

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 - TREASURE HUNT. DATE TO BE ADVISED
OLDE TIME MUSIC HALL - 5TH 6TH AND 7TH FEBRUARY 2004
BROADBAND IN THE PARISH FROM 10TH DECEMBER 2003
CHALGRAVE CHURCH - CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE 20TH DECEMBER
NEWS YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS - SEE BOTH PUBS FOR DETAILS

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

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Editors' Note Autumn 2003

The topics of this issue's editorial range from the sublime to the , quite frankly, ridiculous!

The glorious pictures from all over the Parish show just how much trouble you have gone to with the presentation of your front gardens.

There were so many different styles of garden, so much colour, that the judges had great difficulty in deciding on a winner.

However, a winner had to be found and, as you can see from the front cover main picture, Ronnie and Karen's wonderful trees and conifers won the day..

Ronnie's house and garden down The Lane have matured over many years and his careful placing of trees and mixing of shrubs and flowers now make a spectacular display. Well done!

Well done also to Peter Freeman in Wingfield who is the well deserved runner-up this year.

Our Cheese & Wine evening event was a very enjoyable evening - see the report on pages 18 & 19.

And the ridiculous?

Well, who on earth would want to blow up the Tebworth post box?

Suggestions like The Letter Liberation Organisation have proved unhelpful!

At one point, there was even a hint that a letter bomb had detonated prematurely!

However, the police finally confirmed that an "unsophisticated pipe bomb" had done the damage.

Further details of this frightening incident are contained in this issue. However, if anyone has any relevant information, the Bomb Squad will be interested to hear from you.

Anyway, chin up dear reader, most of the news from the Bomb Capital of Bedfordshire is good!

Enjoy this issue.....

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

43,000 More Houses YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

Oh no! John Prescott's Ministry of Guesswork and Outrageous Suggestions has outdone itself this time.

Hot on the heels of Government u-turns on its predictions on the economy, falling house prices, raging inflation, the discovery of weapons of mass destruction etc etc etc. comes the laughable statistic that 20,000 (yes, precisely 20,000) more houses are required specifically in and around Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis over the next 18 years and a further 23, 000 (yes, precisely 23,000) around Milton Keynes (including Leighton Buzzard) over the following 10 years. The 'reason' given for this potential destruction of our greenbelt and rural environment is that house prices are out of control and there are insufficient houses for first time buyers. Indeed, Mr Prescott has quoted our Chancellor (yes, he of the billion pound black hole in his forecasts) in that his euro statement pointed to the relationship between inflexible housing supply (what does this mean?) and the UK's high rate of growth in house prices. The answer it seems is have a stab at the number of houses wanted and BUILD, BUILD, BUILD.

So, in the light of the Government's pretty dismal record of previous predictions together with the notorious unpredictability of statistical forecasts we desperately need convincing of the robustness of the underlying assumptions upon which this potential devastation to South Bedfordshire is founded.

In addition, are there any alternatives to be considered? How many dwellings can be built on existing brown land? How about building apartments as a first step on the ladder? What about reintroducing tax relief on mortgage interest? Has the thorny issue of under occupation in both the public and private sector been considered?

Is anyone really naive enough to believe the private sector will just concentrate on building cheap housing or will they concentrate on the most profitable?

On the assumption that 43,000 houses can be justified in South Bedfordshire, what about the infrastructure upgrading that will be necessary? The only element that is more than a possibility is the M1 widening, but that will merely assist in alleviating the chronic traffic chaos we have at present. What about the train services, the hospital services, the education services, the recreational facilities?...and the list goes on.

No, no, no, it will not do. Those with a voice must band together and demand convincing answers before our rural community is lost not merely for us but for our future generations.

See page 23 for our local Member of Parliaments comments on this subject.

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



Bombers blow up the
Tebworth Post Box



Chalgrave News celebrates with
Buddy Holly and friends



Chalgrave Games held during a
summer of glorious weather



Ronnie and Karen win the Best Kept
Front Gardens Competition



Peter Freeman wins Second prize in
Front Gardens Competition



Dot
Brinklow
Honoured
by the
South Beds
District
Council

- ♦ **43,000 new houses to be built in the Houghton Regis area**
- ♦ **Dog bins moved to their new positions**
- ♦ **Tebworth bus stop moved 50 yards back from the 'T' junction**
- ♦ **Villages highly commended in the Calor Best Village competition.**
- ♦ **Plough wins the return cricket match against the Queen's Head.**
- ♦ **Major police activity in both Tebworth and Wingfield**
- ♦ **Youth of the Year awarded to Richard Masters.**

Adrian Goodyear

Gill, Alan and Helen would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the sympathy and kindness shown at the sad loss of their son and brother Adrian earlier this year.

Deadline for the next issue

15th January 2004

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
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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

THE TEBWORTH BOMB.....

Saturday 19th September started much as any other Saturday in Tebworth with villagers moving about their business as usual. Washing cars, popping out to the shops, catching up on the gardening. However, the day ended dramatically as midnight approached and the Tebworth Bomb went off!



The Post-box After the Explosion

A very loud explosion which was powerful enough to be 'felt' in nearby buildings sent residents running out to the area outside The Queen's Head pub.

Tell-tale wisps of white smoke were still rising from what was left of the post box, the explosion having sent large parts of metal from St Mary's Close right over to the forecourt of The Queen's Head, some 60 yards away.

Several villagers went to examine what was left of the box and somebody 'phoned the police. Parish News were first on the scene with a camera and took a photo minutes after the event! But unfortunately the flash failed to work!

Within 10 minutes the police arrived from Ampthill – our local patrol had been called away to Luton to deal with an attempted knifing – and were soon cordoning off the area. This was to prove particularly difficult for residents of St Mary's Close, some of whom were unable to return to their homes until the early hours of the morning.

Cars were diverted and, later on, the bomb squad were called in to investigate.

An attending policeman told this reporter that he had never seen such damage before and that the device must have been "particularly powerful".

Next morning, the bomb squad and forensic officers were still in evidence, although current thinking is that either a small pipe bomb or powerful rocket had been posted into the post-box and was not, as the police first thought, a prematurely exploding letter bomb!

But who could do something so irresponsible? A 4x4 vehicle was seen speeding up towards Wingfield immediately after the event, or could it have been something to do with an incident later on that night when youngsters were seen rolling the metal barrels around outside The Plough?



