## **CHALGRAVE NEWS**

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



**Publication No. 51 June 2016** 

#### **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	The Plough	8.00 pm
Mondays	Dominoes	The Plough	
Fridays and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month	Live entertainment	Queen's Head	7.30 pm
Wednesdays	Darts	Queen's Head	
Thursdays	Dominoes	Queen's Head	
Weekdays	Book Club	Noeleen Thompson	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	8-10 pm
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> June	10–10 Festival of Cricket – see p 35	Cricket Ground	10.30 am
Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June	JoeFest 2016 – <i>see p 39</i>	Old Farm Inn, Church Road, Totternhoe	1.00 pm
Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Chalgrave Games – see p 41	Memorial Hall	1.00 pm
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Classic & Prestige Car Day – see p 40	The Plough	Noon

Front Cover: A double rainbow, as seen from Tebworth Road on the evening of 14th April 2016

This edition of the *Chalgrave News*, as well as past editions, can be read online at <a href="https://www.chalgrave.org">www.chalgrave.org</a>. Also visit this website for information on the Parish Council, parish history, the Memorial Hall, local organisations, and much, much more.

# Deadline for next edition: Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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Please submit entries by email to <a href="mailto:thechalgravenews@live.co.uk">thechalgravenews@live.co.uk</a> or by phone to Roger Parker on 01525 874910

#### **Editorial**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another edition of the *Chalgrave News*, full of articles that we hope will enlighten you or entertain you, and, in some cases, perhaps both. As well as contributions from our regular band of writers, we also carry articles on recent events, namely the Annual Parish Assembly, the Rogation Day Walk, the MK Classic Car Tour, and the Tebworth Street Party. In addition, we also have — aerial photos of Tebworth and Wingfield taken from a height of around 1,700 feet — a story, with a happy ending, of an exhausted barn owl — an appeal from the WI in support of the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre — a piece on the further theft of lead from the church roof — and a pictorial article on the erection of the new clubhouse for the Sports Club.

As there is the important EU referendum taking place this month, in the interests of fair play we are including two articles in this edition, both written by influential analysts – Andrew Selous painstakingly presents the case for the Remain camp while local business man, JP, incisively argues for Brexit. I know which way I'm voting but everyone must make their own decision.

Following our appeal in the last issue for volunteers to help with the *News*, I'm delighted to report that Wingfield resident, Janine Harding, has stepped up to the mark. Janine will be assisting Su Parker next year with the advertising. If you fancy supporting us in any way, please get in touch because we desperately need at least one more pair of hands so that Su can further reduce her involvement and take a well-earned rest.

Regrettably, the Annual *Chalgrave News* Quiz, which was scheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April, had to be cancelled because too few tickets were sold to make the event viable. It seems that the selected date was unsuitable for many of the regulars who attend. There is an element of potluck involved in choosing dates for such occasions and, this time, we got it wrong. We did consider rescheduling for later this year but we've now decided to wait until next year.

Finally, on a sad note, two of our best known and well loved villagers, Dot Brinklow and Vera Osborn, have recently passed away and you will find touching tributes to both ladies in this issue.

RP

The Chalgrave News team produces the Chalgrave News in good faith and we 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.

#### Chairman of the Parish Council



#### 2016 Chairman's Report

The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chairman (and I am also one of the Council representatives on the West Trust); Ken Green, who is the Vice Chairman and heads up the Footpaths Committee and has responsibility for the website; Debbie Hampson, who is on the Planning Committee; Mike Wells, who runs our Speedwatch activities and also works on our website; Paul Whitton, who monitors fly tipping; Barbara Jackson, who leads the pond restoration project and our defibrillator team; and Lesley Smith, who is our Parish Clerk.

One name not mentioned is Dan Osborn. Unfortunately for us, Dan is stepping down from the Council. With a growing family, his work and other commitments, he finds it difficult to allocate time to be a Parish Councillor. We really regret his departure and thank him for his 14 years of service to the Parish.

It does mean that there will be 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.

We continue to pressure Highways to repair our roads, get our street lights working, cut back overgrown bushes and trees, and clear pathways.

We also deal with unexpected issues like the sudden closure of Hockliffe Road in the centre of Tebworth while they worked on a water main – diverting traffic down The Lane! Or when Lords Hill was closed and HGVs were diverted down Tebworth/ Wingfield Road.

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 on our website or via the Clerk as can minutes of our meetings.

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 – we want to maintain the rural nature of our Parish.

Mike is leading our Speedwatch Campaign. We are out on Toddington Road and Tebworth Road. We are limited to where we can use the speed sign because of Health and Safety. Please speak to Mike if you want to know more or to volunteer.

We are aware that the VAS on Toddington Road is erratic and we are looking into it.

When the A5/M1 link is opened there will be a 7.5 tonne weight limit through our Parish and surrounding roads. We also hope to have a 20 mph speed limit through Tehworth.

I hope you agree that the work on the pond in Tebworth so far is good. Had we not dredged the pond it would now be land. We are next going to work on the banks and do some planting. We have a small team working on this – if you would like to help please speak to Barbara.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area. However, there are break-ins and burglaries so please ensure that doors and windows are locked and outbuildings are secure. Please report anything that you think is suspicious and report any crimes. We are considering setting up Street Watch in the Parish – this will be run by a small group of volunteers.

Central Beds Council have a number of online consultations over the year on a variety of subjects. We respond to them on your behalf but we are concerned that one or two of them should also be responded to by individuals. There is currently a consultation on bus services.

If you are with someone having a cardiac arrest in the village you can't leave them. Your job is to call 999 and perform CPR until the emergency services arrive. In the meantime, someone needs to bring the defibrillator to you. We have a small group of volunteers who are willing be called if they are in the village and able to collect the defibrillator. We are also looking into the possibility of The East of England Ambulance service training "First Responders" in basic first aid. This training is free so if anyone is interested in either becoming a First Responder or volunteering to be called to collect the defibrillator, please contact Barbara Jackson after the meeting.

Finally, the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for 2015. 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



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.



#### View from the House: Andrew Selous MP



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

A COLD HARD LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THE BRITISH NATIONAL

#### A COLD HARD LOOK AT WHAT'S IN THE BRITISH NATIONAL INTEREST

I am proud that this Government is giving the British people a vote on whether to remain members of the EU. The British people have been shut out from this debate for far too long. I know that people of goodwill who love their country dearly and want nothing but the best for the UK have strongly differing views on this subject. However the country votes on 23<sup>rd</sup> June we must come together as one nation afterwards to make the best of which ever decision the British people make.

I am proud of our country. Over the centuries we've done more than anyone to promote liberty, the rule of law and free markets. We have done so in cooperation with many and in the interests of all. Today we still offer hope to those less fortunate than ourselves in a troubled world. We are also a sovereign power that embraces the strength found in exchanging mutual commitments.

Having thought long and hard about this issue I have decided to back the UK remaining in a European union that continues to reform.

Just under half our exports go to the EU the world's richest market of 500 million people. Of course we need to export more to the rest of the world as well, but harming businesses who export to Europe would have severe consequences for British jobs.

A few years ago General Motors Europe gave a renewed contract for the Vivaro van to the IBC plant in Luton where a number of my constituents work. I believe that other European van factories would have received that contract had the UK not been in the EU. BE Aerospace in Leighton Buzzard, a jewel in the industrial crown of south Bedfordshire, with 600 skilled engineering jobs, have told me very clearly that it is best for the security of their business for the UK to remain in the EU. Peter Kendall, Bedfordshire's best-known farmer, and a small employer, is also of the same view.

