

**CHALGRAVE NEWS
SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS 2002
EDITION**



USEFUL CONTACTS

Member of Parliament		Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & responsibilities	Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	874716
	Chairman	June Horne	873965
		(Fly tipping)	
	Vice Chairman	Ken Green	874107
		(Grass cutting)	
	Councillors	Frank Griffin	874126
		(Planning-footpaths-street lighting-road signs)	
		Daniel Osborn	873920
		Philip Parry	875169
		(Police liaison-roads & pavements)	
		David Ralley	07720 447687
		(Millennium award)	
		Derek Smith	874105
		(Traffic calming)	
District Council	South Beds DC		01582 472222
	Councillor	Norman Costin	874232
County Council	Bedfordshire CC		01234 363222
	Councillor	Rhys Goodwin	210629
Chalgrave Church	Vicar	Rev Liam Matthews	872298
	Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert	872828
Schools	Lower	St Georges	872360
	Middle	Parkfields	872555
	Upper	Harlington	873836
Home Watch	(Wingfield Road Area)	Dot Brinklow	874228
Tree Warden		Tony Smith	874716
Doctors		Drs A Long/J Perkins	872222
Toddington Library			873626
Electricity Board emergency			0800 7 838838
Water Board emergency			0845 7 145145
Police	Beat Officer	P.C. Phil Sutton	01582 401212
Chalgrave	Chairman	Roger Fenwick	873768
Memorial Hall	Booking Secretary	Lyn Green	874107
Senior Citizens	Chairman	Roger Masters	873039
Committee	Secretary	Lyn Green	874107
West Charity	Clerk to the Trustees	Norman Costin	874232
Mums and Tots and Youth Club		Vacant	
Cricket Club	Chairman	John Kirwin	876349
	Secretary	David Cestaro	873887
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts		David Yirrell	875410
Toddington Rainbows/Brownies/Guides		Gill Hiscox	875239
Toddington Tennis Club		Ray Smith	874148
Chalgrave Parish News		Jean & Tony Cornes	874605
		Lyndie Lothian	874166
		Frances & Roger Masters	873039

Cover pictures available for sale from Editorial Team. Proceeds to magazine fund.

Let's start by saying a big 'thank you' for all the helpful and positive comments we have received following the publication of the first two editions of the new Parish News.

Yes, it was late again: yes, there were teething troubles and yes, we did lose our front cover somewhere between here and Holland, but aren't all good things worth waiting for?

We could say that we have worked and slaved on this special edition for the Festive Season. We could say that midnight oil has been burned (especially when we were blacked out during the October storm), but the truth is, the editorial meetings are a joy. A bottle of mediocre wine and a frank exchange of views lead to a lot of laughter, and the ideas for the next issue are quickly formed.

Contributions to the News are much appreciated and we are finding that the people of Chalgrave are more than willing to contribute. We are certainly very lucky here – a small Parish but with a lot of enthusiasm for the community and support for local events.

Don't miss out on the Christmas competitions in this issue – just look at the prizes! We also hope you enjoy your free gift, courtesy of Peter Kuys, a CD of Christmas carols just to get you in the seasonal mood.

If you are late in preparing for Christmas, you will find some quick and cheap recipes from the war years in this issue (go on, we dare you to try them!).

Don't forget the Carol Service at Chalgrave Church and, as we go to press, rumour has it that plans are afoot for a group of locals posing as Dickensian singers will be touring the locality raising funds for local charities. Keep your ears open for that one!

Just a mention of the lovely painting of the Church on the front cover.

This was discovered by one of our intrepid reporters in a local shop and it was painted in 1990 by Laura Lee. Does anyone know of her?

Thank you once again to all those who have contributed and helped produce and distribute this Parish News and let's hope that 2003 will be happy, healthy and peaceful for us all.



**MERRY XMAS
CHALGRAVE**



CHALGRAVE CHURCH

Wake up: be my disciple

The Chinese, Christians and Jews all have one important thing in common: their New Year does not begin at midnight, 1st January. The first Sunday of Advent is the Church's New Year's Day; the beginning of the liturgical year. It opens with the season of Advent; the period of preparation for the celebration of Christmas and, more fundamentally, a reminder that we must prepare for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.

The time between the First and Second Coming is the time for the Church's mission, our mission. Jesus Christ sent the Church into the world to make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. However, we cannot give to others what we have not within ourselves.

First of all, we must become Christ's disciples. We must listen to Christ; prepare to receive him into our lives so that we can offer him to a broken world. The only person who can answer the world's problems is Jesus Christ. Christ's is the only message that the world needs to hear. We have been called to carry Jesus Christ and his message to all whom we meet. This is the urgent call of Jesus Christ: Wake up; be my disciples, and carry my Word to all people.

Liam Matthews

Services in Church : 1st; 3rd; and 4th Sunday of the month. Parish communion at 9.30 am . The 2nd Sunday of the month worship together service.

Special Christmas services

Carols by candlelight: Saturday 14th December 2002

Midnight mass 11.45 24th December 2002

WHAT'S HAPPENED AROUND THE PARISH SINCE THE LAST CHALGRAVE NEWS?

Halloween and bonfire night

**.....and on
the streets**



Traffic calming committee reformed

**26th October
Gales bring down
several trees
throughout the
Parish**



Deadline date for articles for next issue 31st January continued on page 4



**Murder Mystery
evening held at the
Village Hall**

**Kareoke night at the
Queen's Head
in aid of
Save the Children**



- ◆ **Parish Council agree to dog litter bins**
- ◆ **Plough Cricket team lose yet another match!**
- ◆ **Application for phone masts at A5 junction with Hockliffe Road**

THE CHALGRAVE NEWS

Advertising Rates:-	Single Insertion		Annual	
	B & W	Colour	B & W	Colour
Quarter Page	£ 5.00	£ 7.50	£17.50	£23.00
Half Page	£12.00	£15.50	£35.00	£45.00
Full Page	£20.00	£26.00	£70.00	£90.00

We are also including a 'small business ads' section at a cost of £10.00 / £15.00 per annual advertisement. If you are interested in promoting your business and helping to support this local magazine please send text required or copy of your advertisement with remittance payable to 'Chalgrave News' to Mrs L Lothian, 30 The Lane, Tebworth, Beds , LU7 9QB.

THE CHALGRAVE CAT

We've all heard of the Cornish Cougar, the Penzance Puma and even the Lancashire Lion but it seems that we may have our own unexplained animal roaming around Chalgrave. Rumours abound but one resident has reported that her chicken house was the scene of a massacre. When challenged that it may have been the work of a local fox, she was adamant that it wasn't 'I can tell if a fox has been in just by the smell' she said..

We have also had reports of a half eaten sheep being found in the field off The Lane. So, armed only with a camera and fuelled with a moderate dose of alcohol, one of our intrepid reporters ventured down The lane in late summer with the intent of capturing on film a picture of the elusive Chalgrave Cat.

He maintains this is it.....mmmm



If anyone can shed anymore light on this mystery, let us know.

WELL I NEVER!