The Post-box before the explosion

In any event, it was lucky that no-one was hurt. A police spokesperson commented that "it could have had far more serious consequences if someone had been walking or driving past!"

The police are still keen to hear from anyone with information on the incident.

Contact Detective Sergeant Dehnel on 01582-473326.

PS.

Littlewoods Football Pools have refused to pay out on the eight winning coupons claimed to have been posted in the letterbox earlier in the day!

Like London Buses.....

Less than two weeks later and further police activity in the Parish which included the police helicopter hovering in the skies above the fields.



UP YOUR FURROW

A local farmer's view



By the time you read this article, the long hot summer will no doubt be a distant memory, but at the time of writing (5th October) the area has now gone three months without any measurable rainfall. For many the extended summer will have given a great deal of pleasure. The footpaths are still dry and easily walkable, the hedges are laden with blackberries, sloes, hips and haws and the changing colours of the leaves make a walk in the country a real delight. For farmers the extreme weather has been a mixed blessing. The dry, hot summer meant the earliest harvest since 1976, which coincidentally was the year my combining harvester was manufactured and sadly before the days when air conditioning was fitted as standard. However, in spite of being operated in record temperatures in excess of 30 degrees Centigrade, my 27 year old tribute to German engineering plodded away churning out dust and wheat without complaint and more importantly without catching fire.

My wheat yield was about 5% down on last year but with good quality and no drying costs I would settle for a harvest like this every year. However, it is ironically the weather in Europe that will have the biggest impact on the profitability of this year's grain harvest. As I am sure you are aware, the drought we have experienced has been even longer and more severe across the Channel and the French and German harvests are reported to be at least 30% down on normal. This has obviously created a shortage of wheat in the EU and led to a much needed hike in the price of wheat. Needless to say, the EU Commission have tried to keep a lid on prices by imposing an export tax. Fortunately the laws of supply and demand have prevailed and wheat is being traded at a profitable level for the first time in a number of years. Unfortunately, these improved prices will be fairly short-lived if the 2004 futures market is anything to go by so we need to make the most of this year's marketing opportunities.



Whilst the dry summer brought benefits to the arable sector, the same cannot be said for livestock farmers. Lack of rain and high temperatures have caused a shortage of grass and livestock have had to be fed with silage and straw which would normally be reserved for the winter months and forage could become short and expensive by next spring. On the arable front the continued dry weather is also causing problems. However, this could be good news for anybody who dislikes or is allergic to oilseed rape. This crop had to be planted in last August in order to be established properly. I do not know of any fields in the immediate area that have germinated and many have already been redrilled with an alternative crop, so bright yellow fields will be a rare sight in Chalgrave next spring. Planting cereal crops has not been much easier. Ploughing the rock-hard ground has been slow and expensive and produced large clods which are virtually impossible to turn into a seedbed without the aid of rain. The

fear is that when it does start to rain after such a long, dry period, it will not know when to stop and the clay soils in this parish soon become very sticky and unworkable. Hopefully, my fears will be unfounded.

Looking further afield, I understand the dry, hard ground has prevented potatoes and sugar beet being lifted in parts of East Anglia and some farmers have resorted to irrigating potato fields in an attempt to soften the ground sufficiently to lift them.

Like most people, I enjoy the summer weather but I, like most farmers, will be hoping for less extreme weather next year.

Roger Fenwick

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

At the Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Hall held earlier in the year a number of changes were made to the committee.

Chairman - Roger Fenwick

Vice Chairman - Roger Masters

Secretary - Wendy McGinty

Treasurer - Debbie Parry

Booking Secretary - Lyn Green

Committee members - Nobby Cooke Pat Cooke Bill Archer Sandy Ryan Frances Masters Ken Green Mike Finch Nicola Wells Sarah Ralley Linda Haddon

Roger Fenwick thanked those committee members who were standing down for their past service and welcomed all new and re-elected members onto the Memorial Halls management committee for the forthcoming year.

Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of the Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee held earlier this year a number of changes were made to the committee.

Chairman - Roger Masters

Secretary - Lyn Green

Treasurer - Roger Fenwick

Committee Members - Wendy McGinty Nobby Cooke Pat Cooke Bill Archer Sandy Ryan Frances Masters Ken Green Mike Finch Nicola Wells Sarah Ralley Linda Haddon Debbie Parry

Roger Masters thanked those committee members who were standing down for their past service and welcomed all new and re-elected members onto the management committee for the forthcoming year.

The Chalgrave Senior Citizens annual free Christmas Lunch will be held in December at the Memorial Hall and is open to any old age pensioners who live in the Parish.

If you would like to attend please contact one of the above committee members as soon as possible.

Footpaths Walks: - 1

How many people who live in our parish actually get out and walk the paths? The more they're walked the more "walkable" they are.

This is a short walk from the centre of Tebworth that can be walked without climbing stiles. Of course one walk leads to another and you can branch off and explore at any point and I have added an alternative way back using stiles. The explanation and way marking should be sufficient not to get lost but a few copies of the Footpath Map showing all paths is available for 50p.

Walk down The Lane to the first FP sign on the right. Go through a kissing gate and keep alongside the hedge. There will probably be cattle in the field, they are often inquisitive and may follow you but you stop and they stop! Sheep will just run away. Through the next kissing gate and turn right up to the next field gate. At this point you have two choices. For the shortest route (no stiles) cross over to the next gate and keep walking straight on until you come to the pond on the Toddington Road and the end of the walk. Alternatively turn left and walk down a "green lane" and through a gate. Keep to the hedge and walk through "boggy meadow", a Country Wildlife Site, to the stream. Choices time again. You can cross the stream and walk left along the bank. There is a bridge 2/3rds of the way along and another at the end of the field.

Retrace your steps and take the stile on the right just before the stream. Follow the hedge for a few yards then take the path at 45 degrees on the right and make your way in a straight line crossing two stiles and through a gate and up to Ivy Farm, then over a final stile on the Toddington Road.

A few obvious rules please: - Keep dogs on a lead or under strict control. Leave gates open or closed as you find them. Leave no rubbish. Keep to designated paths. There are more than 18 miles of footpaths in our parish!

Any questions, comments or offers of help even! Ring me on 874107 Good walking!

