



Spring 2003

CHALGRAVE SOCIAL DIARY

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - VILLAGE HALL 7.30PM 1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY
PLOUGH INN - QUIZ NIGHTS EVERY OTHER TUESDAY 9.00PM
QUEENS HEAD - LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY FRIDAY 7.30PM .
LINE DANCING - VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS 7.30PM
CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB A.G.M. 21ST APRIL AT THE PLOUGH
CHALGRAVE NEWS CHEESE AND WINE EVENING - DATE TO BE ADVISED
FRIENDS OF CHALGRAVE NEWS EVENING - LOOK OUT FOR THE NOTICES
ROGATION DAY 25TH MAY - LOOK FOR THE NOTICES

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

COUNTRY PROPERTIES



2 Station Square, Flitwick, Beds MK45 1DP
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Editors' Note Spring 2003

With the publication of this our fourth edition we celebrate the end of one year of Chalgrave News. Well, we have certainly learnt a lot and hopefully you can see the improvements. Spoiling mistakes have almost been eradicated and libel dodged.....! Still some way to go but it has been fun and with the incredible help of our generous sponsors and the encouragement from the parish, we'll forge on through another year.

- Our aim is to**
- produce a magazine which reflects village life today.
 - become a medium for all parishioners to air their views.
 - encourage our younger people to contribute.

Peter Kuys has once more rummaged through his archives and produced a copy on CD of "The Four Seasons" to give you. "Spring" this time with the other seasons to follow through the year.

Our tour of the houses to judge the Christmas lights competition was very illuminating and although it's a cliché "it was such a difficult decision." Deserving a mention were the gardens of Mulberry Cottage, Upper Tythe Farmhouse, the window of 2 The Meadows, and a lovely display outside a string of houses down The Lane. But the winners at 7 St.Mary's Close, Sue Leuty and Ray Willis had really gone to town! In spite of quite a small frontage, there were lights everywhere and the tree in front had 737 lights (we counted!) which could be seen and admired from the bungalows around. Well done you two and a well earned £25.00 prize. See their photos on the back cover.

During our second year we would like more involvement from our younger parishioners. We need you to tell us what you or your friends are up to, tell us what you would like us to include in the magazine. What about exchanging some wacky websites you have found?...here are two for starters.

www.scienceyear.com Look at the section called amazing facts, do a test to find a suitable career for yourself and go to the links page for an endless list of further interesting sites.

And try www.ajkids.com where you can find out almost anything! Why not e-mail one of the editorial team and let us have some new ideas? Lets have "e-mails to the editor"! Our addresses are :-

lyndie@ic24.net ; roger.masters@btinternet.com : tonycornes@clara.co.uk

This **new A4 format** has been adopted to give us more room. We have so much material being passed to us and more and more advertisers who would like to join us that we need to be selective.

During the summer we hope to have a wine and cheese evening for you to air your views about the magazine. We will ask you to put forward nominations for the Prettiest Front Garden competition and bring along any photographs and articles you would like us to feature. Look out for the notices giving the date and venue.

We look forward to lots of Spring photos from the competition. The best will be featured on the cover of the next issue. Now READ ON!.....

Prettiest Front Garden

The editorial team will be touring the parish again this summer to find the prettiest front garden.

The winner will receive a
£25.00 cash prize.



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



Ernie Stringer turned 90 on 30th January



Sue and Ray win the Christmas Lights



Vicar Liam ... has left to live in Australia



'Carols by Candlelight' at Chalgrave Church



The Time of Our Lives Music Theatre visit the Village Hall



Crash outside The Queens Head

- ◆ **A few pot holes filled with tarmac on The Lane**
- ◆ **Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner**
- ◆ **New Years Eve party at the Village Hall**
- ◆ **New chandelier installed in church to replace the one stolen last year**
- ◆ **Chalgrave Sports Club gets new all weather wicket**
- ◆ **Parish Council provide grit bins for parish**

**Deadline for the next issue
15th May 2003**

The Chalgrave News really does need the help of all residents of the parish with stories and news items. Please let any editorial team member have your contributions or place them in the letter box at the village hall

THE CHALGRAVE NEWS

Advertising Rates:-	Single Insertion		Annual (x4)	
	B & W	Colour	B & W	Colour
55 x 83mm	£ 5.00	£ 8.00	£17.50	£28.00
115 x 83mm	£10.00	£16.00	£35.00	£56.00
178 x 83mm	£15.00	£24.00	£52.50	£84.00
115 x 170mm	£20.00	£32.00	£70.00	£112.00

We are also including a 'small business ads' section at a cost of £10.00 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 Lyndie Lothian, 30 The Lane, Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QB. or telephone 01525 874166

New to the Parish. Eight known newcomers in Tebworth, four at the new Park Farm Cottages, (some too shy to be photographed!) others in the Lane, Ivy Farm and Hockliffe Road. Let us know if someone moves in next door to you.



Paul and Rachael Shaw

Paul and Rachel moved into The Willows at Park Farm Barns in January. They have moved from Toddington.