After the world's media descended on 10 Cromwell Street Gloucester in 1994, following the discovery of bodies in Frederick and Rosemary West's 'garden of death', city fathers decided it was necessary to launch an advertising campaign to improve Gloucester's image. The Touchpaper Agency came up with the winning slogan: 'Gloucester—easy to get to, hard to leave'

The US motor giants Ford suffered a setback when their new Pinto went on sale in Brazil.. No one had told them Pinto was Portuguese for 'small male genitals'

Israel's notoriously reckless drivers kill about 500 people a year. In 1994, a Tel Aviv advertising agency erected posters around the city chastising Israeli drivers with the message:

'Research proves drivers who get rowdy on the road have small penises'



CHALGRAVE SOCIAL DIARY

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - VILLAGE HALL 7.30PM

1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, ALL SAINTS CHURCH

14TH DECEMBER

TIME OF OUR LIVES MUSIC THEATRE COMPANY - VILLAGE HALL, SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2003

PLOUGH INN - QUIZ NIGHTS

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 9.00PM

QUEENS HEAD - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY FRIDAY 7.30PM. CHRISTMAS EVE AND BOXING DAY. (HARRY HUSSEY FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER.)

LINE DANCING - VILLAGE HALL EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING 7.30PM

CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB QUIZ NIGHT - DATE TO BE AGREED

PLOUGH INN - HOUGHTON REGIS CHURCH CHOIR - CAROL SINGING SUNDAY EVENING 8.00PM 8TH DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS PARTY - VILLAGE HALL - 14TH DECEMBER 7.30PM ORGANISED BY TERESA BRAND AND KAREN WEBB. EVERYBODY WELCOME. (CHILDREN ADMITTED IF ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.)

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH - WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

PLOUGH INN - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

31ST DECEMBER FURTHER DETAILS FROM PLOUGH OTHER ACTIVITIES - ORGANISERS REQUIRED

CARPET BOWLS

BADMINTON

FLOWER ARRANGING

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY EVENTS IN THE PARISH PLEASE LET US KNOW FOR NEXT ISSUE OF SOCIAL DIARY

The Parish Church of All Saints, Chalgrave, Bedfordshire

*The editorial staff of the new magazine asked if I would contribute a short article on the Parish church. The following is an edited and shortened extract from "All Saints The Parish Church of Chalgrave, Bedfordshire A Brief Guide" which is available from the Church price 75p. I am indebted to and acknowledge the original author - our organist Mr Peter Freeman.
Larry Ryan—Churchwarden*

Described by the Archdeacon of Bedford as "The gem of Bedfordshire" the lovely church of All Saints, standing in splendid isolation on the hill and surrounded by chestnut trees is the sole reminder of a community which once thronged with life now gone forever.


Chalgrave, however, was one of the earliest settlements in the county and its existence can be traced back to the year 911 when, on orders from the King, it was purchased from "the heathen" (the Danes); the first written record of a land transaction in England.

In the year 1220 the Chronicle of Dunstable records the dedication of churches at Studham, Chalgrave and Pulloxhill. There had been Anglo Saxon church buildings on all these sites, so the churches had obviously been rebuilt. Chalgrave was recorded as dedicated on Holy Cross Day 1220 by Bishop Hugh of Lincoln.

The Manor of Chalgrave was the ancestral home of the Loring family and it would have been from here that Sir Nigel Loring rode out on his way to France to fight in the Hundred Years War. He achieved success early, winning his knighthood after the battle of Sluys in 1340 and seeing action at Crecy, Poitiers (from where he was chosen to ride home with news for the King that the battle had been won) and later in Spain under the command of the Black Prince. His greatest reward, however, came in 1348 when Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in imitation of King Arthur's round table, and appointed Sir Nigel one of the original Knights. He was assigned the tenth stall on the Black Prince's side in St. George's chapel Windsor.

In 1351 the black Prince appointed Sir Nigel Loring to be his Chamberlain. Sir Nigel died in 1386 and by the 15th century any habitation near to the

(Continued on page 8)



church had fallen into disrepair, along with the Manor House, only decades after the era of Sir Nigel Loring. His descendants now live mainly abroad and Chalgrave has, in recent years, become a popular place for them to visit. For the church on the hill it is likely that years of neglect followed and the building became derelict, almost forgotten and overgrown.

In 1889 during a severe storm, the top section of the tower, then 600 years old crashed through the roof of the church and lay in ruins in the west bay of the nave for years.

Some preliminary restoration work was done in the 1900s but it was not until 1931 that repairs were carried out and the church fully re-opened. The tower and roof were not re-built to their former height (a painting in the 1700s shows clerestory windows in the nave), since the cost of such work to a small parish was impossible. The bells, however, were saved and re-hung at a lower level.

One of the most important features of the church are the wall paintings, which date from the 13th to the 18th century. Legend has it that a person cleaning the church accidentally knocked some plaster off the wall revealing the painted colours beneath.

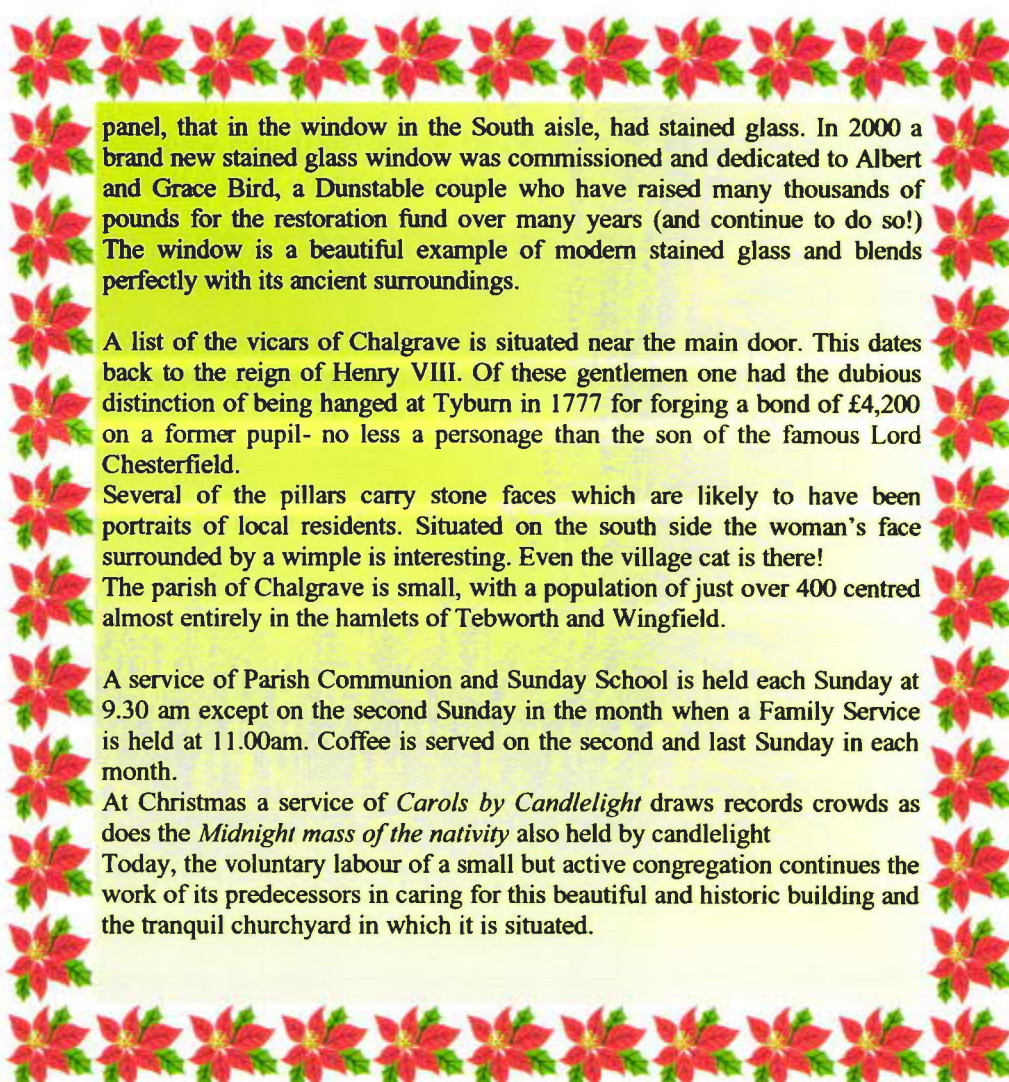
It was generally supposed that the wall paintings were covered at the time of the Civil war (1642-1649) but no documentary proof of this has been found.