Ken Green



CHALGRAVE GAMES

On Sunday 29th July Tebworth and Wingfield families and friends spent the day at the Chalgrave Games. Once again the Dog Show proved popular with 14 canines and their proud owners competing for the accolades of Best Dog in the Parish and Dog Agility Champion. After that, It's a Knockout, children's races, welly throwing, a penalty shoot out and a tug o'war were just some of the ways that points were earned for each village, resulting in a very close contest as usual. Mrs June Horne, Leader of the Parish Council, was kind enough to judge the competitions and presented the Millennium Youth award to Richard Masters for his achievements in 2002.

Results

Best Dog in Parish

- 1st Libby handled by Niall (owned by Jackie Hammon)
 2nd Billy handled by Courtney Finch (owned by Marion)
 3rd Sandy handled and owned by Jo Baldwin

Doggy Agility

- 1st Katherine Masters and Pickle
 2nd Chris McDonagh and Monty
 3rd Niall and Libby

Welly Throwing Winners

- Women Elizabeth McClurg
 Men Gary Colenutt
 Children George Attack

Penalty Shoot-Out 1st Roger Fenwick

Art Competition

- Under 8 years
 1st Rowan Sale
 2nd Sebastian Bowen
 3rd Tori Wells

- 8-12 years
 1st Meghan Chapple
 2nd Charlotte Kerr
 3rd Courtney Finch

- Over 12 years
 1st Elizabeth McClurg
 2nd Jack McGinty

Flower Arranging

- 1st Valerie Griffin
 2nd Francis Masters
 3rd Jo Baldwin

Cake Decoration

- 1st Sam Chapple
 2nd June Horne

The Chalgrave Church Cup for the best entry overall was presented to Meghan Chapple

Photography

- 1st Lauren Clarke
 2nd Arthur & Carol Doris
 3rd Katherine Masters

Under 6 Races

- Hopping
 1st Alex Kerr
 2nd Sarah Kingham
 3rd Phoebe Parry

Egg & Spoon

- 1st Sarah Kingham
 2nd Mathew Kingham
 3rd Tori Wells

Bucket Race

- 1st Alex Kerr & Imogen Parry
 2nd Timmy Higham & Phoebe Parry
 3rd Jessica and Sebastian Bowen

Over 12 years Races

- Obstacle
 Megan Chapple &
 Elizabeth McClurg
 others disqualified!

6 - 12 years Races

- Obstacle
 Katherine Fox & Lucy Cole
 Martha Attack & Katherine Masters
 Alice & Edward Higham

Sack

- Alice Higham
 Charlotte Kerr
 Lauren Clarke

Egg & Spoon

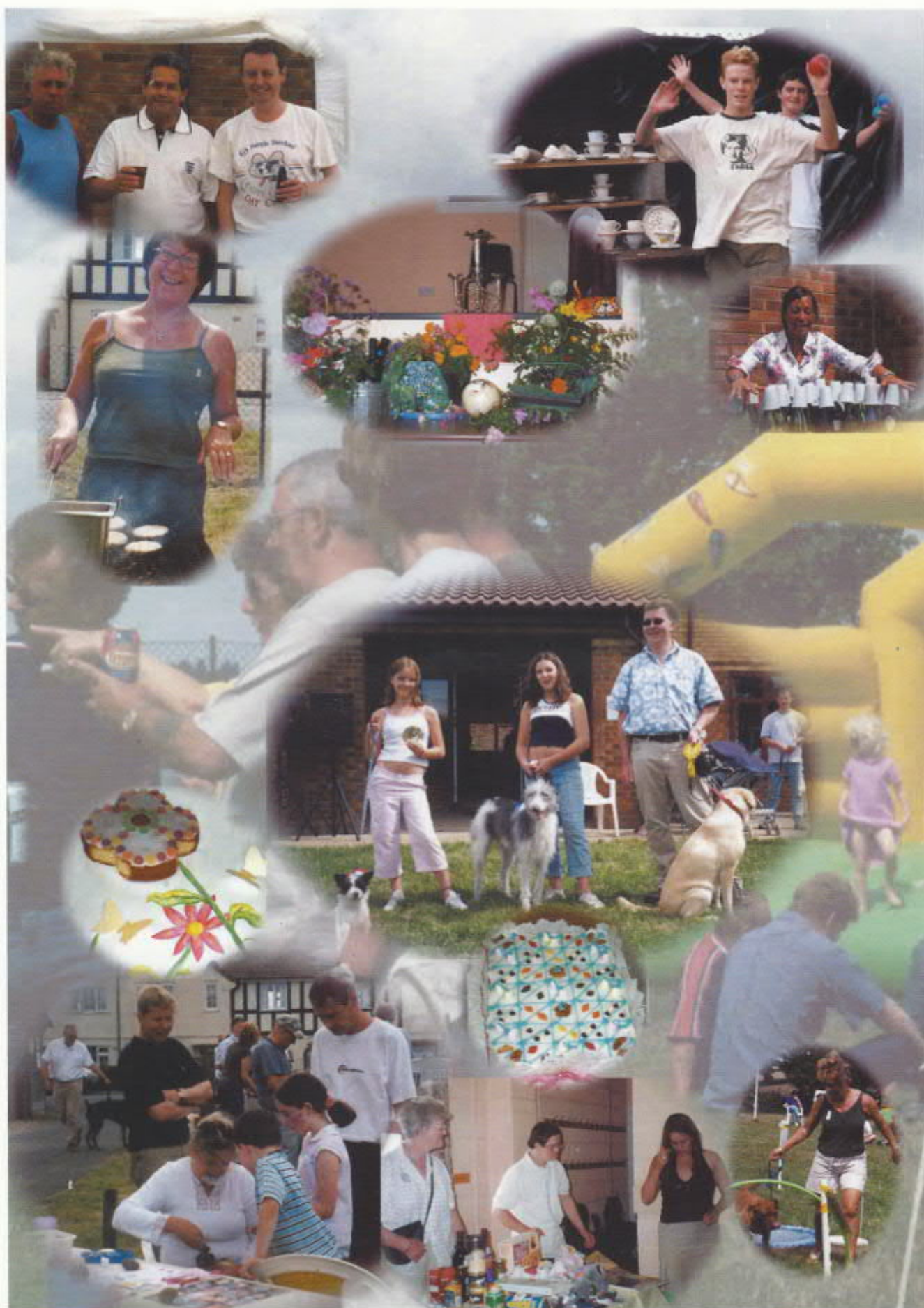
- Alice & Edward Higham
 Lauren Clarke & Charlotte Kerr
 Katherine Masters & Martha Attack

As usual local organisations and businesses gave generous sponsorship. Thanks to:- OLD BARN NURSERIES, KING OF THE CASTLES, SIGNS OF THE TIMES, THE QUEEN'S HEAD, CHALGRAVE CRICKET CLUB, CHALGRAVE NEWS & AROMASSAGE.

