

## A note from the *New Chalgrave News* Team

As you know from previous editions of the News, the current Editorial Team, consisting of Roger, Lyndie, Mick and Tony, feel it is time to step down and hand over the reins to a new team. We are happy to report that there are a number of willing volunteers who are happy to pick up the baton and run with it.

Let us introduce ourselves. We are Woodlands residents Barbara Jackson and Su Parker, many of you will already be familiar with them due to their sterling work on the Chalgrave Hall Committee and organisation of the Chalgrave Games. Also Emma Gray, a fellow Woodlander and current stay at home mum with time on her hands, and Richard Masters, who may contribute.

We hope that, together with the help and invaluable support of the previous team, we can continue the spirit of the Chalgrave News that you currently enjoy, but also bring some new perspectives and ideas.

As has been previously documented, in order to maintain a magazine for the Parish, as well as cold hard cash, we would welcome contributions from the community. If you have a story, items you'd like to see featured, a comment on previous articles – good or bad, or you would like to advertise in the News, then please let us know.

Contact details for the new team are detailed in the 'Useful Contacts' section at the back of this edition.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Roger, Lyndie, Mick and Tony for all their efforts and achievements over the past years in bringing us a magazine that not only raised a smile but also reported on all that is important to us in this community.

### **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

*Don't forget to look out for Santa doing his rounds on his festive float on 20 December.*

*(PS: Adult volunteers much appreciated to help collect donations on Santa's visits. If you would like to help, please contact Roger Masters. Half of the proceeds will be donated to the Senior Citizens of the Parish).*

# 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
- ◆ New Year's Eve party at  
the Memorial Hall — see  
advertisement on page 28
- ◆ Father Christmas visits to  
Chalgrave with Rotary  
Sunday evening  
20 December



Front cover - Turkeys are for Christmas !

*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

### A Merry Christmas to all our readers.

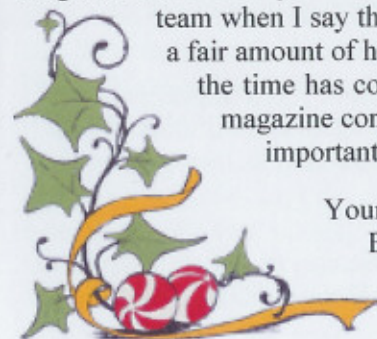
This is a time of both joy and a little sadness for your editorial team as this is the last issue of the Chalgrave News that we will be producing, but the good news is that a new editorial team is taking over and so the Chalgrave News will continue in 2010.

It was in 2001 when Lyndie, Roger, Frances and Tony got together and came up with the idea to produce a new quarterly parish magazine. The biggest problem was how to fund the magazine, which we had decided was to be in full colour so that we could include photo's of local events. We also decided that the magazine would be delivered free to every home in the parish and that we would not seek funding from our parish council. Applications for grants were made to several organisations, including the National Lottery, with phone calls and visits made to local business premises touting for firms to advertise in the new magazine. Then an amazing offer came to us from an anonymous benefactor who offered to cover all the costs of producing the magazine for 2 years to give us time to establish both the magazine content and raise monies for future issues. Looking back at those early days, without our benefactors help the magazine would probably never got off the ground. Shortly after the first issues had been produced and Mick joined the editorial team. I am sure you will all remember those first magazines. They were in A4 size and full colour, and each one had a free CD with it! We have always tried to have a variety of opinions in the magazine articles with a mixture of information, news, views - both serious and light hearted. After 2 years we had raised sufficient monies from various events and grants to be able to purchase our own printer which enabled us to print the magazine ourselves. Each issue would see us round at Lyndie's house stapling the magazine together while at the same time drinking a few bottles of wine. Over the following years Jackie, Jo and Jo, Bill plus Debbie and Paul joined the magazine team in various capacities and over 30 issues of the magazine have been produced. I am sure that I speak for all the Chalgrave News

team when I say that it has been a tremendous amount of fun (as well as a fair amount of hard work!) producing the magazine but we feel that the time has come when we need to bring in some new ideas to the magazine content in order to keep it interesting and more importantly to keep it going over the years ahead.

Your new editorial team so far comprises of  
Emma Gray, Barbara Jackson & Su Parker.

A of course all the former editorial team will be



there to help out if needed as our main aim is to keep what we feel is a valuable parish resource, which we know many residents look forward to reading in order to keep up-to-date with what is going on both in and around the parish.

So from the past editorial team we say goodbye and hope that you will support the new editorial team in their efforts for the future.

If anyone would like to help the new team please contact Emma Gray 877377 who will be pleased to hear from you.

## Chairman's Report

### From the Parish Council....

**Tebworth Pond.** We have received a small grant from the Greensand Trust towards some work on the pond in Tebworth (also known as the Great Pond). We are also liaising with Parkfields School and will have pupils from Year Seven helping us as part of a science project. They will work alongside the Greensand Trust and local residents to remove reeds and encourage water back into the pond. We are grateful to residents living close to the pond for their involvement.

**Fly tipping.** This is a continual problem for this Parish. If you see anything suspicious please report it to the police or to a member of the Parish Council. Make a note of registration numbers of vehicles – the police will always follow up.

**Frank Griffin.** We will be positioning a bench in The Lane in memory of Frank. It will also be a way of 'celebrating' all the work he put into the Parish over many, many years. We will be commissioning a plaque to put onto the bench.

**Central Beds. Councillor Tom Nicols.** Parishioners have expressed an interest in talking to one of our Central Beds Councillors about their views on some of the key concerns in our community. Cllr. Nicols has agreed to meet us – a date will be arranged.

