



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
- Chalgrave Sports Club - Cricket every Sunday - until end of September
- All Saints Church Annual Pig Roast Sunday 5th September 1-5pm
- Chalgrave Sports Club race Night 9th October
- Book Club meetings - weekdays to be agreed
- Chalgrave Sports Club car treasure Hunt 29th August

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

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

Deadline

Please let any member of the editorial team have your contributions or post them in the letter box at the village hall by 15th October 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	£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

Jackie Hammons, Ivy Farm, Toddington Road,
Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QD
07930 391122 e-mail jackiehammons@audi.co.uk

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Editorial

As we go to press the weather has changed for the better and looks good for the school holidays. It could have been better for the Chalgrave Games but the Wednesday prior to that we had gales and torrential rain which although not hurricane force still brought down trees which are more vulnerable to high winds when in full leaf.

Many of the articles in this issue should be of interest to those of you who are concerned about the future of our Parish e.g. do we really want 46,000 houses to be built within mile or two of our parish boundaries? why did so few people want to speak to our MP when he came the parish? and are we going to let bureaucracy rule our village games?

We had so much information this time we have had to keep the photos of the front gardens to a minimum - a shame because so many more were well worth a mention. Some articles have been put aside for the next issue, such as articles about Roger Fenwick who has stood down as Chairman of the Village Hall committee and Lyn Green who was booking clerk. Both have served many years doing wonderful work and they will both be missed. The pictures of the beautiful winning baskets will also be included in the next issue.

Any contributions you have should be with us by mid October for inclusion in the Christmas issue. If you know of any Christmas events by then please let us know.

Happy Holidays!

What's happened in Chalgrave since the last Chalgrave News

Parish Council elect new Chairman, Phil Parry

European and District elections

Senior Citizens Committee Elections

Parish Council and Village Hall elections

Roger Fenwick stands down after 13 years on the Village Hall committee

Andrew Selous holds surgeries in Tebworth and Wingfield

Village Games

More abandoned cars in Wingfield and the Hockcliffe Road

Fly tipping on the Chalgrave Road

Burglary at the Queen's Head. £150 taken from the till

Judging of the Best Front Gardens and Best Pots and Baskets

Police helicopter over The Lane at 1.00am Sunday 24th (anyone know why?)

Cricket Season underway again at Chalgrave Sports Club



Tim McGarry & Miranda Dokk-Olsen were married at All Saints Church on 5.6.04. Both are former residents of Tebworth



CHALGRAVE GAMES JULY 2004



CHALGRAVE GAMES JULY 2004



CHALGRAVE GAMES JULY 2004

Despite no sunshine on the day and a short shower, The Games on 11th July were a resounding success. The dog show brought out the usual competitors – Monty from the Vicarage, Pickle, Grommet, Billy and Rosie from The Lane, Harry from Home Farm and Tiger Lily (an outsider) but loaned for the day to Sue and Ray from St Mary's Close.

It was a close run thing but the dog agility was won by Sue Leuty with Tiger Lily, second was Monty handled by Chris McDonagh and third was Pickle handled by Mike Finch (or was it the other way round).

There was a steward's enquiry after a complaint that Billy, handled superbly by Velda Cooke, should have won comfortably but following the passing of a wad of notes to the judges, the original decision was upheld.

Best dog in Parish went to Pickle and Mike Finch, second place Tiger Lily and Sue Leuty and third place to Monty and Chris McDonagh.

Following the dog show, most of the adults retired to the tea and cake tent, the barbeque or the beer tent to watch the kiddies races and a list of the under 6 winners is as follows:-

Egg and Spoon - 1st Eloise Hall, 2nd Tori Wells, 3rd Phoebe Parry

Water Race - 1st Phoebe Parry, 2nd Eloise Hall, 3rd Tori Wells

Hopping Race - 1st Eloise Hall, 2nd Tori Wells, 3rd Phoebe Parry

Sack Race - 1st Phoebe Parry, 2nd Tori Wells, 3rd Eloise Hall



The Welly Wanging competition went with a bang this year with Ray Willis taking the men's title from the defending champion Gary Colenut (who was unfortunately on holiday in Spain.). The egg-throwing competition and tug-of-war and penalty shoot-out were all fiercely contested and whilst there must have been winners, nobody seems to know who they were! Traditional folk music was provided by 'Cloudburst'. Inside the Hall, there was something for everybody.

CHALGRAVE GAMES JULY 2004

Ken Green standing in for Bill Archer on the bric-a-brac stall, Courtney Finch making money hand over fist on the painting table, face painting by Debbie Parry, tombola and lucky dip with Gwen and David and the 'win a bottle of wine' stall with Sarah Ralley (certain members of the Committee were in fact banned for cheating-allegedly).

There were a good number of entries for the competitions, the winners being as follows:-

Decorated Cake – 1st Frances Masters, 2nd June Horne, 3rd Sue Leuty

Photography (Adults) – 1st Sue Leuty, 2nd Debbie Parry, 3rd Roger Masters

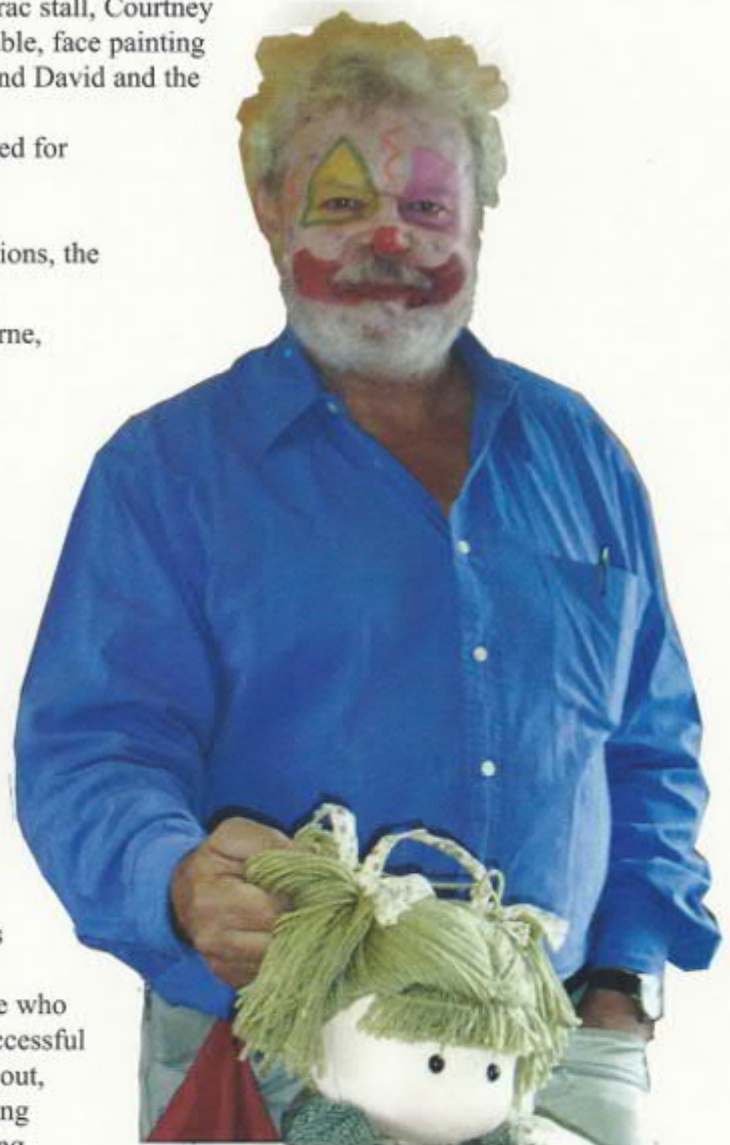
Photography (Children) – 1st Callum Barrett, 2nd Lauren Clarke.