It's worth remembering that UK has created 2.7 million private sector jobs since 2010, more than the whole of the rest of the EU put together. There are also 900,000 more businesses and all of this has been done while the UK is a member of the EU. Currently there are 776,000 job vacancies and parts of the country are starting to see not just skills shortages but serious labour shortages too.

Countries like Norway and Switzerland which are outside of the EU have to agree to free movement of labour and to pay in to the EU coffers in order to have access to the single market. As the former EU spokesman for the Norwegian Conservatives said "If you want to run Europe you must be in Europe. If you want to be run by Europe, feel free to join Norway in the European Economic Area."

The EU also has free trade agreements with 53 other countries and they would all lapse for the UK if we left. This would lead to considerable uncertainty for business. I think it is also significant that our friends in the Anglosphere, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and America, all want us to stay and India and China are mystified that we are even considering leaving. I also note that National Australia Bank, which is about to float the Clydesdale and Yorkshire Bank, sees Brexit as the major risk to its prospects leading to higher interest rates, more regulation,

carnage in financial markets and reduced international investment in the UK.

Our number one services export, financial services firms who employ over 1 million people, can now never be forced to relocate inside the Eurozone if they want to trade in Euros, just because they are based in the UK. That was part of what the Prime Minister negotiated. Although we would feel more sovereign if we left the EU, in this case it would be an illusion of sovereignty, because we would not have the power to protect the businesses which create the jobs and livelihoods in our country.

The UK has also secured agreement for the completion of the European single market in services, capital and energy. Completing the single market in services alone could add up to 2% to our economy. The completion of the single market in services will make it easier for thousands of UK service based companies like IT firms to trade in Europe, for example. The completion of the single market in energy will allow new suppliers into our energy market meaning lower energy bills for families across the country.

The free trade agreement the EU has signed with South Korea has been a great boost to the UK which now has a surplus with South Korea. There are now commitments for the EU to sign free trade agreements with America, Japan, China, India, New Zealand and Australia. Country after country has said that they while they could sign trade deals with Britain they would prefer to sign them with the EU because they would be bigger and better. In other words there would be years and years of uncertainty over these deals which are important to boost trade and prosperity.

As a former Territorial soldier myself, I know that NATO is the cornerstone of our security. The military also recognise what they call defence in depth. The sanctions that the UK helped broker with the EU and America against Russia because of its partial invasion of Ukraine are an example, as is the pressure the EU was able to put on Iran to agree a nuclear deal.

I think that Brexit would most likely lead to a second Scottish referendum leading to the breakup of the UK and a rump England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Immigration remains too high and roughly half comes from the EU. The recent agreement means that new powers have been secured against criminals from other countries including powers to stop them coming here in the first place and powers to deport them if they are already here. Those coming from the EU who have not found work within six months can now be required to leave and EU migrants will have to wait four years until they have full access to our benefits. Wages for British workers began to rise this April with the introduction of the national living wage and will continue to rise throughout this Parliament.

The special status given to the UK means we can now have the best of both worlds. We will be in those parts of Europe that work well for us, being in the driving seat of the world's biggest single market. We will have the power to insist that European countries share with us the border information so we know what terrorists and criminals are doing in Europe. That power would be lost if we leave. We will be out of the euro, out of Eurozone bailouts and out of the passport free no borders Schengen area and permanently and legally protected from being part of an ever closer union.

I will be voting to stay in not out of any love for the EU but from a cold hard look at what I think is in the British national interest. We should continue to challenge Europe to reform further and people across the EU are also demanding further change. We must continue to be critical and constructive partners as any true friend should be. Margaret Thatcher understood that we needed British influence at the heart of Europe which is why she insisted that British diplomats spend time in Brussels. She sent one of her closest advisers, David Williamson, to be Secretary General of the Commission. UK officials represent only 3% of the total and we need to push that number up to nearer a fair proportion of 12%.

#### The Case for Brexit

Far be it from me to get Political but ... you cannot have failed to notice that there is a Referendum coming up, well it has been on every News Bulletin for the last 3 months and no doubt will continue until D Day! However, I have heard ... as you will have done, much about 'Staying In', and much about 'Getting Out'.

Our Prime Minister is convinced that we should stay in, but he does have to protect his retirement plan and ... a seat in Brussels is a nice little earner if ever there was one! He returned from his tour of Europe with, quite frankly, nothing at all ... and if he'd been man enough to say exactly that and suggest we should get out, the EU may well have suggested 'further talks'. Instead he is trying to sell us a future governed by unelected bureaucrats in Brussels whose accounts haven't been signed off in 20 years! Recently, he suggested that staying in could prevent another war in Europe ... what utter tosh is that?? Are the Italians going to get a bit leery and invade? Will the Germans have another go? The Greeks? I don't think so, they all have enough to worry about after joining the Euro and having most of Africa turning up on their beaches, mind you they won't hang around long as they are more than keen to come here!! We cannot simply keep allowing hoards of people in, we do not have enough room ... it's as simple as that, our infrastructure cannot cope. Putting it bluntly, we are full!

What about Trade? What about it? Are the German car-makers going to take kindly to Brussels saying you can't trade with the UK? NO, they are not, we are one of their biggest markets. Have we got nice things other people want to buy? YES, we have, and they will still want to buy them. This is the  $21^{st}$  century, we have the internet, emails, Skype and goodness knows what else, we can discuss trade with countries anywhere we like, any continent, any time, in fact it will be considerably easier broking a deal with say Australia or New Zealand, as they speak English ... the French do not! We do not need to be part of a European superstate that is in the process of going bust!!

All this, rather disappointing Government can offer is a "fear campaign" to protect their own long-term interests. They are not putting the UK first, simply Themselves. I would quite like to be able to deport criminals without the EU Court of Human Rights poking their noses in and saying we cannot, what's it got to do with them? It is, after all, 'Our Country' and not theirs!!

There is, however, one really frightening fact, that has been hushed up as much as possible (and there are many more), as from October 75 million Turks will be able to travel visa-free to Europe, YES.....75 million!! The average wage in Turkey is about £35 a week, it is virtually a Third World Country and although we are not part of the Schengen Agreement, guess where they will want to come? If you think Calais is a disgrace, and it is, wait until that lot turn up!

Anyway, as you may have gathered, I'm with Boris on this, if we're out, we are out. No free movement of people or labour. No stupid tariffs, down to us, we are big enough to look after ourselves. People quote Norway, saying they still have to accept all sorts of rules from the EU ... negotiate better!

Even our own MP who, as far as I can see does virtually nothing at all for much of the time, and certainly not around these parts, is supporting the 'In' vote – well, he would, wouldn't he? Perhaps we should mention the video currently doing the rounds showing Mr Cameron peddling the fact that we will be fine if we came out?? Strange that, changed his mind.

Oh, and another thing, they want to mess about with our kettles and other electrical appliances in the name of energy conservation, well they can get lost!

**Downsides?** ... Not that many, might have to show your passport when travelling through Europe, that's about it!

JP

#### How Australian Farmers have a Good Time

Everyone knows that Australia is an exciting and dynamic place to live and, judging from the poster below, we think our local farmers can learn a lot from their antipodean cousins when it comes to riveting ways of spending a Saturday afternoon. Come on, guys, brush off the cobwebs and live it up a bit! Don't let the Aussies have all the fun.



Our Scottish friend, Mr Greig, is a big fan of the Flintstones and he's recently back from a tour of the Middle East. He was puzzled to as to why people in Dubai don't like the Flintstones, but those in Abu Dhabi do. Has anyone any thoughts?

Regrettably, Mr Greig also tells us that his autobiography has been rejected by **yet another** publisher – sadly, it seems this is the story of his life.

