

# CHALGRAVE NEWS

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



**Publication No. 54 March 2017**

# 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> March	Clairvoyance with Denise Newman – <i>see p 38</i>	The Plough	8.00 pm
Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Club Race Night – <i>see p 40</i>	Memorial Hall	Doors open 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Parish Assembly – <i>see p 9</i>	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Chiltern Vehicle Preservation Group – <i>see p 38</i>	The Plough	Evening
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Rogation Day Walk – <i>see p 9</i>	Queen's Head	10.00 am sharp
Saturday, 17 <sup>th</sup> June	JoeFest 2017 – <i>see p 37</i>	TBA	TBA
Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Chalgrave Games	Memorial Hall	TBA
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Classic & Prestige Car Show	The Plough	Noon

**Front Cover:** Santa disappears into the mist as he did his pre-Christmas visit to Chalgrave on 17<sup>th</sup> December. His elves collected a record-breaking £602.38 from generous donations made by the residents of Tebworth, Wingfield and Milton Bryan. The Santa run is organised each year by the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale.

**Deadline for next edition:  
Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**

Please submit entries by email to Lyndie Lothian at [thechalgravenews@live.co.uk](mailto:thechalgravenews@live.co.uk)

*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.*

*Printed by Sarum Graphics, Castlegate Business Park, Old Sarum, Salisbury.*

# Editorial

Dear Readers, We announced in the last issue that our March 2017 edition would be the final one unless a replacement team stepped forward. Well, it's our pleasure to announce that a new team *has* been found and therefore the *News* will continue. The new team is a large one and full details have not yet been released. But we know that Lyndie Lothian is replacing me as editor. Furthermore, Sharon Brown and Debbie Parry, between them, are sharing the roles of advertising manager and treasurer, which have been carried out up until now by Su Parker and Debbie Levy, respectively.

With the essential support of our generous advertisers, our conscientious contributors and our excellent printers, we're proud of what we've achieved in the six or so years that we've had tenure of the *News* and we're pleased to be able to pass on a magazine that is on a sound financial footing. We've been doing all we can to ensure a smooth transition as the new team continues in our footsteps, while stamping their own mark on the magazine and injecting fresh ideas. We wish our replacements every success as they take the *News* forward.

This, therefore, is the last copy of the *News* to be produced by the outgoing team. As you'll see on pages 4–6, we've taken this opportunity to step out of the shadows and show you photos of our team and also of our regular contributors, without whom this would be a dreary and skinny magazine. Many of the faces will be familiar to you, but others may not be so well known.

Naturally, we carry much more in this issue than selfies. This, of course, is our first opportunity since Christmas to report on some of the events of that time, so we give you the chance to relive a few of those wonderful moments. And that's not all! You'll enjoy, I'm sure, an article by Lesley Smith on her new best friend, Ian, and you'll be fascinated by Ken Green's recollections of how he met his future wife, Lyn, more than 50 years ago. The *News* sends hearty congratulations to Ken and Lyn on their Golden Wedding Anniversary!

Needless to say we also have a variety of articles from our regular contributors, including Peter Warburton's erudite explanation of how train fares have evolved to become such a mess. JP doesn't disappoint and, as usual, he has cut to the chase and provided alternative viewpoints on the key issues of the day.

We reported in the last issue of the attempts to purchase the Queen's Head from Charles Wells. Much has been going on behind the scenes since then, but finding a sufficient number of potential investors who have the money to spare to buy shares in "The Tebworth Community Pub Ltd" has proved impossible, and hence a new approach is now being taken. By the time this edition lands on your doormat, a public meeting will have been held in the Memorial Hall to outline the revised proposals. We had to go to print before this meeting took place and, without a crystal ball, we can't reveal much about the plans and nothing at all about the meeting. Nonetheless, a statement from the Queen's Head team can be found on page 10.

RP



One of our team had too much time on her hands over Christmas



Roger Parker, editor,  
compiler and distributor

## Members of the Outgoing Team!



Debbie Levy, treasurer  
and fundraiser



Barbara Jackson,  
distributor and  
fundraiser



Paul Levy, helper at  
fundraisers and former  
team member

## So it's Farewell from Us!

The time has come! This is the last issue of the *Chalgrave News* produced by the current team. But while this edition marks the end of one era, it is the start of another, because we're pleased to say that the future of the magazine has been secured and the next number will be put together by a new group.

As we are still in the limelight, the outgoing team is taking this opportunity to reflect on our time in charge of the *News* since we took over in 2010 (although, for accuracy, it should be added that Roger and Fiona Parker were latecomers to the party, only joining in late 2013).

First, let us say that as this is a free magazine, its publication has only been possible through the generous support of businesses that have chosen to advertise with us and, in many cases, to also sponsor our various fundraising events. We



Su Parker, advertising  
manager, proof-reader  
and distributor



Millie Parker, distributor  
and events helper



Emma Gray, distributor  
and former editor and  
compiler



Fiona Parker, proof-  
reader and distributor

(Continued on page 6)



Noeleen Thomson,  
"Book Club"



JP, "Everyone is  
Entitled to My  
Opinion"



Lesley Smith, dogs and  
car rallies



Peter Warburton,  
"Unintended  
Consequences"



Chris and Caroline Ross, "The Plough"



Mike Wells, "Computer  
Corner"



Peter Harding,  
veterinary adventures



Phil Parry, Chairman of  
both Parish Council  
and Sports Club

**Our Regular  
Contributors –  
Thank You!**



Mark Versallion, CBC  
councillor



Mr Greig, our north of  
the border reader



Debbie Parry, "WI"



Ken Green, "All Our  
Yesterdays"



Andrew Selous, MP



Mick McDonagh,  
"Queen's Head"



Julia Marsh, porcine  
capers



*(Continued from page 4)*

can't thank these companies and individuals enough for the essential financial help they have given us that has allowed us to keep going.

Secondly, we extend our warm thanks to the many writers (*shown on the previous page*) who have routinely provided us with articles, some serious, some funny, some thought-provoking, but all engaging. Without this steady supply of material, the magazine would be very thin and dull indeed.