The Reverend Alfred Loydall-Bee, vicar of the Parish at the time the paintings were discovered had the quick wit to order "hands off" until an expert could be brought in to examine the find. Professor E Tristram - fresh from restoration work on 13th Century wall paintings at Westminster Chapter House, pronounced the Chalgrave paintings were of the same period and as fine-if not finer. Between 1932 and 1934 a full uncovering was undertaken under the direction of Professor Tristram. This resulted in the recovery of a remarkable series of paintings giving a rare impression of a fully painted medieval church interior. The figure of St Martin dividing his cloak with his sword in order to give half to a beggar over the main door has been featured on a series of posters on local history prepared by Bedfordshire County council.

Other items of interest include two fine table tombs with effigies. The earliest on the north side is generally attributed to Sir Nigel Loring. The tomb on the south side is labelled as sir John Broughton but is more likely to be of another Loring.

Practically no two windows in the church are alike. Until recently only one

(Continued on page 9)



panel, that in the window in the South aisle, had stained glass. In 2000 a brand new stained glass window was commissioned and dedicated to Albert and Grace Bird, a Dunstable couple who have raised many thousands of pounds for the restoration fund over many years (and continue to do so!) The window is a beautiful example of modern stained glass and blends perfectly with its ancient surroundings.

A list of the vicars of Chalgrave is situated near the main door. This dates back to the reign of Henry VIII. Of these gentlemen one had the dubious distinction of being hanged at Tyburn in 1777 for forging a bond of £4,200 on a former pupil- no less a personage than the son of the famous Lord Chesterfield.

Several of the pillars carry stone faces which are likely to have been portraits of local residents. Situated on the south side the woman's face surrounded by a wimple is interesting. Even the village cat is there!

The parish of Chalgrave is small, with a population of just over 400 centred almost entirely in the hamlets of Tebworth and Wingfield.

A service of Parish Communion and Sunday School is held each Sunday at 9.30 am except on the second Sunday in the month when a Family Service is held at 11.00am. Coffee is served on the second and last Sunday in each month.

At Christmas a service of *Carols by Candlelight* draws records crowds as does the *Midnight mass of the nativity* also held by candlelight

Today, the voluntary labour of a small but active congregation continues the work of its predecessors in caring for this beautiful and historic building and the tranquil churchyard in which it is situated.

WEST TRUST

The current Trustees are as follows : -

FRANK GRIFFIN ROGER MASTERS LYNDIE LOTHIAN - Chalgrave Parish

PAUL DICKINS NICOLA BENDER ALAN SHADBOLT - Hockliffe Parish

RHYS GOODWIN - County Councillor

The next meeting of the Trust is scheuled for mid January so now is the time to start preparing your claim forms.

For an appropriate claim form or for further information please contact in the first instance -

Norman Costin, Clerk to Trustees.Heath Farm,Tebworth Road, Wingfield , Tel. 874232.

All Saints Church Flower Festival, 2002

In order to raise money for work required on the North and South aisle roofs the Flower Festival was brought forward a year. This festival was a resounding success due to the team work and enthusiasm of all the people who contributed. Planning began a year in advance, setting the dates, raising sponsors and deciding upon the themes and allocating flower arrangers to each project. Then the positioning of the displays throughout the church were agreed and meetings held to exchange ideas and decide on interpretations. All the flowers had to be sourced and ordered 2-4 weeks beforehand.

It took three full days to make up the wonderful displays.





The church looked absolutely beautiful, with areas set aside to sit and drink tea and eat the most delicious spread of pies, biscuits and cakes and take in the sight and perfumes of the displays.

Organ music played in the background and an interesting selection of stalls outside together with a raffle helped to increase the fun and the revenue. The church grounds looked immaculate and parking attendants directed the traffic down the lane.

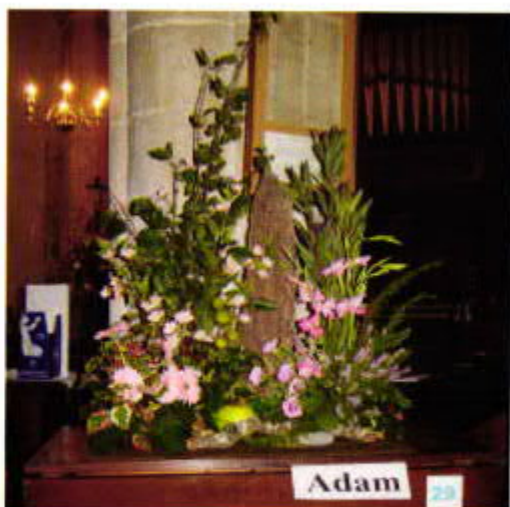
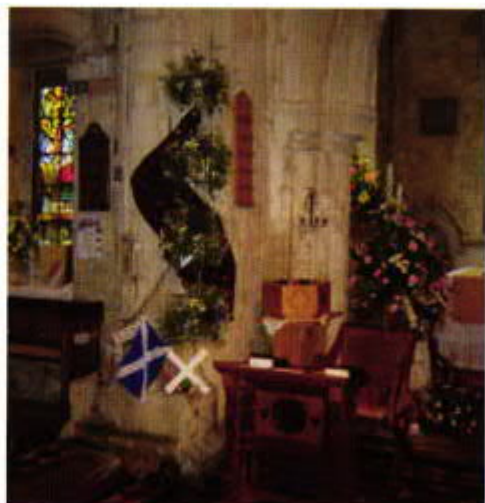


More pictures from the Flower Festival





Over £4000 was raised - a tremendous feat.