Paul Williams and Marie Donachie

Paul & Marie moved to The Lane in September from Hemel Hemstead. They met at Loughborough University 8 years ago. Paul works in Hemel and Marie at the Open University. They chose to buy their first house in Tebworth because it's between their places of work & rural.



Jackie and Russell Hammons

Jackie and Russ moved to Tebworth in October from nearby Tilsworth. Although very happy in Tilsworth, they were looking for more space for their two dogs and Ivy Farm proved to be just the place they were looking for.



Amy and Bob Daws

Newly weds Bob and Amy were away working when we called to photograph them. Welcome to them and to all the other newcomers to the Parish.



BOOK CLUB

If you enjoy reading and would like to join a small friendly group that meets monthly to discuss books over a cup of tea or glass of wine
Ring Linda 875417

Articles For Sale

Yew Video Cabinet
Good Condition £50
875363



Ken Green's Clearout!!
All proceeds to charity

Old but working TV and video
Half glazed hardwood door 32" x 76"

Several dual glazed panels 28"x76"
(would make good cloche)

Bike, Shimano gears

4 toddlers nursery chairs

Pocket binoculars Bresser 8 x 25
874107

Exercise Equipment
Vertex II full working
Order. Demonstration
Available £250.00
874166



Letter Box seconds

available at
"Signs of the Times". Various prices.

Copies of feature photographs are for sale at The Queen's Head.
Framed £5.00 to £15.00 each
Unframed £3.00 each.

Any other photos can be reproduced

Rogation Day
25th May

Ken Green has suggested we walk the Parish Boundaries again this Rogation Day. In the past this has been an extremely enjoyable day out.

The walk covers about 12.5 miles with a stop at the conveniently placed Fancott Arms for lunch.

Any one interested can call Ken Green on 874107 or keep an eye open for notices.

Laughter & Life

- *A home is the place where, no matter where you're sitting, you've looking at something that needs doing!*
- *Home is the place where teenagers go to refuel*
- *Landlady - I've come to tell you that I am going to raise the rent. Lodger - Oh good, because I was just about to tell you that I can't!*

Liam's Farewell

Sunday the 19th of January was Liam Matthew's last day as the our first Benefice Rector of Chalgrave and Toddington. Liam and his wife Madeleine are moving to pastures new in Madeleine's native Australia.

A morning service was held at St. George's Toddington which was attended by members of both congregations. In the afternoon a reception was held for Liam and Madeleine at the Wilkinson hall where many people gathered to say goodbye. A presentation was made of an engraved cut glass chalice and also a cheque for them to spend in Australia.

In the evening a service was held at All Saints Chalgrave - again attended by both congregations. Malcolm Curtis the reader at Toddington delivered a heartfelt and moving tribute to Liam during this service and echoed the thoughts of all of us in wishing Liam and Madeleine our very best wishes for a successful and happy life in Australia.

As the first Benefice Rector, Liam had to navigate his way through previously uncharted waters with all the responsibilities and workload that running two churches involves. One of his most significant successes in my opinion was in his being able to unite the two parishes while still allowing them to retain their separate identities.

I am sure you will join me in bidding a fond farewell to them both.

Larry Ryan
Churchwarden



Colin Dicker

We were sorry to hear of the sudden death of Colin Dicker.



Colin lived in Chalton and played cricket for Chalgrave from around 1984. He enjoyed his cricket and scored several half centuries for the club.

When the older players retired from the game Colin took over the role of captain and also worked very hard keeping the grounds playable.

It was a difficult time and he was always struggling to find eleven players but he never gave in which was a great credit to him.

Eventually after some years the struggle became too much, so Colin and the few remaining players joined with Milton Bryan cricket club.

We send our deepest condolences to Colin's wife Julie and son Paul.

Michael Kingham
Former President of Chalgrave Cricket Club

WEST TRUST

The West Trust was set up in the 17th century by the Reverend West for the sole purpose of giving educational assistance to the children of Chalgrave and Hockliffe. The Clerk administers it together with a board of Trustees which meets around four or five times per year. The last meeting was in January, when £9,000 was granted to some 53 children..

The current Trustees are as follows :-

FRANK GRIFFIN Chalgrave
ROGER MASTERS Chalgrave
LYNDIE LOTHIAN Chalgrave
PAUL DICKINS Hockliffe
NICOLA BENDER Hockliffe
ALAN SHADBOLT Hockliffe
RHYS GOODWIN County Councillor

Currently the Trust has assets valued at over £250,000, which is invested on the Trust's behalf by professional fund managers to produce income of around £20,000 per year.

The Trustees have absolute discretion on how they distribute the funds so long as it meets the Trust's objectives. The current criteria for assistance are as follows :-

- Must have resided in the Parish for a minimum of two years.
- Aged between 4 and 25 and receiving full time education.
(children over 16 and in fulltime education can receive a student grant up to £200. Appropriate claim form to be received by the Clerk with all receipts for expenses attached.)
- No claim (other than uniform or student grant) to be entertained without the appropriate receipts.
- The Board meets twice per year to consider grant distribution and these are normally held around June and December so claim forms should reach the Clerk to the Trustees before these dates to be considered.

The next meeting of the Trust is scheduled for July.

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

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

The Chalgrave Cat

Or is it The Parish Pussy?