**Winter gritting.** We have begun our annual campaign to get all the main roads in the Parish gritted - especially Chalgrave Road.



**New Parish Councillor.** By the time you read this we will have co-opted a new Parish Councillor. We have had fantastic applications. It would have been great to co-opt them all, but we are limited to a Parish Council of seven. We sincerely hope that all of them will get involved in Parish activities.

**Precept.** The precept is the annual amount you pay as part of your Council Tax towards the work of the Parish Council. To keep our funds in a healthy position we will be increasing the precept for 2010/11. The increase will mean an additional £1.49 per electorate for the year. Nearly 50% of the precept goes directly back into our community in the form of grants and awards. A proportion of the rest goes into the running of the Council which includes insurance, office expenses and the Clerk's salary. We also set some money aside as a reserve fund for the unexpected. If you would like to see the accounts they are available via the Clerk. You have a very active Parish Council. We are all involved in many activities, projects and committees – all of which are to benefit our community.

**Talk to us.** We would really like hear your comments and concerns about any of the issues that may concern our Parish. Either speak to a councillor (our telephone numbers will be in this issue) or come to one of our meetings.

**Finally.** We wish you a merry Christmas and very happy New Year.

*Phil Parry*

## Shambles

### Saturday 28 November

Well another great success Thank you all who came and supported another wonderful night of Big Band music at the memorial Hall. We raised almost enough to print an issue.

Another blend of old standards and some new numbers kept the audience entertained and even on their feet dancing in the aisle (well the space between the tables).

Special thanks as always to Hepworth Catering for a wonderful Buffet.



## 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.

### Christmas Services

- ◆ Christmas Tree Festival at St George's - 10-13 Dec with Carols midst the Trees at 5pm on 13th.
- ◆ CTTC Carols on the Green in Toddington Mon 14th Dec
- ◆ Carols by Candlelight - Chalgrave Sat 19th Dec 7.30
- ◆ Childrens Nativity Workshop Sun 20th Dec followed by Nativity Play at 2.30pm - Wilkinson Hall Toddington (please contact Tania Stanford if your child would like to take part - 873879
- ◆ 9 Lessons and Carols - Toddington Sun 20th Dec 6pm
- ◆ Crib Service - Toddington 24th Dec 4pm
- ◆ Christmas Eve - midnight Mass at Chalgrave 11.45 (The Rector will preach and preside).
- ◆ Christmas Eve - midnight Mass at Toddington 11.15 (The Rev'd Liz Hughes will preach and preside).
- ◆ Christmas Day - No services at Chalgrave. Services at Toddington - Holy Communion (BCP) 8am and Sung Christmas Eucharist at 10am
- ◆ 27th Dec 8am (BCP) at Toddington. No 11am service at Toddington, but joint Eucharist at Chalgrave 9.30am

## From the Rector of All Saints Church

— The Rev Anne Crawford —

When I sat down to write this article I had one purpose in mind : to focus our attention totally on the *real* meaning of Christmas. In this secular age it's so easy for people to forget the real message amid all the usual seasonal stresses and strains. It's especially tempting for clergy to get carried away with a sense of panic and the liturgical worries of the season: will there be more communicants this year than last? Will the processional candles arrive in time for the Crib service? Will we have enough hymn books and service sheets; how many well-oiled (!) people will come streaking into church looking for a warm pew and good singsong (and in one church I attended on Xmas Eve we did have a stalker run down the aisles!)? Will people treat our church and our beliefs with the respect they deserve? We church people let these problems obsess us, when really we should all try to remember that the real meaning of Christmas is to be found in parties and presents, in going to the pictures and ice-skating, in eating too much chocolate and lounging about in front of the telly. Christmas is about the simple pleasures of the festive season, so often underrated. Christmas is a time for family and friends, for having fun and being a little over the top, it's the season to be jolly; above all it's about giving and getting.

Am I being serious? Oh yes, absolutely. Christians have a very bad reputation for making life dull and boring, for being goody-two-shoes and far too pious for their own good, or anyone else's come to that. Putting it very simply the real meaning of Christmas truly is all about gifts and parties, about being generous and loving, and about enjoying the life that God has given to us. Christmas *is* all about presents, about gift-giving and receiving, because this is what Jesus is: God's free, generous and totally over-the-top gift to us.

Jesus came to us as a tiny, vulnerable human being, and he grew up to live a life just like ours with all it's tears and smiles, it's joy and it's pain. To say that Christ isn't present in our 21<sup>st</sup> century Christmases is a truly pitiful thing to say, because if we truly believe that God created all that is, then surely Christ is *in* everything. The Angel who visited Joseph in a dream referred to Jesus as Emmanuel – which means 'God with us', God as one with us, in the good bits and the bad, the churchy bits and the unchurchy, God breathing his divine presence into our human hearts and souls so that we might eventually grow to be like him, to be loving and generous and accepting human beings who see the face of Christ reflected back to us in every human being we encounter, whether they be Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim, atheist, humanist, man or woman, young or old, gay or straight. The fact that we don't notice God or see him in the world around us, and in the faces of the people who share the world with us, especially at Christmas, is our fault, not His. God is beside us every step of the way, all through our lives, the good bits and the bad bits – but it's up to us to make the effort to recognise him and develop our relationship

with him so that we are better able to see acknowledge his presence with us. Christmas is a gift from God for everyone, and we unwrap Jesus afresh each year as we prepare to celebrate the festive season. His love is new yet unchanging, we receive His love, and we give it to others, though it may be disguised when we share it, under wrapping paper or simply an enormous turkey or a plateful of mince pies. And Parties are important, because Christmas is all about celebration and joy because of what God has done. It is about giving and sharing love with others, just as God has done with us.



