

# CHALGRAVE NEWS

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



**Publication No. 49 December 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	
Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	WI	Memorial Hall	8-10 pm
Saturday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Rotary Club Santa Run	→ Milton Bryan → Tebworth → Wingfield	Starting from Plough at about 5 pm
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Chalgrave News Annual Quiz – <i>see p 41</i>	Memorial Hall	6.30 pm

Don't forget to check the Chalgrave Parish website ([www.chalgrave.org](http://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: Sunrise over Tebworth, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
(photo by Millie Parker)*

**Deadline for next edition:  
Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

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 edition has been put together rather hurriedly because my wife and I are only recently back from an extended tour, inspecting the former colonies of the British Empire. I can report that all is in order although we were not always treated with the due deference that one might expect the locals to show towards their former colonial masters. Do they really think that “G’day, mate” and “How ya doin’, clobber” carry the dignity of a respectful “Good morning, Sir”, accompanied by a tug of the forelock?



Whilst driving several hundred miles in the Northern Territory of Australia we came upon an unfilled pothole in the road – just the one, mind! Recognising this to be a potential danger to vehicles the authorities had marked a circle around it with yellow paint and erected a sign that read “Traffic Hazard Ahead”. In a light-bulb moment, it occurred to me that we could do something similar in this country. The Olympic Swimming Pool at the Aquatics Centre at Stratford could be used for temporary storage of yellow paint, at least until larger facilities become available, and the fabrication of sufficient signs could rejuvenate our flagging manufacturing base and make the UK once more a world leader in making things.

But on to more important matters ... In September, The Plough underwent a much needed refurbishment and the story of its make-over is told in this issue. But it’s not just The Plough that has been rejuvenated—the Great Pond in Tebworth has also undergone much needed remedial work. And it doesn’t stop there because the Sports Club Clubhouse has been raised to the ground in readiness for its replacement next year. See all the amazing changes for yourselves in the pictures featured in this edition.

You’ll also find in this issue the final instalment in Gillian Morrison’s poignant tale of her endeavours to discover more about her father, Fusilier George Mawson Holmes. And, as well, there is an account of the Sports Club’s riotous Race Night held in September. There are also illustrated articles about goings-on during All Hallows’ Eve and of the Queen’s Head’s fireworks extravaganza, held on the same night. Plus, to keep you entertained and informed, there are the usual contributions from our regular team of writers.

Finally, following the success of this year’s *Chalgrave News* Quiz, and to quieten the insistent and incessant clamouring from our readers, we will be repeating the experience next year. As many of you have busy social lives, we’re giving you plenty of warning—please keep the evening of Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, free for this popular and prestigious occasion. Now is the time to start swatting in readiness.



The *News* team wishes all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

RP

Remember, we welcome your own news, 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 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, much more.

# Chairman of the Parish Council

**A5/M1 LINK** – We have for a long time pushed for a weight ban on the roads in our Parish and for a 20 mph limit through Tebworth. We have now been told that we will get both once the Link Road is completed in early 2017. The Toddington Road will go to a 40 mph limit as you approach Tebworth, then 30 mph and then 20 mph near the bends. The weight ban will be a 7.5 ton limit. This ban will cover a large area including Woburn and surrounding villages. The A5120 (Lords Hill) will be downgraded to the B5120.



**A5/HOCKLIFFE ROAD** – You will see that they are putting in additional traffic calming measures to keep the traffic to 40 mph and reduce the number of accidents. We did look into traffic lights or roundabout but the Highways Agency was against these ideas.

**DOGS** – To all dog owners remember that you can be fined for not picking up after your dog, not just on pavements but also footpaths, bridleways, farmland and open countryside. Please be responsible. We are hoping to get another dog bin for Chalgrave Road.

**SPEEDWATCH** – You will have seen the Speedwatch team in action in Tebworth and Wingfield. We feel that it is making an impact and you will see them out again soon.

**DEFIBRILLATOR** – We need volunteers – please read the VETS article in this edition.

**TEBWORTH POND** – Again, we need volunteers – please read the article in this edition.

**OTHER MATTERS** – We continue to press CBC to fill potholes, repair street lighting and cut back vegetation.

**POLICE** – Bedfordshire's Chief Constable has set up a petition for extra funding to recruit more officers. At the moment Bedfordshire Police has 169 officers per 100,000 of population against the national average of 232. If you would like to support this campaign, please sign the petition which can be found on the Bedfordshire Police website, [www.bedfordshire.police.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk).

If you want to attend any of our meetings they are held every third Tuesday in the Memorial Hall.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Cllr Phil Parry, Chairman*

## 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](mailto:andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk) or at [www.andrewselous.org.uk](http://www.andrewselous.org.uk) or on 0207 2191741 or 01582 662821.

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

Our South West Bedfordshire MP has welcomed new figures showing 850 new apprenticeships were started by people in South West Bedfordshire last year and 3,970 new

apprenticeships since 2010. Andrew said:

“These figures are fantastic news. These new apprenticeships mean more young people in South West Bedfordshire getting the skills to succeed and get on in life – as they are at places like BE Aerospace.

“Apprenticeships have been at the heart of our plan to deliver a more secure future for young people and as Conservatives we are committed to go even further over the next five years, with the commitment we made in our manifesto to deliver 3 million more high quality apprenticeships by 2020.

“We are giving young people proper training and the prospect of a better future. Millions of young people are getting a good start in life, learning a trade, and knowing the purpose and pride that comes with that.”

Andrew wishes all the readers of the *Chalgrave News* the compliments of the season.

## 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.**

Besides speaking on our behalf at planning committees and other meetings, he continues to work on issues brought to him at his regular ward surgeries or when contacted through his office. If you have any questions or concerns Mark can be contacted on 01525 234 000 or at [mark.versallion@centralbedfordsire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.versallion@centralbedfordsire.gov.uk).



## Grumpy Old Man

What a load of rubbish!

Seems to have been some more fly-tipping around the Parish again, but I think I can assist! If it was a straight-forward task to dump rubbish properly at the Tip, i.e., not having to queue up, having to put the stuff in the 'correct' skips, paying a fee, etc, etc, people might use it rather than throwing it in a farmer's gateway, which the council then have to come and clear up....for free! Are we on the same page here Mr Council Man????

No  
Fly  
Tipping

—ooOoo—

Had a little bit of wind last week...which, as usual, means that most of the railways stop running as there were trees on the line! This was just after they have started running again after the 'late running' engineering works and the autumn leaves....oh, and staff shortages. Think they might need to change their attitude to **'how can we'** rather than **'how can't we'**? Oh, and chop the trees down that are too near the line!



JP

## A Vet's Life ...

A veterinary friend of mine from "up north" had spoken three or four times during the evening with a client of his. Her Golden Retriever bitch "Brandy" was going into labour with her (and her owner's) first litter. The owner was worried but had been reassured by the calm and straightforward advice she was given.

Roll forward to the wee small hours.....

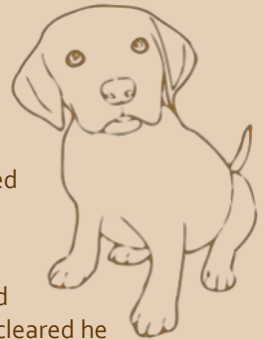
Chris is as blind as a bat without his glasses. He floundered around trying to find the ringing phone in the dark. As the mists of sleep cleared he realised he had left his phone in the study next to his bedroom. The phone continued to ring. As he leapt out of bed he stepped on his glasses which he had inadvertently knocked off the bedside table. The lens broke under his weight cutting the sole of his foot deeply. He swore loudly and limped to the phone. Both his boys were now wide awake and crying.

