

CHALGRAVE NEWS

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



Publication No. 47 June 2015

Dates for Your Diary

Day/Date	Event	Location/Contact	Time
3 rd 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	
Every 2 nd Tuesday	WI	Memorial Hall	8–10 pm
Saturday, 27 th June	Chalgrave Games – <i>see p 42</i>	Memorial Hall	1 pm
Sunday, 28 th June	10–10 Competition – <i>see p 35</i>	Wingfield	10.30 am
Sunday, 19 th July	Classic & Prestige Car Day – <i>see p 41</i>	Plough Inn	Noon
Saturday, 26 th September	Sports Club Race Night – <i>see p 35</i>	Memorial Hall	6.30 pm

Don't forget to check the Chalgrave Parish website (www.chalgrave.org) and Facebook page (search Facebook for Chalgrave Parish) where the latest news is to be found, as well as information on forthcoming events.



Front Cover: a busy worker in the Spring sunshine

**Deadline for next edition:
Wednesday, 12th August 2015**

Please submit entries by email to 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,

We have another packed edition of the *Chalgrave News* for your intellectual enlightenment. As well as our usual collection of entertaining and informative pieces contributed by our regular stalwarts, we have an article by Fiona Parker on the recent Rogation Day Walk and another by Ken Green on “Joe’s Session” at the Queen’s Head. New recruit Peter Warburton writes on the subject of unintended consequences while another new author, Lesley Smith, reports on the MK Classic Car Tour which included her Tebworth Special, the little blue MG that is a familiar sight around our villages. Elsewhere, Debbie Hampson provides an update on the pond in Tebworth and Julia Marsh recalls her fond memories of Michael Kingham, who passed away in January. We also publish the second instalment of Gillian Morrison’s quest to discover more about her father, Fusilier George Mawson Holmes, who lost his life in Italy during WWII. And, of course, we also carry accounts of the Parish Assembly, the *Chalgrave News* Quiz, and one or two other items. Last, but not least, we are extremely fortunate to have acquired a breath-taking photograph, worthy of the Greenwich Observatory, of the solar eclipse of 20th March.

We mentioned last December that the *News* had embraced social media by opening a Facebook page. However, since then, a new and excellent website run by the Parish Council (www.chalgrave.org) has been set up which is linked to its own Facebook page (search for **Chalgrave Parish** on Facebook or go to www.facebook.com/chalgravepc). As the contents of the new website and its Facebook page overlap somewhat with the *Chalgrave News*’s Facebook page, it’s been agreed to amalgamate efforts and, in future, anything that the *News* wishes to post online will be placed on the Chalgrave Parish website and then automatically reposted onto the Chalgrave Parish Facebook page. This makes sense because the Chalgrave Parish website is also the repository for old editions of the *News*. We hope you’ve followed all this! Put simply, the *News* is moving its online base so therefore please check Chalgrave Parish’s website or Facebook page for the latest updates.

A few of our more alert readers will have noticed that elections were held on 7th May. As a consequence, the *News* team extends its hearty congratulations to—the Members of our Parish Council, all of whom have retained their seats—our County Councillor, Mark Versallion, who was returned unopposed, and—Andrew Selous, who was re-elected as our Member of Parliament, and with an increased majority. All work very hard on our behalf and our thanks goes out to them—and also to Roger Mence who has chosen to step down having served as a Parish Councillor since 2004.

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. Also visit this website for information on the Parish Council, parish history, the Memorial Hall, local organisations, and much more.

Chairman of the Parish Council

2015 Chairman's Report

The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chairman and I am also one of the Council representatives of the West Trust; Ken Green who is the Vice Chairman and heads up the Footpaths Committee and has responsibility for the Website; Daniel Osborn who is on the Planning Committee, and is our Police Liaison as well as the second Council representative on the West Trust; Debbie Hampson who is also on the Planning Committee and leads the Pond Project; Mike Wells who leads the traffic calming measures including SpeedWatch; Paul Whitton who monitors Fly Tipping; Lesley Smith who is our Parish Clerk; and Roger Mence who is stepping down from the Council. We would like to thank Roger for his contribution to the running of the Council, developing the Parish Plan, attending meetings on our behalf and taking the lead in getting a defibrillator.

It does mean that there is a need for a new councillor. If you are interested in joining the PC please contact Lesley or any member of the Council.

As always the past year has been a very active one for the Parish Council. In case you are not aware we do a lot of work behind the scenes. We work on a voluntary basis trying to do as much as we can for our local community. As well as our monthly meetings and individual responsibilities we attend local and area meetings where decisions can be made that affect our Parish. We lobby MPs and local councillors, we defend the rural nature of our community, we encourage and support local activities, we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure, we strive to keep our community spirit and, as your representatives, we listen to you.

Our Precept this year is £7,020. Between a quarter and a third of our Precept we receive from you goes straight back into our community in the form of grants and awards. We keep a third for contingencies and the rest is used in the running of the Council activities.

The accounts can be viewed via the Clerk, as can all Parish Council documentation – minutes of meetings, correspondence, accounts, etc – if you are a resident of the Parish.

Planning is one of our many concerns, both at a Parish and County level. At a County and National level we are very vocal in our determination to protect the Green Belt. The government is encouraging Local Authorities to use brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites. We trust that CBC will take heed and use brownfield sites for development.

We want to maintain the rural nature of our Parish so we are keeping a careful watch on the housing development that will be coming toward our Parish from Houghton Regis. We



have been reassured by Mark Versallion that the A5/M1 link road will be the barrier to the development.

The Solar Farm at Chalgrave Manor Farm has been approved but work will not start for a couple of years. However, you may have seen the solar farm at Eggington and will see the impact it makes on the countryside.

Mike is leading our SpeedWatch Campaign. He has been out with volunteers from the Parish Council and from the community – Barbara Jackson, Bernadette Inzani and Fiona Parker – using a mobile speed sign. We have been out on Toddington Road, Wingfield Road and Tebworth Road. We are limited to where we can use the sign because of Health and Safety. The idea of SpeedWatch is not to catch speeders but more to raise awareness of speed limits. Certainly the high viz jackets slow down the traffic. Please speak to Mike if you want to know more.

Paul has worked on getting the VAS repaired on the Toddington Road.

Also, we are repairing and repainting the boundary gates on the Hockliffe and Toddington Roads.

We continue to pressure Highways to repair our roads. They will be patching The Lane in July. We know some people would have liked the money used to repair The Lane go to repairing other roads. However we decided that The Lane is a priority and if money has been set aside for this road we should use it rather than lose it.

We are getting all the gulleys cleared. The gully in Parkview Lane was cleared and it has improved the flooding problem there.

Debbie has got Chalgrave a grant from Biffa of £4,000 towards improving the Great Pond in Tebworth. We will be talking to the residents near the pond but the intention is to dredge the pond and clear the surrounding area.

We now have a defibrillator. There will be a training session on how to use it which will be open to all residents.

Last year CBC brought in a new Dog Order 'it is an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to remove dog foul. This will apply across the whole of Central Bedfordshire on any land that is open air and which the public are entitled to have access, pavement or otherwise. This includes pavements, public footpaths, byways, bridle ways, woodlands, agricultural land, access land and common land'. Please can you encourage dog owners to 'Bag it and Bin it'.

Finally the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for 2014. We have some nominations which is great. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service. The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement. The Community Award is for over 18s and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors.

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30.

Cllr Phil Parry, Chairman

Councillor Mark Versallion

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.



I am honoured to have been re-elected on 7th May to continue as your representative for another four years. Indeed, I was flattered that I was unopposed and hope this was a vote of confidence in the work that I have done representing our villages these past four years.

Elections

The national results don't need repeating here but locally we have a Central Bedfordshire Council with an increased Conservative majority (53 of the 59 seats) and a similar membership in the Cabinet to the last four years, including myself as portfolio holder for education. There is still much to be discussed and decided as to the new Council's programme and policies for the next four years, in what is likely to be another term of financial pressures on CBC's £186 million budget.

M1-A5 Link Road

As part of the approval of the 7,000 homes north of Houghton Regis a £100m 'link road' is being funded, running from Thorn Turn to a new Junction 11a on the M1. You can currently see the building works clearly from the A5. I represent the community's interests and concerns as the detailed planning and house building phases are progressed and stay closely involved. Infrastructure work has begun and the road is expected to be complete by the end of next year.

Besides working on your behalf at planning committees and other meetings, I continue to work on issues brought to me at my regular surgeries or when contacted through my office. If you have any issues or concerns you can best contact me through email: mark@versallion.com, and for general information you can visit my web site at: www.markversallion.com.

In the post-election, newly-configured Executive of the Council, Mark has been appointed Executive Member for Education and Skills.

