

### **CHALGRAVE NEWS**



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



### **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 4th 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
Thursday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing – Houghton Regis All Saints choir – see p 38	The Plough	7 pm-ish
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Rotary Club Santa Run	→ Milton Bryan → Tebworth → Wingfield	Starting from the Plough at about 5 pm
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight – see p 23	Chalgrave Church	7 pm
Thursday, 29th December	Sports Club Golf Day – see p 29	Bedford Golf Club	
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January	WI – Dance session with AJ Fen	Memorial Hall	8–10 pm
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> February (1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday to avoid Valentine's Day!)	WI – Ventriloquist Chris Bylett, the man who talks to himself!	Memorial Hall	8–10 pm
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	WI – Air Ambulance talk	Memorial Hall	8-10 pm
Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Club Race Night	Memorial Hall	TBC
Saturday, 1st July	Chalgrave Games	Memorial Hall	TBC

Front Cover: A sparrow looks on as starlings enjoy a refreshing bath on 13th September, the hottest September day for more than 100 years

### Deadline for next edition: Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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

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.

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### **Editorial**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to what might turn out to be the last but one edition of the *Chalgrave News*. If you would like to help out in order to ensure that this magazine continues to land on your door mats every quarter, please read our appeal on page 9 and then get in touch! Time is running out.

Not much shocks the *News* team but we were staggered by the reaction to a sentence printed in our September issue. One of our regular contributors wrote – "... on my way home through our villages (Tebworth and Wingfield) I was just



remarking to my wife how lucky we are to live in these villages which are "quintessentially English" ... We have a pub (two in fact, but possibly not two for much longer), a church, a cricket green, a village hall, and we had at least two chapels and two schools ...". An innocent and true reflection on our parish, you would think? Well, that's what we assumed, but we were astonished to discover that someone took exception to the phrase "quintessentially English". The use of this well-established expression was reported to the police and recorded by them as a Hate Crime. Fortunately, the police quickly came to their senses, but the process of "unlogging" it as a Hate Crime proved to be a lot more difficult than logging it in the first place. Goodness knows how many hours of police time and how much taxpayers' money were wasted unravelling this nonsense. We are reaching a sad state of affairs when we can no longer describe villages in England as being quintessentially English.

As you'll be aware from our last edition, and from the goings-on in Chalgrave of late, the Charles Wells brewery has notified the Parish Council of its intention to dispose of the Queen's Head. The pub was, of course, registered as a Community Asset in 2013. This means we have a period of six months, starting from the time of the brewery's notification, to make an offer to purchase the pub from the brewery for the benefit of the community. When this period expires, the brewery can dispose of the premises as they wish and, even if we do submit a community bid, Charles Wells is under no obligation to accept our offer. There is, therefore. a lot to be done over the next few months if the Queen's Head is to be saved. Already a company has been set up – "The Tebworth Community Pub Ltd" – which will be responsible for submitting any bids to Charles Wells. In the meantime, funds need to be raised, be they through grants and donations, or by the sale of shares. Watch out for much activity in the months ahead – a business plan has already been published on savethequeenshead.org.uk.

Once again the 10–10 Festival of Cricket, rescheduled from June to September, and advertised in our last issue, had to be cancelled, the reason being the same as last time, namely a serious shortage of teams willing to take on the might of Chalgrave.

Finally, as always at this time of the year, we wish our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

RP

### **Chairman of the Parish Council**



You may be aware of the controversy about The Great Pond of Tebworth and the surrounding banks. The current legal position is that no-one owns the Pond. However, it has been part of our community for many years. We think the Pond was originally man-made by local farmers for sheep and cattle. We have found evidence going back to 1950 of local groups working on the Pond and the surrounds – including the WI back in the 1970s. There was a bench and viewing area created on the far bank and at various times grants have been given to maintain the pond and surrounding area. Also, there have been various studies and reports made by South Beds Council and

the Greensand Trust. Very few people spend any time at the pond but it is still nice to walk past it and maybe stop and have a look. It is a feature of our village. The Parish Council believes that, because of its history, the Pond, and all the banks of the Pond, belong to our community and should be for the benefit of our entire community. Accordingly, we have kindly asked the resident living next to the Pond to remove the fencing he has erected.

We hope you appreciate the work carried out on the Pond restoring it back to its former glory and working on the banks. Recently Councillors and residents were in the water clearing weeds. There is still more to do. If you want to help please contact Cllr Barbara Jackson.

**Queen's Head** – The Parish Council is fully supportive of the plans to keep the Queen's Head open. We have contacted our MP and CBC Councillor for their support – which has been forthcoming.

Planning – There will be a planning application to convert the barns of Lane Farm into executive homes. The PC is considering their response.

**Speeding** – Speedwatch has been out and about in both Tebworth and Wingfield. Thanks to Mike Wells and the Speedwatch team.

Phone box – The phone box at St Marys Close will be removed because of lack of use. BT informed the PC that there were no calls made in the past year.



Christine and Mick McDonagh receive the 2016 Community Award from Cllr Phil Parry on 14<sup>th</sup> October

Parking on Wingfield Road – The Highway Code states that a car should not park within 10 metres of a junction. Cars are being parked very close to the corner of Wingfield Road and Toddington Road – this is causing a danger for vehicles turning into Wingfield Road and for those travelling towards Toddington Road. Please park considerately – further along Wingfield Road.

Our meetings are usually the third Tuesday of the month and you are welcome to attend.

Cllr Phil Parry, Chairman

### Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion ...

We live in a country where important dates in history, or religion, are marked by annual events. This is a good thing because we can plan our year around these occasions, like Christmas or Easter. However, this year the 25<sup>th</sup> of December doesn't really suit me for Christmas, think I might do it a week or so later, and as for New Year, well that clashes a bit so perhaps I'll do that in the middle of January? Ridiculous you may say? Well, yes it is, so why have some dates become flexible? Fireworks, for example – it's the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, it is not the 6<sup>th</sup> or the 25<sup>th</sup> October or anytime up to January, it's the 5<sup>th</sup> (we even have a rhyme...Remember, Remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of November...). If that date doesn't suit, then hard luck, you've missed it! Plus, Christmas does not start in September, therefore there is no need to festoon all the shops with 'Christmassy items' until at least 1<sup>st</sup> December!

This year, on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, I decided not to have some extremely noisy fireworks so I just screwed up some £20 notes and set fire to them in the back garden, made no noise, I didn't have to clear up the mess, nobody caught fire and it didn't frighten my dog! Still money up in smoke, just the same!

But, on a more serious note, the effects of these huge bangs on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) sufferers is made doubly worse when they are not expecting fireworks to be let off on other, unadvertised, days.

Oh, and before anyone starts moaning or throwing accusations, or calling the police, this is not aimed at any one group or religion in particular... as you probably know it is "my opinion"..... albeit one that "Everyone is entitled to", and it's just an observation on the ridiculous things that go on in our lives.

