

# CHALGRAVE NEWS

*The free community magazine delivered to homes and businesses in the Chalgrave Parish*



**Publication No. 46 March 2015**

# Dates for Your Diary

| Day/Date                              | Event  | Location/Contact            | Time    |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month | Parish Council Meeting                       | Memorial Hall               | 7.30 pm |
| Every other Sunday                    | Quiz Night                                   | Plough Inn                  | 8.00 pm |
| Mondays                               | Dominoes                                     | Plough Inn                  |         |
| Mondays and Fridays                   | Live entertainment                           | Queen's Head                | 7.30 pm |
| Wednesdays                            | Darts  | Queen's Head                |         |
| Thursdays                             | Dominoes                                     | Queen's Head                |         |
| Weekdays                              | Book Club                                    | Noeleen Thompson            |         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month | WI   | Memorial Hall               | 8–10 pm |
| Saturday, 11 <sup>th</sup> April      | Chalgrave News Quiz – <i>see p 40</i>        | Memorial Hall               | 6.30 pm |
| Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April       | Sports Club AGM – <i>see p 35</i>            | Plough Inn                  | 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April       | Annual Parish Assembly – <i>see p 21</i>     | Memorial Hall               | 7.30 pm |
| Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May         | Sports Club Race Night – <i>see p 35</i>     | Memorial Hall               | 6.30 pm |
| Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May          | Rogation Day Walk – <i>see p 28</i>          | Leave from the Queen's Head | 10 am   |
| Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> June       | Chalgrave Games – <i>see p 41</i>            | Memorial Hall               | 1 pm    |
| Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> July         | Classic & Prestige Car Day – <i>see p 39</i> | Plough Inn                  | Noon    |

***Front Cover: The Plough Inn, Wingfield, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015***

**Deadline for next edition:  
Monday, 18 May 2015**

Please submit entries by email to [thechalgravenews@live.co.uk](mailto:thechalgravenews@live.co.uk)  
or by phone to Roger Parker on 01525 874910

*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 they do not comply with our policy.*

# Editorial

Dear Readers,

This being the March edition, the *News* naturally has a strong Christmas theme. In case there are one or two of you to whom this makes no sense, it's because our printing schedule means that the previous issue was assembled at the end of November so this is the first chance we have to cover the festive activities of December. And what a busy month that was, with the switching on of the magnificent Christmas lights in St Mary's Close, the senior citizens' Christmas lunch, carol singing in the Plough, Santa's tour of Chalgrave, and our Christmas lights competition. Reports on all these events are covered in the pages that follow.

But we also carry many non-Christmassy items, including the first instalment of a major article by Gillian Morrison, who is the daughter of local man Fusilier George Mawson Holmes who lost his life in the Second World War and who was featured in our December edition. We also have an account of another beer festival, more stories of porcine capers, a report of tremendous fund raising by the Queen's Head in support of "Children in Need", and, of course, many other entertaining and informative pieces from our regular contributors. See also the notice about the newly rebuilt and improved Chalgrave Parish website, still accessed at the usual address, [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org).

Finally, the *Chalgrave News* team is sad to hear of the deaths of John Deamer and Michael Kingham. John passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> January, aged 80, having lived near the church for 35 years. Michael, born and bred in the parish, died on 27<sup>th</sup> January, aged 81. Our thoughts go out to their families and friends. Tributes to both men are carried in this issue.

Remember, we welcome your own stories, photos and (clean!) jokes, so please get in touch if you have anything you would like to include in the *News*. Contact details are given opposite.

This edition of the *Chalgrave News*, as well as past editions, can also be read online at [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org). Also visit this website for information on the Parish Council, parish history, the Memorial Hall, local organisations, and much more.

**Don't forget to check our Facebook page where the latest news is to be found, as well as information on forthcoming events—search on Facebook for *Chalgrave News*.**



# View from the House: Andrew Selous MP



## **GOOD NEWS FOR SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE, FROM ANDREW SELOUS**

### **FALL IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE**

Figures released recently from the independent Office of National Statistics show that the number of unemployed claimants in South West Bedfordshire constituency in November 2014 was 711. This represents a rate of 1.3% of the economically active population aged 16 to 64, the 522<sup>nd</sup> highest of the 650 UK constituencies. (1<sup>st</sup> = highest rate of unemployment, 650<sup>th</sup> = lowest rate of unemployment.)

The number of claimants is 655 lower than in November 2013 and 108 lower than in October 2014.

In May 2010 the claimant count was 2,158 and in November 2014 the claimant count was 711 which shows a 67% fall in unemployment under this Government.

I will continue to do everything I can to help local employers set up and expand their businesses. Nationally it is very good to see that 2 million new private sector jobs have been created in the last three years as well as 400,000 new businesses. It is also encouraging to see more people and more women in work than ever before as well as 70% of the increase in employment since the election being made up of full time jobs. Two thirds of the rise in employment since 2010 has been in higher skilled occupations. I am also very pleased that long term unemployment continues to fall.

### **NEW BUSINESSES OPEN**

I welcomed new figures that show the Government's Start-Up Loans Scheme has helped 37 people in South West Bedfordshire set up their own business. Businesses are an essential part of building our communities, bringing jobs and economic security to towns and cities across the UK. Encouraging business creators is a vital part of our long-term economic plan to secure a better future for Britain.

The Start-Up Loans scheme provides loans and mentoring support to people who want to start their own businesses. Across the country, 25,000 Start-Up Loans have now been awarded, worth a total of nearly £130 million and generating more than 32,000 new jobs.

The Government backs the small businesses which bring jobs to our local communities, and our long-term plan is aiming to make Britain the best place in the world to start and grow a business. Today's figures show that Start-Up Loans are helping us to do that – here in South West Bedfordshire, **£140,573 has been lent to 37 people.**

This is helping more businesses create more jobs – and, crucially, it means that potential and ideas don't go to waste. New businesses are the lifeblood of a healthy local economy, helping to create the growth and jobs that provide security and peace of mind for hardworking taxpayers. That's why as part of our long-term economic plan we will keep supporting hardworking people who aspire to start their own businesses.

**Andrew Selous is the MP for South West Bedfordshire and can be contacted on [andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk) or at [www.andrewselous.org.uk](http://www.andrewselous.org.uk) or on 0207 2191741.**

# Councillor Mark Versallion

## **NORTH OF HOUGHTON REGIS**

I continue to meet with CBC officers on the implications for the parish of the 7,000 homes north of Houghton Regis. I represent the community's interests and concerns as the detailed planning and house building programmes are progressed and stay closely involved in the A5-M1 link road which is a welcome development and will improve the current traffic situation. Infrastructure work has already begun and the road is expected to be complete by the end of next year.

## **EAST OF LEIGHTON-LINSLADE**

The two planning applications for 2,500 homes in total have been approved. The first half, known as Clipstone, was approved at CBC's development management meeting last February 2014, and as usual I spoke at that committee representing our concerns and achieved two conditions to the approval. Although I was not a member of the committee and so unable to take part in the vote, I was able to speak at length. Refusing the application was simply not an option as the opportunity for that was a decade ago but I have achieved some mitigation to some of the consequences of the development: the routing of construction traffic to avoid villages where possible and the easing of a particular point of traffic flow in and out of the developments. The former condition will of course be more easily achieved once the new A5-M1 link road comes into service. The second half of the planning application, known as Chamberlain's, was approved last June.

Besides working on your behalf at planning committees and other meetings, I continue to work on issues brought to me at my regular ward surgeries or when contacted through my office. I also attend the monthly parish council meetings of the seven villages I represent. If you have any questions or concerns I can be contacted on 01525 234 000 or via [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/markversallion](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/markversallion) which also lists my upcoming surgery dates.

**Mark Versallion is our elected Central Bedfordshire Councillor, representing the Ward of Heath & Reach which includes the seven villages of Hockliffe, Eggington, Stanbridge, Tilsworth, Tebworth, Wingfield and Heath and Reach.**



# Chairman of the Parish Council

**Defibrillator.** We will be installing a defibrillator at the Memorial Hall. It will be sited on the outside wall so that it can be accessed by those who are trained to use it. There will be a training session in the near future at the Hall for anyone interested in becoming a trained contact. Details will be advertised.

**Crime.** There have been a number of break-ins in the Parish. All incidents need to be reported to the police in the hope that we might get a stronger police presence.

Also, please report anything unusual or speeding vehicles. We are considering having a board in a prominent position in the Parish informing residents of a break-in or other incident and asking if you have seen or witnessed anything.

**Police.** Our Police and Crime Commissioner Olly Martins is asking the public of Bedfordshire if we are prepared to pay an extra 15.8% on the police element of the council tax to help finance an additional 100 police officers. The cost would be about 48p a week. If you want to take part in the survey go to [www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk).

**Planning.** All planning applications in the parish come to the parish Council for us to approve, comment or object. We do not have the final say, this comes from Central Beds Council. If permission is granted then the Parish Council have to make sure that the construction and usage complies.