But on a more positive note, he and his brother inherited some furniture from Edinburgh Zoo and he was delighted to find that he got the lion's chair.



#### **Unintended Consequences ... Saving the Elephants**

I would like to save the elephants: very much. Like my father before me, I am an elephant lover. I struggle with the concept of incarcerating wild animals but, on balance, I judge that being able to visit and observe these magnificent creatures on our own terms actually promotes awareness and respect. Out of sight is out of mind. So, when I had some spare time on a business trip to Sri Lanka in 2011, I hired a driver to take me 3 hours in each direction on scary roads in order to visit the famous Pinnawala elephant orphanage. I have a picture to prove it. But when the news item appeared that the Kenyan authorities had built 11 huge pyres of elephant tusks – 105 tonnes of ivory – and would set them alight as a declaration of intent in their war against the poachers – I was filled with apprehension. Those fires were lit on 30th April and, with the help of jet fuel accelerant, will by now have reduced the ivory to ash. Will this help to save the elephants?

The loose thread that connects my contributions is the law of unintended consequences, so named by the American sociologist Robert K Merton in 1936. He identified several reasons why well-intentioned social action, often embodied in pompous laws and regulations, fails to deliver or delivers only at exorbitant cost. The most pervasive reasons were ignorance and error. Merton called the third reason "the imperious immediacy of interest", meaning instances where the sponsors are so focused on the intended consequence, they are blind to all else.

Those who are optimistic about the effect of the ivory burn reckon that it will have a powerful demonstration effect in the war against the poachers and traders in illegal ivory, and that it eliminates the possibility that the stockpile will ever be sold into the black market by corrupt officials. However laudable and well-intentioned, the ivory burn fails to address the realities of the ivory trade and the slaughter of elephants.

On the question of demand for ivory, it is mostly Chinese in origin and insatiable:





according to survey evidence, 80% of aspiring Chinese households would like to display ivory objects in their homes as an expression of affluence. There is a cultural affinity to the ownership of ivory that extends into the mists of time. The international trade ban on ivory, since 1989, has done nothing to dampen Asian demand for ivory, but has definitely helped to drive up its market value.

On the other side of the equation, there is the motivation for elephant slaughter. The availability of high-velocity rifles (AK47s, typically costing less than £100) makes an elephant much easier to kill. As humans have encroached on the habitats of African elephants, so conflicts between humans and elephants have escalated. To the extent that elephants are killed because of their threat to crops or for sport, it is unclear whether the absence of an end-market for ivory would materially reduce the numbers of elephants killed.

The key to saving the African elephants appears to involve three elements. First, better gun control with licensing of high-powered weapons and strict sanctions against unlicensed gun ownership. Second, better segregation of elephants from human populations, requiring fencing and patrols. Third, the promotion of tourism to enhance the economic value of living elephants over dead ones. Only when the adjacent communities come to associate live elephants with the preservation, rather than the destruction, of their livelihoods, will the slaughter come to an end.

Peter Warburton

### **Chalgrave WI Appeal**

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre is a detention centre for foreign nationals prior to their deportation from the United Kingdom. It is located near Milton Ernest in Bedfordshire. The centre holds around 400 detainees, most of them single women, who are waiting for their immigration status to be resolved.



Last August the BBC reported that conditions there had deteriorated to such an extent that it is a "place of national concern". Nick Hardwick, Chief Prisons Inspector, said Yarl's Wood was failing vulnerable women. He said the concerns showed women, including pregnant ones, should be detained only as a last resort.

The centre has a history of controversy. It opened in 2001 at a cost of £100m and burnt down three months later during protests by detainees. There have been repeated allegations of abuse, poor health care and inappropriate sexual contact, as well as protests, including hunger strikes.

Last autumn Chalgrave WI became involved with the Befrienders of Yarl's Wood by participating in a Christmas event. We collected small 'luxuries' for the women such as toiletries, underwear and accessories and compiled them into 200 gift bags which were distributed at the event. The surprise and delight on the faces of the women was a sight to see! The women there have such mundane routines every day, so having the party with lovely gifts and some different, tasty food lifted their spirits enormously.

On the 27th April we held an open meeting at Toddington Village Hall where the speakers were a Befriender, a representative for Women for Women Refugees and an ex-detainee. We were told about the lives of the women at Yarl's Wood and the work of the Befrienders. Some of the women there have been detained for many months, not knowing whether they will be able to stay in the UK or will be sent back to their country of origin – they are given no end date while they wait for the Home Office's decision on their fate. One woman has been there for two years, although she has a husband and child living in the UK. A pair of twins there have been brought up, in care, in the UK, from the age of three – now they are adults they are at risk of being sent back to their country of origin where they know no-one and don't speak the language. One wants to be a lawyer, the other a doctor.

Some are victims of torture, trafficking and other traumas in their country of origin and may be suffering from mental health issues as a result.

We were told that we are the only country in Europe who detain women refugees and that the cost of keeping the women there is enormous, let alone the cost of actually building the centre, and so it would be much more cost-effective for them to live with

family and friends in the community. It seems that the biggest problem is not knowing what will happen to them and when.

#### Please support our Appeal - donations by 30th June

We are now involved with organising a summer event for the women and will be collecting donations for the gift bags. Please help us by donating any unwanted items:

- Toiletries aerosols are not allowed. This could include the small bottles supplied in hotel bathrooms.
- Cosmetics lipsticks, nail varnish and eye shadow are probably best.
- Scarves these can be used but clean perhaps those that are at the bottom of the drawer!
- Pretty socks and knickers (new of course!).
- Jewellery again, this can be used the sort of things you would take to a charity shop.
- Gift bags this year we need to collect 300 of them. We've found that bottle bags are best but frankly with that amount to collect, anything would be welcome.

There are a few couples there, so gifts for men would be welcome too. After-shave, shaving soap, moisturiser, are a few examples.

"Signs of the Times" on Wingfield Road in Tebworth (LU7 9QQ) have kindly agreed to support our campaign by acting as a collection point for donations. They are open Monday to Friday, 8.00 am to 4.30 pm. There will be a marked cardboard box just inside the sliding entrance doors where you can drop off your donations.

Donations can also be dropped off with Evaline Bull at 4 Conger Lane, Toddington, LU5 6BP, mobile 07984 572101.

For more information on Yarl's Wood please Google it – there is a wealth of information available on the internet about the centre and the controversy surrounding it.



Please also see the Chalgrave WI Facebook page for more information or to get in touch.

Maureen Gilmour and Evaline Bull - Chalgrave WI

#### **Councillor Mark Versallion**

Mark Versallion is our 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 <a href="mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>.





Laura Downton, Wildlife Trust

#### Annual Parish Assembly

Holding an Annual Parish Assembly is a legal requirement in England but a desirable one at that. It provides an opportunity for people to get together and hear from councillors and local organisations about what's been going on over the past year and

going on over the past year and what's planned for the next. This year's Assembly was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April and was well attended, which was in no small measure due to the considerable advance publicity given to the event.

Unfortunately, our MP, Andrew Selous, was unable to make it in person this year, but he did send a brief report that was read out. However, our Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Mark Versallion, was in attendance, along with all the members of our Parish Council.

The gathering was opened by Phil Parry, Chairman of the Parish Council, giving a report from the Council, a summary of which may be read on page 4 of the *News*. Next up was

Mark who spoke of county issues that are of interest to Chalgrave, such as house building, and particularly its potential effect on the green belt.

Moving away from politics, the next speaker was Laura Downton, who is the Living Landscape Manager for the Wildlife Trust in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Laura spoke of Local Wildlife Sites (also known as Secret Spaces)







not protected by law so consequently are vulnerable to loss or damage over the years. Tebworth Pond is not yet designated as a Local Wildlife Site but potentially could be and Laura is happy to provide advice.