JΡ



### Health and Safety Warning ....

Take care when walking around the parish because the autumn leaf fall is making many of our pavements very slippery!

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



Andrew Selous is the MP for South West Bedfordshire and can be contacted by email at <a href="mailto:andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk">andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk</a> or by telephone at his Parliamentary office on 0207 219 8134 or at his constituency office on 01582 662821.

HERE IS A SELECTION OF NEWS ITEMS PROVIDED BY ANDREW —

Andrew held an Adjournment Debate in the House of Commons on Gypsies and Travellers on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016. He asked the Government to review the law concerning planning, housing allocation and enforcement for travellers. The transcript of the full debate can be found at hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-12/

 $\underline{debates/0A875213\text{-}1955\text{-}4FB5\text{-}AE62\text{-}508A70D22CBC/GypsiesAndTravellers}.$ 

Extracts from the debate -

Andrew Selous – "The settled residents of my constituency have had a very difficult summer and it is no exaggeration to say that many are living in fear. One local farmer has had four fires on his land started by Travellers, and he has had to employ a student to walk in front of his combine harvester to pick up all the metal and other items fly-tipped on to it by Travellers. ... Some settled residents have had their water supply disconnected completely by the Travellers, as they have sought to augment a supply that was never part of the planning permission for the site. A mother wrote to me recently and entitled her letter 'A plea from the children' of her town who have been unable to use the brilliant new £250,000 skate park for much of the summer because of 10 unauthorised Traveller encampments next to it. ... One of my parish councillors wrote recently saying that his village had frankly felt under siege this summer and that help was desperately needed. Local landowners and the local authority are facing the constant expense of having to go through the courts to have caravans moved and are then left with the foul job of cleaning up the disgusting mess and excrement left behind."

Responding to the debate, Gavin Barwell MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government said, "I thank my hon. Friend the Member for South West Bedfordshire for bringing this issue to the Floor of the House. Many Members share the concerns that he has expressed. I recognise the strong feelings people have about this policy area and the tensions it is creating in our communities—tensions that I am sure we all wish to resolve. The Government continue to review these matters. We are firmly committed to ensuring that, through effective planning, genuine partnership working and enforcement action, the system is fair and is perceived to be fair by everyone. I thank him again for raising the debate and look forward to working with him to resolve these matters."

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Andrew has been elected to the Health Select Committee in the House of Commons. He writes "I'm delighted to have had the support of my fellow MPs to be elected onto this committee. I've spent a lot of time working on health matters in recent years, in particular working with my Totternhoe constituent Professor Tim Briggs on trying to improve the quality of care across the NHS. The NHS is facing huge challenges and I look forward to playing my part in helping it prosper."

**—**00000—

The number of unemployed claimants fell *again* in September 2016 in South West Bedfordshire. Figures recently released by the Independent Office of National Statistics show that the number of unemployed claimants in the South West Bedfordshire constituency in September was 568. This represents a rate of 1.0% of the economically-active population aged 16 to 64, the  $552^{nd}$  highest of the 650 UK constituencies. (1st = highest rate of unemployment,  $650^{th}$  = lowest rate of unemployment.)

The total number of claimants for Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit is 95 lower than in September 2015 and 21 lower than in August 2016. Commenting on the figures, Andrew writes: "I am delighted to see that more people locally now have the security of a monthly pay packet as they go out to work. Since 2010 over 70% of the rise in employment has been from full time work. Pay rose 2.3% over the last year. I very much welcome this further fall in unemployment. We have had so many jobs created locally that I am aware a number of employers are struggling to get the workers they need which means we must redouble our efforts to help these businesses grow and to provide the relevant skills training locally."

### **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>.



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.



### Unintended Consequences ... of Cracking Down on Banks

Down with the banks?

Almost everyone, it seems, has had a bad experience with a High Street bank in recent memory. From outrageous overdraft and late payment fees, to mis-sold insurance products, to rotten deals on holiday money and piddling interest rates on our savings, we love to moan about our banks. The worst part is that when they lend badly and lose a ton of money, they jack up the loan rate and cut the deposit rate for remaining customers to recoup their losses. As Stephen Fry once remarked when asked to offer a good word for an acquaintance with whom he was unimpressed – "disappointing".

The big banks excelled themselves in the heady days of 2003–07, when they threw prudence and caution to the wind and indulged the credit appetites of the unworthy and unscrupulous. Although the global financial crisis originated in the US, the UK was among the countries worst-hit. Of our four big banks, one emerged relatively unscathed due to its large Asian franchise; another cut a shady deal with a Middle Eastern investor to replenish the coffers and the other two went into special measures. It emerged, in the post-mortem, that the banks were holding virtually no cash-like assets on their balance sheets – they were working on the basis that the Bank of England would be sure to bail them out if a crisis occurred.

Since 2009, it is no surprise that there has been a fearsome backlash against the banks in the shape of fines, legal penalties and compensation to customers. The two that received dollops of taxpayer money were forbidden to pay bonuses to their staff or dividends to their shareholders. All their profits were to be used to restore the bank's capital, in anticipation of the sale of the government's stake back to investors. Fred "The Shred" Goodwin lost his knighthood and a few lesser mortals went to jail. (For reference, after a similar financial crisis in 1125, the money-men lost their right hands and their testicles.)

However, there is another side to this story, an unintended consequence. In the zeal to punish the banks for their appalling recklessness and wanton profiteering, we have disabled them from playing their traditional role in reviving the economy. Borrowing is dirt-cheap for large businesses, but they don't need or want to borrow. Banks are bruised by the crisis and are reluctant to lend to small and medium-sized firms that are keen to borrow. Bank Rate is at its lowest in the 320-year

history of the Bank of England and savers are being served very thin gruel.

Have we cut off our nose to spite our face? Like it or not, the UK is still dominated by a few large banks. There are some so-called challenger banks, but public attitudes to them are not that different to the established banks. Although they have none of the legacy issues, the upstart banks are tarred with the same brush. We would not dream of dealing with the big water companies as we have with the banks. Our need for a healthy and competitive banking system is analogous to our need for clean water. We are all losers from the persecution of the banks. Time to call a halt and allow some wounds to heal. After all, it is the season of goodwill.

Peter Warburton



### **NEW TEAM TO TAKE OVER**

In the March and September issues of the *News* we carried appeals for help! The response was, shall we say, somewhat disappointing! But I'm afraid that Su Parker and I (and, incidentally, we're not related, despite sharing the same surname!) are calling it a day, so if this magazine is to continue then replacements are desperately needed. If no one comes forward, then the March 2017 edition will be the last one—you have been warned!!

Su is part of the editorial team but her key role of late has been to manage the advertising, the revenue from this being essential for covering our printing costs. She's been on the *News* team since late 2009 and amply qualifies for a well-deserved rest. Surely there is someone who is willing to take on this job? It involves finding new advertisers, invoicing advertisers and chasing up payments.