So don't let anyone tell you that the real meaning of Christmas is being buried under all this frivolous jollity: in this there lurks the real meaning of the festival we celebrate. Through the birth of that little baby Jesus, God reveals Himself to us, he shows us what He is really like. But this action of God's, this thing that theologians call 'revelation', is not nearly as explosive as we often assume.

No-one noticed Jesus, except some shepherds (the lowest of the low, outcasts in Palestinian society, considered too unclean and untrustworthy to even worship in the temple) and some New-Age traveller astrologer-types from a foreign (the translation literally means 'God-forsaken') country. More crucially, this easy-to-miss revelation could not have happened without us: specifically in this case a northern provincial girl in her early teens, called Mary, acting on our behalf.

And this is how God always reveals Himself: gently and tenderly, so that you have to look hard, and with an open, generous mind; he reveals himself unexpectedly, in a direction you may have missed; and his revelations always come with the willing co-operation of His creation, through people (often the most unlikely people) praying over bread and wine, or prayerfully writing stories and prayers about God, or dishing out Xmas dinner to 2,000 homeless children in London on Xmas Day, or helping an elderly resident in a care home to shave in the morning, or by saying a warm hello to the stranger at the bus stop, or even just saying 'yes' to terrifying angels.

Christmas is about joy and about presents; it is about God's love for all that He made and it's about his desire to make life for us as perfect as it can be. Christmas shows us what God is always like, and how He always acts: so let's rejoice, and break open the champagne!

Have a Merry Christmas – and in good pantomime tradition, that's a command, not a wish.

Anne

## Children in Need Appeal—21 November

There was a fantastic evening of live entertainment at The Queens Head on Saturday 21st November, most of the local live entertainers were there all giving their time and talent for free, the whole thing was the brainchild of Mr Harry Howden guitarist extraordinaire and his wife Mary and the idea was eagerly accepted by Colin your very own landlord. Harry then rounded up his musical mates and cajoled them into appearing that evening at the Queens Head, the fact that some of them left their respective 'gigs' early so they could get to our



If the devil could only cast his net now

pub to help raise some money is testament to the success of the venture and the persuasive talents of Harry in particular. Sales of the CD that they had made especially for the occasion, went very well. (It can still be purchased for £5 just ask Colin) as did the raffle, so all in all, as you can see from the picture, over £650 was raised for this very worthwhile cause.

Well done to everyone involved.

## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve?

Black mail!

How many chimney does Father Christmas go down?

Stacks!

How do you make an idiot laugh on boxing day?

Tell him a joke on Christmas Eve!

Why is Santa like a bear on Christmas Eve?

Because he's Sooty!



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## ***THE HIGHLAND BOGGET***

Rumours are correct - myself and my wife Shona Mercy are emigrating to South West Scotland .

After 40 years of hunting and fishing in Scotland I have been contracted to preserve the Scottish wildlife by the Scottish Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Bogget Protection Society as their Chief Ranger.

Now, to you who are 'townies', the Scottish Bogget is very similar to our native hedgehog, slightly larger and more hairy.

Their stronghold is mainly the high ground in Central Scotland, but the shorter legged variety can now be found in the Annan Dales, Border Esk and Nith Area, mainly due to climate change and flooding in these valleys as the Shorter Bogget can not swim.

The Bogget has been hunted in Scotland for many years mainly with terriers who flush them out. Then they are killed with a bogget stick (similar to an Irish shillelagh).

With the increase in game consumption - thanks to Waitrose, Asda and Tesco, The Bogget which produces the famous haggis just as pigs produce bacon ,deer produce venison and herrings produce kippers

The poet Robbie Burns revered the Bogget and wrote the famous Ode to the Bogget (Haggis) which is chanted each year on Burns Night before it is ceremoniously carved!

If anyone would like us to bring a Bogget back from Bonnie Scotland when we revisit good old Tebworth, please place your order now and we will be only too happy to oblige.

Thank you for reading my articles in the past it has been a pleasure sharing snippets of information with you (some factual and some rubbish!!)

A very Happy Christmas  
to you all!

*The Chalgrave Mole.*  
*(please note the Sassenach spelling of  
Boggett above!)*



## Queens Head Update

Hello Everybody, like a bad penny I continue to turn up and shall be doing so until the Good Lord or the Brewery decide my time is up. Now, as you probably know I am considered a pillar of the community, and being such an upright and honest member of the

General Public I therefore consider it a service to the aforesaid populace when I express my somewhat liberal views in the pages of this Parish Magazine. I know the majority of you wait for each issue with bated breath to find out what nugget of wisdom I am going to share with you.

Well I am very pleased to say that (hopefully) this age old tradition shall continue because I have just been told that someone has come forward and volunteered to 'take over' the running of our famous little magazine, I don't know who it is yet but I am sure that rumour control has started to churn out some names.

Talking of names, here are some that I have booked for your entertainment over the next couple of months:-

### DECEMBER

Friday	11th	Steve Jones
Friday	18th	Lenny
Monday	21st	Harry & Steve
Thursday	24th	Keith West
Thursday	31st	Pete Spence

Pete Spence who is booked for New Years Eve is one of the most sought after acts in the area and we are very lucky to get him, so if you haven't seen Pete live then you really should come on down and join the fun .

Before I go I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, God Bless

*Colin*



## Around the Organisations

### *Chalgrave Sports Club*

The work continues on the cricket ground to keep it in good condition. The Quiz night held on Friday 20 November was well attended and raised some much needed funds. An excellent time was had by all.