He answered the insistent mobile, the pool of blood on the carpet growing by the second.

"Is that Chris?"

"Yes," he answered gruffly.

"Its Brandy's Mum here, ... just thought you would like to know that she has had seven lovely pups and all's well!"



Peter Harding



# Old News

*Luton News and Bedfordshire Chronicle*, 15<sup>th</sup> January 1953 –

## A DIFFICULTY REMOVED

### Churchyard Can Be Extended

Because the existing churchyard at Chalgrave has almost been used up, it is to be extended to take in an adjoining strip of land. Planning permission has been granted by Luton R.D.C.

The tiny churchyard adjoining the lovely centuries-old church, which also serves the villages of Wingfield and Tebworth, does not appear, at a glance, to be full.

That is because many of the oldest gravestones have disappeared through age, but there can be no burying over old ground until 400 years have elapsed.

For the Rev. F. Watson, Rector of Hockcliffe, in whose charge the parish is, one headache has been removed by the permission to extend the churchyard.

He faces a similar problem, however, at Hockcliffe, where the matter is now in the hands of the Parish Council.

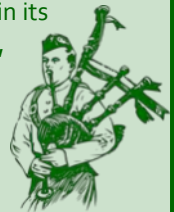
*Luton News and Bedfordshire Chronicle*, 14<sup>th</sup> January 1954 –

## “ALADDIN” AT TEBWORTH

Mrs. M. Archer and her troupe of players, from Leighton Buzzard, gave a performance of the pantomime “Aladdin” in the Memorial Hall, Tebworth, on Saturday.

The proceeds were for the Chalgrave Churchyard Extension Fund.

As our readership understands only too well, the *News* team never pauses in its endeavours to answer those questions that puzzle us all. Why, for example, do bagpipe players usually walk around whilst playing their pipes? Who better to ask than our Scottish reader, Mr Greig. With his usual forbearance, and displaying only a touch of irritation, Mr Greig patiently told us that the reason was blindingly obvious—they walk around to escape the noise! And there was us thinking they did it because a moving target is harder to hit. But at least now we know the true reason! Readers who want any tricky questions answered should submit them to the *News* team for speedy resolution.



# Book Club



What if you had the chance to live your life over and over again until you got it right, well Kate Atkinson's **Life After Life** is about such a person who does that – Ursula Todd. Ursula is born on 11 February 1910, but dies before she can take her first breath due to the midwife and doctor being stuck in snow. However, the next page replays the birth with the doctor arriving in time to prevent the tragedy. Ursula then spends an idyllic childhood with a loving family and secure home. However, as she grows she also dies, repeatedly, in any number of ways. Each time she dies the author takes us back a step and Ursula has the chance to live her life differently by changing just one thing, it may be something simple like refusing help from a man on the street when she falls, or fighting back from an assault in her teens. And this really is the point of the book, how circumstances mould our life and how easy it is to change its direction. A thought provoking book, with lots to talk about and enjoyed by all.

Another book which was read over the summer was **The Miniaturist** by Jessie Burton. Set in 17<sup>th</sup> century Amsterdam, it is a beautifully written book, but with mixed reactions from the Book Club. Petronella Oortman is an 18 year old recently married to a wealthy merchant, but soon finds married life difficult in her new household. Her husband seems more interested in his business than her and she spends a lot of her time alone, then her husband gives her a present, a dolls house, which is an exact replica of their own house. Initially insulted with this as she would prefer to have control over her own home rather than a dolls house, Petronella decides to furnish the dolls house and orders some miniatures to go into it. She never meets the miniaturist she employs to provide the pieces for the house, but strange things start to happen when she receives the first pieces of furniture. Exquisite Lilliputian items that somehow mimic, foretell and portray events unfolding in the house, uncovering secrets and possible danger. Not enjoyed by all and probably not one we would recommend.

**The Light Behind the Window** by Lucinda Riley was a completely different read, interesting, beautifully written and positive comments from all. Another book that splits between two times, the present and the past, 1943. Emilie de la Martinieres lives in the south of France, her aristocratic mother has just died and she finds herself alone in the world and sole inheritor of her parents grand Chateau. An old book of poems leads her in search of Sophia, whose tragic love affair changed the course of her family history. The past – London 1943 – sees Constance Carruthers being drafted into the SOE and sent to occupied Paris, but stumbles into a wealthy family who are caught up in secrets and lies. The two time lines cross over very well, not too often to confuse the reader, but enough to keep you glued to the story.

*Noeleen Thomson*



## Unintended Consequences ... can be good as well as bad

Could Brigitte Bardot, pictured here as she was in 1962, have helped to save your life, or mine? Although she gave delight to millions as an actress, singer and fashion model, that's not the reason. Many of you will remember that Brigitte became an animal rights activist in her early 40s, most notably in her crusade against the annual clubbing of baby harp seals in Newfoundland, Canada. The purpose of the seal slaughter was twofold: to preserve fishing stocks and to harvest their pelts for the fashion industry. Bardot's identification with the plight of the baby seals captured the interest of the world's press. Brigitte had French president Valery Giscard D'Estaing in her back pocket and probably a fair number of other senior politicians. As endearing pictures of her embracing baby seals traversed the globe, the campaign to stop the cull gained momentum and eventually success. (The hunting of adult seals remains a sizeable commercial activity.)

It should come as no surprise that the seal population of Newfoundland then exploded from around 1.5 million in 1975 to 6 million by 1995. The local fishing industry was all but wiped out – an adult seal can eat about 20 kilos of fish a day. Desperate for a solution to their problem, the fishermen hit upon a plan to administer contraceptives to the adult seals. Unfortunately, the water-based vaccines in common use required 2 separate injections to be given. Worse, the second one had to be given in a narrow window of 17-20 days after the first and those pesky seals kept missing their second appointments. In a final attempt, they experimented with a mineral oil-based vaccine: this had a longer-lasting effect which meant that only one injection was required. Gradually, the seal population was brought under control.

Fast forward to 2013 and a small Canadian biotech company in Halifax, Nova Scotia, knowing of the success of the seal vaccinations, developed a method for encapsulating an oil-based vaccine in a ball of fat, which is then freeze-dried. This involves little cost, has great stability and a shelf life of 5 years at room temperature. Other experimental vaccines must be stored expensively in liquid nitrogen at very low temperatures and lose their potency within a few hours at room temperature. The role of the vaccine is to boost the patient's immune system so that, in combination with a new class of drugs, known as checkpoint inhibitors, it mobilises the body's white blood cells to attack cancer cells.



In principle, this therapy can be used in the treatment of about 20 different types of cancers as well as other conditions such as lupus and hepatitis. Their breakthrough came when they switched to a mineral oil-based delivery medium. Whereas water-based vaccines wash through the human body in a day, oil stays at the site of the injection for 6 days. The body reads the oil itself as an invader and sends white blood cells to repel it: this creates an immune response many times stronger than when water is used. As with all new therapies, there are numerous trials to overcome before it can be approved. But one day, cancer could turn from a killer disease into a manageable chronic disease and we can raise a glass to Brigitte Bardot.

