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CHALGRAVE NEWS

The free community magazine delivered to homes and businesses in the Chalgrave Parish



Publication No.28 - April 2010

Dates for Your Diary

Day/Date	Event	Location/Contact	Time
Last Tuesday of each month	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Every other Tuesday	Quiz Night	Plough Inn	9.00pm
Mondays	Dominoes	Plough Inn	
Mondays & Fridays	Live entertainment	Queens Head	7.30pm
Tuesdays	Darts	Queens Head	
Thursdays	Dominoes	Queens Head	
Weekdays	Book Club	Linda Hadden	
24th April	Councillors Help & Advice Surgery	Toddington Library	09.30-12.30
9th May	Rogation Walk	Meet at Queens Head	10.00am
30th June	West Charity applications due in	Norman Costin	
17th July	Chalgrave Games	Memorial Hall	1.00pm

Front Cover: Spring Lambs in Tebworth

*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 they do not comply with our policy.*

Editorial

Hooray, British Summer Time is now officially upon us! We can now try to banish the thoughts of the frankly depressing weather conditions that we have all experienced since Christmas (*a little reminder right & below!*). The wind, rain and especially the snow tested us all, whether it be trying to get to school and work, or just getting out of our own driveways!



Since the last edition of the Chalgrave News, the new Editorial Team is now in place. We did get off to a slow start, hence the absence of an edition post - Christmas, which was due in part to a lack of funds to enable printing of the magazine.

However, we are pleased to report that due to two very generous donations, one of £100 from the Parish Council and one of £50 from a local couple (who wish to remain anonymous) and a very successful fundraising family quiz night, held on 27th March, we have been able to bring this edition to you.

We have also had a great response from new and repeat advertisers, to whom we extend a very big thank you. This has certainly helped the bank balance and will ensure we can continue to produce and publish throughout 2010.

Another thank you must also go to Mandy Gatward for her art working expertise in our ad section. Her help has been invaluable and without it we would have come a bit unstuck!

If you feel strongly about the survival of the Chalgrave News and are able to contribute, either financially or by the submission of articles, comments (good or bad) or letters, then please contact the Chalgrave News team via our newly launched e-mail: thechalgravenews@live.co.uk.



Next Edition: Deadline for all entries - Friday 9th July.
Please submit to: thechalgravenews@live.co.uk

Chairman of the Parish Council

Dog Fouling

Many of you will know of the problems we have been having in our Parish, particularly in Tebworth. It is disappointing to have residents who allow their dogs to foul the pavements and grass verges and not clean up the mess afterwards. Or, they bag the mess but do not take the bag home with them or put the bag into a dog bin - the bag is left in the street or on the verge. Fortunately, it is only a very few dog owners. Please be a responsible dog owner and clean up after your dog.

Parkview Lane and flooding in other areas of the Parish

Unfortunately we are making slow progress with Parkview Lane. We are trying to find the funding to cure the problem. We are aware of a number of blocked drains causing flooding. We are working with Highways to clear the drains and to find the cause.

Parish Assembly

The next Assembly is on **Thursday, 22nd April at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall**. This is intended to be an informal occasion with refreshments giving you an opportunity to meet the Parish Councillors and representatives of local organisations. We will give you details of what we have been doing over the past year and what we will be doing in the coming year. It's also an opportunity for you to ask questions and raise any issues.

Co-opted Parish Councillor

We welcome Debbie Hampson as the new member of the Parish Council.

Development in our area

We are always keeping a very close check on proposed housing development in South Beds and the impact it will have on our Parish.

We are aware that funding for the A5/M1 link is being questioned at Government level because of public spending cuts.

Pot Holes

The last winter has created a number of potholes in the roads of the Parish and we 'are looking into them'. We hope to get them repaired as soon as possible.

Millennium and Community Awards

The Community award is for adults for an achievement, helping others or for service to the community.

The Millennium award is for those aged 18 or under. Again, this is in recognition for an achievement - sporting, academic, overcoming difficulties - or for helping others or the community. **Please** can you submit your nominations for both awards, to myself, as soon as possible as they will be presented at the Chalgrave Games in July.

Film Club

We have the equipment and the funding. We need someone to help run this project. If you are interested please contact me or the Clerk.

As always, you are very welcome to attend a Parish Council meeting. The open forum is at the beginning of the meeting where you can ask questions and raise issues.

Details of our meetings are on the notice boards or on our website:
www.chalgrave.org.

Phil Parry
Chairman



Chalgrave Parish is in the Growth Area

What is the Growth Area and how it started?

It was originally put forward by John Prescott for "People like nurses and teachers who could not afford to buy houses and flats in London". Then there was the Barker Report that basically said build more houses to bring down prices and build them on Brownfield and Green Belt land in the South East of England. **500,700** houses in the South East by 2031. Up to **64,500** in South Beds. None at all in Chalgrave but thousands north of Houghton Regis. There is a first proposal for 500 at present.

This is Central Government policy

It has been imposed on Local Government but it appears that our local Council are no longer opposing it. Central Bedfordshire Council are now 'Embracing the Growth Agenda'.

Our Central Bedfordshire Councillors are Tom Nichols and Norman Costin

Tom Nichols insists that the proposed growth is inevitable and that we are best to accept it and deal with it in the best way possible. He has been deeply involved in the planning discussions through the East of England Regional Authority [EERA]. Norman Costin also seems to accept the housing growth. He was previously a South Beds District Councillor and was opposed to the growth plan.

Our MP Andrew Selous is against the growth agenda as it stands.

Chalgrave Parish Council

We feel Bedfordshire is a rural County. We need land for crops and grazing. We need jobs for existing population rather than growth for commuters. We believe the Green Belt has worked well in stopping urban sprawl and should continue to be protected from development.