An idea to follow up with a calendar may yet be pursued so look out for sales.

Ramblings on the Parish Council

Bill (Scoop) Archer

Suddenly I have been asked to meet a deadline before the last issue of the News is out. Due to the vagaries of my notes, I'm not sure where I left off last time. So dear readers you will, I hope, excuse any lack of continuity.

Popping up like an old chestnut are the St. Mary's Close bollards. It seems that Local Authorities work on A Chinese Parliament principle. You put a message in one end and it comes out at the other.... mangled. The last the Parish Council heard was that the bollards would remain in situ and the crossover would be moved. We now have a crossover on the other side but I'm sure the crossover on the bollard side has remained where it was.... too narrow for a wheelchair to negotiate!

The Orange mobile telephone mast has occupied Council time. I hope you sent your protests in. In mine I made the point that with at least three companies, singleton use should be banned. Mobile phones have now been in use for more than seventeen years, surely by now some statistics on their environmental safety should be available? With this application for planning it appeared that Government was set on eroding planning procedures by centralisation. However, our Parish Council have been notified by DEFRA that Parish Councils will retain the right to consider planning applications within the Parish.

Our traffic calming gates are now in position and who knows, they might lead to motorists easing their foot of the accelerator pedal! Now, I live at least half a mile as the crow flies from one of the gates but outside my house I can still hear the 'therdunk, therdunk' as car tyres hit the granite sets. Must be noisy for those living closer. There is talk at the moment of the parish hiring or buying a flashing speed sign, which will register the speed of oncoming vehicles.... what a good idea.

The Parish Council has received a statement from the Highway Authority that no fatalities have occurred at the A5/Toddington Road junction..... Smacks of the traumas of 1984! Some bureaucrats are somehow different from the rest of us. They should on occasion poke their heads out of the building they occupy and look at the real world. I wonder if they have their eyes closed as they travel to and from their office? Anyway, the Parish Council is to vigorously protest at nothing being done owing to the consideration of misleading statistics.

Soon to be appearing in Wingfield Road, Tebworth will be a bin to dispose of dog fouling so enabling the penalties against us dirty dog owners to be enforced together with chewing gum and litter dropping. The cost of one emptying per week will currently be £100 per year.

Now, enough of my sardonic sallies, a note of praise for Ken Green who by his efforts saved the parish the labour expense of repairing the bus shelters. I hope the vacuous vandals who seem to be at work again will desist in their efforts, parents please note. The rash of white markings on pavements and roads around the Parish is the result of a walkabout by Mr Gibbert of South Beds District Council and our Parish Clerk Lesley Smith. In time these should become maintenance items to enhance and make safer our fair Parish. I hope the New Year finds you all well and happy

HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT AT THE PLOUGH

We all know that the night of All Hallows Eve is when ghoulies and ghosties go on their annual works outing.

Over the past year or two, a few have manifested themselves at the Plough in Wingfield. The fortnightly quiz has been moved from its normal Tuesday slot to coincide with Halloween, which, this year, fell on a Thursday.

The quizmaster, Raymondo, and compiler, Paul, encourage the appearance of these bizarre characters by awarding bonus points to the ones taking part in the quiz.



There was a fair sprinkling this year including a wizard who must have escaped from Hogwart's Academy, an overgrown pumpkin and Macbeth with his three witches. Jim the landlord thought that Macbeth looked more like the dreaded Pauline from *The League of Gentlemen* than the Shakespearean character.

Nonsense of course – judge for yourself in one of the accompanying photographs. Sadly, this was the last of the Halloween quiz nights for at least a couple of years because the day will fall on a weekend but other special quiz nights are planned.



So no more ghoulies, at least for a while.

READERS LETTERS PAGE

Let our experts solve your queries

Question -

I have recently bought a second-hand car but after two weeks have found it is leaking oil, leaking fuel, leaking water, needs three new tyres, Speedo has stopped working, will not change into third gear, rear passenger doors will not close properly, every time I try to change gear I get a grating noise, the oil and water temperature gauges have stopped working, the window screen washers only work when it is not raining, the back end of the car is a different paint shade to the front end, and the car alarm only works when I am sitting in the car and locks all the doors so that I have to climb through a window to get out.

Do I have a claim against the person I bought the car off?

Answer -

As the car was 'sold as seen' ever through the seller insisted you could only pick it up after dark I am afraid you have no claim whatsoever. And anyway I have since spent the cash you paid me!

All letters to the editor by next deadline date please.

AUNTIE AGNUS PROBLEM PAGE

Personal problems resolved with a smile

My Dear Readers

It is with regret that once more I must offer my sincerest apologies to Mr 'X' of Chalgrave Parish for yet another most unfortunate type setting error in my last column.

With the oncoming of Christmas I have received numerous letters from anxious residents worried about various aspects of the festive season. It was however a cry for help from Mr 'X' that caught my eye. He asked 'What present can he buy for his wife this year?'

Well Mr 'X' my reply should have read 'why not try buying her a tallboy (a high chest of drawers) but unfortunately my secretary mis heard me and my reply was printed ' Why not try buying her a toy boy'. Whilst we of the Chalgrave News understand that she has told you that this is the best Christmas present you have ever bought her we can fully appreciate the difficulties you have been faced with, not only in how do you wrap a toy boy (this will be covered in the next issue incidentally) but also the added household costs in keeping this type of present. Yes Mr 'X' it is extremely rude to take a gift away from the recipient but I am sure you will find that in time, as with all gifts, she will tire of her present and consign it to the dustbin.

Until next issue readers.....

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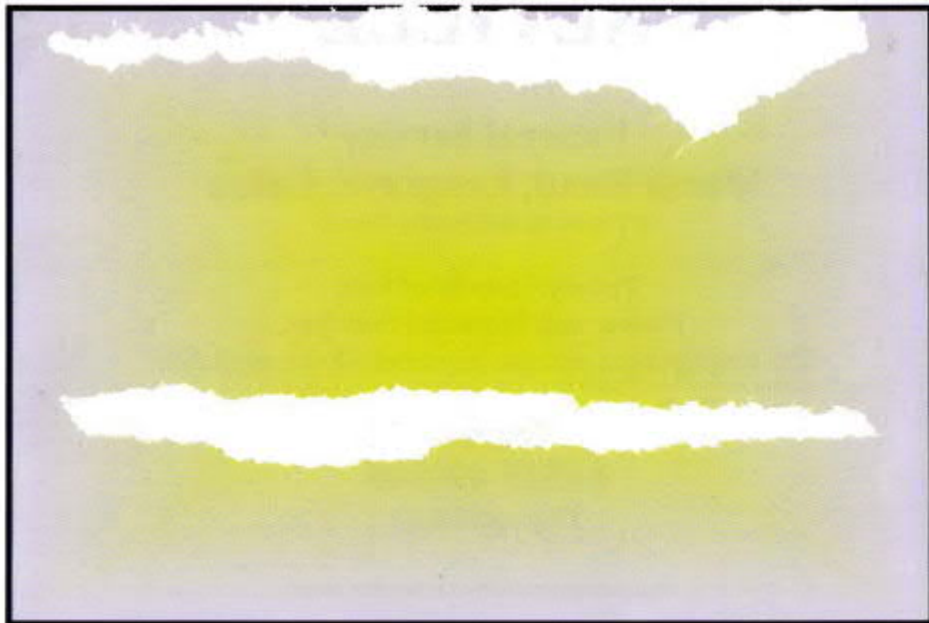
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CHALGRAVE XMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

First Prize - £25



The editorial team will be travelling around the Parish from the 20th December to discover who has the best front of house Christmas lights and decorations.