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard and a German are walking down the street together. A juggler is performing on the street but there are so many people that the four men can't see the juggler. So the juggler goes on top of a platform and asks: "Can you see me now?" The four men answer: "Yes." "Oui." "Si." "Ja."

View from the House: Andrew Selous MP



Andrew Selous is the MP for South West Bedfordshire and can be contacted on andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk or at www.andrewselous.org.uk or on 0207 2191741 or 01582 662821.

NEW APPRENTICESHIPS MEAN MORE YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE GETTING THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

Andrew has welcomed new figures showing 440 new apprenticeships were started by people in South West Bedfordshire between August 2014 and January 2015. In total 3,560 new apprenticeships have been started in South West Bedfordshire since 2010.

This means more young people getting the skills they need to get on in life and make the most of their talents – as they do locally at BE Aerospace.

Andrew also writes: “Thank you to all the residents of South West Bedfordshire who voted for me on Thursday, 7th May. I pledge to continue to work hard for all constituents irrespective of how they voted.”

Did you know?

- ◇ There are 10 kinds of people in this world, those who understand binary, and those who don't.
- ◇ DNA is the acronym for the National Dyslexia Association.
- ◇ Scientists have recently discovered the gene responsible for shyness. They would have found it earlier, but it was hiding behind two other genes.

Old News

Luton Times and Advertiser, 3rd May 1895 –

CHALGRAVE

PARISH COUNCIL. — There were three applications for the post of clerk at the meeting on Thursday, the Rev. J. W. Hodgson presiding. Mr. J. M. Tucker was eventually chosen as clerk and assistant-overseer, his salary for the joint offices being £11.

Our current Parish Clerk, Mrs Smith, would like to point out that an increase in remuneration is now long overdue.



The Great Pond of Tebworth

The pond in Tebworth is in a sorry state. About 2 years ago the Parish Council decided it should be restored to its former glory.

Plans were made for work parties and skip hire. Sadly a bit more research revealed that this was a much bigger task than originally envisaged and our idea of volunteers with buckets and shovels had to be abandoned.

A specialist pond restoration company was called in and quoted a figure many times the amount of the entire Parish Precept, so another plan bit the dust. Finally last month, after many hours of site meetings, endless form



filling, letter writing and calculations we received confirmation of a grant from Biffa. The grant will cover dredging and waste removal, which, weather permitting, will start in August. After this we can go back to our original plan of volunteers, cutting back the hedges, painting benches and pulling up weeds. Anyone interested in helping please contact me and we will let you know as soon as we have a date.

Cllr Debbie Hampson
 01525 877149, 07931 408697 or
debbie.hampson61@btinternet.com

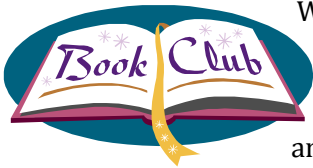


Did you hear about the wooden tractor?

It had wooden wheels, wooden engine, wooden transmission and wooden work.



Book Club



We have read two books recently, the first was **The Girl in the Photograph** by Kate Riordan, a haunting novel about two women separated by decades but entwined by fate. Alice Eveleigh arrives at Fiercombe Manor, Gloucestershire, in 1932, sent there by her mother after becoming pregnant by a married man. She soon sets out to explore the Manor and tries to discover what became of the family who used to live there. Elizabeth Stanton used to live at the Manor and was married to the baron a generation earlier. Mystery surrounds what happened to Elizabeth and no one seems to want talk about her, until Alice stumbles upon a diary and gradually pieces together the story of what happened to her.

This book was really liked by all, the descriptions of the house and surrounding area are very vivid, perhaps a bit too long but still worth the read. In the book we get to follow Alice and Elizabeth in parallel stories and if you are a fan of Kate Morton or Kate Mosse, you will enjoy this one.

The other book we read has a similar title, **The Girl on the Train**, by Paula Hawkins and is a number one bestseller. It focuses on Rachel, a miserable alcoholic who commutes into London every day, creating a fantasy world for a glamorous couple she sees each morning, who she calls Jess and Jason. Then one day Rachel sees Jess in the arms of another man and after another drinking session when she blacks out and can't remember the night before, she discovers that Jess, or Megan as Rachel now discovers she is really called, is missing without a trace. Rachel has to know what has happened to Megan and pursues the truth to the bitter end. A tense thriller, liked by most but some found it a little slow to begin with and also the main character was annoying, however, one to recommend.

Noeleen Thomson

Chocks Away!

Here's a thought, if people were taught to drive as well as they are taught to fly, there would be very few accidents and virtually no breakdowns.

It is time the driving test was bought into the 21st Century, with a little tuition my dog could pass it! A fifth of new drivers have accidents in the first 6 months! In this day and age it is not fit for purpose, and needs sorting out this week!!



JP

Only in Britain — More complaints to Councils **[Not Chalgrave Parish Council]**

Following on from the September 2014 edition, here are further extracts from letters allegedly written by council tenants:

1. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are just plain filthy.
2. The next door neighbour has got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.
3. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
4. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.
5. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces.
6. I want to complain about the farmer across the road. Every morning at 6 am his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me.
7. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.
8. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.

Ken Green

Chalgrave Community SpeedWatch – May 2015 update

Since the last update we have been out on four more occasions and now have a healthy volunteers list, meaning that for the first time since I kicked this off I didn't need to attend a session! This is extremely gratifying and my thanks go to all of the new volunteers. I am in the process of arranging a training session by the police at the Memorial Hall – so if anyone else is interested in joining now would be an excellent time to step forward.

It is significant that the number of letters being issued gets lower each month. I think that people passing through the village are becoming accustomed to seeing the yellow jackets and slowing down accordingly. Of course there are always the exceptions – and some of these kind folk have been teaching us to count using their fingers! On a more pleasant note at the most recent session three different individuals pulled over and congratulated us on our efforts – and we have been supplied with cups of tea and coffee on many occasions which is mostly gratefully received.

Finally, it was very pleasing to hear reports of the police speed enforcement unit being present on Toddington Road a week or two back, illustrating their support for our activities.

As always if you have any concerns or points you wish to raise with me regarding SpeedWatch then please feel free to drop me an email or call.

Cllr Mike Wells
01525 877098, mikewells@clara.co.uk



FOLK NIGHTS AT THE QUEEN'S HEAD

Once every four Wednesdays (ie, every 28 days) is the "Joe's Session" Folk Night at the Queen's Head. This is an ongoing tribute in memory of Joe Inzani.

At the last session, on 6th May, the pub was packed with fifteen musicians and a large audience.

It's always a good night. There is a core group of about eight regulars led by Richard Chatterley but then many different musicians turn up for each event.

The next sessions are: — 3rd June, 1st July, 29th July, 26th August.

Colin serves free food at around 10 pm and often gives us a song. I have put a compilation of some video clips on the website, www.chalgrave.org.

Direct link, www.chalgravepc.org.uk/events/past-events/folk-night/.

Ken Green

Tickets please!

For those of you who were there, which was far more than normal, I am sure you will agree that the recent Parish Assembly was a complete success. Even our local MP turned up....it was just before the Election. And it was all ably run by the Chairman of the Parish Council, whose name escapes me....oh yes, Mr Phil Parry!

After there had been some considerable discussion about the disgrace that is the local bus service... ie, there really isn't one!, we had the most amusing moment when a late comer turned up, namely our venerable Landlord of the Queen's Head, Mr Colin Edwynn. He apologised for being late and then announced, with true comic timing, that he "had been waiting for a bus"! How could he have possibly known that this issue had just been discussed? **Genius.**



JP



Besides compiling the questions, Paul was also called upon to keep score, a process of such complexity that no one else could possibly have mastered his



method without a degree in mathematics and several years of post-graduate training. Even the meticulous drawing out of the massive scoreboard had needed the help of an assistant and detailed knowledge of geometrical techniques that had remained

hidden since their discovery by Euclid in 300 BC. (The *News* can reveal that this involved the use of a special tool, namely a sheet of carefully ripped cardboard with a series of marks precisely inscribed on it at irregular intervals.)



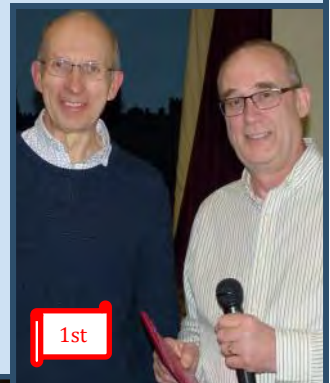
As the evening progressed, Su Parker and Barbara Jackson were run off their feet in the kitchen, supplying the contenders with the drinks they needed to sustain them throughout the gruelling contest, not to



mention organising and distributing seventy-odd fish and chip suppers.

