, close down at the end of this year.

More on this subject in the next issue.

In the meantime everyone, enjoy your summer holidays (send us any interesting holiday tales or photo's) and good luck to those waiting for exam results!

What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News

- ◆ Chalgave Games—see page 23
- ◆ Motor bike accident outside the old vicarage at the end of June
- ◆ Work appears to be starting to maintain the pylon lines through Chalgrave.
- ◆ More junk dumped at the bottom of The Lane.
- ◆ The Church & Village Hall have their grass cutting equipment stolen.
- ◆ New curb and path built around Wingfield's parish notice board area.
- ◆ Sports club annual 10/10 competition held—see page 36
- ◆ Parish enters Calor Gas Village of Year Competition—see page
- ◆ Various potholes around the parish repaired at long last.
- ◆ Several cars parked in the Lane Tebworth had their tyres slashed overnight.
- ◆ The Plough's crib team on course to win the crib league for the first time.
- ◆ The Queens Head has been redecorated and The Plough ridge rethatched
- ◆ Elections held for EU, the new Central Beds Council and parish council
- ◆ A couple of local farms have had items stolen
- ◆ Summer weather has gone missing!

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Chairman's Report



From the Parish Council....

This past year has been a very active one for the Parish Council. You are possibly not aware of the work that goes on - very much behind the scenes. As well as the monthly meetings and our individual responsibilities, we attend local and area meetings where decisions are made that affect our Parish; we lobby MP's and local councillors; we defend the rural nature of our community; we encourage and support local activities; we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure; we strive to keep our community spirit; and we listen to you.

But an active Parish council comes at a cost. Unfortunately, we had to raise the Precept by just over 5%. The Precept is the amount added to your council tax that comes directly to the Parish Council to fund Council and community activities for the benefit of the Parish.

It will mean an average increase of 75p per electorate for the year.

The 5% figure was based on the inflation rate at the time of making 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 and help us continue to offer grants to organisations in the Parish.

As a resident of the Parish you have access to all Parish Council documents, minutes of meetings, correspondence, accounts, etc. If you wish to see any past or present document again please

contact the Clerk. If you want copies to take away, there may be a small charge.

During the past year we continued to look for grants. You will, I hope, be aware that we received funding for a Film Club, primarily aimed at young people. We have had three showings and another is planned. The name of the cinema has yet to be decided - perhaps The Roxy, Picture Palace - suggestions welcome. The Parish Council found the funding, but we intend this to be run by the young people and the community.

We have got a grant for more work on the pond in Tebworth. We don't know the exact amount as yet, as we may get more. Once we have the final figure we can then seek advice and consult with those who live nearby, on how best to use the money. It may include some dredging, finding the (or a) source of water and some proper pond management. In the meantime we do need to have a working party for a bit of a clear up.

We have found a possible source of funding for the Memorial Hall committee to use on renewing the surface of the play area.

We also found funding to complete improvements on the footpath along Wingfield Road opposite Woodlands. We have got further funding this year for another similar project.

At the request of many parishioners, especially young people who have to cross the Toddington Road to get the school bus – we have been seeking to get a crossing, possibly near Buttercup Farm. Bedfordshire Highways have said that the road is ‘too dangerous’ to put a crossing! In other words, they agree with what we have been saying for many years - and the reason why we need effective traffic calming measures!

Generally we have been looking at ways to calm the traffic through Tebworth and Wingfield, and to make our Parish safer for pedestrians and village traffic. The state of the economy has had an effect on the housing development proposed for our region. The plans are still around but may be delayed by the slowdown in house building. We, the Parish Council, will still be fighting to keep any development off the Green Belt and to ensure there is the right infrastructure in place before any building starts.

The Dunstable Northern Bypass has got the go-ahead but the start date keeps changing. We are concerned about how it links up with the M1 and local roads. We will also be keeping a close eye on any housing development coming north of Houghton Regis and Dunstable.’

The plans to widen the M1 are on hold - the preference is now to have a hard shoulder running from junctions 10 – 13. The plan for warehousing and football stadium at Junction 12 has gone away – for the moment.

We are founder members of the Growth Area Parish Partnership (GAPP). This is a

group of local Parish Councils – eight at the moment – who meet once a month to discuss the impact of the growth of housing in our area and the impact on the infrastructure. We meet local MP’s and councillors and collectively, come up with appropriate actions which we feel provide a louder voice to those that need to hear i.e. local and national decision. This is in addition to the work of the individual Parish Councils.

We now come under a new unitary authority - Central Bedfordshire, no longer South Beds District or Beds County Council. Central Bedfordshire is essentially the old South and Mid Beds. We shall be watching very closely the performance of this new authority and be making sure our views are heard and that they live up to their promises.

We have entered the Village of the Year competition - going for the Community Spirit category. By the time you read this we shall know the result.

Finally, the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for 2008. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement and/or community service. The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under, the Community Award is for over 18’s. We have received nominations for both awards - again by the time you read this, you will know the winners. We will now be looking for the 2010 winners. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors.

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the last Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30.

Phil Parry
Chairman Chalgrave Parish Council

During the expenses furore we asked our MP Andrew Selous to report his position concerning this contentious subject. This is what he wrote.....

Your MP Andrew Selous Writes

Statement on Expenses

I have been in near despair over the last few days about the reputation of our Parliament and the MPs who work in it. The revelations of MPs second home expenses have done enormous damage. What gives me hope for the future though, is the public’s anger about what they have read. In a democracy, as opposed to a dictatorship, MPs will have to face their electorates in under a year’s time now and justify their behaviour if they want to be re-elected. Those MPs who have been fraudulent, for example the three who have falsely claimed for mortgage interest they had never paid, should in my view be charged and if convicted sent to prison in the way that people who cheat on the benefit system are dealt with.

It is for each MP to explain what they have done with the public money given to them to allow them to live in two places to do their job. A constituent emailed me recently to ask why I had claimed any second home allowance at all when so many people commute to London from South Bedfordshire. That is a very fair question and my answer is that when I leave the House of Commons around 11.00 pm on average two nights a week, it takes me about an hour and a half to get home. If I got to sleep by 1.15 pm, I would be doing well. My alarm would then go at 5.40 am to enable me to get the 6.46 am train from Luton airport parkway to get into the Commons again. I can not work well on that little sleep on a regular basis and I would give my constituents a poor service if I did. I need to start my working day at 7.45 am in the House of Commons, when it is sitting to get through my work, unlike some MPs who may work from home some mornings. I make no complaint about the hours I work. Many of our servicemen and women or NHS staff work very long hours too. It is a huge privilege to do this job and I knew the hours were long before I was elected.

During the time I have claimed mortgage interest on my constituency home I have been paying for the up-keep of the home I own in London myself. I have always told the local press this was the case, years before there was any

requirement to do so. When my mortgage interest payments were lower, I was also reimbursed for some utility and council tax bills on my second home. I was reimbursed for one maintenance bill in five years, paying all other maintenance bills on both homes myself. I have not used the second home allowance to pay for any food, furniture, gardening, cleaning or "household sundries" (whatever they are supposed to be).