Finally, thanks to Lyndie and Lesley for organising the dogs, Gwen for the tombola, Kate and Kate for the books and cakes, Chris and Pat for the barbeque, Clive, Paul Les and Jim for running the beer tent and to all who joined in the fun to make the day a great success.

Wendy McGinty

CHALGRAVE GAMES 2003



Chalgrave Games 2003



Chalgrave Church

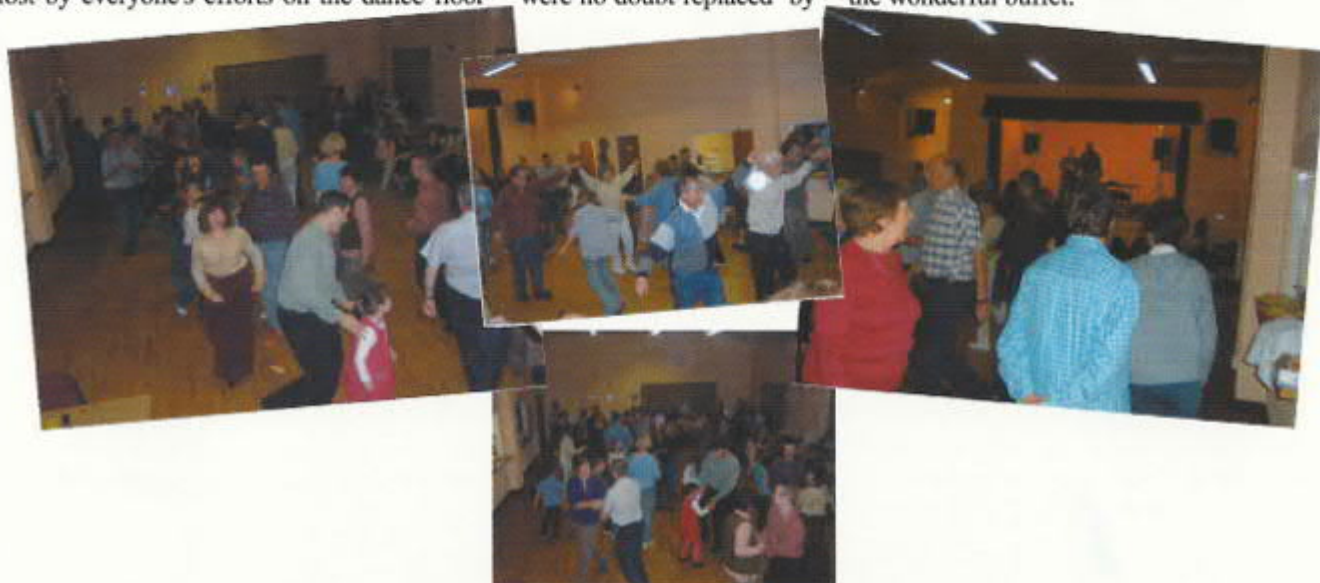


The last time I wrote an article for the village news I gave details of the forthcoming repairs to the North and South aisle roofs. We have, unfortunately, hit a snag at the last minute which involves English Heritage and the grant money they are advancing us for the repairs. We are having to re-apply for grant monies from them next year and the works will not be able to start until 2005.

The existing roof coverings are still weather tight and English Heritage have promised money for emergency repairs should the position change. Watch this space for further news. Whilst talking of the roof repairs it has been brought to my attention that I may have caused some confusion in the last article with regard to the church foundations. There were several reasons for choosing stainless steel over the more traditional lead for the new roof coverings. The weight of lead was merely a contributory factor in our choice of stainless steel in avoiding the need for additional survey work. Cost and security were the other main factors. **There is nothing wrong with the Church's foundations!** Buildings such as All Saints have to undergo an intensive structural inspection every five years organised by the Diocese.

On a lighter note, 14th Sept was the date for our family fun day and pig roast. The day was bright and warm without a cloud in the sky and was very well attended. We managed to raise £710 for church funds. Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped with the organisation. The feedback I received on the day was that it was very much enjoyed and as such we will hopefully make it an annual event. It was certainly the largest piece of pork I've ever cooked!

Another successful and enjoyable event was the barn dance held at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on 18th October. Any calories lost by everyone's efforts on the dance floor were no doubt replaced by the wonderful buffet.



In early December our new Rector the Rev. Nick McNeill will be inducted into the Benefice. We have been without a Rector since Liam's departure in Feb. (known as an interregnum in church circles). Not having an incumbent is a busy time for the wardens and PCCs and we are very much looking forward to Nick joining us. During the interregnum we have received help from many neighbouring clergy in taking Sunday services and I would like to thank them all for their efforts.

The Revd. Nick McNeill comes with over ten years experience in parish ministry. He was vicar in a parish in Exeter before moving to his last post as Vicar of Cople, Moggerhanger and Willington here in Bedfordshire. Before ordination Nick mainly worked in tourism, though he spent three years in France where he met his wife Dominique. They have two children, Matthew aged fifteen and Claire aged thirteen. Nick enjoys all aspects of ministry, especially meeting people and his experience is as diverse as working with the homeless and as a chaplain in a hospice. His interests are amongst other things reading, listening to music, poultry keeping and sport.

He has written to say he is very much looking forward to serving the people of Toddington and Chalgrave and working with Christians of other denominations in proclaiming the gospel to this pretty part of Bedfordshire.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming Nick and his family to the area.

Larry Ryan Churchwarden

What's in your drawers? by Florry Bunda



Taken we think around the time of the first world war, this interesting photo of Tebworth Post Office shows a busy store with advertising boards for Lyons tea, Brooke Bond tea and Will's cigarettes. Now number 2 The Lane, the old entrance and shop window have been greatly altered.

A recent trip to County Archives in Bedford proved rather interesting as a book of the 1840 census showed the population of Chalgrave as over 1000 souls. Occupants of each property were listed by name and occupation, and they included a coal merchant, a wheelwright, a cow dealer, a straw platter, a bonnet sewer, and a scholar at home and surprisingly, quite a number listed as 'paupers'

One of our parishioners has unearthed a very old map of the parish, which we hope to reproduce. It is, unfortunately, undated but thought to be around 1700. Another trip to County Archives may be needed.