Thirdly, during the years in which we've had custody of the *News*, we've tried to provide you with as much variety as possible. Our primary objective has been to paint a picture of life in Chalgrave, from both a present day and a historical perspective. This has involved us reporting on major public events that take place within our villages, such as the Games, the street parties, the car rallies, the parish assemblies, the beer festivals, our annual fundraising quiz, the Christmas jollities, and so on. It has also required us to cover political issues of concern to our community, with quarterly updates from the Chairman of our Parish Council, our representative from Central Bedfordshire Council, and our Member of Parliament. Local organisations have not been forgotten, with regular reports from the WI, the Sports Club, the Book Club, the Plough and the Queen's Head. Valuable practical advice has also been provided, such as in "Computer Corner". We've also addressed your interest in local history with the quarterly "All Our Yesterdays" and "Old News" columns, as well as one-off articles such as the poignant account by Gillian Morrison to discover more about George Mawson Holmes, the father she never knew. Other pieces have been written by residents with interesting stories to tell, and so we have learnt about the adventures of Chops, the experiences in the life of our local vet, and our local economist's interpretation of the unintended consequences of political decisions. Humour (at least we think it's humour) has had an important part to play, and has been invaluable in filling the annoying little gaps that appear at the bottom of pages. Occasionally, we've had to adopt a more serious tone and point out something that is wrong and that needs to be corrected – things have been printed that we feel need to be said, but perhaps the message has not always been appreciated by everyone. However, it has never been our intention to cause offence.

The outgoing team has always been small in size, but we have worked hard to produce this village newsletter every quarter, and then distribute it to your homes in all weathers – we hope you've had as much enjoyment reading the issues as we've had in compiling them.

Finally, let us welcome the new team! They will introduce themselves in the next issue, but we can confirm that the editor will be Lyndie Lothian and the advertising and treasurer roles will be shared by Sharon Brown and Debbie Parry. Lyndie was heavily involved with editing and compiling this magazine from its creation in 2002 until it was passed on in 2010 so she fully appreciates the arduous task that she's taking on. We're working with the replacement team to ensure a smooth handover and we wish Lyndie, and her team, every success in their venture. We very much look forward to reading future copies of this quintessentially English village magazine.

# Chairman of the Parish Council

**Highways.** We are aware of the number of potholes appearing in our roads and we will ask CBC Highways to make the necessary repairs. However, having said that, the holes must be a certain depth and width before they are filled in by Highways. We have also contacted CBC about the flooding on the bend of the Toddington/Hockliffe Road.

**Planning Permission** has been given for the development of Lane Farm. The barns will be replaced by four houses and the farmhouse will be refurbished. As this is on Green Belt and in a conservation area the Parish Council has made several comments about this development and permission comes with several provisions.

**Chalgrave Church.** You may have seen that work has begun on repairing the roof. Stainless steel is replacing the lead. The Rev. Anne Crawford has moved to London and is to be replaced by a half share ministry. We understand that it could change back to full time in the future.

**Wingfield.** The Wingfield sign has been repaired and refurbished by *Signs of the Times* – thank you! They will return it in due course.

**Street lights.** We are still trying to get CBC to connect the street lamp outside 23 Toddington Road to the electricity supply.

**The Lane.** Farm traffic uses The Lane. Parking must leave enough room for them to pass – particularly by the triangle. At the moment tractors are having to go over the triangle which has cut up the grass.

**Awards.** We would like nominations for the Millennium Youth Award (18 and under) and the Community Award (over 18). These awards recognise an achievement, service to our community or charity work. If you know of somebody who deserves the award, please let the Clerk know.

**Parish Assembly.** The Assembly this year is on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. As before it is an informal occasion with drinks and nibbles. It is an opportunity to find out what the Parish Council and other parish organisations have been doing in the past year and their future plans.

As always you are welcome to attend our Council meetings which are usually the third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

*Cllr Phil Parry, Chairman*



Why do dogs always race to the door when the post arrives?  
It's hardly ever for them.



# View from the House: Andrew Selous MP



Andrew Selous is our MP for South West Bedfordshire. He can be contacted at [andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk) or by telephone at his Parliamentary office on 0207 219 8134 or at his constituency office on 01582 662821.

## **ANDREW WELCOMES FUNDS TO FIX POTHOLE AND MORE MONEY TO ROLL OUT SUPERFAST BROADBAND SERVICES**

*Andrew writes:* "I was very pleased to receive the welcome news that local road-users will benefit from a dedicated £365,000 pothole fund, which will keep the country moving and build a country that works for everyone. This cash is part of a £1.2 billion fund for local roads that the Government is allocating to

councils to repair and rebuild our transport links.

"This funding, which will improve roads, cut congestion and improve journey times, includes money from the new National Productivity Investment Fund, announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement and the Pothole Action Fund. It also includes £75 million which councils can bid for to repair and maintain local infrastructure such as bridges, street lighting and rural roads.

"Local motorists will benefit from the dedicated funding after the Government announced that nearly £50 million of funding will be made available to local councils over the next 12 months. This is part of a wider package totalling £8,089,000 across the East of England Region.

"The government has also recently published further information about what the funding will be spent on – the latest step in our economic plan to stimulate the economy and build a country that works for everyone. The state of our roads is consistently raised with me by local residents and remains a great source of frustration for drivers. This funding is welcome news for families and businesses in the Central Bedfordshire Council area who rely on our roads to get around. It builds on the £244,000 we got last year and is the latest step in our plan to build a country that works for everyone. This announcement shows that the Government is delivering on their commitment to invest in infrastructure to attract businesses and secure a better future for local businesses.

"On the issue of providing superfast broadband for local residents, Matt Hancock MP, Minister for the Digital Economy, has let me have information about how much allocated extra funding to provide this service will be given to Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. The Government has allocated over £6.38 million to Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes with local bodies providing an additional £7.8 million to the project. Delivery of the project is managed on a day-to-day basis through the County Council organisation Central Broadband and the website to access this information is <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/business/broadband/plans.aspx>."

*Note: A fibre optic cabinet has been installed in Tebworth but is not yet live.*

RP



# 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 [mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).



## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on **Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April** in the **Chalgrave Memorial Hall**, starting at **7.30 pm**. This is an informal gathering to which everyone is invited and it provides an opportunity to learn what's been going on over the past year, and to find out what's planned for the coming twelve months. As well as updates from local organisations, there will also be reports from representatives of our Parish Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, and possibly even our Member of Parliament. Naturally, there will be the opportunity for you to ask questions and raise any concerns you may have, either in the meeting proper or in one to ones afterwards.

As always, the evening will be rounded off with a splendid selection of sandwiches, cakes and drinks—all provided free of charge. The attendance figures have been good for the past couple of years, so please come along.

## Rogation Day Walk

Why not "Beat the Bounds" of Chalgrave by joining the annual Rogation Day Walk on **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May**? This is the only day of the year that we have the legal entitlement to walk those parts of the boundary that are not a public right of way. If you would like to take part, please be at the **Queen's Head**, ready to leave at **10 am sharp**.



As usual, there will be a stop for lunch at the Fancott Arms at about 1 pm and, if you do the complete walk, expect to get back in Tebworth at around 5.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome, either for the whole day, or just for the morning or the afternoon sessions. For more details, please contact Ken Green at [kenandlyn610@gmail.com](mailto:kenandlyn610@gmail.com).

Young daughter: "Look, Daddy, there's a flock of cows!!"

Father: "Herd of cows!"