My living away from home expenses will be much less this year and in the future. When I was first elected in 2001 the rules were that your London home was automatically designated as your main home if you were ever a minister. On the basis that I might possibly be a minister I named the home I own in London as my main home and the only change I have made is to designate my constituency home as my main home as soon as I was able to pay off the whole capital of my mortgage with my own money. This has had the effect of considerably reducing my living away from home claims which are now amongst the lowest of all MPs at £400 per month. The total costs of running my office were the 424th highest out of 646 MPs (so 423 MPs had higher costs than me) in the last year for which figures are available. I commit to do all I can to bring them down further, without paying my staff poverty wages and commensurate with doing a good job for my constituents. I employ no members of my family.

I have put all my claim forms over the last five years up to March this year on my website with supporting evidence that I was only repaid the mortgage interest I had actually paid out from my bank account.

MPs should be subject to exactly the same tax liabilities as everyone else and our expenses should be subjected to the same level of scrutiny as Revenue and Customs (HMRC) subject individuals and businesses. If our expenses are not approved by HMRC they should be treated as income on which we are taxed and this should be retrospective. As I own two homes, one in London and one in South West Bedfordshire, I should pay capital gains tax on one of these properties when I sell it in the same way everyone else would have to. I commit to do this even if tax law allows me not to. All exemptions for MPs in tax law should be removed and retrospective taxes levied where necessary.

Andrew Selous

From Our Neighbourhood Police Officer

The parish of Chalgrave is situated in a Safer Neighbourhood along with Toddington and Chalton and served by a

Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Martin Pennell and a Police Community Support Officer, Sally Simmonds.

Our role is to deal with community issues and crime, and to enhance your quality of life and sense of safety in the village. The Parish of Chalgrave has a very low crime rate with 13 crimes being reported in the calendar year from 1st April 2008 to 1st April 2009. However please do not become complacent as the area will always be susceptible to rural crime due to the remote location of some properties ie farm buildings, sheds. Offenders will also travel through village areas and steal items that are left insecure or on driveways, these are opportunist crimes and can easily be prevented by taking personal responsibility for your possessions and keeping them locked away.

As warmer summer months approach please be aware of leaving windows and doors open at home even if you are sitting in the rear garden enjoying a Barbecue, burglars are becoming more brazen and last year in other areas would happily walk or climb into someone's house and steal items whilst the occupants were at home.

I would urge everyone to remain vigilant, report anything suspicious to the police and to share a sense of community spirit in looking out for neighbours especially the elderly.

If you are concerned about the security of your property I will gladly visit and conduct a crime reduction survey.

Any crime you believe to be in progress dial 999, for a routine incident dial 01582 401212 and if you have a community issue or some local intelligence I can be contacted on 01582 473427.

Martin Pennell PC 479

- ◆ I just phoned the NHS helpline and all I got was crackling.
- ◆ How did the pig go on holiday? The swine flu.
- ◆ I have to say I'm finding all these jokes about swine flu pretty boaring.

Chalgrave History Society

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War so as a reminder of the culinary inventiveness of our 1940's mums here is a brief outline of what life was like in the wartime kitchen.

Rationing was introduced in January 1940 and in the months and years that followed the food and the amount allocated did vary.

By 1942 a single person's weekly ration was:-

- 4oz bacon or ham
- 4oz cooking fat
- 4oz margarine
- 8oz sugar
- 2oz butter
- 2oz cheese
- 2oz tea (about 16 tea bags per week)
- 1s 4d (7pence) worth of meat
- 1 egg, plus one packet of dried egg per month
- 2-3 pints of milk, plus 1 packet of dried milk per month

Extra allowances were made for babies, expectant mothers and young children but even then it was not always possible to get the items you were allowed so shortages and queuing became an everyday occurrence.

As well as a severely limited larder mums had to do without aluminium pots and pans as these were collected and used to build the famous Spitfire aircraft amongst other things but still they

carried on "resolute in the face of adversity".

No one could afford to be a fussy eater in those dark days of rationing and the Government introduced lots of different ways to encourage people to eat even the most unappetising of foods. Characters such as Potato Pete, Dr Carrot and Tommy Turnip appeared in advertising hoardings and countless creative and cost effective recipes with moral boosting names began to appear such as Commando Casserole, Victory Salad, Pathfinder Pudding, and some rather unusual dishes including Nettle Soup, Beetroot Jam, Stewed Dandelions and Turnip Top Salad were served. Products like Oxo, Bovril and Marmite were staples in the kitchen bringing much needed flavour to what was a rather bland menu. Tinned meat was a favourite such as Spam and Corned Beef, but not all food was so enthusiastically received and delicacies such as snoek (a tinned fish) and the National Loaf were shunned.

The Women's Land Army were in the forefront in Britain's battle for survival in the kitchen and their efforts should never be forgotten. It is estimated that by 1945 the amount of land developed for food production had risen by a staggering 80% and the amount of imports had fallen by an impressive 50%. One cannot deny that the majority of wartime food was often unappetising and bland, but because people ate more vegetables therefore increasing the

amount of vitamins taken, the nations average person ate much healthier than overall health actually improved! they do today!

A combination of less sugar, fat and a greater nutritional awareness created such a well balanced diet that the

Now there's food for thought.

Source; This England 2009

What's in Your Drawers?

Those of you who have visited All Saints Church Chalgrave will have seen two table tombs with effigies of knights. The one on the North side is said to be of Sir Nigel Loring, but what is known about him?

Sir Nigel Loring (1315-1386)

Sir Nigel Loring was the son of Roger Loring of Chalgrave whose family had been established in Bedfordshire since the twelfth century. Sir Nigel achieved his success winning his knighthood after the navel battle of Sluys at the start of the one hundred years war in 1340. His greatest reward came when King Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in imitation of King Arthur's round table and appointed Sir Nigel as one of the Knights in 1348. By 1351 The Black Prince appointed Sir Nigel as his Chamberlain and a member of the council.

Sir Nigel married Margaret daughter and heir of Ralph Beuple of Cnubeston in Devon with whom he had two daughters Isabel and Margaret. Margaret his younger daughter married Thomas Peyvre of Toddington.

Sir Nigel died in 1386 and it is thought that an effigy of a knight in Chalgrave Church which bears the name of Loring may be of him although his will stated that he wished to be buried in Dunstable Priory Church.

Dictionary of National Biography

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Swallows in the Parish (A reader's letter)

For over 15 years swallows have nested in local stables and this year has been no different.

It is amazing to think that these swallows migrate to South Africa each winter and then manage to find their way back to their old nests each spring.

The first swallow to return appeared in mid April shortly followed by 5 others and between them they settled into 3 of the old nests. It was not long before two of the nests had 5 chicks each and the third nest 3 chicks. Each pair of swallows will

lay up to 3 clutches of eggs over the summer months but often abandon their last family of young once hatched to return to South Africa leaving the young chicks to fend for themselves at too early an age and many of these chicks unfortunately die. Once the first batch of young are born both parents are on the wing every minute of the day searching for food to bring back to the nest - as can be seen in the photo.



Eventually the young are strong enough to attempt their first flight, which is always a dangerous time as they can get themselves in all sorts of trouble such as falling down the side of the stable boarding and having to be rescued by me before any cat comes along looking for a tasty meal.

After a few weeks these young chicks are confident enough to fend for themselves and fly off to make their own way in life and their parents lay another batch of eggs and the breeding cycle starts up once again.

The two photo's above were taken in June and show a first batch of 5 young with one of the parents feeding them.

Now for the bad news. Two days after these photo's were taken all 5 chicks in this nest plus one of the parents and 5 more in the next nest were dead. They had all been attacked and killed by magpies.