Despite the continued absence of concrete proof, stories still abound regarding a mysterious nocturnal animal roaming the Parish.

The Meadows in Wingfield was just one of the areas where attention focused recently, a large animal walking on all fours with an ungainly gait was spotted one evening at about 11.30 pm.

A link between closing time at The Plough and a drunken parishioner has yet to be discounted.

Nevertheless, we at the Chalgrave News have been inundated with alleged sightings and one lady (who prefers to remain anonymous) actually produced a fresh photograph.

Whilst not wishing to cause offence, we continue to remain sceptical!!!



RAMBLINGS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

By Bill (Scoop) Archer

'The Lane' seems to cling in my thoughts everyday. As I dodder down it with the dogs, I notice that 'The Lane's' lager louts have improved their diet. Along with the discarded KFC and McDonalds rubbish, there is a covering of supermarket salads and bottled water containers. This type of awakening may lead in time to them taking their rubbish home.

Our Parish Council have been nagging away at the District Council to patch up the potholes. Finally, to get the parish Council off their back, the District sent down a man. Our intrepid Clerk accompanied him around the demesne (*land belonging to a mansion*) and all the offending areas were marked in white and 'summat will be done' was promised. The days passed and rain, snow and traffic slowly erased the white lines. Then a team of roadmen invaded our peaceful parish, but alas, no white lines were there to guide them. So they repaired the bits where they thought the white marks would have been. Two large lorries lumbered down The Lane creating havoc to the grass verges, patching bits and missing bits before disappearing over the horizon. A farmer friend of mine particularly asked me to broadcast the fact that he was not the one who had left The Lane in such a state. I can't help feeling a Direct Labour force under supervision would have done better!

Now having found my mislaid notebook, I can carry on with the direct thrust of this article.

The Parish Council meeting of January 03 determined the composition of our Parish Council. Three sub-committees were formed. Planning under Councillor Griffin, Traffic Calming under Councillor Smith and Footpaths under Councillor Green.

Responsibilities have been distributed as follows:-

Police Liaison – Councillor Parry, Street Lighting and Road Signs – Councillor Griffin, Fly-Tipping – Councillor Mrs Horne, Roads and Pavements – Councillor Parry, Millennium Award – Councillor Ralley, Grass Cutting – Councillor Green.

As far as our policing goes, Phil Sutton has now been assigned to other duties and Sergeant Bellis will be looking after our interests. She says she will try to maintain a good service.

The Parish Council are chasing up the replacement of the 'No Tipping' sign on the illegal layby in Chalgrave Road.

The viability of opening a village post office is being looked at by the Bedfordshire Rural Community Council, the Royal Mail and the owner of Buttercup Farm in Tebworth. No firm decision has yet been made and the matter is out of the Parish Councils hands. The Parish Council, through the medium of the Chalgrave News, would like to thank all parishioners for filling in the questionnaire. The post box should eventually be moved to a position adjacent to the Tebworth telephone kiosk.

The Parish Council is to write supporting the District Council's concern regarding the absence of opportunity to input to the content of the Milton Keynes and South Midland Sub-Regional Study and it's inclusion in Regional Planning Guidance.

A dual display mobile speed sign which some of you may already have seen is now in the possession of the Parish Council. A red light display on a 650mm black square background records the speed of an oncoming car. The hope is that it will slow down if it is exceeding the speed limit. Plans are afoot to hire it to other Councils and recover some cost.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Parish Council Meeting of 4th February

Parish Councillors 7, Public 2. No District Councillor, no County Councillor and no Police representative.

The Parish Council speed check found 70% of vehicles were exceeding the speed limit, one even exceeding 60mph to overtake!

Parish Councils are banding together to protest about the indiscriminate housing expansion as a result of Government edict.

A planning application has been received for the conversion of redundant farm buildings in The Lane to housing units. The Parish Council is trying to obtain verification of permitted planning ruling.

And lastly, I must congratulate the News Committee on the special Christmas edition. A free CD in with a very professional issue. I must also point out that the Chalgrave News is NOT subsidised in any way by the Parish Council. It is a dedicated group of people doing a lot of hard work.

One last Parthion shot. The District Council has responded to the Parish Council's repeated complaints about gritting the Tebworth/Wingfield Road in adverse weather. Now we have salt bins at strategic sites for a 'do-it-yourself' operation. Some public minded parishioners did just this in the last cold snap.

POST OFFICE

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity has recently opened an office at Buttercup Farm in Tebworth.

They are willing to allow a Post Office to be run alongside this office.

To that end Cllr June Horne, Chair of our Parish Council attended a meeting on November 15th, 2002 with the owner of Buttercup Farm, and representatives of Beds Rural Communities Charity and Royal Mail.

Cllr Horne then distributed a questionnaire to all parishioners to find out their opinions. Approximately 100 were returned and the results were passed on to each body concerned.

The Parish Council wishes to thank parishioners for taking the time to fill in and return the questionnaire.

The viability of a Post Office is currently being looked at by the Beds Rural Communities Council, Royal Mail and the owner of Buttercup Farm. It is now out of the Parish Council's hands.

No firm decision has yet been made but the Council is hopeful that it will go ahead.

THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM!

(A Salutory Tale)

A young man from a wealthy family was about to go on from upper school to University. It was the custom in his affluent neighbourhood for the parents to give the gift of a car at such times. John and his father had spent months looking at sporty cars, and the week before John was due to go to University, they found the perfect car. John was certain the car would be his.

Imagine his disappointment when, on the eve of him leaving, his father handed him a gift wrapped Bible! John was so angry, he threw the Bible down and stormed out of the house. He and his father never saw each other again. It was the news of his father's death that brought John home again.

As he sat one night, going through his father's possessions that he was to inherit, he came across the Bible his father had given him. He brushed away the dust and opened it to find his father's cheque, dated the eve of his going to University, in the exact amount of the car they had chosen.

WHAT'S IN YOUR DRAWERS?

Brian Gridley has had a rummage through his drawers and has come up with a very interesting old photo taken over 50 years ago.



He is pictured with his mother and another lady, who we think was called Flo Hinge, and is standing outside an old house which stood at Tatterhill.

Tatterhill is situated down The Lane, past the brook and to the right on the brow of the hill. Nothing remains of the house other than a few bricks strewn about and little is known of who once lived there. Do you know anything? I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has any information or other interesting photos.

As usual, all information to 2, The Lane.
Knock 3 times and ask for Flo!

BEDFORDSHIRE ADVOCACY SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE



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New Induction course to run in April/May 2003

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- A real chance to help older people

If you are interested in being an Advocate please phone :
GAIL on 01234 218880 Or HEATHER on 01582 470903

We have other volunteer roles so if you are interested please ask for separate details

WANT TO BE A TV STAR?

Anglia Television's new series called 'Take a Leaf' to be shown on Thursdays 2.30pm are searching for lovely, outgoing and regular people who may have a gardening passion!

- Does Your neighbour have a prize collection of Fuchsia's or fantastic Tomatoes?
- Is your Daughter Bonsai mad?
- Do you have a friend who loves their Ferns?
- Or even a father who is crazy about his fish?
- Do you want to show off a specific collection or passion in your garden?

We would love to film you or your village's collections for a small item in the 'Take A Leaf' Television programme when your plants or flowers are looking their best!

If you know anyone who might love to show their garden off to the region please contact:

Dharam Barrett on 01603 753429 or
dharam.barrett@granadamedia.com

INCREASING BUSINESS PERFORMANCE THROUGH PEOPLE

The future for businesses in today's rapidly changing environment lies in people. The most successful businesses will be those with the most skilled, flexible and committed people who can quickly adapt to new ways of working.

BRCC has funding to enable small businesses (more than 2 employees) in rural areas, to work towards achieving Investors in People - a tool for managing change through people and a nationally recognised quality award. We can offer support and guidance on issues such as analysing training needs, introducing a staff review scheme, and evaluating the effectiveness of any training and development on the performance of the business.

If you own or manage a small business or know someone who does contact:
Laurie Hurn on 01234 838771, fax 01234 838149 email laurieh@bedsrcc.org.uk

Do you manage or work for a voluntary organisation or community group? If so you might like to know about the **Management Development Programme** that we run. The course is accredited by the Open College Network and funded by the European Social Fund. If interested please contact Pauline Shaw, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, on 01234 838771 fax 01234 838149 email paulines@bedsrcc.org.uk for further information and an informal chat.



NEWS RELEASE

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE CALL HANDLING CENTRE

1800 calls a day - 660,000 calls a year

Bedfordshire Police is continuing to improve the way it answers public telephone calls and has shown a significant increase both in the number of calls being received and its performance in managing them.

In April 2000 a force-wide Call Handling Centre (CHC) was established, a central point of contact for all emergency calls (999 or 112). The Kempston based CHC manages incidents and despatches police officers from their local stations.

The CHC has experienced a dramatic increase in calls, currently receiving in excess of 660,000 general and emergency calls a year.

When the CHC first opened, approximately 100 staff dealt with 1300 calls per day. Now 135 staff manage over 1800 calls. With 24 hour cover each telephone operator handles around 200 calls daily. The police officers and support staff are supported by radio dispatchers who send officers to incidents and manage the incident process.

The CHC aims for continuous improvement in both performance and service delivery.

	2000 / 2001	2002 / 2003
999 emergency call answered within target of 15 seconds	85%	94%
General calls answered within target of 30 seconds	56%	73%

This is being achieved in a number of ways, including:

- Use of Special Constables within the CHC; employment of a full time trainer; introduction of NVQ's; quality assuring incident records; a new mapping system which identifies incident locations; implementation on the new national digital communication system.

What is an emergency?

For the staff in the CHC, there is a clear distinction between general and emergency calls, with the priority being given to the latter. It is apparent from recent surveys that this is not as apparent to some members of the public. Due to the sheer volume of calls answered with 999 it is not possible to answer general calls as quickly as emergency calls. Every telephone call is answered by a staff member, but at busy times calls may be held in a queue. All calls to the police are taken seriously.