There then followed short updates from local organisations, including the Memorial Hall, the Sports Club, the Senior

Citizen's Committee, the *Chalgrave News*, the WI and the Book Club.

Once the reports had been delivered, and the official business was over, it was time for the participants to mingle, and discuss whatever they wished with whomever they wanted. And, following the precedent set in previous years, naturally the evening was rounded off with an enticing selection of delectable sandwiches,

cakes and drinks — all provided free of charge!

RP, with additional photos by Ken Green

#### **Old News**

Luton Times and Advertiser, 24th June 1898 -

#### TEBWORTH.

DIAMOND JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY. — This event was celebrated on Tuesday at Tebworth and the hamlet of Wingfield by a free tea to every resident. A sum of about £4 being in hand unexpended from last year's celebration, a committee was formed for raising additional subscriptions, and they met with such success that they were enabled to provide a tea gratis to every person, to engage the Dunstable Town Band, and also provide a large number of presents for sports which were held after tea in Mr. C. Bradshaw's meadow. That gentleman also gave the loan of his spacious barn, where an excellent tea was provided, Mr. Dancer being the caterer. Proceedings commenced at half-past two by the Dunstable band under Mr. F. Franklin, parading both at Wingfield and Tebworth. After tea an adjournment then took place to the meadow, where a most enjoyable time was spent in dancing, &c., until ten o'clock, when a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee, who were as follows: Messrs. C. Bradshaw (chairman), J. Osborn, F. Whinnett, D. Stevens, A. Hack, T. Dancer, also Mrs. Duncombe, Mrs. F. Whinnett, Miss E Whinnett, and Miss Simpson.

*Note:* On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the previous year, Queen Victoria had celebrated her Diamond Jubilee.



who had said they were coming on the Rogation Day Walk on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May apologised saying they now had other plans so I really had no "definites". On Saturday evening I set up the special ladder that I always use over a particularly difficult fence

and prepared to turn up at the Queen's Head

at start time to no takers. To my surprise there were 24 people waiting. Only 5 from Chalgrave but 19 from the "Dunstable Bog Trotters".

A fine day for walking. Off just after 10 am then lunch at the Fancott where 3 joined and 5 left, and back before 4 pm. The Queen's Head was still open and most of us stopped for a drink or two! Put a date on your calendar



for next year – 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Ken Green





#### A Lost Owl ... but a Happy Ending

On the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, whilst running down Chalgrave Road, I happened to look down at the grass verge to see a barn owl. At first I thought I had imagined it and carried on but, on walking back to make sure, I discovered it really was a live barn owl.

It didn't move and just looked at me. It had leather tassels on its legs and a ring so I realised it must be an escaped tame bird but from where and what should I do next?

I jogged on home to Google animal rescue. I rang the RSPCA. They said ring the RSPB. They just had an answerphone with numerous press buttons. Dial 3 if it's fallen out

of a nest or dial 6 if it looks sick, etc. Can't stand these answer-phones so back to Google and found Tiggywinkles animal rescue in Haddenham but they say they were not interested as it wasn't wild! So what next, better go and rescue it myself first before it gets killed.

I looked in the garage, grabbed a box and put a blanket in it. Checked inside the fridge and found a chicken ready-meal. Washed off the sauce and cut off a couple of pieces of chicken. My son Alex had arrived home from school so he came back with me to help. On returning we found the owl was now in a tree. I put my cycling gloves on, placed a bit of the chicken in my hand and held out my arm. To our amazement the owl flew straight down, landing on my arm and grabbed the chicken. It then jumped down onto

the grass. My son and I sat next to it with the box. A few cars passed and we got some strange looks as they probably couldn't see the bird and just saw two blokes and a box sitting by the side of the road!

When the owl finished the first piece of chicken I then put another piece in my hand.

When the owl finished the first piece of chicken I then put another piece in my hand with my hand over the box. When it landed on my hand for the next bite of lunch we grabbed it and flipped the lid on the box.

Next problem, what do we do with an owl in a box?! Fortunately a neighbour knew our local vet, Peter Harding, who lives down the road and I rang him. He said take the owl down to his veterinary clinic in Leighton Buzzard.

All the folks in the vets with their poorly dogs wanted to look in the box at the owl, quite a star he was. Peter arrived and he picked the owl out of the box with a huge



pair of elbow length leather gloves. A bit safer than my cycling gloves but the owl was very tired and didn't cause any problems. He said he would feed him some dog food and make some calls to people he knew in the bird world. The happy ending. The owner turned up and collected him.

The happy ending. The owner turned up and collected him the following morning. Said he had been away a week and was very hungry and tired and probably wouldn't have survived another cold night.

He is home, happy and healthy now.

Duncan Kerr



damage to slates over the nave

## Further Lead Theft from our Church

We reported in the last issue of the *News* that a gang of men had stripped lead from the south aisle of Chalgrave Church in December. Since then, villagers have undoubtedly been upset to read that some despicable individuals visited the church in the early hours of Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and stole the lead from the *other* side of the building. On this occasion, they also caused significant damage to the slates covering the nave on both its northern and southern flanks.

The Rector, reported in *Luton on Sunday*, has said that the total bill arising from the two thefts is now estimated to be £80,000. Only a

fraction of this sum is covered by insurance. Replacing the lost lead with more of the same may only serve to encourage further thefts but, as the church is a Grade I listed building, the choice of roofing material had to be agreed with English Heritage. Luckily, English Heritage has agreed that terne<sup>‡</sup>-coated stainless steel may be used in place of lead which it is hoped will prevent the church from being the victim of such abhorrent outrages in the future.

The Police appear not to have commented on whether the two thefts are related but readers are free to draw their own conclusions. If anyone has any information they should contact the Police on 101.

RP

\*Terne coating, usually a 50:50 alloy of zinc and tin, is used to protect stainless steel and also has the characteristic of dulling down over time to the colour of lead. English Heritage has permitted terne-coated stainless steel to be installed on the roofs of other vulnerable listed buildings.



Damage caused during the latest theft to slates over the south side of the nave



#### Dot Brinklow, 1931-2016 ... RIP

Dorothy (Dot) Brinklow, who passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> March, aged 84, was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1931 in Woburn Road, Hockliffe. She was the eldest of four children, her siblings being Tom, Valerie and Brian. The Horne family home was soon to move to Wingfield Road in Tebworth. Back then life was simple – the village children would spend as much time as possible outdoors and play in the fields, down the local lane and swim in the brook that ran nearby.

Dot graduated to Luton High School – a rare achievement back in those days. After finishing school she took a job at AC Delco in Dunstable. This was when she met Maurice (Curly) Brinklow, from Woburn Road in Hockliffe, The couple were married on 29th August 1949. The Brinklows

were a football mad family. Dot and Curly were married in the morning which allowed Curly to play in goal for Dunstable Pioneers in the afternoon. They moved into a tiny cottage in Wingfield where their sons, Keith and Derek, were born. The next move saw Dot back in Wingfield Road at number 57 where she spent the remainder of her life.

Dot was a totally selfless person and she was at her most happy and content when those close to her were happy. Nothing was too much trouble for the family and she always had a very positive and cheery demeanour. She took a job as a dinner lady at the local Primary School and later joined the ironmongers Lloyd Worrall – where "Signs of the Times" now is. She was one of the very first female recipients of a diploma issued on behalf of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers in 1978.

Dot loved football – she was an ardent fan of Luton Town and followed them to their only appearance in the FA Cup Final at Wembley in 1959.