Thanks also to The Chalgrave Parish Council for their grant. This really is invaluable to us to keep the ground in good repair and to maintain and obtain new equipment. Thanks also go to an anonymous donor who gave us a cheque for £100.00. This really was a fantastic and most generous donation and our heartfelt thanks go to him.

We are looking to have another quiz night early in the New Year and this will be advertised locally.

We are looking ahead to next years league and 10/10 competitions.

*Roger Burdon*

### *The Senior Citizens*

Please make sure you watch out for Father Christmas this year. He will be travelling the streets and Lanes of Chalgrave between 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock on Sunday 20

December. Please remember proceeds are split between the Rotary Club of Flitwick and the Chalgrave Senior Citizens

*Roger Masters*

### *Book Club*

Hello Everyone,

Not very much to report from Book Club this time - I have been in hospital and had another hip replacement - at least we know that's the last one, unless I really am a freak!!

I couldn't get to the last meeting which was to review WOLF HALL by Hilary Mantel. Discussion about this has been left until January as we have our Christmas dinner in

December, and most members hadn't got very far into the book.

My own feelings are that I am finding it quite difficult to follow - and that the history is not very clear. But I have only just started it - perhaps it will improve, or perhaps I am just being dim!

I did get some feed back from members who were further along than me - and it does seem that they are also finding it hard to follow, and enthusiasm for it does not seem great. However, I shall review it at greater length in the New Year.

Before that we read THE BOLTER by Frances Osborne - a true story of Indina Sackville, a high society lady who was married several times - hence the title - and then found her only true love had been her first husband. It is set in England and Kenya soon after the First World War. Most members seemed to find this less interesting than they were hoping. It does record the facts rather than set them out in novel fashion. However, as this was discussed in my absence, I may be able to add views to this when I attend the next meeting.

That's it for now - except to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
*Linda Hadden* (rapidly becoming the bionic woman!)

### *Parkfields Middle School*

#### Harvest Festival

On 15 October Parkfields Middle School had their Harvest Assembly. This was praised as the best harvest collection ever. The overwhelming generosity, for those who are less fortunate than

ourselves, was recognised by Mr O'Connor and Mrs Sinfield (Jim and Stella) who manage and run Noah Enterprise. Noah gives a meal to hungry

people each day. Once again we would like to thank all those who contributed, it really is appreciated.

#### Shoe Box Appeal

Following a very moving and informative assembly we had a large delivery of empty shoeboxes. Children took the boxes home and covered them with Christmas paper. Gifts such as toys, pens, pencils, colours, colouring books, hairbrushes, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, flannels, sweets, gloves, hats, bangles, necklaces etc. were put into the boxes. They were then labelled, identifying whether the box was suitable for a boy or girl and which age group. Overall we filled over 150 boxes!!

The boxes are now on their way to children in Eastern Europe.

#### Tex Recycle

The school collects clothes, linen, shoes and bedding each term and receives 35p per kg for the collection. Many thanks, to everyone who contributed this term. We raised a grand total of £252.00.

#### *The Memorial Hall*

I do hope those of you with small children have had the opportunity to let them enjoy the new play with its' new magnificent



surface.

We are indebted to Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) for the substantial grant they awarded us through the Community Aggregates Fund towards the

cost of the resurfacing. Whilst not for the complete cost, it enabled the work to go ahead whilst we applied to Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority for a small top-up. We are currently awaiting the outcome of this application but remain hopeful.

Or thanks also go to Roger Fenwick of Hill Close for the huge amount of work he put in to make this project successful.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to see the finished job, just look at the photo below!

We would also like to record our thanks to B & Q for their generous donation towards paint for the storage container and bulbs for the grounds.

We don't want to rest on our laurels and are always looking for ideas for which we can use the Hall. After all, it is YOUR community facility.

Some ideas so far are

Drop in centre/Coffee mornings

Meet your MP/Councillor

Health visitor surgery

Swap shop (unwanted Xmas presents)

Musical or Film show mornings

Mums and Tots Keep Fit

Shop/Post office (part time)

So come on, give us some ideas either to any committee member or through the Chalgrave News. The Hall is there to be used – Let's use it!

Finally, the Committee have revised the fees and charges for the Hall and you will find the new charges in this copy of the News. It is worth noting that yet again the Committee have not increased the charge for residents of the Parish.

Roger Masters



*Christmas joy warms the heart*

## Andrew Selous MP

### WHY WE NEED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT ENERGY POLICY



I attended a church service before our party conference a few years ago at which the pastor who preached the sermon said that a politician governs for the next general election whereas a statesman or woman governs for the next generation. Those words have stuck with me and I think they are particularly true of the energy needs of our country. Many of us have felt the costs of increased heating and petrol bills recently.

Even more worryingly though, UK north sea oil production is well past its peak and the UK is going to experience a dramatic reduction in its coal fired generating capacity over the next seven years and we do not have the nuclear capacity to make up the shortfall. We only have gas storage facilities for three weeks UK supply unlike many of our European neighbours who have several months storage capacity. We need to start taking large scale action quickly to bridge this energy gap and do so in a way that stops wrecking our climate and planet.

Last week one of my constituents came to see me in my surgery and very kindly gave me a book on how we could bridge this energy gap, by the Cambridge physicist David Mackay. It's called "Sustainable energy without the hot air" and it is available for free on the internet at [www.withouthotair.com](http://www.withouthotair.com)

Professor Mackay has recently been made an adviser to the Government on energy policy and he seems an excellent choice. I think future Governments of whatever political complexion would do well to heed his advice. He ends the book by saying that if you want an honest, realistic energy policy that adds up, then you need to tell your political representatives and prospective political candidates.