As would be expected, the battle to win the Quiz was keenly fought by all present. After enduring eight rounds of devilishly difficult questions,

only one point separated the two teams vying for first place—"We know nuffing" and "Densa". Everything rested on the results



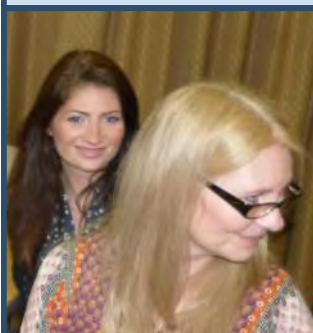


from the last round, the fiendishly named Wipe-Out round, where a single wrong answer meant zero marks for that round. A silence fell across the Hall

as John read out the scores—a silence broken by gasps of astonishment as it was revealed that “Densa” had nul points! But had “We know nuffing” done any better? With the atmosphere in the Hall now tense, John paused theatrically for several seconds before declaring that —yes!—they’d scored an astonishing 14 points, putting them in first place!



Nonetheless, there were some red faces on that team because it contained two members of the *Chalgrave News* committee, including the editor, who, it must be stressed, had personally done



his best throughout the evening to hinder the winning efforts of his team mates. Out of embarrassment, “We know nuffing” donated their winnings back to the *News* to support its beleaguered finances. The second prize, of two bottles of Prosecco,





was deservedly won by “Sensations” who had scored well on the wipe-out round, overtaking “Densa” who ended up fourth. “Let’s get quizzical” took third place.

As in past years, a raffle was held during the evening, with some excellent prizes to be won and the *News* team thanks all those who kindly donated these prizes — (in no particular order) Ken and Lyn Green, Noeleen



and Keith Thomson, Peter and Anne Warburton, Debbie Kingham, Bob Williamson (from Toddington Mowers), Chris and Caroline Ross (from The Plough Inn), Vishal (from Delicious Shakes Milkshake Bar), Toddy’s Wine, Gary (from Nisa) and McDonalds in Hockliffe.

It must be said that the *News* committee reacted with bewilderment when John Parker, at some point during the evening, announced that this would be the last Quiz. This was, of course, complete and utter nonsense and we can only assume that John had become “confused” when one of the committee members, in a state of near total exasperation, had muttered to John that this would be the last Quiz he’d be doing. *So let it be made clear that there will be another Quiz next year*— just as long as we can find a Quiz Master who understands that this is intended to be a dignified and erudite event, and not an occasion for mirth, jollity and general merry making.

RP

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My Dad used to say “always fight fire with fire”, which is probably why he got thrown out of the fire brigade.

Harry Hill

Who discovered we could get milk from cows, and what did he think he was doing at the time?

Billy Connolly

Do you know how many middle-aged men go out for a pint of milk and never come home? Not enough.

Jenny Eclair

You know you’re getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you’re down there.

George Burns

I needed a password eight characters long so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Nick Helm

Unintended Consequences

Ok. I'll come clean: I'm an economist. No-one else uses expressions such as "unintended consequences" and "externalities". I would like to invite you into my world, for a brief instance. It is said of Christopher Columbus that he set off not knowing where he was going; when he arrived there he didn't know where he was; and when he returned he didn't know where he'd been. Winston Churchill added that he did it all at the taxpayer's expense. Well, Columbus would have been right at home as an economist, because frequently we haven't much idea of where our economy has been, is now or is heading, either. My experience of nearly 40 years of economic forecasting teaches me to expect the unexpected. Even when we make an accurate forecast, it is generally by mistake. However, that should bring with it a great respect for the ability of the economy, as a complex organism, to rebalance itself. Unfortunately, the world seems to be full of people – politicians, commentators, pundits, and of course economists – who believe that they can intervene to make everything better. So here is a light-hearted example, a cautionary tale, to illustrate our failure or inability to consider the bigger picture when we have an urge to fix something.

This is a true story, set in a Middle Eastern country. The lady of the house hates cockroaches and is terrified of them. Unfortunately, cockroaches thrive in hot climates and it was not unusual for her to encounter one in her home, in the upstairs bathroom as it happens. Plucking up great courage, she removed her shoes and used them like gloves to capture the roach and drop it into the toilet pan. Pumped with adrenalin, she proceeded to bombard the critter with every chemical and spray she could lay her hands on. Satisfied of its demise, she flushed the toilet and went downstairs, not realising that an invisible film of combustible material remained on the surface of the water. Shortly afterwards, her husband returned home, exhausted at the end of a day's work and decamped to the small room where he lit up a cigarette. His habit was to extinguish this in the toilet bowl. To his enormous surprise there was an explosion that flash-fried his nether regions. Howling in agony, he summoned his wife to call for medical attention. In the fullness of time, two paramedics arrived at the house with a stretcher and attended to the patient. In a state of hysteria, the wife proceeded to relate the entire sequence of events to the medics as they loaded the man ever so carefully face down on the stretcher. By the time they are halfway down the stairs they are shaking with laughter and tipped the man out, fracturing several of his ribs.



Peter Warburton

Summer Garden Competition

Once again the *News* is running its **Summer Garden Competition**!! So sharpen your topiary scissors, dig out your daisy grubbers, sharpen your dibbers, refill your soil analysis kits, and get gardening! The *News* team will be going around photographing your front gardens, tubs, hanging baskets, and indeed anything that is within sight of our telescopic lenses and is remotely horticultural.

The winners will be announced in the September edition of the *News*.

If you would like to submit your own photographs, then please send them to the usual address, thechalgravenews@live.co.uk.



Judging from this preliminary sortie of Wingfield, standards are expected to be exceptionally high this year.

Old News

Luton Times and Advertiser, 27th October 1907 –

TEBWORTH

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT. — A few years ago the Toddington Parish Council invited the neighbouring parishes to contribute towards the expenses of the Toddington Fire Brigade. Tebworth was one of the parishes that refused, and now Tebworth has had a severe and unfortunate lesson. On Monday evening some stacks belonging to Mr. Bradshaw, of Tebworth, from some cause or other, caught fire, and a message was sent to Toddington for aid, but in view of the resolution passed by the Parish Council, that the Fire Brigade should not render aid in those parishes that had not subscribed towards the expenses, the men were “unable” to go, and the stacks were left to burn. Eventually the Houghton Regis Brigade turned up, but it was then too late to save the burning stacks. It seemed a thousand pities that the exercise of a little common-sense and tact could not have obviated such a calamitous state of affairs. Presumably the entire village of Tebworth might have been razed to the ground, and the Toddington men still have ignored the cry for aid. Here surely was a case in which the “golden rule” could have been practically exemplified, redounding to the honour of those who carried it out.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly took place on Tuesday, 28th April in the Chalgrave Memorial Hall, and it was gratifying to see that far more people came along to participate than has been the case in recent years. Our

local politicians and organisations were well represented and the evening provided an opportunity

for everyone to discover what's been happening in Chalgrave over the past year, and what's planned for the next.

Councillor Phil Parry, Chairman of our Parish Council, presided over the session and got the evening underway with a report from the Council, a summary of which can be read on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of the *News*. This was followed by an update from our local MP, Andrew Selous, who had taken a break from pre-election campaigning to be present at the gathering. He spoke about a number of issues of concern to us all, including the practice of Bedfordshire police to primarily base officers in stations in Bedford and Luton, a policy he fundamentally disagrees with.

Next to be heard was a representative from the Community Heartbeat Trust, a national charity involved with the provision of defibrillators, such as the one recently installed outside the Hall. Whilst our defibrillator can be operated by anyone, without any training whatsoever, nevertheless a meeting is to be held in the near future to give people the confidence they may need to use the equipment should





an emergency arise. A date for this will be announced.

Councillor Mark Versallion, our Ward Councillor, then addressed the assembly, touching on a number of sensitive issues, such as traveller sites and the loss of the green belt. However, it was the subject of the



changes to the bus services through Tebworth and Wingfield that led to the most passionate concerns being raised from the floor, with people pointing out that the new arrangements had left



some villagers trapped in their homes. Clearly, some locals are experiencing serious difficulties and promises were made to see what could be done to alleviate matters. It was also pointed out that Toddington Area Helping Hands (TAHH, tel 07882 988270), which covers Tebworth and Wingfield, may be able to assist by providing lifts to people who are stuck, although there was uncertainty about charges for this service. *(Sue Cullen, the Secretary of TAHH, has since explained to the News that they do not charge for lifts within Toddington and the direct surrounding area, but donations are welcome if people wish to give. For a return trip to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital a £5 charge is made, while for longer journeys the charge would be discussed at the time of request and is about 40p per mile.)*



The formal part of the evening then concluded with short updates from the representatives of local bodies and organisations, namely the Sports Club, the Plough, the Queen's Head, the Church, the Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee, the Senior Citizens Committee, the Book Club, the WI, and, of course, the *Chalgrave News*.