Single Flower – 1st Ray Willis, 2nd Sue Leuty, 3rd Matthew and Sarah Knight

Painting (under 8's) – 1st Eloise Hall, 2nd Matthew Kingham, 3rd Callum Barrett

Painting (8 – 13) – 1st Courtney Finch, 2nd Joseph Sale, 3rd Darren Thompson.

The Memorial Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who came and participated in the Games Day and especially all those who gave up their time to help organise and run such a successful day. Whilst we cannot list all the people who helped out, particular mention must go to Paul Whitton for bringing along one of the biggest tractors in the world (weighing almost 20 tons).



Around the Organisations

News from Harlington Upper School

At Harlington Upper School we aim to build good links with our local community, but as we take students from over thirty settlements across Mid-Bedfordshire this can sometimes be quite a challenge. I am therefore delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to the Chalgrave News and share with you a flavour of our school.

Although high levels of achievement in academic studies are a key focus for us, we do not believe that it is possible to enjoy success without providing a broad education in the widest possible sense. For example, last month, Design Technology students reclaimed the position of local champions in a "young engineers" competition organised by Rotary. We also aim to provide a wide range of opportunities for our students in the arts and on the sports field. At the same time we encourage young people to make an active contribution to the local and international community.

In March the school played host to a group of students and teachers from Baia Mare, a town in Romania. Harlington has had links with this school and town for twelve years, starting with aid convoys to help orphanages in the area. Similar links have recently been made with a school in Kumasi, Ghana. Closer to home, our students have taken the lead in supporting several charities including Childline, Macmillan Cancer Relief, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and LEPRO.

Sport teams have also enjoyed success this year. Boys in year 9 and year 11 became County Rugby Sevens champions, in netball our U16 team are county champions and the year 10 boys football team recently won the District Cup by beating Van Dyke school 3-0 in a closely contested final.

Finally, if you visit the school over the next year or so you will notice a major building programme is underway that will provide much needed new accommodation for all curriculum areas. The first new buildings will be ready at end of the autumn term and I look forward to telling you a little more about this exciting project in a future article.

Shawn Fell
Headteacher

Police News

I would like to inform you all that for the foreseeable future your normal Beat Manager PC SUTTON has been seconded to another project and is unable to perform the duties as a Beat Manager.

During the time that PC SUTTON is away, I, along with a colleague of mine, PC 172 Rick GOSS will be covering the villages which not only includes Chalgrave, but also Toddington, Barton, Sundon, Streatley and Chalton.

We are both Beat Managers for Houghton Regis, I cover Tithe Farm area and PC GOSS covers the Parkside area.

To introduce myself I have been in the Police Force for 16 years, and started off my career as a footbeat on the Hightown area in Luton. I then became a Panda patrol officer on the Marsh Farm area of Luton.

Following completing a firearms course at the completion of my probationary period I then became an armed officer at Luton Airport, then moved up to Bedford onto the main firearms unit.

From the firearms unit I was then stationed at Leighton Buzzard as a Panda Patrol Officer for approximately 8 years prior to

becoming a Beat Manager at Houghton Regis in September 2003. I have gained a wealth of experience during my career and would urge you to contact me at Houghton Regis Police Station 01582 471212, (Ask for Houghton Regis) if you have any problems you wish to discuss.

PC 81 Graham Arnold

Senior Citizens Committee.

The Annual General Meeting of the Senior Citizens Committee was held at the Memorial Hall on 22nd June when the Chairman Roger Masters thanked the Committee for the work they had done throughout the year. The Old Time Music Hall was a tremendous success and £880 was raised for the funds.

Due to the healthy state of the funds, the Committee will be looking to put on another bus trip later in the year as well as the ever popular Christmas party.

The new Committee for the coming year are as follows:

Roger Masters Chairman
Roger Fenwick Treasurer
Wendy McGinty Secretary
Ken Green, Nicola Wells, Frances Masters, Sarah Ralley, Elizabeth Hall, Fred McGinty, Sandy Ryan, Linda Hadden, Mike Finch, Debbie Parry and Bill Archer.

The Committee are seeking informants! They need to update their records and need your help in finding parishioners who have reached pensionable age to ensure they include everyone eligible when invites go out (particularly the Christmas party.)

Family member, neighbour or friend, they want to hear about anyone who has reached that important birthday. Details to any Committee member or in the letter box at the Memorial Hall.

The Chalgrave Book Club

The Chalgrave Book Club is still holding monthly meetings which are thoroughly enjoyed by all members.

Since reading 'A Christmas Carol' just before Christmas we decided upon Joseph O'Connor's 'Star of the Sea' as our next book. This was short listed as a best book 2003, and also read by many book clubs - coming very near the top in the votes for best read in the Richard and Judy programme. It took us quite a time to finish - and discussions about it were very interesting and lively. The book is about a boatload of Irish refugees in 1847 sailing to America. The difference in the social classes is mind-boggling - add to this a killer stalking the decks hungry for vengeance and a cast of very colourful characters, and you have a cracking good read.