On The Buses

There was a worrying development recently when Stagecoach announced their intention to review the bus service numbers 142 and 144 running from Dunstable to Bedford thus potentially affecting the Tebworth and Wingfield services. Delays in submitting the timetable suggested that buses would stop altogether after 3rd November. Recent information however leads us to believe that any changes will be minor and will not now be implemented until 30th November.

The Bedfordshire Clanger

This unique complete meal - savoury at one end, sweet at the other - was made for Bedfordshire farm workers to sustain them through long, hard days out in the fields. This boiled suet meal is best eaten hot, with gravy and vegetables with the savoury, and home-made custard with the sweet.

Serves 4

Butter - 25g (1 oz)

Onion - 1, finely chopped

Stewing steak - 450g (1 lb), diced

Ox kidney - 110g (4 oz), cleaned, skinned, cored and diced

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Suet pastry - 450g (1lb)

Cooking apples - 2 large, peeled, cored and diced

Raisins - 75g (2 oz)

Sugar - 2 tbsp

METHOD

1. Melt the butter in a frying pan and gently brown the onion, steak and kidney. Season well with salt and pepper.
2. Roll out the suet crust into a rectangle and cut off a thin strip from the shorter side. Place it in the middle to divide the pastry into two equal parts.
3. On one half, spread the meat mixture. On the other half place the apples, raisins and sugar.
4. Roll the pastry up gently like a Swiss Roll. Moisten and seal each end.
5. Wrap the roll loosely in greased foil and place in a large saucepan.
6. Cover with boiling water and simmer for 1½ hours, adding more water if necessary.
7. Serve the savoury end first, with vegetables and gravy. Re-wrap the remaining end and keep warm until required, then serve with custard.

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Chalgrave News

Cheese and Wine Evening

On the 26th September the editorial team of The Chalgrave News invited everyone in the Parish to a Cheese and Wine evening at the village hall to celebrate the first anniversary of the new Chalgrave News.



We wanted to let everyone have the opportunity to both meet the team and also give us your views and ideas for future issues.

The evening started with drinks and chat – we tried to pick up any gossip for the next issue but failed!

Background music was provided by the very talented Jason 'Mr Keyboards' Lowndes who played a melody of classic and what used to be known as 'crooning' music.

After the cabaret Jason livened the tempo with a selection of dance music.

The buffet was a feast to behold! The variety, quality and quantity of the food provided was exceptional and greatly enjoyed by all.



Chalgrave News

Cheese and Wine Evening

Just as everybody thought the evening could not get any better along came the fantastic American signing sensation Buddy Holly—admittedly he had appeared to have put on a little weight since his heyday in the 1950's.



Next on stage

was the legendary Roy Orbison performing many of his hit numbers including 'Pretty Woman' and 'Only The Lonely'.

He seemed a little dishevelled from his usual self and - a scoop for the Chalgrave News - did you realise that Roy's hair is actually a wig? No, nor did we until he made his entrance and halfway through his first number realised he had forgotten to put it on! A hasty exit and he returned with wig but it did appear to have been put on the wrong way round! Maybe it was the drink now taking effect on audience and star alike!



What could surpass seeing both Buddy Holly and Roy Orbison performing live in the same show? Well none other than the King of Rock and Roll - Elvis Presley!

Elvis sang many of his well known hits to great appreciation of his many fans in the audience.

Who would have thought that Chalgrave would ever have a concert performed by Buddy, Roy or Elvis - never mind all three on the same night!



Well alright (as Buddy once sang!) - as one or two guessed on the night, this was not really Buddy, Roy or Elvis but that fabulous professional singer/impersonator Steve Crampton who we had persuaded to perform at our cheese and wine evening in a break from his busy appearances on the cabaret circuit. Steve enjoyed himself so much that he went on to perform a selection of Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darren and Dean Martin songs and then to finish sang a selection of soul music numbers. Brilliant!

Roll on the next anniversary of The Chalgrave News!



Chalgrave Sports Club—2003 Review



This year has seen an unprecedented number of games played at the sports club (17)—the highest since the club was reconstituted in 1999. This, of course, was largely due to the fantastic weather we have had this summer—along with the artificial pitch allowing our season to start earlier than ever.

The early part of the season was primarily comprised of league matches—the honours this year went to the team from The Victoria, Dunstable—congratulations to them on their success. A Presentation Evening is being organised at Chalgrave Village Hall—the first to

be held for the Friendly League—a full report will appear in the next issue.

The Plough team put up a valiant fight but (as always it seems) were unable to convert enthusiasm into wins! However, I think it is safe to say that everyone enjoyed their cricket this year and look forward to next season with relish.

After the league matches had been completed, the rest of the season was dedicated to a series of friendly games. The rules in these matches were often extremely flexible—resulting in some unusual scores e.g. 169 for 14! The games were played in

the usual high spirits and thoroughly enjoyable.

There will be some changes in the league for next season—two new teams have indicated a desire to join. Also, a team from Baldock played a friendly against The Vic and are interested in arranging more fixtures next year.

Finally, many thanks to all those who took part or helped the club in any way this season. We are completely reliant on volunteer effort and, as always, are very grateful.

Visit the website at:
<http://www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk/>

Broadband arrives in Toddington

Introduction

BT has announced that they are to upgrade the Toddington telephone exchange and offer Broadband Internet access from 10th December 2003. This article is aimed at providing information to help you to decide whether Broadband Internet access is relevant to you, what it costs and what you need to get started.

What is Broadband?

Broadband refers simply to a high-speed connection to the Internet. In the UK BT use ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line). A typical ADSL connection transfers information from the Internet to your machine at up to 10 times the speed of a conventional modem.

ADSL is a 'contended' connection. This means that the available capacity at the exchange is shared amongst a number of other users—typical levels are 50:1 and 20:1.

A drawback of ADSL is that it is a distance limited service – meaning that if there is more than 5.5 km of telephone cable between yourself and the telephone exchange it is unlikely that you will be able to receive the service. The BT website will allow you to get an indication of whether you are within range – use <http://www.bt.com/broadband/> - enter your telephone number and click Go.

Why Broadband?

Broadband's high-speed connection

means that you can access websites, download music, play games and view movie clips much faster than previously. Email will be faster and you can use attachments (pictures, files etc.) with greater ease.

ADSL is an 'un-metered' connection, meaning that you pay a fixed monthly charge for all Internet usage and if you want to use it round the clock you can! You will, of course, still pay the standard charges for any voice telephone calls you make.

