



# Chalgrave News

# 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  
Queens Head v The Plough cricket challenge - June  
Chalgrave Sports Club - Cricket every Sunday - June onwards  
Chalgrave Sports Club - Treasure Hunt - May  
Chalgrave village games day - June

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

## COUNTRY PROPERTIES



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## Editorial

Now the dust of Christmas and the New Year celebrations have subsided, we hope you are all looking forward to another glorious summer of hot, balmy days and long warm, light evenings where you can laze contentedly in your gardens sipping a long cool drink whilst pondering on the meaning of life. We at the Chalgrave News however will be busy scurrying around the Parish seeking out further juicy stories for your titillation.

Anyway, back to reality. We have new members on the News Team. Mick McDonagh from the Old Vicarage, Toddington Road has joined us, as has Mike Wells from

the Meadows in Wingfield. So the full compliment is now – Mick and Mike, Roger and Frances Masters, Lyndie Lothian, Tony Cornes and Stephen Eagleton.

Hopefully we shall soon be going onto the World Wide Web, so all you with access to the Internet will soon be able to log on to our very own site

[www.chalgravenews.co.uk](http://www.chalgravenews.co.uk)

Coming up soon is the Chalgrave News Front Garden Competition so make sure your garden is a blaze of colour for July when the judging will take place.

Finally, please keep your contributions and letters coming, and don't miss out on the great competitions, the prizes just get better and better.

Happy reading!

## What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News

Speed limit signs moved on the A5

Broadband is now in most of the Parish

New Vicar has been inaugurated

Old Time Music Hall was a great success

Police chase down the lane - motor cyclist caught

Winners of the Christmas lights

competition Anne and David Whittingham of The Mulberrys, Hockliffe Rd.



## Deadline

Please let any member of the editorial team have your contributions or post them in the letter box at the village hall by 25th April 2004.

## Chalgrave News Advertising Rates

	Single Insertion		Annual	
	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 x170mm	£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

## Footpath 2

These two ways between Tebworth and Wingfield can be used as a circular walk with a stop for a little refreshment at the Queen's Head or The Plough, or why not both!

You should find both well marked and signposted.

The one nearest to the road, path 11 and 12 should be clear and easy to walk at all times the only possible difficulty will be at the Wingfield end where the grass may be high at some times of the year. Path 12 was always known locally as "Michaels Path" because Michael Kingham used to walk it each day to his chickens. Sadly our free range eggs are now gone!

Path 8 is virtually always kept very clear and well marked, except the part through the field for the short time after ploughing and sowing.

Path 10 is a different matter, often the headland is ploughed and cropped and the cross-field is not cleared so it needs walking regularly to keep clear. In addition the part from the Tebworth road to the first stile to the bridge can get overgrown with stinging nettles. The footpaths committee do their best to keep all paths open and clear but the best way is to walk them.

Good walking. Any questions or comments please ring me on 874107.

Ken Green



## The Parish Plan

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February the inaugural meeting of the people interested in constructing the Parish Plan met at The Queen's Head in Tebworth.

Present were Larry Ryan, Dave Caestaro, Tom Petzing, Chris McDonagh, Roger Mence and Frances Masters.

Also present from the Parish Council were June Horne (chair), Leslie Smith (Clerk) and Daniel Osborne (Councillor and liaison to the Parish Plan committee).

The initial and informal meeting was just to get acquainted and discuss how we would tackle the project.

### So, what is a Parish Plan?

It is a statement of how the parish sees itself developing over the next few years.

It reflects the views of all sections of the community;

Identifies which features and local characteristics people value;

Identifies local problems and opportunities;

Prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision.

### So why do it?

As part of the Government policy of 'Active Citizenship', one aim is for local communities to have more power to decide their future. By producing a Parish Plan, evidence is provided that we have considered our future seriously and should increase the chances of obtaining grants and services if required.

At this early stage we are still deciding the best way to tackle the job ahead and would welcome anyone in the Parish who would like to join us (most meetings will be in the pub!)

Please telephone Lesley Smith on 874716 to register your interest. Everyone welcome!

## Found! Chalgrave News

Usually the magazines found in a doctors' surgery are years old but Doctor Ormerod & Doctor Weatherill of 'The Royal' (TV series set in the 1960's) have found a magazine not published for another 40 years!



## All Saints Church Chalgrave

In my last article for the village news I was able to include some details of our new Rector Nicholas Macneill.

I am pleased to report that Nick was formally inducted into the Benefice on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2003.

The Service was led by the Rt. Rev. Richard Inwood – Bishop of Bedford. The first part of the service took place at Chalgrave and a coach then took both clergy and congregation to St George's for the second part. Afterwards there was a reception in the Wilkinson Hall.

I am pleased to say that the entire evening went without a hitch-that is if you don't include yours truly nearly tripping over a pew rostrum in St George's. My thanks to the Rural Dean Geoffrey Neale for placing a well timed hand in the small of my back thus preventing me from falling over backwards!!