**Boundary Gates.** The Gates on the entrance to Tebworth both on the Toddington Road and Hockliffe Road are in a very poor state. Are there any volunteers that will help us to repair and repaint? Please contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk.

**Election.** There is an election for the Parish Council in May. If you want to join the Parish now is your chance. Nomination papers can be obtained from the Clerk. If there are no nominations then the present Council will continue and there will be no election.

**Parish Assembly.** This will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. It will be the usual informal event. We will send out reminders nearer the time.

**Awards.** The Parish Council has two awards usually given at the Village Games in July. The Millennium Youth award is for an 18 year old and under. This is for an achievement – education, sporting, charity, dealing with adversity, community, etc. The Community award is for over 18's again for an achievement or community spirit. We need nominations. Please send them to the Clerk.

We continue to press Central Beds to clear gullies, fill potholes, repair The Lane, cut verges, etc. You are invited to any of our meetings, usually the third Tuesday of the month.

*Phil Parry, Chairman*



## Chalgrave Community Speed Watch – February 2015 update



After a break for the dark (and cold) winter months, Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers have been out again recently on both Tebworth Road and Toddington Road. As you'll see from the statistics below the number of letters being issued by the police was low — but that's an indication of the success of the activity. Some of the people we spoke to while we were out observed that the speed of the passing traffic was significantly slower than normal, and this is gratifying.

We now have access to the latest police equipment which we share with Toddington CSW — this means that, manpower permitting, we can get out much more regularly and I have set myself a target of organising at least 1 session per month for the rest of the year. We currently have 5 volunteers who have taken part, and I have contact details for some others who expressed an interest in helping. But, of course, the more the merrier so if you would like to help out and be trained on the use of the equipment then please drop me an email.

*Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January – Tebworth Road, Wingfield (outside The Plough Inn) – 16:00–17:00*

No. of vehicles seen – 34

No. of vehicles reported – 1

There was also a UPS van driving at excessive speed, unfortunately in the wrong direction — but we took his registration number and reported him to UPS.

*Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January – Toddington Road, Tebworth – 07:35–08:35*

No. of vehicles seen – 415

No. of vehicles reported – 4

There were also several other vehicles (including Fred Sherwood lorries) travelling in the opposite direction that we have noted for future reference!

*Cllr. Mike Wells, tel 01525 877098, email [mikewells@clara.co.uk](mailto:mikewells@clara.co.uk)*

## Another load of rubbish!

I was always taught that rubbish goes... in the bin. A simple, if out of date concept, if the Chalgrave Road is anything to go by? I walk the dog up there most days and, (assuming I have not been killed by a passing nutcase) all I can see is a mounting selection of rubbish that has obviously been thrown out of various cars. Beer cans are popular, fast food containers and coffee cups, some from Waitrose if you please! Now I put it to you, that the majority of people that shop in Waitrose do not sling their coffee cup out of their car window. But the people that see it as a 'FREE' cup of coffee on their way to the Pound Shop might!



JP

# Book Club



In November last year the Book Club had its annual lunch and we decided to go to The Birch in Woburn again. A bit of a favourite with us as it serves good, reasonably priced food and is convenient for most of us.

We have only read one book so far this year which was another Victoria Hislop novel, **The Sunrise**. The Sunrise is actually the name of a luxurious hotel in the fashionable and prosperous resort of Famagusta in northern Cyprus. The area is popular with the rich and famous and it is a very popular tourist haven with its bars, restaurants and beaches. However, everything changes when a Greek coup plunges the island into chaos in the early 1970's, Turkey invades to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority and Famagusta is shelled. The story centres on the two families that seek refuge in the hotel after the trouble, one Greek and one Turkish; they learn to cope with their situation and the frightening days ahead.

Perhaps not as good as her previous novel that we have read, **The Island**, but still a good read, that gives us a moving and dramatic insight into the revolution on the island in the 70's, which many of us knew little about. A very thought provoking read and a book that we would recommend to read.

*Noeleen Thomson*

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Our Parish Council has announced the date and time for this year's Parish Assembly— **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm** in the Chalgrave Memorial Hall. Everyone is invited to this informal gathering to hear what's been going on over the past twelve months, and to discover what's planned for the following year. In addition to updates from local organisations in our community, reports will be presented by representatives from our Parish Council, from Central Bedfordshire Council, and perhaps even from our Member of Parliament. There will, of course, be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns.

As always, the evening will be rounded off with delectable refreshments in the form of sandwiches, cakes and drinks—all free of charge.

# Computer Corner

Hello and welcome to the latest Computer Corner column, written by **Mike Wells of Chalgrave IT Solutions**. The theme for this edition is passwords – love them or hate them, we all have to use them these days. But when you're asked to create a password, please tell me that it doesn't appear on the list below (taken from SplashData's "Worst Passwords" list for 2014):

|   |          |   |          |   |           |   |          |    |          |
|---|----------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|----------|----|----------|
| 1 | 123456   | 3 | 12345    | 5 | qwerty    | 7 | 1234     | 9  | dragon   |
| 2 | password | 4 | 12345678 | 6 | 123456789 | 8 | baseball | 10 | football |

It seems unbelievable that people still think that this is all that's needed to keep them secure. And worse still they use the same password for multiple services!

Okay, so maybe you're thinking 'at least mine is not on the list'? Well, does your password use: your other half's name, your pet's name, a birthday for you/a family member, a car number plate for you/a family member or a telephone number for you/a family member? I could go on but you get the idea...

So the trick is to come up with a system of creating a secure password that you can remember. Well firstly what is a secure password? Current recommendations are that it should meet all of the following criteria:

1. It must be AT LEAST 8 characters long.
2. It must NOT contain any of the easily guessed information listed above.
3. It should contain a mix of upper and lower case letters and numbers or punctuation.
4. It shouldn't contain any words found in a dictionary.

I use the phrase technique in order to come up with a password that meets these criteria, which basically consists of thinking of a phrase that is meaningful and memorable and then taking the first letter from each word to use as the password. For example: "Mad Dogs And Englishmen Go Out In The Midday Sun" would give you MDAEGOITMS – already looking good, but now make every 2<sup>nd</sup> letter lowercase MdAeGoItMs and finally switch in a number or two and punctuate – Md4eGo1tMs!eba.

This has created a base password, the final stage is to append the first 3 letters of the service to the password e.g. eba (eBay), gma (gmail), out (outlook) etc. So for the password above on eBay it would be Md4eGo1tMs!eba.

Now, before you all start complaining that 'I'll never remember that' have a think about what we've done – we've created a password that meets the complexity criteria of most modern websites, is highly secure and can be recreated by sitting down and thinking about the phrase that was used to create it. And while it may take a while to memorise, because the base password is the same for all services you'll be typing it frequently which will help!

If you require any advice or assistance with the matters raised in this article, please feel free to contact us at [pchelp@chalgrave.it](mailto:pchelp@chalgrave.it). And of course if you need our help on any other IT related matter please call us on **01525 213126** or **07780 002551**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Until the next edition.

*Mike*

SplashData <http://splashdata.com/press/worst-passwords-of-2014.htm>

WikiHow <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Password-You-Can-Remember>

makeuseof <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/7-ways-to-make-up-passwords-that-are-both-secure-memorable/>



# CHALGRAVE PARISH WEBSITE



*Community parish website for  
Tebworth, Wingfield, and Chalgrave*

**[www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org)**

Over the past few months the website committee (Ken Green, Simon Gatward, and Mike Wells) have been very busy carrying out a complete rebuild of the parish website. The new website aims to keep everyone updated with the work being done by the Parish Council, as well as keeping you informed of local news, events, and information. The website has a wealth of information including parish minutes, councillor details, local organisations, business directory, every past issue of the Chalgrave News (other than the elusive issue 7 – if you have a copy, please let us know), photographs, video clips of village events, history, and more. You can also get involved by taking part in online polls or by commenting on articles and stories. We aim to add further content and features over the coming months.

Please keep in mind that the website is still being developed, so there may still be a few bugs to be ironed out. We would love to hear any comments or suggestions you may have, or ideas or submissions for further content that may be of interest to others.

The website committee can be contacted by visiting the website at [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org) or by emailing: [webmaster@chalgrave.org](mailto:webmaster@chalgrave.org)

*Simon Gatward*

Our regular reader, Mr Greig, formerly of Fife, but now residing in Geneva, was asked by the *News* what was the best thing about living in Switzerland. He replied that he wasn't really sure, but the flag was a big plus.



## Carol Singing in The Plough

Following what has become an annual tradition in the run-up to Christmas, the choir of All Saints', Houghton Regis, gave a sterling performance at The Plough on the evening of Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Conducted by Janet Steele, and accompanied by Nigel Steele on the organ, the choir entertained customers with a splendid repertoire of traditional carols. With songbooks provided, there was no excuse for guests, including a large party of young ladies from Poplars' Nursery, from not entering into the spirit of the occasion—which everyone did with remarkable gusto, though not necessarily in tune! At the end, a collection was held in aid of the Church Organ Fund.