At our most recent meeting Kate Smith from Wingfield suggested 'Tuppence to Cross the Mersey', the first of a trilogy by Helen Forrester. This is an easier read - but still very thought provoking especially as it takes place in the not so dim and distant past. The story is about a

family with 7 children whose father went bankrupt in 1930. Having lived the good life in London prior to this disaster the book opens and we find the family arriving in a poverty stricken Liverpool. No food, no money and not much hope. Their experiences are written about by the twelve year old Helen and her touching account of those grim days before the welfare state are funny as well as painful. Having just finished the book we are looking forward to the meeting next week when we will hear everyone's impressions of it - and enjoy again some coffee (and cakes!!) as well as good company.

Anyone wishing to join this select band - contact Linda Hadden
01525 875417

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

The AGM of the Memorial Hall was held on 22nd June. Sadly, Roger Fenwick who has been Chairman for 13 years decided not to continue in the Chair. Roger has done a sterling job over the last 13 years and of course presided over the

construction of the new Memorial Hall. Whilst he has relinquished the Chair, he is continuing on the Committee so thankfully the Committee will not be losing his valuable services.

The Committee also lost the services of Pat and Nobby Cooke from St Marys Close who have decided the time has come to retire from the Committee.

Lyn Green, stalwart of the Committee and bookings Secretary has also decided to retire due to ill health (see further article in next issue). In his final remarks as Chairman, Roger thanked the Committee for the support given over the year.

The new Committee are as follows:

Linda Hadden - Chair
Roger Masters - Vice Chair
Velda Cooke - Secretary
Debbie Parry - Treasurer
Ken Green, Roger Fenwick,
Elizabeth Hall, Wendy McGinty,
Nicola Wells, Frances Masters,
Sarah Ralley, Fred McGinty, Sandy Ryan, Mike Finch and Bill Archer.
There are still vacancies if anyone feels they would like to join.
If so, please speak to any committee member.

Competitions

Winners of the front gardens competition are:-

First **Peter Freeman**
The Meadows

Second **Jo and David Cestaro**
The Blacksmith House

Winners of the hanging baskets competition are:-

First **Linda and Eric Bowman**
The Lane

Second **Chris and Sheila Osborne**
Park Farm

Jo Cestaro won two free meals at The Oddfellows correctly guessing the bracket on the Queen's Head sign.
(Well it was right outside her window!)

For the under 12's

We have to apologise for the Chalgrave Cat who managed to slip out before we went to print. So no winners this time - but he's here this time (hopefully!) - so let us know if you find him. A McDonalds voucher or £10 cash for the winner.

CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL	
Abridged Accounts for the year ended	
31st March 2004	
INCOME	£
Hall Bookings	5416
Village Games	602
Investment Interest	185
Grants and Donations	1560
Miscellaneous	45
	7808
EXPENDITURE	
Water, Electricity, oil	804
Insurance	966
Cleaning	772
Repair and Maintenance	2314
Fees	133
Advertising	35
New Equipment	810
Miscellaneous	92
	5926
Surplus for the year	1882
Balances held at 31st March 2004	10963

WHAT'S IN YER DRAWERS! By Florry Bunda

***A communal rummage through the drawers of the Parish for old photos
And nostalgic anecdotes.....***

This is, of course, the 60th anniversary of the D Day landings, and a late night meeting of the Chalgrave News team led to a discussion on what living in Chalgrave was like during World War 2.

A quick check on the internet did not reveal anything significant and it was decided that the best way to find out was from the parishioners themselves.

Thanks, then, to Val Griffin, Binnie Harris and Michael Kingham for their reminiscences which make up this article.....

The Army were stationed at Lord's Hill and at Hill Farm, Wingfield and there were several searchlights positioned in this area. Michael Kingham recalls how his mother ran a small shop from their living room at Sunnyside Cottages (opposite the cricket ground and now replaced by bungalows) and local soldiers would come and shop there. Prisoners of war, mainly Italians, helped out at local farms under armed guard and two German prisoners of war must have liked it here as they stayed on after the war working at Pond Farm and Hill Farm.

Val Griffin remembers evacuees being brought from London to the Sunday school for villagers to collect and take them into their own homes. There was a fire station on the green near to Osbornes' Farm and ARP wardens based at the post office. They would come around at night to ensure that no lights were showing from the houses which might attract attention from German bombers!

Val says there were dances and shows held at the village school in aid of the 'Spitfire Fund' and she remembers that £4 was raised and taken to the Mayor of Luton as a result. Villagers also made up and sent parcels to the soldiers at the front line.

Binnie Harris recalls that many of the animals at Whipnade Zoo had to be destroyed after the war started because of lack of food and her sister worked at White Lea where the bones were run down to make glue for the war effort. During this time, Binnie tells me her sister must have been short of close friends as she was always covered in blood and smelt terrible!

Binnie was also picked up by the army as a suspect at that time as the Germans were dropping people in disguise by parachute. She remembers that the army were billeted with their family at Home Farm (now called Upper Tythe farm) and there were soldiers on point duty at the gate there.

THE DAY THEY BOMBED CHALGRAVE!...

By far the most frightening story is of when the Germans dropped bombs on Tebworth and Wingfield.

Apparently the Germans had bombed AC Delco in Dunstable and were returning. As they flew out of Dunstable, they had to gain height to fly away over Toddington and the planes which were still carrying bombs had to drop them to lose weight. Val recalls that 4 or 5 bombs were dropped, near Pond Farm, Hill Farm and at the back of the houses opposite the Memorial Hall.

Michael tells how a bomb dropped in the garden at Sunnyside Cottages, a garden wall saving the house from destruction. It was night but the family did not dare put on a light and wandered around in the dark. Come



morning they realised that the bomb had done a good job of sweeping the chimney and they had spent the night trampling soot upstairs and down!

The only house to be destroyed, was over the road where one of the evacuees was living. She escaped but the cottage had to be demolished and a bungalow now stands there.

Come D Day, Binnie recalls how her mother brought out jugs of home made wine to celebrate. And quite a celebration it was ! When her father came home that evening, he said 'I've just seen Jack Lunman and Hector Harris on all fours making their way back to Hockliffe!'

The old photograph shows Michael's sister, Joan, at Sunnyside Cottages. Wingfield with some of the soldiers.

Footpath Walks 3

How about walking to somewhere!

Next time you need a little something from Toddington or Houghton Regis why not put on some walking boots and a rucksack and walk there!