Christmas was celebrated with our usual beautiful candlelit services. Carols by candlelight saw the church packed almost to capacity. For the first time ever I was on car park duty and didn't enter the church until a few minutes before the start of the service. The smell of candle wax and kerosene filled the air and there was a buzz of excitement and expectation.

As always our organist Peter



Freeman put together a superb service meticulously planned and faultlessly performed. It came as a slight surprise to see in the programme "While Shepherds watched their flocks by night" would be sung to the tune Ilkley Moor; but it worked. Once people got through the first verse and over the shock it was sung with great gusto.

If you have never been to the "Carols by Candlelight" it is a truly uplifting service.

It is very Dickensian in atmosphere

and for me is always the start of Christmas.

Not a lot to report on the fabric in this issue other than the fact we have a new wooden gate to the car park.

We were experiencing some problems with young motorists using the gravel car park to practise wheelies and handbrake turns so hopefully that problem will now be solved.

Larry Ryan

## Laughter and Life

There were 10 men and 1 blonde woman hanging off a rope suspended from a rescue helicopter. They decided that someone would have to let go, because if they didn't the rope would break and they would all die.

There were no volunteers !

Finally the woman gave a really touching speech saying how she would give up her life to save the others, because generally Women were used to giving up things for Men.

And all the men started clapping

## Traffic Calming Report

Following pressure over the past few years Hockcliffe Parish Council have at last managed to get the agreement of Bedfordshire County Council to extend the 40 mph speed limit towards Dunstable on the A5.

The speed limit signs have already been re-sited from their existing position of just before McDonalds Fast Food outlet to their new position nearer the Little Chef restaurant.

Why should this be of interest to Chalgrave Parish? Well, whenever Chalgrave Parish Council have asked for safety improvements to the Hockcliffe Road and A5 road junction the Bedfordshire County Councils response has been that it was not possible to do anything as the junction was outside of the Hockcliffe speed limit zone. As this is no longer the case can we expect to see the long awaited traffic lights subject of numerous requests from both Hockcliffe and Chalgrave Parish Councils? It is a pity that our County Council have taken so long to take any action as it was not that long ago that there was a fatal accident at the junction that might have been avoided had a speed limit been in place at that time. We will keep everyone in the Parish informed of progress towards the hoped for traffic lights.

The problems with speeding through our Parish are showing small signs of improvement helped by the police sign in Tebworth detailing just how many people have been caught (and fined) in one day - an amazing 128!! The Parish Councils regular use of the new portable speed warning sign has also played its part in getting drivers to reduce their speeds. Statistics are being collated each time the sign is used and these are compared to past police figures which confirm the drop in vehicles exceeding the 30 mph speed limit as well as a reduction in the top speeds that have been seen on the road through Tebworth.

Although the Parish Council had to buy the speed sign from parish funds a good percentage of the original cost has been recovered by hiring out the speed sign to other parish councils where rental fees of £300 have been received to date.

The next meeting of Chalgrave Traffic Calming committee will take place very shortly when decisions will be made on the way forward to achieving our aim of eliminating all speeding throughout the Parish to make our roads safer for everyone.

Derek Smith, Chairman, Chalgrave Traffic Calming Committee



Spring lambs in a  
frosty field  
along the  
Toddington Road

# *Resume of the Parish Council's Activities for 2003*

## **J**une Horne –Chair of the Parish Council

**January** - January 2003 saw a full number of parish councillors attend the meeting. Items discussed were a letter from Police Sergeant Bellis stating that she will not be able to attend all meetings, the opening of a new Post Office was still under discussion, as was the re-siting of the post box at Tebworth. Salt boxes were requested and delivered, as we are not on the salting run. The road from Hockliffe to Tebworth again came under discussion as being in need of repair. Support was given to South Beds. D.C. to the objection to the housing being imposed on the area, without consultation of local authorities. The Precept for 2003/2004 was raised to £4,000.

**February** - Code of Conduct Training was attended by Parish Councillors. The Community Safety Standing Conference was attended by Cllrs. Horne and Parry and the Clerk, Mrs. Lesley Smith. Again the building of houses in the area was up for discussion and our support was given to Toddington Parish Council. We also agreed to join the Mid-Bedfordshire Planning Consortium, who are actively meeting with representatives from local and national government. Standing Orders were agreed for the Council, and Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee, Traffic Calming Committee, and Footpath Committee were discussed.

**March** - The dropped crossing applied for at Ivy Farm and opposite was considered too dangerous a place. Consideration was given to finding another location. Terms of Reference for all committees were accepted. A Cycleway between Tebworth and Toddington is being looked at and enquiries made as to funding.

Bus shelter repairs went out for tender. A workshop attended by Cllr. Horne with regard to young people saw her request granted with an attendance at the next meeting of three speakers with ideas for youth matters. An invitation is to be sent to all parishioners.

**April** was also the parish assembly when the attendance of the public was 8. Three speakers were asked to attend the assembly to talk on youth matters and all the parish was circulated with an invitation to attend. It was hoped that parents and the youth of the village would attend. Unfortunately, as usual, the turn out was poor, although it was felt that a lot could be gained from this meeting. Permission was given for the post box to be moved to St. Mary's Close. Homewatch was again on the move with a meeting planned with the Parish Council in May.