Whilst recognising that some housing is

needed we are determined to continue our opposition to the Growth agenda. - large scale development of housing in an area with no adequate infrastructure, no jobs and no room. We formed a consortium of Ten local Parish Councils, the **Growth Area Parish Partnership [GAPP]**, to have a stronger voice on issues like this that concern us all.

Comments in the last EERA consultation were hugely critical showing strong unpopularity of this growth and yet we are told it is unstoppable. The summary states 'The public responses generally favoured lower growth scenarios with around two thirds preferring a growth rate similar to or lower than scenario 1 (26,000 homes per year)'. We feel that this is a misrepresentation because the majority were against anything like that number. Unsurprisingly 'Higher growth was favoured by developers'!

What can you do?

If you object to the growth of housing please write or email you views to Central Bedfordshire Council, Andrew Selous MP or contact your local Central Beds Councillors.

Everybody's entitled to my opinion!!

Those of you that have been to junction 10 on the M1 may have noticed that (finally) it is complete, well nearly! They have made a much wider exit road southbound, twice as wide as before and then, painted it all in white lines so you can't go on it! Now, it's the same width as it was before! What genius thought of that?
JP

View from the House: Andrew Selous MP

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



THE WELFARE REFORM CHALLENGE WE FACE:

I want to look at an issue this month which has a measure of cross party support and that is the welfare reform challenge facing this country. Over the last twelve years we have spent £346 billion on benefits to support people of working age who are out of work. We are currently spending £1 for every £3 raised in tax on social security and interest payments. Some of these people are unable to work because of disability or caring responsibilities and must be supported. For too many other people however, benefits have become a way of life with the result that we have 3.3 million households where no adult works and Britain has a higher proportion of children growing up in workless households than any other European country.

During the boom years, the economy created a net additional 2.6 million jobs, but not enough of these jobs were taken by British citizens on out of work benefits. Instead we relied, to far too great a degree, on migrant labour to fill Britain's labour shortage.

Of the 2.6 million people on Incapacity Benefit, we know that at least one million are capable of work and really want to work. There is also evidence that work is good for some disabled people. We also know that people who have been on Incapacity Benefit for two years or more are more likely to die or retire than get a job and that is a real tragedy that we need to do something about.

What I would like to see to deal with these really important issues is jobseekers being offered targeted, personalised help sooner and straightaway for those with serious barriers to work. Welfare to work providers should be paid by results with fees only being paid once a jobseeker has been in work for a year or longer. If jobseekers are capable of work and are offered work they can reasonably be expected to do, and choose to turn that work down, then they should no longer be able to claim out of work benefits.

This approach will help jobseekers and the staff who work in our jobcentres. It will mean that welfare to work providers will not spend money on courses that have poor results in getting people back to work as sadly happens with some courses at present. For example, an engineering graduate from Leighton Buzzard who was looking hard for work from home where he had his own computer, was sent on a course with 25 others where there were only 3 computers available. A young man from near Dunstable was also taken off a course that was really helping him with his literacy, to attend a course that was not, that Jobcentre Plus had told him to attend. The approach I have outlined would help these individuals better and is what our country needs.

All Our Yesterdays - No 1

This is the first in a series of old Chalgrave photographs where we invite you to identify people, some long dead I'm afraid but a few still going strong. This is a Chalgrave W.I. dinner in the old hall, we think circa 1950? Chalgrave had a strong W.I. going back many years, but it finally disbanded in 1991.

With the help of Val Griffin and Dot Brinklow we have managed to identify 14 of the 24 ladies present. As you can see there is an area where no one is recognised and it's thought this could be a visiting W.I., any Ideas?



1.	Mrs Mitchell	9.		17.	
2.	Mrs Osborn [Vera]	10.		18.	Miss Ledster [Marie junior]
3.	Mrs Kemp [Megan]	11.		19.	Mrs Curtis
4.	Mrs Cook	12.		20.	Mrs Brinklow [Gladys]
5.	Mrs Bird [Then Eddles]	13.		21.	Mrs Brinklow [Dot]
6.	Mrs Ludgate [Nancy]	14.		22.	Mrs Ludgate [Jean]
7.	Mrs Ledster [Marie senior]	15.		23.	Mrs Affleck [Greta]
8.		16.		24.	Mrs Mooring [From Lord's Hill]

If you can add any more names or have any memories you'd like to share, please let the team know via thechalgravenews@live.co.uk and we will publish it in the next edition

Grumpy Old.....

As a stakeholder in Nat West or RBS, whatever you want to call them (something by the way that I wasn't asked about), I was perturbed to hear that they had lost £4 billion recently (and that wasn't a full years accounts either!).



Now, my company did not lose £4 billion, in fact we made money, amazing as we bank with Nat West! Now, banks like to tell you how to run your business, but in this case they have no credibility. How can they tell me how to run my business when they clearly have difficulty running their own?

So, I am happy to offer them my services, I won't charge them much per day but would need a substantial 'bonus' whether I succeed or not, that seems fair doesn't it? Isn't that how they work now?

JP

Everybody's entitled to my opinion!!

Some good news! I don't seem to have to play 'hopscotch' over the dog's mess so much now, perhaps the person concerned has got the message, hope it lasts!

In case they haven't, this is what the Dog Waste Bins look like!

We are privileged to live in a lovely village and have some fantastic places to walk with or without our dogs. It doesn't matter whether you have a dog or not, it really is not pleasant to have to dodge the mess abandoned on the pavements or on other peoples grass verges.

Please be considerate to everyone in the village and use the bins.



JP

West's Education Foundation

For those of you who would like clarification, or are unfamiliar with this charity, detailed below is a potted history and how it can benefit you and your family.