If there had been one, the competition for the most Christmassy of Christmassy Christmas sweaters would easily have been won by Ken and Gill Wright who left no one in doubt that Christmas was coming.

*RP*



# The Third Chalgrave Beer Festival

On 29<sup>th</sup> November another enjoyable beer festival was held in the Memorial Hall. Kegs of six delightful real ales were on offer, including the familiar, but always cherished, Timothy Taylor's *Landlord*, Exmoor's *Gold*, Sharp's *Doom Bar*, and St Austell's *Tribute*. And to mark the start of the festive period, there were also a couple of seasonal beers, Rudgate's *Rudolph's Ruin* and Robinson's *Flashing Santa*. Needless to say Weston's *Old Rosie* cider also put in its usual welcome appearance. Man (and woman) cannot live on beer alone so naturally there was a superb range of home-cooked cuisine on sale, including Buckinghamshire Badgers, Tebworth Todgers, Wingfield Whangers and,



following the rediscovery of the recipe, Chalgrave Chompers, thanks to Frances Masters and Chris McDonagh. Meanwhile, entertainment was provided by local musicians, including

Richard Chatterley and his folk music colleagues.

There was a fantastic raffle, with all ten prizes being won by Chalgrave residents, the first prize being a weekend for two at a Hampshire hotel, with dinner, wine, and bed and breakfast.

Thanks go to all those who helped during, before and after the event, including Ken Green, Roger



Masters, Mick McDonagh, Lesley Smith, Barbara and Bill Jackson, and Debbie Hampson. Finally, special thanks go to Sue and Ray Willis and Terry for serving the beer all day. *Phil Parry and RP*



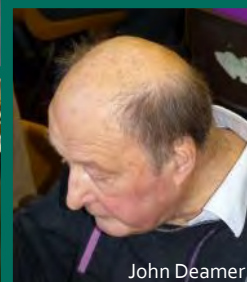
## Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

The combined efforts of the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale and Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee resulted in a high-spirited Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at Parkfields Middle School on 6<sup>th</sup> December. More than 200 guests were booked in to attend, including around 15 from Chalgrave. The oldest lady present was 100, with the oldest man being a youngster of 92. And one couple had been married for an astounding 68 years.



After enjoying a pre-prandial drink, the party-goers feasted on a sumptuous Christmas lunch, cooked in the school kitchens by four enthusiastic dinner ladies who had been toiling away since the evening before to get everything ready. Replete

with food and drink, the guests were then treated to an impressive dancing





and gymnastics display by children from the school, followed by the usual sing-along

orchestrated by Dave Johnson, which led to some lively dancing in the aisles.



Obviously, an event like this doesn't happen without months of planning and preparation, and the support of many generous sponsors. And the day itself can only be a success with

the help of a large number of volunteers who serve as cooks, bartenders, waiters and waitresses, cloakroom attendants, washer-uppers, raffle ticket sellers, first aiders, car park attendants, chauffeurs, entertainers, organisers, and general dogsbodies. Thanks go to these organisers, sponsors and

volunteers—and, of course, to the revellers themselves without whom there would have been no party but who contributed so much to making it a fun-filled occasion for all.

RP

*Sadly, Chalgrave resident John Deamer, pictured on the opposite page, passed away in January.*



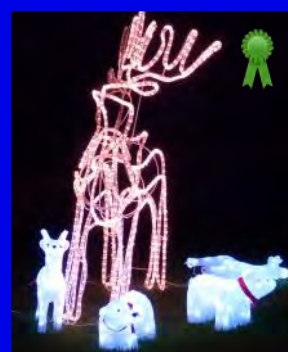
## Christmas Lights Competition

No one can be in any doubt that the dazzling display of Christmas illuminations in Tebworth and Wingfield in December rivalled anything that could be seen in Regent Street. Householders did themselves proud in the way that they festooned their houses and gardens with countless numbers of twinkling, coloured lights, with even a few reindeer thrown in for good measure. Space doesn't permit photos of all of them to be included here but some of the displays that particularly caught our eyes are shown.





Choosing an overall winner has been difficult so two prizes are being awarded. One to Ray and Sue Willis of St Mary's Close (**red rosette**),



who always put on a tremendous display, and the other to the owners of Lark Rise, Wingfield (**green rosettes**), who got a special mention last time, but this time increased the size of their illuminations to spectacular proportions. Well done to the winners!

RP



## Old News

*Luton Times and Advertiser*, 8<sup>th</sup> October 1870 –

### TODDINGTON

TROTting MATCH. — On Tuesday last a match was run between Mr. J. Crawley's mare, Toddington, and Mr. John Keen's mare, of Luton. The distance run was from Lords Hill in Chalgrave parish, to Bedford race ground, a distance of 15 miles. Mr. Crawley's mare was the winner by three-quarter of a mile.



## St Mary's Close Christmas Tree Extravaganza

On Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Christmas celebrations got off to an early start with the switching on of the spectacularly illuminated tree in St Mary's Close. A large crowd of onlookers entered into the spirit of the occasion and enjoyed the mulled wine and food that was laid on. As usual, everything had been organised by Ray and Sue Willis, to whom we all express thanks for their untiring efforts in bringing the community together.

*RP (with photos by Emma Gray)*



## John Edward Deamer, 1934–2015

We record with regret the death, aged 80, on 10<sup>th</sup> January of John Deamer who had lived at Chalgrave Cottage for the past thirty-five years. Over a hundred people attended the Funeral Service held in All Saints Church on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Prior to retirement, John was a lift engineer whose work took him all over the country. His interests included driving old cars and he loved ballroom dancing for which he won several championships. A member of the National Trust, he was until recently a Steward at Ascott House Chinese Room.

We extend condolences to his wife Sheelagh, his son Simon (who lives in Australia), his daughter Charlotte, and all other members of his family.

*PF*

# Chalgrave WI

Chalgrave WI meets every second Tuesday at 8 pm – usually in the Memorial Hall. We also have a number of trips and outings.

At Christmas Lisa Scanes showed us how to make wreaths and table decorations. We got in the Christmas spirit with some great festive jumpers, nibbles, music and of course drinks! In January we had a 'Nat King Cole' singing workshop and we went to see the Full Monty at the MK Theatre. Our February event was a talk by Dr Clive Hathaway Travis, author of "Looking for Prince Charles's Dog" – a journey of an ex-Paranoid Schizophrenic.

Despite the rather serious sounding topic this was

a very thought provoking and often amusing evening. Clive was given a Mental Health Hero award recently by Deputy PM Nick Clegg. He was one of 5 individuals chosen for this award out of hundreds that were nominated. He works with a variety of charities, hospitals and educational establishments to raise awareness of the illness and to help enhance the way it is treated by the medical profession.

This year marks the centenary of when the very first WI was formed and a varied agenda of national and local events are planned. A baton is travelling the country aiming to touch every WI before it reaches the Royal Albert Hall on 4 June for the centenary Annual Meeting.

Please visit our Facebook page for more information (Chalgrave WI), follow us on twitter @chalgrave\_wi or give me a call for a chat.

*Debbie Parry, President – Chalgrave WI*

*Email – [debbie.parry@accenture.com](mailto:debbie.parry@accenture.com)*

*Mobile – 07770*

*543797*



**The Full Monty Theatre Trip**



**Sing-a-long-a Nat King Cole**



**Making Christmas Wreaths**

## Are you old enough to remember these?

The *Chalgrave News*, in its present format, dates back to the Spring of 2002 when the 1<sup>st</sup> edition appeared. We are now on Issue 46! All the later editions were already online but, recently, copies of the earlier editions have been scanned in (or digitised, to use a technical term that impresses some people into thinking we know what we're doing). With the exception of the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, which has so far eluded us, the entire collection is now online at [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org) for all to read.



Take a nostalgic trip to a bygone era, and discover past events and people in Chalgrave. In the 1<sup>st</sup> edition, learn about the closure of the Tebworth Post Office, run by Post Mistress Lyn Green, read about what the Parish Council does (yes, it was a mystery then, as it is now), and discover who got murdered at the Chalgrave Christmas Dinner. I could go on, but much better that you take a look at these magazines for yourselves.



The origins of the *News* actually go back earlier than 2002—all the way back to 1976 when Peter Freeman started to produce a *Parish Newsletter*. After a few years, this evolved into the *Chalgrave Chronicle* and later the *Village News*. With one or two breaks along the way, we can trace our history back a long time. If, by chance, anyone still has copies of these early incarnations of the *News* (or the missing 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the new format, referred to above) we would be delighted to borrow them so that they may be scanned and put online.

RP

"I took the wife's family out for tea and biscuits. They weren't too happy about having to give blood though."