In spite of such a busy life, Dot was also a Parish Councillor and having served 43 years, latterly as Chair, was rewarded with a trip to one of the Queen's Garden Parties.

Dot and Curly celebrated both their 60th and 65th wedding anniversaries and were

extremely proud and happy to receive a telegram from Buckingham Palace to mark each occasion.

Dot will be sorely missed. She was a strong personality and was passionate about village life.

NOTE — In 1996 John Pilgrim and Ernie Almond interviewed some villagers for Three Counties Radio. You can hear Dot talk about old times on the Chalgrave website, <a href="www.chalgravepc.org.uk/events/past-events/three-counties-radio-1996/">www.chalgravepc.org.uk/events/past-events/three-counties-radio-1996/</a>.



#### Vera Osborn, 1916-2016 ... RIP

Vera who passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, was born in 1916, 100 years ago, to the farming family of William and Olive Hackney in a small village called Felmersham. She was the eldest of three.

At the age of 7 her parents sent her off to a boarding school in Kent. Vera stayed with her uncle and aunt and had a good education. When Vera came back to Felmersham they took in a lodger, Miss Farent, who had previously taught at Tebworth school. Through her, Vera met Mona Osborn. Vera and Mona became good friends. On one of the many visits to Tebworth she met a young man, Mona's cousin Ron, the local



butcher and farmer. Mona's advice was 'you don't want anything to do with him as he is a bit of a bad lot!' However ignoring her advice this was the start of a long romance.

In the 1930's (the 'Great Depression') the Hackneys sold their 400 acre farm in Felmersham and bought a small farm in Cholesbury – now the scene of some of the Midsummer Murders. They all had to work very hard to make a living – Vera delivered milk on her horse and milk float.

With the onset of World War Two, Vera got a job with the Met Office in Dunstable, where she worked on the teleprinters receiving weather reports. Unbeknown to her some of these weather reports contained messages for Bletchley Park.



In 1948 she married Ron. This was the start of 68 happy years in Tebworth. A year later Chris was born. Ron died in 1992 and Vera later moved into the 'Malt House'. She lived there until 2015. For the last eight months of her life she was in Elm Lodge Nursing Home. Vera was an active member of the original WI, enjoying day trips out with neighbours. She would attend the Methodist church (the Old Chapel) where Ron's father was once a lay preacher. Vera was an artist and enjoyed painting. She loved her walks down The Lane and was a very keen gardener. She was a prominent member of our village community and will be sadly missed.

#### **West Charity Deadline**

Please remember to complete and submit your applications by **30**<sup>th</sup> **June**.

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

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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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## Chalgrave Memorial Hall Fees and Charges effective from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Period	Parish Resident Individual and Parish Voluntary Community Groups	**Non-Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	**Non-Parish Organisation/ Commercial		
MONDAY TO FRIDAY					
9am – 6pm	£6.50 per hour	£14 per hour	£17 per hour		
6pm – 11pm*	£6.50 per hour	£17 per hour	£23 per hour		
FRIDAY					
6pm – 12 midnight*	£105	£220	£250		
SATURDAY					
9am – 6pm	£7.50 per hour	£19 per hour	£21 per hour		
6pm – 12 midnight*	£105	£245	£300		
12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£130	£300	£350		
SUNDAY					
10am – 10pm*	£7.50 per hour	£19 per hour	£24 per hour		
'WEEKEND RATE'					
(Friday 6pm to Sunday 12 noon)  NB Hall must be vacated at 11pm  Friday and 12 midnight Saturday	£235	£500	£600		

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

- Bank Holidays/New Year's Eve Rates on application
- Committee Room available for hire separately when Hall not hired – Rates on application
- \*\*Block/Regular booking discount of up to 15% available
- Bookings outside above hours subject to individual rates on application.
- Non-refundable deposit of 50% of the booking fee payable to confirm booking.

• £250 damage deposit required on all bookings – refundable in full subject to no damage caused to Hall, contents, equipment or grounds and the Hall and grounds being left in a clean and tidy state. NB: should the cost of reparation to the Hall contents or equipment exceed the deposit then the Committee reserve the right to pursue the balance.

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE TELEPHONE: 07831 482556

## **Useful Contacts**

Chalgrave News Editorial	Roger Parker	thechalgravenews@live.co.uk	01525 874910
Chalgrave News Advertising	Su Parker	thechalgravenews@live.co.uk	01525 873963
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Hannah Retallack	LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk	01582 473411
Member of Parliament	Andrew Selous	andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk	0207 2191741
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
Vice Chairman of Parish Council	Ken Green		01525 874107
Parish Council Clerk	Lesley Smith	chalgravepc@btinternet.com	01525 874716
Councillor	Debbie Hampson		01525 877149
Councillor	Paul Whitton		01525 877181
Councillor and Traffic Calming	Mike Wells	mikewells@clara.co.uk	01525 877098
Councillor	Barbara Jackson		01525 877617
Central Beds Unitary Council			0300 300 8000
Rector of Chalgrave Church	Rev Anne Crawford	www.chalgravechurch.org.uk	01525 872298
Church Secretary	Bev		01525 210161
Church Flowers	Lesley Colella		07905 241076
Chairman, Chalgrave Memorial Hall	Roger Masters		01525 873039
Hall Booking Secretary	Velda Cooke		07831 482556
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
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Head: Harlington Upper School	Shawn Fell		01525 755100
Toddington Childcare		Playgroup/am & pm school clubs	01525 875400
Toddington Area Helping Hands		www.voluntaryworks.org/organisation/ toddington-area-helping-hands	07882 988270

#### **Old News**

Luton Times and Advertiser, 17th January 1913 -

#### GAGGED AND ROBBED.

#### SENSATIONAL AFFAIR AT WINGFIELD.

#### WOMAN FOUND CHLOROFORMED.

A mysterious and audacious outrage occurred at Wingfield early on Tuesday morning, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker, and the whole neighbourhood is in a state of great excitement.

It appears that Mr. Baker left home at 4.30 to go to his work at Thorn Green Farm, but when he gone some distance, he discovered that he had wife was then all right, for she called out, "You will be late this morning." The woman remembers nothing more of what happened, until she was found by a nurse, Miss Annie Hart. The latter thought it strange that Mrs. Baker was not by that time about her household duties, and as she had been unwell on the previous day, she called to her at the bottom of the stairs. Receiving no response, she went upstairs, and on entering the bedroom was startled to find Mrs. Baker lying on the bed with her mouth gagged with a stocking, which was saturated with chloroform. Her hands were tied to the head of the bedstead, and her feet to the foot of the moved. Miss Hart snatched the chloroform-saturated gag from Mrs. Baker's mouth, and shouted for help from the window. She then released Mrs. Baker from her position. In the meantime messengers were at once despatched to Toddington and to Hockcliffe for the police, who were quickly on the spot.

It is stated that Mrs. Baker withdrew £30 from the Post Office Savings Bank last week, and this money is now missing. Up to the present time no arrest has been made

## Please Keep Our Parish Tidy!

We are fortunate to live in a delightful, rural community. Please pay your part in keeping it this way – bring your bins in after they have been emptied, pick up litter, remove dog waste and don't leave scrap and other rubbish on our grass verges.



Parish Council

## **Gurneys and Whinnetts**

In the article in the last issue of the *News* on Hallworth Farm and Rob Flitton's ancestors, it was mentioned that Rob also had a connection with the Whinnett family and with Hill Farm, now the home of Roger and Jill Fenwick. Whinnetts had lived at Hill Farm from the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, if not before – the Will of a James Whinnett, signed in 1821, makes reference to the farm.