Daughter: "Of course I've heard of cows, Daddy – there's a whole flock over there!"



# A Unique Opportunity to Invest in a Local Pub

As you will be aware, the period during which we as a community had an exclusive opportunity to bid for the Queens Head expired on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

The not for profit Community Benefit Society constructed to enable the Parish to take advantage of that opportunity has not attracted the level of investment we needed but we, as a community, have not given up and there are a number of critical reasons why we must continue to fight for this vital community asset.

- **The Queen's Head represents the very heart of the village of Tebworth**
- **Closure will threaten social cohesion of the community**
- **Closure will increase the negative impact of rural isolation in the parish.**
- **It is estimated that house prices are likely to fall by between 3% and 5% with the loss of the pub.**



Consequently, it is proposed that a conventional limited liability company be formed with the intention of purchasing the Queen's Head by raising around £200,000 from those interested in making a straightforward commercial investment through unlimited share purchase. This investment would be underpinned by the value of the asset plus there would not be any restrictions on dividends or trading of the shares that applied to the Community Benefit Society. This is an exciting opportunity for all to invest in the future of the Queens Head.

By the time you read this, a public meeting will have been held for those who positively support this exciting venture and may wish to invest. Unfortunately, this issue of the *Chalgrave News* had to be sent to the printers before the meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> February but for a report on the meeting see our Facebook page

([www.facebook.com/savethequeenshead](http://www.facebook.com/savethequeenshead)) or our website ([savethequeenshead.org.uk](http://savethequeenshead.org.uk)). If you were unable to attend the meeting, and you want further information of any kind, please contact Roger Masters ([roger.masters@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.masters@btinternet.com)) or Ian Lothian ([ILothian@aol.com](mailto:ILothian@aol.com)).



*Roger Masters and Ian Lothian*

# Old News

*Luton Times and Advertiser*, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1907 –

## Beds, Publican Loses His Licence.

A Wingfield innkeeper named Albert A. Gibbs was convicted at Woburn Sessions on Friday for receiving stolen goods. Six Toddington labourers, Thomas Smith, Samuel Parker, Henry Clark, William George, Horace Mead, and Joseph Mead, were charged with stealing a quantity of beans value 4s. 6d., the property of Harry Fletcher (Chalgrave) on Nov. 7th; and the innkeeper was charged with receiving them, well knowing they had been stolen. Mr. Halliley (Bedford) appeared for Gibbs.

It appeared that the six defendants were working for Fletcher in a beanfield, from which the beans were being carted. Complainant's manager said he did not know what quantity was stolen, but a bushel was produced in Court as having been recovered by Sergt Underwood (Toddington). Mrs. Ann Kingham spoke to seeing the six men at work, and later one of them carried a sack over the road. Horace Mead, when questioned by the sergeant, admitted having taken the beans to an allotment over the road for the landlord of the Plough. Gibbs offered when taxed with it to take the beans back if the Sergeant would say nothing about it. Gibbs gave defendants 1s. and beer to the amount of 2s. 9d.

Defendants pleaded guilty, and asked for leniency. Gibbs, in pleading not guilty, said the men worried him to buy the beans. He had many bushels of his own growing at the time, and on giving the beer to the Meads he carried the sack through the street quite openly. The men said the beans were theirs, and he believed them. There had been nothing against him or his house for 7 years.

Mr. Halliley submitted that Gibbs had no guilty knowledge in buying the beans.

Joseph Mead was fined 30s. or 14 days, and the other men 20s. or 7 days; Gibbs was fined 30s. or 14 days, the magistrates saying the fine would have been much heavier only that under the Licensing Law defendant would forfeit his license through that conviction.

A temporary transfer of the license to John Smith (Amphill) was granted.

*A bushel, in this context, is a volume of 8 imperial gallons.*



The five symptoms of laziness ...

1.



## Colin's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

I remember the moment we decided we wanted to live in Tebworth.

Thirty-two years ago, Roger and I spotted a lovely house for sale down The Lane. We loved the house but, never having lived in a village before, wondered if the local community would be welcoming of a couple of 'townies'.

So, one Sunday lunchtime, we took ourselves off for a quiet drink at The Queen's Head, sat in a corner and observed for a while.

There was a great atmosphere. Friends and neighbours were chatting and laughing together and everyone seemed to know each other. The place was rammed and, after a while, there was standing room only.

One thing that struck us was that everyone who came through the door was greeted by name by the landlord. "This is a proper local," I said to Roger. "I've never had a proper local before."

As we opened the door to leave, Colin called out "Bye, Roger and Frances. See you again." ..... and our decision was made.

On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, Colin celebrated 35 years as landlord of The Queen's Head.

The atmosphere was just as warm and welcoming. Long may it remain so....

*Frances Masters, with photos  
by Ken Green*



## A Round-up of Fake News

- It's been claimed that if President Trump is in imminent danger, his close protection officers will shout "Donald, duck!"
- A doctor in A&E at L&D has been heard to exclaim, "Nurse!! It was his spectacles I told you to remove. Let's hope he doesn't notice!"
- If you get punched by a 6 foot beetle, that's because there's a nasty bug going round.

The phone rings – "Hello, this is Schrödinger's Cattery, how may I help you?"

"Hello there. We dropped Bob off with you an hour ago, and we just wanted to ask if he's OK?"

"Well... yes and no..."



## Final Arrangements – Donald Trump

Donald Trump goes on a fact-finding visit to Israel. While he is on a tour of Jerusalem he suffers a heart attack and dies. The undertaker tells the American diplomats accompanying him, "You can have him shipped home for \$50,000, or you can bury him here, in the Holy Land, for just \$100."

The American diplomats go into a corner to discuss this for a few minutes. They return with their answer to the undertaker and tell him they want Trump shipped home.

The undertaker is puzzled and asks, "Why would you spend \$50,000 to ship him home, when it would be wonderful to be buried here and you would spend only \$100?"

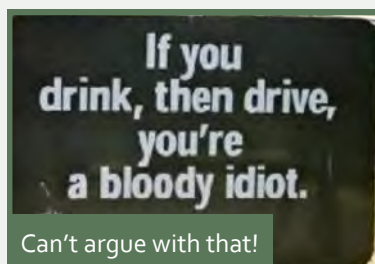
The diplomats reply, "Long ago a man died here, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead. We just can't take that risk."



## Australian Road Signs



What, right now!? While I'm driving?



You've been warned!

Australians have novel ways of warning of potential dangers.

*RP*



Is running very fast OK?



## Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion ...

All of you will now know that this is the final edition of the *Chalgrave News* as we know it. A new team of many local individuals is taking over as from the next edition. It therefore seemed like a good time to look back on the last few years and see what's changed. We live in a small parish and the biggest change is that we are now sadly a bit like the USA... divided. What was once one community is now splintered, and the catalyst was Pondgate. Much has already been said about this and I am not going to go into any more detail here, suffice to say that it has been, and is still, divisive. It is disappointing that a very small number of people have been allowed to carry on in such a manner and they alone are responsible for this situation. It needs to be sorted out right away although the damage is now, I believe, irreversible.