"In awe, I watched the waxing moon ride across the zenith of the heavens like an ambered chariot towards the ebony void of infinite space wherein the tethered belts of Jupiter and Mars hang, for ever festooned in their orbital majesty. And as I looked at all this I thought... I must put a roof on this toilet."

Les Dawson

## Old News

*Luton News and Bedfordshire Chronicle, 5<sup>th</sup> August 1954 –*

### SEASON OF JAM MAKING

#### Demonstration for Chalgrave W.I.

The July meeting of the Chalgrave W.I. was held in the Memorial Hall, Chalgrave, on Thursday, when a demonstration of jam-making and fruit-bottling was given by Mrs. Bates, of Roxton.

A vote of thanks to her was proposed by Mrs. H. Kingham.

The monthly competition, which was for the best jar of home-made jam, was won by Mrs. J. Whinnett, with Mrs. M. Brinklow second.

The social half-hour took the form of a guessing competition. The winner was Mrs. H. Harris, and Mrs. H. Kingham took the prize in another competition.

Tea hostesses were Mrs. Strang, Mrs. H. Harris and Mrs. Yirrell.

### Sorry mate... Road Closed!

Now, let me be absolutely clear here.... some nameless buffoon decided that it would be a good idea to waste some money....'our' money on putting in 'raised areas' on Toddington Road? They would have dropped kerbs that look

nice, and to carry out the work they would be closing the road for 3 days from Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February! Traffic would be diverted around an unnecessarily long diversion causing considerable inconvenience to as many people as they could! They couldn't even be bothered to put up signs to say that the diversion routes were not suitable for HGVs.

I went down there on Thursday and Friday and, guess what... yes the road was still closed, you could not even get down Manor Road and, it was supposed to be closed from 9.00 am but this was 8.45 am? It was a similar story in the afternoon with works over-running the 3.30 pm deadline. Went past again on Saturday night and it was open ... but clearly not finished!

So, what had been achieved apart from annoying many drivers? Two small raised areas where eventually there may be a crossing? Road closed for 5 days instead of 3 and for what? What did they find to do? I hope the Hardware Café sold lots of takeaway coffee to men in 'national dress'....sorry Hi-Vis jackets!

There is (somewhere) a man who thought of this madness, no doubt under the auspices of 'Elf and Safety'! Which, of course, has nothing to do with it – using up the budget that they have mismanaged all year is the real reason! I would very much like to find this man and have a short conversation with him! By the way, users of this road will know that there is already a natural 'calming' in this very area by the parked cars at the side of the road, they are nearly always there..... oops, overlooked that one then!! Plus I have quickly calculated that, judging by the time it took to do very little, it will take over 2,000 years to complete the new by-pass!

JP



**Sorry  
for any  
delay**

# Chalgrave News

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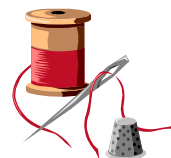
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PPP HEALTHCARE

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|---|---|--|---|
| <b>MONDAY TO FRIDAY</b>   |   |  |   |
| 9am – 6pm   | £6 per hour   | £12 per hour   | £15 per hour                                |
| 6pm – 11pm*   | £6 per hour   | £15 per hour   | £20 per hour                                |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>   |   |  |   |
| 6pm – 12 midnight*  | £100  | £200   | £225  |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>   |   |  |   |
| 9am – 6pm   | £7 per hour   | £17 per hour   | £20 per hour                                |
| 6pm – 12 midnight*  | £100  | £225   | £275  |
| 12.30pm – 12<br>midnight*   | £125  | £275   | £325  |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>   |   |  |   |
| 10am – 10pm*  | £7 per hour   | £17 per hour   | £22 per hour                                |
| <b>'WEEKEND RATE'</b>   |   |  |   |
| (Friday 6pm to Sun-<br>day 12 noon)<br>NB Hall must be<br>vacated at 11pm<br>Friday and 12 mid-<br>night Saturday | £225  | £450   | £550  |

*\*NB. Hall must be vacated and locked up by this time.*

- Bank Holidays/New Year's Eve – Rates on application
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**FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE  
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07831 482556**

# Useful Contacts

|  |                         |   |                              |
|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Chalgrave News Editorial</b>          | Roger Parker            | thechalgravenews@live.co.uk   | 01525 874910                 |
| <b>Chalgrave News Advertising</b>        | Su Parker / Emma Gray   | thechalgravenews@live.co.uk   | 01525 873963<br>01525 877327 |
| <b>Police Community Support Officer</b>  | PCSO Dougie Peklinvanas | LPT. Leighton Buzzard Linslade & Rural @ bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk | 01582 473411                 |
| <b>Member of Parliament</b>              | Andrew Selous           | andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk                                      | 0207 2191741                 |
| <b>Secretary to Andrew Selous</b>        | Sue Howats              | howats@parliament.uk  | 01582 662821                 |
| <b>Ward Councillor</b>                   | Mark Versallion         | mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk                          | 0300 3008555                 |
| <b>Chairman of Parish Council</b>        | Phil Parry              |   | 07831 605600                 |
| <b>Vice Chairman of Parish Council</b>   | Ken Green               |   | 01525 874107                 |
| <b>Parish Council Clerk</b>              | Mrs Lesley Smith        | chalgravepc@btinternet.com  | 01525 874716                 |
| <b>Councillor</b>                        | Daniel Osborn           |   | 01525 873920                 |
| <b>Councillor</b>                        | Roger Mence             |   | 01525 874516                 |
| <b>Councillor</b>                        | Debbie Hampson          |   | 01525 877149                 |
| <b>Councillor</b>                        | Paul Whitton            |   | 01525 877181                 |
| <b>Councillor and Traffic Calming</b>    | Mike Wells              | mikewells@clara.co.uk   | 01525 877098                 |
| <b>Central Beds Unitary Council</b>      |                         |   | 0300 300 8000                |
| <b>Rector of Chalgrave Church</b>        | Rev Anne Crawford       | www.chalgravechurch.org.uk  | 01525 872298                 |
| <b>Church Secretary</b>                  | Bev                     |   | 01525 210161                 |
| <b>Church Flowers</b>                    | Lesley Colella          |   | 07905 241076                 |
| <b>Chairman, Chalgrave Memorial Hall</b> | Roger Masters           |   | 01525 873039                 |
| <b>Hall Booking Secretary</b>            | Velda Cooke             |   | 07831 482556                 |
| <b>Senior Citizens Committee</b>         | Roger Masters           |   | 01525 873039                 |
| <b>West Charity</b>                      |                         | www.chalgrave.org   |                              |
| <b>Chalgrave Sports/Cricket Club</b>     | Roger Burden            |   | 01525 873077                 |
| <b>Book Club</b>                         | Noeleen Thomson         |   | 01525 872168                 |
| <b>Beavers/Cubs/Scouts</b>               | David Yirrell           |   | 01525 875410                 |
| <b>Rainbows/Brownies/Guides</b>          | Janet Hornsby           |   | 01525 875203                 |
| <b>Toddington Medical Centre</b>         |                         | www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk   | 01525 872222                 |
| <b>Toddington Library</b>                |                         |   | 01525 873626                 |
| <b>Electricity Board (Emergency)</b>     |                         |   | 0800 7838838                 |
| <b>Water Board (Emergency)</b>           |                         |   | 0845 7145145                 |
| <b>Head: St Georges Lower School</b>     | Mrs Jane Spencer        |   | 01525 872360                 |
| <b>Head: Parkfields Middle School</b>    | Brandon Bravo           |   | 01525 872555                 |
| <b>Head: Harlington Upper School</b>     | Shawn Fell              |   | 01525 755100                 |
| <b>Toddington Childcare</b>              |                         | Playgroup/am & pm school clubs                                      | 01525 875400                 |
| <b>Toddington Area Helping Hands</b>     |                         |   | 07882 988270                 |

## The Tale of The Three Pigs (The Revenge of the Swine)

We were just coming to the end of a busy evening surgery at the end of a lovely late spring day and my wife had rung the practice to let me know that we were having our first barbeque of the season. All was well with the world.....and then the phone rang twice in quick succession. The first call was for a calving, the second for a "poorly pig". Laura was sent off to the calving, the pig wasn't that urgent so could wait a bit. The pig was sort of on my way home so I offered to do that call so Laura didn't finish too late. I had broken my own rules, rule one; never ever do anyone a favour, rule two; avoid pigs (see the last two issues of the *Chalgrave News*).

The job would only take 10 minutes, it was almost on my way home and I was in a kindly benevolent mood. What could possibly go wrong??

The pig was indeed quite unwell, an examination revealed a chest infection and a high temperature. The 100 kilo pig was very compliant when I took his temperature standing on the lawn of a beautiful house surrounded by woodland. I returned to the car to get a shot of Long Acting Antibiotic for the sickly swine. As I sauntered back across the lawn the pig was surrounded by the owner, her two teenage sons and two Labradors. The pig was still rooted to the spot as I started to inject him just behind the right ear. I gently squeezed the plunger of the syringe and the medication started to flow into his muscle. Nearly there I said, but just at that precise moment the pig suddenly jumped pulling the needle out of his neck. Oh dear, I exclaimed, we will just have to catch him to complete the injection. As you all know a half dose of antibiotics can be worse than no antibiotics at all, I explained to the owner.