These can be in or around windows and gardens.

The winner will receive our cash prize in time for Christmas!!

WHAT'S IN YOUR XMAS DRAWERS By Florry Bunda

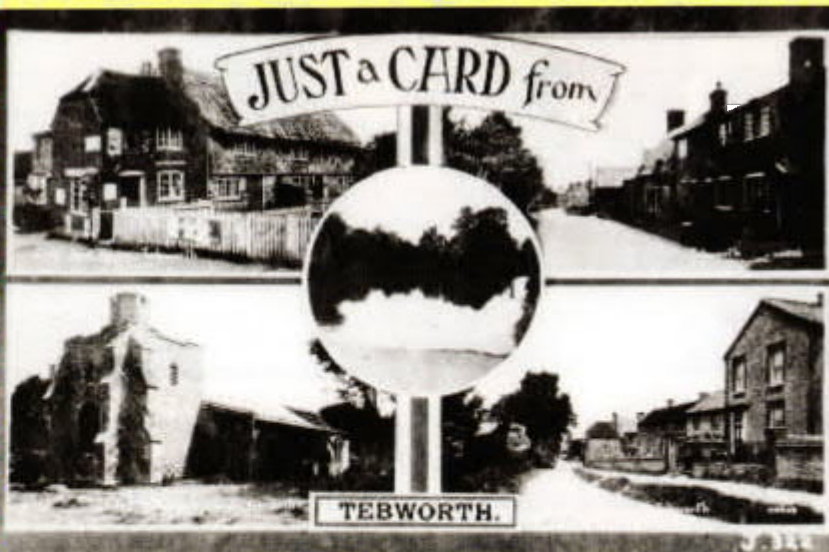
'A Seasonal Rummage Through the Collective Parish Drawers'

This issue's old photograph from the Parish is a real gem and is reproduced below (copies available at very reasonable cost).

Dating, we think, from around the First World War (you may know better) the postcard is one of a series produced in Tebworth.

We do not know of any produced from Wingfield but the hunt is on!

We know of one other 'Greetings from Tebworth' card but there must be more, so here's the challenge – send us, or bring, to No. 2 The Lane, any old postcard or indeed any interesting snaps from way back when. We will scan them and return within 48 hours (we have the technology!) – and they will appear in future editions of the News.



Go on, have a rummage. Just what have you got in those drawers??

Murder at Tebfield Golf Club



Again the villagers of Tebworth and Wingfield packed the village hall to Participate in another Murder Mystery. This time it was to watch the hideous murder of Sandy Balls, the President of Tebfield Golf Club and a rather dubious character himself. If anyone in the audience thought they could follow the plot, our resident sleuths managed to put a stop to all that with their confusing banter.



Misguided statisticians assumed it could not be Edna Bunker as she (Nicola Wells) had performed the grisly deed in the previous production.

However the spurned woman took her revenge again.

The murderer was identified by two of the tables, and reasons for choosing ranged from “dodgy wig” to “she’s my wife” !

Our own Lorraine served up a delicious meal again which was very professionally served by the children.

The evening finished about midnight and everyone seemed reluctant to go home .



SIR NIGEL LORING

About a year ago the rector of Dunstable, Revd. Graham Newton, handed me an email he had received from the United States. It was a request for information about the possible burial of the above named gentleman in the Priory churchyard. I knew there is a street in the town called Loring Road but nothing specific about the origin of the name. I went to my local books and consulted the Reference section of our Library. I emailed the fruits of my labour to Bob, the author of the enquiry. The reply I received from the States convinced me that Bob knew more about Sir Nigel than I did. Our correspondence prompted me to visit the County Archive in Bedford and the Hudson Memorial Library in St Albans Abbey. I also borrowed a copy of a thesis written at Nottingham University. I now know a lot more about Sir Nigel and have been able to give Bob information which he did not previously have. The name Loring appears variously as Lorying and Loryng over the centuries. The name derives from Lorraine in France, from where Sir Nigel's ancestors came in Saxon times. In the Domesday records, the Lorings owned land in Chalgrave, Wootton and Sharnbrook. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote two novels based on Nigel Loring, 'The White Company' and 'Sir Nigel'.

Nigel Loring was born around 1320 and died in 1386. He was a soldier in the service of Edward III and fought at the Siege Of Dunbar. He was in at the beginning of the Hundred Years War. In 1340 he fought valiantly at the naval battle of Sluys. He was knighted for his 'conspicuous valour'. Records often say he 'distinguished himself' or 'did good service.' After every battle he was given a grant and these were subsequently commuted into an annuity. The 1341 tournament in Dunstable was held in his honour and his deeds at Sluys. Edward III and Queen Phillipa were present. He served for some time under Grosmont, first Duke of Lancaster. After this he served under Edward the Black Prince and was in the first encounter at the battle of Crecy. The following year he took part in the Siege of Calais. He was rewarded for services in Aquitaine with tin and ferry right in Cornwall.

In 1346, Sir Nigel's father died and he succeeded him as Lord of the Manor of Chalgrave. He was by this time married to Margaret Beaupel of Knowstone in Devon.

In 1348 Edward III founded the Order of the Garter. Sir Nigel was one of the original members. His coat of arms hang in St George's Chapel Windsor. Sir Nigel gave money for the rebuilding in stone of the original wooden cloisters at St Albans Abbey. He survived the Black Death in 1349.

In 1451 he was appointed Chamberlain to Edward the Black Prince, a position he held for 24 years. He fought at Poitiers as a member of the Prince's bodyguard and took news of the victory to the King. Honours and rewards were heaped upon him. He became an ambassador and emissary for the Prince, travelling all over Europe and being involved in the many treaties which were negotiated and broken during the Hundred Years War.

In 1370 he retired from military service and was granted 100 marks a year. He served the Black Prince until the latter died in 1376, possibly of dysentery. In 1382 Sir Nigel was appointed a commissioner of the peace in Bedfordshire. He later became patron of Wyllien (Welwyn) in Hertfordshire.

Sir Nigel died in 1386. His wife, Margaret, had died already. His will says he wants to be buried in Dunstable Priory Churchyard next to his wife. This prompts several questions.

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30)

Why was the Lady of the Manor of Chalgrave buried in the Priory churchyard? If he is buried next to her, what is the origin of the tomb inside Chalgrave Church?

I have learnt a lot about Sir Nigel but am no nearer answering Bob's original question as to where our hero is buried. Bob is contemplating writing a novel, as historically accurate as possible about the early years of Sir Nigel, ending at the point at which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle begins.