As a country we have not begun to realise the scale of the task facing us given our current levels of energy consumption. I want my children and future generations to be able to enjoy the lifestyle that we enjoy today with our current levels of energy supply. To replace the energy that we currently derive from coal, oil and gas we are going to need huge amounts of renewable or nuclear power. If we want to continue consuming our



current levels of energy, replacing our current supplies with for example, one third wind power, one third nuclear and one third solar power, then we would have to build wind farms over an area equal to the size of Wales, we would need to build the equivalent of fifty Sizewell nuclear power stations and we would need solar power stations in deserts covering an area twice the size of Greater London.

You may think that none of those options are very palatable, but if you want to be able to continue living in a well lit warm house, continue to drive, travel and work and have the leisure opportunities you do now, then the energy supplies of the future has to match our current usage. It is possible to make an energy plan that adds up, but we need to get going now.

**May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year**

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

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# Guy Fawkes Night

Saturday the 7th November was the date for the Queens Head firework display and this year the bonfire was lit at about 7:00pm and the explosions of some rockets signalled the start of another evening of free entertainment for those of us who braved the cold. Having said that there was hot food at the burger stand this year adroitly manned by Clive and Jenny, and the fire itself was at one time threatening to cook the food without the aid of the barbeque it got so hot, but was skilfully managed by Ray and Terry. The firework display itself was coordinated by two shadowy figures who I think were Paul and one of his mates. So a good night was had by all and the charity collection raised nearly £90:00 so thank you very much.

A big thank you goes to Colin for his generosity and ability to adapt because he was let down by his firework supplier at the last minute and had to make a mad dash to the shops to try to save the evening.



## Your Horoscope by Monsieur Zola



Having consulted with Madame Zola and the star charts, I have decided to construct a horoscope for the residents of Chalgrave for the entire year of 2010. I now believe I have come out with the only honestly correct horoscopes for the entire year.

It looks like all of you are about to have a really bad year by the way.

**Aries, March 21-April 19;** your biggest problem is when you drink too much the opposite sex looks younger and thinner to you. You need to quit the hard stuff and just stay with beer which unfortunately will only make them look thinner.

**Taurus, April 20-May 20;** you will lose your job this year. That underwear you lost last month will be found by your boss on his ceiling fan during spring cleaning. You will have to stop putting your name in the back of your knickers.

**Gemini, May 21-June 20;** as your sign moves further away from the zenith, your hopes of having a relationship with Jude Law/Angelina Jolie/Postman Pat's cat (delete as necessary) will become less and less likely.

**Cancer, June 21-July 22;** since Jupiter is aligned with Mars your love life and financial situation will be great this year. Only kidding, it will be as bad as last year!

**Leo, July 23-August 22;** you need to stop worrying about money. It will do you no good and only make you miserable. Statistics show that nine out of ten people who worry about money end up having to see a shrink. The other one shoots himself. Look into professional eating as a new hobby as it's obvious you are good at stuffing yourself until you can't move.

**Virgo, Aug 23-Sept 22;** you will have few friends this year. You need to learn that eating hot poppers and double bowls of chilli at night time restrict your social life. Also beware of going to work the next day on a crowded bus or train.

**Libra, September 23-October 22;** that favourite star you and your lover like to look at every night really is becoming brighter and brighter. That isn't a sign your love is growing stronger. The star you picked out is a million ton asteroid on a collision course with your house sometime in late August.

**Scorpio, October 23-November 21;** you will break several bones next year. During the painting of your house you will step back to admire your work while still near the top of the ladder.

**Sagittarius, November 22-December 21;** you will be sued this year and lose everything. No one will fault you for getting fed up with your computer and throwing it out the window. The problem is you should have noticed the postman below before you did.

**Capricorn, December 22-January 19;** you will realize you have got old when you go to renew your driver's license. After decades of being asked if you wanted to be an organ donor, DVLA will now ask you if you need any.

**Aquarius, January 20-February 18;** your star will be in the house of Aquarius all year. That means if you buy that boat it will sink and you will drown. Your spouse will have a great year, by the way, after the drowning.

**Pisces, Feb 19-March 20;** you are starting to be more practical. Your taking a Viagra just before you go to bed is a good idea. You roll around way too much in your sleep. The pill's effects will keep you from rolling off the bed. No, there aren't any other reasons for taking the pill. Your wife paid me to tell you that by the way



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Cherie Blair is touring the countryside in a chauffeur-driven car. Suddenly, a cow jumps out into the road - they hit it full on and the car comes to a stop.

Cherie, in her usual charming manner, says to the chauffeur: "Get out and check - YOU were driving."

The chauffeur gets out, checks and reports that the animal is dead..

"YOU were driving; YOU go and tell the farmer," says Cherie.

Five hours later, the chauffeur returns totally legless, hair ruffled and with a big grin on his face.

"My God, what happened to you?" asks Cherie.

The chauffeur replies: "When I got there, the farmer opened his best bottle of malt whisky, his wife gave me a slap-up meal and the daughter made love to me."

"What on earth did you say?" asks Cherie.

I knocked on the door - and when it was answered, I simply said to them:

"I'm Cherie Blair's chauffeur - and I've just killed the cow."

## THE beauty room

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## Leighton Buzzard Woodcraft Folk

Meet at Brooklands Middle School on Monday nights during term time, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

It is an 'Elfin' group which means it is for children aged from 6 to 9.

Sessions cost £1.50 (first week is free!), which can be paid on a weekly basis.