*Peter Warburton*

## Refurbishment at The Plough

In the space of just 10 days in September, a remarkable transformation was achieved at The Plough. Out went the threadbare and beer-sodden carpets, the ancient upholstery and curtains, the depressingly-brown tables and wooden panels, and the dreary yellow paintwork. In came tiled and planked floors, new carpets, cosy cushions, lightened tables, light grey panels and white paintwork. The make-over was phenomenal and the designers commissioned by Fullers managed to make the pub seem roomier and lighter whilst still retaining the character and architectural features one expects in a Grade II listed building. Indeed, the simple removal of the Specials blackboard revealed an interesting window that had been hidden from view for a good many years.

The re-opening of the pub at 7 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> September was attended by a large number of customers who came in to admire the changes and to enjoy a delightful buffet. Phil Parry, the Chairman of the Parish Council, gave a short speech welcoming everyone and paying tribute to what Chris and Caroline had achieved in their short time at the helm of The Plough.

*RP, with photos by RP and Mike Wells*



The last night  
before the  
builders moved in





Work is under way ...







... and work continues apace



Job done! Everything ready for the grand reopening







Opening night with happy customers!





# Computer Corner

Hello and welcome to the latest Computer Corner column, written by **Mike Wells of Chalgrave IT Solutions.**



After a break from the last edition there's been plenty going on in the world of IT. Apple announcing the latest (and greatest?) iPhones in the form of the 6s, 6s plus and the iPad Pro with its 12.9" screen. Microsoft releasing Windows 10 and the hardware to showcase it – the Surface Pro 4, Surface Book and Lumia 950 and 950XL mobile phones.

Most of these choices will come down to individual taste and preference – some hardcore Apple fans will rave about the iPhone 6s features or the iPad Pro's fantastic screen. Others will prefer the more familiar Windows environment provided by the Surface Pro 4/Book (and indeed this would be my tool of choice).

But more and more this seems like manufacturers creating demand and designing 'must have' features in order to sell products – supported by increasingly built-in obsolescence making a device 'so yesterday' before it has even started to wear out!

Two other matters come to mind as I write this – and neither are new!

Firstly: telephone scammers are absolutely rife at the moment – these are the folks who phone you up purporting to be from some major organisation offering help with your PC. They are very persistent, very clever and **VERY DANGEROUS!** If you receive a call from anyone (except me!) offering to help with problems on your PC don't listen, just hang up! If they phone again, hang up again! I can't stress too much how important this is...

Secondly: local broadband speeds. Now please don't get excited because this isn't great news – despite what we hear from local and central government, SuperFast Broadband (meaning >24 Mbps) is not coming our way any time soon. The current information from Central Beds Council shows that we are due for an upgrade in Q3/Q3 2017 – but this has already gone back from the promised 2016 so don't hold your breath. For those of us trying to run businesses in rural areas this is disappointing at best – and for those with teenage families who want HD streaming 24/7 it's a disaster. Probably the best bet is getting a 4G phone and sharing that – it works for me and my iPad anyway!

Finally: a shameless plug. Computer security is all important these days and negotiating the minefield of updates and patches, etc, can be confusing at best. If you would like assistance with this, then please consider our Chalgrave Total Care service which provides peace of mind at a reasonable price. We monitor for these updates daily and apply them to your systems as soon as possible, increasing the likelihood of you being able to keep one step ahead of the baddies. Call now for more details.

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 **07900 253262**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Until the next edition.

*Mike*

# Chalgrave WI



We had no formal meeting in **August** although Julie Wilson arranged for us to visit the Tapas bar at the Hardware Café in Toddington where much fun was had by all!

At our **September** meeting we heard some very entertaining poetry from Mark Niel. Mark was appointed as the first official Poet Laureate of Milton Keynes in 2011 and was the Poet in Residence for the MK Dons for the 2012–13 season. Mark wrote a poem for the WI 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

“Centurions” and the recording can be accessed using the following link: [soundcloud.com/mark-niel/mark-niel-centurions](https://soundcloud.com/mark-niel/mark-niel-centurions).

In **October, Image Consultant**, Carol Clarke returned to talk to us about bodyline and style and wardrobe analysis.

Also Bernadette Inzani and I judged cakes at the



Toddington St George’s Church Harvest Fete. It is surprising how you can go off cake (even, or especially, chocolate cake...) after tasting lots of it!



On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> **December** we have a trip to **Waddesdon Manor** to see the festively

decorated rooms, Christmas fair and art installations in the gardens. At our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December we will be decorating cupcakes with a Christmas theme. We have also booked **Christmas Dinner** at The Plough for Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The membership subscription for 2016 is £37.50 of which £18 is retained for Chalgrave and the balance goes to Bedfordshire and national WI organisations to fund county and national work.

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

*Mobile – 07770 543797*

We have nearly finalised our **Calendar for 2016** —

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>
Life Coach	<b>Tue, 12 Jan</b>	Making (and keeping) meaningful New Year's resolutions
Burns Night supper	<b>Thu, 21 Jan</b>	The White Hart, Flitton
First Aid	<b>Tue, 9 Feb</b>	How to deal with an emergency, CPR and basic first aid tips
National Trust –Tudors/ Beds	<b>Tue, 8 Mar</b>	Henry VIII's links with Bedfordshire
Annie Sloan paint demo TBC	<b>Tue, 12 Apr</b>	By Me Me Me – Leighton Buzzard
The Bodyguard –Theatre trip	<b>Wed, 13 Apr</b>	Bodyguard Musical, £39 pp
Quilts	<b>Tue, 10 May</b>	Quilts "Small is beautiful"
Walk – Dave Bollins	<b>Tue, 14 Jun</b>	Blue Plagues of Harlington – plus pub trip!!
Bees	<b>Tue, 12 Jul</b>	Talk covering evolution, management and future
Holidays		Holidays
Make-up demo and tips	<b>Tue, 13 Sep</b>	Clarins team
Life Drawing TBC	<b>Tue, 11 Oct</b>	A male model is being sought!
AGM	<b>Tue, 8 Nov</b>	AGM

We are also looking into a trip to Buckden Palace – keeping with the Henry VIII theme, or Luton Hoo. Plus a possible 'Faith' tour in Luton. We will aim to have a foraging walk next autumn.

## **It Makes You Wonder! ...**

The following questions were set in last year's General Educational Development examination in the USA. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds).

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections?

A. Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.

*Ken Green*

A little boy gets home from school and says "Dad, I've got a part in the school play as a man who's been married for 25 years."

His dad replies "Never mind son - maybe next time you'll get a speaking part!"

## Significant Birthdays

Since we last went to press, it's been brought to our attention that several of our readers have celebrated "significant birthdays", meaning that a milestone has been reached. In no particular order, they are Sue Keech, Peter Harding, Phil Parry and Caroline Ross. They have each reached an age, divisible by 5, between 50 and 65



Sue



Caroline

but we are too polite to say which on them has passed which age. We'll let you work that out!



Phil

*If you know anyone who has had a significant birthday, please let the News know, and send us a photo.*



Peter



## Two Geordie Jokes ...

What's the difference between a kangaroo and a kangaroot?

A kangaroo is a marsupial native to Australia.

A kangaroot is what a Geordie says if he's stuck in a lift.

—oo00oo—

A few years ago, when he was the manager of Newcastle United FC, the fire brigade phoned (the now late) Bobby Robson in the early hours of the morning – "Sir Bobby, St James' Park is on fire!"

"The cups man! Save the cups!" screamed Sir Bobby.