Moving on, there is of course the Queen's Head! Well, there was a meeting last autumn drumming up support in an effort to raise enough money to buy it from the brewery through a Community Scheme. Since then we have had... well, not much really, lots of Facebook posts saying, not much really and although there are many people in the village with the qualifications to assist, they have never been approached! Why not? It is a Community Asset after all, but sadly the Community seems to have been kept in the dark a bit. Now, there was a meeting scheduled on 28<sup>th</sup> February regarding the 'New Plan' but you could only go... according to the flyer... if you were interested in investing. Well, there are many people in this village who are not in a position to invest in a building... sorry, pub... but as it affects everyone, perhaps everyone should have been invited, because they may just be interested in the future of the Queen's Head? By the time you read this, the meeting will have come and gone and hopefully we will have some idea of what is going on. According to CAMRA, the campaign for real ale, 27 pubs close every week, yes, that's 27, so please do not try and sell me the idea that the Queen's Head will ever be a going concern, a dream maybe... but never a sustainable business, so there must be some people in Tebworth who are wearing rose-coloured spectacles!

And another thing...Yes, I agree a Pub is often the centre of a community and we are told that all our houses will be worthless if the Queen's Head disappears (rubbish by the way) but ever thought about perhaps tidying up the outside area a bit? The cigarette bucket has probably never been emptied, there are piles of... I'm not sure what... outside the front of the building, that all makes it look really inviting as you drive by, and the dilapidated 'smoking hut' is currently making its way off down The Lane! Still, not a bad way of driving the price down I suppose! However, the newly planted spring flowers add a welcome touch of colour. But don't forget we have the Plough, in Wingfield, which is just up the road, so we do still have a pub in our community and all our houses will be saved!

So what else? The Parish Council are still there, with Mr Parry (who is the Chairman of that and just about everything else!) doing a fine job in charge. The Plough has been through a transition with the landlord and landlady working hard to make a success of it, which they have. There are still lorries charging through the village which may change when the new road is complete, bringing, in turn, its own changes. The threat

of housing encroaching on the village will not go away and, one day, we will be surrounded and we won't be a village anymore.

There are virtually no buses for our more elderly residents to get about, some people still let their dogs mess on the public footpaths around the fields and don't pick it up, and there is still plenty of rubbish down the Chalgrave Road! Some things will never change!

So what of the future? Will the new by-pass quieten our village? Will littering be taken as seriously as speeding, with patrols out to catch the perpetrators? (We could send the litter louts on 'littering awareness' courses if caught)! Will all dogs have their DNA registered so we can catch the perpetrators? Will we all be enjoying a freshly cooked Sunday lunch in the 'Queen's'? Who knows, not me, but what I do know is...

A magazine, such as this, lives or dies on two things, advertising and contributions, lose either and however good the team is, it will fail. Roger (as did Emma) has struggled over the years to get people to contribute, he has done the best job he can do, and I for one am proud to have been associated with him and the rest of the current team. Unfortunately, it is a thankless task and the last year or so has been plagued by small village politics from a small band of individuals with whom many people are fed up. It's time for us to move on and make way for a new team with some fresh contributors. We wish them luck. I for one have written 'stuff' for nearly 10 years, most people have taken it all in the spirit to which it was intended, a small band have not, that's your problem and not mine – you could always write and put your point of view... but you didn't! You never know what you've got till it's gone!!!

—ooOoo—

Apparently there are still some people who think that I believe everything I write!! I merely bring things, however controversial, to your attention in my own way ... so that you can make your own mind up.

—ooOoo—

A tip for your holiday... swimming trunks with pockets in them are very useful, especially to keep your phone in when not using it.

Don't, however, then decide to go swimming!! Even a quick dip in salty seawater destroys the phone!!!!!! Only an idiot would do this!

JP



A farmer was helping one of his cows give birth when he noticed his six-year-old son standing at the fence with wide eyes, taking in the whole event.

The man thought to himself, "Great, he's six years old and I'm going to have to start explaining the birds and bees! I guess I'll let him ask and then I'll answer."

After everything was over, the farmer walked over to his son and said, "Well, Bert, do you have any questions?"

"Just one," gasped the wide-eyed lad. "How fast was that calf going when it hit that cow?"

## A Tribute to the News ...

Hello, my name is Millie and I have lived in Tebworth since I was 1 year old.

I am writing this article as it's the last edition of the *News* that Su (my mum), Roger P, Debbie L, Emma and Barbara have been doing since 2010.

I love delivering the *News* with my Mum, so I wrote this Acrostic Poem to show how much I love the *News* and our Village. Sometimes my friend Lucie has helped me deliver too, in the snow and the sunshine, but not in the rain!

**T**ebworth

**H**appy

**E**veryone

**C**halgrave

**H**all

**A**dvertisers

**L**etters

**G**ames

**R**ural

**A**rticles

**V**illage

**E**xciting

**N**ews

**E**ngland

**W**ingfield

**S**peeches



Lucie and Millie,  
2012

Millie, 2012



Millie and Lucie, 2017



Millie Parker (aged 11)

## Did you know?

- The only time incorrectly isn't spelt incorrectly, is when it is spelt incorrectly.
- If you change the "w" in "where", "what" and "when" for a "t" then you can answer your own questions without pestering other people.
- There is a special place in Hull reserved for the person who invented autocorrect.

## All Our Yesterdays – No. 27



### Chalgrave All Saints

Our church dates from 1219. In 1888 the tower of the isolated parish church fell during a thunderstorm and destroyed part of the nave. This rendered the church

unusable and an alternative venue was provided in Tebworth, off Wingfield Road, in a new brick building dedicated to St Mary (now a private house). By 1903 the parish church was repaired sufficiently for services to be held there in summer.

A full repair was eventually made in 1931 to its present height with a modern parapet and octagonal stair turret in the south-west corner.

The lead was stripped off

the roof some months ago, and is finally being replaced with stainless steel during which time it will be classified as a building site and no entry to the church should take place other than for scheduled services or by previous appointment with the churchwardens.



*Ken Green*





Organiser, Chris Osborn

## Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

Around 210 guests packed into the hall of Parkfields School on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, to enjoy the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, although unfortunately only a couple of Chalgrave residents were able to join in this time. As always, the event had been organised by the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale with assistance from the Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee. Overall responsibility for organising the occasion had fallen to Rotarian and Tebworth farmer, Chris Osborn. He was, of course, assisted on the day by a small army of volunteers, including a good number from

Chalgrave and half a dozen from Tesco.