The charity was founded on 31st March 1690 by Mr Francis West when he left £400 in his will to assist the education of young people resident in the Parishes of Hockliffe and Chalgrave.

The money was invested in farm land and the rent from this was used to further the education of the children. After a compulsory purchase of the land by Milton Keynes Development Corporation, the money was invested and the income from these investments is now used to continue the payment of grants.

Parishioners have the opportunity to apply for grants for the education of young people between the ages of 4 and 25, if they have been living in the Parish for at least **two years**. Grants are awarded towards the cost of:

- School uniform
- Extra and out of school lessons (i.e. swimming, football training, languages)
- Clubs (i.e. Beavers/Cubs/Scouts/Rainbows/Brownies/Guides)
- Travel costs (i.e. setting up at start of term at College/University—full details on form)
- Books, Instruments, Tools
- Help at 6th form college, University or other educational establishment.
- *Help with costs towards school trips and other travel which furthers education is also considered.*

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

The deadline for applications is on the 30th day of the month prior to the Trustees meetings, therefore, **applications need to be submitted to Norman Costin, Clerk for the trustees by 30th December and 30th June.** Together with your application form you will need to provide receipts/invoices for all claims made.

The trustees will consider the applications and award monies in accordance with the amount gained from the interest received from the investment. Grants are made at the discretion of the trustees.

If you feel you would benefit from this scheme, application forms can be obtained from Norman by contacting him at:

Heath Farm, Wingfield, LU7 9QH Tel: 01525 874232

Don't Let The Chancellor Get Your Money!

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A WILL

It is a common misconception that if you die without making a will, then your money will automatically go to your spouse. In fact, the state decides what will happen to it through what are called *intestacy rules*.

If you have children (including any from a previous marriage) your spouse or civil partner can receive a maximum of £250,000 (including your home) and all your personal belongings, the rest is split in two. Half is put in trust, on which the surviving spouse can draw interest for their lifetime, the other half goes directly to the children, if they are under 18, it is held in statutory trust until they come of age.

Where there are no children the spouse or partner can inherit a maximum of £450,000, with the balance again being divided in two with half going to your parents or, if they're dead, then your siblings or their children.

Fortunately any joint accounts or jointly owned assets, possibly your home, automatically pass by survivorship to the other person before these limits apply. Even then it depends on how your home is owned; a local expert said "Dying without making a will leaves your spouse with problems at a very distressing time. If there is no will there are no executors to administer the estate so the surviving spouse has to apply for a grant of letters of administration before the estate can be sorted out. Until this is granted assets such as bank accounts are frozen".

If you are living together and are not married, or in a civil partnership, you have no automatic rights so it is vital to write a will. Children and sisters inherit first, then your parents and after this other siblings.

You can buy do-it-yourself wills or download one online, but it is best to use a professional as even simple wills can lead to complications.

You especially need to take advice if you have stepchildren, or if it is likely your estate will have to pay inheritance tax, which is paid on everything over £325 000 at 40% if the surviving spouse is inheriting everything.

Some of these figures you may think are way out of the reach of normal folk, but if you own your own home and have a few quid in an ISA or stuffed under the mattress then you could be well within the inheritance tax bracket. Even if you have a small amount of money to leave behind do you want the treasury to get it?

Last year the Treasury made £18 million out of unclaimed estates from those dying without having made a will, so if you want the Government to have all your hard earned savings fine, but if you don't then make a will now!

Source, Money Mail November 11th 2009



"HEROES"

...Ordinary People Who Do Extraordinary Things...

I recently came across the story of Pierlucio Tinazzi, he was an Italian security guard on the Mont Blanc Tunnel. His job was to ride his motorbike, back and forth through the tunnel, keeping traffic flowing and providing assistance where required.

Opened in 1966, the tunnel runs for 7 miles under some of the highest mountains in Europe, and carries thousands of vehicles daily. On 24th March 1999 a lorry carrying 9 tons of margarine and 12 tons of flour, caught fire 4km into the tunnel. Tinazzi had been taking a break, he had turned down promotion to the control booth because he preferred riding, than sitting in the office.



As he was getting ready to make another run, the fire alarms went off, he grabbed some breathing equipment and rode his BMW K75 motorcycle into the tunnel. As he came across people trying to get out he stopped, telling them to keep low, keep against the wall (where there were fresh air ducts) and keep moving, stopping only to breath at the ducts. He then rode into the 'Hell' that was the tunnel fire, through the smoke. Most of the truckers close to the fire were poisoned by gasses within minutes. Tinazzi peered among the dead and found the occasional survivor, which he then put on the back of his bike and slalomed out of the tunnel, before returning for the next one.

On Tinazzi's fifth visit into the tunnel he came across Maurice Lebras, a French truck driver who was unconscious but alive. He was too

big and unwieldy to get onto the bike but Tinazzi refused to abandon him and wrestled Maurice into 'fire refuge 20' closing the door behind them.

The original fire doors were rated to last for 2 hours, some had been upgrded to 4 hours, but number 20 was not one of them. That didn't really matter as the fire burned for over 50 hours with temperatures approaching 1000 degrees, melting the lining of the tunnel. It was 5 days before it was cool enough for anyone to go back in. Of the 50 people trapped, 12 were rescued by Tinazzi, the remainder perished, either poisoned by the smoke or turned to dust by the inferno.

All that was found of Tinazzi was the remains of his BMW, it had melted into the pavement a few yards from fire refuge 20. All of the survivors claimed that the motorcyclist saved their lives.

The tunnel re-opened on the 9th March 2002, these days it employs a permanent staff of 65 firefighters, (about 20 are on duty at any one instant).