Working as the editor, I'm a newcomer compared with Su, but this is still my thirteenth issue. The editor is responsible for ensuring that each edition is filled with material that will interest and entertain you, and this involves seeking to cover all major local events. The editor also lays out the magazine and prepares it ready for the printers. I won't pretend it's not time consuming and demanding work, but it has its rewards. Nevertheless, the day has come for a new editor to take the magazine forward by injecting fresh ideas.

Of course, there is no reason why either of these jobs need to be carried out by just one person. Why not have several people sharing the roles? If you are interested in the *News* continuing, please email me, Roger Parker, at <a href="mailto:thechalgravenews@live.co.uk">thechalgravenews@live.co.uk</a>. Training will be provided to ensure a smooth handover.

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### **Thorn**

Our neighbouring hamlet of Thorn is a curious place. Even though it's signposted, and listed on maps, it's easy to drive through it without realising you've just done so! But, despite its miniscule size, it has some interesting features. For example, in the grounds of the impressive Oakwell Park House, off the Thorn Road, lies a very well preserved moated site. Its shape is roughly rectangular, measuring around 40 by 29 metres, with the moat itself being between 2.8 and 6 metres wide and up to 1.5 metres deep. The water is reckoned to come primarily from springs beneath the moat, and, indeed, this location is marked on maps as Thorn Spring. At one time, additional water was provided through two channels which entered the moat at its highest point, but these have long been filled in.

This moated site is believed to have been constructed by the de Gurney family in either the  $12^{\rm th}$  or  $13^{\rm th}$  centuries. The de Gurneys were a noble family from Normandy who came over with William the Conqueror and had fought at the Battle of Hastings. In the early  $12^{\rm th}$  century, William the Conqueror's son, Henry I, gave a Hugh de Gurney the royal manor of Houghton (later to be known as Houghton Regis, the suffix apparently being added to distinguish it from Houghton Conquest), of which Thorn was a part.

A house would have stood on the island, surrounded by a palisade containing a gateway leading to a bridge over the moat. Nothing structural remains on the island now, and no archaeological excavations have been carried out, yet it is believed to contain buried and undisturbed evidence dating from the time of its occupation. The site has been scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 but, unfortunately, is on private property so is not accessible to the public.

It's intriguing to ponder whether the Gurneys who were living in Wingfield in the 1860s (see the March 2016 issue of the *News*) were descendants of the de Gurneys associated with William the Conqueror and Thorn. We will probably never know for sure, but in the  $19^{\rm th}$  century, our region, north of London, was a stronghold for Gurneys judging from surname distribution maps.

Also in Thorn, close to Thorn Farm, is a Baptist burial ground which was originally alongside a small Baptist chapel that had been built in 1751 by Pastor Thomas Bunker. Before the chapel came along, there had been a Baptist meeting house in Thorn, which had been a stronghold for this particular faith since the late  $17^{th}$  century. The chapel is no longer there – around 1801, it was moved, stone by stone, to Houghton Regis, and rebuilt and extended. It stayed there until it was knocked down in the mid- $19^{th}$  century. But the burial ground remains untouched in Thorn and, to maintain a public right of way, every year Houghton Regis Baptist Church holds a service there.

There are known to have been at least twenty burials at the site, with the first recorded one being that of Pastor Thomas Bunker in 1769. The last known *historic* burial was that of a Mrs Hannah Scroggs in 1834. However, there was a further burial in about 1997, this being the interment of the wife of the owner of Thorn Farm. Baptist burial grounds are not on consecrated soil but are private sites.

#### **Further reading:**

Historic England, Thorn Spring Moated Site and Associated Woodbanks, <a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013519">historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013519</a>.

Public Art Strategy Plan, Bidwell West, Houghton Regis, 2015, www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/portal/showimage.asp? j=CB/15/00297&index=605488.

A5/M1 link road, Thorn Farm Burial Ground Historical Research, 2006, www.persona.uk.com/a5dunstable/deposit-docs/dd101-dd125/dd-112.pdf.

Surname distribution map, gbnames.publicprofiler.org/.

RP

### Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion ...

Great work by the 'Pond Squad' a few weeks ago, dragging out what seemed like tons of weed and assorted detritus. Took many hours and, as usual, people gave up their time to carry out the task. Additionally, the willow was cut back to improve safety and visibility for everyone using the road.

A nicely presented and maintained Pond is always the icing on the cake of a Quintessentially English village, don't you think?

JΡ



### **Book Club**

After a summer break we commenced the Book Club reading with **The Redeemer** which is a translated novel by Jo Nesbo, a Norwegian author of over 20 novels. It starts 12 years ago with the attack on a 14 year old girl in a Salvation Army summer camp in Norway. It then skips to present day with the murder of a Salvation Army soldier at a Christmas concert. Harry Hole is the detective working his way through twists and turns to solve both crimes in his home town of

working his way through twists and turns to solve both crimes in his home town of Oslo. This was a long book, but the fast paced action packed twists and turns which definitely made it a page turner. If you like complex detective thrillers then this is for you.

The second book we read was **Miss You**, which is written by Kate Eberlen and is her first novel and enjoyed by most of the group. It begins in 1997, Tess is on holiday in Italy with her best friend and looking forward to a new life at university when she returns to England. Gus is also on holiday at the same time and place and he too will be going to university to study medicine. They meet briefly there and are to nearly meet several times during the next 16 years. Tess returns from holiday to find her world turned upside down when her mother dies from cancer and Tess is left to look after her young sister who has Asperger's Syndrome. Gus reluctantly follows in his dead brother's footsteps and studies medicine, struggling to emerge from his brother's shadow and constantly feeling second best in his parents' eyes. Each chapter alternates between the two characters following their very different lives, from first dates to long term relationships. They should be together because they are very well suited, yet despite their paths crossing they never meet up, will they eventually get together? It could have been an extremely frustrating read because it was obvious they were going to end up together in the end, a bit slow to start with but it was light, easy to read and very well written.

Noeleen Thomson

### WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes, But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes. One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, Yet the plural of moose should never be meese. You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice.

Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called
beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,

Yet hat in the plural would never be hose.
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren.
But though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him.

But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Anonymous

We try to cover most events that take place in Chalgrave but we missed this one ...

## Report from the Save the Queen's Head Pubic Meeting

Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Monday 19th September 2016

### Trust Me, I'm a Second Hand Car Dealer ...

Our village of Tebworth seems to have become a racetrack for even more trucks lately, I presume it's the new road, and assuming that they finish it sometime this century, we might get back to some normality!? Then we might get a lorry ban and be able to cross the road without being squashed.

Whilst on that subject, as we live very near the M1, every time there is an 'incident', which is most days, chaos ensues in the surrounding area, that's US by the way. It seems that the first option nowadays is to close the motorway. Some faceless bureaucrat makes the decision, probably for health and safety! This causes many people's health to suffer and safety to worsen, as they have jobs to get to and children to get to school. How about a change in policy? How about the last option is to close the road and the first option is to keep people moving? Put the road-users first, not last? Additionally, the person or persons responsible for the closure have to justify their decision publicly online so we know who they are? I guarantee you that this will result in fewer closures and better traffic flow, not difficult really is it? They seem to manage 'incidents' in a far better way over on the continent than we can.