**May** - Attended by Ms Lesley Webb of Homewatch who agreed a door-to-door distribution to advertise a meeting and seek response. Village of the Year 2003 application form filled in and sent. Cllr. Griffin attended the Houses of Parliament with the Mid-Beds. Planning Consortium.

**June** - Lesley Webb, Homewatch, visited the PC again to confirm her dedication to the re-introduction of Homewatch in the parish. Grants were made to the following organizations, following receipt of applications Memorial Hall. £550, Sports Club. £250 Senior Citizens' Committee. £300. There is a possibility of a grant for the repair or replacement of the war memorial located at Chalgrave Church. A Post Office at Buttercup Farm will not go ahead.

**July** - War Memorial in abeyance pending further information. The Millennium Award was presented to Mr. Richard Masters. The Dual display speed sign is being hired out to other interested parties and also being used on a regular basis by ourselves. Dog bins are to be erected. Parish plan being discussed. Mr. Bill Archer on behalf of the Parish Council attended a Future of the Lanes seminar and a report was given.

**August** - During the previous month we were awarded a Highly Commended in the Village of the Year 2003. Donation made to Victim Support £20. Homewatch open meeting proposed. Notification made that we intend to go ahead with a Parish Plan.

**September** - A grant of £150 towards the War Memorial was received from the Community Fund. This will be held in abeyance. The Financial Return was approved and signed for submission to the Auditors. Supporting our dual display sign we now have strips in the road, which are being used quite effectively. New signs proposed informing public of number of speeding offences.

**October** - Bedfordshire County Council and SBDC have some plans for building houses on Green Belt land in the Houghton Regis area. However the government wants to put in three times the number in that area plus the Marsh Farm area-both problem areas. The government sees these as low employment areas. Jobs are available in the Vauxhall areas but housing is planned north of Luton. The outcome will be an estimated 80,000 extra cars on the roads. At present the roads and rail cannot cope. The extension of the Leighton Buzzard bypass is vital to South Bedfordshire even before building begins. This is strategic to reducing traffic through village. Cllr. Griffin stated that Chalgrave was a member of the Mid-Beds. Planning Consortium. A meeting is to be held with Andrew Selous MP on Friday, October 31, 2003, 2.00 p.m. at Chalgrave Memorial Hall. The Parish Council will give a collective response. Lesley Webb, Homewatch Co-ordinator, reported that two new Homewatch groups resulted from the Homewatch meeting in August 2003. Complaints have been received by the council that there is a lack of early and late buses. The schedule for Stagecoach was put into circulation. The clerk will write to Stagecoach regarding a bus that did not turn up.

Countryside Agency sent a draft map showing possible 'Right to Roam' areas within the area. The council will look into the feasibility of a Permissive Footpath near Pond Farm, Wingfield.

**November** - Cllr. C. Hegley, Chairman of SBDC, made a presentation to Mrs. D. Brinklow during the month of October; a letter was received from both thanking the Parish Council for the reception. Audit completed successfully.

**December** - A mass petition is being proposed for the objection to the housing being planned in the area. This is being co-ordinated with other councils. Transport Grant questionnaire to be circulated possibly with news of the Parish Plan.

*Christmas Lights*





## Up Your Furrow

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### *A local farmer's view*

I recently made a point of watching an episode of the TV programme *Salvage Squad* in which a 1950s combine harvester was restored and put to work. It was an amazing feat of engineering as the discarded machine, a Massey Harris 780, was no more than a heap of rusty metal. The MH 780 was the first combine harvester to be used on a wide scale in the UK and it revolutionised cereal harvesting in this country. The early machines were imported from America but as demand grew Massey Harris set up production in Scotland and the factory produced over 28,000 combines.

The presenter of the programme made the point that in this post-war period the government was determined the country would be self-sufficient in food and did everything possible to encourage efficient agriculture. Fifty years on the combine harvester and all aspects of farming have progressed considerably and successive governments have now become complacent about our food supply. Obviously nobody would expect to see any government continue to support the development of agriculture in the way it did through the 50s and right up to the late 70s but far from being supportive, the current government seems to want to burden farming with every tax and piece of red tape going. The latest of these is a proposed pesticide tax which would cost the agriculture industry £25 million per year. Apparently some ground water in the UK contains traces of pesticide at levels which exceed EU regulations and the government assume a hefty tax would reduce usage and hence levels. Obviously this would not solve the problem, if indeed one does exist. We are talking in parts per billion and many scientists believe the levels are set too low. However, in an attempt to reduce levels and stave off a tax, the NFU, CLA, Pesticide Development Association, National Association of Agricultural Contractors and other leading farming organisations have launched a self-regulatory scheme called the Voluntary Initiative (VI).