There is still some good news in that 3 chicks in the third nest have survived and have just started flying but I wonder if we will see any more eggs laid in the two abandoned nests this year.

(If anyone else has a story of the countryside you would like to share with our readers please forward it to any member of the editorial team)

Queens Head Update

It's your favourite Tebworthian landlord again looking forward to the Summer months when I can sit in my beautifully landscaped garden and breath the scents of the summer, such as next door burning sausages on their Barbie and the cloying smell of wood smoke as someone has their fifth bonfire of the week , but no matter, I knew what to expect when I moved to the country, which is what annoys me when I listen to people complaining about all these huge tractors etc clogging up the country roads and lanes and preventing them from zooming about at 60mph through our rural environment in their gas guzzling 4 x 4's.They should just calm down a bit and visit The Queens Head on a Monday or a Friday and "chill" to the relaxing music that is performed for their enjoyment. Some of the performers already booked for the next few months are:-

JULY

Friday 3rd Steve Jones
10th Chris Jones
17th Lenny
24th Pete Spence
31st Keith West

AUGUST

Friday 7th Merv
14th Joe & Frankie
21st Steve Jones
28th Lenny

So come along and have some fun and don't let things get you down and agitated. Leave that to me!

Colin



The Annual Best Kept Front Garden Competition



After a beautiful June and lots of growth evident, we at your favourite magazine will be looking out for all you budding young Titchmarshes working hard to transform your tired winter garden into the thing of beauty that we have come to expect from you.

So please don't let the dogs out, we are not as quick as we used to be.

Around the Organisations

Chalgrave Sports Club

The cricket ground is looking in really good condition thanks mainly to the hard work put in by Nev Andrews. We are still looking for equipment such as gang mowers and Heras fencing. If anyone knows where we can get items such as these at a reasonable cost please contact Roger at The Plough Inn.

The cricket season has now commenced and started with an exciting match between The Vic and Dunstable Road Runners which ended in a tie. The current champions, Toddington started their season with a win over the Vic. Toddingtons next match against the Plough fell victim to the weather and will have to be rearranged.

The highlight of the season was the 10/10 cricket competition which is covered on page 36.

Roger Burdon

Book Club

Hello everybody,

The book we were reading when I last wrote this column was *Barack Obama's Dreams from my Father*. Now long finished, I remember the discussion

being varied and interesting. The black side of his roots was very predominant and most of us thought it would have been interesting to learn some of his white background. However we did understand the book was written with his father in mind. We certainly all agreed it was well written, but perhaps didn't hold our interest as much as we had anticipated. What made him the man he is – gave him such presence and oratory skills? Perhaps he will write another book one day.....

Next came *The 39 Steps* by John Buchan. This was chosen because we had all watched a new version of it on television and found it very difficult to equate to the book we remembered. We were right, it was very different! A very thin book, easy to read, but dated. The discussion was short and rather bland – surprising considering how well the book is thought of and how it has lasted so many decades and been made into a film more than once. It was at this meeting that we decided to compile a questionnaire for members to fill in for each book they read. This will help structure the meetings more and can be retained and compared in the future.

Frances' choice was greeted and agreed with a certain amount of reluctance!! Always the slightly 'unconventional' member we look

Bet you can't do this!

Make clockwise circles with one foot. Then scribe a no.6 in the air with your hand. Immediately your foot changes direction to anti-clockwise!

forward to her suggestions with interest. This time it was *Exodus* a chapter from the old testament of The Bible. I'm sure everyone will agree that this promoted the most fiery and interesting discussion we have ever had..... The bible itself – God, Faith, Different religions, Wars etc.

The choice of our current book came from Leslie - *The Return* by Victoria Hyslop, wife of the very witty Ian. This is her second book, the first being *The Island*, one that we have all read and enjoyed. More about this next time.

I am very pleased to report we have a new member, June Lewis. I am very pleased to welcome you June and hope that you enjoy the meetings and the books as much as we do.

Peter and I are now 'settled' (are we?) in Chesham – 52 West View, HP5 3BY. 01494 782634, where we will be very pleased to welcome any of our Tebworth friends. We miss you.

Linda Hadden

The Memorial Hall

It really has been a busy few months for the Memorial Hall Committee. Organising the Chalgrave Games is very time consuming and our thanks for this onerous task go to Barbara Jackson ably assisted by Sue Parker, for the fabulous job they did. I would also like to record our thanks to the many people who helped out before, during and after the day, not forgetting our sponsors of course, whose generous contributions helped to make the day. Sadly, we have had our ride on grass

mower stolen from the container at the back of the Hall. This was a setback but we are hoping that we will be able to find a cheaper replacement soon.

Those who have visited the Hall will have noticed the 'mood lighting' now installed. This we believe gives a warm and intimate feel to the Hall which we hope will attract more usage.

We have applied to The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for a substantial Grant from the Communities Aggregate Fund to resurface and refurbish the play area. So far, the application has reached the shortlist stage and we are hoping to hear the final result by the first week of August, so please keep your fingers crossed.

Finally, another plea to the youngsters – please treat the Hall and play area with respect. It's your amenity and any damage or graffiti costs money to deal with.

Roger Masters

M1 Junctions 10-13 Improvement Scheme

A construction site is to be located very shortly by junction 12 and will remain until all the improvement works are completed in July 2013.

The site will consist of offices, training and welfare facilities, stores and accommodation area housing around 130 employees. There will also be a CCTV office, recovery vehicles yard and earthwork yards.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Gwyn Williams, Public Liaison Officer on 07799 435901.

Andrew Selous MP



It is rare for the Opposition in Parliament to be able to get a law onto the statute book, but this can occasionally happen as a result of private member's bills. This happened with the Sustainable Communities Act. The Act had cross-community support from local and national organisations. It could turn politics upside down – by giving local people the power to decide how their cash is spent in their area. For the first time in British political history, the Government will publish a regular breakdown of the amount of public money spent in each community, and explain how much of that spending is controlled by local people and how much by Whitehall.

More and more taxpayers' money is being spent by unelected quangos. In the Prime Minister's first year in office, spending on so-called "executive non-departmental public bodies" rose by 16 per cent. The Taxpayers' Alliance, has estimated that £64 billion a year is now spent by unelected quangos – equivalent to £2,550 for every household in Central Bedfordshire. So the need for proper transparency in public spending is urgent.

According to the Government's latest survey, expenditure on so-called "executive non-departmental public bodies" [one type of quango] was £42,994 million in 2007-08, up from £37,023 million in 2006-07. In total, there are 1,162 quangos in the UK, costing the taxpayer £64 billion, equivalent to £2,550 per household, according to research by the Taxpayers' Alliance.

But in a consultation paper recently issued recently, the plans for reports on local spending under the new Act have been severely watered down. Only spending information by councils and NHS Primary Care Trusts will be published – and this is already in the public domain.

A proper use of the Act would:

Use the Sustainable Community Act to publish detailed information on local spending by central and local government bodies, and devolve more funding down to local communities.

Require Central Bedfordshire council and Whitehall bodies to publish online detailed figures on how they spend our money, so the press and public can

scrutiny waste and inefficiency properly.