IP

### **Old News**

Luton Times and Advertiser, 13th January 1905 –

### TEBWORTH.

AN ANCIENT GOOSE. — At Leighton Market the other day conversation turned upon longevity in geese. One person present averred that on the farm of his father at Tebworth is a goose which has attained to more than fifty years of age. This could be proved by the fact that the bird was at one time the property of a farmer who has been dead over half-a-century. Geese have been known to live for seventy years, and the Tebworth specimen belonging to Mr. C. Bradshaw, and his father before him, has continued to produce a fair average quantity of eggs every season.

### The Plough — circa 1967 and 2015



### **End-of-Term School Reports**

Regrettably, in this age of political correctness and easily-hurt feelings, the following are comments that are now unlikely to be seen on end-of-term school reports —



- This pupil is not so much of a possible has-been as more of a definite won't-be.
- Works well when under constant supervision and when cornered like a rat in a trap.
- When she opens her mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet.
- He would be out of his depth in a puddle.
- This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- He sets low personal standards, and then fails to achieve them.
- This pupil should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better.
- He has got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thing to hold it together.
- He is a gross ignoramus, being 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus.
- He certainly takes a long time to make his pointless.
- He doesn't have ulcers, but he's a carrier.
- He's been working with glue too much.
- He would argue with a signpost.
- He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room.
- When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell.
- If you see two people talking and one looks bored, he's the other one.
- He may have a photographic memory but the lens cap is glued on.
- He seems to have donated his brain to science before he had finished using it.
- The barriers are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
- This pupil has two brains, but one is lost and the other is out looking for it.
- If he were any more stupid, he would have to be watered twice a week.
- If you gave him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.
- If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
- Some drink from the fountain of knowledge, but she only gargled.
- The wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead.
- Since the last parents' evening, this pupil has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
- His friends would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity.
- I would not advise this pupil to breed.

A woman was taking an afternoon nap. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I've just had a dream where you gave me a pearl necklace. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he replied. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it ... only to find a book entitled "The Meaning of Dreams.



### Thanks ...

Through the medium of the *Chalgrave News* I would like to express the thanks – not only of the church but of many other individuals – to Brian Horne who, throughout the year, has very kindly (and voluntarily) mowed the grass around the graves in our parish churchyard and strimmed the grass around the headstones. It has never looked better in the 40 years I've known it! Thanks are also due in no small measure to Bob Ellis from Toddington who has generously given of his own free time to keeping the huge expanse of grass around the church building under control and helping with the trimming of trees, hedges and shrubs. Curly Brinklow, too, has made a welcome contribution to the appearance of the churchyard by clearing the flower borders of thistles, dandelions and countless weeds of all kinds. Last, but not least, thanks to Peter Henman for timely assistance with weedkiller! All this help is very much appreciated.

Peter Freeman





Judge: State your name. Prisoner: I'm Not Guilty. Judge: What!? Prisoner: That's my name –I had it legally changed.

Judge: You're Not Guilty?

Prisoner: Thanks very much, I'm outta here.

### Tebworth from the Air

Following on from the aerial images of Chalgrave that were printed in the June edition, Simon Gatward has kindly provided a photo of Tebworth taken in about 1992. Of particular interest is Woodlands, in the foreground, where the houses had only recently been built. Washing is hanging out in the garden of one of the properties (number 5) showing that at least one of the houses was occupied at the time the picture was taken.

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 <a href="https://www.chalgrave.org">www.chalgrave.org</a>.

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.

### The Great Pond of Tebworth

Late August saw the enhancement of the bank by the bench at the Village Pond. Oak sleepers, held in place by sweet chestnut posts, have been used to give a level area from which the Pond can now be enjoyed. The railings have been repaired and painted and the bench has been sanded down and revarnished. After consultation with the Wildlife Trust, a working party braved the elements in mid-October and waded into the Pond to clear the Broad-leaved Pondweed that had covered most of the surface. A willow by the road has been trimmed



back as it was obscuring vision and proving to be dangerous.





### Bedfordshire, circa 1804

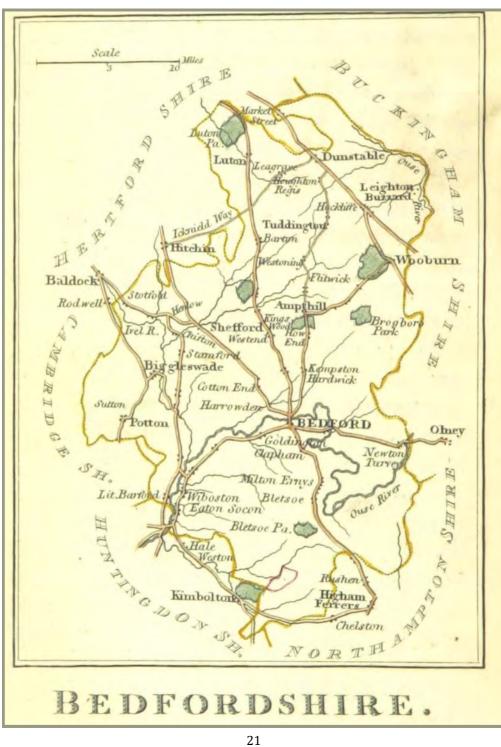
The map of Bedfordshire shown opposite is taken from a book by William Green entitled "The picture of England. Illustrated with colour'd maps of the several counties", published in London in 1804. As the book is now out of copyright, the map may be reproduced here. Whilst the scale is too small to show Tebworth or Wingfield, Tuddington (as it was then known), Hockcliffe and Houghton Regis are clearly marked. Strangely, the map is "upside down" with north at the bottom. Perhaps in those days people used to go "up south" and "down north" — and why not?

The book is extremely informative and tells us (quote) "This county, in all probability, takes its name from its principal town, Bedford". Who would have guessed that? More usefully, we learn, "The chief produce of this county is corn and butter, the former is conveyed by water to Lynn, and the latter by land to the metropolis: as to trade and manufacture, the poor have scarce any employment, save a little lace making, and that principally on the borders of Buckingham; but in, and about Dunstable, straw platts, a manufacture much improved of late, are made into hats, bonnets, baskets, toys, and even articles of exportation. Fuller's earth, superior both in quality and quantity, is duq from pits, near Woburn; this mineral, little esteemed on account of its cheapness, is however much used in many of our manufactories; it is serviceable in cleaning the wool, and our woollen trade owes much of its superiority to this valuable fossil". It wasn't well-populated in those days - "Bedfordshire contains 11,888 inhabited houses, 185 uninhabited. 1398 families. 30,523 males, 32,870 females. Total 63,393". I don't know how a family was defined but these figures suggest each family consisted of more than 45 individuals. Maybe families was a term applied only to the upper classes and the commoners didn't have families? Green's a little dismissive of Tuddington, stating, "Tuddington, remarkable only for a fine seat built by Sir Henry Cheny, in the reign of Elizabeth, who afterwards created him lord Cheney of Tuddington. Its Market on Saturday, almost dissused. 36 miles N. W. of London". There's a monument to Lord Cheney in St George's church.