Our dedicated Parish Clerk, Lesley Smith, had spent all evening scribbling furiously, apparently recording verbatim every word uttered during the entire proceedings. Consequently, she must have been overcome with relief when the official business ended, and the meeting broke up to give the audience the opportunity to mingle with the speakers and discuss anything they wished, off the record. This informal chitchat was accompanied by a generous selection of complimentary refreshments in the form of delicious sandwiches and cakes, washed down with a choice of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

All-in-all, this was an excellent and rewarding evening! Anyone who couldn't make it this time is encouraged to attend next year's assembly.

RP

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 our March meeting, Julie Burgess (www.jdbhealthandhappiness.co.uk/) talked to us about sound therapy and gave a sound bath demonstration on her very impressive brass gong. This is a way of healing, bathing in primordial sound waves! It is capable of massaging body and mind, it is great for stress reduction, it can stimulate the glandular system and break down emotional blockages! Some of us found this incredibly soothing and relaxing – others found it quite stressful – though the lack of alcoholic beverages may have also contributed to this!

In April Kevan Palmer from Woodland Ways (www.woodland-ways.co.uk/) gave a fabulous talk about Bushcraft, survival in extreme environments and the work they do with the Maasai

warriors in Kenya. We got some insider gossip about Bear Grylls and I got to ask the question I never thought I would ask at a WI meeting “Is it ever

acceptable to drink your own urine?” If you want to know the answer then you need to join the WI!

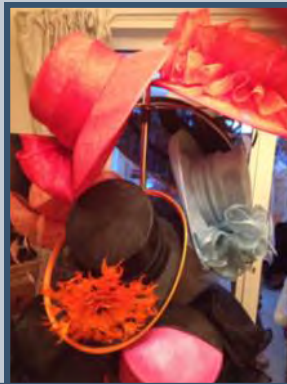
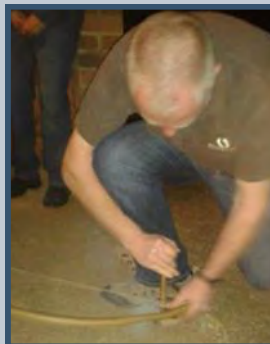
At our May meeting we had a wonderful talk and cooking demonstration from Sian Fox – who I can only describe as being a mix of

Delia Smith and Victoria Wood. She told us about

her 23 year career in “domestic science” with Sainsbury’s which included working with Jamie

Oliver and the X-Factor finalists! All entraining in their own right – but she also demonstrated three great recipes – and we had the chance to sample her delicious pudding.

In the meantime we are all preparing for our trip to Ladies Day at Ascot on 18th June. This has involved an evening trying on dresses at So You Boutique in Leighton Buzzard – a hidden gem (First Floor, The Green House, 6 Market Square)





– and a further evening trying on hats brought over from Bedfordshire's Premier Hat Hire Company, Perfect Hat Perfect Day

(www.perfecthatperfectday.co.uk/).

Both involved lots of hilarity and bubbles as anyone who knows us might imagine.

Finally, did you know that the WI has been inspiring women for 100 years? You will find a selection of stories by some of our inspiring members about

what the WI has meant to them in their lives at www.thewi.org.uk/centenary/members-stories.

Feel free to join us at a meeting if you want to decide if the Chalgrave WI is for you – just pay a £3 guest fee. Or contact me for a chat. More information can be found on our Facebook page (Chalgrave WI), or follow us on twitter @chalgrave_wi.

Debbie Parry, President – Chalgrave WI

Email – debbie.parry@accenture.com

Mobile – 07770 543797



CHALGRAVE PARISH WEBSITE

Community parish website for Tebworth, Wingfield, and Chalgrave

www.chalgrave.org



The new parish website has been very well received since it was launched earlier this year – if you have not paid us a visit yet, you are missing out! As well as regular updates, news, and information on what's happening in and around the parish, you can also keep up to date on the work of the parish council. Recently added content includes lots of interesting old photographs of people and places in Chalgrave, as well as video recordings of past performances of the Old Time Music Hall.

We are still looking for a copy of the illusive issue No. 7 of the Chalgrave News to complete our back catalogue. If you have a copy tucked away that we could borrow, please get in touch.

Chalgrave Parish can now also be found on Facebook and Twitter (search for 'chalgrave parish') with all new articles now posted to both social media as well as the website. We are keen to get community involvement, so feel free to post comments, ask questions, or contribute to the site.

Contact us by visiting the website at www.chalgrave.org or email: webmaster@chalgrave.org



Ken Green ~ Simon Gatward ~ Mike Wells



Not on Our Watch!

All Saints Chalgrave is a classic medieval church first consecrated in 1219 and situated just over a mile from our villages of Tebworth and Wingfield.

Some of you – like me – are regular or occasional churchgoers and know how much it costs to keep this beautiful building in good repair. The congregation is relatively small and we struggle to raise the funds to keep it going. Of course if you are not a

churchgoer then you may consider this situation none of your concern. After all if you don't use it and see no connection between it and yourself then I can understand why you may not see this as your issue. *But let me put forward an alternative view.*

We all live in the Parish of Chalgrave. Generations of people in this Parish worshipped in this church, were baptised in it, married in it and are buried in it's churchyard. 1219 is 40 generations ago – that's 40 generations of people in this Parish, each of whom helped maintain this building to pass it on to the next. For many people nowadays there are three times when this building becomes relevant – baptisms, marriages and death. The biggest events in our life when we may choose to turn to the Church, our Church.

If we lose this building then we will not be able to pass it on to future generations. They will simply lose that choice for those major events, or to help them in their daily lives and nearly 800 years of keeping this building alive will sadly come to an end.

So now it's our generation, our watch, our turn. Even if you don't use All Saints I hope you will still want to pass it on to the future as a living local Parish Church. And that will take money. A standing order of £20 per month will – let's face it – be hardly noticeable to many of us. It's less than a takeaway. But if enough people contribute it could make all the difference. In 4 years' time All Saints will be 800 years old – let's make sure that on Our Watch we make that date!

So why not get on to your internet banking right now and help make this happen. The details are below, or alternatively you can call the Treasurer, Steve Calder, on 07734 977153 or me, Colin McCausland, on 07894 172861/01525 872059:

Sort Code: 20-03-18

Account Number: 90227706

Colin McCausland



Our regular reader Mr Greig, now back in Fife, wrote in to tell the *News* that his next door neighbour repeatedly banged on his front door at 2.30 am the other morning. Can you believe that? – 2.30 am!! Luckily Mr Greig hadn't gone to bed and was still up playing his bagpipes.



Solar Eclipse

The presence of light cloud cover on 20th March didn't stop locals, including these workers from *Signs of the Times*, from stepping outside to catch a glimpse of a stunning partial solar eclipse. With the sun being only about 85% obscured by the moon, it wasn't quite as spectacular as a full eclipse but you'll need to wait until 23rd September 2090 to see one of those from round these parts—you can be assured, of course, that the *News* will be reporting that event when it occurs but conceivably with a different team in place.

RP (photos by Suzan Parker)

Here it
is!



Barbara Jackson's 50th Birthday Celebrations

Her youthful appearance belies the fact that Barbara Jackson reached the golden age of 50 in April. As well as a birthday treat of a holiday in Paris, Barbara also enjoyed a sumptuous dinner out with friends. Barbara is living proof, if proof were needed, of the benefits to be gained from regular exercise! A lesson for us all.

RP (photo by Suzan Parker)



Defibrillator

Sharp-eyed locals will have noticed that a yellow cabinet has been fixed to the outside wall of the Memorial Hall. Inside the box is an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** which can save someone's life in the event of a cardiac arrest.

The advice from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) is that if you come across someone who is not breathing, or is breathing erratically, the most important thing is to call 999 (ask for the ambulance service) and then start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). If you're on your own, don't interrupt CPR to go and get the AED. When you can, send someone else to get the AED, using the access code provided by the ambulance service to open the cabinet.

The BHF says that an AED is simple and safe to use—the machine gives clear spoken instructions and you don't need training. Once in position, the defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm and it won't deliver a shock unless one is needed.

Whilst using an AED is as fool proof as possible, nonetheless a training session is to be arranged to inspire confidence and you are encouraged to attend.

RP



West Charity Deadline

Please remember to complete and submit your applications by 30th June.

Receipts are required to support all applications – no receipt usually means no grant!

Full details and application forms can be found at www.chalgrave.org.