He was posthumously awarded the Gold Medal of the FIM for bravery and a plaque in his memory was erected at the Italian tunnel entrance, bikers hold a rally there every year. On the 10th anniversary of his death, bikers everywhere were asked to wear a flower when they rode in his memory.

This man probably did more in a few hours than many of us do in a lifetime.

So, if you are ever driving through the Mont Blanc Tunnel spare a thought for Pierlucio Tinazzi, the bravest motorcyclist you've never heard of!

John Parker

Quiz Night: 27th March

On the 27th March 2010 a quiz night was held at the Chalgrave Memorial Hall. It was a Family Quiz and 85 people attended, a record breaking number for the quiz nights, it was held to raise money in aid of The Chalgrave News.

The quiz proved to be a huge success as many members of the public who came said how 'well behaved' the children were. There were 10 rounds in total including: current affairs, general knowledge, food and drink and a round for children, as well as extra question sheets on the tables. Also, there were Spot prizes for children and adults and many bottles of wine and chocolate eggs were won throughout the evening. There was a fish & chip supper (which you can see being enjoyed below), which was supplied by Pepes of Dunstable, and it proved to be a huge success with everyone.

At the end of the evening, there was a tie between 3 of the teams: The Alzheimer's Society, Gravy and Bus Pass 6. But, with a final question to decide the winner, The Alzheimer's Society won. The winning team then very kindly gave back the money that they had won to the funding of the Chalgrave News. A big thank you must go to the people in the Alzheimer's Society team.

A thank you must also go to **John Parker** who was an excellent Quiz Master. He made the evening enjoyable but also a learning experience at the same time!

We must also say a huge thank you to the organisers of the whole event: **Barbara Jackson** and **Su and John Parker**. Without them the evening would not have happened and been such a great success. Thank you also to **Debbie Hampson** and **Alan Elder**. To our resident 'Carol Vorderman' **Bill Jackson** for keeping score, and to anyone else who helped out on the night, it really was a great evening and I am sure that we all cannot wait until next year when hopefully the same event will take place again.

Lizzie



The Chalgrave Experience:

We six travelled from the outer reaches of the city to the dark interior of the countryside to inculcate the yokels...sorry we meant locals, on how to understand that winning is easy when one has a superior team!

Well.... we came very near to the top and at one time we were at the top until some jokers decided to play their joker, this gave our system a severe shock which wasn't fair, they should have played it earlier when they would have got less points! Never mind, we had to drown our sorrows with more wine, which fortunately was well catered for, unlike the John Smith's which unfortunately ran out, causing some distress and a loss of memory with the subsequent consequences.

We have to say THANK YOU for a very enjoyable evening; the organisation was first class aided and abetted by the compere, John, and the charming ladies looking after the bar and catering. A very good evening was had by all; we are now suffering from achgravlephobia, (can you spot the anagram?). Can we come again?

The HazTeens



Beating The Bounds of Chalgrave Parish

For a number of years now we have revived this ancient custom and organised a walk on **Rogation Sunday**. The boundary of what was then called Cealhgnafau is detailed in a charter of AD926 in which King Aethelstan, who claimed to be the first King of all Britain, granted the estate to 'The Thegn Ealdred'. The boundary being defined as:

(1) Where the dyke shoots on to Watling Street (2) then along Watling Street till you come to the ford, (3) then along the brook to the second ford. (4-10) Then from the ford up to the spring and thence to the dell [small valley], and then from the dell to the dyke, and from the dyke to the second dyke to the brook (11) and from the brook to Cynburg well. (12) Then along the dyke to East Coten, (13) thence to the Old Brook, and (14) thence along the rithie [ridy or stream] (15) Then straight to the Highway (16) and along the Highway to the dyke, and (17) along the dyke to Watling Street"



[The directions 4-10 from the foot of Tatterhill to the Cynburg Well (Kimberwell) are difficult to follow on today's landscape]

In the past Parochial officials and a crowd of boys beat the parish boundary markers with green birch boughs. Sometimes the boys were themselves whipped or even violently bumped on Stones or Trees marking extent of the Parish to make them remember the boundaries. A folk memory of the Parish was necessary to maintain the integrity of borders and prevent encroachment by neighbours. "We don't want none of them there Toddington folk invading our Parish!!"

In different Parishes this was known as "Riding the Marshes" The ceremony might also involve the blessing of crops or animals and the inspection of fences. In some cases they beat the stones or markers in order to drive out the evil spirits from

the old year and purify the land.

Later it had a religious side in the practice which originated the term "Rogation", the accompanying clergy being supposed to beseech (rogare) the divine blessing upon the parish lands ensuring a good harvest.

The Present day boundary is slightly different; the main change being that Chalgrave used to take in the eastern side of Hockliffe. A few years ago we obtained a grant to put in Boundary markers, as pictured on the map, on every footpath at the point of entry into the Parish.

This year **Rogation Sunday falls on May 9th**. We walk most, but not the entire boundary, and all are welcome to what is always an enjoyable, if sometimes wet affair. It is fairly easy walking although some parts of the boundary are not footpaths, and may only be legally walked on this day. There are a few "tricky bits" but normal walking gear will suffice.

The itinerary for the day is as follows:

- ◆ Leave from in front of the Queen's Head at 10am sharp.
- ◆ Stop for lunch at the Fancott Arms around 1pm and leave again around 2.30pm.
- ◆ Arrive back in Tebworth around 5pm.

If you don't feel up the full day then you are welcome to join us for the morning or afternoon sections only. Hope to see some new recruits.