Dunstable fares better with the comments, "Dunstable stands on a dry chalky eminence, and on the great northern and western thorough-fare. It is remarkable that no springs have been found here, though sought at the depth of 150 feet. It is noted for its straw manufacture, and for larks, said to be the largest and best in the kingdom. Market on Wednesday. 34 miles N. N. W. of London." These giant larks, of course, were eaten, which might go someway to explaining why there aren't so many around nowadays. Elsewhere in the book we learn that "It is recorded on a tomb stone in Dunstable church yard, that a woman in that place had 19 children at 5 births; thrice delivered of 3, and twice of 5". Goodness knows what was in that non-Perrier water she was drinking.

Judging from his remarks, Green doesn't seem to have been overly impressed with Luton, which he summarises as, "... a small dirty town, seated on the river Lea, [it] has nothing worthy of notice, save its Gothic church, in form of a hexagon, open at the sides, and terminating in elegant tabernacle work. It has a corn market on Monday. 31 miles N. by W. of London".

RP



### BEDFORDSHIRE.

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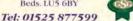
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MONDAY TO FRIDAY					
9am – 6pm	£7.00 per hour	£15.00 per hour	£18.00 per hour		
6pm – 11pm*	£7.00 per hour	£18.00 per hour	£24.00 per hour		
FRIDAY					
6pm – 12 midnight*	£110	£225	£260		
SATURDAY					
9am – 6pm	£8.00 per hour	£20.00 per hour	£22.00 per hour		
6pm – 12 midnight*	£110	£255	£315		
12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£135	£315	£365		
SUNDAY					
10am – 10pm*	£8.00 per hour	£20.00 per hour	£25.00 per hour		
'WEEKEND RATE'					
(Friday 6pm to Sun- day 12 noon) NB Hall must be vacated at 11pm Friday and 12 mid- night Saturday	£245	£525	£625		

\*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
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- 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 2198132
Secretary to Andrew Selous	Sue Howats	howats@parliament.uk	01582 662821
Ward Councillor	Mark Versallion	mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk	01525 234000
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	Barbara Jackson		01525 877617
Councillor	Debbie Levy		01525 877149
Councillor	Kevin Ludgate	kevin.ludgate@oliverlandpower.co.uk	07768 606968
Councillor and Traffic Calming	Mike Wells	mikewells@clara.co.uk	01525 877098
Councillor	Paul Whitton		01525 877181
Central Beds Unitary Council			0300 300 8000
Rector of Chalgrave Church	Position vacant	http://www.allsaintschalgrave.org.uk/	
Church Secretary	Christine Smith		01525 876839
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
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#### Christmas Carols by Candlelight



Peter Freeman

A teacher asks a student, "Are you ignorant or just apathetic?" The child answers, "I don't know and I don't care."

*Teacher* – Whoever answers my next question correctly, can go home. On hearing this, one girl throws her bag out the window.

*Teacher* – Who just threw that bag!? *Girl* – Me, so I'm going home now.

Teacher – What makes you see?

Boy – My eyes, my nose and my ears.

*Teacher* – That's true for the eyes but why do you say your ears and nose? *Boy* – They're to hold my glasses in place!

In this day and age, when young children are so adept at using advanced technology, such as computers, smart phones, tablets, etc, a simple toy, such as the Etch-A-Sketch, can still give them hours of enjoyment. But how do you explain to them, in language they can understand, the way that this device works? Well, fear not, because the *News* has come to your rescue with this easy to follow guide —

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- Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: What's the shortcut for undo?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: How do I create a new document window?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: How do I set the background and foreground to the same colour?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: What is the proper procedure for rebooting my Etch-A-Sketch?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: How do I delete a document on my Etch-A-Sketch?
- A: Pick it up and shake it.
- Q: How do I save my Etch-A-Sketch document?
- A: Don't shake it.



Lesley's pet, retired guide dog Sammy, who died in August

# Sammy and Doris -Two Exceptional Dogs

I was never able to equate the Sammy I knew and loved with Sammy the reputedly excellent guide dog until I met Doris.

I was very privileged to be able to adopt Sammy who had very reluctantly been retired due to a skin condition, which was adversely affecting his working life. There were some indications of this life. For

instance, whether I used a soft harness, or simply a collar and lead, he would go into working mode. He always walked on the left hand side of me and a few steps in front. He never pulled (bliss!) and he would set his walking pace to mine. He automatically sat at roadside kerbs but always waited for my command before crossing, making me appreciate that it was the responsibility of the visually impaired owner to make the decision to cross but the responsibility of the dog to prevent them walking out into the path of a vehicle. He was superb at remembering very quickly the various routes we had taken on our walks.

However, I learnt very early on in our relationship that in his leisure time Sammy had a penchant for chasing deer. The first time this happened he took 40 minutes to return to me. Su Parker passed me by with her dog Cookie and, thanks to her superior eyesight, she spotted a tiny moving black dot in the far distance, which arrived at my side five minutes later with its tongue hanging down to its knees having had a thoroughly enjoyable time. There were other instances, the most notable ones being



Sammy, with Lesley's granddaughter, Ellie

Sammy being bundled into the back of a police car and brought home covered in mud after being found by some kind passers-by. Then there was the phone call I received which informed me that Sam had found his way to The Plough and was being pampered by Caroline and Chris in front of a roaring fire. In the meantime I was waiting for him in the middle of a field on a dark, cold, very wet November evening whilst several search parties were out looking for him, after I'd emailed my friends in desperation. There was also Sammy's version of swan-upping. We were having a relaxing walk around a rather large lake with two friends and their dogs. The humans were looking forward to some lunch and a glass of wine at the nearby pub. The dogs were looking forward to sharing our lunches. Then the family of swans appeared. Into the water went Sammy and he

spent the next twenty minutes playing some sort of cat and mouse game with the cob. As they drifted further and further out into the lake I was mentally preparing my explanation for both the Guide Dog Centre and Pat, who had previously told me that Sammy was "the best guide dog she's ever had", as to why he was now at the bottom of a lake in Milton Kevnes with no chance of recovering his body. He eventually emerged from the water covered in pond weed and barely out of breath. However I shouldn't have worried as Pat recently informed me that he once spent over an hour in the water carrying out the same activity.

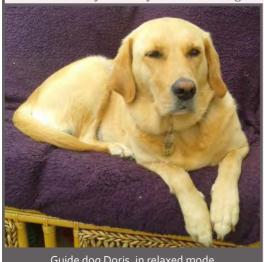
Sammy died suddenly at the end of August this year but this terribly sad event gave me the opportunity to meet Pat and Sammy's successor, Doris, for the first time. They were raising funds selling soft toys at the Woodford Green Guide Dog Centre's Open Day, I spent a wonderful and fascinating day there surrounded by working guide dogs, dogs in training



Doris about to go to work with Pat

and young puppies carrying out their basic training with their puppy walkers. Doris was on duty for the whole day, even when she was seemingly relaxing by Pat's side. She was rewarded with lots of fuss from people, especially children, and she had her photo taken with Pat countless times throughout the day.