Please send your completed forms to the Clerk, Mrs Lesley Smith, 4 Home Farm, Tebworth, LU7 9QD (tel: 01525 874716), from whom copies of the form are also available.

Chalgrave News

Advertising and Useful Contacts

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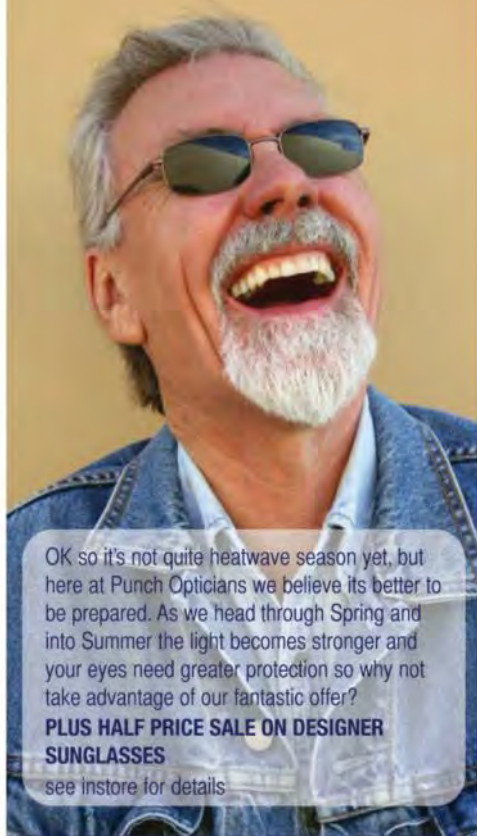
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MONDAY TO FRIDAY			
9am – 6pm	£6 per hour	£12 per hour	£15 per hour
6pm – 11pm*	£6 per hour	£15 per hour	£20 per hour
FRIDAY			
6pm – 12 midnight*	£100	£200	£225
SATURDAY			
9am – 6pm	£7 per hour	£17 per hour	£20 per hour
6pm – 12 midnight*	£100	£225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

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

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Useful Contacts

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Secretary to Andrew Selous	Sue Howats	howats@parliament.uk	01582 662821
Ward Councillor	Mark Versallion	mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	0300 3008555
Chairman of Parish Council	Phil Parry		07831 605600
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Senior Citizens Committee	Roger Masters		01525 873039
West Charity	Lesley Smith	www.chalgrave.org	01525 874716
Chalgrave Sports/Cricket Club	Mike Wells		01525 877098
Book Club	Noeleen Thomson		01525 872168
Beavers/Cubs/Scouts	David Yirrell		01525 875410
Rainbows/Brownies/Guides	Janet Hornsby		01525 875203
Toddington Medical Centre		www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk	01525 872222
Toddington Library			01525 873626
Electricity Board (Emergency)			0800 7838838
Water Board (Emergency)			0845 7145145
Head: St Georges Lower School	Jane Spencer		01525 872360
Head: Parkfields Middle School	David Brandon Bravo		01525 872555
Head: Harlington Upper School	Shawn Fell		01525 755100
Toddington Childcare		Playgroup/am & pm school clubs	01525 875400
Toddington Area Helping Hands		voluntaryworks.org/organisation/toddington-area-helping-hands	07882 988270

Rogation Day Walk, Sunday, 10th May

At just after 10 am on a cloudy, but dry, Sunday morning, ten intrepid explorers and two dogs, ably led by Ken Green, set out to walk the Chalgrave Parish boundary. This is the one day of the year when we do not have to keep to footpaths and try to follow the parish boundary as closely as possible. In order to do this, we had to cross streams, scramble down and up steep and slippery banks, climb over a barbed wire fence (with the aid of a specially constructed step ladder that Ken

had previously left in place) and scrabble through prickly and thick hedges. We also have permission to walk through areas marked as "strictly private" where, on one occasion a few years ago, we were chased by a young man on a tractor wanting to know what we were doing there! This year, there were no mishaps despite a branch breaking under one explorer's foot as she tried to cross a stream. Nobody fell in, nobody got stuck climbing over the barbed wire fence and nobody got





entangled as we scrambled through the hedge. The greatest risk we had was of tripping over a dog or being showered with muddy water when she shook herself after crossing the streams.



By about 11.30 am, the sun was out and coats and jumpers were being removed. Ken was stopping regularly to give us useful information about when we weren't following footpaths and where we should go if we wanted to walk in that area at other times of the year.

This year, our route had to be changed slightly. Our lunchtime stop has usually been at The Fancott Arms, but, because of their unfortunate fire earlier this year, we walked on to The Star at Chalton. This made a change and we saw some interesting properties that you would not have known existed from just driving through the village, some very large and another a derelict thatched cottage. It was also pointed out to us where there is a brothel!

We arrived at The Star at about 1.15 pm and were all ready for a drink and a rest. Some of us had already decided that we would leave the walk there and had arranged to be picked up and taken home whilst another



person who had sustained an injury jumping across a stream also decided it would be better to stop. It was therefore a rather depleted group who continued in the afternoon and completed the walk. In fact, there were only four people and the two dogs! Which only goes to show that an old dog can walk further than most of us. As I was one of those weaklings to leave at lunchtime, I regret I cannot give an account of the afternoon's adventures!

Fiona Parker

Fusilier George Mawson Holmes

As I begin the second episode of my father's, George Holmes's, story it is the 70th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, V.E. Day, but I find myself feeling very sad. Of course it is, and it was, cause for celebration but I can't help thinking of my mother and all the other wives, mothers, young and old, and fathers whose husbands and sons would not be returning home – and we mustn't forget all the men still fighting in the far east including Uncle Jack Cooper – their war was not over.



So, to continue my journey in the footsteps of my father

With the death of my mother in May 2000, I started to feel free to talk more openly and ask more questions of my maternal relatives about my father. In actual fact it didn't leave me very free at all because I found myself sensitive to my stepfather's feelings.

I had always believed that my father came from Durham itself but when my cousin Diane was trying to trace my family for me she wasn't getting very far until her mother, Auntie Gwen, informed her that he was from Easington Colliery, County Durham.

Diane posted a message on the internet in the hope that a relative or friend of my father or grandfather would see it and get in touch – that was in 2002 but no one made contact. It then suddenly dawned upon her that the simplest and most effective way to make contact was via the telephone. There was a strong possibility that Edward Holmes, the son of my father's uncle, could still be living in Dunstable – this was my last chance and I needed to move fast. I had already lost the chance with Auntie Jessie who had died January 1999 and Uncle Howard had died in his late fifties.

In the local telephone directory I found six entries with the name Holmes and two with the initial 'E' and one of them living in Dunstable. I excitedly wrote down the addresses and telephone numbers of all six and wrote to them. The letters started "Dear possible relative – the story – then ending with 'if you fit into this story please contact me otherwise kindly disregard this letter and I am sorry to have troubled you'". I posted them on the Sunday and by Monday lunchtime I had received the one and only answer I needed. Yes, it was none other than Edward Holmes, or Ted as he preferred to be known. I couldn't believe it – I had actually made contact with the other half of my family. In the following two weeks we talked a lot on the phone and Ted filled in the huge gaps.

Over the following months I began to learn about my Easington family – the family I should have grown up with (but for that maniac, Hitler!). I would listen intently and revel in anything Ted could tell me. I could hardly believe that my grandfather would often be staying in Dunstable with Ted and his family and yet couldn't see his granddaughter. I grew up oblivious to this.



George Holmes at Ivy Farm



Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

Shortly after Ted and I got in contact with each other he arranged for us to meet up with his sister, Patricia, and her husband, David, who live in Wales. It was a wonderful reunion and so exciting to actually talk with and be in the company of somebody who can remember as a three year old sitting on my father's lap.

I had a wonderful surprise on my 59th birthday in March 2003 – my children, James and Krista, had arranged a visit to my father's (their grandfather's) grave in Italy for September of that

year. It was a complete and wonderful surprise, totally unexpected. James, in particular, was beginning to realise how important my father was to me. On September 19th we flew to Rome, picked up a booked hire car and drove across Italy to Pescara then straight down the Adriatic coast towards Vasto. The turning to the Sangro River War Cemetery was easy to find. I had taken the details off the internet three years earlier and had travelled with my finger along the route on the road map many times and knew it off by heart. It was a steep, single, concrete track to begin with levelling out onto a plateau and running between fields of vegetables, vineyards of ripe purple grapes and olive groves until at the end we came upon the beautiful semi circle of the grand entrance to the cemetery itself.