"Well...the fire hasn't spread to the canteen yet, sir."

## Children's Corner ...

My sister Laura's bigger  
than me

And lifts me up quite  
easily.

I can't lift her, I've tried  
and tried;

She must have something  
heavy inside.

—oo00oo—

I eat my peas with honey,  
I've done it all my life.

It makes the peas taste  
funny,

But it keeps them on my  
knife.

—oo00oo—

Why are the French so  
keen on eating snails?

They don't like fast food!

Our north of the border  
friend, Mr Greig, spent a  
couple of weeks in  
London recently and was  
asked, "You miss  
Scotland?"

"No!" he replied, "I look  
nothing like her. She's got  
long blonde  
hair and  
wears a  
sash."



# *Chalgrave News*

## Advertising and Useful Contacts

To advertise in the *Chalgrave News*, please email  
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*When contacting an advertiser, please remember to mention you saw them in the Chalgrave News*

## **Toddington Fishery**



Toddington Fishery is set in a quiet corner of rural Bedfordshire. Originally dug out some 15 years ago and stocked with a variety of coarse fish including roach, perch, tench, bream, with carp to 22lb and catfish to 37lb.



**Toddington Fishery, Herne Farm Cottag**  
**Toddington, Bedfordshire LU5 6HH**  
**Tel: 07855 321 781**



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Carers  
Now

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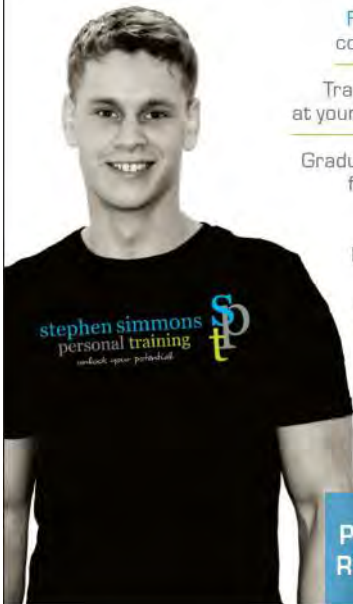


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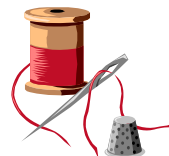
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## Chops becomes a National Celebrity....

As readers may or may not be aware, over the course of the summer the Porcine Prince has achieved national notoriety both in print and online. Articles were printed in such illustrious publications as the *Star on Sunday* and *Take A Break* magazine, and online in the *Daily Mail* and several local newspapers. There was an online video, and Chops could even be heard airing his views on Three Counties radio. *Good Morning Britain* wanted him to come into their studio for an interview....the image this conjured up was interesting to say the least, but regrettably practical considerations compelled me to decline. *The One Show* were all set to come and film him, but when I told them the crew would have to film from the other side of the gate for safety reasons they decided that as the show went out live and Chops's behaviour was so unpredictable they had better not risk it!

Suffice to say that the stories bore very little resemblance to the truth. One would have imagined that Chops's antics were fantastical enough in their own right and did not require any exaggeration or embellishment but each story I read got sillier and sillier. I was bemused to read of our family's apparent 'horror' as our micro pig 'ballooned' into a 22 stone beast and even more bemused to read that he had 'devoured two sofas'!! Alongside a photo of Chops looking particularly gargantuan was a photo of two tiny piglets next to a teacup and the contention that fully grown micro pigs weigh two stone. Apparently I also 'believed that he would not grow any bigger than a cocker spaniel', which was certainly news to me! Online comments made less than polite references to the state of my mental health and to the state of my kitchen, which they had somehow mistaken for a photo of Chops's porch. The most incredible revelation of all was that he was 'such a lovely animal'....

In the midst of basking in his moment of fame, or should that be infamy, Chops has kept a relatively low profile. There have been flashes of his old self, such as chasing the window cleaner off the premises, and inauspiciously following nearly two years of successful containment he chose the day I was flying to the other side of the world to heave a wrought iron gate completely off its hinges and escape to The Plough. Upon my return, the moment he was unleashed he did the same again and had to be retrieved from underneath a crab apple tree at the far end of Hill Close. The problem has hopefully been resolved thanks to Roger Fenwick and his welding equipment together with a sturdy chain and padlock.

Despite wildly overenthusiastic exaggeration on the part of the press there is a moral to



be taken in by those cutesy cutesy photos of tiny pigs next to coke cans or sitting in teacups, here is photographic evidence that clearly demonstrates the relative sizes of a 'micro' pig, a teacup and a coke can....unedited, unadjusted, unphotoshopped.....

Merry Christmas.....oink!!

Julia Marsh



## Fusilier George Mawson Holmes



FUSILIER GEORGE MAWSON HOLMES – one of the parishioners from Chalgrave who fought and died in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and whose name appears on the War Memorial on the wall of the Memorial Hall in Tebworth. In the last three issues his life, so far, has been traced from his arrival in the parish to his arrival in Italy during the war.

And so – to continue George's war. As explained in the September issue, although George wasn't Irish, because of the heavy losses of the Irish Brigade in the allied invasion of Sicily in August 1943, he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. In that same issue I left his story after his company had successfully taken the old derelict brick works just outside Termoli in southern Italy on the Adriatic coast – for him his first experience of a real battle.

So the battle for Termoli was over. Disembarking under heavy shell fire in a strange port, they had taken over the defence of an unknown town on a very dark night and attacked a very strong enemy force in the morning.

For George there were to be two treacherous river crossings and two more battles to be fought before he was killed – just two months left to live.

The next objective in the advance through Italy, pushing the Germans back, was the Petacciato ridge so that they could have a better idea of the next obstacle, the Trigno River. Not a quiet time at all because they were constantly strafed by the enemy and even, at one time, by mistake by cannon firing Spitfires and Hurricane bombers. With Petacciato taken the river Trigno was next and only about three miles away.

The bridge still seemed to be intact (the Germans had a nasty habit of blowing up bridges as they were pushed back) but, should it be blown up, the river was only sixty feet wide and looked quite shallow although the sides were very steep and high. The bridge was inspected (under heavy fire) and it was thought that no demolition charges were in place. However, the Divisional Commander, Nelson Russell, refused to believe this as he didn't think enough time had been spent on the inspection, but Divisional Headquarters thought otherwise. Then General Eveleigh arrived on the scene and gave orders that the Irish Brigade should 'capture the bridge intact and forthwith' so, in spite of Russell's assertions that 'the ruddy thing will go up', they were ordered to proceed! Just as they reached it 'it went up like Vesuvius at the top of her form' so they had to take to the water after all. There was no real opposition crossing the river but unfortunately casualties were suffered from 'S' mines on the opposite side.

The next part of the advance was to take the town of San Salvo which sat on a ridge about 4,000 yards from the river and was heavily defended by the Germans. At 23.00 hours on the 27<sup>th</sup> October they crossed the start line but they immediately became involved in the heaviest M.G. barrage ever experienced since their arrival in the Mediterranean theatre. Lieutenant-Colonel Beauchamp Butler, the battalion's commanding officer was killed almost immediately along with George's company commander Major Proctor and many other officers and many ordinary soldiers. The command of the battalion devolved on Tommy Wood who was faced with a very difficult problem in the midst of a pretty hefty artillery defensive fire task. The bullets from machine gun 34's and 42's were whistling over their heads, at knee height, had they been standing up. The rest of the day was spent



Halfway down the old track to San Vito

in slit trenches within the bridgehead – a most miserable copse, with rain vying with the Hun shells for regularity of fall. They were pinned down here in torrential rain for a number of days without rations as nobody could get to them.