I visited Pat and Doris a few weeks later at their home in beautiful Theydon Bois and I was able to watch Doris at play and at work. To watch Doris wrestling with a sizeable stick and have her chase me around the village green, and vice versa, was a joy. She never went very far away from Pat though. Then Pat put Doris's harness on and she



Guide dog Doris, in relaxed mode

immediately began her work. We took a long walk around the village, a route that Doris knows well. On this walk I realised that guide dogs are constantly being given commands by their owners, be they verbal or hand signals, so it's very much a working partnership. The school day at the primary school was over and the children were on their way home. Doris and Pat are well known to them as they visit the school, often to talk to the children about guide dogs and dogs in general. There were several greetings of "Hi Doris, hi Pat" but they did not stroke Doris - they knew that that sort of distraction was not good

when she was working.

Here are some of the things I've learned about guide dogs -

- They give a visually impaired person independence and confidence which they may not enjoy without their dog's support.
- They are not robots, they do make mistakes sometimes.
- They often have refresher courses with their owners to make sure neither of them are falling into bad habits.
- They work hard and they play hard.
- It costs £50,000 to train a guide dog.
- They are still dogs and still do doggy things; e.g., rolling in dirt, chewing toys to bits, to name but two. In Sammy's case, sneaking upstairs when I went out.

Lots more information at www.guidedogs.org.uk.



A Guide Dog isn't for everyone. The visually impaired person needs to be a dog lover in the first place. The responsibilities involved are the same as with any other dog owner – walks, feeding, grooming, visits to the vet and so on, therefore it is a big commitment. If someone is prepared to make that commitment, the team at the Guide Dog Association go to great lengths to find the person who's just right for the young dog who has already been through its basic training. They spend four weeks together building up the relationship and learning to work together safely. Then for the next two months the Guide Dog Mobility Instructor makes regular visits to check on how the partnership is going. If all goes well, both will enjoy a partnership built on deep trust and friendship for many years.

Lesley Smith



#### Big Birthdays ...

Born exactly one day apart, two of our local ladies, Janine Harding and Frances Masters, have recently reached the same momentous milestone. The *News* team is too chivalrous to print what year they were born, but it ended in a six and



we will confirm that Janine entered the world on 16<sup>th</sup> October that year, and Frances the following day.

Janine (*left*), a keen horsewoman and veterinary nurse, lives in Wingfield, and Frances (*right*), a psychotherapist and a former member of the *News* team, is a Tebworth resident.

If you know someone who has had, or is approaching, a Big Birthday, let us know so we can mark the event. Simply email a picture to <a href="mailto:thechalgravenews@live.co.uk">thechalgravenews@live.co.uk</a>, with a few details, and we'll do the rest.

#### Chalgrave Games ... Supplement

The little girl pictured on the right, splendidly dressed as a green fairy, was one of the winners in the fancy dress competition at the Chalgrave Games in June. At the time of compiling the September issue of the *News* we didn't know her name but she has now been identified as Esme Young, the daughter of Sally and Allan Young, and the granddaughter of Ken and Lyn Green. Well done to Esme!



#### **Chalgrave Memorial Hall Update**

- Ed Morton, of the EM Golf Studio, has been appointed as a new trustee of the Hall.
- Redecoration of the Hall is taking place.
- The 2017 Chalgrave Games will take place on Saturday, 1st July.

#### Children's Corner ...



What should you call a worn out teddy?
Fred bear

What's a teddy bear's

favourite pasta?
Tagliateddy

What game do cows play at parties? Moosical chairs

What looks like half a cat? The other half

What do you get if you cross a cat and a gorilla?

An animal that puts you out at night

What is a cat's favourite pudding?
Chocolate mousse



dog chase his own tail?
He was trying to make ends meet

If I had 5 potatoes and had to divide them equally between 3 people, what should I do?

Mash them first.

Is it better to write on a full or on an empty stomach?

Neither. Paper is much better

Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?
Because he was always spotted

What do you call someone without a nose or a body?

Nobodynose

What stays in one corner but travels around the world?

A stamp

What do you call a sheep with no legs? A cloud

What is tall when it's young and short when it's old?
A candle



# **Chalgrave WI**

It has been another varied and exciting year. Our membership has increased from 36 members to 48! Our highest ever.

In March, Dorothy Jamieson, a volunteer from the National Trust spoke to us about Henry VIII's links with Bedfordshire and the surrounding area. In April Pauline Clarke and her daughter Natalie, who run



the shop **Me Me** in Leighton Buzzard, came to demonstrate how to use Annie Sloan paint. The following night a group of members went to see "**The Bodyguard" at the Milton Keynes Theatre**.

In **May** we had a really great talk by Margaret Johnson on "**Small is Beautiful" quilts**. Margaret became interested in quilting when she moved to the US to live in Nebraska in 1978. She has been an avid collector ever since. She had a wonderful array of quilts to show us and each had an interesting story behind it.





In **June** we had our annual walk led by Sue Bollins' husband, Dave. He walked us around **Harlington** giving us some background to the various **Blue Plaques** in the village. We were surprised to learn that the first Grand National steeplechase was in the village, running from the local church cross country to the obelisk at Wrest Park.

For our **July** meeting Martin Reed presented a delightful and very informative talk on **honeybees**.

Seven of us attended the **WI Tea and Tents camping event at Walesby Forest from 22 to 25 July**. A great time was had by all. We enjoyed a variety of activities including WI's Got Talent. We did archery, Laser Quest and rifle shooting (Sue Watling got 5 bull's eyes!) and spent a lovely hour in a hot tub with some Prosecco. Best of all was just hanging out at our camp, chilling, chatting,

eating and drinking.

At the end of **August**, Frances Masters held a very enjoyable soiree. Lovely warm evening, great company, food and wine!

At our **September** meeting we had a **make-up demo** by the Clarins team from Debenhams Milton Keynes. We also bid Zoe McCoy farewell as she headed off for a



new life in rural Yorkshire. Lesley rustled up a great cake!

In **October** we had a go at **life drawing** – some of us more successfully than others!

Yarl's Wood Appeal – We are collecting for the Yarl's Wood Christmas event on  $14^{\rm th}$  December. Please help us by donating any unwanted items:

"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.

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

Finally I leave you with this great picture of some of us at this year's Toddington Scout Ball.

We meet every second Tuesday at Chalgrave Memorial Hall at 8 pm. Guests are most welcome if you fancy popping along.