Provided enough sprayer operators join the scheme (15,000 by March 2004) the government will delay the tax for five years. Whilst called the Voluntary Initiative, it is anything but voluntary. Most farm crop assurance schemes have made VI a requirement and without crop assurance our crops are virtually unsaleable. The scheme itself contains three main elements. The first one is a national sprayer testing scheme which is like an MOT for crop sprayers. This is to ensure they are working accurately, efficiently and safely which I would suggest is a basic requirement of any crop sprayer and any well-maintained machine should be able to fulfil the test criteria. The cost of this is approximately £250 per year. The second element of the VI necessitates completing a crop protection management plan for the farm which is a 23 page document covering all aspects of good practice when storing, handling and applying pesticides. The final element of the VI is to join the National Register of Sprayer Operators. The cost of registration is only £20 per annum and it is open to any qualified sprayer operator. However, in order to stay on the register operators have to prove 'continuing professional development'. This is achieved by attending approved seminars, courses and workshops etc. and CPD points are then credited.

As I mentioned, we as farmers have little choice but to join the VI but if anyone had told me five years ago we would be jumping through such hoops, I would have thought they were crazy. If it succeeds I suppose it will be worth it but I can't help thinking it will turn out to be yet another time wasting paper exercise. As I sat down to register my most recently gained CPD points I couldn't help but wonder what the farmers who purchased those early Massey Harris 780s would have made of it all and could not help wishing I had farmed in the good old days when production was more important than form filling. I recently read a market report which stated world wheat consumption had outstripped supply for the third year running and world wheat stocks are at their lowest for many years. Who knows, the good old days could be closer than we think.

Roger Fenwick

[www.nice-tits.org](http://www.nice-tits.org)

[www.chillisauce.co.uk](http://www.chillisauce.co.uk)

[www.friendsreunited.co.uk](http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk)

## Interesting Web Sites

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[www.edenproject.com](http://www.edenproject.com)

[www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)

# What's in your Drawers

By Florry Bunda



Many thanks to Stephen Eagleton for providing the very interesting old photo shown on the back cover of this issue. It would be interesting to hear if anyone knows the identities any of the children or adults. Perhaps one of them is you! Please let us know in time for the next issue.

## **CHARLES FORDE'S BILE BEANS FOR BILIOUSNESS.**

This reporter has recently purchased a copy of a small magazine published before the First World War entitled 'One Hundred Cookery Recipes' from the above mentioned Bile Bean Co. Apart from the promised 100 recipes, there are countless affirmations of how bile beans can cure almost any ailment or condition which begs the question WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO BILE BEANS? And more to the point, has anybody got a packet stuffed down the back of his or her drawer? Here is one example;

### **"IS YOUR HUSBAND BAD-TEMPERED?"**

***If so, depend upon it there's a reason for it. In nine out of ten, bad temper is a direct result of bad liver or bad indigestion. In the next place, improperly cooked food is often responsible, and the wife has charge of the cooking, it follows that very often the wife's cooking determines the husband's temper!"***

So, there you are ladies. Bad tempered husband? You've only yourselves to blame!

Anyway, in the interest of matrimonial harmony, here is a recipe from the incredible Bile Bean Co.

(Incidentally, it also happens to be the dessert provided so successfully at The Old Time Musical by our caterer, Lorraine Smith) although I believe her actual recipe remains a closely guarded secret!

### **BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING;**

Put slices of bread and butter into a pie dish.

Use 2oz. of currants, a portion sprinkled between each layer and on the top. Pour a beaten egg and 1 fi oz of sugar in one pint of milk over the bread and butter and bake in a moderate oven for about one hour. This pudding is better for standing a little time after it is made and before being baked.



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## Race Night

### Chalgrave Sports Club Presentation Evening and Race Night



This mammoth event, held in the Memorial Hall, was intended to be a celebration of the 2003 season, complete with awards for various categories of player and the presentation of the Cricket League Trophy to the winning team. As it turned out, the level of support from members of the other teams in the league was at the very least disappointing - some would use stronger words. The event was combined with a Race Night, organised and run by some chums of Jim McGinty, who did a quite splendid job, handling all aspects of the eight races themselves and the betting, which was frenzied. Several local companies sponsored races and all the horses were sold on the night, winning owners receiving a bottle of champagne and a silk cap.

Much enjoyment was had by all and a good sum made towards the funds of the Chalgrave Sports Club - a win win win win win win win win situation, you might say.

## 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.

Due to the Official Secrets Act I am unable to give any information to the identity of the letter writer other than to say she does not live in the Parish at the moment.

My correspondent's problem was how to despatch pheasants when following a shoot and not as printed, how to despatch peasants.

My answer was to first try wringing their necks and if this fails then to hit them over the head with a walking stick.

I have recently received a reply from my correspondent congratulating me on my help which I am told works just as well on pheasants as it does on peasants!