Tebworth to Toddington. Down The Lane, first footpath on the right, through two kissing gates, right through a field gate and left down the green lane. Through a field gate turn sharp right before the stream across a stile straight on to the Toddington Road. Turn left along the Toddington Road for a 140 yards. Take first footpath on the right. Walk with the hedge on the left then cross over with the hedge to right when you come to gap. Across bridge and stile straight to next stile. See Peter Kuys' trees on the left, straight on turn right then left over concrete bridge, straight on cross stile with stream on left a few yards on cross next bridge straight on to houses and turn right up to fire station.

Wingfield to Houghton Regis. Follow the Icknield Way signs from Tebworth Road round cricket field. Cross bridleway past two copses on the right and keep to the Icknield Way to the "boundary", over a bridge turn left at next hedgerow down to and across Thorn Road. Straight across the field to a joining of five paths turn left along track to Bidwell Hill. If you kept on walking the Ickneild Way you could join up with Ridgeway and walk to Avebury!



Any questions or comments to Ken Green 874107.

Would you like to learn basic IT skills?

e-rural provides a mobile IT training resource to people in rural Bedfordshire who are interested in learning basic IT skills. Priority is given to those wanting to improve their skills either to help get a job, or who are already in work or self-employed, and for people in these categories training is free. There is full disabled access. Courses have already been successfully provided to people in the farming community and also through many of the lower schools around the county. Many of our learners have no experience of computers, so training starts at the very beginning.

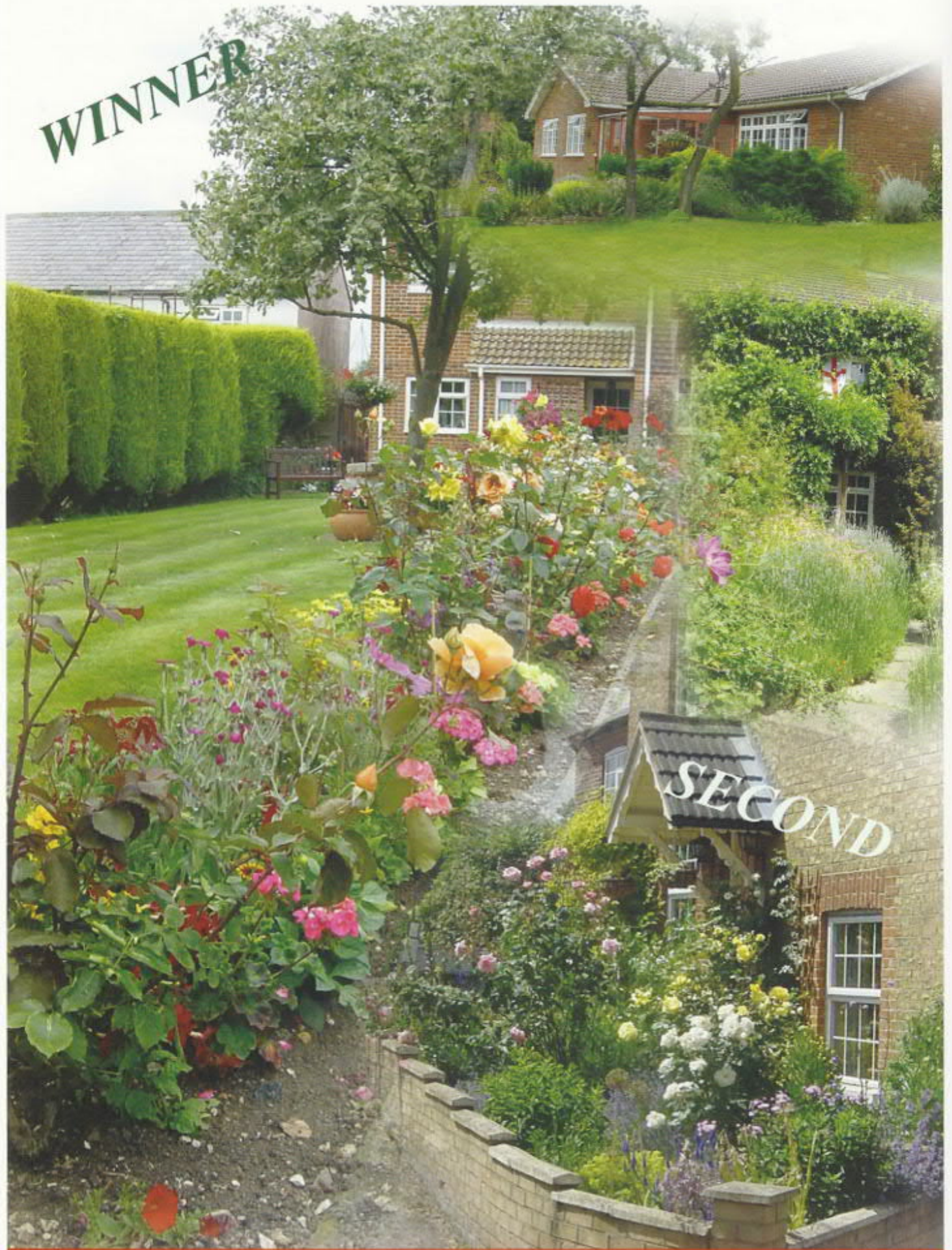
Courses are accredited with the Open College Network (OCN). We provide a range of courses from entry level up to level 2, comparable to NVQ level 2 or GCSE grades A – C. Learners receive a certificate upon successful completion of the course.

Four people at a time can be taught on the bus. Sessions last 1.5 hours and are scheduled for a regular weekly slot to cover a half-term and be within normal school hours. Timings would nominally be 9:30 – 11:00, 11:30 – 1:00, 2:00 – 3:30 but these can be adjusted to suit circumstances. Courses are run to meet demand.

This is an excellent opportunity for people to gain IT skills in a relaxed and readily accessible environment. I hope to be able to arrange a series of courses in your area. If you would be interested in attending sessions near you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sue Keen, e-rural Coordinator, 01234 838771 ext.105, suek@bedsrcc.org.uk.

WINNER



SECOND

Front Gardens 2004

A Day in the Life of

Chris McDonagh

6.30am

Alarm rings – husband grunts and turns over. This leaves about 6 inches of bed so I get up, make the tea and take a cup upstairs to husband who grunts and turns over.

7.00am

Gingerly wake husband – because I don't know what the mood will be. He opens his eyes and smiles at me. Thank God he won at darts last night!

7.40am

After walking the dog, feeding the cat, washing and applying make up, I feel more human and set off for Leighton Buzzard station to catch the 8.13 to Watford and Head Office of T.K. Maxx.