Quite by chance, and I think I mentioned this in the last issue, I met Patrick, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Butler two years ago in the Sangro River War cemetery and we have been in contact ever since. Next April or May we are hoping to travel out to Italy together to spend some time around Termoli and the Trigno River. Patrick hasn't done this before and I've only spent two very brief periods in Termoli so I am really looking forward to this. In all these years that I have been retracing my father's last footsteps I have mainly been focusing on the little town where he was killed, San Vito. I think it will be quite 'spine tingling' to be with the son of my father's commanding officer and walking

together in their footsteps.

Anyway, back to October 1943 and the Trigno River. During the next few days San Salvo was taken by the 'Skins' (the nickname for the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers), part of the Irish Brigade, after a much more carefully prepared battle.

From San Salvo the brigade moved further up the coast to Vasto where a large party of reinforcements arrived. From Vasto to Torino di Sangro, a place that over the past ten years I have become very familiar with. This was to be the stepping stone in the crossing of the Sangro River, a bid to push the Germans further north and the subsequent advance of the battalion through Rocca San Giovanni, San Vito and to the banks of the River Moro near Ortona. They had anticipated only a short stay in the area, but, owing to bad weather, the worst Italy could ever remember, the Sangro attack was postponed and they held fire for a week in Torino di Sangro. I read in the regimental diary that they were billeted in the school, a church and some private houses. Each year when I walk through the streets of this town I wonder where he actually walked – am I really treading on the same ground that his boots trod on? Probably, as nothing seems to have changed in the centre for more than a hundred years and it wasn't damaged during the war unlike other towns and villages in Italy.

Torino di Sangro is a small town near to the coast and straddles the spine of a ridge which overlooks the wide valley through which the Sangro River flows into the sea. On the other side of the valley and running the full length is another high ridge on the end of which stands a monastery. In November 1943 the Germans had been pushed back to this ridge and were well dug in from Mozzagrogna, through Li Colli, Santa Maria Imbargo and Fossacesia, all the way along to the monastery. They also occupied the monastery itself which lent well to firing down on the allied forces. I would say that the distance from one

ridge to the other across the valley is about two miles or maybe more. I have stood many times, in glorious weather, on one side or the other, either in the grounds of the monastery or at the cemetery which is on the same ridge as Torino trying to imagine what it must have been like for my father and all the thousands of other soldiers.

Just think – the worst weather the Italians could ever remember – the whole of the valley flooded with the water from the overflowing river – bridges blown up – bailey bridges constructed and washed away – thousands of men and tanks trying to get across the valley which was deep in mud and water – being fired upon by German artillery from the top of the ridge – allied aircraft sweeping in from the sea to bomb enemy positions and our navy also firing from the sea and, on top of that, fields of mines. The headlines in the Italian newspapers at the time shouted out in huge type – SANGUE E FANGO – BLOOD AND MUD.

At this point, of course, it wasn't just the Irish brigade but a good part of the Eighth Army comprising English, Scots, Welsh, New Zealanders, Canadians, Indians and Africans (the Australians were making their way up the Mediterranean coast) under the leadership of General Bernard Montgomery who had by this time moved his headquarters to Paglietta close to the Sangro from where he had a magnificent view across the valley. Two years ago I was shown the exact spot where Montgomery positioned his field headquarters, the famous caravan which until recently was on show at the Imperial War Museum. It's along a track on the edge of an olive grove and the simple sign reads, 'The British Eighth Army positioned its T.A.Q. H.Q. on this site during the Battle of the River Sangro'.

A few years ago I spoke to an Italian gentleman called Umberto whose family farm was taken over by the British Army and he remembers running errands for Montgomery as a 10 year old lad. He also remembers the horror of seeing hundreds of soldiers' bodies being washed away in the fast flowing river towards the sea.

My father survived and made it to the other side of the valley and prepared for the next objective. At 11.00 hours on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1943 the battalion moved up to the western outskirts of Fossacesia which the London Irish Rifles had captured earlier with little opposition. At 14.00 hours A and D companies (George was in A) moved off and by 14.45 had captured the battalion objective – the monastery of San Giovanni di Venere.

During the night of the 30<sup>th</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> the battalion was issued with great coats and rations. I'm not altogether sure but I think they were still wearing their summer uniforms at this point having fought all the way up from Sicily and Southern Italy in summertime.

The morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> December was spent resting and recovering 'booty' left by the



The old track as it comes out into San Vito



The old Napoleonic well

Germans from the deep dugouts and entrenchments . At 14.00 hours the order was given to move to an area north east of Rocca San Giovanni, then at 17.00 hours the Commanding Officer received orders for the advance to San Vito. By this time it would have been dark and the 10 miles or so marching across unknown country to reach their objective must have been very difficult. On reaching the vicinity of San Vito (occupied by the enemy) in the early hours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December their progress was halted by a very deep ravine. To go around it

would have taken too many more hours so it was decided to send a small volunteer party along a track which went down the steep side of the ravine and up the other side into San Vito, sneaking up behind the German lines. This patrol was led by Lieutenant John Day, just twenty years old, and also included my father. The following extract is taken from the official regimental diary written at the time or a few hours later – *'1000 hours – It ultimately transpired that A and D companies had reached 373110 at 0515 hours where they made a firm base and sent a patrol under Lt. Day into San Vito. At 0545 hours cheers and shouting of 'Inglese' were heard followed by shooting. The patrol had been led into the town by a local. They had gained the square in the town before contacting Germans and had received a great welcome from the populace. They took several prisoners before they were observed by two armed cars which opened fire on the patrol. Great confusion was resultant in the town, in which ten of the patrol escaped and lay up – Lt. Day was seriously wounded and is now posted as P.O.W. Eight others were captured and 10 were killed. This patrol must have had a terrific effect on the Germans occupying the little town'*. It obviously wasn't realised at the time that John Day had, in fact, been killed along with my father and the other nine soldiers who lie quite close together now in the Sangro River War Cemetery.

Fast forward to about five years ago, when I was beginning to feel very much at home in San Vito and the area. I would wander about the streets and the square wondering exactly where George had been killed. I would look at some of the old people and wonder what they knew about the war, but ,being very shy, hadn't got the nerve to go up to any of them and ask. In any case the Italian I had learned wouldn't stretch that far. I decided to enlist the help of my Italian friend, Eleonora. So one Saturday we headed for San Vito with the idea that she would go up to random old people and ask them what they remembered about the day the British soldiers entered the town. It would be better coming from an Italian I thought. Just before we entered the town she suddenly stopped the car, leapt out and leaving the door wide open ran into a Bathroom and Tile shop shouting, 'wait there I have just had a thought'. About 10 minutes later she came out with a man who said he thought his father in law, Vito, would know and promptly jumped into the car to guide us to his house a few minutes away. Imagine my utter surprise when,



after telling him how the patrol had come up the old track in the early hours of the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1943, he said, 'but I was there when they came up the track'. I nearly fainted.