I had seen photographs in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Brochure so I had an idea of what I was about to see but nothing could have prepared me for that first glimpse through the archway looking down the steps onto that great semicircle of 2,617 graves and the cremation memorial of the 517 Indian soldiers who had fought alongside my father at that terrible time. We found my father's grave quite easily thanks again to cousin Diane who had printed off a cemetery plan from the internet and we already had the grave reference – XIV.C.4. My feelings were so mixed. Firstly great sadness, then inner peace that I was as close to my father as I could be in this life. Next came utter shame that I had left it so long and – yes – some anger that his memory had not been kept alive and that none of those closest to me had talked about him to me. Then my thoughts turned to the other 3,133 young men lying there in that cemetery alone and the utter sadness of their parents, wives and even children. Despite itself the cemetery is a beautiful and peaceful place with a panoramic view over vineyards and onto the blue Adriatic sea. We returned the following day for a few hours and on this occasion



Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy

signed the visitor's book which is found in a copper box sunk into a marble table. Every soldier's name is entered in this book alongside the names of their parents and wives (if applicable). So alongside my father's name it reads, "Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Winston Holmes – Husband of Joan Holmes of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire". That was my first visit and I knew then that I would go back and, thanks to James and Krista, it would be the start of my emotional journey in the last footsteps of my father.

In February 2004 Ted took me to Easington Colliery where, strangely enough, I felt instantly at home although it was the first time I had ever been except as baby, I have been told. We found the location of 10 Seventh Street South where my father had been born on the 17th September 1914, now just a patch of grass. We found my grandfather's grave and noted that he had died on the 4th December 1979. James was 2 years and 2 months old at the time. He could have known his great grandson, his only son's grandson. That day we called on Kenny and Mary Harriman. Ted hadn't seen them for 25 years so it was rather a surprise for Mary when she opened the door to Ted. I waited in the car until beckoned forth. They made me so welcome making me feel so much part of the family. Like Ted, Kenny is another much younger cousin of my father, his mother and my grandfather being brother and sister. Kenny brought out all the old photos and with great relish explained who was who.

We returned in August the same year, this time as well as seeing Kenny and Mary again we called on another cousin of my father, Lucy Dinning and her husband Jim. Their garden looks onto the garden where my grandfather used to live. They pointed out the tree he had planted and the honeysuckle. We then called on Harriet – and there lies another sad grandfather story. It was rather a frosty reception I received from Harriet which I now fully understand. It turns out that she is my grandfather's secret daughter although she didn't know until she was 25 years old. I don't know why because she looks strikingly like my grandfather. It seems that after my grandmother died and their daughter and granddad had to give up the colliery house to allow a larger family to move in, he lodged with the family next door, Harriet's mum and 'dad' who had two or three children. Somewhere along the line granddad must have had a little affair with his landlady resulting in Harriet. Credit must be given to the man Harriet thought was her father because he brought her up as his own with granddad still living with them. So not only does my grandfather lose his young wife and 11 year old daughter to tuberculosis but some years later his only son was killed in the war after which he was denied access to his granddaughter. As if that wasn't enough he was never able to openly recognise Harriet as his daughter. After the pit disaster of 1951 [when an explosion resulted in the deaths of 83 men], in which Harriet's 'father' had been killed, granddad married her mother with Harriet still not knowing that he was her father.

Harriet was 10 years old when my father was killed and remembers clearly the grief of my grandfather and how he shut himself away in his bedroom for four days. This is why she was so frosty with me when we first met because she knew how he had yearned for me to get in touch and had died thinking I didn't care. It makes me so sad. I am pleased to say that after that initial meeting she became very fond of me and I her. She had looked after my granddad well and the bed I slept in when I went to stay every Remembrance weekend thereafter was the same bed he slept in after he became ill and moved in with her and the family. There is a happy note to this and an amazing coincidence. Harriet has



Easington Colliery War Memorial

two sons, Charles and William, who, of course are my grandfather's grandsons and in turn my cousins. The amazing coincidence is that Charles' wife's uncle just happens to be in the same cemetery and not only that we had quite separately booked to go out to Italy on the same flight a few years ago, they for the first time and me for the third time with my daughter. We actually met for the first time at Stansted airport but the biggest surprise of all was that when we arrived at the cemetery together we discovered that Denise's uncle

was just about 2 metres diagonally in front of my father. We were staggered that out of all those soldiers we should find them so close to each other. Different regiments – my father killed at San Vito on the 2nd December 1943 and Denise's uncle Jim killed on the 6th January 1944 in or around Villa Grande, a few miles further north.

In November 2005 an article was published in the

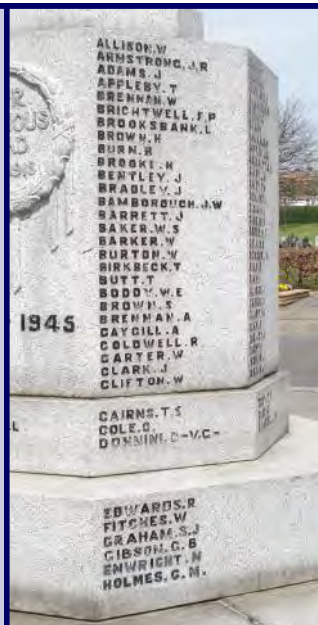


George Holmes with three Harriman cousins, Lucy, Philip (L) and Tommy (R)

Sunderland Echo which included amongst others a photo that Kenny Harriman had given me of my father seated with three young children, Kenny's younger brothers and his sister. Imagine my surprise and delight when I took a call from a man who told me that he was Tommy and he was the one on the left of my father. I think it was a delightful surprise also for Tommy to see his photo in the newspaper. So, another relative found and the beginning of another good relationship.

Although my father's name is on the Memorial Plaque on the wall of the village hall in Tebworth I did feel it should also be on the splendid War Memorial in the cemetery at Easington Colliery. Many years ago Kenny had tried to have the name added but was told that it wasn't possible because his name was already on one and he accepted it of course. However I thought it was worth another try and felt that his name should be with all the other lads he had grown up with.

Anyway after an enquiry with the British Legion Headquarters in London who put me onto Friends of the War Memorials, also in London, I was assured that it was



Easington Colliery War Memorial, bearing George's name

possible and had been done before. By the 10th November 2004, in time for Remembrance Sunday, G. M. HOLMES was added to the War Memorial in Easington Colliery alongside the rest of the fallen young men of the parish and not far from the grave of his father where he rightly belongs.

Remembrance Sunday 2004 was a very emotional time. Cousin Diane had very kindly offered to accompany me, driving me up in her car. To march in procession behind the band down Seaside Lane, past my father's old school on that day is difficult to describe but I have done this every year since.

After that first visit to the Sangro River War Cemetery I resolved that it would be the first of many and exactly a year later I was there again. This time I wanted to find a small hotel or B&B close to the cemetery so that I could walk to it every day. It had been such a fleeting visit the first time and we had stayed in a hotel in Pescara which was a fifty minute drive away. I started to search online for places in Torino di Sangro which I wrongly imagined would be nearby. However, what I hadn't realised was that Torino was the name given to all the surrounding countryside and not just to the small town which was about 6 miles away in any case. I kept finding places and losing them but didn't know how near to the cemetery they were anyway. But one B&B kept popping up – every time I started looking it was there. Eventually I decided that something was trying to tell me something and emailed to find out the price. The reply was hilarious, "In reply to your demand the cost is 25 euros per person per night including an abundant breakfast and bicycle"! Hm? Interesting! It certainly made me decide that I really wanted to stay at this place and a further 'demand' assured me that the cemetery was only 3 km from the house. A doddle – I walked more than that every morning (and still do) with my friend who was going to go with me. So I booked a week at this rather beautiful looking B&B called Dimora dei Priori that promised an abundant breakfast with bicycle and only 3 km from the cemetery. The owner of Dimora, Eleonora Priori Colacioppo, promised that we would be met at Pescara airport but on arrival we waited in vain as, being on the last flight of the day, the airport started to empty out and staff went home. We even started to think that we had been 'ripped off' as I had already paid by bank transfer. However eventually a tall handsome young man came along and enquired if I was Mrs. Morrison – Oh to be 40 years younger I thought! His equally gorgeous girlfriend was further away arguing on her mobile phone. I found out later that she was being ticked off by her mother for being late to pick us up. I don't know how we did it but somehow with Marco's few words in English and my very few Italian words I managed to convey to them the reason why I was in Italy. To my amazement it turned out that they were both very interested in the war and had done a tremendous amount of research into the war in the area and so from there began my enduring association with the family without whose help I never would have found out so much.

It has been such a privilege to write about my father in the *Chalgrave News* and I am truly grateful. In the next issue and next episode it will be mainly his and my time in Italy. I am off to Italy again on the 2nd June with the hope of finding out even more.