8.35am

Arrive Watford. It's only a short walk to the office and I arrive in time to prepare for the first meeting of the day. This one is the buyers meeting where 10 to 15 buyers from one of the many departments of T.K. Maxx discuss the recent trips they have made and the merchandise they have bought. I chair the meeting because my job is to train the buyers in the art of negotiating and off price buying. Sometimes I can suggest different methods of buying the merchandise, this helps in making more of a bargain for our customers and so profit for the company.

11.30am

Half an hour now until the next meeting. Just time to discuss with my secretary the training programme for this afternoon and who will be attending. Might even have time to grab a cup of tea.

12.00pm

Next meeting. This one is with all department managers who I also train. We discuss their individual departments projections for profit and stock and how this compares to my aims and targets (or more importantly to what our companies Chairman has set).

1.30pm

Hooray lunch!

1.40pm

Over already!? Prepare for the training programme this afternoon. Even though I have done this training countless times before I still like to prepare and practice the session with my secretary who works all the computerised slide shows and projector machines. All way beyond me!!

2.30pm

Get caught by the Chairman as I walk past his

office. (I'm already late for the training session!) 'Chris what are you doing in 3 weeks time?' 'Why?' I ask feigning innocence. 'Well there's this trip to Africa and we feel it would be beneficial for the buyers and the company if a senior member of the staff could go with them. Would you? Could you?'

2.45pm

Training starts. This programme is about the life and times of a red blouse. How it starts life in a suppliers showroom and how it evolves through our planning department who decide that we need 5000 red blouse's for the autumn season and then to our buying department who source all suppliers. The approach to the supplier and start of negotiations, through shipping and transport departments. Then to warehouse and finally to the store where it all comes together before the good ladies of Chalgrave Parish can be seen wearing the red blouses that they bought for a bargain price at T.K. Maxx.

4.30pm

This is the half hour when I get together with my secretary to sort out my diary for the next day and also to plan my next trip abroad for the company. I will probably leave on Saturday – this will not please my husband who says he sees more of Colin Edwin than he does of me!

5.00pm

Got to walk around the newly refurbished Bletchley store before I go home (it's well worth a visit if you haven't been there yet!). I get a lift with the Chairman in his new Porsche so we get there in about what feels like 10 minutes! Takes another 10 minutes to get me out of those silly little seats! With image slightly dented we walk into the store. 'Is the mix right in men's shirts?' or 'we have nearly sold out of size 6 ladies shoes, why has the warehouse not delivered more?'. I am made to feel personally responsible, but I will pass on our observations to the relevant people and just pray that things have improved before the next visit.

7.30pm

Husband picks me up from the store and we go to a restaurant to eat. I hope it's crowded so he can't make a scene when I tell him that I'm off to Nepal for 10 days on Saturday! We pop into The Queens Head on the way home so husband can have a drink or three!

11.30pm

Bed at last.

6.30am

Alarm rings – husband grunts and turns over – another day begins!

.....

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Notes from the Asylum

AKA The Life and Times of Colin Edwin

One day last summer I agreed to write a short article about one of the characters of the Parish, namely Colin Edwynn. He of stage, screen and the Queen's Head. They all sniggered when I said yes. Now I know why!

I started by going into the pub early one Tuesday evening before Colin got too busy. Busy he wasn't, garrulous he was. I stupidly started by asking "So tell me about your early life up north" – big mistake. By the time he had reached his 10th birthday it was very late, the pub was shut, the staff had gone home and I had a really bad headache. What was worse was that there was nothing worth writing about. A new strategy was required.

One week later and armed with specific questions I re-entered the bar to find Colin sitting on his favourite bar stool in his favourite corner of the bar chatting happily to no one at all. I was the first customer. All this I found strangely unnerving until Colin started laughing and explained that he did it deliberately (I still don't believe him). I thought that now I might get some sensible answers and innocently asked "What was your first job in the theatre then Colin?" Some considerable time later I realised he had stopped talking and that I had written on my pad – I'm getting another headache.

But 25 years service with Her Majesty's Armed Forces have made me resilient if nothing else, so I persevered and eventually realised that over the last 60 or so years Colin has given better men than me a headache.

After the Second World War, Colin was living in Mottram (a town up North) where amongst other things he wrote reviews for the end of term plays. These were always glowing reviews since Colin used to write the plays as well.

After leaving school, Colin tried various jobs from baker to shoe salesman but was unfortunately unsuitable for all of them. In fact he became a personal friend of Bunty Carruthers, the clerk at the Unemployment Exchange so it was fortunate for Colin when he was called up for National Service.

This was probably one of the most memorable periods in Colin's life. As a rather innocent soldier he was posted to Egypt where he proceeded to do as little as possible. In fact, he proudly boasts that he managed to maintain his privacy throughout his military career. Apart from being bone idle, one of the reasons for his lack of promotion was that he lost his rifle for over a fortnight and was too afraid to tell anyone. It was eventually returned to him by an Arab lavatory attendant who found it wedged behind the door of trap 1.

His Regimental Sergeant Major was another reason.



During his tour of duty he was posted to Alexandria to join British Forces Broadcasting. This got Colin temporary officer status and the RSM had to salute him and call him 'sir' – which Colin milked unmercifully.

After his National Service, Colin returned home and joined the local repertory theatre as assistant stage manager, learning his trade by taking on any role that came along. He eventually started getting small parts in radio shows with the likes of Jimmy Clitheroe, Les Dawson, Freddie Davis and Ken Dodd
...TO BE CONTINUED

Napolean B aka Mick McDonagh



Tebworth resident Bethany Mooring before her sister's wedding. Thank you to Mick Cooke for this photograph.

The Chalgrave News Debate

Our Government tells us that England needs 2,500,000 new homes building over the next 30 years – most of these to be built in the South East of the country.

Why? Single parent families, increasing population from immigration, social housing for the less well off, affordable starter homes for first time buyers are just a few of the reasons given for this massive building programme.

Where is this new housing to be built? Anywhere there is land available is the answer.

The majority of these new homes will be built in the countryside evidenced by the recently released plans to build 43,000 houses on the outskirts of Luton/Houghton Regis which will bring this development to within half a mile of Chalgrave Parish boundary.

Milton Keynes has been told to plan for 200,000 new houses and one option discussed is to build these along a 'corridor', which will join Aylesbury to Milton Keynes and Bedford.

Question –

SHOULD WE WELCOME ANY NEW HOUSE BUILDING IN OUR PARISH?