A team of five jovial dinner ladies from the school had toiled away since the previous day preparing a delicious lunch that started with homemade tomato soup. This was followed by roast turkey with the traditional accompaniments, and then Christmas pudding with good old fashioned custard. The meal







ended with mince pies and coffee. Naturally, plenty of drinks, alcoholic

or otherwise, were served to ensure a lively festive spirit prevailed.

Entertainment was provided by a brilliant troupe of teenage girls from Parkfields' After School Dance Club who gave a carefully choreographed display that was much appreciated by the audience. The inimitable Dave Johnston then orchestrated the usual sing-song which predictably led to some nimble dancing around the tables, but not, on this occasion, actually on them. To bring the afternoon to a close, there were the customary renderings by guests and volunteers of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Auld Lang Syne".

A fabulous bouquet of flowers was awarded to the oldest lady present, while the oldest man had to make do with a bottle of Scotch – these guests were 96 and 92 years old, respectively. Another magnificent flower arrangement was given to a couple who had been married for a remarkable 68 years.

The sale of raffle tickets to the





After School Dance Club



Dave Johnson



Oldest gentleman, aged 92

party-goers during the afternoon raised an astounding £750.

Obviously, an event of this size doesn't take place without many months of meticulous planning, nor without the support of numerous companies and organisations, and, of course, not without the help of the many volunteers who freely gave up their time to assist.

*RP*



Oldest lady, aged 96



Longest married couple, 68 years

## Tips to Look After Your Husband

*This advice to housewives was taken from a book on Home Economics published in 1950. Despite its age, I think most would agree that the guidance is as applicable today as it was then, perhaps even more so, given the greater stresses and strains of the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.*

**Have dinner ready:** Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospects of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.

**Prepare yourself:** Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.

**Clear away the clutter:** Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift too.

**Prepare the children:** Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.

**Minimise all noise:** At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of washer, drier, dishwasher or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet. Be happy to see him. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.

**Some don'ts:** Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.

**Make him comfortable:** Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink, ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.

**Listen to him:** You may have some things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

**Make the evening his:** Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to another place of entertainment. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to come home and relax.

**The goal:** Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can renew himself in body and spirit.

*Kindly provided by JP, who assures the News that this system works very well in his household*

This is one of a series of 1950s articles to be reproduced in the News.

Next issue: "Advice to recently divorced men on cooking for one".



# *Chalgrave News*

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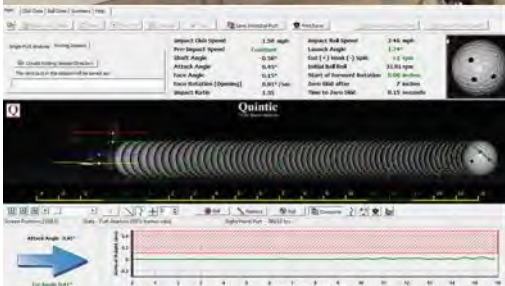




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12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£135	£315	£365
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*\*NB. Hall must be vacated and locked up by this time.*

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# Useful Contacts

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<b>Electricity Board (Emergency)</b>			0800 7838838
<b>Water Board (Emergency)</b>			0845 7145145
<b>Head: St George's Lower School</b>	Jane Spencer		01525 872360
<b>Head: Parkfields Middle School</b>	David Brandon-Bravo		01525 872555
<b>Head: Harlington Upper School</b>	Shawn Fell		01525 755100
<b>Toddington Childcare</b>		Playgroup/am & pm school clubs	01525 875400
<b>Toddington Area Helping Hands</b>		www.voluntaryworks.org/organisation/toddington-area-helping-hands	07882 988270



Ian as a puppy

## Ian

As soon as I saw his photographs I knew I wanted to meet Ian. He looked just my type – deep brown expressive eyes, neat appearance, fine features and beautiful curly black hair. The only question mark was that he was a lot younger than I'd been used to recently and might prove to be a bit of a handful. However I felt I had enough experience to keep him under control and to live with him on my terms.

A date was arranged for me to meet Ian and I set off for London, by now rather excited. I was not disappointed when Debbie, the Rehoming Officer, introduced me to Ian in the Reception Room. His photos had done him justice.

I should explain that Ian had been destined to be a Guide Dog. He was almost at the end of his basic training with his puppy handlers before being assigned to a visually impaired person and embarking on his intensive month's bonding and training, after which he would become a fully fledged Guide Dog. Unfortunately he

developed a condition called recurrent otitis, which is inflammation of the ear canal so, reluctantly, the decision was made to withdraw him from the training programme and rehome him. (According to Debbie he would have made an excellent Guide Dog.)

My decision to adopt him was, to use a modern idiom, a 'no-brainer'. Debbie brought a bag into the room, which contained Ian's possessions: one partially dismembered fluffy duck, a brand new chewy bone, a bag of treats, half a bag of food and medication for his ear. And a four page letter from his puppy handlers addressed to 'Ian's New Owners'. Debbie disappeared for a few minutes to fetch the paperwork that needed completing giving me an opportunity to read the letter. It began "Thank you so much for re-homing our beloved gentle gIANT."



Ian, with his little friend, Frank

First there was a plea for me to keep in touch and update them on Ian's progress. This was followed by his history – Dad, a curly-coated retriever originally from Germany, Mum, a black Labrador originally from Ireland. He was one of a litter of ten, some curlier than others and all destined to be Guide Dogs. He went to live by the Kent seaside with Liz, Graeme and their 11 year old twins when he was eight weeks old. He was their fourth guide dog puppy and the first to be withdrawn, aged 16 months. Much as they wanted to keep him as a pet



sadly it wasn't an option for them.

This was followed by two pages describing in detail his personality, likes and dislikes, all of which I've found to be extremely accurate. The phrase 'He can be too clever for his own good and a firm hand is needed at times' was slightly disconcerting and also true. Another plea to keep in touch. Finally the letter closed with a truly heart rending request to take care of him and to give him lots of love and attention. Consequently Debbie was a bit bemused upon her return to find me quietly sobbing whilst Ian was heavily engaged in gnawing his new chewy bone.



Ian chilling out with friend Millie

Studies by dog psychologists generally agree that a significant proportion of a puppy's temperament is affected by the level of maternal care given to it. Puppies which receive a higher level of maternal care and touching from their mothers grow into dogs that have a higher level of social and physical engagement and a higher level of fearlessness. In other words these dogs are more friendly, more active, more willing to interact with their world and less likely to get 'spooked' by unexpected and potentially threatening events in their environment, all of which describe Ian perfectly and might explain why playing with and bursting balloons is a favourite game of his. Ian's mum must have been a supreme example of canine motherly care and attention.