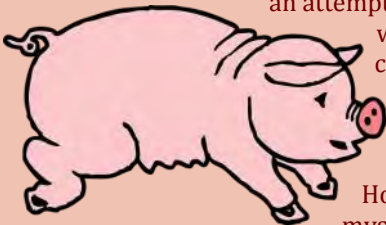
Now the problems started! The pig seemed somewhat revived and wouldn't let anyone near him. We patiently followed him around the garden, the dogs thought it was all a game, they started to bark and chase the pig. This didn't help! I suggested that we put the dogs into the house. Eventually the owner complied, time was passing, my stomach was rumbling and I wanted to get home.

There were no spots in the garden that we could trap the pig so we drove him up behind the garage. He suddenly felt trapped and broke out between the owner and Son A. Son B then declared that he was bored by all this pig chasing and that he was going for a run!

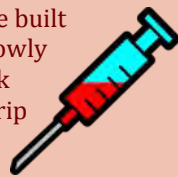
The owner's husband, in very natty suit, arrived home, looked over the garden fence, enquired about his dinner and disappeared for a shower.

I was starting to become less laid back about it all! We trapped the pig once more behind the garage, once more he made a break for it. I bravely put myself in his path in an attempt to stop him. My boot caught on the kerb and down I went onto my back, the charging pig carried on charging! He very neatly scampered over me as I lay there leaving a set of footprints up my chest and over my left shoulder. The RED MIST descended, it was personal now, no more Mr Nice Guy!

Holding the syringe between my teeth I launched myself after the pig, and I caught him by the left ear with



my left hand and by the right ear with my right hand. Using my purpose built bow legs I clamped the wriggling chap between my legs. I had him! I slowly released my right hand from his ear, his squealing was deafening, I took the syringe and needle from my mouth. Almost there! I could feel my grip on his left ear slipping, I needed to take his right ear again. I handed the syringe with the needle exposed to Son A. I quickly grabbed his right ear and firmed up my grip on his left ear, as I looked behind me I realised that Son A was hovering by my leg holding the syringe in "ready to inject mode". Give me the syringe I ordered, he smiled back at me still hovering over my leg and the pig. I grabbed the syringe as the mother screamed at her son. I injected the pig with the rest of the antibiotic and let the pig go. He ran away to hide at the far end of the garden.



Son A declared that this had been the best fun since Bonfire Night and he couldn't believe that Son B had gone for a run. Apparently, due to the squealing, he had thought that I wanted him to carry out the injection.

I jumped into the car, I jumped back out again! My rear trouser pockets were full of pea shingle from my spell on my back by the garage. Oh, what fun!

On my way home, about an hour late, I rang Laura to check she was OK. The cow had calved itself so she had gone home and had just finished dinner!

I hope that this anecdote goes someway to explaining my response to anyone who asks me a favour. I apologise in advance for my behaviour.

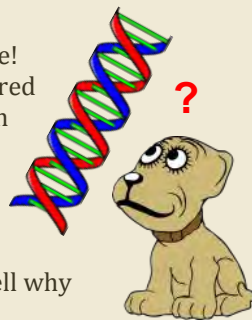
*Peter Harding*

## Don't 'mess' with me!

Right, enough is enough! The dog mess problem is getting worse! There is a small, I hope, band of lazy b.....ds who can't be bothered to pick up their dog's mess from the footpaths and pavements in our Parish!

You know who you are! So look at it this way, it's an Offence, it's anti-social, it spreads germs, and it's taking liberties with the farmers and landowners who let us walk our dogs on their land! Presumably, you let your dog c...p all over your house? Well why not, you let it mess in someone else's field because you can't be bothered to pick it up! When you have a dinner party, do your guests play "Tip-Toe through the dog poo" prior to taking their seats?

I am glad to say there is a solution... DNA. Your dog's poo will soon be able to be tracked back to the dog, easy nowadays, then we will know where the dog lives and we can come round and post the excrement back to you through your letter box! I don't suppose it will bother you, but I would guarantee that the rest of us would get a great deal of satisfaction from it!



*JP*

## Fusilier George Mawson Holmes

*In our last edition, we carried a poignant feature on Fusilier George Mawson Holmes, one of the five parishioners from Chalgrave who gave their lives in WWII fighting for the freedom of this country. In this issue we are thrilled to publish the first instalment of a moving account by George's daughter, Gillian Morrison, in which she throws more light on the life of her father, as well as painting a picture of Tebworth in times gone by. **Gillian writes** —*



What a marvellous surprise to see the article about my late father, George Holmes, in the last issue of the *Chalgrave News*. I had been alerted to it by my cousin Judy Webster (formerly Cooper of Tebworth). As stated it was taken from an interview I gave to the *Sunderland Echo* back in 2006 when I was trying to find more relatives and perhaps some old friends of my father.

On reading it I realised just how much more I had found out since then and what an exciting and emotional journey I had experienced, the highlight being the finding of a lovely old Italian gentleman who was 12 years old at the time and witnessed my father's platoon entering the outskirts of his little village which was occupied by the Germans. As a young lad he witnessed George's death along with the other nine soldiers who were killed with him. It wasn't a sniper's bullet that killed my father as originally thought but more an out and out skirmish under the olive trees as the Germans were taken by surprise – but more about that later.

I knew nothing of my father until I was 14 years old when I needed to provide my birth certificate for a Saturday job in Woolworths in Leighton Buzzard where I attended the Mary Bassett Secondary Modern School for girls. My mother Joan Heley – formerly Holmes – formerly Harris – was rather reluctant to let me have it and had to be reminded several times until finally one evening after I had gone to bed she came to my room and sat on the bed. I can't remember the exact words or whether she wept or not – I don't think we embraced but then that wasn't so unusual in those days. I think she just simply said that my Dad wasn't my real Dad and that my Dad had been killed in the war. Mum left the room and 'Dad', Jim, came into the room crying (he was like that, a big softy – he cried once in later years when I took them to see The Sound of Music). I don't remember what we said to each other but I feel ashamed now to say that I was excited and couldn't wait to tell my



**The wedding of George Holmes and Joan Harris, 1943, Chalgrave church. Jessie is next to Joan**

friends at school next day that I had a stepfather and that my own father had been killed in the war. Although the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War had only finished 13 years before, to a fourteen year old it might as well have been 100 years before and seemed so far back in time and in any case the war was never mentioned, certainly not in front of the children. People just wanted to forget.

The revelation of the evening

before wasn't mentioned the next day and very rarely again. Sad to say it never occurred to me to ask questions – in those days you just didn't question your parents. It was like an invisible wall that couldn't be scaled and I rarely thought about it either. However once I had my children I began to realise how important the blood link is and was desperate to know about my father but felt I couldn't ask my mother and didn't want to be disloyal going behind her back to ask her sister, Jessie Cooper (née Harris), or her brother, Howard Harris, or indeed any of the other relatives in Tebworth.

After my mother's death in May 2000 I think I felt free to ask questions without hurting my mother although still very much aware of Jim's feelings. My cousin Diane, that's Howard's daughter, was tremendously helpful and found out where the grave was in Italy and found details of my father's family in County Durham and provided me with a copy of my Mum and Dad's marriage certificate. They were married in Chalgrave church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1943. It was only about 5 years ago that I found out from Violet Kent (formerly Harris and my mother's cousin) that she played at the wedding. Apparently the organ was so damp that it couldn't be played and Violet's harmonium had to be fetched from her house and loaded onto Grandad Harris's horse and cart and taken up to the church. She said she even had trouble trying to get a sound out of that and panicked, desperately thumping like mad with her feet on the pedals as she tried to get a sound out of it to play the Wedding March. She told me how she had looked round at George waiting for Joan to come into the church and thought, 'Ee – you lucky beggar Joan'. That was meant in the



**Howard Harris at Ivy Farm, Tebworth**



**Joan at Ivy Farm. The cart is the one used to transport Violet's harmonium to the church. The thatch behind has since been destroyed in a fire**

nicest possible way because I think she was already happily married to Vic who has his own amazing war story – shot down over Holland and ending up in the same POW camp in Germany as Uncle Howard Harris who had been captured on the Salerno landings in Italy. Vic said that one of the first people he saw as he entered the camp was Howard – how amazing is that?

Anyway back to the wedding – Violet said that there was a small reception in the kitchen of Ivy Farm, Tebworth, where my mother, Joan, lived with her parents Walter and Eva Harris,



**Joan with Dinky**

her sister Jessie and her brother Howard who was away at war with the Durham Light Infantry which he had signed up with assuming that George would join up with his county regiment. However for some reason George ended up with the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

After that happy day George and Joan lived together at Ivy Farm until August when he sailed off to North Africa as part of the BNAF (British North Africa Force). By the early hours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1943 he had been killed and I believe my mother received the dreaded telegram on Christmas Day – she was 5 months pregnant with me and just 21 years old.