Rob's connection is that his great, great aunt, Caroline Cooper Gurney (the sister of his great grandfather, Edward Cooper Gurney) had married another James Whinnett in 1887. This James had been previously married. He had left home as a young man and had gone to live in Tebworth with his widowed grandfather, Thomas Sayell, and Thomas's son, Joseph Sayell, where he met the resident housekeeper, Esther Fossey. James and Esther married and the couple continued to live in Tebworth. Thomas Sayell died in 1862 but James and Ester continued to live with Joseph. After Esther died in 1880, without offspring, James lived for a while in Tebworth with Joseph, and then married Caroline Cooper Gurney. They lived and worked at Hill Farm.

At the time of the marriage, James was then aged about 50 but Caroline was only around 32 and so of childbearing age. There were two children – Mary Winifred Whinnett and another James Whinnett, who became known as Jimmy. Caroline died in 1912 and her husband two years later.



Jimmy Whinnett (1890–1971) with his wife Amy, née Marlow (1889–1954), and an unidentified friend

The son, Jimmy, who had been born in 1890, followed in his father's footsteps and became a farmer at Hill Farm. He married Amy Marlow in 1919 but they had no children. The photograph opposite shows Jimmy and Amy, along with an unidentified friend. The couple lived at Hill Farm until Amy died in Luton and Dunstable Hospital in December 1954. The death of his wife prompted Jimmy to sell Hill Farm and in 1955 it was bought by Roger Fenwick's grandfather. Jimmy then moved to Toddington, dying in 1971.

There were a lot of Whinnetts in Chalgrave in years gone by — the 1911 census records farmers with this name in Wingfield at Hill Farm, Pond Farm and New Farm and in Tebworth at Ivy Farm.

RP, with photo and information kindly provided by Rob Flitton and Roger Fenwick

#### Your Senior Financial Plans - Sorted!

Say you are an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and the government says there is no nursing home care available for you. So, what do you do? You opt for Medicare Plan G. The plan gives anyone 75 or older a gun (Plan G) and one bullet. You are allowed to shoot one worthless politician. This means you will be sent to prison for the rest of your life where you will receive a roof over your head, three meals a day, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the health care you need.

Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, sex change, or heart? They're all covered! As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now! And, who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a nursing home. And you will get rid of a useless politician while you're at it. And now, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any more income taxes! Is this a great country or what?

Now that I've solved your senior financial plan, enjoy the rest of your week!

Roger Burden

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

I notice that certain people's 'front gardens' in the Parish are turning into junk yards..... old car doors, car wheels, cars, scrap metal, assorted rubbish.. just left to rust away. Should you be reading this, which is unlikely, could you note that this is a Village... it is

not a Tip. If you must mess about with old scrap cars,

which, and I'm not sure if anyone has ever told you, don't look or sound at all good, could you please dispose of the rubbish properly? In fact, just take the whole thing to the junk-yard where it belongs, and stop wasting your time.

JΡ





air, ostensibly to get photographs for publication in the *News*, but more for the thrill of a flight in a light aircraft. So it was that 11.00 am on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> May, John and I, accompanied by trainee pilot, Sean, took off in a Piper 4-seater from Turweston Aerodrome in north Buckinghamshire heading south-east for Chalgrave. Just 11





minutes later we were circling our parish at a height of 1,700 feet with an airspeed of around 100 knots. The view was amazing, surpassing what can be seen on Google Earth.



Watching out for gliders, and avoiding straying into the Luton Airport flight path, was the job of John, with Sean providing another pair of eyes. My task was to enjoy the view ... and, oh yes, take some photographs.

Many thanks go to John

Many thanks go to John for sharing such a great experience.

RP



## Significant Birthdays ...

Congratulations to twins, Sarah and Matt Kingham, who celebrated their 18th birthdays with a party in the Memorial Hall in March. Both are planning to go to university, Sarah to study Computer Forensics and Matt to read Business and Finance, and both would then like to work in London, Sarah for the police and Matt in the banking industry.

Their mother, Debbie, thanks everyone for

help and support they have provided to the family over the years leading up to this milestone in the twins' lives.

Congratulations also to **John Parker**, who reached the grand age of 60 on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Besides being renowned for selling just about everyone in Chalgrave a second-hand car, John is also a major contributor to the News, where under the byline "JP" he succinctly writes what the rest of us have been thinking but were too timid to say.

He also plays a big role in the community, such as acting as MC at the Sport Club's Race Night, Quiz Master at the News's Annual Quiz, and starring in shows at the Memorial Hall.





John also holds a private pilot's licence and he flew the plane used to take the aerial photos in the preceding article. A man of many talents!

The landlord of The Plough, **Chris Ross**, achieved the age of 60 on 17<sup>th</sup> May, the day after John. What a difference a day makes. Chris, with his wife, Caroline, officially took over The Plough on 20<sup>th</sup> February last year. The fifteen months between then and Chris's birthday have seen momentous transitions in the pub, with an impressive renovation and big changes in the kitchen. A pub is the centre of a community and Chris and Caroline have done a magnificent job in making everyone who visits The Plough feel very welcome. Besides being an experienced chef, Chris is also a Master Cellarman so a good meal and a tasty pint are guaranteed.

If someone you know has had a big birthday, please inform us so we can embarrass them in the *News*. Just email a photo with a few details and we'll do the rest.

## MK Classic Car Tour, 10<sup>th</sup> April

I could tell by the glint in Paul Whitton's eye that this day was not going to be a gentle meander around the countryside. I had the onerous task of navigating the 90 mile, somewhat circuitous route, a job I was extremely good at despite its complexity. The first bit was easy as I simply told Paul to head for Poplars, the starting point of the tour. Phil Parry was following in his Jaguar, which had a boot full of tools and spares for the MG in the very unlikely event that it broke down, in which case I was totally reliant upon Paul to fix it.



There we met up with Barbara and Bill Jackson, who were driving their Aston Martin. John Parker and his navigator, Adam Miller, ambled in a little while later full of confidence that they would catch us all up in John's Porsche Cayenne within the first five miles despite having a start time half an hour after the rest of us. Having fuelled ourselves up on a hearty full English breakfast we headed for the start.

My navigation to Millbrook Testing Ground was impeccable despite Paul knowing the way anyway. We enjoyed two laps of the Alpine Circuit , Paul more so than me possibly. The circuit consists of loops, tight corners and progressively steeper gradients, not to mention the very bumpy stretch which had me wondering how many nuts and bolts had loosened or dropped off altogether. My nerves are always put to the test where the track consists of a steep uphill gradient with a tight loop at the top. Approaching the summit at what I considered very high speed I had an uncomfortable feeling that we were about to launch ourselves into an infinite abyss. The feeling of relief was relative as we were now travelling down an equally steep gradient around an equally tight loop.

Once out of Millbrook I was able to truly demonstrate my navigating prowess. We had no trouble finding our next destination, Broughton Castle, where we indulged in a welcome cup of coffee and a delicious slice of cake. The castle itself is an impressive red brick building with a moat and is set in beautiful parkland. It is home to the 21st Lord and Lady Saye & Sele, whose family name is Fiennes. The ownership of the Castle has remained in the same family since 1447. By this time John had caught up with us although it had taken him 50 miles to do so.

On our way once again. I'm still not convinced that what happened next was my fault. My understanding of the word 'gate' is not the same as the tour organisers so I told Paul to



turn left quite a way beyond the intended point. After a mile or so it became obvious that we were not on the correct route. I was impressed by the number of swear words Paul could cram into one sentence as we back tracked and met Phil coming the other way in an

effort to get us back in the right direction

Next stop was the Porsche Experience at Silverstone. By this time the glint in Paul's eye had become dazzling. I'm not sure how many 360°s we completed on the 'doughnut pad'. I do remember feeling extremely giddy and not particularly interested as Paul was explaining how he achieved this centrifugal motion without turning the steering wheel and how brilliant it was.