If you have any questions contact Ken Green on 01525 874107



CHALGRAVE NEWS

Advertising And Useful Contacts

To advertise in the Chalgrave News, please contact the Editorial team via our email thechalgravenews@live.co.uk

When contacting an advertiser, please remember to mention you saw them in the Chalgrave News

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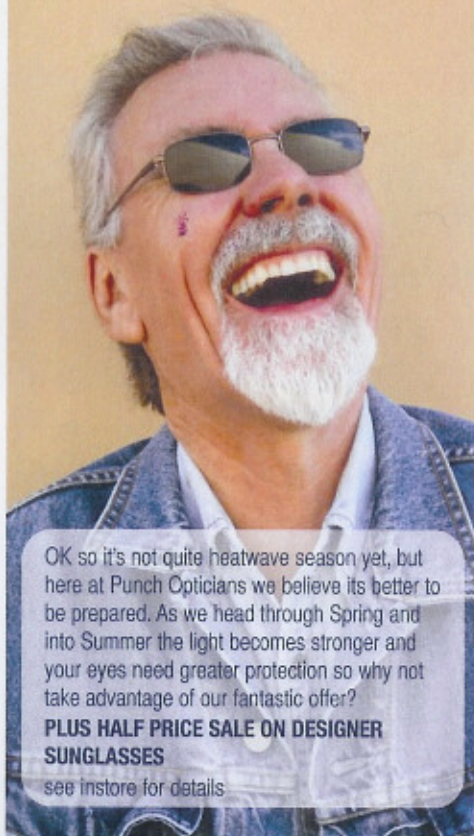


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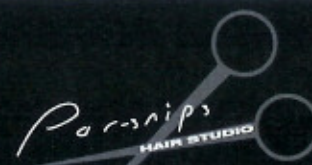
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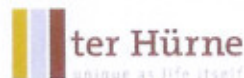
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Article Submission and Advertising within the Chalgrave News

If you would like to advertise in the Chalgrave News, or are part of a local organisation or club and would like to submit an entry into the next edition, then please contact the Editorial Team via:

thechalgravenews@live.co.uk

We are always keen to receive information from members of the community; articles relating to local historical events, people or places of interest from the Parish, upcoming events or activities.

Remember, it's your magazine. So, if there are things you don't like, let us know. If there are things you do like and want to see more of, let us know.

If there is anything you want to see in future editions, drop us an email and we will do our best to make it happen.

Next Edition

**Deadline for all entries:
Friday 9th July**

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Please contact **07831 482556** for full details.



Did you know that the play area and park belong to the Village Hall?

Everyone is welcome to use the park and enjoy the play area
BUT please respect the hirer's right to use these facilities
when hiring the hall.

Many thanks
The Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee

Useful Contacts

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Secretary to Andrew Selous	Sue Howats	howats@parliament.uk	01582 662821
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Vice Chairman Parish Council	Ken Green		01525 874107
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Councillor	June Horne		01525 873965
Councillor	Roger Mence		01525 874516
Councillor	Derek Smith		01525 874105
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Central Beds Unitary Council			01582 472222
Beds County Council			01234 363222
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Church Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert		01525 872828
Chairman Chalgrave Memorial Hall	Roger Masters		01525 873039
Memorial Hall Booking Secretary	Debbie Hampson		07831 1482556
Senior Citizens Committee	Roger Masters		01525 873039
West Charity—Clerk to Trustees	Norman Costin		01525 874232
Chalgrave Sports/Cricket Club	Roger Burden		01525 873077
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Rainbows/Brownies/Guides	Gill Hiscok		01525 875239
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Head: Harlington Upper School	Mr Shawn Fell		01525 755100
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Helping Hands			07882 988270

The Headway Appeal

Headway aim to provide a wide range of support to meet the individual needs of people with an acquired brain injury, their families and/or carers, enabling them to live as independently as possible.

All money will go to "Headway Luton"

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Headway "buy a brick" appeal.

Once again a big thank you.

Tina Harris

All who know Ron will be aware of what a good cause this is in helping acquired brain injury survivors.

So far a marvellous response from patrons of the Queens Head and the village in general has raised around £500.

More is still needed to acquire a new building and equipment so that they can cater for many more brain injury survivors.



Grumpy Old.....

Here is a question for somebody:

'Do you need to get permission from anybody to cause chaos on the roads?'

It would seem not, judging by the amount there is about. The latest nonsense has been at Hockcliffe, some lunatic closed part of the road causing enormous tailbacks on the A5, a major road. And the reason? Putting some pipes under the road near the junction, who are these people?

Why are they allowed to do as they please? I, of course have the answer, and it's very simple, if these people want to dig holes let them do it at night when traffic is light, plus ensure that it is all open during the day, that way thousands of people are not inconvenienced by a few individuals building a few flats. That make sense, doesn't it?



Chalgrave News Fundraising Activities

As you are aware, here at the Chalgrave News we are constantly trying to keep the coffers full to allow us to bring you this magazine.

With this in mind, we are inviting you, our readers and members of this community, to let us know if there are any particular events or activities that you would like to see taking place.

What will tempt you from your sofas to help with the cause? Could it be:

- Film nights/afternoons
- Live bands/ Disco
- Quiz nights
- Bingo
- Table Top Sales

Trust me... I'm a car dealer!!!

Sales of 4x4's are going to go through the roof this year because of the recent atrocious weather, people are fed up with getting stuck. That means prices will rise, as the law of supply and demand always rules. Trouble is, they are very nice when we're knee deep in snow, but not very nice the rest of the time.

The best 4x4 for general everyday use with a reasonable 'off road ability' is the BMW X5. I have just sold mine (before the snow sadly) because of its awful ride (and it didn't have sports suspension) goodness knows what it's like with it! Plus, at over 6 foot tall I had to climb up to get into it, (don't even ask how Suzan managed!!).



And, they're 'big', enormous like driving a container with windows. The biggest problem of all though was, it was probably the only X5 in the country without heated seats, and with leather that is just unacceptable in the winter time I am afraid!