The Woodcraft Folk is an educational movement for children and young people, aiming to develop children's self-confidence and involvement in their community, to encourage friendship and co-operation, while at the same time having lots of fun! Typical activities include creative craft projects such as making collages, or map reading, hiking and playing games. There are also opportunities to go on camps.

New members and adult volunteers are always welcome.

Please phone leader Chris Braithwaite on 01525 370900.

## Chalgrave Price Comparison

Like everything else this month the price comparison has a Christmas theme. Enjoy your turkey and mince pies!

	Waitrose	Sainsburys	Morrisons	Asda	Tesco
Turkey large frozen	£4.24 / kg	£3.03 /kg	£3.03 /kg	£2.58 /kg	£3.03 /kg
Sprouts 500g fresh	£1.00	£1.00 for 240g	£1.00 for 250g	£1.00	£1.00
MrKipling Mince pies	£1.69	£1.11 on special offer	£1.49	£1.00 on special offer	£1.49
Christmas Pudding 454g	£4.99	£4.99	£3.99	£3.00 on special offer	£4.50
Christmas Crackers 6 Luxury	£15	£14.99	£8.00	£8.00	£12
Double cream 600ml	£1.68	£1.68	£1.68	£1.68	£1.68
Brandy 70cl	£12.49	£9.13	£9.13	£10.63	£9.13
Chestnuts	£2.49 350g	£1.99 400g	£2.00 400g	£1.48 300g	£2.50 500g
Stuffing Paxo 85g	£0.41	£0.39	£0.42	£0.39	£0.39

PETROL	Unleaded	Diesel
Morrisons Leighton Buzzard	108.9	109.9
Shell Leighton Buzzard	107.9	109.9
Total Leighton Buzzard	109.9	110.9
Tesco Leighton Buzzard	109.9	110.9
Tesco Dunstable	108.9	109.9
Sainsburys Dunstable	107.9	108.9
Toddinton Motorway services	113.9	114.9
BP Toddington	105.9	106.9

Hope you have found this useful, we will update the figures in a future issue and work out our own inflation figures.

## *Everybody is entitled to my opinion!*

I notice that the local police (or PCO's, whatever they are currently known as) have been issued with push bikes so that they can get around to visit you if you are unfortunate enough to need them. This is a good thing?? Perhaps, but it is a long hard push from Toddington to Tebworth especially in the dark, in winter when it's snowing, or any other time for that matter.

Trouble is the Traffic Police have nice fast cars, so they can get to Tebworth quicker and by the time the local bobby has got their breath back, they have issued several speeding fines which is much more profitable!

And, if the traffic Taliban are going to collect speed taxes in the village might I suggest that they do it at an appropriate time? I would propose during the rush hour when the 'Rat-Runners' are racing through the village and the lorries and vans are causing mayhem. Don't do it at 2.00 in the afternoon because you will 'nick' the locals, and we are mostly law abiding citizens, plus, don't 'nick' people as they are 'leaving' the village, we don't care if they speed leaving the outskirts of the village (please pass that on to the civil servant in the van)

Speed does not kill, **inappropriate use of speed kills**, go past a school at 10 minutes to 9 in the morning at 40 and you should be shot immediately, 40 into Tebworth at 2.00 in the afternoon with good visibility on a dry road? The benefit of a real Policemen over a camera is that they can use their discretion and common sense.

There is an old phrase that springs to mind "Don't ..... on your own door step! "

Thanks to Beds council or whatever they call themselves now, for resurfacing some of the local roads, a pity they didn't do it properly with tarmacadam, they used chippings which is cheap, it is also dangerous, noisy, makes a dreadful mess and damages peoples cars. Back to the old theory, 'Do it properly or don't do it at all'!

We've got a dog, a chocolate Labrador, she's brown and 'cute' (apparently) and can't go out yet because she hasn't had her shots. I had dogs many years ago but things have changed, you have to take their mess home now in nice little bags, what do you do with it then? put it on the pavement where the plod stands with a speed gun I said but Suzan didn't agree. Apparently it goes in the red box over the road, the one that looks like a pillar box, no wonder the Inland Revenue said my letters never used to arrive! Anyway, according to a recent report, people with dogs get



more exercise than people who go to the Gym. I went to the Gym once and it didn't work so hopefully the dog will do the trick. I think Suzan is more keen than me, she even clears up the garden with ruthless efficiency, even if she does use gloves capable of handling 'Nuclear Waste'!

Dogs can be a problem when you first bring them home (and for years after that!), but once we stopped her escaping from the purpose built dog door guard (a bit like a baby gate but more expensive) with the aid of Barbara Jackson's dog anti-escape device (which looks like an old fridge shelf) all was secure again. Once we found the instructions we were able to feed her the correct amount, and sort all the worming out and arrange pet insurance, (for the dog not Barbara) which no doubt won't cover anything you need - like most insurance.

So, in a few weeks time we can take her out and about, in all weathers, several times a day, carrying fresh dogs mess.....anybody want to buy a dog?

We are fortunate to have front row seats at the ongoing Tebworth Air Show again! Chinooks and other assorted helicopters that no doubt should be in Afghanistan are flying at 'Grass Cutting' level irritating my dog and waking up next door's baby! My wife took some pictures the other day which will no doubt trigger a visit from the 'anti terrorism squad' or some similar operation asking all sorts of questions. If they want to practice low level flying Wales is quite good I believe as there is nobody there, unlike Bedfordshire. One mistake and we shall have a new garden ornament, perhaps I could 'turn green' and use the blades to make a wind turbine?

*John Parker*

1



## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

**What did Adam say on the day before Christmas ?**

It's Christmas, Eve !