I was right to feel some trepidation as we approached the Ice Hill. Last year we took a sedate drive along the slippery slope and through the water jets. Caution didn't exist this year. We slid most of the way down as Paul attempted to push the accelerator pedal through the floor. The finale was yet more 360°s at the end of the hill followed by a seemingly rapid slide towards the grass verge. Sometime during these manoeuvres I had screamed something appropriate and grabbed Paul's arm, which in retrospect , wasn't a good idea as he needed it to control the car. However those two scariest minutes of my life had given Phil a great deal of amusement as he looked on so I should be pleased about that.

Once I had recovered, we all set off for the Fox and Hounds at Whittlebury. My navigation went slightly awry again as I was convinced we had to turn left in the village for the pub. This resulted in four cars doing U-turns in the middle of the road as I should have turned right. The only obvious casualty of the day, apart from my nerves, was one of Phil's tyres which was as flat as a pancake. This gave Barbara and me the opportunity for an aperitif before the post-event drinks and meal whilst the men changed the wheel on Phil's car. By this time Debbie Whitton had joined us and was very patient as she listened to our various tales of the day.

It is becoming a tradition for the ladies to ride home in a different vehicle to the one they completed the tour in. I had the luxury of travelling home with Bill in the Aston Martin whilst Barbara braved Paul and the MG. Bill asked me very politely if I knew my way home from Whittlebury. I was only mildly offended. There was one more exciting moment as a police car came up behind us as Bill was doing possibly a little in excess of the speed limit along the Woburn stretch of the A5 dual carriageway. Luckily it appeared they had more important things to do and ignored us completely. The MG lagged behind a little but its performance was, I think, pretty admirable for a 1938 MG. For the whole of the event, it appeared that Paul "was driving it like he'd nicked it" (to quote John Parker). I'm inclined to agree that he did push the car and my nerves pretty much to the limit.

Thank you Paul (you did drive brilliantly), Phil, Barbara, Bill, John and Adam for a great day out. Can we do it again next year once I've tightened up a few nuts and bolts and examined my short stub axles closely? And thank you MG for not letting us down yet again.

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.

Lesley Smith, with photos by Josh Sherwood



# The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup>

A fine, dry Saturday

afternoon encouraged a good crowd, young and old, to attend the Street Party in Tebworth on 14<sup>th</sup> May. The excuse for the party, as



LOSED

if one was needed, was to observe the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM The Queen. How apposite it was, then, that the venue was on the doorstep of the Queen's Head where Mark Edwynn and Matt Kingham forewent the celebrations so as to keep

the partygoers replete with drinks. Meanwhile, appetites were sated by mountains of delicious

food sitting on tables set out along The Lane, supplemented by mouth-watering burgers and sausages. Live

music by Uked 66 provided the entertainment, led by Frankie Inzani and

Jessica Sharpe and featuring our postman, Mark.

The party had a 1920s theme and

joined in the spirit by dressing up in period costume, with Vicki Greenwood taking the honours for the best outfit. Youngsters Faith and Ryley







## Everyone's Entitled to My Opinion

Has anyone noticed the wind turbine just up the A5? Can't really miss it, when did you last see it turning? No, neither have !!

What a good investment that was!

**STOP PRESS!!!** There is a crane there as I write .... taking the blades down!

**STOP STOP PRESS!!!** It's working now!

JP



#### Children's Corner ...

What do you call a Frenchman wearing sandals?
Philippe Philoppe

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? Hot cross bunnies



What do you call a Zebra with no stripes? A horse



What's orange and sounds like a parrot?
A carrot

Doctor, Doctor, I feel everyone is ignoring me.
Next please.

What did one candle say to the other? Will you go out tonight?

Where do cows go on a night out? The mooovies

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher? He couldn't control his pupils

How do you get a bear to come to a cheese board?

**Camembert** 

There were two eggs in a pan of boiling water. One said, "Cor, it's hot in here". The other one said, "Wait till you get out. They'll bash your head in."

What did the farmer call the cow that had no milk? An udder failure.

What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoilt milk

What is 'out of bounds'? An exhausted kangaroo

Why are teddy bears never hungry?

They are always stuffed







#### **Dreadful Manifestation at The Plough**

It's long been claimed that The Plough is haunted and Chris Ross can now count himself amongst those who have seen the ghost.

Long after closing time, one night last September, Chris was frightened witless when he observed an unearthly apparition staring back at him through an interior window in the pub. This window had, until last year's renovation, been blocked off and sober-minded locals (yes, there are one or two) suspect that this mournful spectre was a vision from a parallel universe in the Great Beyond, otherwise known as Tebworth.

Could this terrible phantom be an ancestor of Phil Parry, Chairman of the Parish Council? There is a uncanny likeness!

An exorcism has since been carried out to rid The Plough of all non-alcoholic spirits.

RP, with photo by Chris Ross

## Remembering Two Great Comedians ...

- ♦ A cement mixer collided with a prison van on the Kingston by-pass. Motorists are asked to be on the look-out for sixteen hardened criminals.
- ♦ It was revealed in a government survey published today that the Prime Minister is doing the work of two men .... Laurel and Hardy.
- $\Diamond\,$  All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my right hand.
- ♦ We've just heard that in the English Channel, a ship carrying red paint has collided with a ship carrying purple paint. It is believed that both crews have been marooned.

Ronnie Corbett (1930–2016) — RIP

- ♦ I went into this boutique last week and the only thing that fit me was the cubicle curtain.
- When you are in the middle of labour it's like watching two very inefficient removal men trying to get a very large sofa through a very small doorway, only in this case you can't say, bring it through the French window.
- ♦ I thought Coq au Vin was love in a lorry.

*Victoria Wood (1953–2016) — RIP* 

#### A Little Known Fact ...

It's only when you look at an ant through a magnifying glass on a sunny day that you come to appreciate just how often they spontaneously combust.



## **Chalgrave Sports Club**



After a frustrating month or two waiting for the weather to improve sufficiently to put down the new concrete base, suddenly there has been lots of activity over a short period. Once the base was down we spent a very long weekend erecting the clubhouse under the expert help and guidance of Steve Winter. In just two days we were

able to get the shell up, roof on and water tight and the windows and door in – more than we could have hoped

for!
Thanks go
to Lesley
Smith for
the tea and
bacon rolls
for the

hungry workers. Since then we have given the new building two coats of wood protection which looks wonderful and

the floor has been put down as well. Next stage is to fit out the building with a toilet,



changing room and storage cupboards. We can then move the container to its new site next to the clubhouse. We hope to have a grand opening once the building is finished.

Recently we have also received another generous donation which has allowed us to buy a new (second hand) set of gang mowers which we shall be refurbishing



ready to press into service later in the vear (or earlier if the current ones let us down!).

We have a new landlord -Roger Fenwick. Our future now looks more secure and we hope for a long and happy

partnership with Roger who has been tremendously supportive already. Our 2016 season is about to get

> weather. We play our matches on Sundays and you are very welcome to come and watch the games, and have a beer and burger. If you are not sure of the whereabouts of the cricket ground it's on the corner of Tebworth Road and Hill Close in

Our annual 10-10 Festival of Cricket is

arranged for Sunday 12th June 2016. The first match is scheduled to start at 10.30 and play goes on until around 17.30. A bar will be available serving real ales and cider along with soft drinks, and there will be a BBQ serving burgers, hot dogs and (hopefully) bowls of chilli if you get peckish. As usual there will be safety fencing to

help protect spectators and it's always a great fun day. Please do come and join us.