We should not be obsessed with trying to control everything from Whitehall or stop local people find out which areas gets a raw deal from the Government. The Act also allows, after detailed consultation with local people, for powers and funding then to be devolved down to a local level, and then allow for such public spending to be focused on the priorities of local people. The Sustainable Communities Act can give local communities a far greater say on how their money is spent. In this way, we can tackle "Ghost Town Britain" and the ongoing loss of local shops, services and facilities.

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

The Big Interview

It was hoped that this issues' Big Interview would be with Jacky Salisbury, the interim Chief Executive of the new Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority. You remember, the new authority taking over from South Bedfordshire which promised to get 'Closer to the People'

Well unfortunately, despite giving her a months notice of the questions we had, she has informed us that she is too busy and will try to respond for our next issue. Oh dear, this doesn't bode well!

Out of interest, the questions we posed were as follows:

- ◆ · What have been your main personal challenges in the first month of the new unitary authority?
- ◆ · What do you see as the main challenges for the chief executive over the next 12 months?
- ◆ · Are you still on track to make the efficiencies and savings anticipated when the original submission was made?
- ◆ · Bearing in mind the size and 'rurality' of Chalgrave parish, what difference do you think the new unitary authority will make to our community?
- ◆ · Have you any plans for real and meaningful consultation with our community other than through the parish council?
- ◆ · What are your views on participatory budgeting?

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.

We are sorry we do not have any news from the vicar this time.

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Home Grown Planners

Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Involvement team is hosting a series of introductory sessions starting on 17 September, which will give local residents and businesses ideas on how to influence and get involved in planning decisions and developments in their local areas.

Councillor Tom Nicols, Central Bedfordshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development, said: "Our Home Grown Planners courses are designed to give local people a better understanding on how our planning processes work.

"Applying for planning applications can sometimes be a lengthy and meticulous Process. Through these courses we aim to give people a better insight into how to submit applications how to start influencing local developments in their area. "

Introductory sessions are being organised throughout the local area and at these sessions you will receive an introductory talk and have the opportunity to apply for the full four week course in the new year.

- Thursday 17 September – 5.00pm, Leighton Buzzard Theatre
- Tuesday 29 September – 7.00pm, Houghton Regis Memorial Hall
- Monday 12 October – 7.00pm, Streatley Village Hall
- Wednesday 28 October – 7.00pm, Slip End Village Hall

Councillor Tom Nicols, added: "A great deal of development might be happening in and around Leighton Buzzard, Houghton Regis, Dunstable and Luton in the near future. This will include the building of new homes and improvements to existing local areas. You may also wish to build an extension to your home.

"Understanding how to navigate your way around the planning system and how to influence what decisions are made can be a good thing for you personally and for your community."

A series of introductory sessions lasting 1 hour has been organised in your area to take place in September and October. Residents interested in attending the full Home Grown Planners course will be able to register during these sessions for the 4-week course (half a day per week). These will take place in January or February 2010 (dates to be confirmed).

For more information, please contact:

Laurent Martial, Community Development Officer on 0300 300 5326 or by email at laurent.martial@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

or

Peter Bashford, Planning Inclusion Officer on 0300 300 52 67 or by email peter.bashford@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council's News Release 15 July 2009

Quiz Night

Flying Scots, Southdowners, The Boffins, Lettuce Spray, just four of eight teams that took part in the inaugural Memorial Hall Family Quiz Night held, surprisingly enough, at the Chalgrave Memorial Hall on 4th April.

There were 10 rounds of extremely easy questions put together by Barbara Jackson, Su Parker and the outstanding Quizmaster for the evening.....me! We tried, with little success frankly, to obtain the services of Carol Vorderman from Countdown to keep score, but had to make do with the services of Bill Jackson who did a fine job on his own design of scoreboard and some very large crayons! (The mini-skirt and long hair didn't suit him though!)

An excellent Fish & Chip Supper was served at half time and refreshments were available all evening. There were lots of children who had their own quiz to do, to keep them interested plus, there was a 'table quiz' to complete over the course of the whole evening as well as spot prizes.

Various "Bribes" were offered to the Quizmaster to reveal the answers but, being an upstanding member of the local community, as well as an honest person with high morals and standards (I am a car dealer you know) they were turned down, anyway they weren't nearly enough!

Were there any winners from this evening of bitter competition? There were indeed. The Flying Dogs, a team of local celebrities won, with a score of.... more than anybody else! Members of the team including Roger Spalding & Lizzie Duggan (now Lizzie Spalding, which was nothing to do with the quiz night)! were heard to say "We have no idea how we won either, I guess we just got lucky"! But, there's a twist in the tail, because The Flying Dogs were not the only lucky one's, they very generously returned their prize money back into the fund so, they won the quiz, but the Memorial Hall won the night!

Special thanks to Barbara & Bill Jackson, Debbie Hampson, all members of the Flying Dogs for returning their winnings, and everybody who helped and turned up, we might even make it an annual event. Either that or we do it every year!

John Parker



Would You Ride Over This Bridge?

It stands over 1000 feet high, is taller than the Eiffel Tower and if the weather is right (or wrong depending on which way you look at it) you are above the clouds as you cross it. Designed by Sir Norman Foster it crosses the Tarn Valley in south west France. No, not another quiz question, it's the Millau Bridge opened 4 years ago to prevent motorists heading to the south of France, and beyond, the inconvenience of going "around the valley", it also prevents the inevitable traffic jams in the summer months. This wouldn't bother "English Planners" naturally, they would just let us queue! But the French, well they did something about it.



I wanted to see this for myself, so together with my friend and biking companion Alan, plans were made. Motorcycles were going to be the transport of choice but the Bridge is over 700 miles from Tebworth, our BMW 1200's would do the job very nicely then, for those of you that know about bikes, one is a 1200 RT and the other an RS. They are comfortable, reliable, and come with a few useful extras such as cruise control, panniers for the luggage, one has SatNav, MP3 player and a phone. Alan's bike is a little older (but then so is he) but has done similar trips before, sometimes with his wife Angela as pillion. Angela by the way planned the trip for us as she lived in France for many years and knows the area well, she organised and booked the hotels so all we had to do was ride from one to the other not having to worry where we were going to stop. We may well be employing her services again!

On the evening of May 20th we headed for Dover for an overnight in the Premier Lodge a mile from the port, recommended if you are getting an early boat. We caught the 7.45 and had breakfast in Langans Brasserie on-board - very nice, if you don't mind £15 but it's good food and away from the queues in the self service area (Alan doesn't do "self service" as he doesn't understand it) and I have now decided that I don't either! Having someone do it all for you is far better, I must mention it to Suzan, my wife!

Once in Calais we headed south to the first stop which was Auxerre. The autoroutes in France are very good, and although there is a toll, they work well with no jams and only a few road works which hardly delayed us at all. With the cruise control set at 135 kph (the limit in the dry is 130) about 85 mph, no one will bother you. There are Gendarms about with their Subaru Impreza Turbo's and big BMW motorcycles but you have to be going quicker than us to attract their attention. There are a few speed cameras, mainly facing you so no problem for bikes as we don't have front number plates, more importantly they don't send the points or fines back to Blighty, at least not yet! One of our party was attempting to set a couple off just for fun but don't tell anybody!

Leaving Auxerre on Saturday morning we headed south to St. Flour. As the scenery changed to a more scenic Alpine mountainous vista and the roads got more winding, the temperature climbed, showing +34 degrees at one point. The next day, Sunday, we headed for the Bridge.