Broadband also allows you to make calls and surf at the same time—no additional phone line is needed.

Finally, if you are already a high volume Internet user using either modem or ISDN it is quite possible that you will save money as well!

What do I need?

Firstly, you will need a standard telephone line from BT. Once the telephone exchange has been upgraded, you will need to choose a suitable ISP (Internet Service Provider). We recommend that you visit <http://www.adslguide.org/> and review their listings. Having placed the order for ADSL with the ISP they liaise with BT to run a line check to ensure that you can receive ADSL.

When choosing the ISP consider that there are two options for the installation – engineer install or 'wires only'. An engineer install is a complete service with a technician being sent to your site (home/office) and he will complete the installation

for you. The 'wires only' option is for those people who wish to have a level of control over the installation.

What does it cost?

Engineer install	Approx. £200—not available from all ISPs
ISP Setup	Averages £50—some are now free!
Router costs	Between £40—£150 depending on specification
Monthly costs	Between £20—£30 for consumer access at 512 Kbps

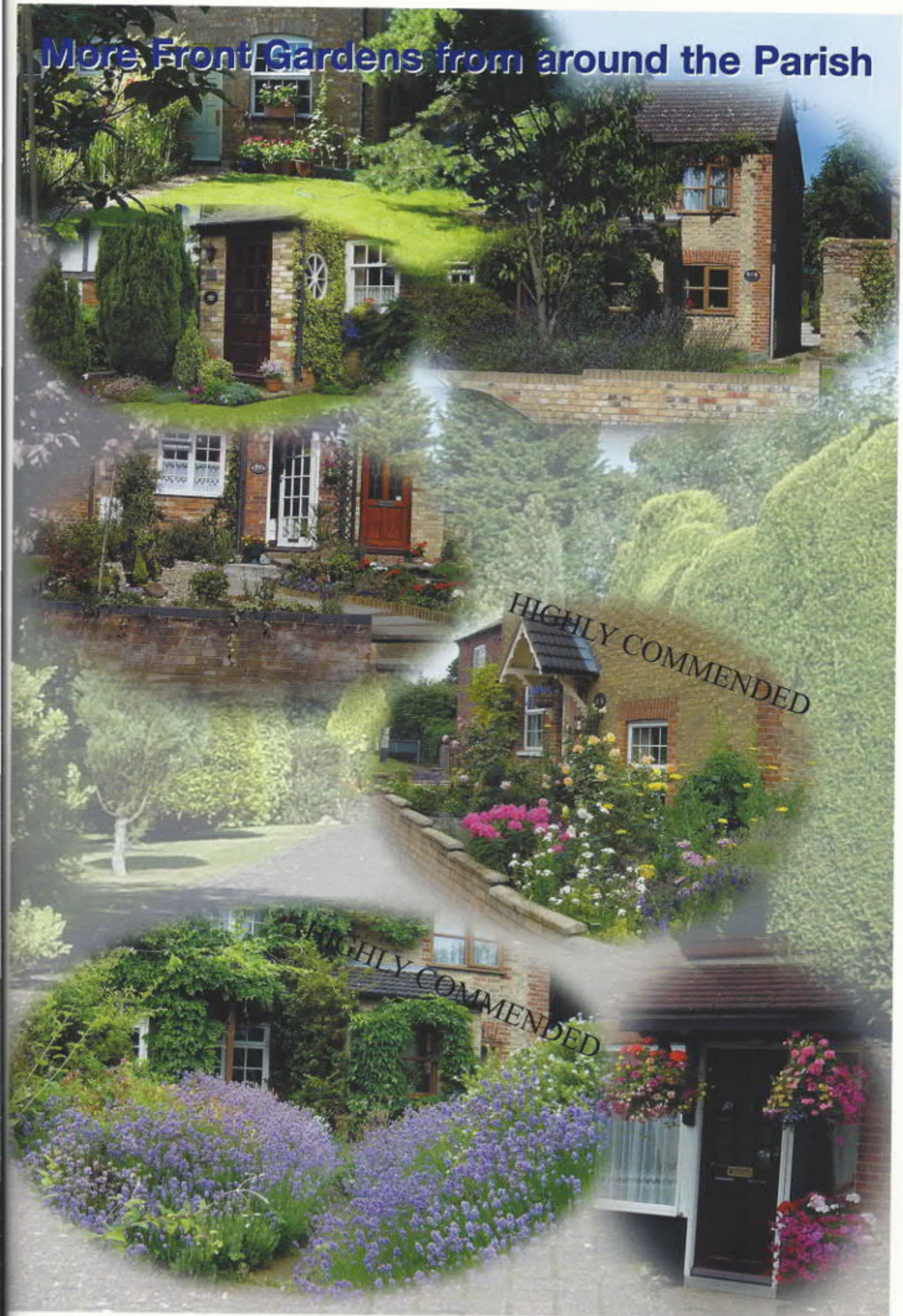
What else?

Firewalls	Prevents unwanted access to your computer from the Internet.
AntiVirus	Ensure that you have up to date AntiVirus protection installed and running.
Network	Share the Broadband connection between PCs.

Conclusion

I hope that this article has provided some useful information about what Broadband is and what it could do for you. If you have any questions or would like assistance with installing Broadband then please give us a call at Chalgrave Computers (0845 123 2841) or e-mail us at info@chalgrave-computers.com. We can supply and configure any related equipment and have experience of implementing Broadband in homes and industry.

More Front Gardens from around the Parish



RAMBLINGS ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

By Bill (Scoop) Archer

These meanderings (or perhaps maunderings would be more suitable) cover three months meetings of August, September and October. You will note that the first two meetings had no members of the public in attendance. Yes, I forgot one and was too late for the other. Lesley's minutes enabled me to mug up on the ones I missed. Thank goodness for Lesley.

Attendances were 5 Councillors I District Councillor no members of the public, 7 Councillors, one District Councillor and no members of the public and 7 councillors, one county councillor and 3 members of the public respectively.

Here I must beat the drum for our councillors. They are volunteers, not paid in spite of popular misconception. The job entails a lot of hard work, little praise and a lot of moans. Yes, the clerk is paid but it works out to way below the minimum standard wage and the responsibility is awesome.

The irresponsible morons who blew up the post-box apparently used an industrial firework. The box has now been replaced. Very few of you readers will remember that pre 1939 there was a spate of such incidents, attributed to the IRA in the days before they became more militant.