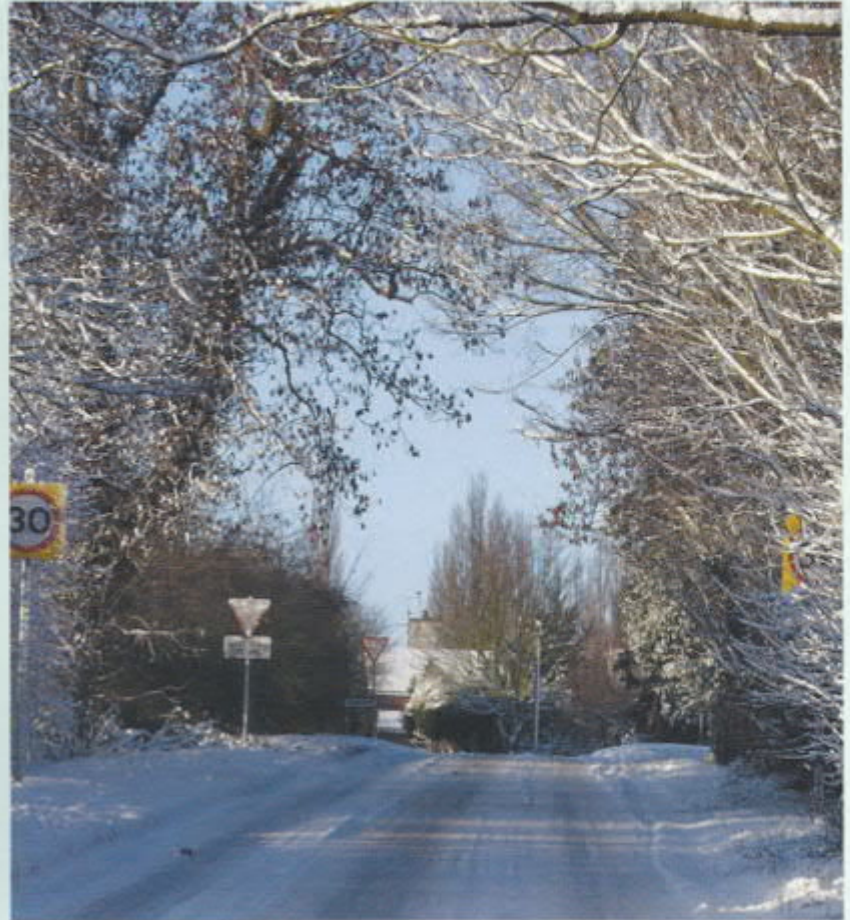
Well until next issue - goodbye dear readers.....



# *New Years Eve Party Celebrations*



## Snow scenes from around the Parish



In the afternoon of February 4th the snow fell heavily in Chalgrave. The following day the sun shone and the countryside looked beautiful. Roads were icy and many stayed away from school and work to enjoy the beautiful day.



Accidents on the Hockliffe and Toddington Roads and tales of people spending hours in traffic jams on the way back from work.



Children played in the snow and toboggans were hauled from the garden shed



By Thursday the temperature was rising and these once splendid snow people had just had enough!



# Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Beds RCC, founded in 1953, is a county-wide charity that is "working to encourage thriving, diverse and sustainable rural communities in Bedfordshire"

For many years, our offices were based at Cardington, near Bedford. As our organisation has grown, we have spread our offices across the county. We now have offices at Cardington, Old Warden and more recently here in Tebworth at The Barn, Buttercup Farm.

We have nearly 20 members of staff at Tebworth, supporting rural communities in a wide variety of ways. The RCC's field staff tackle issues that are of greatest concern to people at the grassroots, whilst at a more strategic level the RCC works to ensure that the rural voice is heard around the policy-making table. The full list of work we do cannot be covered in a few short sentences, but some of the areas of work covered by the RCC include:

Supporting village organisations, village halls and Parish Councils

Working with young people

Improving transport for people in rural areas

Providing training & support, such as our computer bus

Empowering people, e.g. assisting with Parish Plans

Promoting rural services e.g. post offices and shops

Caring for people through schemes such as Village

Care Schemes, the Short Breaks Bureau and

Community Participation

Representing rural interests at regional and

national levels.

Celebrating village life through Village of the Year competition

Accessing funding, giving assistance and guidance on obtaining grants



Further details of the work we do can be found on our website [www.bedsrcc.org.uk](http://www.bedsrcc.org.uk). However, you are always welcome to drop by and meet us in person. Our offices are open Monday to Friday, 9am until 5pm.

## Millennium Award 2003

### Chalgrave Parish Council

It is that time of year again when applications are invited for the Millennium Youth Award 2003. If you know a youngster who should be recognised for an outstanding achievement during the year 2003 then please nominate them. The young people of Chalgrave deserve to be acknowledged for their hard work, skills and contributions to the community.

### Who can be Nominated?

The award is open to anyone up to 18 years of age on December 31, 2003.

### Reasons for Nomination.

The nomination may be for any achievement of note. These may include educational achievements, overcoming a disability, service to the community, sports prowess and so on. The choices are many.

### Who can Nominate?

Parents, grandparents, relations or friends may nominate.

### The Award.

The winner will receive an engraved plaque to display for a year plus a small engraved plaque to keep.

There is also a monetary award.