It is getting so popular that they are building a Visitor Centre to handle all the tourists! There is a climb up a small hill, I'm sure it was a mountain, to get to the Viewing Point, but it is worth the climb, even with 30 degree temperatures and biking gear on! At least I worked a few beers off.

Fuel can be difficult to get in France on a Sunday so we headed for the motorway service areas which are open and then cross country to Avignon.

The Monday was a rest day so we walked into town for a "cafe au lait" and then lunch, there's a big choice of restaurants in the town square competing for your business so prices are reasonable even with the Euro the way it is, but certainly not cheap.

Tuesday we started north, heading for our next stop Beaune, which is one of my favourite French towns, and the nicest hotel. The route took us through Lyon where we got the only rain of the week,. Don't go there, go another way, it's like the M25! From Beaune it was north cross country, avoiding the 'peage', to Rheims and cooler temperatures, (where is all the traffic in France??) nice place and only 300 kilometres from Calais, next overnight stop Arras and then back to Calais, didn't like Arras much, not a very attractive place but the food wasn't bad!

Finally back to Dover and home. With temperatures here reaching late twenties and the M25 - oh so slow, it was a drag but with nearly 1700 miles up, both bikes running impeccably and us enjoying the journey, tolerable. There are many

differences between motorcycling in France and here but one of the most obvious is that French drivers 'make a gap' for bikes, especially when we are filtering, in Britain they don't, often quite the contrary!

If you want to do a similar trip (you can go by car if you want!), you don't even need to speak French, just do what I do and 'gesture' or ring my wife and ask her what Pizza topping you have just ordered! Bikers are made welcome just about everywhere. The roads in France are a joy, some of the back roads we found were stunning, one just hanging off the side of a mountain, and we could have spent more time there but, there's always next year! Germany sounds good, but don't say anything until I mention it to the wife!



John Parker

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Gary Colnutt donated this photo of a small owl which was so tame it allowed him to take this close up photo of it sitting on a gate on the footpath leading down to Boggy Meadow.

Chalgrave Price Comparison

As the recession deepens I find myself turning into the archetypal Grumpy Old Woman. I have yelled abuse at the TV when 2 of the larger supermarket chains BOTH claim to be cheaper and ranted at my credit card bill that petrol stations may say its £1.019 but they charge me £1.02.

	Waitrose	Sainsburys	Morrisons	Asda	Tesco	Nisa
Milk	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.53	0.49
Cornflakes	1.95	1.94	1.94	1.95	1.94	2.09
80 Typhoo Teabags	1.89	1.97	1.97	1.97	1.53	1.79
400g McVitie Choc. Digestives	1.35	1.26	1.22	1.10	1.26	1.42
185g John West tuna in brine	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.00	1.38	1.49
Hovis Granary loaf	1.59	1.24	1.24	1.25	1.48	1.25
250g Anchor Butter	1.28	1.18	1.18	0.94	1.18	1.22
1 kg Tilda Basmati Rice	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49	2.49 (500gm)
Large fresh chicken/ kg	2.99	2.79	2.29	2.79	2.79	N/A
	17.37	16.70	16.16	15.94	16.58	

PETROL	Unleaded	Diesel
Morrisons Leighton Buzzard	101.9	102.9
Shell Leighton Buzzard	101.9	102.9
Total Leighton Buzzard	102.9	106.9
Tesco Leighton Buzzard	101.9	102.9
Tesco Dunstable	102.9	104.9
Sainsburys Dunstable	101.9	103.9
Toddinton Motorway services	108.9	111.9
BP Toddington	104.9	105.9

Restaurant Review Chez Jerome, Church st, Dunstable

Some of you might know it when it was an Italian Restaurant but has now changed hands and not for the first time I understand.

There was a nice variety of dishes to suit all tastes and the fish was as good as any I have eaten. French chef, French menu, but not French portions I was pleased to see. None of the "huge plate and miniscule servings" nonsense here.

The price? Well two of us had an aperitif (on the house) starter, main course, dessert, coffee and bottle of excellent house wine for £65.00.

The service too was excellent, although the restaurant was not busy. The waiter we had was very attentive without being 'fussy'.

No place is perfect and the down side was the restaurant itself. It needs a makeover. Why would anyone want to spoil one of the oldest buildings in Dunstable (I understand it is 15th Century) with Artex walls and ceilings when there are original oak beams and lots of character that could enhance the place.

If you want to check it out yourself it is on the internet where you can also view the menu. Parking is easy as there is a municipal car park adjacent which is free in the evenings. Yes we will be going back again and do think it is well worth a visit.

Let us know what you think if you try it!!

Bedfordshire's First Walking Festival

Only a few weeks to go before the Bedfordshire Walking Festival takes its first step. On 5-13 September over 60 walks will take place ranging from 1-3 mile Walks4Health, to Interest Rambles, to 5-7 mile half day walks to 12 mile full day walks to a 40 mile 3 day trip across Bedfordshire along the Greensand Ridge Path. The Festival makes use of Public transport wherever practical and in particular the Marston Vale Railway line on the first weekend which includes a special Sunday service.

Organiser Barry Ingram said "Offering such a variety gives an opportunity for people of almost all ages and abilities to participate. We want to welcome and encourage individuals and groups from all races colours and creeds, as walking is a healthy activity recommended by Doctors, Health Professionals and Government. This Festival, with several walks each day, most being free, and allowing people to just turn up is an ideal way of getting started"

The Festival is county wide because Bedfordshire has an excellent network of footpaths the vast majority well maintained and well marked. The North of the County is likened to "The Wolds". The Middle offers excellent views and woodland whilst the South is hillier and more challenging. The Countryside along with some interesting Towns, Villages and Estates plus two important waterways means Bedfordshire has much to offer the walker.

Available www.bedswalkfest.co.uk or via local Tourist Information Centres or by Telephoning 01234 353704 (Office Hours Mon-Fri 9-00am to 6-00pm).

The Bedfordshire Walking Festival is organised by Barry Ingram on behalf of The Ramblers Bedfordshire Area. Contact 01234 353704 or email walking@madasafish.com

Chalgrave Village Games

In spite of gloomy predictions from the weathermen Saturday 27 June was gloriously hot and sunny. In time honoured tradition we started, almost on time, with various local dogs putting their owners through their paces, tails were wagged, sausages eaten and the dogs retired for a well earned rest.



The Games followed, wellie wanging was eventful scoring direct hits on the



pottery stall, the BBQ, a village hall window and local resident, Kay Napier.

Visitors were kept well fed and watered with tea & cake in the



Games



kitchen, beer tent, Pimms and BBQ all doing a good trade.



A new addition this year was live music provided by Jo & Frankie.

Madam Zola sadly could not be with us this year (unforeseen circumstances perhaps ?) but all the usual stalls were there to be enjoyed.



Community awards were presented to Ron Harris and Imogen Parry.

Prizes were presented to Sarah Kingham & Kay Napier for decorated cakes, Denise Boyd for her flower arrangement, Charlotte Kerr & Ken Green for their postcards.

The Limerick competition was won by Caitlin Barratt & Sue Leuty.



Games

The big moment arrived and it was time for the water sports, very welcome given the temperature with even some of the adults having a go.