Aunty Gwen Harris – wife of Howard and mother to Diane – was able to impart a lot more information although she hadn't come onto the scene until after my father's death and after my birth. She

told me the family dare not mention George's name for fear of upsetting Joan so I can only assume that it became a habit and perhaps the reason why I never knew about him. I was very close to my grandparents and I am told that they loved him like a son but they never once talked about him to me. In more recent years the family have been so astonished that I didn't know anything about my father as everybody in Tebworth knew and, in fact, Diane told me that she had written about my father in a school project. Of course if it wasn't for the fact that we moved to Stanbridge when Mum married Jim I would have found out a lot sooner.

We had two dogs at Ivy Farm when I was a child, Bruce, a Collie, and Dinky, a Wire Haired Terrier. Aunty Gwen revealed to me that Dinky was a parting gift to Joan as George went off to war. I've always had photos of Dinky and I remember playing with her (or him) but they are now much more significant.

Aunty Gwen also told me that Mum had loaned her wedding dress to her when she married Howard in 1945. I had never noticed that the wedding dresses were identical. Although a very happy occasion it must have also been very sad for my mother who was one of their bridesmaids.

I had no photos of my father at all until Judy found some in her mother's (Jessie) collection. It had been ordered that all photos of George had to be destroyed but Aunty Jessie had kept some. Thank goodness, although having now traced my father's family I do have quite a few more.

About 3 years ago Judy and I spent a day in Tebworth on a reminiscing crawl around the village and apart from standing before Ivy Farm and Pond Cottages, where our grandparents moved to in later life, and walking in the fields at the back, our childhood play ground, we visited Audrey Dolemore at Lane Farm. Audrey was one of our Grandmother's nieces and as a child I visited often with my Grandma. I used to marvel at all the shiny trophies on the huge mahogany sideboard which Audrey had won with her prize Aberdeen Angus. I recall being told once that a contingent of Russians had come over to see Audrey's prize cattle and that Daisy had been most affronted by the fact that they had helped themselves to fruit from a bowl on the table without being asked. Audrey's sister, Daisy, was a wonderful cook so there was always something nice to eat on these visits although I have to say that I didn't much care for her homemade dairy ice cream. Sorry Daisy! Never did tell her. I wouldn't have dared. Grandma would have been so

embarrassed.

At first Audrey didn't know who Judy and I were but after a few clues she realised and over tea and biscuits we spent a lovely hour or so. She told me that my father used to play tennis on their court and that when my father was based at Cardington her brother used to go and pick him up at the weekend and bring him back to the village. She said she had some photos of him playing tennis but thought they were in the loft and would have to get someone to get them down sometime. Sadly, of course, she has now died but I am so glad that we got to see her that day.

My mother worked at Waterlows, Dunstable, from the age of 15 and that's where she met George. He had been persuaded by his father to go down south to seek work rather than have to work down the pit in Easington Colliery which was a very dangerous and dirty occupation in those days. I think he wanted more for his son. George's uncle, Ted Holmes, who was only a few years older than George was already living and working in Dunstable. So to Dunstable George came finding work at Waterlows and finding my mother. My paternal grandfather, of whom I knew nothing until recent years, had lost his wife to tuberculosis at only 32 years old followed 4 weeks later by his daughter of 11 years. Being left with only 9 years old George he had to get out of his miner's cottage and lodge with the family next door as there were larger families needing to be housed. The sad thing is that George, having secured a better life for himself and making his father happy, ended up being killed in the war. My grandfather had lost his whole family and as if that wasn't enough it was thought that it would be better for me if he had nothing more to do with me when my mother remarried. After finding the few relatives still alive in Easington in recent years I have been told that he always hoped that I would try to find him when I was old enough but I never did because I didn't know about him. I see from his gravestone that he died just two years after my son was born. He died thinking I didn't care. If only! If only I had known.

It is hard to understand why my mother couldn't talk to me about my father but we must remember that we are so much more open these days. This is not an unusual story – I have met quite a few sons and daughters in the cemetery over the last 10 years and they nearly all have a similar story to tell. I think a passage written by Vera Brittain in her famous book *Testament of Youth* just about sums up perhaps how my mother dealt with her loss. Vera spoke these words to her fiancé, Roland, just before he returned to the trenches in the 1st World War. Anticipating his death she spoke the following words—

*"You see, if one goes on obviously mourning someone, other people come along and insist on entering in and pitying and sympathising, and they force one's recollection into one's outward life and spoil it all. But if one seems to have forgotten, the world lets one alone and thinks one is just like everyone else, but that doesn't matter. One lives one's outer life and they see that, but below it lies the memory, unspoiled and intact. I should thereby be able to keep you, my remembrance would live with me always and be my very own. Do you understand a little?"*

I understand this and of course Roland did die. Yes, I do



Joan and Jessie Harris at  
Ivy Farm

understand my mother and I am certain that it is exactly what she did.

Knowing how much it would mean to me my son and daughter gave me a wonderful gift to mark my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday – a trip to my father's grave in the Sangro River War Cemetery on the Adriatic coast of Italy. The first sight of that beautiful, tranquil place where 3,200 young men rest forever in peace was so overwhelming and to be finally beside my father's grave with my children, his grandchildren, is indescribable.

That first visit changed everything for me and I was determined to go again but not only that I realised that it wasn't enough to just stand by the grave I needed to find out everything I could about the war in that area at that time. I owed it to my father and all those young men.

So began my incredible, emotional journey following in the last footsteps of my father. I will tell you about it in the next issue.

*Gillian – proud daughter of George Holmes*

## Rogation Day Walk, Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May

We plan to "Beat the Bounds" of Chalgrave again this year, leaving from the Queen's



Head, Tebworth, at 10 am sharp, stopping for lunch at the Fancott Arms around 1 pm and getting back into Tebworth around 5.30 pm. We walk most of the boundary and it is the only day of the year that we are legally entitled to walk those parts of the boundary that are not a public right of way.

In the charter of AD 926 King Aethelstan granted the estate to a certain Ealdred:-

*"Where the dyke shoots on to Watling Street, then along Watling Street till you come to the ford, then along the brook to the second ford. Then from the ford up to the spring and thence to the dell [small valley], and then from the dell to the dyke, and from the dyke to the second dyke to the brook and from the brook to Cynburg well. Then along the dyke to East Coten, thence to the Old Brook, and thence along the rithe [riddy or stream]. Then straight to the Highway and along the Highway to the dyke, and along the dyke to Watling Street"*



All are welcome. You may choose to walk just the morning or the afternoon session, or both. For more details of the walk contact Ken Green at [kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk). For more information on the parish see the 1986 survey on the history of Chalgrave at [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org) (look under Local History).

*Chalgrave Parish Council*



## “Children in Need” Night at the Queen’s Head

Regulars at the Queen’s Head have raised a grand total of £645 for the BBC’s “Children in Need” appeal following a music night on

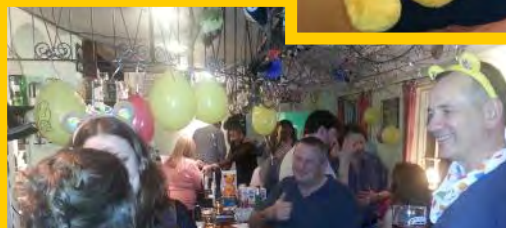
Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. And a CD of all the regular performers at the pub was made by the Grand Chapel Studios. Of particular note is a track of Colin playing a piano piece he composed many years ago called “Inspiration”.

Thanks to Gareth and Cate, Harry and Mary for organising and to Anneliese and Mike from the Grand Chapel Studios for producing the CDs.

Thanks also to all the performers, all who attended, all who bought the CD and, of course, to the inimitable Colin Edwynn.

**The fund raising goes on and if anyone would like to purchase a disc they are available at £5 each.**

*Ken Green*



## Friends of the Queen’s Head

Thanks to everyone who supported the Third Chalgrave Beer Festival (see report, pages 12 and 13). We managed to raise some cash which we will put to good use.

As you may know, the Friends of the Queen's Head are a group of local people who are trying to build a “fighting fund” to save the Queen's Head should Charles Wells Brewery decide to close the pub and sell the property. Pubs are closing every week now all over the country. Toddington has lost many of its oldest pubs over the last few years. The Friends of the Queen's Head value our pub as a real village hub and asset to our community. We intend to fight to preserve it.

While we wait to find out what the long term plans of Charles Wells are, we have been able to help out with beer and heating.

But our main aim is to keep the Queen's Head open for our village and we thank you for your continued support.