The case for more housing: -

With this background it is unrealistic to expect Chalgrave Parish not to be involved – we must take our share of new homes to help with the countries housing needs.

We have land available in the Parish – for example some of our roads are only built up on one side.

Yes it is agricultural farmland but with farming in downturn any additional finance to our farmers would no doubt be most welcome.

The small amount of land lost to farming would be far less than the present amount of farmland farmers have to put to set aside each year.

It is not a question of if we should have new homes built in the Parish but how many and of what type do we build. The answer is that they must be a mixture – for example 5% social housing 30% starter homes 40% three bed and 25% four bed.

How many? Well working on the basis that at the moment Chalgrave Parish has around 230 properties of differing types then it would not be unreasonable to see say 50 new houses built – an increase of less than 25% of the present housing stock.

The benefits that these new houses would bring to the Parish would be immense.

More homes would bring our Parish Council an increased precept each year. This increase might allow our Parish Council to hold back some of the future years council tax bill increases to the rest of the existing residents or the additional monies could be used on improving the environment in which we all live.

With increased numbers of residents perhaps our Parish could see the return of a post office and shop. The future of our two public houses would be assured.

The Village Hall, Church and Sports Club would all benefit from more usage, which in turns brings with it increased financial benefit to those organisations.

The bus company would provide a better service or at the very least keep a bus service running through the Parish.

Other possible improvements could see a small school opening once again. A Mum's & Tot's group and a youth club at the village hall. A Chalgrave cricket and football team – the list is endless.

New rural business opportunities would be another advantage of an increased population.

Overall building a controlled number of new houses in Chalgrave Parish would bring nothing but benefits to all residents of our Parish.

The case against more housing: -

2,500,000 new houses to be built in the countryside of South East England?

If the government really has got it's predictions right the question must be why?

What about all the derelict and boarded up properties that can be seen when driving around any town in South East England. Many of these properties are council houses! Surely the first priority is for the government to get these refurbished and reoccupied. What about the many long vacant old factory sites? Demolish these old buildings and build blocks of good quality flats.

And what about the very old housing stock in towns and cities – rows of run down but still occupied terrace houses. Demolish and rebuild these with a combination of small blocks of flats and three storey-terraced houses. Use rural land for new housing? – no, not while there is capacity within existing towns and cities. Build more housing in our Parish? No. It is not needed. Chalgrave is an old established farming community and long may it remain. New housing would bring with it new problems. More traffic – look at the speeding problems already in the Parish. More noise. Loss of rural views for many existing properties. What will this do to the value of those houses affected? Loss of rural environment. Remember once it has gone it will never come back. New houses – usually built as cheaply as possible – often just do not blend into the existing environment. We have been very lucky with the architecture of the new houses built in the Parish over the last 20 years. They all blend in with the older properties. This may not be the case with future mass building projects. If, as the government states, these houses are needed then let them be built close to the areas in which the residents will work and not an hour or longer drive away. Use up every spare inch of redundant land in the towns and cities first and build imaginative comfortable and affordable housing to meet the needs of our future population but leave Chalgrave Parish to be what it is and has always been – a small friendly rural community.

Copies of The Chalgrave News Debate have been sent to the following people seeking their views and we will let you have their replies in our next issue.

**Tony Blair – Andrew Selous – Chair Bedfordshire County Council –
Chair South Bedfordshire District Council – Norman Costin District Councillor –
Chair Chalgrave Parish Council.**

If you would like to express an opinion please write to The Chalgrave News. Names and addresses will be withheld if requested. We would like to hear as many views as possible on this important subject that will affect all our lives at some stage in the future.

Your MP Writes for the Chalgrave News

Update on Broadband for
Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave.

There are encouraging signs that Broadband access for all residents and businesses in Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave will be in place by August of this year. I received a letter from Paul Vann, Head of Regeneration at Bedfordshire County Council which stated that the County Council has been working with British Telecom to agree a rapid enablement of all the remaining telephone exchanges in Bedfordshire which are currently Broadband enabled. A further conversation with Mr Vann on the 26 May has revealed that local residents of the exchanges concerned can expect Broadband to be available to them this August. I would like to pay tribute to a number of local campaigners in Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave who have actively promoted the campaign for Broadband. Broadband is very important in particular in helping small rural businesses to prosper and if we are to make progress in cutting congestion of our roads we must do everything possible to help more small businesses grow in country areas so that local village people do not always have to

travel to neighbouring towns or further afield for work. There is however a remaining challenge and that is to provide a wireless Broadband service across Bedfordshire which will provide an alternative and in some respects a superior service to that of British Telecom. This is likely to be particularly useful to businesses. I have learnt from my letter from Mr Vann of the County Council that this service provided by the County Council and ALLNET [Cable and Wireless plus Mesh Broadband] will be provided for the Whipsnade Exchange. I am obviously very keen to ensure that Wingfield, Tebworth and Chalgrave can also benefit from this service and have written to Mr Vann to ask what steps are being taken to ensure that Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave also have access to wireless broadband. I hope that local people keen to have access to wireless broadband will contact both the County Council and myself either at selousa@parliament.uk or by fax on 0207 219 1741 or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA to let me know if wireless broadband would be particularly useful to you as this will help me to put further pressure to speed it's introduction in Tebworth, Wingfield and Chalgrave.

ANDREW SELOUS MP

Readers' Letters

Dear Editors

Re: Back Cover of Issue No.8 2004

I saw this copy of the Chalgrave News at the Library in Toddington and was allowed to take it home to look at the photograph properly. I believe it was taken in December 1964 when the Young Wives were celebrating Christmas with a party in the Old Memorial Hall in Tebworth.

I have identified those present as follows:-

2. Daphne Leary
3. Jean Ludgate
4. Barbara Kingham
8. Jean Watson (wife of 9)
9. Reverend F Watson (Rector of Hockliffe and Chalgrave) They lived in the Rectory at Hockliffe and Mrs Watson was tireless in taking the wives and children out in her Volkswagen mini-bus - I can't recall any of us having a car for our own use then. The Watsons retired to Chard in 1972.
16. Ruth Tompkins - my neighbour living at White Lee (now Foxleys) until they moved to Upper Tithe Farm in Tebworth and she sadly died in 1993.
20. Myself - we built and lived in Crantock, Tebworth Road, Wingfield from 1961 until 1975 when we moved to Toddington. I am holding my 2nd daughter Heather (who now lives with her partner and two children in Hove and works part-time for Social Services.)
22. Edie Eagleton holding second son Colin.
25. Lorna Molyneux holding daughter Lisa (?) - they lived in one of the bungalows near The Plough in Tebworth Road and later moved, running Fish and Chip shops in various places.
28. Michael Leary
29. Wendy Kingham
32. Shirley Kingham
34. Susan Ludgate
36. Julie Kingham
37. Stephen Eagleton
38. Denise Napier
43. Lois Rollings - my eldest

daughter - at present spending a year in Boston USA with her partner and two children before returning to their home in Edinburgh where she works part-time at the university.