**The closing date for applications is April 30, 2004**

Any queries please contact

Lesley Smith, Clerk, on 874716

Please include the following details:

**Name of young person nominated.**

**Age at time of achievement.**

**Date of achievement.**

**Name of Nominee.**

**Details of achievement.**

Please return your application **before April 30, 2004** to:

Mrs. Lesley Smith, 4 Home Farm, Tebworth, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9QD

### Handy household hints

**Make Brass Polish:** Mix together - 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2 cup of white vinegar and add enough flour to make a paste.

**To clean silver rings, necklaces:** Put aluminium foil or bottle tops into a glass, add a tsp of baking soda and hot water. Drop the jewellery in and leave until bright. Wash under the tap and polish with a soft cloth.

# Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch



## Ramblings on the Parish Council

### Bill (Scoop) Archer

What with Christmas and 'The Old Time Music Hall', I've got completely out of sync.

Fortunately for me, only two Parish Council meetings have taken place. I must admit I was originally lukewarm to the 'Music Hall', I didn't think Chalgrave could support it. How wrong I was. All credit to Linda and Peter Hadden for jumping in at the deep end. A marvellous show. Enough now as I'm poaching on others preserves.

The December meeting had five councillors and one member of the public which must have been me - with a memory blotted out by Christmas.

It was agreed that boundary signs would be erected at five points in the parish. At the Tebworth end of Chalgrave Road, at the Toddington Road and Hockliffe Road gates, at the Wingfield Road 30mph signs (near Heath Farm) and a double

sided sign outside the Memorial Hall.

Homewatch is now operating again in Chalgrave. The road speed checks with Parish Council participation are to be reduced. However, the Parish Council are to write stating how successful the scheme has been and asking for them to be continued in the future.

**Planning** - some disquiet and confusion has arisen over 'Foxleys' in Tebworth Road. The Parish Council is to write to South Beds. District Council asking for written confirmation that no planning approval has been applied for in respect of grooms accommodation in the stable block

The South Beds. Planning officer has explained that a 15% increase in living area at The Old Chapel, Wingfield Road is permitted development. In the case of 4, The Lane, the increase was significantly above this and was therefore refused

with an appeal also turned down.

Our MP has raised the issue of proposed new housing in South Beds. to Parliament. Parish Councillor Griffin attended a meeting with the Mid Beds, Planning Consortium and various MP's who reinforced our objections over the plans. A petition is to be delivered from Dunstable Town Council this month (February). The Prime Minister has indicated he will visit the area to hear the views of the public (you will note that his deputy has already ducked out!). A public examination is to take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in the Luton and Dunstable area.

It is good to see that other councils are hiring the Dual Display Speed Sign thus reimbursing the original cost.

Finally, our County is trying to keep its Council Tax rise to 7% - we will see!

## Old Time Music Hall at the Memorial Hall

### A Senior Citizens Committee Production

Everyone who attended the show on any of the three nights of 5th, 6th & 7th February had a brilliant time.

Directed by Peter and Linda Hadden of the Lane, and admirably chaired by Phillip Parry, the two and a half hour production was a great success and the show raised over £800 for the Senior Citizens.

Most of the cast consisted of parishioners, although notable exceptions were Peter Carnes and Trudy Rutherford (both Queen's Head regulars), and Sandy Ryan (late of this Parish but now a defector to Toddington).

The Chorus consisting of Frank and Val Griffin, Sandra Horne, Nicola Wells, Peter Carnes, Roger and Francis Masters, Sandy Ryan, Trudy Rutherford, Chris McDonagh, Ken Green and Colin Edwyn gave a lusty performance throughout with old favourites such as "Any Old Iron", "Where Did You Get That 'At", and

"The Galloping Major".

Bravery awards must go to those locals who ignored the catcalls and barracking to give a superb (or in some cases fairly moderate) renditions.

Ken Green (Yes, Vice Chair of the PC) for "Burlington Bertie", Francis Masters for "Get Me to the Church" and "Oh! Mr Porter", Sandra Horne for "Joshua", Mike Finch, David Caestaro and John Kirwin for The Flower Girls!!!, Peter Carnes for "The Honeysuckle and the Bee" and "The Houses In Between",

Roger Masters for "When Father Papered the Parlour", Sandy Ryan for "My Old Man said Follow the Van",

Colin Edwyn for "My Old Dutch" and a tremendous comedy sketch with Linda Hadden

Peter Hadden for a subdued rendition of "Sam Hall",

and of course our very own Chris McDonagh who told us that "Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty".

The superb food was once again provided by Hepworth Catering in the form of Lorraine and Derek, and the bar ably manned by Jim and Wendy McGinty and Mike Wells, tables attended by Jack and Fred McGinty, Richard and Katherine Masters and Courtney and Dannielle Finch.

Thanks must go to those who assisted behind the scenes, Bill Archer for the stage scenery and props assisted by Lyndie Lothian and Debbie Parry for selling and keeping track of the tickets. Roger Fenwick for stage management and lighting. Last but not least Peter Freeman for his marvellous work on the organ. Yes, a real team effort.