*Phil Parry*

## Pig Family Dynamics

Pigs like to establish their position within the hierarchy of their herd, and it is certainly our experience that in the absence of other porcine companions they apply the same principles to their human family. Upon arrival as a piglet Chops quickly decided that John was King Pig, William and Maggie were litter mates, I was simply 'Mum' and Jacob, towards whom he began to demonstrate a decidedly inappropriate interest until a visit to the vet and a strategically aimed snip put an abrupt end to such inclinations, was unequivocally the runt of the litter. Lottie was just a fierce little werevixen whom he learnt in no uncertain terms should be given a wide berth, and he is terrified of her to this day, which is quite an impressive achievement on her part.

All went smoothly, with everyone understanding their place within the family, until John went travelling for several months. Unbeknown to us, in Chops's eyes his own status had now been elevated to the rank of King Pig, and upon John's return the gauntlet was thrown down and a mammoth battle for supremacy ensued. John eventually prevailed, but he was on the receiving end of a couple of spectacular bites before equilibrium was restored. It remains to be seen what Chops's reaction to John would be now that he has been away for the best part of 2 years, nevertheless beneath his indifferent exterior I like to believe Chops does view his family with a degree of affection; certainly his reaction upon seeing me when I returned from a 3 week holiday the summer before last was really touching and took me completely by surprise.





Winston Churchill once coined the phrase 'Dogs look up to you, cats look down on you. Give me a pig. He just looks you in the eye and treats you as an equal.' It would be helpful if Chops were to take heed of this pearl of wisdom, as having appointed himself head of the household he firmly believes that he rules the roost and the rest of us exist solely to pander to his every whim. I feel compelled to admit there is an element of truth in his assumption....but we love him anyway!

A very Happy Easter to one and all from the Porcine Prince, and may he not get his chops around your Easter Eggs!!

*Julia Marsh*

## Michael Kingham, 1933–2015

Michael was born in Wingfield and spent all of his life (apart from the last year and a half) in the Parish – in fact Michael has lived for the longest time in our Parish. He went to school in Toddington and then started work at 15 for Bagshaws before joining Delco. At 18 he did his National Service travelling to Cyprus and Egypt. After National Service he returned to Delco and met Barbara and they married two years later.

Michael enjoyed sport. He played football, supported Luton Town (he has a plaque on one of the stadium seats) and played cricket for Chalgrave and Milton Bryan. He was a noted batsman and spin bowler, and he and Barbara wrote a history of Chalgrave Sports Club in 1992.

When his cricket playing days were over he qualified as an umpire at Lords and he umpired for Chalgrave, Milton Bryan and minor counties. He was also a great member of our community getting involved in maintaining paths in the Parish.

Michael was husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Michael was a happy person always with a smile on his face. He was known as a really lovely man by everyone. The full Church at his funeral – as well as the number of cards Barbara received – is testament to this.

*Phil Parry*



## Santa Run

Accompanied by his retinue of little elves, clad in their fluorescent yellow jackets, Santa made his pre-Christmas tour of Chalgrave on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> December, a cold and windy night, but thankfully a dry one. This important occasion in Santa's busy calendar was organised and coordinated by the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale, who provided Santa with motorised transport so that his reindeer could rest-up in preparation for the Big Night ahead.

The trip started with a visit to Milton Bryan before moving on to the more prestigious villages of Tebworth and Wingfield. Santa, consistent with his status, travelled in luxury, poking his head and shoulders out of the chimney of his temporary house and waving regally to all and sundry—meanwhile, his attendants trudged wearily behind, struggling to keep up yet still managing to knock on every door in each village. And what a reception they got when someone answered, with householders offering a warm welcome and dipping deep into their pockets and purses. Quite often, alerted by the Christmassy music booming out of Santa's house, residents, young and old alike, were already outside, waiting excitedly for the Great Man to come into view.

Weighed down by their heavy collecting tins, and with legs turning to lead, it was with joy that Santa's entourage set sight on Park Farm, in Tebworth, knowing that waiting for them would be delicious mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, considerably provided by the Osborn family. Suitably reinvigorated, the company of helpers traipsed on through Tebworth, desperately striving to keep pace with Santa who was still wallowing in the comfort of his palatial accommodation. Only the provision of further sustenance, in the form of delectable mulled wine and sumptuous sausage rolls, hospitably provided by John and Sue Keech in Woodlands, gave the party the necessary strength to continue on into the depths of Wingfield. The expedition finished with a visit to The Plough where, with the pub packed in readiness for Quiz Night, a captive assembly awaited—an assembly who so





generously donated to the collection that the bar takings must have been down that night.

But tiring though it all was, everyone agreed that it was worth it. Santa's visit had brought a smile to many a face, as well as raising an impressive £318 from donors in

Tebworth and Wingfield *alone*. Half the money collected went to the

Rotary Club and the other half in helping to provide next year's Christmas lunch for the senior citizens of Chalgrave.

As Santa sped off back to Lapland to get on with wrapping our Christmas presents, his exhausted and now nearly starving band of helpers ploughed on to Phil Parry's house where they ravenously consumed a splendid chicken curry, accompanied by a delightful (and still warm) lemon meringue pie made by Frances Masters. One or two drinks may have also have been imbibed.

But, as our readers know only too well, nothing escapes the keen eyes of our diligent team of journalists. It's therefore with regret that we must inform the readership that it didn't escape our

attention that Mr Roger Masters, one of the principal organisers behind this event, couldn't be bothered to turn up that night. Does anyone know where he was?

*RP*





## Joe Inzani Memorial Tree

In memory of the late Joe Inzani, who tragically died on Christmas Day 2013, an *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' has been planted on the Green in

front of Park Farm. A variety with a more appropriate name would be hard to find for Joe. May the tree flourish and provide pleasure for many years to come.

RP



## All Saints Church, Chalgrave

Dear Residents of Chalgrave Parish—

Your Church is now 795 years old. We know it is difficult for some to attend Sunday service regularly and therefore it can be difficult to give your support. To this end some of our members have set up a standing order to help ensure that our church is there for us when we need it to be there. A living church means much more than a historic building.

So if you would like to set up a standing order please find below our bank details—

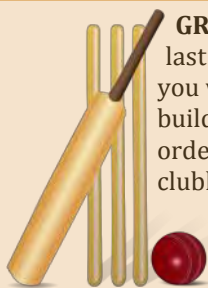
*Account Name:* Chalgrave Parochial Church Council

*Sort code:* 20-03-18

*Account number:* 90227706



# Chalgrave Sports Club



**GREAT NEWS!!!** Thanks to a generous local benefactor we are at last able to realise a dream and replace our clubhouse. For those of you who have visited the ground, you'll be aware that our current building is at best 'tired', but the committee have recently agreed and ordered a brand new log cabin which will be fitted out as our new clubhouse. This donation together with others received last year and our own fund-raising activities give us the opportunity to make some major changes at the ground and greatly improve its appearance and facilities.

The structure is being delivered shortly and will be held in store until September/October when we will pull down the existing building and begin assembling the new one. Obviously this is no small task and we would be grateful if anyone willing to assist with DIY/Building/Electrical/Plumbing work during this period could get in touch. We intend to dismantle the existing building and have a ceremonial bonfire around Fireworks night – assuming that we can get it to burn that is...

Although the donations we have received have covered the cost of the clubhouse, we still have our normal running costs, equipment maintenance, expenses, etc, and so will be holding a fund-raising **Race Night on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Memorial Hall (door open at 6.30 pm, first race at 7.30 pm)**. There will be the usual 'fish 'n' chip' supper and licensed bar. Tickets will be available from The Plough Inn, or from committee members and you will see posters around the village soon with further details. This is a popular event with all the family so we hope to see you there.

As always we are keen to attract new players, and we've said it many times before but ability is not a barrier. As our chairman puts it 'as long as you can breathe and hold a cricket bat you are eligible!' The games are played in a friendly spirit and banter is the order of the day, followed by a debriefing in The Plough of course.

Our **AGM** is due to be held on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at The Plough Inn** starting at **7.30 pm**. This is an excellent opportunity to come and meet the committee and some of the current players, especially if you would like to play or maybe support the club as we also need volunteers to help out at our various events.

Finally, it is with much sadness that we learned of the passing of Michael Kingham recently. Michael, who lived in Tebworth with his wife Barbara for many years before moving to Toddington recently, was a great supporter of Chalgrave Sports Club. He was an excellent bowler and batsmen and became an umpire after his playing career of some 35 years had finished. He and Barbara wrote a charming book on the history of the club, extracts from which can be seen on the Sports Club website. Our thoughts go out to Barbara and family at this sad time.

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

Enquiries to [secretary@chalgravesportsclub.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chalgravesportsclub.co.uk)

# The Plough



Well Hello to all from Chris and Caroline at The Plough.

Just an update about our situation. After a long drawn out saga we were finally ready to go ahead. But, as happens, there has been another set back, not least the chimney fire on

Thursday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> February!

(Is George the ghost trying to tell us something?) We can't praise enough the outstanding fire crews who attended. They did a splendid job in saving the day, not to mention the beer!!!