**What happened when the snowgirl fell out with the snowboy ?**

She gave him the cold shoulder !

**Who delivers cat's Christmas presents ?**

Santa Paws !



# Winter Health Tips



## Pre Christmas Detox

Forget your early morning cup of tea, instead try warm water with fresh lemon, it helps to stimulate the digestion.

Cut out dairy products for a week, dairy is mucus forming and can be difficult to digest. Instead try nut, rice or goats milk which are easier on the system.

Get hot and sweaty, a steam bath or sauna will help you to detox through your skin, the biggest organ of elimination.

## Boost your immunity

Fruit and fresh vegetables really do help to keep colds and flu type illness's at bay, you may be tempted to reach for the multivitamins but tests show that fresh is best.

## Get Outdoors

Going outside may be the last thing you want to do when the weather's miserable, but your body needs sunlight to create vitamin D that's essential for healthy bones and teeth. Your body can create vitamin D from the action of the sun on your skin, even on a cloudy day. Top up your vitamin D levels with cod-liver oil, milk, dairy products and oily fish such as sardines, salmon and fresh tuna.

## Watch your mood

Lack of sunshine and daylight can have a profound effect on our emotions. For some people, this causes low mood, irritability and lack of energy during autumn and winter. Winter depression, or seasonal affective disorder as it's known, affects women more than men. Symptoms include a lack of interest in socialising, daytime sleepiness, a craving for starchy foods and an increased need for sleep. Most of all, don't worry about "will I put weight on if I eat this?" Just eat sensibly and enjoy yourself.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Shona Mercy



# A Fond Farewell

**O**n a cold January day, almost 24 years ago we came to Tebworth. As we entered our little cottage via a scaffolding plank across the muddy front garden (as there was no path at the time) little did we know that this 'short stay' would last 24 years!

The first people to welcome us, were of course, Colin and Liz at the pub, who went out of their way to arrange milk, coal and paper deliveries for us. To this day Colin is still the centre of village life and has never ceased to welcome everyone with a cheery smile.

We have watched babies grow, children become adults, get married, go to war and have children of their own and of course neighbours come and go too. But one thing that has happily never changed is 'The Lane', our own bit of quiet countryside with its May blossom and new born lambs in the spring, to its hedgerows of blackberries in the autumn; all a million miles away from the chaos of the M1 and busy roads around us.

What will I personally miss the most?

I will miss the smell of the coal chimneys on a dark winter's night as you drive down the hill from the main road.

I will miss doing the front garden and the comfort of knowing almost *everyone* who walks by with their kids or dogs for a quiet stroll.

I will miss the annual ritual (and of course the argument Malcolm and I have) each year as we put the Christmas lights on the now large cherry tree we planted all those years ago.

I will miss sitting in our garden (that was once a builders yard) listening to the cockerels crowing and the doves cooing.

But most of all I will miss all the friends we have made over the years. Our thanks to everyone who has made the last 24 years full of happy memories.

Whilst I know that beautiful Scotland awaits for us to start a new chapter in our lives, I also know that when we finally close the front door in 'The Lane' for the last time, it will not be without the odd tear in our eyes and sadness in our hearts.

Jo and Malcolm Baldwin



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Tel:01525 873160

### *"I'm Sorry Madam but You're Nicked"*

Just recently there has been a number of times when the M1 has been reduced to a crawl and whether it is Northbound or Southbound the traffic that comes through Tebworth increases tenfold, so it was a great comfort to see PC Martin Pennell monitoring the speed of traffic as it passed through the Village.

I am sure that in this magazine somewhere there is an article from our local Beat Officer telling us how many irresponsible motorists he caught that day. He has told me in the past that he cannot believe how many drivers pass through the Village and completely ignore the flashing 30mph sign in Toddington Road. Are they silly or just daydreaming or perhaps they think it is all part of the Parish Council's Christmas lights display. Whatever the answer it is only featherbrained, flighty, lovely blonde scatterbrained individuals who get caught and then berate the poor policeman by insisting that she is as guilty as hell and deserves to be flogged.

As you may have guessed the individual to whom I refer is one of the Village luminary's and as such has already changed her car so that PC Pennell won't recognise her as she whizzes past, so who do you know has a new car all of a sudden???

Magic Roundabout Entertainments Presents

# New Years Eve Family Party !

with Magic Dave & Friends



Fun for all the Family

Children's Magic & Puppet Show

+

Family Cabaret Magic Show

Face Painting

Games & Prizes

Tuck Shop

Disco

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Thursday 31st December 2009

Chalgrave Memorial Hall  
Wingfield Rd, Tebworth  
7pm-12.30am

Tickets Call: 01582 897658

entertainments@magicroundabout.net

Adults £15.00 - Children £5.00

Family Ticket £30.00 (2adults 2children) Under 2yrs Free

## Health & Safety and Equality considerations for Christmas Songs

We would like to bring the following to your attention:-

### Jingle Bells

*Dashing through the snow  
On a one horse open sleigh  
O'er the fields we go  
Laughing all the way*



A risk assessment must be submitted before an open sleigh is considered safe for members of the public to travel on. The risk assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture particularly if passengers are of the non skinny variety.

Please note! Permission must be gained from landowners before entering the fields and to avoid offending those not participating in the Christian celebrations we would request that laughter is moderated so as not to be considered a noise nuisance.