Photos Page 22&23

# Old Time Music Hall





## Book Club

Early in 2003 Linda Hadden, Lyn Green, Kate Smith, Jill Jones and Lesley Smith held a meeting to start a book club. These founder members were soon joined during the year by Francis Masters and Noelene Thompson.

The club has been very successful, taking it in turns to meet in members' homes for formative and informal discussions about the books we have read during the year. These have been chosen by mutual consent and are quite diverse in subject. To date the titles include *Boedica*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in*

*the Night*, *Brick Lane*, *Wuthering Heights* and *A Christmas Carol*. These meetings have had the added incentive of biscuits, coffee, home made cake and even lunch and wine

supplied by Francis for our Christmas meeting. If you are interested in joining us please telephone 875417.  
Linda Hadden



## A Message from your County Councillor

What a wonderful Induction Service we had for our new Rector and it was so very well supported by local villagers and visitors!

As your councillor, I find that County work is getting more intense as I represent **your** interests on:

**The Government plans for new housing** - a firm stand has been taken - infrastructure first, then jobs then housing. We now have Regional support on this view; however, the battle will be a very long one!

**Rates** - this is the heartbreak part of County work. As a pensioner I know that every time the rates are above inflation the standard of living of those of us on a fixed income goes down. This is repeated year on year. When government changes legislation the local authorities that have to implement it incur a cost. Sometimes these costs are very substantial! Take the new requirement to scrutinise the Health Service - but not one penny from government. Take the Victoria Climbié situation, the Lord Lamming report and the new legislation that

follows - all incur millions of pounds for Bedfordshire - but not one penny of support. The new and more onerous responsibilities for children's social workers makes them harder to retain and recruit - Agency staff are expensive and do not provide continuity!

I am told that following the Queen's Speech there will be a new Bill enacted every week! The Rates Bill will be high next year - but no one has worked harder than councillors of all parties to keep it down!

**County Performance Rating** - you will have seen in the paper that this is measured as being "Poor"! This rating is based mainly on Children's Services. As Chairman of the Individual Wellbeing Committee - that scrutinises this - I have identified many areas where we can improve and much of my time is spent ensuring that it happens. We are quite good on libraries, education and our environmental planning is possibly better than the rating given as it is similar to the Luton one that was rated as good!

**Rhys Goodwin**

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### Dunstable and District Local History Society

5th April The Development of Dunstable College  
by *David Room*

May The Society will host a "History Week"  
event. More details from the Secretary.

Summer outings will take place in  
June, July and August.

Meetings are held in the Salvation Army Hall,  
Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable on the first Monday  
of the month at 7:45p.m.

Visitors always welcome.

---

### South Beds Assoc.of the National Trust Members

7th April The Earth's Natural Crystals and Gems  
by *Michael Henry*

All meetings begin at 7.45pm unless otherwise  
stated, and are held in the Salvation Army Hall,  
Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable.

For further information about forthcoming events  
phone 01582 527790

Visitors are welcome at £1.00



## Competition Page



Where is it?.....  
Two free meals at the  
Oddfellows or  
£25.00 cash

Find the Cat.

For the under 12's



The Chalgrave cat has been eating GM mice.  
He looks like this and he is hidden in one of the  
photographs in the magazine.

Find him and win a  
McDonalds Voucher or £10.00 cash

**Forthcoming competition** The editorial team will be holding the Front Garden Competition again this year so out with the trowels and seed packets and see if you can be our winner this year. A phot of your garden will be featured on the front of the magazine in Autumn.

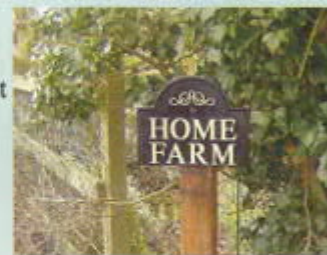
Answers to the competition on a postcard with your name and address posted in the letter box at the village hall.

## Mindless Vandalism

The two Home Farm entrance signs have been deliberately broken in recent weeks and not content with breaking these expensive cast signs the person or people responsible have returned on several occasions since the first attack and caused



further damage. On a recent occasion a resident heard the signs being vandalised but by the time they had reached the drive entrance the culprit had run away. As no car was used it is highly probable that the person or people doing these senseless attacks live locally. The police are aware of this damage and will prosecute the offenders if found - you have been warned!



## West Charity

The meeting of the Trustees originally scheduled for January had to be deferred to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February due to the illness of the Clerk Norman Costin. Fortunately, he is now well on the mend.

The Trustees allocated some £11,500 in grants to 60 children and 21 students from both Hockliffe and Chalgrave which was an increase on last year owing to the improvement in investment income.

The Trustees would like everyone to know that they have changed their guidelines in relation to awards for students aged 16 to 18 and in relation to claims for travel expenses for all students over 16. These changes will come into effect as from the next meeting of the Trustees, which is expected to be in July 2004.

It is important to remember that the Trustees do not have any rigid policy and retain a complete discretion as to the distribution of grants each time they meet. The amount of money which the Trustees can prudently pay out by way of grant at each meeting varies according to the economic conditions prevailing at the time. Nevertheless, in the interests of fairness, the Trustees do try to follow certain guidelines which they set from time

to time, whilst retaining an overall discretion to depart from those guide lines as and when they see fit and to deal with special cases as and when they arise.