44. Susan Tompkins - daughter of Ruth and Alan - now lives in New Zealand. Alan moved out there for a time but has now returned to England and lives near Kings Lynn.

45 ? Molyneux

I enjoyed seeing the photograph and it brought back happy memories of Chalgrave, as I'm sure it has for other readers.

Lorna Rollings,
6 Grange Gardens
Toddington, LU5 6DH

Valerie Griffin from The Lane identified the following:-

2. Daphne Leary
3. Jean Ludgate
6. Barbara Kingham
8. Mrs Watson
9. Rev. Watson
16. Ruth Tompkins
20. Lorna Rollings
21. Heather Rollings
22. Edith Eagleton
23. Colin Eagleton
24. Could be Tina Harris
25. Lorna Molyneux (Tina Harris Mother)

26. Kay Napier?
27. Costin?
28. Michael Leary
29. Wendy Kingham
30. Anne Leary
32. Shirley Kingham
34. Susan Ludgate
36. Julie Kingham
37. Stephen Eagleton
38. Denise Napier?
43. Lois Rollings
44. Susan Tompkins (NZ)

Barbara Kingham from Wingfield Road identified the same people as Valerie above with the additional information that

8. Jean Watson (the vicar's wife) is now deceased.

29. Wendy Kingham is now in Manchester. The photo was taken about 1963 and she verifies that it was a childrens' Christmas party at the Memorial Hall.

Thank you to those of you who took the trouble to put pen to paper. If you have any more interesting photos please let us have them. We can copy them quickly and return to you. (Even while-u-wait if you don't want your treasured photos to leave your sight!)

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Election Special

June 10th was the big day.

The population was asked to decide who we wanted as Parish Councillors, District Councillors and European Councillors.

Once we had fought our way past the milling crowd outside the village hall and into the polling booths - what a disappointment - only one vote needed and that was for the European Parliament!

Congratulations to Norman Costin on being returned - unopposed - as our Conservative party representative on the South Beds District Council.

Also congratulations to our Parish Council who were all returned unopposed for a further term of office together with the addition of Roger Mence who joins the council.

The full list of Parish Councillors: -

June Horne	- Wingfield	Ken Green	- Tebworth
Frank Griffin	- Tebworth	Daniel Osborn	- Tebworth
Derek Smith	- Tebworth	Philip Parry	- Tebworth
Roger Mence	- Tebworth	Phillip Parry has been elected Chair of Chalgrave Parish Council.	

Parish Council meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday of each month - venue the village hall. Meetings are open to the public - if you have a point you would like to raise why not go along and discuss it with your local representatives?

European Elections

Chalgrave falls in the Eastern Region where the top seven results were as follows: -

<u>Party</u>	<u>Numbers of Votes</u>	<u>MEPs elected</u>	
Conservatives	465526	Geoffrey Van Orden	- Conservative
UKIP	296160	Robert Sturdy	- Conservative
Labour	244929	Christopher Beazley	- Conservative
Lib Dem	211378	Jeffrey Titford	- UKIP
Independent	93028	Tom Wise	- UKIP
Green	84068	Richard Howitt	- Labour
BNP	65557	Andrew Duff	- Lib Dem
Total turnout	1510224		

The overall results for the country were as follows: -

<u>Party</u>	<u>% of votes won</u>	<u>MEP seats won</u>	<u>Seats won or lost</u>
Conservatives	26.7%	27	-8
Labour	22.6%	19	-6
UKIP	16.1%	12	+10
Lib Dem	14.9%	12	+2
Green Party	6.3%	2	+2
SNP		2	
PC		1	
Others		3	

After the Green Party the next highest vote winners were the BNP with 4.9% of the total votes cast. This amounted to almost 700000 people voting for the BNP!

Surprisingly little comment in either the media or from the government was seen on this huge vote for the BNP!

Ken Livingston was re-elected Mayor of London but one newspaper report stated that over 500,000 London Mayoral & assembly election votes were rejected as invalid in the second round!

Summary

Our very pro-Europe government of the day – The Labour Party – who hold a massive majority in the House of Commons – lost 6 European Parliament MEP seats. It was also the Labour Parties worse ever election defeat since 1910.

Our slightly pro-Europe major opposition party – The Conservative Party – lost 8 European Parliament MEP seats. The worst Conservative Party election result since 1832.

The pro-European Liberal Democratic Party gained 2 European Parliament MEP seats – their best European results to date but were only equal third best party in the election.

The anti-Europe UK Independence Party gained an incredible 10 seats to become the equal third best party in the elections but had the highest percentage increase in votes of all parties on the night.

Conclusions

What are we to make of all these facts and figures?

The Labour Party with a massive House of Commons majority suffered their worse defeat for 94 years but the Conservative Party suffering their worse results for 172 years still managed to win the most MEP seats overall. Meanwhile the Lib Dems had their best ever results but came equal third while the totally anti Europe Union UKIP also achieved their best ever results to be equal third.

The party that had their biggest loss, won – the Conservatives.

Britain's outright majority ruling government party is only a minority party in Europe - Labour.

The party that had their biggest win, lost – UKIP.

The party with the second biggest increase in votes (behind UKIP and various independents) got no seats – BNP.

Far more people voted for all the other parties and independents than voted for the winning Conservatives.

That's politics folks!!!!



CHALGRAVES NEW GREEN TAXI SERVICE DELIVERS ITS FIRST CUSTOMER

Andrew Selous MP visits Chalgrave

On Friday 16th July our Member of Parliament Andrew Selous held the first of his rural surgeries in the parish.

His travelling surgery stopped at The Queens Head in Tebworth and The Plough Wingfield. We know what you are thinking! But no, both pubs were closed at the time!!!

Andrew told The Chalgrave News that his travelling surgery gave him the opportunity to meet his rural constituents and listen to any issues we may have rather than expect us to travel into town to where his regular surgeries are held.

He was visiting as many villages as he could in one day and people he met were very responsive to this new initiative.