Finally, if you fancy a game please contact me or any of the Committee – fixtures are on the website.

www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk.

Phil Parry, Chairman (photos by Mike Wells)



## The Plough



Hello from The Plough!

Thank you to whoever it was who nominated and voted for us for the Beds Food and Drink Awards. The Plough has reached the finals so Chris and I are off to Luton Hoo for the awards in June — fingers crossed! An achievement for the whole team.

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> saw us say thank you and goodbye to Adam. He has worked at The Plough for 5 years and has been a valued member of the team. He goes on to pursue a career in engineering and we all wish him every success for the future – no doubt we will see him on the other side of the bar.

Upcoming events  $-17^{th}$  July the Classic Car Show is back. Hopefully the weather will be as kind to us as it was last year and we can enjoy the fantastic cars, bikes and stalls. Of course the BBQ will be up and running and bar snacks will be available from the Plough. Many thanks to Ken who organises this in aid of Keech Hospice Care.

Remember we hold a quiz night every other Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> June, etc) – a great evening's entertainment.

A note from Chris – weather permitting look out for BBQ nights – shorts and sandals a must!

Wishing you all a long and happy summer!



Caroline (and Chris) o1525 873077, <u>www.theploughinn.com</u>

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

**PS:** The recently published 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of "Food & Drink Chilterns" contains profiles both of The Plough and of chef Marc Dimmock. The booklet can be picked up for nothing from Waitrose, and possibly Sainsburys.

## **Grumpy Old Man**

Can I make a request? If you are the owner of a nasty, aggressive, horrible dog, and there are a few around here, would you keep it on a lead please? That way it doesn't attack decent dogs that are minding their own business! Oh, and while on the subject of business, there are still

asty,

people that can't be bothered to pick up their own dog's mess, possibly one and the same? Bizarrely, down The Lane, someone allows their dog to leave "small parcels" within sight of the dog bin....How lazy is that!!!!!

JP

## Queen's Head



Hello everyone,

What a wonderful Street Party it was that was held in The Lane on 14th May and what a good crowd turned out. And how convenient that it took place next to the Queen's Head so that everyone had somewhere to spend a penny when the need came. I could see that everyone was having a good time, although I suspect that Rohan the Dog may have had a sore head the following day after quaffing all the champagne.

Yet I must say that I was very, very disappointed that our Gracious Majesty, the Queen, didn't turn up. After all, it was all

done to celebrate her birthday and we're not that far from London. I'm sure someone who hadn't had a drink would have volunteered to pick her up from Harlington

Station. But, on second thoughts, it might have been hard to find someone who hadn't had a drink, children apart.

Personally, I blame the Parish Council – they'll have forgotten to send the Queen her invitation, or will have economised by sending it Second Class the day before the party. That'll be Mr Parry's knighthood gone when the Queen finds out what's she missed.

In fact, I wasn't surprised to hear that Mr Parry has recently been a guest of Her Majesty. But then it turned out that he'd been summoned to one of her Garden Parties. Who would have imagined that Buckingham Palace had such a dire shortage of footmen.



That's enough drivel from me for now, so, until next time, keep safe.

All the best, Colin

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



An old chap is driving home after an evening in the pub when his wife rings him on his mobile.

"Henry", she says, in a worried voice, "be careful. There was a bit on the news just now, some lunatic is driving the wrong way down the motorway".

"It's worse than that", he replies, "there are hundreds of them!"





#### Buttercup Farm, Hockcliffe Road, Tebworth

Changed a bit! Shame the pump has gone. From The Chalgrave Survey of 1986 – "In Tebworth a characteristic of farmhouse buildings is the pattern of chequered brickwork created by the use of red stretchers and blue/grey vitrified headers".

You can see that when it was virtually rebuilt around 1980 the beams have gone but the chequered brickwork is more pronounced. It is a Grade II Listed building.

Any comments or questions to Ken Green, 874107 or kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk.

## **Chalgrave Memorial Hall**

Last year turned out to be quite successful with income from bookings up on the previous year. It is very satisfying to see the Hall continuing to be well used and it continues to be one of the most economical halls for hire in the county, indeed one of the main objectives of the Trustees is to



ensure the hire rates to parishioners and Parish Organisations are kept as low as possible.

We were fortunate last year to put in a successful Lottery grant application and this has enabled the Trustees to install a new boiler and will also finance some refurbishment to the kitchen.

We welcome new users of the Hall and recently a puppy training class has started on Thursdays. Also, Pilates sessions are scheduled to start in July. If you suffer with back pain, find yourself sitting, standing or driving for long periods of time then Pilates could be just the thing for you. For more details e-mail Ruth (STOTT Pilates Instructor and Posture Specialist) on <a href="mailto:info@therapythroughpilates.com">info@therapythroughpilates.com</a> or call o7874857642.

Please remember the famous Chalgrave Games is on Saturday 25th June. Our theme this year is Pantomime and as usual promises to be a fun filled day for all the family. Prizes in the raffle include a top quality i-Pad and tickets are available in The Plough, The Queen's Head and from all committee members. So please come and support the Games and feel free to dress appropriately.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those members of the Parish who have given their time and effort to Support the Hall over the last year and look forward to another successful year in 2016.

Roger Masters



#### JoeFest 2016

It's coming up to the time of year again when we to get together and remember

Joe Inzani and raise money for the

London Air Ambulance, a fantastic cause that runs on charitable donations.

As at the previous two JoeFests, the day will be filled with live music, tasty food and good beer. What better way to remember a brilliant man?!

JoeFest 2016 will be held at The Old Farm Inn, 16 Church Road, Totternhoe, LU6 1RE, on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 1 pm.

Follow JoeFest 2016 on Facebook.



2015 Winner

## The Plough at Wingfield

(near Toddington) LU7 9QH

## Classic & Prestige Car Day

(Bikes also welcome)

## Sunday 17th July 12pm

**Admission Free** 



2013 Winner



2014 Winner

Please come along and support our event for its 4th year. It's for a brilliant cause.

Ample parking for show cars and visitors.

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

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

Hot dogs and burgers available on site (reasonable prices)

Tea and Coffee

Lilly's Cup Cakes...Mmm!

Raffle

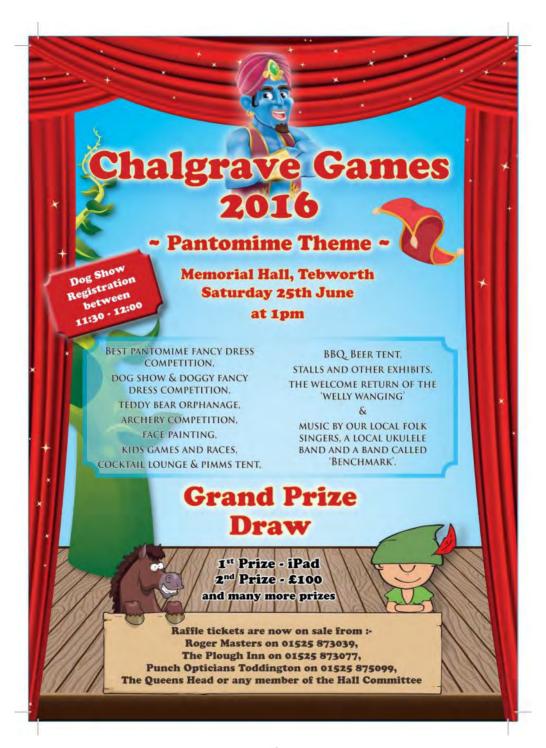
Pitches available to sell goods £6 (No food or drink)

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

Ken on: 07813 758401 ---- 07940 095982







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