Debbie Parry – Chalgrave WI President 07770 543797, Debbie.parry@accenture.com

# **Chalgrave Sports Club**

This time of year is quiet for the Sports Club. We finally played some games in September. We've had the opportunity to work on the grounds and the new Clubhouse. The Clubhouse will soon have electricity and water. All the wiring has been completed and it now needs connecting to the supply. We are also looking into covering the wooden flooring with some hard wearing carpet tiles. The grounds look great – thanks mainly to the hard work of Nev Andrews and Mike Wells.



We are delighted that Ed Morton from EM Golf in Wingfield has joined the Committee. He will be looking into using the ground to introduce golf into the community for young people. He is aiming to run lessons once a month but, if there is the demand, to increase this to every two weeks. More news of this later. Ed is also looking for funding to get golf netting.

We have our annual **Golf Day** on the **29**<sup>th</sup> **December**. It's a round of golf at The Bedford Golf Club followed by dinner at The Plough. If you want to join us please contact Mike or myself.

The ever popular **Race Night** will be happening next year – the date for your diary is **Saturday**, **25**<sup>th</sup> **March**.

Phil Parry, Chairman and Mike Wells, Vice-chairman

### God Save the Queen's

... and. if he doesn't, we will!

On 19th September, Chalgrave Memorial Hall was packed with around 100 people at the first open meeting to save the Queen's Head for Tebworth. A nice surprise was the free food, wine and beer for everyone who came along.

PC Chair, Phil Parry, opened the evening by stating that the Parish Council had registered the Queen's Head as a Community Asset back in 2013 to try and protect it.

Ian Lothian, Chair of the newly formed Tebworth Community Pub Ltd, told everyone how they had to act very

quickly to set up a community benefit society within six weeks of Charles

Wells announcing the pub was to be sold off, in order to be able



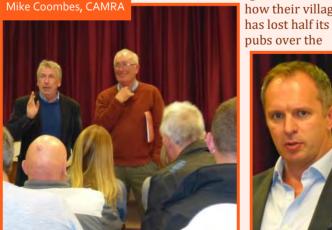


all of that time. It would be such a wrench to see it go, so we must do all we can to purchase it for the village.

Company member Keith Thomson told us he has experience of selling over 500 pubs. His expertise in this new venture will certainly be greatly valued.

Clive Ketteridge, Village Swan,

The Chair of Toddington Parish Council, Jim Gledhill, recounted how their village







last few years and that they would try and help us to avoid some pitfalls they had encountered over the sale of the Bedford Arms, a sad saga which still rumbles on.

Mike Coombes from CAMRA observed that the traditional British pub is truly under threat. They have helped save The George at Silsoe, he said, and will be pleased to help us too.

Chris and Caroline, current tenants at The Plough in Wingfield, generously made a point of saying how much they support our venture, stating that The Plough and the Queen's Head are very different and there is room for both to thrive and do well.

We were also delighted that Clive Ketteridge came along from the Village Swan in Ivinghoe Aston. They are a real success story, having purchased their pub nearly 19 years ago. They sold shares to the community and the value of those shares has increased over the years. They had help from many willing volunteers and the whole project really brought the community together, he said.

Project manager and researcher, Beth McCausland, has already got an online survey up and running plus the "Save the Queen's Head, Tebworth" Facebook page. She said, "We have a draft business plan which incorporates a range of possible income streams and community services, and at present are carrying out a community consultation".

All in all it was a really successful and lively meeting. It was clear that so much work

has already been done and that we are so lucky to have an enormous range of skills, knowledge and expertise to draw on in our community.

It's going to be hard work, but I suspect it will be a lot of fun as people pull together in one common aim.

Let's save the Queen's Head for Tebworth. Visit our website at <u>savethequeenshead.org.uk</u> or search for us on Facebook.

Frances Masters

Since the inaugural meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September, matters have moved on apace, and The Tebworth Community Pub Limited, constituted to progress the purchase of the pub on behalf of the community, has produced a business plan and a financial projection that set out how the community pub would be financed and run – these two documents are available to read online at <u>savethequeenshead.org.uk</u>. Furthermore, pledge forms have been distributed around the parish inviting interested residents to pledge to purchase shares in the new venture.

The campaign has also featured on Three Counties Radio and interviews with Colin Edwynn, Phil Parry and others can be listened to again at <u>savethequeenshead.org.uk/</u> on-the-airwaves.

#### 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 VIMIEN PRUDENT GEORGE MAWSON HOLMES

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

## **Remembrance Sunday**

A service was held on 13th November in the Memorial Hall to remember those men from the Parish of Chalgrave who gave their lives in the service of our country in the two World Wars.

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields, Sleep sweet - to rise anew! We caught the torch you threw And holding high, we keep the Faith With All who died

We cherish, too, the poppy red That grows on fields where valour led; It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies, But lends a lustre to the red Of the flower that blooms above the dead In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red We wear in honour of our dead. In Flanders Fields.



#### Until the Cows Come Home ...

This remarkable photograph of cattle nonchalantly searching for grass near the Village Green in Toddington one evening in September was taken by Jo Hundy of Toddington. Thank you, Jo, for allowing us to print your amazing picture!



Our regular reader from north of the border, Mr Greig, was telling the *News* how he loves the Scottish summer – it's his favourite day of the year and this year the rain was noticeably warmer than last year.

He also informed us that he'd recently been to the Edinburgh University's dental school and asked how much it would cost to have a tooth taken out, "£85, sir." was the dentist's reply. "Och, have ve nay got anything cheaper?" asked Mr Greig. "Well, that's the normal charge for an extraction," explained the dentist. "Er, what about if ye nay use any anaesthetic," enquired Mr Greig, hopefully. "Well, it's highly unusual, sir, and would be very painful, but if that's what you want, I suppose I could do it for £70." Mr Greig stroked his beard for a while before querying, "Hmmmm, what aboot if ye used one o' yer dentist trainees and still without anaesthetic?" The dentist answered, "Well, it's possible, but they're not qualified so I can't guarantee their level of professionalism and it will certainly be a lot more painful. However, in that case I could bring the price down to £40." "Och, tha's still a tad too much for my purse. I'll tell yer what, young man. How aboot if ye make it a training session and have yer student do the extraction without anaesthetic and with the other students standin' around watchin' and learnin'," suggested Mr Greig. "Errr, well, OK," said the dentist, hesitantly. "It'll be good for the students, I suppose. Under those circumstances, I think I could bring the price down to just £10." "Now yer talkin' laddie! It's a deal," confirmed Mr Greig. "Will ye please book an appointment for Mrs Greig for next Wednesday?"

#### SAINSBURY'S CAR PARK SCAM ... BEWARE!

PLEASE BE WARNED! Since the last issue, I've been the victim of a clever 'Eastern European' scam whilst out shopping. Simply dropping into the Sainsbury's supermarket in Dunstable for a few groceries turned out to be quite an experience. Don't be naive enough to think it couldn't happen to you or your friends! Here's how the scam works —

Two very good-looking 20–21 year-old girls of Eastern European appearance will come over to your car as you are packing your shopping into the boot. They will both start cleaning your windscreen, their breasts almost falling out of their skimpy T-shirts. When you thank them and offer them a tip, they'll decline and instead they'll ask you for a lift to another supermarket, in my case, Tesco. You'll foolishly agree and they will both get into the back seat of your car.