Our grateful thanks to all. Also, on the note of thanks, we are overwhelmed by the good wishes and support from the villagers. You know who you are.

We will let you all know when the deed is done and the Plough finally becomes ours and hope you will come along and help us celebrate.

**STOP PRESS!! As of 20<sup>th</sup> February, we are signed, sealed and serving! C & C**

Fond regards, Chris and Caroline

*Firefighter photos by Scott Abraham*



## Doggy Tips

As a nation of dog lovers we often give our beloved pooches a little 'treat' don't we? Well did you know that although it is meant as a loving gesture we could in fact be killing our dogs!!

Some of the food that they love, whilst it is very tasty, cannot be processed by a dogs digestive system. This includes – Alcohol, onions, raisins grapes and caffeine. Toothpaste, sweets and some diet products contain a substance called Xylitol, not good for dogs!

Dogs can't process lactose so no milk, yoghurt or cream . (Cheese is ok in small amounts as it usually contains minimal lactose.) Fat trimmings, these can inflame the gut, stones in peaches plums and cherries as these can inflame the pancreas. Sugar, salt or pepper, also remove seasoned skin from meat and avoid gravy – even homemade.

But it's not all doom and gloom there are also good healthy treats you can give to Fido (do you know anyone who calls their dog Fido?). Lean meat, cooked (with the bones removed, even chicken is fine), carrots, broccoli, green beans, cooked peas, cucumber and courgettes, plain rice and pumpkins —in fact most of the things children won't eat!

If you're not sure about anything to do with your pet's health always consult your local Vet, he really is a nice chap!

Perhaps this little article should have been in the pre-Christmas edition of this little Mag but better late than never.

*Mick McDonagh*

*Based on an article published in the Sunday Times*

# Queen's Head

Hello everyone, Colin here, yes I'm still festering in the Queen's Head despite a small health scare early in the New Year when I had to close the pub for a few days, but all is well now so I am back to my old self!

We had a good fun Christmas and New Year with all the 'old faithfuls' coming to perform and entertain you all, especially our local trooper Keith West who is always a good quality act.

I must thank all of you lovely people who supported the Beer Festival that was organised by those hardworking people, The Friends of The Queen's Head. They not only had to set up the barrels of beer but some of the women spent days slaving over a hot stove turning out really tasty food like Buckinghamshire Badgers and something called Chalgrave Chompers (don't know what was in them but they tasted delicious) and that was held in the Memorial Hall last November. I don't know how much was raised but the Friends were able to pay for a full tank of gas and therefore the pub was warm and welcoming over the Christmas period.



In November, we had a "Children in Need" money raising evening and it was on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January that we were able to hand over a cheque for £645.00 or thereabouts to the representative of "Children in Need". This was the result of a massive effort from Harry Howden and his cronies along with the regulars to raise as much monies as possible by auctioning various items. Well done everyone who turned up and took part!

Do you remember me telling you about Professor Kenton Blumininstall, the bloke who turns up occasionally at the pub and regales us with astounding facts that no one knows? Well – he was in just after Christmas and some of the things he told us were fascinating, such as:—

- If Barbie were life-size, her measurements would be 39-23-33. And she would stand seven feet, two inches tall.
- The "dot" over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- Honey is the only natural food that is made without destroying any kind of life.

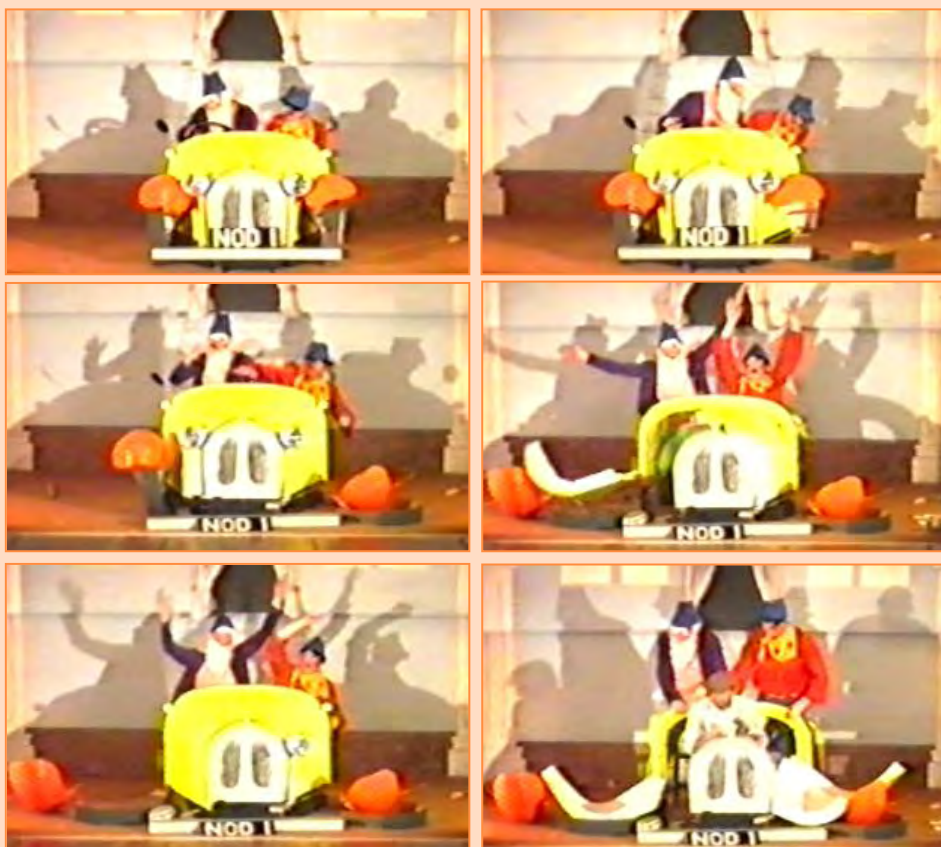
Amazing isn't it?

Well I think that's enough from me. I hope you are all well and healthy, why don't you pop in sometime soon and we could have a nice chat. Try to make it on a Wednesday when the 'folkey' musicians are in, that's a nice evening's entertainment, or a Friday when we still have live music with all the normal nutters playing on stage. I can assure you a warm welcome whatever day you choose to visit.

All the best, *Colin*

## All Our Yesterdays – No. 19

### NODDY and BIG EARS — “Village Concert 1995”



From 1971 to 1999 a “Village Concert” was held nearly every year at the old Memorial Hall. This is a sequence from 1995 with Tony Cornes and Roger Masters as Noddy and Big Ears, and Dave Board as the mechanic left in the car. The car was designed and built by Bill Archer, the “prop man” for many years. That year he excelled himself with designing a car that gradually fell to pieces as Noddy and Big Ears were driving along singing “I love to go a’wandering”.

I aim to put this and other clips on the website [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org) – hopefully before this edition is published.

Any questions or comments to tel 874107 or to [kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk).

# The Plough at Wingfield

(near Toddington) LU7 9QH

## Classic & Prestige Car Day

(Bikes also welcome)

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 12pm**

**Admission Free**



2014 Winner



2013 Winner

Please come along and support our event for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It's for a brilliant cause.

Ample parking for show cars and visitors.

The "Plough" will be open and you can be sure of a warm welcome from Chris & Caroline. As well as the usual drinks, there will also be real ales, guest ales and ciders on sale.

Cast your vote for vehicle of the day (Announced at 4pm. Trophy for the winner)

Selection of side stalls

Hot dogs and burgers available on site (reasonable prices)

Tea and Coffee

Lilly's Cup Cakes...Mmm!

Raffle

Pitches available to sell goods £6 (No food or drink)

If you wish to show your car, bike or book a pitch please contact:

**Ken on: 07813 758401 ---- 07940 095982**



**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Tebworth**

# **Chalgrave News Annual Quiz**

**1st prize, £100**

**2nd prize, bubbly!**

**6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start**

A fun evening for grown-ups, for teams of up to 8 -  
there will again be no children's rounds this year

**A CASH BAR WILL BE OPEN**

**A FISH 'N' CHIP SUPPER IS INCLUDED IN  
THE TICKET PRICE**

**Tickets, £9 each, available from -  
Punch Opticians, Toddington,  
or The Plough, Wingfield,  
or Su on 01525 873963**



**Entry by pre-purchased ticket ONLY**

**Sponsored by**



**WRIGHT VEHICLE SOLUTIONS**



# Chalgrave Games 2015

Memorial Hall  
Tebworth  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June  
at 1pm

Medieval  
Theme!



Children's Fancy Dress Competition  
Doggy Fancy Dress Competition  
Teddy Bear Orphanage

BBQ

Beer Tent

Stalls, Exhibits  
and lots more....



## Grand Prize Draw

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - Tablet Device

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - £100

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50

Raffle tickets are now on sale from Mr Roger  
Masters or any member of the Hall Committee



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