As you will have already read, we held a very successful Quiz Night on Saturday 27th March, but we would like to be able to bring the community together with a variety of events that will appeal to a wide audience - young and old.

So, put your thinking caps on and email your ideas to:

thechalgravenews@live.co.uk.

We look forward to reading about your ideas.

If you fancy the idea, think carefully and 'try before you buy', or you could take the sensible 'compromise', which really isn't a compromise at all, and buy an Audi Quattro, lots of flavours available in saloon and estates. You can even get a V6 Turbo petrol that goes very well indeed, has a decent automatic and 4 wheel drive. It is beautifully built, and you can get one for similar money (depending on what you want) as a 4x4. A diesel version is available too.

More good news! Having languished at the bottom of the 'most hated profession' league for as long as I can remember, 'Used Car Dealers' are on the up!

Together with Estate Agents we have, apparently, moved up the list! We are now above Politicians, Bankers, (a description which I often think is *nearly* spelt right!) And, of course, Traffic Policemen. The only way is up!

John Parker



Film Review: The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

On the 23rd December 2009, Su, Barbara, Emma and Richard of The Chalgrave News team, organised a film to be shown at Chalgrave Memorial Hall. Children trekked from far and wide through the snow, to come and see the exciting film. Homemade POPCORN and a selection of drinks were available for the children. The ages ranged from 4-14 and I believe everyone enjoyed it.

Synopsis

Based on the book by the famous Dr. Seuss, inside a snowflake exists the magical land of Whoville. In Whoville, live the Who's, a sort of munchkinlike people. All the Who's love Christmas, yet just outside of their beloved Whoville lives the Grinch. The Grinch is a nasty creature that hates Christmas, and plots to steal it away from the Who's. Yet a small child, Cindy Lou Who, decides to try befriend the Grinch. This proves to be trouble, as the Grinch is not as willing to befriend Cindy as much as she would like

The film proved to be a huge hit and all the children loved it. This was a great film to choose, as it was a seasonal film right for everyone. Special thanks must go to Su, Barbara, Emma and Richard for organising the whole event and to Laura and Dan for selling refreshments. We all hope that another film will be shown next Christmas or even before!

By Lizzie



Clubs & Committees



Hello Everyone,

Let me begin by welcoming the new team running the Tebworth Magazine and wishing them good luck and success with their venture. I must also thank most heartily the 'old team' for all their hard work in producing the magazine every quarter of the 7 years I lived in Tebworth. I always looked forward to its arrival and Peter and I used to fight over who would read it first!!!

Now for the book club report: Our first meeting this year was at the home of our newest member, June Lewis. I'm pleased to say she passed the test and the coffee and cakes were excellent! We discussed **WOLF BANE** by **HILARY MANTEL**. The book was very large and followed the roller coaster life of Thomas Cromwell – not to be confused with Oliver. . There were many historical characters we all know including Thomas Moore, Henry 8th, and Thomas Cranmer. The group as a whole found it rather hard going and although it was about 'real' people, it was hard to recognise who was talking, and on some occasions we didn't even realise the character speaking was actually in the room. We also found ourselves referring constantly to the family trees at the beginning of the book. However, we all agreed the author created a good strong atmosphere of the time, when life was so cheap and death by hanging predominant. We did find ourselves having a deep discussion about the era, even down to the popular Christian names.

We decided we were pleased we had read the book, but wouldn't go out of our way to read her other books.

Our next meeting, was held at Lyn's and we discussed a very different book called **THE TALL MAN** by **CHLOE HOOPER**. This is the true story of an incident in the aboriginal community in Palm Island North of Cairns, Australia. A well known and liked white policeman was accused of killing an aboriginal man while arresting him and putting him into prison. The aboriginal population were shown in a bad light, drinking heavily taking drugs and abusing women, but we were never in any doubt that they held the author's sympathy. Through fair means or foul the policeman was acquitted and the case made very prominent headlines in our newspapers. I was very surprised to learn it all took place between 2004 and 2006. On the whole we agreed it was a very good read – not very uplifting, rather depressing in fact – but informative and factual.

Our next book is going to be **THE RAPTURE** by **LIZ JENSON**, about which we know very little. I hope to report on this in the next magazine.

By the way, our Christmas lunch – which seems so long ago, was great – with Lesley providing birthday champagne! Thank you Lesley.

If anyone would like to join our book club please ring me on 01494 782634 – we do have space for one more at present.

Linda Hadden



Chalgrave Memorial Hall

The committee has held several meetings in the last six months - I can't believe how quickly the year is passing. Our members have been working hard

sprucing up the Hall, and we now have a new cooker and the curtains are to be replaced shortly.

Recently, the boiler has been playing up but is now working well. Apologies to any users who have not found the hall as warm as it usually is.

Despite the gloomy economic situation, bookings are going well and we hope this will continue throughout the year. Don't forget that fees for parishioners are greatly reduced so please use the Hall as much as possible.

Once again we have been approached by some users of the Hall who have complained about children using the play area and making a bit of a nuisance of themselves when the Hall is let.

Whilst we love to see our parish kids using the play area, please, if your children use it, remind them to respect other users of the Hall. **The play area is not a public place. It is owned and managed by the Trustees of the Hall.**

Finally please put a note in your diaries that the **WORLD FAMOUS CHALGRAVE GAMES** will be held on Saturday 17th July. Don't forget to buy your tickets for the Grand Draw, which are on sale now from any member of the committee.

WANTED

Volunteers to join the management team of the Chalgrave Memorial Hall.

Help us run the Hall and grounds for the benefit of the Parish.

Our management Committee is getting smaller and smaller, so anyone who can spare a little time is welcome to join us.

If you are interested please contact me on **873039**.