Members of the public should ALWAYS call the emergency number if:

- There is risk of personal injury or damage to property
- A crime is in progress

Recent examples of unnecessary use of the emergency 999 number:

- Concerned Mum who called 999 because her son got the wrong exam results. Could the police help?
- Male caller. Send an officer because he had bought his wife a pair of trousers and she was refusing to wear them.

Posters supporting the correct use of the emergency telephone number will be appearing around the county. The Force is concerned that answering inappropriate calls incurs delays in responding to genuine emergencies.

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BREAST CANCER COLLECTION

Many thanks to the residents of The Lane
Tebworth who gave so generously to the
Breast Cancer Relief envelope collection in
November 2002.

The total collected amounted to £47.34

Valerie Griffin

NEWSPAPERS IN CHALGRAVE

- Just a reminder to anyone who wants
their daily papers delivering—contact
Cheddington Village Stores on 01296
668656

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With our compliments

The Editorial Team



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UP YOUR FURROW

A local farmer's view

Having been threatened by the editorial team that I was in danger of missing the copy deadline (who are they trying to kid?) I decided to put pen to paper. As I sat staring into space hope for some literary inspiration, my thoughts were intercepted by the telephone. The call lasted about thirty seconds at the most but it meant that instead of going about my normal tasks, I would be spending the next few days updating records, cleaning machinery, sweeping barns, calibrating equipment, monitoring rodents, inspecting insects and sticking labels on anything that does not move. I'm sure you are confused already and wondering what could cause such irrational behaviour. Well let me explain. The caller was the Regional ACCS Verifier and he was phoning to make an appointment for his annual inspection. You are probably still confused and, like me, up until about five years ago are thinking "what on earth does ACCS stand for?" Now, whilst many farmers have their own interpretation (most unprintable) the initials actually stand for Assured Combinable Crops Scheme. Basically it is a quality assurance scheme for crops which are harvested with a combine harvester (we're not daft in the farming fraternity).

Compliance with the scheme obviously involves time and extra costs. It is completely voluntary, brings no price benefits to the end product and I actually pay to be a member of the scheme and fund the annual inspection. (Forget what I said about not being daft).

The scheme was drawn up by a number of interested bodies including the National Farmers Union, UK Agricultural Supply Trade Association, Maltsters Association of Great Britain, Irish Millers and LEAF (Environmental group).

So why have I and the majority of arable farmers joined voluntary crop assurance schemes? For most the honest answer is simply the fact that outlets for non-assured grain are becoming fewer and such grain will become harder to sell and will probably suffer a price penalty in the future. However I, like many other farmers can see why such schemes are deemed necessary in today's competitive market place. Consumers are becoming more aware of food safety and also environmental issues. Crop assurance schemes give the farmer the opportunity to prove that his product is being produced to the highest standards and without detriment to the countryside. Also in the unlikely event of a food scare the farmer is much less vulnerable to blame if he has assured crop status and is in a better position to alleviate any unfounded fears. I am not suggesting that farmers are suddenly producing safer, more environmentally friendly food since crop assurance. The majority were already doing the job correctly and for this reason practical compliance has not caused many problems.

The biggest change has been the amount of paperwork and record keeping required. The ACCS manual has forty pages of rules, regulations and advice and covers all aspects of crop production and its associated practices. All main field operations have to be carefully recorded. For example, when crop spraying the farmer has to record the rate and concentration of chemical per hectare, the reason for application, wind speed and direction and even start and finishing times. The operator also has to carry a map of ponds, ditches and water courses so these can be identified and not polluted. The sprayer operator has to hold a certificate of competence and advice on fertilizer and pesticide usage can only be given by a qualified agronomist. The cleaning, maintenance and calibration of machinery such as sprayers, fertiliser applicators, trailers, combine harvesters and grain handling equipment all has to be recorded. Another important area is the grain store which has to be completely weatherproof, bird proof and vermin proof. The condition, temperature and moisture content of the grain has to be monitored regularly and when it leaves the farm the lorry that collects the grain has to be inspected before it is loaded and details of previous loads checked. Each load that leaves the farm is accompanied by a passport which gives details of the grain contained in the lorry and proof of crop assurance.

The above are just a few examples of what crop assurance entails but hopefully it is enough to give an insight into the standard of current farm practice and the quality of British food products.

ROGER FENWICK

CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

PRECEPT MEETING

The Chalgrave Parish Council met on 7th January when the main item on the agenda was to consider the Parish precept on the District Council. In other words how much you will be paying in your Council Tax next year towards the Parish expenses.

The Parish Council considered their requirements very carefully and although the Clerk had recommended £3,827 (an increase of 7%), the Council finally decided on £4,000 (an increase of 12%), which will add a further £362 to the Councils healthy bank balance.

You may be wondering why the Council have opted for a 12% rise when inflation is forecast to rise by 3% next year and wages are forecast to increase by 2%.