### While Shepherds Watched

*While shepherds watched  
their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground  
An Angel of the Lord came down  
And Glory shone around.*



The shepherds union has complained that it breaches health and safety regulations to insist that shepherds watch their flocks without suitable seating arrangements being provided, therefore, benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now being made available. Shepherds have also requested that due to inclement weather conditions at this time of year that they should be able to watch their flocks via a CCTV link from centrally heated shepherd observation posts.

Please Note! The Angel of the Lord is reminded that before shining His/Her glory all around He/She must ascertain that all shepherds have been issued with safety glasses capable of filtering out the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming consequence of all that Glory.

## HOME COMPUTER HELP

Problems with your computer?  
 Slow running or been hit by a virus?  
 Do you need someone to untangle your computer problems?  
 Do you need help in working with your computer?  
 Maintenance or repairs?  
 Or just general computer advice?  
 I live in the parish and can help you  
 Free initial consultation  
 Friendly efficient service  
 at very reasonable rates  
 If you need help please call Scott for a no obligation discussion on  
 07941 19 00 71 or email  
 homecomputerhelp@hotmail.com

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## Chalgrave Memorial Hall Fees and Charges from 1st November 2009

PERIOD	Parish Resident Individual Parish Voluntary Community Groups	** Non-Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	** Non-Parish Organisation or Commercial
Monday-Thursday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£7.00 per hour	£8.50 per hour
6am - 11pm*	£5.00 per hour	£10.75 per hour	£12.50 per hour
Friday			
9am - 6pm	£4.00 per hour	£7.00 per hour	£8.50 per hour
6pm - midnight*	£70.00	£115.00	£125.00
Saturday			
9am - 6pm	£6.50 per hour	£10.75 per hour	£12.50 per hour
6pm - midnight*	£70.00	£140.00	£190.00
12:30 - midnight*	£105.00	£190.00	£250.00
Sunday			
10am - 6pm*	£6.00 per hour	£10.75 per hour	£12.50 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



# Florrie Bunda's Christmas



I can't believe that a whole year has gone by since I last put pen to paper and told you about my plans for Christmas.

Ah well, they do say that time flies as you get older and I am well into my thirties now so I suppose you would call that 'middle aged', but no matter I still have my old Mum and all the family coming to me for the festive period so I shall have to start baking and pickling ready for them all to descend on the Village.

This year we are going to have a large Goose and all the normal trimmings for dinner and I have decided to roast it with prunes in Armagnac, it is an old recipe that my Auntie Delia told me about before she took up football.

It is Boxing Day that always sets me thinking because everyone is still suffering from overeating the previous day so all they require is something light and tasty. I have decided on a baked glazed ham as whatever is left over you can freeze in small portions for use throughout the next few months as snacks or sandwich fillings, the only thing you have to be careful of is how much salt was used in the curing process as if you don't soak the ham for long enough it may well be inedible.

For the dessert I shall bake my Boxing Day speciality - Croissant Bread and Butter Pudding this is exactly the same as ordinary bread and butter pudding but if you use croissants instead it is so much lighter, but the ultimate is to use pain o chocolat. These are croissants stuffed with a slither of dark chocolate and the result is divine.



## *The Plough*

The Plough crib team finished runners up in the league and we won the doubles section of the league. Also Dave Smith was runner up in the league singles. A successful season was enjoyed by all..

The cricket team finished runners up in both the league and the 10/10 competition and we are now looking to recruit new players. Anyone wishing to play should contact the Plough.

The last PIGS golf day was played on the Duchess course at Woburn and the next date is 29 December at Verulanium course at St. Albans. Again anyone wishing to play should contact The Plough.

The Whist And Tipple School on Thursday nights go 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.

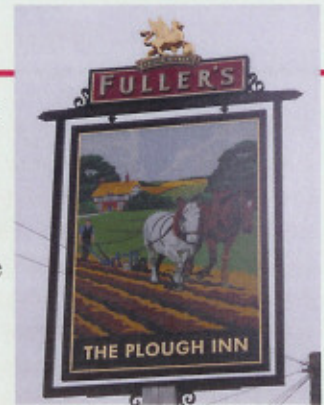
*Roger*

## *"I'm Sorry Madam but You're Nicked"*

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## Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

*Personal problems resolved with a smile*

*Today is a very sad day for me as this could be my last column for the Chalgrave News. For many years now I have had to apologise to you, my dear readers, for all the typing and other mistakes which have littered my articles and I feel this may have hindered my career as an agony ant.*

*However you will be delighted to hear that I have secured another agony aunt position in a national magazine where I start work next month.*

*Unfortunately you will not be surprised to learn that there has been a slight problem in that my secretary misheard my instructions and ended sending my application to KO Magazine (which I have since learnt is a boxing magazine) instead of to OK Magazine! But in this day and age a job is a job!*

*I thought we should part with a smile and so I have set out one of my favourite jokes. Yes it is an old one but a really good one.*

*Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson went on a camping trip.*

*After sharing a good meal and a bottle of Petrie wine, they retire to their tent for the night.*

*At about 3am, Holmes nudges Watson and asks, "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"*

*Watson said, "I see millions of stars."*

*Holmes asks, "And, what does that tell you?"*

*Watson replies, "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.*

*Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo.*

*Theologically, it tells me that God is great and we are small and insignificant.*

*Horographically, it tells me that it's about 3am.*

*Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow."*

*"What does it tell you, Holmes?"*

*Holmes retorts, "Someone's pinched the tent."*

*Have a really good Christmas and New Year 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	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
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
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		
	The Retiring Team	The New Team
	Tony Cornes 874605	Barbara Jackson 877617
	Lyndie Lothian lyndie@ic24.net 874166	Emma Gray 877377
	Roger Masters 873039	Su Parker 873963
	Mick McDonagh 873012	