Now Ian is living in Tebworth, which is as far away from the seaside as is possible in England. Fortunately he is quite content to paddle in Clipstone Brook and puddles and substitute a muddy ploughed field for the beach. One aim in his life is to make friends



Ian displaying his curly coat

with every human and dog he meets – some are more keen than others. He enjoys his visits to The Plough and has made himself very much at home both in front of the bar and behind it. I do feel obliged to make these visits with him acting as a Guide Dog representative because The Plough now sponsors three Guide Dog puppies, thanks to the funds raised by its fortnightly quizzes.

Because of Ian I get to visit the Redbridge Guide Dog Training Centre twice a year when I take him for his health checks. To meet and watch the



Pat with Ian and Doris

young dogs in various stages of training is wonderful and fascinating. Then we call in on Pat and Doris (Pat's Guide Dog and Sam's successor), on the way home.

Although we've only known each other for three months, I enjoy living with Ian (muddy footprints and rolling in obnoxious substances aside). We enjoy each other's company. He likes my friends and I like his. We have very few disagreements although he will insist on visiting Millie

the lurcher without my permission. Conversation is a bit one sided but at least he gives the appearance of listening. I'm optimistic this will be a long-term relationship so thank you Debbie for introducing us and Liz, Graeme and Twins I will most certainly carry out your requests.

*Lesley Smith*

More information on Guide Dogs can be found at [www.guidedogs.org.uk](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk).

## Facebook

As we all know, there's a lot of rubbish on Facebook, but there is also much to be commended. Listed below, *in alphabetical order*, are some informative Facebook pages that are worth visiting to discover what's going on around these parts. In all cases you can quickly find the page by just entering a few key names into the Facebook search box.

- Chalgrave Manor Golf Club ([www.facebook.com/Chalgrave-Manor-Golf-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Chalgrave-Manor-Golf-Club))
- Chalgrave News ([www.facebook.com/Chalgrave-News](http://www.facebook.com/Chalgrave-News))
- Chalgrave Parish ([www.facebook.com/chalgravepc](http://www.facebook.com/chalgravepc))
- Chalgrave WI ([www.facebook.com/ChalgraveWI](http://www.facebook.com/ChalgraveWI))
- Houghton Regis News Desk ([www.facebook.com/houghtonregisnewsdesk](http://www.facebook.com/houghtonregisnewsdesk))
- Parkfields Middle School ([www.facebook.com/parkfieldsmiddleschool](http://www.facebook.com/parkfieldsmiddleschool))
- Save the Queen's Head ([www.facebook.com/savethequeenshead](http://www.facebook.com/savethequeenshead))
- The Plough Inn ([www.facebook.com/theploughinnwingfield](http://www.facebook.com/theploughinnwingfield))
- The Queen's Head ([www.facebook.com/The-Queens-Head-Tebworth](http://www.facebook.com/The-Queens-Head-Tebworth))
- Toddington Community Bedfordshire ([www.facebook.com/Toddington-Community-Bedfordshire](http://www.facebook.com/Toddington-Community-Bedfordshire))
- Toddington Osteopathic Medicine Clinic ([www.facebook.com/TOMClinicOsteopathy](http://www.facebook.com/TOMClinicOsteopathy))
- Toddington Village ([www.facebook.com/Toddington-Village](http://www.facebook.com/Toddington-Village)).



## Unintended Consequences ... Why So Many Rail Fares?

My love affair with the railways began in the 1960s when I used to travel by train to school each day from Heywood to Bolton, in East Lancashire. For a couple of years, these were steam trains, before the diesels took over. Legend has it that, at one time, small boys were suspended by their ankles outside the carriage of the moving train as a form of initiation. I think I would have remembered if it had happened to me. In those days, there were still three classes of carriage and hence three distinct fares for the same journey. So how did we get from that simplicity to the confusing profusion of fares that we have today?

There may be other, more detailed, explanations, but the one that underpins them involves the notion of consumer surplus. Taking as an example, the very simplest market stall, the price of a cauliflower is the same to every customer. Some customers are very partial to cauliflower and would be willing to pay more than the asking price. The stallholder has no way of telling who they are and, even if she did, would struggle to charge different prices to successive punters in a queue. Riots would ensue. These extra amounts that individual customers would be willing to pay over the asking price, added together, are the consumer surplus.

When the railways were in public ownership, fares were simple but British Rail ran at a substantial loss, covered by taxpayers. In the 1960s, as road transport became more and more popular, and as the number of cars on the road began its explosive ascent, the financial losses on the railways also multiplied. Hence, Dr Beeching's famous cuts to the rail network. Some innovations in rail fares arrived in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the season ticket and the off-peak fare, but it was rail privatisation in the 1990s that ushered in the perplexing proliferation of fares that we have today.

Private rail operators took a keen interest in the behaviour of their customers, anxious to capture as much consumer surplus as possible. Those that commuted to their place of work, in the days of 9-til-5, were constrained to take trains at certain times. Others travelled into towns and cities for shopping and social engagements. Others were students on low incomes. Others were of a certain vintage and, similarly, of limited means. And so on. Seeking to fill the trains at all times of day and on all days of the week, the rail companies decided to divide their customers into more and more segments. Commuters could be charged a premium fare, since they had no choice. Shoppers could be offered a discounted fare to encourage trade. Young people and students were tomorrow's commuters and so, they too, were enticed with discounted fares.

Then came the clever ticketing machines and the complex software that powered them. Suddenly, the rail traveller was overwhelmed by choices – which train, which route, which booking method? The unintended consequences of excessive choice are confusion and irritation. Eventually, consumer champions decided to fight back with their own algorithms, offering to find the cheapest fare for the weary rail user. The latest fad is the

split ticket, that divides the journey into as many pieces as there are intermediate stations and sometimes finds an even cheaper solution. The moral: allow half-an-hour to book a rail ticket!



*Peter Warburton*

## Church Roof Repairs Begin ...

As readers will recall, thieves visited our parish church in December 2015 and April 2016, stripping the lead from above both the south and north aisles, as well as damaging the slates covering the nave. After what seems like an eternity, work has now started on repairing the destruction.



Much of the delay has been in getting permission from the relevant authorities to replace the lead with terne-coated stainless steel. This is not only harder for thieves to remove, but it is also less valuable. Furthermore, it dulls down to resemble the colour of lead, so, given time, it will not look out of place on this superb Grade I listed building.

Scaffolding has now gone up. It's a big job but it is hoped that the work will be completed by Easter. For sensible health and safety reasons, until the repairs are complete the church has been classified as a building site and no entry is allowed other than for scheduled services or by previous appointment with the churchwardens.