Well, wonder no more because reproduced below is an item by item account of how it intends to spend your money next year:

	Expenditure 2002/3	Estimated Expenditure 2003/4
Administration		
Clerks Salary	829.05	862.81
Expenses Allowance	200.00	200.00
Memorial Hall Rental	180.00	180.00
Cornhill Insurance	255.04	300.00
Chairman's Allowance	50.00	50.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	202.00	120.00
Audit	117.50	50.00
Grants		
Memorial Hall	500.00	500.00
All Saints Church	275.00	300.00
Senior Citizens	200.00	200.00
Sports Club	0	200.00
Inter Village Games	0	75.00
Millenium Award	40.00	40.00
Subscriptions		
BATPC	71.00	71.00
CPRE	17.50	25.00
BTCV	0	125.00
Miscellaneous		
Jubilee Mugs	384.17	0
Flower Festival Sponsorship	25.00	25.00
Royal British Legion	13.00	13.50
Other Expenses	73.50	75.00
Emptying Dog Bins	0	100.00
Contingency		
Towards Election 2004	0	300.00
Towards Future Audit	0	50.00
Total	<u>£3,432.76</u>	<u>£3,862.31</u>

Jack Goodyear MBE

29th January 1900 - 18th December 2002

Commander Jack Goodyear M.B.E. (known as John), of Cottee Farm Wingfield, who has died aged 102, was possibly the last surviving member of the Royal Flying Corps the forerunner of today's Royal Air Force. (The R.F.C. and R.N.F.C. amalgamated to form the R.A.F. on 1st April 1918.)

John was born at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, the eldest of 4 children and John's father was the local butcher and horse dealer.

John was educated at Horncastle Grammar School but left when he was 16 to work on his grandfathers farm as all the other farm workers had been called up to fight in the Great War of 1914-1918.

In 1917 he tried to join up as a motorcycle despatch rider but was turned down because of his age. At 18 he was accepted into the Royal Flying Corps for pilot training and was being taught to fly when the First World War ended. Part of his training included being taught taxiing at Denham airfield sitting on the knees of Malcolm, later Sir Malcolm Campbell.



John in his Royal Flying Corps uniform



John (aircraft marked 'X') with 84 Squadron flying his DH.9A in Iraq 1925

Demobbed in 1919, John returned to the family business at Woodhall Spa but soon tired of this and rejoined the RAF in 1922. Gaining his pilot's wings in 1925 in Egypt where his squadron, number 47, were the first to land aeroplanes at the Pyramids.

He was then posted to 84 Squadron in Iraq flying DH.9A's. His duties included flying patrols to keep the peace amongst the Arab tribes and on one occasion providing escort to Capt. Glubb. In April 1927 he went to the Central Flying School and obtained his instructors certificate and was posted to No. 2 Flying Training School at Digby as a Sergeant Pilot instructor, before leaving the R.A.F. in April 1931.

He then pursued a career in civil aviation, instructing firstly at Blue Barns Aerodrome near Colchester, then at Marshalls of Cambridge and finally with the London Aeroplane Club at Hatfield. Among the many people he taught to fly were Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, H.J. Aldington and Geoffrey de Havilland's son John, who was later killed flying a Mosquito. All of who remained friends with John.

John also taught Jean Batten instrument flying prior to one of her record flying attempts.

H.J. Aldington was a director of Fraser Nash Cars at Isleworth who imported BMW cars and motorcycles. In 1939 Aldington purchased a new Messerschmitt 108 from the factory and this was flown over by their chief test pilot and John taught Aldington how to fly it.

During the time he was at Marshall's he flew with Whitney Straight and on one occasion they had a race, Whitney Straight on the road in his car and John in an aeroplane - the car won!

At the outbreak of The Second World War John joined the Fleet Air Arm and was posted to Eastleigh as C.O. of 780 Squadron. Together with Ralph Richardson he was instrumental in persuading Lawrence Olivier to return from the USA and join them in the Fleet Air Arm. In August 1942 John was appointed C.O. of 776 Squadron at Lee on Solent.



John in the cockpit of his DH.9A 1925

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

One evening sitting in the mess with Eugene Esmonde, the signal came for Esmonde to transfer to Manston to prepare for the attack on the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and the Prinz Euan. Esmonde turned to John and said quietly - 'I don't think I'll come back from this.'

The ships were part of a heavily defended German fleet spotted passing through the Dover Straits and Lieutenant Commander Esmonde led his flight of 6 Swordfish (biplane torpedo bombers with a top speed of 138 mph) through both heavy flak from the German fleet and many German fighter aircraft to attack. Sadly all 6 Swordfish were shot down and no torpedoes found their mark with the loss of 13 aircrew. Lieutenant Commander Esmonde was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

John was asked by Jeffrey Quill to join him as his No. 2 in the development of the Spitfire but he refused, preferring to stay in the Fleet Air Arm.

He spent his time at Lee on Solent and Speke and was then posted to R.N.A.S. Gibraltar as Commander Flying for the Mediterranean. Part of John's duties included flying Spitfires and other types of aircraft which were delivered to Gibraltar in knock down form and assembled at the airbase.



John flying his Swordfish Torpedo bomber

On one occasion, on take off, the aircraft, a Martinet, John discovered would only turn right. After sending out a Mayday signal he circled the rock and put the aircraft back down on the runway. A large hand vice was subsequently found to have jammed in the controls!

During this time he flew many different types of aircraft, including American carrier borne aircraft.