Roger Masters

Everybody's entitled to my opinion!!

The only good news coming out of the worst winter in 30 years with its' endless snow is that the 'environmentalists' are on their back foot and have gone quiet for a bit. As 'global warming' changed to 'climate change' it should now be 'global cooling'! With statistics, you can prove whatever you like, you can even say it was the hottest January in history - as one headline had it recently! Anyway, looks to me like it's getting colder so we need to warm things up a bit. Some 'Climate Experts' believe that temperatures could rise by as much as 6 degrees if we don't all start walking to work, or, horror upon horrors...cycling! 6 degrees is not enough, that means the - 4 it was here last month would be +2! So, forget about stupid electric cars and Prius' that won't stop and get back to buying proper fast cars with decent petrol engines that throw out enormous amounts of CO2..... That way, we will all warm up a bit, I can get my daughter to school without taking part in the Winter Olympics, I can use my motorcycle more, my wife can go top-less (in her convertible by the way) and we can grow grapes in the garden. Can't come soon enough for me!

JP



Chalgrave Memorial Hall Tebworth

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Dog Show Watersports

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Children's Games and more



FREE ENTRY!!!

The Chalgrave Games

At last Spring is on the way, & fast on its' heels follows the long awaited hot Summer, which brings the 'highlight' of the Village year..

The Chalgrave Village Games...July 17th 2010

We hope to see as many of you as possible on Saturday July 17th, but in the meantime we would be more than happy for you to get involved before the Big Day!
HOW??

*Ideas of what you would like to see at the Games

*Sponsorship

*Help in manning stalls

*Donations for... Grand Draw

Tombola

Plants

Books/Bric 'a' Brac

Please call Su on 01525 873963 or speak to anyone on the Hall Committee if you would like to be involved in any way.

Thank you.

The Dangers of Drink Driving

With the long summer nights upon us and the holiday period fast approaching many people will be relaxing at the village Inn socialising with friends and enjoying a cool drink.

Most adults at some time will have had a few drinks and persuaded themselves that they are fit to drive. I have yet to stop and breathalyse a driver who has admitted drinking more than 2 pints but when tested the alcohol in their body far exceeds that amount.

Here are some of the excuses that may sound familiar!

Alcohol doesn't affect me, I drive better after a few pints

Wrong. Alcohol makes you less alert at the same time it gives you a strong but false sense of confidence.

I've just had a big meal so the drink won't affect me ...

Wrong. You may not feel the effects of the alcohol so quickly but you soon will and it will affect your driving.

I drink all the time – I know my limit ...

Don't kid yourself. Alcohol affects people in different ways and it is impossible for you to judge your limit.

I haven't had a drink for an hour so it will be ok to drive

Don't take the risk. The body burns alcohol very slowly it takes at least 8 hours to get rid of the alcohol from 4 pints of normal strength beer

I've just had a couple of black coffees ... they'll sober me up ...

A common myth. Coffee may make you feel more alert but nothing you do will reduce the alcohol in your blood.

I'll drive. I don't live far away and the roads are empty at this time of night ...

Don't! 70% of all drink drive accidents occur within 3 miles of the start of the journey

I'm a man, I can take a drink, I've done it loads of times and never been caught.

Don't get carried away. 90% of convicted drink drivers are male and police have access to sophisticated technology and improved techniques to clamp down on drink driving.

Don't forget drink driving wrecks lives

If you have any questions about this subject or wish to speak to me about any village issues please feel free to contact me.

Also, please remember that rural communities are susceptible to crime. Please heed my previous crime prevention advice regarding your property and look after elderly or vulnerable neighbours. I will gladly attend your property and conduct a crime reduction survey.

PC 479 Martin Pennell Neighbourhood Police Officer

01582 473427

martin.pennell@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Queens Head Update

Hello all you folks out there, it is I Colin from the Queens Head. Under new management - no not the Pub - the Chalgrave News, you don't get rid of me that easily!



I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, if you can remember it, don't worry if you can't; it just means that you had a very happy Christmas or else you are of an age when the short term memory is beginning to fade. Now what was I saying, oh yes; the entertainment that we had over the festive season was superb everyone had a really good time, Pete Spence was, as usual, marvellous and Lenny Melvis and all the other regulars had us rocking in the aisles - well the bars.

The entertainment that I have booked for the coming few months are as follows:-

April 16th	Pete Spence	May 21st	TBD
April 23rd	Keith West	May 28th	Pete Spence
April 30th	Lenny	June 4th	Keith West
May 7th	Merv	June 11th	Lenny
May 14th	Steve Jones	June 18th	Joe (Tebworth resident)
		June 25th	Jim Turner

The usual suspects are here on every other Monday nights as well keeping you amused and delighted, so come on down to The Queens Head and start and end your week enjoying some good music and laughter.

Don't forget that the Domino Team are still going strong, winning more matches than they lose so hopefully there will be more trophies on display later in the year. The darts team are also doing very well this season and are getting quite worried in case they get promoted next season, that will mean playing with the 'big boys' of the darts league and taking everything a bit more seriously.

Toddington St Georges School

Twenty lovely children visited Toddington St. George in March to enjoy playing and learning in the School Nursery. They enjoyed making play-dough cakes, 'cooking' in the home corner, rushing to outer space from the 'space station', making shiny and sparkly pictures, playing with the dinosaurs and reading books. They had time to enjoy the nursery garden and play area whilst their parents met the head teacher and the PTA.

We are looking forward to these children joining us after Easter. **Do contact the school as soon as possible if you wish to put your children on the school's Nursery or Reception admissions list. We have 10 places for September remaining.**

This term we have a range of themes to support the children's learning. This culminates in a number of 'special event days' to bring all the learning together. Year 4 have had a great day experiencing life as World War 2 evacuees at Holdenby House. Year 3 have enjoyed making perfume, Roman shields and a Roman banquet whilst clad in togas (these re-appeared in our Easter resurrection production!).