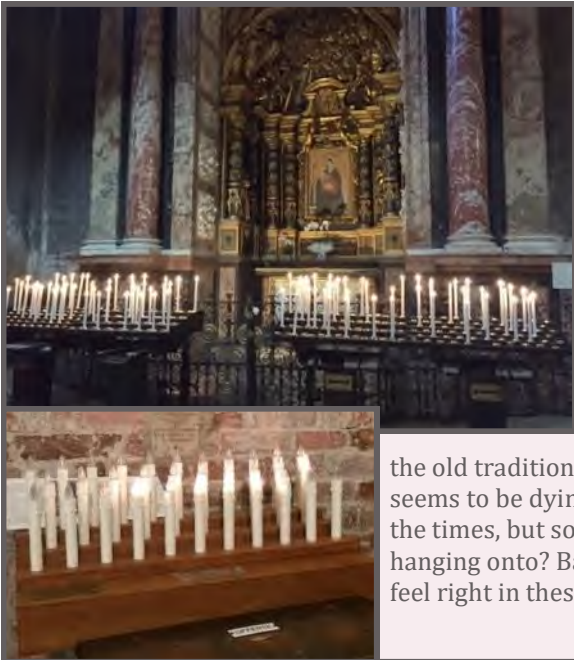
RP

A chap was taking his first golfing lesson and was being shown how to putt.



"Is the word spelt p-u-t or p-u-t-t?" he asked the instructor. "P-u-t-t is the correct spelling," was the reply. "Put means to place a thing exactly where you want it. Putt means merely making a vague attempt to do the same thing."





## Technology!!!

Whilst I appreciate the need to move with the times and that society has now become more technologically minded than ever before... I have to say that on a recent visit to Cremona in Italy, Millie and I were surprised to see the churches and duomos in Italy embracing candle technology!

Battery operated offertory candles were everywhere, whether for H&S reasons or not, I don't know, but the old tradition of lighting a proper candle sadly seems to be dying out. I guess we have to move with the times, but some traditions are surely worth hanging onto? Battery operated candles just don't feel right in these beautiful old buildings.

*Su Parker*

## Children's Corner ...

*Q: What do you call a cow that eats your grass?*

*A: A lawn moo-er.*

*Q: Why did the lamb cross the road?*

*A: To get to the baaaaarber shop!*

*Q: What do you call a cow in a tornado?*

*A: A milkshake!*

*Q: What did one cow say to the other?*

*A: Mooooooove over!*

*Q: Why are giraffes so slow to apologise?*

*A: It takes them a long time to swallow their pride.*

*Q: Why don't bears wear shoes?*

*A: What's the use, they'd still have bear feet!*



*Q: What is a cat's favourite breakfast?*

*A: Mice krispies*

*Q: How many sheep do you need to make a sweater?*

*A: I don't know. I didn't think sheep could knit!*

*Q: Why does a stork stand on one leg?*

*A: Because it would fall over if it lifted the other one.*

*Q: What do you call a crate of ducks?*

*A: A box of quackers.*

*Q: What do you call a parrot that flew away?*

*A: A polygon*

*Q: What do you call two ants that run away to get married?*

*A: Ant-elopes!*



## How to Give a Cat a Pill ...

1. Pick up cat and gently cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered Wedgwood vase from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil, and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans. Drink a glass of beer to take taste away. Apply plaster to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door onto neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with rubber band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink more beer. Check records for date of last tetanus jab.
12. Call fire brigade to retrieve the cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie the little @!!@#@\$%'s front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour water down throat to wash pill down.



14. Consume more beer. Get spouse to drive you to A&E. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and remove pill remnants from right eye. Call in at furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for RSPCA to collect cat and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

## How to Give a Dog a Pill ...

1. Wrap it in bacon.
2. Sit back and enjoy a quiet beer.



## Chalgrave Sports Club



Winter is a quiet time for the Sports Club. We held a golf society day at Bedford Golf Club during the Christmas break. Thanks to Ed Morton for organising the event. The winner was Dave Hawkins – Ed Morton came second (!) and Tim Petzing third. Longest Drive was by Jason Pixon and Nearest the Pin was Ed Morton. The golf was followed by a splendid dinner at the 19<sup>th</sup> – The Plough – many thanks to Chris and the team.

By the time you receive this edition of the News it will be close to our **Race Night on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March**. It's always a fun event with a fish and chip supper and licensed bar, and there may be some tickets left so contact Mike Wells, The Plough or Phil Parry.

We are planning our cricket fixtures for this season as well as our annual 10/10 festival of cricket. We are hoping for better weather conditions this year after last year's early season wash out.

Our clubhouse is on track to be completed by the time of our first match. Again, we need the weather to improve to be able to carry out much needed ground maintenance.

We will have to replace the pitch at the end of this season – perhaps before the end. So, we will be looking at our bank balance and fund raising.

Ed Morton from EMGolf in Wingfield will soon be offering his "Get into Golf" scheme for children using our pitch. These sessions will be monthly or every two weeks depending on popularity. And don't forget Ed is also offering Chalgrave Parish residents a 50% discount on the online booking price for simulation play and practice in his Golf Studio in Wingfield.

Finally, if you want to play cricket, or can offer some time and expertise with the building and maintenance work, please contact either of us.



*Phil Parry, Chairman and Mike Wells, Vice-chairman*



## Carol Singing in the Plough

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, saw the choir of All Saints Church, Houghton Regis, make a welcome visit to The Plough for an evening of carol singing. This has become an annual



tradition, and one that is always eagerly anticipated and much appreciated. As usual, the choir was led by Janet Steele, with her husband, Nigel, playing the keyboard. There were some familiar faces in the choir and also some newcomers. The evening was well attended, with lots of people enjoying a meal, a drink or a game of dominoes, while also attempting – with varying degrees of success – to join in with the singing.

A collection raised £40 which was put towards meeting the

mammoth target of £400,000 needed to restore the church. But, as they say, from tiny acorns...

*RP*







# Chalgrave WI



Christmas Candles

## Recent Events

We had some wonderful events in **December** – six of us had a delicious lunch at the Five Arrows Hotel and then four of us went on to enjoy the **Waddesdon Manor** decorated rooms, Christmas market and light installations in the gardens. A big thank you to Sue Bollins for

organising the festive **candle decorating session** for our December meeting.

Later that week a great night was had by all at our **Christmas party at the Fancott Arms**.

Twenty-four of us attended and we took over the dance floor after our lovely meal – displacing a gang of blokes from Vauxhall Motors who took refuge in the bar.

In **January** we had a lively and fun **dance**

**session with AJ Fenn**. We learned a routine to “Play that Funky Music” by Wild Cherry – a very current number from 1976!

In **February** our meeting was a talk by **Ventriloquist**, Chris Bylett. A very old school



Christmas Party

entertainer – perhaps not quite suited to our more modern and politically correct tastes!

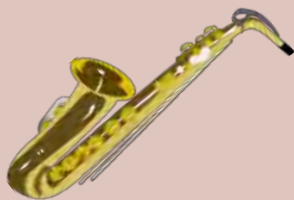


More details of our activities can be found on our Chalgrave WI Facebook page. Please feel free to join us as a guest for one of our future meetings or contact me for a chat.