We arranged to meet up the following day and he took me to a place just outside the town where he used to live with his family on a farm and showed me where he had witnessed the soldiers coming up the track. He was only 12 years old at the time and when the shooting started he hid with

one of his brothers in a neighbour's house along with about 30 other men, women and children. Our soldiers were shooting from the back of the house and firing onto the Germans in front crouched down under the olive trees. Sadly the husband and wife of the house were both shot dead in the cross fire and left orphan two children whom Vito and his brother took back afterwards to their house for their parents to look after. Vito witnessed a German being shot in the back as he ran away but what horrified him most was the way that some men whom he knew very well were stripping the clothes and the boots off the dead soldier. He had been brought up to respect the dead and couldn't believe what he was seeing. Since that day I have been back to that spot quite a few times and each time Vito remembers a few more things about that day. I have also been almost to the bottom of the track, deep down in the ravine. Near the bottom is a very ornate old Napoleonic well where the patrol would almost certainly have stopped for a drink before continuing the trek up the steep track to surprise the enemy.

In George's records I see his death report was made out on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1943. It reports that he was buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1943 (this would have been the temporary burial of course) '*SAN VITO. Southern heights above town near track leading to Ravine and most easterly point overlooking Adriatic*'. Vito has shown me the place but houses are built on this spot now. The report goes on to state that no effects were received. Nothing – no letters, photos, nothing. Naive perhaps but I still live in hope that one day, even after seventy years, I might find a letter, a photo or something that might have been dropped by him on the track perhaps or the old well or caught in a crevice in the wall of the now derelict house. Stranger things have happened.

This is where I leave the story of George's war, just one among millions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War alone. The long lasting repercussions of war are a trillion fold – when will we ever learn?

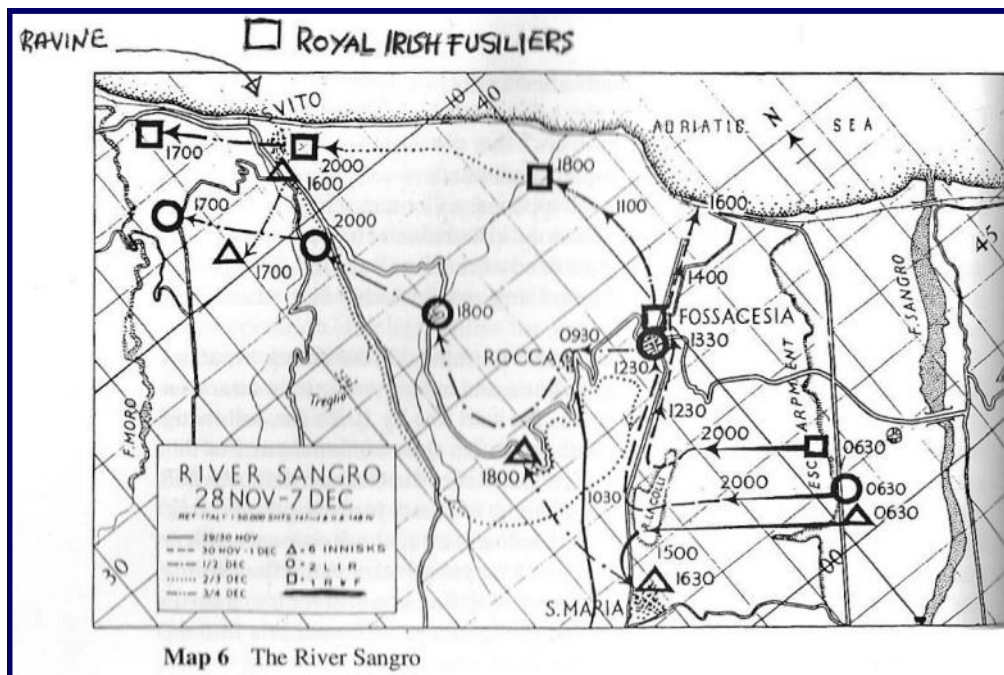
*In tribute to my father, George Holmes – his very proud daughter – Gillian*

On the next page is a map showing the movements of the Royal Irish Fusiliers between 28<sup>th</sup> November and 7<sup>th</sup> December 1943.



Vito as he is today outside the now derelict house that he hid in with one of his brothers





## Chalgrave Parish Defibrillator

A defibrillator is now situated on the outside of the Memorial Hall in Tebworth for use if someone has a Cardiac Arrest. It is very simple to use and gives step by step instructions.

The Parish Council would like to set up a **Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)** to be used if only one person is with the patient when a Cardiac Arrest happens. Here's how it'll work:

1. Call 999
2. Call VETS
3. Administer CPR to the patient

The VETS phone number will simultaneously contact a group of Parish volunteers, one of whom will immediately fetch the defibrillator from the Hall and bring it to where the patient is.

**Here's how you can help** We are looking for **10 volunteers** who would be willing to give calm support to a patient and the person with them. No medical training is required as the emergency services are already on their way. You don't have to be in the Parish 24 hours 7 days a week, but you should be available a significant amount of time.

**What Next** If interested and keen please contact Clr. **Barbara Jackson** on **01525 877617**



# Chalgrave Sports Club

Exciting times – work has started on the demolition of the old and construction of the new club house. We have had a couple of well attended working parties which emptied the contents of existing building and then consisted of watching Roger



Fenwick

destroy the shell with his JCB, the majority of which we were able to dispose of on a rather large bonfire (and some people said it was too wet to burn)! The site has now been cleared for the most part and a new base is to be constructed soon, at which point we can start putting the log cabin together.

Many thanks to all of those who have assisted so far and we hope we can rely on your further support during the next phase, probably early in the New Year (weather permitting).



*Mike Wells,  
Vice  
Chairman*







# The Great Pond of Tebworth ... Restored to its Former Glory!

It took a while, but thanks to the efforts of our Parish Council, plus a generous grant from Biffa Award, the village pond in Tebworth is now looking better than it has done for many a year. The reeds and silt

have been dredged out and the surrounding greenery cut back. We now await the return of the wildlife, which will no doubt be pleased with the extra space available in its refurbished home.

The photos here show the pond in its original overgrown state, during its make-over, and finally how it looked when the work was finished.

Particular thanks go to Cllr Debbie Hampson, who originally led this project, to Cllr Dan Osborn, who personally dredged the pond, and to Cllr Barbara Jackson, who is seeking

to bring together a team of volunteers to take the project further forward.

Barbara writes: *“As reported in the last edition of the Chalgrave News, we have*



As it was, before work started, very overgrown



Another shot of the empty pond



Empty, after removal of reeds and dredging of silt





After the felling of the trees near the road



The new view from the road

*been very busy clearing and dredging the pond. We have visited the Wildlife Trust in Tring who have*

*provided us with lots of information and a very useful calendar on how to proceed. Their recommendation is that we don't plant anything for 12 months, but wait and see how the water level settles and what grows back. The Parish Council would now like to set up a working party of people who would be willing to help design how we want the pond to look and be able to give up a small amount of time over the year to maintain the area. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact **Cllr Barbara Jackson** on **01525 877617**."*

RP

## West Charity Deadline

*Please remember to complete and submit your applications by **31<sup>st</sup> December**.*

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

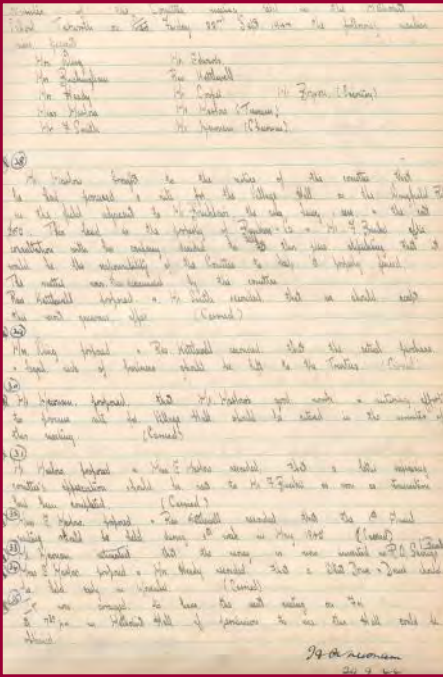
Full details and application forms can be found at [www.chalgrave.org](http://www.chalgrave.org).