The day would not be possible without a number of people so thanks to Paul Whitton & Dan Osborn for building the pool for the water games and Roger Costin for supplying the safety bales at the rifle range, to Lesley & Tony Smith for the Dog Show, The Dunstable Colts for Beat the Goalie and to the long suffering families of the committee who get roped in to help.



We also have a number of sponsors providing finance & prizes.

It was a wonderful day and the biggest vote of thanks must go to Barbara Jackson & Su Parker for organising it.



Rogation Sunday

The day of the Rogation Walk dawned cold and grey. When we arrived at The Queens Head for a 10am start it was drizzling, by the time we started off it was pouring and I quickly discovered that my waterproof jacket needed reproofing.

Shortly after we left Hockliffe the sun came out and gently steaming we continued round the Parish. Sadly we did not have any children with us this year and as the youngest member of the party was bigger than me I was not going to suggest beating his head on the boundary markers. As we approached our favourite stream we found that the trees whose branches usually aid our crossing had been cut down and muddy scramble ensued, one backpack and one aging father were inadvertently dropped in the stream. Our intrepid leader then reappeared having discovered a much easier and drier crossing.

Onwards to The Fancott for light refreshment, I had to drop out after lunch as Aging Father was not prepared to risk being thrown in any more streams but the rest of the group continued on and finished the walk in the afternoon sunshine.

Thanks as always to Ken Green for leading the walk and look forward to seeing you there next year

Back by Popular Demand!

A repeat evening with the Shambles Brass Band is being negotiated for the end of this year. This friendly and talented group of musicians have entertained us twice before and both evenings proved to be very successful. Watch the notice boards and look out for their advertisement in the next Chalgrave News.



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Letters to the Editor

Community Allotment scheme

I was heartened to hear of this scheme and congratulate those responsible for the "dig for victory" spirit that it recalls. It was so British to see what thought went into ensuring fair play for all in allocating fair distribution according to the length of time residents have resided in the village.

Not to be outdone it has come to my notice that Roger Masters has entered into the spirit of this scheme and has volunteered his garden for further

cultivation of crops.

I understand that level 1-3 villagers should apply in triplicate first and "old villagers" i.e. those who no one can remember when their grandparents moved to the village, should feel free to come and dig up his garden any time of day or night.

Well done Roger! Britain needs people like you in our time of strife.

Ken Green

Origin of the West Family Trust

Francis West, by will dated 31 March 1690, directed £400 to be laid out in land, the rents thereof to be equally divided amongst the poor of Chalgrave and Hockliffe, to enable them to put their children to school, with a conditional gift over for testator's poor relations. The legacy was laid out in the purchase of lands in Simpson, Bucks., in lieu of which 33 acres, or thereabouts, were allotted in 1766 on the inclosure in that parish, producing about £32 a year, which under an order of the Charity Commissioners of 4 April 1905 was determined to be wholly applicable for educational purposes, and is carried to the general account of the National school at Chalgrave, which is also attended by the children of Hockliffe. (fn. 82)

In 1833 James Read, by will, bequeathed £500 consols (held by the official trustees), the dividends amounting to £12 10s. to be applied in the distribution of coal on twelve Saturdays immediately after Christmas. In 1908 14 tons 15 cwt. of coals, cartage and management free were distributed among the poor.

From: 'Parishes: Chalgrave with Tebworth and Wingfield', *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3*

The West Trust Charity - applications

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

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

Ken Green has asked us to share the contents of his letter to the Luton and South Beds Council.

1 The Lane
Tebworth
Beds. LU7 9QB
5 June 2009

Luton and South Bedfordshire
Joint Technical Unit
Regis House
960 Capability Green
Luton LU1 3PE

Core Strategy Preferred Options

Dear Sirs

This seems to have a momentum of its own! It starts from the premise that we must build masses of houses in south Bedfordshire and then tries to justify it by inventing job forecasts and infrastructure plans that may never happen.

This requirement was initiated by John Prescott, carried on by Hazel Blears, and now we have two consultation processes going on simultaneously by two different bodies that we, the taxpayers are paying for:- The Shape Your Future core strategy, and the East of England implementation plan.

From the very start all consultation has been on the basis of **where, not if**, the houses should be built.

If you want it to be truly sustainable please start from what the growth in population and jobs might realistically be in South Bedfordshire and then decide how many houses we need and where they should best be located.

Central government and Central Bedfordshire Council keep stating that they want local decision making yet they ignore our pleas to save the green belt and stop concreting over South Bedfordshire.

I find the Green Belt issue particularly mendacious. The whole point of green belt was to limit expansion up to a boundary and to create a green belt between urban settlements, a very successful policy that has served us all well.

You are very well aware that a very large amount of green belt will go under your plans yet you say **"small scale reviews of the green belt boundary on the edge of rural settlements may be required."**

You are also aware that Hazel Blears famously stated on Any Questions **"I've tried to be as clear and unequivocally as I can be and so the current protections for the**

green belt will remain". When he took office Gordon Brown pledged : **"I assure the House that we will continue robustly to protect the land designated as Green Belt" and his Downing Street spokesman promising: "Green Belt land will stay as Green Belt land. Yes, we can give you an assurance that we will not build on Green Belt land."**

I am against the huge number of houses planned per se and am convinced that even at this late stage it is not inevitable that that number will be built.

I specifically object to the development northwards from Houghton Regis and Dunstable between the A5 and A5120

I have always been content with the process of growth plans made locally. It is very clear that we need some housing, mainly low cost both for sale and local authority rented accommodation. We simply don't need anything like the scale being demanded by Central Government who make a point of stressing that it wants to listen to local peoples views.

The local parish councils both individually and through the joint bodies of GAPP and BCPC have been tireless in pointing out the folly of this policy as have Cllr Rhys Goodwin, now retired, and of course our MP Andrew Selous.

The policy of imposing this degree of housing is ill-advised and illogical. It stresses sustainability but the present density is hardly sustainable. Every day it will take 20-30 minutes to get up Bidwell Hill at certain times and the same to get to Dunstable through the A5 chalk cutting. The plan shows a swathe of houses in this area to be built even before the A5 M1 link road. It is the same with public transport. The rail links are presently running over capacity. They cannot expand services to cope with the inevitable increase in commuting.

Why are these houses needed?

It is very clear that this growth is not for natural local growth or to cater for expanding employment. It is pure fantasy to suggest that building houses will magically produce employment in the area. So who is going to live in these houses? Not the existing community but commuters.

By copy I ask Central Bedfordshire as a new authority, with today a new council, to take the opportunity to make their mark and to do all they can to convince Central Government that this is not a wise plan and protect our environment both for present and for future generations. Please consider taking it to Judicial Review. Herts CC have done and who it seems have won their case

Yours sincerely

Ken Green

Copy Andrew Selous MP, EEDA, Central Bedfordshire Council, Chalgrave Parish Council, GAPP, BCPC, Rhys Goodwin

Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition

Once again the parish has entered this competition. The judging took place in mid May.

Hang on a minute!?! Why is the parish entering a competition for a village!?! (I hear you ask!)

Well the reason is that with our entire parish only consisting of around 200 homes it was decided to treat the parish as one village, which was accepted by the judges.

Calor Gas sponsors the competition but the judging is undertaken by the Beds Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

Four judges attended our 2 hour presentation which took place in the Queens Head - the village hall was at that time in use by the MacIntyre Homes organisation (who care for people with learning disabilities).