Fly-tipping and related matters occupied all three meetings and the District Council have asked the County to give more discretion over depositing of household waste. Anyone with a van or trailer containing household waste should ring the tidy tip and give their name so they can be expected. However, the tip may still use discretion as to whether the waste can be disposed of.

SBDC is visiting waste generating firms to monitor their output to check on fly-tipping.

In the 'Village of the Year 2003', Chalgrave was 'highly commended' and is to enter the 2004 competition in the new 'Small Villages' category. It is hoped more local groups will become involved.

The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that both the Tebworth dog bins have been resited. Perhaps now they can be lowered so the dogs can reach them

Bus shelter repairs should begin in October. The cost is charged to the Parish so I hope the person(s) urinating in the Tebworth shelter will desist and also leave the inside posters alone.

The Council are attempting to get the Parish served by an earlier bus. Following a response from Riseley Parish on their Transport Scheme, the clerk is to apply to the Countryside Agency for a grant.

Beds Travel Aid Scheme – Half price fares are available to unemployed adults, single parents on income support, and 16/17 year old unemployed school leavers registered with a Beds Guidance Centre. The pass costs £1 and is valid for 28 days. More information from Beds County Council 01234 228337.

Planning - The earlier refusal of extensions to 36 Toddington Road is subject to a resubmission to which the Council has no objections.

Following the successful application for a barn conversion in The Lane, approaches have been made for conversions to other properties. This is provoking much discussion amongst the Council.

Within the parish, two retrospective planning applications have been received.

With the Government proposal to release land north of Luton/Dunstable for the building of 43,000 new dwellings over the next 18 years at a density of 50 per hectare, much alarm is felt at District and County level. Currently our unemployment in this area is around 2%, our road system is at capacity and medical facilities are swamped. If house building on this monstrous scale is to be allowed, access must be improved with the A505 extension to the M1. A vital catch-up. It seems the Government cart is once again preceding the horse. With no provision for support service infrastructure, can you imagine some 50,000 more cars on local roads?

This brings me on to roads. Speed strips on Toddington Road revealed cars breaking speed limits as follows:-

9.00 am 3/4/03 13, 11.40 am 14/4/03 4, 10.30 am 19/5/03 3, 11.30 am 9/6/03 3.

50 drivers were stopped for speeding on a morning in July. The acquisition of a sign showing the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit is to be investigated.

It appears that the Government/County flavour of the month is for Parish Plans. To this end, they are calling for a Parish initiative. The Parish Council have notified the Countryside Agency of our intention to participate and are constructing a Plan for this Parish.

A letter will shortly be appearing on your doormats calling for volunteers. A separate letter will be going to parish organisations that may be willing to participate.

So on to the BRAVE NEW WORLD (for world substitute Parish!)

There is yet another Police Beat Manager- Bring back the village bobby!

Parish millennium signs should appear before Christmas.

New grass cutting plans have been received.

'Quiet Lane' status for The Lane is to be applied for.

The Council is to enquire as to the possibility of a grant towards new notice boards.

Bill Archer

And I hope you have a happy Christmas



OLD TIME MUSIC HALL



Remember the 'good old days'? Whether you do or whether you don't, come along to

An Extravaganza of Terpsichorean Delight

At

The Memorial Hall

On February 5th, 6th or 7th

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All profits in aid of the Senior citizens Christmas Party



WHERE'S OUR SAY OVER HOUSING PLANS SAYS ANDREW SELOUS MP

One of the biggest issues to affect Tebworth and Wingfield in many years is the government's plan to put another 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire over the next 30 years. I am deeply concerned at the scale and nature of these proposals to impose 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire against the wishes of 95% of my constituents who have expressed a view. These proposed houses are in addition to recent major house building in Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable for which there are not currently adequate health, retail and transport facilities.

I fully recognise the need for affordable housing in South Bedfordshire for local people. South Bedfordshire District Council had already recognised this need and was already planning to provide 6,000 - 8,000 new houses in the District to meet local housing need.

It appears that the imposition of 43,000 additional houses locally is intended to provide housing for many people currently living and working elsewhere in the south-east of England, mainly in London. By providing London over-spill housing in South Bedfordshire, these proposals will greatly add to the area's already very severely congested roads.

The provision of the Dunstable Northern bypass by 2010/2011 is long overdue relief for our area. The addition of 43,000 more houses is likely to make road congestion worse than it is presently, even with this new bypass.

Local plans suggest that most new jobs will be created on the south-east side of Luton around the old Vauxhall plant and near the airport. It makes no sense to provide so much new housing on the north-west of Dunstable and Houghton Regis, meaning that many new residents to the area will have to cross Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Luton to get to those local jobs that are available. There remain severe doubts that Translink is the answer to local public transport needs, especially in its proposed expanded form.

If housing is needed for new jobs around the Vauxhall site/airport, then the areas nearest to this site should be looked to first.

Local residents have had no clear explanation as to why the South Bedfordshire green belt is no longer to have any planning significance. The green spaces in our district are appreciated as much by those who live in our towns as by those who live in the rural areas that it is proposed to build over.

The location and very high density of this proposed housing suggest that it is unlikely that well adjusted sustainable communities will be formed. Previous planning experience has shown that large edge-of-town housing estates have had many social problems. It is my belief that the housing needs of the south east would be better met by adding more small scale developments to existing communities, so that they become properly integrated into existing communities, rather than providing a few huge add-on housing estates in designated areas.

One of my most serious objections is the undemocratic way in which these proposals are planned to be implemented. The wishes of local people, the councillors they elect, and the Councils themselves are being ignored. Local councils most affected do not even have a right to have their views heard at a regional planning level. If a Development Corporation is formed to implement these proposals without a democratically elected majority of members, then we will be looking at the death of local democracy in our district. Why should local people bother to vote in local elections if the Councillors they elect are to have little or no say in the most important local issue to affect their area for many years?

COMPETITION PAGE

Christmas Lights Competition

Two categories

1. Best Window Lights
2. Front and Garden Lights

Prize: 2 free tickets to the Old Time Music Hall production in February



£25 Winner of the Best Front Garden
Ronnie and Karen

WIN £10 !!!!!

Open to all ages

Submit a photo

Subject - Happy Christmas!

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

15th January 2004

FOR THE UNDER 12'S

Find the Chalgrave Cat

The Chalgrave Cat (in disguise) is lurking somewhere inside this magazine.

Can you find him?

Answers in the post box or by e-mail.