Gillian

Photos of the Easington Colliery War Memorial are published with the kind permission of Dorothy Hall of the North East War Memorials Project (www.newmp.org.uk/).

13 Shades of Beige (Chalgrave Style)

1. Staring at her naked body, I asked what she wanted. She told me to go for something between a smack and a stroke. So I went for a smoke.
2. "How do you feel about using toys in the bedroom?" she asked. "Fine," I said, "but I can't see how we're going to fit a Scalextric in here."
3. Her body tensed and quivered as she felt wave after wave flow through it. I probably should've told her about the new electric fence.
4. As I lay there on the floor, my body covered in treacle and whipped cream, I heard those inevitable words . . . "Clean up in aisle 3."
5. "Are you ready to be tortured in a way only a woman can torture a man?" she asked. I nodded nervously. "OK," she said, and ate half my chips.
6. Frantically I tore off her dress, bra and knickers. My heart was racing but I just managed to close the wardrobe door before she got home.
7. She leant over the kitchen table. "Smack that bottom," she squealed, "Smack it hard!" "I am," I said, "but the ketchup just won't come out."
8. She wanted to try phone sex so I pretended to be an IT support guy. It turned her on. Then it turned her off. Then it turned her on again.
9. "I'm your slave," she said breathlessly, "Make me feel completely helpless and worthless." So I locked her in the shed and went to the pub.
10. Her body trembled and shook. "I can't wait any longer, do it now!" she cried. "OK," I said, and got the winter duvet from the airing cupboard.
11. "Harder!" she cried, gripping the workbench even tighter, "I want it Harder!" "All right," I said, "what's the gross national product of Nicaragua?"
12. "Hurt me!" she cried, pressing her body up against the shed wall. "All right," I said, "you're a useless cook and your sister is great in bed."
13. "I want it now against this wall!" she ordered, "and keep it up as long as possible." "For goodness sake stop worrying, I know how to put up a shelf."



Mick McDonagh

Adapted from "Fifty Sheds of Grey" by CT Grey

A computer programmer's wife tells him: "Run to the shop and pick up a loaf of bread. If they have eggs, get a dozen." The programmer comes home with 12 loaves of bread. "Why did you buy 12 loaves of bread!?" his wife screamed. "Because they had eggs!" he replied.

—ooOOoo—

A Roman walks into a bar, holds up two fingers, and says: "Five beers, please."

Memories of Michael

I was very saddened to read in the March issue about the death of Michael Kingham, and as a result I felt that I would like to share my memories of him.



I arrived in Wingfield exactly 22 years ago in May 1993 with my then husband, Andrew, two tiny sons, two cats and two large greyhounds. I was born in North London and had never lived anywhere else, so was understandably slightly nervous about this fairly major lifestyle change – was I doing the right thing, was I completely crazy? Well, anyone who knows me will probably concur with the latter but I have never for an instant regretted my decision. Coincidentally my new home had also been the home of Michael's mother when she was young, and one of my earliest memories of life in Wingfield, which immediately made me feel completely at home, was the walk down the road to collect eggs laid by Michael's chickens. Before my time, Michael would put the eggs out at the roadside with an honesty box, but following a couple of disappointing experiences when first the money was stolen and then both the money and the eggs, Michael had no option but to place them under lock and key in the shed, and a £1 deposit secured us villagers our own personal key. The walk down the road to collect the eggs was a much loved outing for all the family, often with the greyhounds in tow as well; as the boys grew older they were joined first by a baby sister and eventually a baby brother and would set off down the road on their scooters or their bikes. There would usually be chicks as well as hens for them to see, and then there was the fun of choosing the eggs: for the princely sum of £1 you could buy a dozen eggs, the size of which made the supermarket's extra-large offerings look like quails' eggs! The children would select the biggest ones and try to guess how many double yolkers we would get out of the batch, which could barely be fitted into the egg box! Any friends who visited from London or elsewhere would be treated to this outing too.

An integral part of all these happy times was of course Michael. He was a regular and familiar sight, trundling his wheelbarrow backwards and forwards down the road. We never once saw him without a friendly smile on his face, always with a kind word to say to the children. That is how I will forever picture him in my mind's eye and I am so grateful to him for giving us such cherished memories and making us feel so welcome on our arrival in the village. He was a fundamental member of our village community, sorely missed by everyone, and my heart goes out to his wife Barbara, their three girls and their families in their loss.

May he rest in peace.

Julia Marsh

Understanding Engineers

Two engineering students were walking across a university campus when one said, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday, minding my own business, when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike, threw it to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want'."

The first engineer nodded approvingly and said, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fitted you anyway."

—ooOOoo—

Three engineering students were gathered together discussing who must have designed the human body. One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints." Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections."

The last one said, "No, actually it had to have been a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"

Mick McDonagh

Gentlemen start your engines!

I was in Monaco a few weeks ago where, one morning I noticed some workmen turn up at the road, which will become 'the' hairpin during the race, and start to put up the barriers. They started around 9.00 am... parking their truck at the side of the road and throwing out a couple of cones, working their way round the circuit. At about 4.00 pm a Gendarme turned up, stopped for a chat and then they all went home for their 'escargot' and a bottle or two of vino, the job was progressing well and had caused not a moment's delay to the locals going about their business.



Picture the scene now in England...

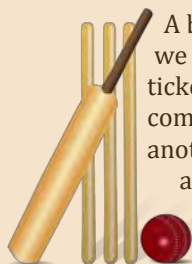
A few weeks before this, I observed that the local council had decided that a 20mph speed limit would be a good idea in, **apart from outside the school**, the wrong part of Toddington. This involved closing the road for some days while they put in a totally useless speed table, or whatever they call it, and painted some white lines. This caused considerable delay and inconvenience to local people going about their business!



Simply put, in France the needs of the motorist are put a little higher up the agenda than they are here, plus I wonder, what all that cost the jolly old council when, apparently, we can't even supply enough Coppers on the beat?

JP

Chalgrave Sports Club



A busy time of year and a disappointment. As many of you will know we had to cancel the **Race Night** we had booked for 9th May due to low ticket sales – much of this was caused by people being already committed and we know we could have doubled the number of tickets on another date. Unfortunately the remaining dates in May and June were also problematic so we have moved it to **Saturday, 26th September**.

Flyers will be up beforehand and tickets will be available from various sources so look out for more details later in the year.

We are looking forward to our first match of the season, an away fixture against Road Runners in Houghton Regis and it looks like we have a strong squad. The fixtures are available as always on the website www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk and if you are interested in playing, umpiring, scoring or just watching then take a look. It also has a history of the club taken from Michael and Barbara Kingham's book – it's fascinating to see some of the names of past players and officials!

Our highlight of the year is the **10-10 Competition** – this year being held on **Sunday, 28th June**, the day after the Village Games. The first match is scheduled to start at 10.30 and play goes on until around 17.00. A bar and barbeque will be available, along with safety fencing for the spectators – so do come and pay us a visit.

Finally, at our recent AGM Roger Burden stepped down as Chairman of the club. Roger has served the club and committee for many years, and put a tremendous amount of time and effort into the club. We are deeply grateful for all of his contributions.

*Mike Wells,
Vice Chairman*

Only in Britain — More complaints to Councils [Not Chalgrave Parish Council]

Here is the final batch of extracts from letters allegedly written by council tenants (unless, of course, you know of others!):

1. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.
2. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife.
3. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.
4. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2.
5. My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.

Ken Green

All Our Yesterdays – No. 20

Following the Enclosures Act of 1797 the land known as Tatterhill Field, which was the north eastern part of Leek Field, and up to Toddington Field, was allocated to 'Cohairs of Wm. Olney deceased'. Where the allotted land did not adjoin existing farmsteads new farms such as Tatterhill were built.



Doris Gridley, Brian Gridley and "Aunty Flo" at Tatterhill circa 1953.

Tatterhill Farm was down The Lane at the top of the hill just past the old gravel pit lake. It was in ruins by 1920 and has been demolished since 1960 although the remains of the building still existed when we moved into the village in 1971.

Any comments or further information please to Ken Green 874107 or kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk.

For more information on Chalgrave history see the Chalgrave Survey on www.chalgrave.org.

TEBWORTH

The freehold farm homestead, known as "Tatterhill," and occupied by Mr J. Day, was sold by Messrs. Cumberland and Hopkins to Mr. W. Dollimore, of Tebworth, for £420. The property consists of a four-roomed cottage with buildings and two pasture fields, the total area being 15 acres.

1906 newspaper report of the sale of the Tatterhill from a Mr J Day to Mr W Dollimore [sic].

Q: Why aren't dogs good dancers? A: Because they have two left feet.