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.

## A Maths Joke ....

A talking sheepdog got all the sheep into the pen for his farmer. He comes back and says 'All 40 accounted for.' The farmer says, 'But I've only got 36!' The sheepdog replied, 'I know, but I rounded them up.'

# All Our Yesterdays – No. 22



I found an old handwritten book of Memorial Hall minutes. I can provide hard copies of the original documents to anyone interested.

*Minutes of the committee meeting held in the Methodist School Tebworth on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 1944. The following Members were present:-*

*Mrs Wing, Mr Edwards, Mrs Buckingham, Rev Kettlewell, Mrs Heady, Mr Cooper, Mrs Bryson (Secretary). Miss Marlow, Mr Marlow (treasurer), Mr F Smith, Mr Newman (Chairman).*

*Mr Marlow brought to the notice of the committee that he had procured a site for the Village Hall on the Wingfield Rd in the field adjacent to Mr Brinklow's, the area being 1 acre & the cost £50. This land is the property of Bunkers & Co & Mr F Bunker, after consultation with his company decided to sell this piece stipulating that it would be the responsibility of the Committee to keep it properly fenced.*

*The matter was then discussed by the committee. Rev Kettlewell proposed and Mr Smith seconded that we should accept this most generous offer (Carried)*

*Mrs Wing proposed, Rev Kettlewell seconded that the actual purchase and legal side of the business should be left to the Trustees (carried)*

*Mr Newman proposed that Mr Marlow's good work and untiring effort to procure site for Village Hall should be entered in the minutes of the meeting (Carried)*

*Mr Marlow proposed and Miss E Marlow seconded that a letter expressing committee's appreciation should be sent to Mr F Bunker as soon as transaction had been completed (Carried)*

*Miss E Marlow proposed and Rev Kettlewell seconded that the 1<sup>st</sup> formal meeting should be held during 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 1945 (Carried)*

*Mr Newman intimated that the money is now invested in P.O. Savings Bank*

*Miss E Marlow proposed and Mrs Heady seconded that a Whist Drive & Dance should be held early in November (Carried)*

*It was arranged to have the next meeting on Fri at 7.30pm in Methodist Hall if permission to use this hall could be obtained*

H A Newman 29.9.44

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

## Journey to Chalgrave ...

A note on last edition's All Our Yesterdays, No 21. On page viii of the introduction in this book there is a paragraph describing Manton L Botsford's visit to Chalgrave: –  
“The day was overcast, but everything was green and all the spring flowers were in bloom. Being noon on Sunday, we missed any services if they had been conducted and the vicarage cottage was locked. Resting a while on a nearby bench we were pleased when a lady named Vicky drove up. She was a member of the group that maintains the church and she invited us in. What luck! I explained our connection to the church, but Vicky was not familiar with the Botsford saga. The Church was still decorated with lilies and daffodils and was truly lovely.”

The book is available to borrow if anyone wishes.

*Ken Green*

## Old News

*Luton Times and Advertiser*, 9<sup>th</sup> January 1903 –

### CHALGRAVE

**BEEF FOR XMAS.**—On Christmas Eve, through the thoughtful kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Foll, of the Manor, all the widows and needy poor of Wingfield, Tebworth and Chalgrave were recipients of beef, plum puddings and tea. The children also received gifts.

## Everyone's Entitled to My Opinion ...

Isn't it wonderful that we now have a "Police and Crime Commissioner"? It's good to know that the 'needs' of the public are being well looked after by a responsible and experienced leader?

Well, no actually, after the previous debacle last year with the Police precept, when it was assumed everybody would say "Yes" to an increase, when they didn't ... and which subsequently cost about £250,000 to put right, "He" now thinks it's a good idea to fine everybody who drives on the M1! He will just switch the cameras 'on' so everybody over 70 mph will get a ticket. Genius! Mind you, most of it is 50 mph anyway through Beds with, of course average speed cameras, so it wouldn't actually make much difference! Point is though, the Police and successive Governments have always said that cameras are for "road safety" and not revenue raising!!! It seems our Police Commissioner has let the cat out of the bag! In any case, who gave him authority to do that, answer is... nobody!

I have a suggestion for raising some more money....get rid of that publicity-seeking idiot!



*JP*

## Chalgrave Sports Club Race Night

As an alternative to watching Wales and England play in the Rugby World Cup, Chalgrave Sports Club put on an evening of entertainment in the form of their now traditional Race Night at Chalgrave Memorial Hall.

Master of the microphone was, as previously, although he didn't seem to recall much about it, John Parker. The 'tote team' was formed of Nicola and Tori Wells and Roger and Theresa Burden (it was nice to see them back for the evening). Mike Wells ran the screen and calculated the losings (I mean winnings of course) with Paul Levy and Debbie Hampson keeping everyone suitably lubricated at the bar. All this after Nev had ensured that no-one got in without a ticket.

The winning owner of the first race was a surprised looking Callum Angel, here to represent his family who have generously donated to the Sports Club this year – he







looked happy about the bottle of bubbly, but less enthused with the horse mask to go with it! All the other winners throughout the



evening looked equally happy – Roger liked the bottle and Molly liked the mask, but then Silvia and Nadine dominated the next four races winning two each!



After a great deal of suspense the fish and chip supper finally arrived – piping hot and as good as always – most welcome too... and the raffle was then despatched with rapid efficiency.



The final race of the evening is





an auction race with the horses being sold to the highest bidder and John did an excellent job of encouraging the participants – half of the total raised goes to the winning owner so this turned out to be £108! With rather more money riding on this than any other race (plus



the effects of the beer!) the atmosphere was tense, reaching a crescendo of excitement leading to many groans of disappointment with one exception – Mr Paul Levy looked extremely pleased as he rose to claim his prize (having paid the lowest price for his horse as well!). He then generously donated his winnings back to the club for which we are very grateful.



A splendid evening all round with thanks due to our generous sponsors:

- The Plough Inn, Wingfield,
- D&I Butchers, Houghton Regis,
- Paul Levy & Debbie Hampson,
- Promote1 Limited,
- Harding & Ng Veterinary Clinic,
- SsangYong Fleet Sales,
- EM Golf, Wingfield,
- Wright Vehicle Solutions, Bletchley.

We were very pleased to see our other generous benefactors attend the event – without whom we could not have dreamed of building a new clubhouse – Keith Thomson and his wife Noeleen.

Our thanks also go to all of the other helpers who enabled us to put on the event – we look forward to seeing you again soon, hopefully at

the grand opening of the new clubhouse!