I have written several articles about Sir Nigel and given several talks about him and his ancestors. This article gives just some of the information I have. I would be happy to talk to any interested group and share with them the fruits of my researches so far. This is an ongoing project and no doubt there are people in and around Chalgrave who have information on this topic. I would be interested to hear from them and so would my friend Bob.

Hugh Garrod

(If anyone has additional information please pass it on to The Chalgrave News and we will make sure Hugh receives it)

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

♦ Monday 6th January, 2003

Roman Dunstable. Local archaeologist will give us a glimpse of life in Dunstable nearly 2000 years ago, based on Manshead Society discoveries

Joan Schneider

Monday 3rd February, 2003

Transport of Yesteryear. Buses, trams and trains in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Luton, from the Dunstable Dasher to the Skimpot Fly Slides with commentary.

Jim Knight

♦ Monday 3rd March, 2002

The 10th Annual General Meeting. Followed by a film made circa 1965 About Dunstable's traffic problems. Plus ca change!

♦ Monday 7th April, 2003

From Village to City. The Story of Milton Keynes.

Tracing the development from a group of villages to a successful modern city. By Head of City Discovery Centre.

Michael Synnott

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KARAOKE KRAZINESS AT THE QUEEN'S HEAD FOR CHARITY

When I asked my sister Emma and her husband Simon to host my Karaoke Evening in aid of Save The Children on Saturday 25th October, I knew they would do a good job as they are both professional singers/actors and could be relied upon to carry off the evening well! Mind you, they didn't know what they were letting themselves in for... Oh how we relished the sight of my husband Keith Attack throwing caution to the wind and giving up his rock musician status for three minutes to wail 'Why, why, why Delilah' and many other people showing their 'til now, undiscovered musical talents off. Theresa Brand can always be counted on to join in the fun as can Tim Branson who has always supported these events and usually wins all the raffle prizes too.



The sale of raffle tickets and collection proved quite tricky as the Queen's was so full I could hardly squeeze between drinkers and singers. Even Frances Masters was persuaded to put her pound in the tin and have a warble (a duet I recall with her pal Carole), after having attempted her famous microphone swallowing trick.

The marvellous Colin Edwyn gave his moving rendition of 'Georgia' and proved once again what an old pro he was, and we all enjoyed the special treat from Paul Dicker and Sheila Parker of 'I Got U Babe'.

One of the funniest sights of the evening was the brilliant backing of the TEBWORTHETTES with Sarah McGahy and Joanne Cestaro (who believe it or not was miming) to the tune of 'Mustang Sally' or was it 'Simply the Best'. I can't recall....my oh my, that ginger beer Colin serves is very strong isn't it?

SAVE THE CHILDREN RAISED JUST UNDER £200 THANKS TO EVERYBODY...
LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOMETIME.

Kate Robbins, Hon Pres, Luton Branch, Save the Children

Editor.....Thanks Kate for a great evening but you missed out an important contribution given by Ken Green our illustrious Parish Council Vice Chairman pictured opposite giving a fair imitation of a Clingon from the Starship Enterprise.....

ANDREW SELOUS M.P – A letter to the Parish

As MP for Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave, I also represent Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Houghton Regis as well as fifteen other villages.

All the towns and villages are fiercely independent with their own town and parish councils and I would not want it any other way! In addition, I have to deal with the District Council, The County Council, The Government Office for the East of England, our MEP's and many other public bodies and voluntary organisations.

Each week I hold a surgery where constituents can meet with me face to face. Many people find it easier to write, fax or e-mail me with their views or issues they want me to take up on their behalf.

I hold regular surgeries in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable and Houghton Regis and I come to each village as well. I hope that those people who find getting to towns more difficult will come to see me if they feel I can help in any way or they want to tell me their views.

The British system of MP's taking up constituents' cases is a great strength is not the case in Germany for example where MP's represent an area on a party list system and have no direct responsibility for a specific area. At least British MP's see the effects of the Laws they pass firsthand.

I have recently presented a 25,000-signature petition to extend the A505 from the Thorn Turn to the M1 and beyond and met the Transport Minister to press our case at the end of September.



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With the Compliments of the Season



Our compliments and thanks to you all. For it is thanks very largely to you for so loyally and so helpfully working with us that at this, the fourth Christmas at war, the nation's health is on a sound footing. But though "good living" must now be taken in the sense of healthy living, instead of luxury living, and we all must go carefully with fuel, we can still make Christmas fare hearty, appetising and tempting to look at. Here, with our very best wishes, are some ideas which may help you:

★ Christmas Day Pudding

Rub 3 oz. cooking fat into 3 tablespoonfuls self-raising flour until like fine crumbs. Mix in 1½ breakfastcupfuls stale breadcrumbs, ¼ lb. prunes (soaked 24 hours, stoned, chopped) or any other dried fruit such as sultanas, 3 oz. sugar, 1 teaspoonful mixed spice, ½ teaspoonful grated nutmeg. Then chop 1 large apple finely, grate 1 large raw carrot and 1 large raw potato; add to dry ingredients. Stir in a tablespoonful lemon substitute. Mix 1 teaspoonful bicarbonate of soda in 3 tablespoonfuls warm milk and stir thoroughly into pudding mixture. Put into one large or two small well-greased basins, cover with margarine papers and steam for 2½ hours. This can be prepared overnight and cooked on Christmas Day.



★ Emergency Cream

Bring ½ pint water to blood heat, melt 1 tablespoonful unsalted margarine in it. Sprinkle 3 heaped tablespoonfuls household milk powder into this, beat well, then whisk thoroughly. Add 1 teaspoonful sugar and ½ teaspoonful vanilla. Leave to get very cold.



★ Christmas Fruit Pies

This mixture is a good alternative to mince-meat.

Warm 1 tablespoonful marmalade (or jam, but this is not so spicy) in small saucepan over tiny heat. Add ½ lb. prunes (soaked 24 hours, stoned, chopped) or other dried fruit, 1 tablespoonful sugar, 1 teacupful stale cake crumbs, or half cake, half breadcrumbs, ½ teaspoonful mixed spice. Stir together until crumbs are quite moist. Remove from heat, add 1 large chopped apple; also some chopped nuts if you have any. Make up into small pies, or large open flans. The mixture keeps several days in a cool place.



★ Stuffed Mutton *With apple or bread sauce, this is as delicious as any turkey!*

1 leg of mutton, or loin of mutton (half a leg does, but is more difficult to stuff). Bone with a sharp carving knife and small kitchen knife, or get your butcher to do it. Spread the meat flat, stuff one end with your favourite savoury stuffing, one end with sausage meat, the two meeting in the centre. Fold meat over, re-forming into shape, sew with sacking-needle and stout thread, place sewn side down in baking dish, spread liberally with dripping. Put halved potatoes, peeled or in jackets, in the baking dish. Allow about 40-50 minutes before joint is done.

ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOOD

(S50)

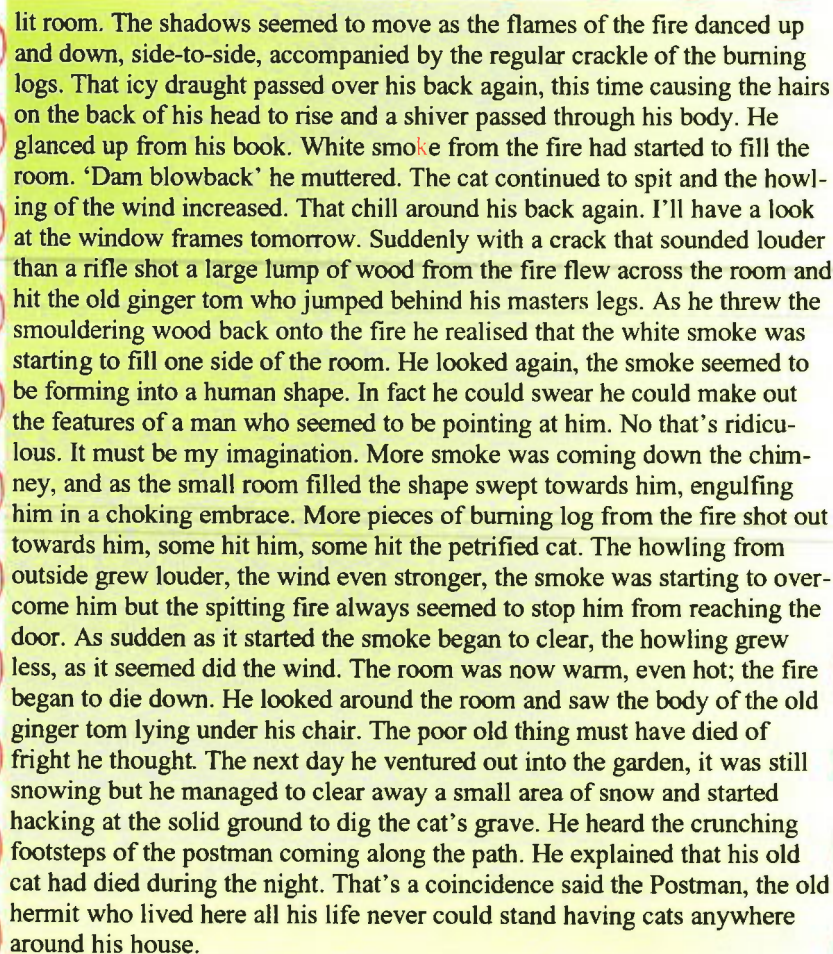
• Don't waste anywhere the fuel you save at home.



A CHRISTMAS GHOST STORY

An eerily long and mournful howling drifted across the desolate wind swept fields on that cold winters night. Shortly it would be Christmas but for now the dark and quiet hamlet was isolated in a cocoon of deep crisp white snow. Not for the first time a power failure had plunged the whole area into darkness. No one had been outside tonight – no one with the exception of the old, one eared ginger tomcat. Ever since it had been brought along to its new home on the outskirts of the ancient stonewalled cottages it seemed to prefer to roam the barren fields and brooding woods with the cries and shrieks of the many crows who nested in the high trees, rather than stay in the old hermits house. The hermit was long dead, two years ago and as many years short of his 100th birthday. A lonely man who kept himself to himself. Village life passed him by. His crumbling home had seemed to move further away from the others as the years rolled by and his isolation deepened. It was camouflaged in a tight cloak of untidy ivy and now buried under the thick coating of snow, which continued to fall. The house had been standing empty ever since his lonely death, but now had a new owner. A middle aged, unremarkable individual who kept himself busy inside the four stonewalls of the house. He was worried that his old ginger tomcat was finding it difficult to settle in its new surroundings. He could not understand why the cat spent so much time outside on these long, cold, miserable nights when there was a warm log fire in the kitchen grate. When the cat did come into the warmth of the fire it often seemed nervous and loath to leave his side. He knew that the house was far from welcoming at the moment, indeed on more than one occasion he had felt an icy draught pass by his back. The sudden howling noise outside had startled him. He had never heard this before and was one of the reasons he had decided to light a fire in the small dining room grate for the first time since he moved in. It was burning well and the cat reappeared at his feet, wet and bedraggled from his outdoor sortie. With a good book, and a cup of strong coffee boiled in the flames, they both settled down in front of the glowing fire. The wind sounded stronger now, whistling as it rounded the corners of the external walls. It was making the heavy fall of snow in the ivy fall to the ground with hollow thuds not unlike the sound of distant heavy gun fire he mused. Suddenly, for no apparent reason the cat jumped to its feet, arched its back and spat at the many shadows around the candle

(Continued on page 37)



lit room. The shadows seemed to move as the flames of the fire danced up and down, side-to-side, accompanied by the regular crackle of the burning logs. That icy draught passed over his back again, this time causing the hairs on the back of his head to rise and a shiver passed through his body. He glanced up from his book. White smoke from the fire had started to fill the room. 'Dam blowback' he muttered. The cat continued to spit and the howling of the wind increased. That chill around his back again. I'll have a look at the window frames tomorrow. Suddenly with a crack that sounded louder than a rifle shot a large lump of wood from the fire flew across the room and hit the old ginger tom who jumped behind his masters legs. As he threw the smouldering wood back onto the fire he realised that the white smoke was starting to fill one side of the room. He looked again, the smoke seemed to be forming into a human shape. In fact he could swear he could make out the features of a man who seemed to be pointing at him. No that's ridiculous. It must be my imagination. More smoke was coming down the chimney, and as the small room filled the shape swept towards him, engulfing him in a choking embrace. More pieces of burning log from the fire shot out towards him, some hit him, some hit the petrified cat. The howling from outside grew louder, the wind even stronger, the smoke was starting to overcome him but the spitting fire always seemed to stop him from reaching the door. As sudden as it started the smoke began to clear, the howling grew less, as it seemed did the wind. The room was now warm, even hot; the fire began to die down. He looked around the room and saw the body of the old ginger tom lying under his chair. The poor old thing must have died of fright he thought. The next day he ventured out into the garden, it was still snowing but he managed to clear away a small area of snow and started hacking at the solid ground to dig the cat's grave. He heard the crunching footsteps of the postman coming along the path. He explained that his old cat had died during the night. That's a coincidence said the Postman, the old hermit who lived here all his life never could stand having cats anywhere around his house.

Can you write a better ghost story than this? (We are sure anyone can!)

£10 to every story we print in future copies of The Chalgrave News

Please give your story to any one of the editorial team or post it in the Village Hall letter box.

Chalgrave Sports Club

Another summer has gone by and the weather has been as bad as we all feared.

The Chalgrave and District Friendly Cricket League however managed to finish all it's fixtures and we regret to report that last seasons winners - The Plough, Wingfield - somehow managed to come last this time! The Carpenter's Arms, Harlington were the winners.