The judging panel enjoying some light freshments in the photo are:-

Geoffrey Farr - a patron of the BRCC. Janet Ridge - BRCC Chief Executive.



Judy Robinson - Chair of BRCC's Board and Jemma McClean-Field - BRCC Field Officer.

Organising our parish entry were Ken Green and Tony Cornes, backed up by a great team of residents representing the various organisations in the parish.

Tony started the presentation with a brief introduction of all present and then Ken gave a potted history of the parish.



This was followed by presentations from Colin Edwin on behalf of the Queens Head and Roger Burdon on behalf of the Plough.

Also in the picture is Sue Luety who together with others helped prepare and serve the refreshments.

Sue Parker (who can be seen with her daughter)

then spoke on behalf of the Memorial Hall followed by Larry Ryan (standing) on behalf of Chalgrave Church. Ken Green presented on behalf of the Parish Council followed by Lyn Green representing firstly the Senior Citizens Committee and then with a quick

switch of hats the Book Club.

In between Ken and Lyn's presentations

Roger Burdon spoke as Chairman of Chalgrave Sports Club.

The final 3 presentations were made by Ken Green on Footpaths & the Heritage Trail followed by Tony Cornes speaking on behalf of the Chalgrave News and then the West Trust.

There followed a short question and answer session before the judges were led onto



Malcolm Skevington's wonderful 1939 bus which he has been restoring for the past 5 years and is one of only 7 known of its type remaining in the world, but the only one which is still road worthy. If this does not win us prize then nothing will!!!

We set off along the Wingfield



Road and stopped at Signs of the Times where Lyndie Lothian gave the judges a short tour of the business during which she informed the judges that it has employed in excess of 50 local parish residents over the years.

Next stop was the Memorial Hall and the children's play area followed by a quick look at the Chalgave Sports Club in Wingfield.

As we approached the Memorial Hall Derek Smith was waiting to demonstrate the parish road speed sign (purchased by the parish council some time ago). Unfortunately despite Derek reducing the speed activation level to 20 mph we were travelling at less than this speed in the bus and so the sign did not activate! However several nearby residents came over to Derek and requested that the sign be used along this stretch of the Wingfield/Tebworth Road in the future, as it is plagued by speeding vehicles, and when Derek had the sign at its usual 30mph level he noted a number of vehicles going by well in excess of the speed limit. Derek has confirmed that he will add this location to his speed monitoring schedule.

On the way to the church the judges were shown the Heritage Trail information board opposite the Plough. Peter Freeman met us all at Chalgrave Church and the judges were suitably impressed when they entered the church.

The final stop off point was the village pond in Tebworth and this concluded the 2 hour presentation and the judges departed.

A great big thank you to all who took part in the event and in particular to Colin for providing the venue on his day off.

Chalgrave Sports Club

Annual Festival of Cricket Competition



The annual 10/10 cricket competition took place on Sunday 14th June which turned out to be a gloriously sunny day, perfect for playing or just watching cricket.

The sports ground in Wingfield had a very festive look to it with gazebos, tents, bar, B.B.Q, and plenty of spectators and players enjoying the day.

The rules of the competition are that each side play each other once in a league with the top two teams going on to play in the grand final.

Annual Festival of Cricket Competition - Continued

Each game consists of 20 overs with each team having one innings of a maximum of 10 overs. Points are awarded to the winning team of each game but there are also bonus points available to both teams.

The draw for the league stage of the competition took place at 10.30 in the morning by which time the B.B.Q. was well underway serving breakfast to both players and spectators alike and it was early evening by the time the final took to the field.



Teams representing The Plough Wingfield, The Vic Dunstable, Toddington and Dunstable Road Runners took part in the league stage of the competition with Toddington and The Plough qualifying for the final.

Congratulations to Toddington on winning the final by 17 runs.
Toddington 86 for 1 wicket The Plough 69 for 5 wickets

A very enjoyable day was had by both players, organisers and spectators.

Well done to all who took part.



Full details can be found at www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

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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

Are we nearly there yet??



How many times, as parents have we heard the dreaded phrases

Are we nearly there? Is it much further? I need the toilet!!!

Travelling with kids is a nightmare - or is it?

Most journeys involve long boring trips on motorways, endless traffic jams, and families 'packed' along with everything including the kitchen sink in hot stuffy cars.

But you can be made a easier with a little planning ahead. (One option would be to leave the kids behind!!!)

A few do's and don'ts.....

Do take plenty of cold drinks- kids get thirsty very quickly in the heat but be careful not to give drinks that make them hypo-active (a not a good idea in a car!)

If they are lucky enough to have DVD players find a 'new' film that they

haven't seen before and save it for the hols. But don't rely on them to 'just' watch films.

Kids love car games! Search out some new ones." I spy" becomes boring very quickly. Always play as a family- mum and dad too. A brilliant website for ideas is www.netmums.com not only for travelling but for things to do during the holidays.

Don't give kids a bag full of sweets at the start of the journey. Better to ration them out or make them 'prizes' for the games you play along the way.

Try to stop as often as possible. Even pull off the motorways and have a picnic so the kids can let off steam - it is well worth the delay.

"I need the toilet" can be quite a problem if you are stuck in a traffic jam on a motorway (with nowhere to go)! An empty baby milk tin or old paint tin (2.5 litre size with sealable lids make a great portaloos to keep in the car and you can store the loo roll in it 'til it's needed. It is not so embarrassing to empty at the next service area as a potty either!!

Make sure kids that suffer with travel sickness have the prescribed medication at the right time.

Have a great time. Happy Holidays!!
Nurse Shona Mercy

The Plough

The Plough has now got a new addition - a plough on the ridge line made from thatch and wire. This was completed when we had to have the ridge renewed and has become quite a talking point.

In dominoes we were runners up in the Barton league, just failing to secure our third successive league title. However, we did win the gallon cup and Jean Donnelly and Pauline Bowers won the ladies doubles trophy.



A strong finish in the Amptill dominoes league was to no avail as we finished outside the top two but landlord Roger won the captain's cup for the second year running and landlady Theresa was runner up in the Landlords cup. Jean Donnelly also won the trophy for the best player in the league having won more games than anyone else.

The crib season is well underway and at the moment we are in second place and hoping to maintain our recent good form to enable us to win the league for the first time. There is still quite a way to go yet so fingers crossed! We have unfortunately just been knocked out of the cup competition so as they say this will allow us to concentrate on the league!

Anyone interested in playing crib or dominoes please contact Roger at The Plough.

Our first cricket match against Toddington was cancelled due to bad weather. Net practice is on Wednesday evenings at the sports ground in Wingfield and anyone interested in taking part should meet at the ground at approx. 6.30pm and see Nev. Andrews.

The Whist and Tipple card school on Thursday nights go from strength to strength and is an enjoyable evening. New players always welcome.

The quiz evening which is held on alternate Tuesday nights is still very popular and anyone wishing to take part in the quiz (teams of 4) will be very welcome just come along for the 9pm start.

Roger Burdon



Election Special

June 4th saw many of us heading for the village hall to vote in the European and Central Bedfordshire elections. The turnout compared to that across the country was very good with around 50% of those eligible to vote doing so.

European Election Result

5 MEP seats available and voting was conducted under the proportional representative ballot method

Votes cast for the top 4 parties -

Conservatives	28855
UKIP	14183
Liberal Democrats	9786
Labour	6079

Conservatives given 3 MEP's with Liberal Democrats and Labour both given 1 MEP seat each.