Year 2 experienced life in a Victorian school and were remarkably quiet as they wrote on slates, practised copperplate handwriting and dictated their tables and reading to their school ma'am. Year 1 have been out and about in the village looking at the architecture of Toddington. They

have used ideas to then design their own houses, but the real excitement of this term is the arrival of our incubators to link with their Spring project. We already have seven chicks and the children will name them. Hopefully there will be plenty more hatching.

Reception and Nursery jet off to space this term and the rockets and space stations have been a great hit. The alien party (with cakes and masks made by the children) was wonderful and the children have amazed us with their knowledge of planets and stars!

Just to keep us on our toes, during w/c 15th March we had a 'sporty week'. We had a fantastic skip-hop workshop with a dashing boxer leading the skipping and we 'walked the mile' for Sports Relief dressed in red.

We have had three charitable projects since Christmas and parental support has been wonderful. These were:

- Multicoloured Monday (Haiti earthquake relief appeal) - **£465.00**
- Cake Bakes for Jeremiah (the child we sponsor in Uganda) - **£360.65**
- Maths challenge to support the NSPCC - **£2,768.25**

If you would like a nursery admission form, please call the school on 01525 872360.

Parkfields School Talent Show



to flourish, learn & grow

On Friday 5 February 2010 Parkfields Middle School held a fundraising event in aid of their School Minibus Appeal and SCBU (Special Care Baby Unit) at the L&D Hospital. The event was *'Parkfields Has Talent'* and was suggested and organised by Year 8 pupil, Elli Priestnall.

In the months preceding the event, pupils auditioned for the show and 27 acts were selected to perform on the night. They were judged by teachers, Mr & Mrs Nicholls, two pupils, Juilan Bemoussa and Luke Tipler who had applied to become judges, Mr Martin King from Live 2 Perform and Beverley Trotman, a previous X Factor finalist.

The acts ranged from singing and dancing, playing musical instruments, poetry, comedy and even synchronized swimming!!!! The pupils taking part were aged between 9 and 13 and every one of them gave a fantastic performance. They all took to the stage and wowed their audience of 275 people and of course the six judges.

Imogen Parry was in charge of the lighting and was supported by Mr Purdom who wore a tee-shirt announcing he was "Imogen's helper"!!!

No one seemed at all nervous in the spotlight as they belted out their songs, danced across the stage or played their instruments and the audience were captivated by the sheer professionalism and confidence shown by all of the contestants.

Beverley Trotman took to the floor and congratulated all of the contestants, organisers and teachers for putting on such a wonderful show. It was a hard decision, but finally the judges agreed on an overall winner - *'Monitors in Motion'*, a dance group made up of three Year 8 girls, Helen Morley, Francesa Denton and Charlotte Miles.

The prize was a pair of tickets for X Factor Live, which the winners announced they would like to raffle and donate the proceeds to help the people of Haiti. This gesture has made the teachers and parents of Parkfields children extremely proud. The raffle took place in the following week, raising a further **£130** and was won by Mrs McNeil who is now eagerly awaiting her gig!!!

Elli Priestnall presented a cheque for **£250** to the L&D Neonatal Baby Care Unit, with a further **£402.94** being raised on the evening. **£75.00** will be sent to Noah Enterprise, leaving a total of **£402.93** to go to the Parkfields Minibus Appeal.

Parkfields would like to thank the Judges, everyone who attended the event and all the behind the scenes helpers. They would also like to say a big thank you to *Monarch Airlines*, *Cineworld* and many others who donated fantastic raffle prizes. Last but not least, a massive thank you goes to every pupil who performed and gave us all an evening to remember!

Bare Your Wardrobe for Charity

As Spring has arrived, many of you will be thinking of embarking on the annual 'Spring Clean'. Therefore, now is the ideal time to support a very worthwhile cause.

The UK's biggest charity **Cancer Research UK** has partnered with retailer **TK Maxx** for a fourth year to launch the UK's longest running charity collection partnership, to raise valuable funds for the treatment and cure of childhood cancers.

Launched in 2004 and referred to previously as GiveGet, the 2010 campaign is called '**Give Up Clothes for Good**' and is calling upon the nation to strip their wardrobes bare, for the biggest clothing and homeware collection ever. The campaigns in 2004, 2006 and 2008 have already raised a staggering **£7 million** to help beat children's cancer, this was achieved by selling the donated items in Cancer Research UK shops.

'Give up Clothes for Good' runs from **5th-25th April** with special donation bags available free in TK Maxx stores. However, all bags are welcome - from bin bags to supersize carrier bags.

So don't hang on to unwanted gifts, spring clean your wardrobes and drop in your unwanted, quality clothing and household items to any TK Maxx store this month. Each bag donated could be worth up to £30 towards research into childhood cancers.

For more details on how to support the campaign and to find your nearest store, please visit www.tkmaxx.com.

Your local TK Maxx stores can be found at:

Milton Keynes, Bletchley, Bedford, Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead.



Article Submission and Advertising within the Chalgrave News

If you would like to advertise in the Chalgrave News, or are part of a local organisation or club and would like to submit an entry into the next edition, then please contact the Editorial Team via:

thechalgravenews@live.co.uk

We are always keen to receive Information from members of the community; articles relating to local historical events, people or places of interest from the Parish, upcoming events or activities.

Remember, it's your magazine. So, if there are things you don't like, let us know. If there are things you do like and want to see more of, let us know.

If there is anything you want to see in future editions, drop us an email and we will do our best to make it happen.

Next Edition

**Deadline for all entries:
Friday 9th July**