Unfortunately however the turnout in Chalgrave was very poor! A couple of residents spoke to him in Tebworth with another one in Wingfield!

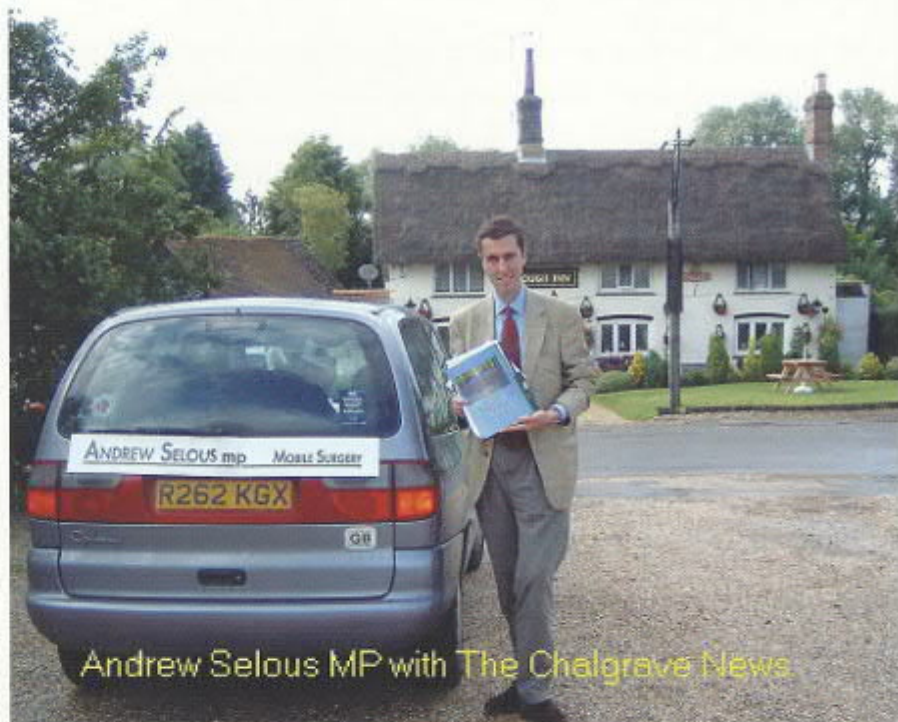
Why the poor turnout? Are we all happy with everything that is being done in Government in our name?

Has no one any concerns over the forthcoming 43,000 new homes to be built just a mile or so away from our parish?

Is everyone overjoyed with the ever-increasing levels of Council Tax and the way this is assessed and collected from homeowners regardless of ability to pay? What about general taxation levels including petrol taxes etc, crime and punishment, public transport etc etc?

Just a few of the subjects we are sure Andrew was expecting to face on the day!

Yes, Friday is part of the working week but this was still a surprisingly low turnout given the opportunity to speak with our local MP.



Sloe Gin

Late October and November are the months for making sloe gin. All around the parish the sloe bushes will be covered with berries just waiting to be turned into sloe gin. Look for large juicy berries that have turned black – you only need 340g (12ozs) to each bottle of gin. Remove all stalks and wash the sloe berries then prick each berry to help release the flavour (some old recipes say use a silver fork for this but any sharp point will do!). Place the berries in a container and sprinkle on 170g (6oz) of caster sugar and add a bottle of gin. (Keep the gin bottle) Seal the lid and shake the container to dissolve the sugar. Place in a cool dark cupboard and for the first week shake the container daily and thereafter once every couple of weeks. This brings out both the flavour and colour of the sloe berry. After 3 months drain the liquid back into the gin bottle and seal. Traditionally sloe gin is left for 12 months before drinking.



Chalgrave News Comment

I am writing to congratulate everyone involved with organising and running the Chalgrave Village Games in July. It was a great day out and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves in the sunshine.

However many people will have noticed that some of the long established regular events and activities were missing this year and I was extremely surprised when I found out that the village hall committee wanted to include these but were stopped by their insurance company due to the increasingly litigious society in which we all now live.

So goodbye to the mini marathon, (the insurance company wanted all the roads closed and police in attendance – I don't think more than 12 people have ever competed each year) the water games, (this time it was stipulated that a life guard was to be in attendance at all times and the pool not left filled overnight) the children's train rides, (what! children riding on 40 year old home made carriages pulled by a slow moving dismantled ride on tractor). What will be next? No children's races in case someone wins or loses, no welly throwing unless the left and right wellies are thrown alternatively to avoid favouritism, no dog show unless all dogs have veterinary certificates confirming they are well behaved and love their owners. Only one side allowed to pull while the other has to push on the tug of war rope!! And so it goes on despite the fact that no one, to the best of my knowledge, has ever been injured at any of the previous village games.

The old traditional English village fetes will soon be a thing of the past but don't worry someone will produce a computer game version, which we will all be able to play in the complete safety of our homes!

We await your comments!

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, but you may remember the photo in the national press earlier this year of the Queen on a pheasant shoot.

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

My answer was "one first tries wringing their necks and if this fails then one hits them over the head with one's 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.....

Useful Contacts

Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	01582 662821
Parish Council & Clerk	Mrs Lesley Smith	874716
Responsibilities - Chairman	Philip Parry	873920
Vice Chairman	Ken Green	874107
	(Grass cutting, Footpaths)	
Councillors	Frank Griffin	874126
	(Planning, Street lighting, Road signs)	
	Daniel Osborn	873920
	June Horne	873965
	Roger Mence	874516
	Derek Smith	874105
	(Traffic calming)	
District Council	South Beds District Council	01582 472222
	Councillor	874232
County Council	Bedfordshire County Council	01234 363222
	Councillor	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
Doctors		Drs A Long/J Perkins
Toddington Library		873626
Electricity Board - emergency		0800 7 838838
Water Board - emergency		0845 7 145145
Police	Beat Officer	P.C. Rick Goss
Chalgrave Memorial Hall		
	Chairman	Linda Hadden
	Booking Secretary	Roger Masters
Senior Citizens Committee		873039
	Chairman	Roger Masters
	Secretary	Roger Fenwick
West Charity		
Clerk to the Trustees		Norman Costin
Mums and Tots and Youth Club		Vacant
Cricket Club	Chairman	Mike Wells
	Secretary	David Cestaro
Toddington Beavers/Cubs/Scouts		David Yirrell
Toddington Rainbows		
Brownies and Guides		Gill Hiscox
Toddington Tennis Club		Ray Smith
Chalgrave Parish News		
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