MEP names and parties -

Conservatives -

Christopher Beazley - Geoffrey Van Orden - Richard Sturdy

Liberal Democrat - Andrew Duff

Labour - Richard Howitt

Central Bedfordshire Election Result

This was the first election for the new Central Bedfordshire Council and so every council seat was being contested across the former Mid Beds and South Beds council areas.

The parish of Chalgrave comes under the Toddington Ward where there were two seats available.

Continued on page 43

- ◆ If you receive an email from the Department of Health telling you not to eat pork because of swine flu, ignore it it's just spam.
- ◆ The only known cure for swine flu is to apply an oinkment.
- ◆ The first sign of pig flu is that you come out in rashers.

Central Bedfordshire Election Result - Continued

Votes cast for the 2 winning candidates -

Tom Nicols	Conservative	1188
Norman Costin	Conservative	1139

3rd place went to Ian Shingler Independent with 677 votes.

There were 8 candidates in all and the bottom two places were both taken by the Labour candidates with only 166 & 147 votes each.

The make up of the new Central Bedfordshire Council is as follows -

Conservatives	54 seats
Liberal Democrats	11 seats
Independent	1 seat

Amazingly the Labour party did not win one seat on the new council!

Chalgrave Parish Council

As there were no new candidates putting themselves forward to serve on our parish council and all existing councillors agreed to continue there was no need for a parish council election on this occasion.

More information on our parish council in the next issue.

Crime in the Parish

As we all know Chalgrave is generally a very low crime parish but it has come to our attention that this year a number of surrounding villages have had thefts of garden and farm equipment and we have regretfully suffered the same. Both the church and the memorial hall have had lawn mowers stolen and there have been 2 further thefts in Wingfield that we know of.

Can we remind all residents to make sure that all gardening and garden equipment of any value is kept out of sight of the road and locked away in a safe place to deter these thieves who drive around the countryside on the lookout for easy pickings.

Also we strongly recommend that you check you home insurance policy to make sure that all your garden equipment is fully insured - if in doubt contact your insurance company.

One of the editorial team has just spoken to his insurer and discovered that as he had not specified various garden items when taking out his policy these were not covered under the terms of his policy. However when he gave details to the insurance company they happily covered the items at no extra cost!

Please don't just assume you are covered.

Take action now to check. It only takes one phone call!

Tribute to Bill 'Scoop' Archer

William Desmond Archer

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Bill's death (age 80) in early June after a long illness and all the Chalgrave News team send our sincere condolences to his wife Pat and family.

Many of us first met Bill when he joined the Memorial Hall committee many years ago and he became a very valued member of the committee bringing in a number of good ideas particularly in practical matters when work needed doing to the fabric of the hall.

He had considerable input into the design and fitting out of the new village hall when it was built in 2000, particularly the stage and changing room areas, so when you next look at the stage think of Bill.

Bill really came into his own each year when the old Village Concerts were running and then later with the Music Hall Shows and of course the village games.

He was an expert at designing and making both props and scenery for these shows. No challenge was too difficult for him to take on. Want a nose for Pinocchio that must get longer throughout the sketch or the deck of HMS Victory that moved from side to side or any other seemingly impossible prop? Bill would come up with it in no time and it would always work.

The most memorable prop Bill created must be the Noddy & Big Ears car that is still talked about to this day. The challenge was for Bill to build a car that would sit two adults playing Noddy & Big Ears but the car must gradually fall apart bit by bit. The climax of the act was for smoke to appear from the engine and then the car to explode in pieces. Oh! and the car had to be able to be put back together as it was needed for 3 separate performances! When we put this to Bill we thought it an impossible task but to our absolute amazement a short time later he came up with a car made out of cardboard that fulfilled all our criteria but was also an exact replica of Noddy's famous car and it worked perfectly over each of its 3 performances!

Bill also appeared on stage on occasions when he could be persuaded.



It is not an exaggeration to say that without Bill's contribution the village concerts in particular would not have been as good and enjoyable as they turned out.

Bill was also a member of the Senior Citizens Committee and then when the Chalgrave News started up in 2001 became 'Scoop Archer' reporting and commenting on Parish Council Meetings in his own unique style.

Although everyone knew Bill as 'Bill' it was only a few months ago that we discovered that to his family he has always been known as 'Des' and when we asked him how this had come about he said that when he first joined the memorial hall committee someone called him Bill and so he just let everyone else use Bill rather than Des! This must have been quite confusing for his wife Pat when people phoned up asking to speak to Bill!

Bill was one of those increasingly rare people who wanted to get involved with the village community and was a good friend to all who knew him.

He will be sadly missed not only by his family but also by all of us who became his friends and have happy memories of working with him on the various voluntary ventures we were all involved with.

Our thoughts are with Pat and family.

The Editorial Team of the Chalgrave News.

Harlington Gardeners' and W.I. Annual Show

Saturday 29th August is the date of the *Gardeners' and the Women's Institute Annual Show* in Harlington. This show combines all that's best about the gardening world and Harlington. And it's open to all to attend so why not treat yourself to a day out.

We're in the Village Hall opposite the Carpenters' Arms in the centre of the village. If you are driving we are 5 minutes from Junction 12 of the M1, LU5 6LS.

Home-made cream teas and raffle.

Doors open at 2pm.

Tickets: 50 pence adults, accompanied children free.

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal Problems Resolved with a Smile

My dear readers, as many of you will know I have been very active in trying to get our Government to allow those wonderful retired Ghurkha soldiers, who have given so much to this country over the years, to live the rest of their lives in Great Britain.

I have been working 24 hours a day, 7 days a year for the past 3 years on this project which I know has the support of many residents in our parish. One resident told me a true story of how during the First World War their grandfather was fighting against the Turks and his company were ordered to capture a hill from the Turks who held the top of the hill. Over several days and nights the British tried but failed to take the hill with great losses.

Grandfather's company were told to advance once more up the hill in darkness but once more they were pinned down by Turkish firepower. Unable to advance any further grandfather took cover about halfway up the hill and awaited further orders.

He was startled when a short time later he felt someone grab his foot and then his neck. A voice asked him if he was British. It was a Ghurkha. Satisfied they were both on the same side the Ghurkha and his fellow Ghurkhas crawled onwards towards the top of the hill armed only with their knives.

By the morning the Ghurkhas had captured the hill!

You will no doubt have seen that I have had some assistance in my efforts from my good friend Joanna Lumley to whom I gave a few minor tasks to complete. Earlier this year I handed in to 10 Downing Street the petition that you all signed with just over one million signatures.

Unfortunately not one of the million people who signed my petition spotted a computer spell-check error!!!

The petition should have read 'We the undersigned demand that the present unfair ban on Ghurkhas being allowed into Great Britain should immediately be lifted'.

What the petition actually said was 'We the undersigned demand that the present unfair ban on Gherkins being allowed into Great Britain should immediately be lifted'.

Downing Street have written to me to say that they were not aware that there was a ban on the importing of Gherkins but just to be on the safe side as there is obviously such strong feeling in the country they will immediately be bringing out a new law authorising the import of Gherkins without any restrictions!!!

Until our next issue 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	Central Beds Unitary Council	01582 472222
	Councillor Norman Costin	874232
County Council	Bedfordshire County Council	01234 363222
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
	Mick McDonagh	873012