The early summer months were very wet and so it was not until middle summer that the sports ground was fit to have cricket played on it, and then not every weekend. However, this was compensated by the dry end to summer allowing us to play cricket up to the last weekend in October! Which must be some form of record. A full report of the season will appear in the next magazine.

Further improvements to the sports ground have taken place this year.

Apart from work on cleaning up the pavilion, the cricket practise net has been improved after being decimated by the moles (which have now been removed - with thanks to our resident mole catcher and assistants!). A concrete base has been laid and various matting obtained which will allow anyone who wants to use the nets next year to do so even when the outfield is damp.

The major project of obtaining an all weather cricket pitch is still moving on. The total cost will be around £8000 of which we have raised £5000 and are hoping to fundraise the rest as soon as possible, although a generous benefactor would not go amiss!

Once we have this facility it will allow cricket to be played safely (especially for children) in damp conditions without damaging the square. It will also allow us to let anyone who wants to use the cricket pitch to practise whenever they want which they are not able to do at the present time.

Finally a big thank you to all those who have helped us out in many ways over the past year.

A very Merry Christmas to you all

THE NATIONAL TRUST South Beds Association

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◆ Wednesday 22nd January, 2003

Life in Bucks *Bill Griffiths*

◆ Friday 7th February, 2003

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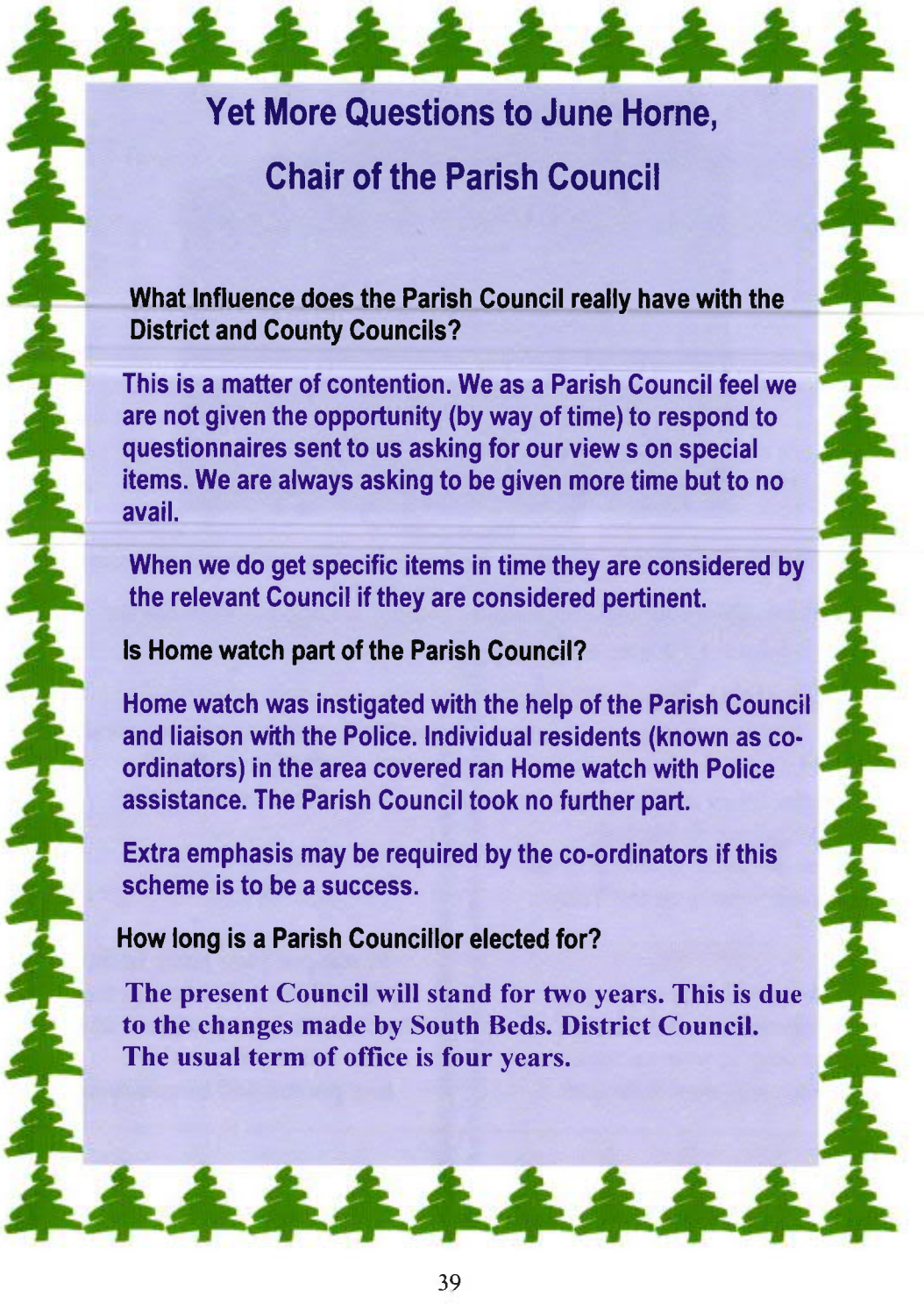
◆ Wednesday 5th March, 2003

The Great Escape from Stalag Luft III *Malan E. Bryett*

◆ Wednesday 2nd April, 2003

Lathe and Loom *Phil and Lynda Young*

All meetings at Salvation Army Hall Bull Pond Lane Dunstable,
beginning at 7:30pm. Guests welcome at £1.00



Yet More Questions to June Horne, Chair of the Parish Council

What Influence does the Parish Council really have with the District and County Councils?

This is a matter of contention. We as a Parish Council feel we are not given the opportunity (by way of time) to respond to questionnaires sent to us asking for our views on special items. We are always asking to be given more time but to no avail.

When we do get specific items in time they are considered by the relevant Council if they are considered pertinent.

Is Home watch part of the Parish Council?

Home watch was instigated with the help of the Parish Council and liaison with the Police. Individual residents (known as co-ordinators) in the area covered ran Home watch with Police assistance. The Parish Council took no further part.

Extra emphasis may be required by the co-ordinators if this scheme is to be a success.

How long is a Parish Councillor elected for?

The present Council will stand for two years. This is due to the changes made by South Beds. District Council. The usual term of office is four years.

COMPETITION PAGE

PICTURE PUZZLE



Where is it?

A meal for two at The Plough, Wingfield for the sender of the first correct answer opened.

CLUE : Not far from Home!!

Please deliver your entries by using the post box at Chalgrave Memorial Hall

FOR THE UNDER 12'S

Who wrote this?

Today I saw a little worm
Wriggling on his belly,
Perhaps he'd like to come inside
And see what's on the Telly.

and this

There are holes in the sky
Where the rain gets in,
But they're ever so small
That's why rain is so thin.

Answers in the village hall post box
please with your name and address
Prize - A box of Chocolates

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPETITIONS
31ST JANUARY

WIN £10 !!!!!

Open to all ages

Submit a photo
"Christmas in Chalgrave"

Please put your entry in the
village hall post box together
with your name, address and
telephone number
Any photos will be returned.

Judges decision will be final



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