On the way there, they will start undressing, until both are completely naked. Then, when you pull over to remonstrate, one of them will climb over into the front seat and start crawling all over your lap, kissing you, touching you intimately and thrusting herself against you, while the other one will stealthily steal your wallet!

I've fallen victim to this scam and I had my wallet stolen on  $4^{th}$ ,  $9^{th}$ ,  $10^{th}$ ,  $15^{th}$ ,  $17^{th}$ ,  $20^{th}$ ,  $24^{th}$  October and twice on the  $29^{th}$ . And then again on  $1^{st}$ ,  $4^{th}$ ,  $6^{th}$ ,  $9^{th}$  and  $10^{th}$  November and twice yesterday. So please warn all the older gentlemen you know to be on the lookout for this scam.

The best times seem to be just before lunch and around 4.30 in the afternoon. Aldi have cheap wallets on sale for £1.99 each but Lidl wallets are only £1.75 and look better.

Happy Shopping!

Our soon-to-be-erstwhile Editor has included a piece regarding the events after the last issue of the *Chalgrave News*. I need not expand on them, suffice to say that I (and many others) have and always will, continue to support his decisions regarding what is published and what is not, that is what an Editor does. There does not seem to be a rush of volunteers to take over this role in April, this was to be expected as it is time consuming and thankless work.... plus, it is always easier to criticise than to take part. The next edition will probably be the last and I am sure we will go out with a bang!

JP

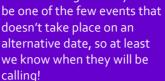


A psychologist is selling a DVD that teaches you how to test your dog's intelligence. Here's how it works – if you're happy to pay £29.99 for this DVD, then your dog is smarter than you.

#### Halloween ...

Despite it being a school night and not as warm as last year, the ghosts and witches were

out in force again this year for Halloween. It does seem to



Su Parker, with photos by Su Parker and Emma Gray















# All Our Yesterdays - No. 26

# Colin, landlord extraordinaire for 35 years Circa 1986







2005







2012





2016







**SAVE THE QUEEN'S HEAD!** 

Note — you can see clips of the 2005 and 2012 shows on www.chalgrave.org.

Ken Green

# The Plough



Hello to all and may I say Season's Greetings!!

Yes, that time of year is close upon us and the Plough is gearing up for our festive fun. Tree and decorations will be up soonish!

A lot has happened since the last edition.

We have said goodbye to Costas, the second chef, so Marc, Joanne and Chris are back as the dream team.

Beau and Binx have moved on to their final resting places but leave us with their pawprints in our hearts.

Our fortnightly Sunday quizzes are still well attended and are a lot of fun. We manage to raise lots of money and the winning

team at Christmas will draw out of the hat the name of a charity to receive the proceeds. The next quiz is 11<sup>th</sup> December – with one on the 18<sup>th</sup> as well, because of Christmas.

On the Sundays when there isn't a quiz, we have bring your pet to the pub night. So, if you fancy mixing a pint and exercise, make the Plough your mid-point stop whilst walking the dog.

In the last issue we did state we were open for food on Monday evenings, but unfortunately we have taken the decision to only open for drinks that evening.

#### So food service is —

- Sunday, 12.00 to 4.00,
- Monday through to Saturday, 12.00 to 2.00, lunchtime,
- Tuesday through to Saturday, 6.00 to 9.00, evenings.

Chris and I are now half way through our tenancy, which runs for 3 years. It's been a whirlwind time of excitement and challenges in equal measure. What will we do at the end? Sign up again? Move on? Hmm, sunning ourselves on an exotic Island would be great. Anyway the next 18 months will tell, but whatever it is you can be sure that whatever challenges lay ahead we will still be here!

Please join us at around 7ish on **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December**, when we have our annual carol singing evening with the **choir from Houghton Regis All Saints**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Caroline (and Chris and the team), 01525 873077, www.theploughinn.com

f

Follow us on Facebook—search for Plough Inn Wingfield.

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 on page 2.

This edition of the *Chalgrave News*, as well as past editions, can be read online at <a href="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.

### Queen's Head



Hello everyone.

Colin here! I bet you're surprised to hear from me, aren't you? As I said last time, the brewery, Charles Wells, has put the Queen's Head up for sale, which is true, but I can't see anyone buying it, not with me as a sitting tenant. I say this because I haven't been given notice to quit yet so I suppose you will have to put up with me there for another winter at least! I knew that would spoil your Christmas.

Speaking of Christmas we are going to have all the tried and trusted.

Speaking of Christmas we are going to have all the tried and trusted frivolities that have proved so popular in the past, such as live

music, singing, etc, and I can promise you a warm welcome as well as a warm pint. I'm not sure who is performing over the Christmas period yet, as all the acts are still working out their 'gig' itineraries, but keep looking out for notices on the blackboard outside the pub as we will be advertising our acts as soon as we can finalise everything.

There was a good crowd gathered for our traditional free firework display this year. I know a lot of you complained that we had it on the 12<sup>th</sup> instead of the more traditional 5<sup>th</sup> but all the other organisations held it on the 5<sup>th</sup> so the decision was made to delay it a week to allow you to enjoy a 'double whammy'. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves (I know there will always be some who moan but at the end of the day it is my decision what I do in my own home!).

One more small occasion that you might like to join me for is being held on **Friday**, **9**<sup>th</sup> **December**, because, on that date, I will have been in the pub for 35 years!!! There will be music, laughter, food and fun, I hope you will all come and see me that night even if it is only for a quick pint because after all those years I have grown quite fond of this little village and all its inhabitants.

Until then be safe and happy.

All the best, Colin

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



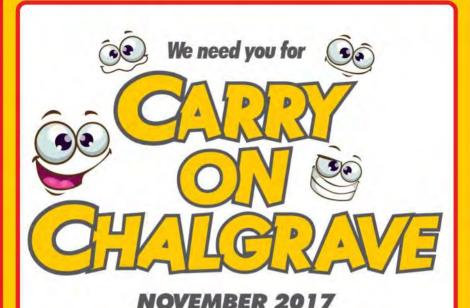
#### **Management Speak**

*BLAMESTORMING* – Sitting round in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.

SEAGULL MANAGER – A manager who flies in, makes a lot of noise, makes a mess on everything and then leaves.

*Percussive Maintenance* – The fine art of whacking the hell out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

OH-No SECOND – That minuscule fraction of time in which you realise that you've just made a BIG mistake, such as hitting "reply all".



#### WANTED

5-10 minute acts for our light hearted variety show.

(Absolutely no talent required) just a sense of fun!!

If you are interested, please contact either:

Chris: ladytebworth@btinternet.com - tel: 077134 32580

or

Frances: frances.masters@btinternet.com - tel: 07530 803903

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