—ooOOoo—

A zookeeper is ordering new animals. As he fills out the form, he writes "two mongeese." That doesn't look right, so he tries "two mongoose," then "two mongooses." Giving up, he settles on, "One mongoose, and while you're at it, send a spare."

The Plough



Hello everyone!

Life has been very hectic for us here at The Plough but we wouldn't want it any other way. The electrics which caused the chimney fire on 5th February have been mended and we can now once again have a blazing log fire—just in time for summer. And, if this summer is like many a past summer, that might just come in very handy.

We also have a revamped website. It's the same address as the old website (www.theploughinn.com) but there's new content. And naturally, like everyone else, we also have a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/theploughinnwingfield) so please pay that a visit and "like us".

If you check out the menu on the website you'll see that we still serve your old favourites. But if you come into the pub you'll also be able to look at our blackboards and you'll notice that we have a list of daily chef's specials, which often feature much enjoyed seafood starters and mains. We've also increased our range of vegetarian dishes and can cater for some special dietary needs. If you want to eat with us we really recommend you book in advance to ensure you get a table—just phone us on the number below to make a reservation.

We still run our fortnightly quizzes and often have problems squeezing everyone in. Another popular event is the monthly lunchtime visit by the "Last of the Summer Ukuleles" – please phone us for dates. And coming up on Sunday, 19th July, now in its third year, there is the Classic & Prestige Car Day, so make a note of that in your diaries—admittance is free. (There's a flyer for this event on page 41 of this issue.)

Chris and Caroline
01525 873077

Chalgrave Tech Recycle

The Parish Council was recently approached by a company offering an IT and computer recycling facility, for all those old PCs cluttering up tables or cupboards. We have partnered with Chris and Caroline at The Plough Inn who have kindly made available some space in their barns to store the equipment prior to collection. If you have something you wish to dispose of then please speak to Chris or Caroline (873077) and arrange to drop it off with them – they only ask that you try and avoid doing this during opening hours (12:00 – 15:00 or after 17:30).

The type of equipment that can be recycled is very varied – from PCs, laptops, TFT (flat screen) monitors, mice, keyboards, printers, scanners, etc. One point I must make is that there would be a charge to dispose of CRT monitors (or televisions), so please contact me prior to dropping these items off. All data passed through to Tech-Recycle is destroyed using internationally recognised standards so you can be sure of the security of your information.

As always if you have any queries please feel free to drop me a line or call.

Cllr Mike Wells
01525 877098, mikewells@clara.co.uk

Queen's Head

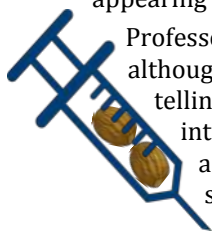
Hello everyone, Colin here,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the summer, there is a rumour that it will be a good summer this year but we have been told that before. I hope it will be a good one because the summer BBQ dates have already been set; although not set in stone, but if you keep looking for the announcements on the blackboards outside the pub these will advertise them near the dates.



Inside the pub things are going nicely with the 'folksy' evenings a big success. It seems that more and more people are turning up armed with a variety of instruments and giving a super performance. I didn't know we had such a wealth of musical talent in the local area, and especially in Tebworth.

The Friday night live music nights are still going strong with all your favourites appearing regularly and causing their special brand of mayhem.



Professor Kenton Bluminstall popped in a couple of weeks ago and although he never stopped talking the only things I can remember him telling me were that nutmeg is extremely poisonous if injected intravenously, that 35% of people who use personal ads for dating are already married, and a snail can sleep for 3 years.



Now I know why my old dad carried his house on his shoulderszzzzzzzz!

I'm sure Colin will be in the bar at the Queen's Head by opening time. (Ed)

Mind how you go!

I noticed while voting at the Election, that I also had to vote on a Referendum to increase the police 'precept', I believe they call it, 'to allow Beds Police to get some extra officers'!! This idea, incidentally, had already been charged to you... and me, in our recent Council Tax demands. Problem was, it was rejected, by a large majority, so it won't happen!!



This means that the Council will have to re-issue all our Council Tax paperwork to reduce it, which will cost around £250,000... which is in addition to the £350,000 it cost to hold the referendum in the first place! Now my maths is not great, but I make that £600,000 and that's a lot, for nothing at all! Oh, and of course we are paying the Police Commissioner, a chap called Olly Martins, a considerable salary to do, well I'm not sure what exactly!! So let's get rid of him and save some more money, which we could perhaps put into employing some more Police Officers?

JP

MK Classic Car Tour 2015

Rain was what I dreaded most. The prospect of travelling 90 miles in a car with no roof and no windscreen did not appeal and the weather forecast for Rally Day did nothing to allay my fears. Spurred on, however, by the enthusiasm of the Team Tebworth Special co-drivers cum mechanics, intense pre-rally checks were completed the day before and the MG was signed off as ready to go. The backup car was loaded with tools, oil and spare parts just in case of emergencies.

7.50 am, Sunday, April 26th, 2015 the Team members arrive and it's not raining. I seized the only opportunity to drive that I was likely to have and set off for the starting point, Frosts, Woburn Sands. Within 500 yards of leaving home co-driver/mechanic Phil valiantly leapt out of the backup car to retrieve my rather fetching furry hat which had landed in the middle of Toddington Road due to a sudden gust of wind ripping it off my head. I arrived at Frosts with a completely different hairstyle to the one I left home with.

After a substantial breakfast and a summing up of the competition comprising 216 other cars Paul took over the driving whilst I navigated the extremely convoluted route to Millbrook Testing Ground. Two laps of the Alpine Run involving steep declines, even steeper inclines, hairpin bends, rough road surfaces and a fervent hope by Paul that he could fiddle a few more laps and we were on our way to Rushton Hall near Kettering for coffee and cake. I am pleased to say that my navigation up to that point had been impeccable as had Paul's driving and attention to checking oil pressure, temperature and revs.

On to Silverstone. Paul is puzzled as to why we have to follow another convoluted route rather than go the shortest way possible. It was hard explaining that the whole point of a rally is to drive 90 miles when 40 will do. We nearly did considerably more mileage due to my sudden lack of navigating ability at a very large roundabout. The ever attentive backup team put us back on track and were even more attentive



Paul Whitton and Phil Parry preparing the Tebworth Special

making mental notes of the very attractive pubs in some very pretty Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire villages. One and a half hours later we arrived at the Porsche Centre, Silverstone, to experience the test tracks. First up was the Handling Circuit, defined by Porsche as a 'challenging country road'. No problem here as we had just driven 90 miles of country roads which



Paul Whitton and Lesley Smith on the road



Lesley Smith accepts the 'Star Car' award

offered challenges such as potholes, cyclists, horse riders, tractors, mud and blind bends none of which were included at Porsche.

The acceleration track was disappointingly short – a 1938 MG is not quite as quick off the mark as a modern day Porsche. The backup car did much better. Next came the Low Friction Track which includes a 360° 'doughnut' pad. This is when I feared for the MG's stub axles (I've recently learned about these) and more specifically my life. I clung limpet-like to the side of the car whilst Paul attempted several times over to prove the car could turn at speed on a sixpence. Finally came the Ice Hill. This is designed to develop

appreciation of the car's handling characteristics. We watched from a distance whilst cars slid and skidded down the ice-smooth and extremely wet slope made even more precarious by the numerous water jets dotted along the track. It was inevitable we were going to get wet and I braced myself for travelling down the slope in every conceivable direction other than forwards. The car had other ideas though and was as sure-footed as a mountain goat. I heaved a huge sigh of relief at the end and Paul said we should have gone faster.

By the time we made our way back to the Porsche Centre the sun was shining. Debbie and I spent some time deciding which Porsches we would treat ourselves to until it was time for the presentations. I was very proud that the Tebworth Special was awarded 'Star Car' of the rally. I say this not as an idle boast but as testament to the remarkable engineering skills of Tony Smith, the goodwill of Brian Jones whom Tony trusted to keep the car in good running order for me, and the encouragement, support and help from my team mates, Paul and Debbie Whitton, and Phil Parry.

Leaving the Porsche Centre Debbie opted to travel home in the MG sporting my fetching furry hat whilst I enjoyed the luxury of the backup car which has a roof, a heater and decent suspension.

Celebrations began with a drink and a bite to eat at the Fox and Hounds in Whittlebury and they must have continued for quite a while once we arrived back home judging by the number of wine bottles we managed to empty.

So, Debbie, Paul and Phil, I had a grand day out. I hope you did too.

Lesley Smith

The MK Classic Car Tour raises funds for the Little Lives Appeal (Charity Number 1048297) to buy equipment for the premature baby unit at Milton Keynes Hospital.



Paul and Debbie Whitton

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