Whilst in Gibraltar, in 1944, John was attached to the Balkans Air Force. His was the first aircraft to land there after the Germans left Larissa. He later flew into a cloak and dagger airstrip in Larissa with two passengers and £12,500 in gold sovereigns to distribute to the partisans.

John was described by his Admiral at Gibraltar as an exceptional Officer and outstanding pilot, and he was posted to take command of the Royal Navy Air Station at Kirkwall in the Orkneys and finally C.O. at Drem.

After the war he returned to the London Aeroplane Club and continued instructional flying for a time before joining the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 1947 as an Airport Manager. Following training at Northolt and Stansted, he was appointed Manager of Bovingdon Airport and was there during the Berlin airlift, which was a very busy time for the Airport. Bovingdon was also used for London Airport traffic when that airport was inoperative due to bad weather.

Then followed a period as Manager of the North Terminal at London Airport, before all services were concentrated at the new central terminal. John was then placed in charge of all V.I.P. flights, including Royal flights, until his retirement.

During his flying career John piloted a total of 66 different types of aircraft ranging from a Heston Phoenix to Chance Vought Corsairs and Seafires and amassed nearly 8,000 hours in the air. He was one of the first holders of a Master Instructor's Certificate.

John was awarded the M.B.E. in 1958.

John moved from his home in Rickmansworth to live with his son Alan and family in 1983.

John died on December 18th 2002 just short of his 103rd birthday. He married Dorothy Allen in 1931 who died in 1961 and their son Alan survives him.

With thanks to Alan and Jill Goodyear for helping to put this story together for The Chalgrave News.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The Carols by Candle-light service at All Saints is always a lovely prelude to Christmas.

The icy walk up the long lane leading to the church is in stark contrast to candlelight that flickers warmly through the windows. As the old door swings open, the full atmosphere of the evening is revealed. Wonderful flower displays, candles and gaslights illuminate the interior and the sound of the organ drifts across to welcome you in.

This was to be Rev. Liam Matthews last Christmas service at All Saints before leaving for Australia and the parishioners had turned out 'en masse', filling the church so that by the time the service began there was in fact standing room only.



The New chandeliers had been hung only the week before, replacing the two that had been stolen in March 2002.

JGS Metalwork of Hockliffe had managed to reproduce the old chandeliers almost exactly by studying drawings and old photographs and they certainly looked impressive.

The service was followed by coffee and mince pies, which were very welcome before the return to the cold December winds waiting outside.

Most thanks are due to Peter Freeman and members of the congregation, too numerous to mention, for organising such a lovely evening.



CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

The Annual General Meeting of the Hall will be held soon (the date will be posted on the Parish Notice Boards and at the Hall). Why not consider joining the hall committee to help both run the hall and organise events. Or just come along to the AGM to hear of the work that the hall committee have been undertaking throughout the last year.

One of the continuing improvements at the hall that will be seen soon is a new notice board which will be placed near to the main car park entrance.

CHALGRAVE SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

The Chalgrave senior 'Bus Trippers' had another outing in early December, courtesy of the Senior Citizens Committee.

This time, eighteen went Christmas shopping in Milton Keynes - a good day out and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

If you are a senior citizen living in the parish and would like to go on future trips please telephone Lyn on 874107

CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB

The Sports Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 28th April at 8.30pm venue The Plough Wingfield. Members and non members are welcome.

2002 saw The Plough cricket team take on The Queens Head in what has now become an annual event and also compete in the Chalgrave & District Friendly Cricket League once again.

Following in the footsteps of the England cricket team after winning the league in 2001 the Plough managed to drop down the table to second bottom in 2002!

A number of games had to be reorganised due to the unusual weather last summer. The ground was not playable until well into summer due to rain and then we had rain again in mid summer but for what must be the first time for many years September was dry and cricket was played every weekend during the month. Even more surprising was the fact that our last game was played the first weekend in October which must have been the first time this has been possible!!

Because of the changing climate the club have been fund raising for around 4 years to provide an all weather cricket strip and we have at last reached our target. The order has been placed and the new surface should have been laid by the time the magazine is produced.

Why not come along to the field sometime to have a look at it? You might decide that you would like to play again -age no barrier as you can see from the present membership!!



Chalgrave cricket Team of Yesteryear

CONGRATULATIONS

To Richard Masters of The Lane, Tebworth for being presented with the Chief Scout's Award by the Marquis of Tavistock at the Sculpture Gallery, Woburn Abbey.

The award, one of the highest in the Scouting Movement is achieved through a combination of service to the community and leadership skills.

Richard, a senior explorer with the Harlington troop says that scouting has given him the opportunity to undertake a wide variety of activities and learn different life skills together with the added bonus of travelling in Europe and meeting many different people.

Richard's next target is the Duke of Edinburgh award, which he hopes to achieve this summer.

COMPETITION PAGE

PICTURE PUZZLE

P
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O

Where is it?

A meal for two at The Oddfellows for the sender of the first correct answer opened.

CLUE : No clues—your getting too good at this!
Please deliver your entries by using the post box at Chalgrave Memorial Hall

Winner of the Autumn picture puzzle
Mr Thomas, 6 Tebworth Road, Wingfield.
Winner of the Christmas picture puzzle
Mr Ken Green, 1 The Lane, Tebworth
Childrens' poem puzzle—no correct answer.