*Mike Wells,  
Vice  
Chairman,  
with photos  
by RP*





## Remembering the Fallen

In November, we remembered those men from the Parish of Chalgrave who gave their lives in the service of their country in the two World Wars.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:*

*Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

*They mingle not with their laughing comrades  
again;*

*They sit no more at familiar tables of home;*

*They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;*

*They sleep beyond England's foam.*

*Robert Laurence Binyon (1869–1943),*

*first published in The Times on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1914*

IN HONOUR OF THE MEN OF  
THIS PARISH WHO GAVE THEIR  
LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF  
THEIR COUNTRY

1914 – 1918

ALBERT BIRD  
PENROSE FRANK COLES  
ALBERT OLIVER EMERTON  
LEONARD FENSOME  
JAMES WESLEY FOSTER  
ARTHUR JOHN KINGHAM  
ALBERT RICKETT

1939 – 1946

HARRY KEEN  
PETER RONALD JAMES KINGHAM  
FREDERICK HIGGS  
VIVIAN PRUDENT  
GEORGE MAWSON HOLMES

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN,  
AND IN THE MORNING,  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.





# Halloween ... HSIJOMGGU ...

As with last year, Halloween night proved to be a very balmy and unseasonably warm evening. There were lots



SPOOKS WELCOME  
AFTER FINAL  
WHISTLE AT  
6.00PM !!

of scary witches and ghouls out and about, taking advantage of calling on anyone who had pumpkins on display outside their houses. But the date also coincided



with a very important rugby match and some Trick or Treaters had to go without if they arrived too early at some houses!! As usual, Deb Kingham, had a spooky display and was a superb witch.



Many of the trick or Treaters continued the evening down at the Queen's for a spectacular Fireworks evening ...

*Su Parker*





## ... and Fireworks

Earlier than usual this year, and coinciding with Halloween, the Queen's Head put on another successful fireworks and bonfire evening. It was well attended, with a large bonfire, a very impressive fireworks display lasting around 30 minutes and a pretty full pub!!



Thanks go to the intrepid "Firework Lighters", Paul Younger and Steve Winter, "The Bonfire Men", Garry Burgess and Neil Edwynn, and "The BBQ Team", Sue, Ray and Terry Willis.

A short video of the event can be found on the Parish website and on YouTube at [youtu.be/jZsWGZZBYsA](https://youtu.be/jZsWGZZBYsA).



*Ken Green*



# The Plough



Hello everyone,

What an exciting few weeks The Plough has had.

The refurbishment went well with the new look being showcased on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Mostly good feedback from all, so thank you. Chris and I are very pleased with the new look and fresh feel of the pub.

Dark nights are here and turning our thoughts to Christmas so the fire is laid, the menus are out and the bookings are rolling in. Soon the tree will be up and the mistletoe!!!!

On a sad note though The Plough has become a statistic. Yes, we are a victim of rural crime!! The cushion with the stag on it has been purloined from under our very noses... Tut Tut.

We almost became another sort of statistic when strong winds ripped through Wingfield early on the morning of Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, pushing over our massive sign. Luckily, no damage was caused to people or property and Fullers were quick to sort out the mess.



On the more cheerful side, Chris has been awarded his Master Cellarman from Fullers brewery. This is a great achievement to have, especially in such a short space of time. So well done, Chris, I am very proud of you.

All the team at The Plough wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Caroline (and Chris)*

*01525 873077*

*[www.theploughinn.com](http://www.theploughinn.com)*



Visit us on Facebook – search Facebook for *Plough Inn Wingfield*

**Stop press.** The stag cushion has returned!!! *Does anyone know where it has been?*

I start with the letter P.

I end with the letter E.

I have millions of letters.

What am I?

*Answer: The Post Office*

I start with the letter E.

I end with the letter E.

I have one letter.

What am I?

*Answer: An envelope*

I start with the letter T.

I end with the letter T.

I am filled with T.

What am I?

*Answer: A teapot*

# Queen's Head

Hello everyone, Colin here,

Time rolls on and once again I'm having my arm twisted to make a contribution to this delightful little magazine of ours. But what do I write about? The biggest event since the last issue is that we have held our annual fireworks display but if I tell you all about that then I'll just be repeating what Ken Green has written elsewhere, and that won't do.



However, Ken has forgotten to mention that just before the big day we had a visit from our old friend, Professor Kenton Bluminstall, who bored us, sorry *entertained* us, with some astounding facts about fireworks.

For example, did you know the first recorded fireworks in England were at the wedding of King Henry VII in 1486? I was only a nipper at the time but I remember the occasion well.

Or that the record for the most firework rockets launched in 30 seconds is 125,801? That's pathetic—surely our display beat that!

The Professor pointed out that fireworks can be dangerous because the premiere of Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks in 1749 was disrupted when the pavilion caught fire. That was good advice and got me checking the smokers' shelter—regrettably, it was still standing, although only just.

Well, that's enough drivel from the Professor ... and it's enough from me. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and I expect to see you all in the Queen's Head sometime over the holiday period.

All be best, *Colin*

**Why not check out our Facebook page—search for *Queens Head Tebworth* on Facebook.**



Is it just my house, or do other people have the “30 second power cut”? For those not familiar, they normally happen around tea time just when people are cooking their tea or have settled down to watch TV.

Everything goes dark for a few seconds then comes back on again! How can this be? What could possibly go wrong and then be OK again after 30 seconds? I have to re-set everything, satellite takes ages to come on again, etc, etc. Somebody somewhere is flicking a switch, just to upset me!!! Stop doing it! It is not too much to ask, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to have an uninterrupted supply of electricity!!!

*JP*

*I don't want you to become paranoid, JP, but I think it is just your house (Ed).*

## A Mother's Letter to her Son

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read quickly.

You won't know the house when you come home because we've moved. Your Dad had read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles from your home, so he thought it safer if we moved. I won't be able to send you the address because the family that lived here before took the house number with them so that they wouldn't have to change their address.

About your Dad, he has a lovely job with 500 men under him – he's cutting grass at the cemetery. Your brother Sean is doing well in the Army. He's only been a soldier for two weeks and already they've made him a Court Marshall.

There was a washing machine in the new house when we moved in but it isn't working too good. Last week I put 14 shirts in it, pulled the chain and haven't seen them since.

Your Dad locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your brother out.

Your Auntie Sue said that the coat you wanted me to send you would be too heavy to post because of the heavy buttons. So I cut them off and put them in the pockets. There's also socks in there that Auntie Maud knitted – there are three of them because we told her you'd grown another foot since she last saw you.

Your sister Mary has had a baby but I don't know if it's a boy or girl so I can't tell you if you're an uncle or aunty.

Your Uncle Dick drowned last week in a vat of whisky in the distillery. Some of his workmates dived in to save him but he bravely fought them off. We cremated his body and it took four days to put the fire out.

The weather's not been too bad – it only rained twice last week, once for three days and once for four days. But Monday was so windy that one of the chickens laid the same egg five times.

The only other news is that I've had all my teeth removed and a new gas oven fitted.

Your loving mother

PS – I was going to send you £5, but I've already sealed the envelope.





**Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Tebworth

# **Chalgrave News Annual Quiz**

**1st prize, £100  
2nd prize, bubbly!**

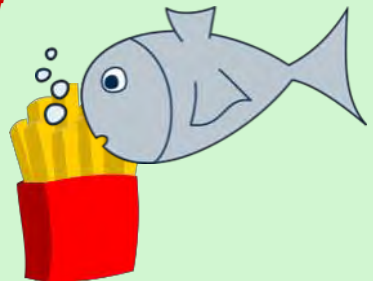
**6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start**

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, will be available  
nearer the time.



**Entry by pre-purchased ticket ONLY**

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