Win a box of chocolates.

Chalgrave Parish Council - Post Office

Thank you to all those people who returned the questionnaire sent out earlier in the year. Unfortunately a post office will not be opening at the present time as a property has not been found in the village which is acceptable to Royal Mail regarding security and disabled access. However if anybody feels they can meet the conditions required by the Royal Mail for setting up a Post Office please let the Parish Council know.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

South Beds Association

- ♦ Monday 8th December 2003 at 2.30pm

Red Kites in the Chilterns

John Britten

- ♦ Wednesday 7 January 2004

Subject to be announced

His Honour Judge Findlay Baker QC

- ♦ Monday 26 January 2004 at 2.30pm

National Trust - Shaw's Corner

Stephen Bennett

- ♦ Monday 23 February 2004 at 2.30pm

The History of Buttons

Joan Ward

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

DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- ♦ Monday 8th December 2003

Christmas Social Evening

Stage Coach : A Christmas Special

Hugh Granger

- ♦ Monday 5th January 2004

Dunstable and the Priory Place

Tony Woodhouse

- ♦ Monday 2nd February 2004

Pub and Pulpit

Elizabeth Adey

- ♦ Monday 1st March **11th AGM**

with a video Royal Houghton 1985

All meetings at Salvation Army Hall Bull Pond Lane Dunstable at 7.45pm. Visitors always welcome £1.00 Hon Sec. 01525 221963

Race Horse Trainer to Jockey 'When you reach each fence make sure you shout 'Alley Oop's' as loud as you can'. First fence approaches and jockey thinks I'm not going to shout anything - I don't want to look stupid - but the horse crashes straight through the fence. At the next fence same thing happens again. Jockey thinks perhaps I had better do as the trainer told me but only whispers 'Alley Oop's' at next fence and horse crashes straight through it again. At next fence the jockey raises his voice a little but still the horse crashes straight through the fence. Coming up to the last jump the jockey shouts as loud as he can 'Alley Oop's' and the horse makes a perfect jump but only comes in third. After the race the jockey is trying to explain to the trainer what went wrong and said the horse only heard me at the last jump when I shouted as loud as I could. Trainer to jockey - the horse isn't deaf - he's blind!

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE....

Dot Brinklow, born Dorothy Horne, was honoured by members of the Parish Council and parishioners alike on Tuesday 21st October at the Chalgrave Memorial Hall

A surprise presentation by the Chairlady of South Beds District Council of an engraved plaque commemorated her forty years of service to Chalgrave as a member of the parish council, many years spent as Chair herself.



During those years, Dot has seen many changes within the village; the disappearance of many small shops, a chapel, a school and Sunday school, but also now regrowth by way of new businesses, new homes and traffic calming measures.

In her acceptance speech, Dot said that she had very much enjoyed living in this parish and just hoped that others might get as much enjoyment from service to the community.

Dot is pictured here with the Chair of South Beds District Council and June Horne, Chair of Chalgrave Parish Council.

WEST TRUST

At the July meeting of the charity applicants were granted just under £11,000 in total.

The next meeting for consideration of grants is to be held in January 2004.

Any applications, submitted on the appropriate forms, should be forwarded to :-

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

Telephone 874232

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Due to the number of articles featured in this issue of The Chalgrave News we have not been able to publish our ongoing report into the missing cemetery of Chalgrave. This will appear in our next issue.

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

Dear Editor

It's a great idea to have a page where we can air our views. Just one point, I do insist that you print my name; unless the Parish News knows something I don't, we do still live in a free society where we need have no fear of expressing our opinions.

I take issue with the Parish Council's opinion on public transport. No one uses the buses because there aren't any, not the other way around. When a youngster leaves school and wants to work or go to a local college he first has to buy a car, with all the expense that that entails, in order to get out of the village. Older people who either can't afford or aren't able to drive can't even get to Toddington to visit the doctor, chemist or shops and expect to get back at a reasonable time. They can get to Dunstable and back in one morning if they run from shop to shop! I'm not talking about the well off or those who live here because of the proximity to the M1 or Harlington station. Of course they don't need buses. A lot of people who used the Post Office when I ran it do need buses and they often tend to be the least vocal of our community.

There was one trial made some years ago a few extra buses were put on over a couple of weeks. This was during one of the coldest snowiest Februarys we have had when no one went out anywhere. A real trial has to last at least a year, preferably two so that people can depend on public transport to get them to work and back, to the shops and to all the services a community needs and thereby adjust their means of travel.

If all the buses that currently run from Toddington to Dunstable went by way of Tebworth and Wingfield, as one or two subsidised ones do already, we would have a good service. The bus company that has permission to run the route by OUR local government should be told to include our parish in all runs and not be subsidised for doing it.

Lyn Green

Auntie Agnes's Problem Page

Personal problems resolved with a smile

It is with considerable regret that I once again have to apologise for a misprint in one of my replies in the last issue of The Chalgrave News.

Mrs 'X' of Chalgrave Parish wrote to me seeking ways of saving money from everyday tasks and explained that she presently spent well over £100 per month at her hairdressers and wondered if there was anyway she could reduce this expense.

In my reply I should have told Mrs 'X' to let her husband trim her hair each month to save hairdressing costs. Unfortunately due to yet another typesetting error my reply was printed as 'let your husband strim your hair each month'. Now I would have thought that everyone would realise this must have been a printing error but not Mrs 'X' or her husband.

I very much regret the subsequent costs you have incurred through medical bills and hairdressers fees and also the fact that you now are completely bald. But look on the bright side, without hair you will not have to pay any future hairdressers costs and so this has resolved your original problem!

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	874716
Responsibilities - Chairman	June Horne	873965
	(Fly tipping)	
Vice Chairman	Ken Green	874107
	(Grass cutting - Footpaths)	
Councillors	Frank Griffin	874126
	(Planning- 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
County Council	Bedfordshire CC	01234 363222
	Councillor	Rhys Goodwin
Chalgrave Church	Vicar	Rev. Nick McNeil
	Secretary	Mrs M Hibbert
	Warden	Larry Ryan
Schools	Lower	St Georges
	Middle	Parkfields
	Upper	Harlington
Home Watch Co-ordinator	Vacant	
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
Chalgrave	Chairman	Roger Fenwick
Memorial Hall	Booking Secretary	Lyn Green
Senior Citizens	Chairman	Roger Masters
Committee	Secretary	Lyn Green
West Charity		
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