WIN £10 !!!!!

Open to all ages

Submit a photo - "Spring Flowers"

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

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL COMPETITIONS
30th MAY

FOR THE UNDER 12'S

Finish the limerick.

"A teacher from Parkfield Middle..."

Or

"The teacher who worked at the school..."

Prize — A box of Chocolates

Answers in village hall post box with your name and address

Traffic Calming Report

Dear Editor

I am pleased to say the speed warning sign purchased by Chalgrave Parish Council was put to good use on Friday 25th January between 7.00am and 9.00am along the Toddington Road Tebworth. June Horne, Chair of the Parish Council and I, operated the sign and had very good results to confirm how many drivers speed through the village. The highest speed recorded was 58mph and at least 70% of the drivers were over the 30mph speed limit.

The sign will be operated by members of the Parish Council and members of The Traffic Calming Committee at different times of the day and different days of the month. The information gathered by our speed monitoring will be passed to the Bedfordshire Traffic Police who will see from our speed monitoring that there is a speed problem in our Parish and that more radar speed controls from the Police will deter drivers from driving too fast through the village.

We have had requests from other parish councils to hire the speed sign. The hire charges will go towards the cost of buying the speed sign which will only be hired out when not in use by our traffic calming members.

In the last year we have had gateways and other speed controls installed. Some may say that these are a waste of time but there are no quick answers or cheap measures. With the speed sign and the measures installed already, it is a start in our efforts to slow fast drivers and make our village a safer place to live.

To the people who give up their spare time in helping with the speeding motorists, repairing the bridleways, repairing the bus shelters and all the other free time given by people who wish to keep our village a nice place to live— a big thank you.

Derek Smith - *Chairman of the Traffic Calming Committee*

Readers Letters

This is the page where all residents of Chalgrave can air your views
The Editorial team will however vet all correspondence to ensure that no letters published will cause offence

The Editor
Chalgrave News

Dear Sirs

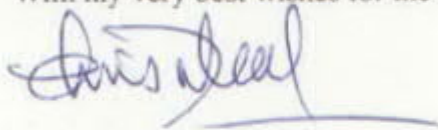
As a past editor of Chalgrave Village News, I would like to congratulate everybody concerned in the production of the latest version of your newsletter.

The content, layout and particularly the quality of the colour pictures is quite outstanding. I picked up my Autumn/Winter edition from Chalgrave Parish Church and, as I was not charged for it, I assume you are continuing the earlier tradition of producing it and circulating it without cost to the reader. Well done! I know from my own experience how difficult it can be in balancing the books (pardon the pun) when relying on income solely from donations and advertisers, not to mention the generous printers who, presumably are not charging a commercial rate for their very professional work.

I am glad to see you have a good team in place and I hope you all stay together for a considerable time. I had a wonderful team of helpers and contributors but still spent a lot of my own time dropping off material at the printers and badgering local businesses to pay £10 a year for their advertisements. I remember with fondness religiously driving to the outlying houses of the parish personally to ensure the residents received their free copy (whether they wanted it or not!).

I hope Barbara is enjoying her well earned 'retirement' from editing the magazine.

With my very best wishes for the future



Many thanks for your kind remarks Chris. The editorial team did not fully realise just how much work is needed to produce the magazine not only in type setting etc but also in finding articles to publish!

Editors Note -

We have received a letter relating to our Parish Council and matters around the Parish. In keeping with our correspondence policy we have not published the letter in this issue as we would like our Parish Council to have the opportunity to respond to the letter and will print both items in our next issue.

Laughter & Life

- **He's a writer whose books will be read long after Shakespeare, Dickens and Henry James are forgotten..... But not until then!**
- **My brother's just started as a police reporter..... Every day he has to report to the police!**

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

Dear Auntie Agnes

I am a young bride, having been married for only three weeks. During my short married life, I have hardly had a wink of sleep; my husband is very enthusiastic and virile and makes love to me almost constantly. Only this morning, he was at it while I was peeling the potatoes and again while I was on my knees scrubbing the floor. I have hardly had a minute's peace.

Whilst I am flattered by his unending attention and love, I am at my wits' end as to how to cope and what I should do about it. I am desperately in need of your advice - please can you help?

[name and address supplied]

p.s. Please will you excuse the shaky handwriting!

Dear Reader

I can fully understand—although never experienced—your problem. It is very difficult trying to adapt to married life. However don't despair as I have the answer to your problems.

I suggest that for the next couple of years you try using a typewriter for your letter writing!

Well until next issue goodbye dear readers.....

THE TIMES OF OUR LIVES MUSIC THEATRE

A good turnout and highly appreciative audience enjoyed over two hours of song, dance and comedy by a cast of professional actors and musicians.

With free refreshments provided by The Memorial Hall committee and a raffle the evening was a great success and these are some of the photo's taken during the show.



Cast :

Robbie Bonar
Chrissie Kiff
Dympna Le Rasle
Michael Roulston

Writer & Director :

Keith Myers



Look out for next years show!!!!

USEFUL CONTACTS

Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & Clerk responsibilities	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	Sergeant Bellis
		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.

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