As from July 2004, subject to the availability of funds, the Trustees hope to be able to make bi-annual grants of £100 to students aged 16 and 17 and £200 to students aged 18 or over who are receiving full time education and who apply for such a grant. This grant is intended to assist students in the purchase of books and other equipment relevant to their studies.

In addition, all full time students over 16 can also make a claim for travel expenses incurred on public transport between home and school/college/university. The Trustees would expect to be able pay some proportion of these expenses, but that proportion will vary according to the monies available for distribution at the meeting in question. All claims should be supported by receipts.

Any further information or claim forms are available from the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr N Costin, telephone 01525 874232

## *Fighting for what's right for South Bedfordshire*

**M**y response to the government's plans to build 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire. As the local MP, I know very well that South Bedfordshire needs more affordable housing for local people to rent and buy. Indeed, more people come to my weekly surgeries about housing than any other issue. Many people that are adequately housed also have concerns that their children will not be able to afford homes locally so that families can stay together, with children living near parents and other relatives.

There are over 2000 people on South Bedfordshire District Council's housing waiting list and the Council already has plans in place to enable the building of 6,000 - 8,000 more houses locally to meet this need. So I am a firm supporter of providing local houses for local people.

Many South Bedfordshire residents would also like to be able to work locally, rather than have to commute out of the area to get to work. I certainly greatly prefer being able to work locally rather than in London, on the days when parliament is not sitting. Local people also want to be able to travel on uncongested roads and trains, to see a doctor easily, to have sufficient school places, police officers, social service facilities and other local amenities.

They also greatly appreciate our beautiful countryside, and the distinct character of our towns and villages.

These are the criteria against which local residents, local councillors and I will judge the government's plans to build an additional 43,000 houses in South Bedfordshire. With 2000 people on the Council waiting list it is quite clear that the vast majority of these new houses are for people from outside the district, very many of whom will come from London and the rest of the south-east.

The strains on our area will be enormous if these plans go ahead. The major jobs growth planned around Luton airport and the old Vauxhall plant appear very unlikely to be able to provide the jobs needed for these new residents. There will be even more pressure on our already very overcrowded roads and trains. The gridlock on our roads is likely to continue even after the A505 is extended to the M1, with the additional cars on our roads from the extra 80,000 or so residents overriding the benefit this new road will bring. Grave doubts remain that the Translink guided busway will meet out transport needs. There are, even at present, not enough GPs in Leighton Buzzard to care for the residents that have moved into the new houses that have been built there recently.

There are better ways to provide new houses than these proposals. Developing the transport and economy of the north of Britain would ease the strain on the already very overcrowded south-east. Spreading growth organically and proportionately across the widest range of existing communities across the UK would be

better for the environment by reducing congestion and pollution and would enhance social cohesion. Large edge-of-town housing estates do not always produce thriving communities. Trying to solve all of London and the south-east's housing problems by imposing vast numbers of houses on four areas only around London is not a sustainable solution for the residents in those four areas or for the new inhabitants proposed, many of whom will be travelling long distances to work. We can be more imaginative in developing brownfield sites, filling the 100,000 plus empty homes in the south east and developing the flats over shops, many of which would make ideal first homes, would regenerate our town centres and increase security in them.

This is the biggest local issue to affect our area for very many years. Living in a democracy, these decisions should be taken by local councillors, elected to represent the concerns and wishes of those of us who live in South Bedfordshire. Instead of letting each local authority decide on the number of houses needed for their residents, the government's plans span covers several local authorities. The body that will oversee the imposition of this unprecedented level of house building in South Bedfordshire will be a development

corporation with a minority of elected councillors on its board. Thus the will of local people will be overridden. All but one of the representations made to me by my constituents have expressed strong opposition to the nature and scale of the government's proposals for South Bedfordshire.

Be in no doubt that **wherever** you live in South Bedfordshire the government's house building proposals in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-regional strategy will affect you in terms of congestion, access to local services and the quality of your environment.

I have had concerns expressed to me about these proposals from residents in Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and almost every village in South Bedfordshire.

Is there anything we can do to put South Bedfordshire's views to the government? I pledge to raise your concerns with the government, in parliament, at every opportunity. The decision to extend the A505 to the M1 [the Dunstable northern bypass] was greatly helped by the 25,000 signatures on the petition I

presented to the House of Commons. People power has worked before and can work again. Wherever you live in South Bedfordshire, please sign the petition we are launching on 2 February so that together we can fight for what is right for South Bedfordshire.

**ANDREW SELOUS MP**

## 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
		874232
County Council	Bedfordshire CC	01234 363222
	Councillor	Rhys Goodwin
		210629
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
		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

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



*DO YOU RECOGNISE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?*

WHEN WAS THIS PHOTO TAKEN? IS IT YOU? LET US KNOW WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND WHERE THEY ARE TODAY?