*Debbie Parry – Chalgrave WI President*  
 07770 543797, [Debbie.parry@accenture.com](mailto:Debbie.parry@accenture.com)

### Forthcoming Events — 2017 Calendar

<b>Tue, 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Air Ambulance talk	CMH
<b>Tue, 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter Lanterns	CMH
<b>Wed, 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Mamma Mia	Milton Keynes Theatre
<b>Tue, 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Buckingham palace talk – Janet Stone	CMH
<b>Tue, 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Walk around Ampthill Park with Kelvin Horton – 7pm	Ampthill Park
<b>Tue, 11<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Wine tasting	TBC
<b>Tue, 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Foraging Walk – Wingfield. Note – 6.15pm	The Plough
<b>Sat, 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Tower of London tour and meal – Plus Sky Lounge drinks	London
<b>Tue, 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Halloween Quiz	CMH
<b>Tue, 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	AGM	CMH
<b>Tue, 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Campanology with wine & cheese.	CMH



I'm pleased that my granddaughter is learning the viola.  
 It doesn't get much media attention nowadays because it's all sax and violins on the television.



I don't like to boast, but I finished my 14 day post-Christmas diet in just 4 hours and 37 minutes. Can any of you beat that?



## Ken and Lyn Green Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage!

It was a chance encounter. Ken was on a long training course in "Ivrea La Bella" in northern Italy and there was a break in the course for a holiday. Rather than flying him back to the UK, Olivetti sent him to Rome for further training.

Lyn had just spent several years travelling and working in Europe and

had decided to spend a few days in Rome before flying back to the US. Ken was in the "Hotel Bled" and Lyn in an adjoining hotel that shared a dining room. On the first evening Ken was in the dining room and there was a girl reading what looked like an English paper at the next table. Ken said "Oh, are you English" Lyn said "No,

American." That was nearly the end of the conversation but at that moment a waitress came in and suggested we sat at the same table.

Incidentally Ken was driving a 1948 Triumph Roadster and feels it may have been the car rather than him that first attracted Lyn.

Ken and Lyn had three days in Rome together. They quickly

became "romantically involved" and went to all the sites and events, including Aida performed in the open at the Roman Forum which was a spectacular event with elephants on the stage. They remember just walking into the Coliseum, no queues and no payment.

Lyn had shipped her VW Beetle back to the US before she came to Rome and had to fly out after the three days. Ken and Lyn exchanged a couple of letters and when Ken got back to Ivrea he wrote to Lyn asking her to come back and join him. Lyn agreed at once although her Dad said she was nuts. To get the money for the flight Lyn had to sell her car which she didn't find easy. She asked her Dad if he'd buy it but he said "I already bought it once".





Lyn finally managed to sell it for a good price and booked a flight to Geneva. Ken had written to tell her that Turin was the nearest airport but his writing was so bad that Lyn mistook Torino for Geneva.

Ken and Lyn spent the next few weeks in Ivrea. In those days, the training courses on electronic equipment were very long and this one was three months for the "Olivetti Programma 101" which, if you look on the web, is defined as the world's first desktop computer. Ken and Lyn drove back to the UK after the course to Ken's family

home in Winchmore Hill, north London. Lyn was very nervous about meeting the family. Ken's mum was just as nervous but it all went very well. Ken's mum said later "I'm so glad you're such a homely girl." In the States homely means ugly or plain but luckily Lyn understood what she meant.

After a few weeks, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1967, Ken and Lyn were married in a register office in Edmonton Town Hall, with a reception at "The Old Cherry Tree", Southgate. Some of Lyn's family were over and we were very grateful to Lyn's Dad for paying for the reception, which cost £67-17s-6d.



*Ken and Lyn Green*

## **A Round-up of the Latest Scientific Developments ...**

- It's looking likely that having birthdays may be good for us – preliminary findings released to the *News* are suggesting that those who have the most birthdays live the longest.
- Three-quarters of mathematicians interviewed by the *News* now feel able to draw a line between numerator and denominator.
- Chemists are reporting that atoms are not to be trusted – they make everything up.
- Scientists believe they're getting close to disproving the old adage, "i" before "e" except after "c". The lead researcher told the *News* that he's convinced that his team will find at least one exception to this rule within the next twelve months. "We're working through the alphabet and have just reached the letter "s", he said.
- It's puzzled medics for many years why ants don't catch the common cold. The *News* can reveal that it has recently been discovered that it's because they have anty bodies.
- Philosophers have started to debate what it would be like if there were no hypothetical questions.



Our canny reader from north of the border, Mr Greig, tells us that back in January he bought a horse from a farmer for £250 and the farmer had agreed to deliver the horse the following week. However, when the day of delivery came the farmer turned up at Mr Greig's house to say, "Sorry, but I've some bad news – your horse died last night!" Mr Greig exclaimed, "Oh, [expletive deleted – ed]! So, do I get my money back?" "I'm really sorry," said the farmer, "but I've already spent it." Mr Greig thought for a minute or two before saying, "OK then, just bring me the dead horse." The farmer was puzzled and he asked, "What are you going to do with a dead horse?" "I'm going to raffle him off," was the response. The farmer shook his head in disbelief and exclaimed, "You can't raffle off a dead horse!" Mr Greig tapped his nose and said, "Of course I can, I just won't tell anybody he's dead!"



In February, the farmer bumped into Mr Greig in the town and asked, "What happened with that dead horse you were hoping to raffle off?" Mr Greig gave a thumbs up sign, "I sold more than a hundred tickets at £5 each." The farmer laughed, "Didn't anyone complain?" Mr Greig replied, "Only the chap who won, so I returned his £5!"

—ooOOoo—

Mr Greig also tells us that he accidentally gave Mrs Greig a glue stick in place of a chapstick and she hasn't said a word to him since.

## Everyone is Entitled to My Opinion ...

When I had a visit from Mr Plod a while ago, instigated by someone who felt it would be a good use of taxpayers' money, I thought I would check out the local prisons in case I had to drop in for a bit! Obviously, the first place was Trip Advisor, the one stop shop for information on places to stay! There were various reports. Bedford didn't come out that well, apparently it was prone to rioting which would have kept me awake at night, plus the food could be indifferent and the beds were too small. Woodhill in Milton Keynes seemed no better, although they did offer a bigger selection of drugs.



Previously, I had always thought that prisons were for "punishing" those who had committed crimes against society, but NO they are for 'rehabilitation'!!! Apparently to assist the nutcases that go there to mix with other nutcases for long periods of time, so they can come out and be better nutcases! My Mistake! But, would you be a Prison Officer? No, you wouldn't because they are understaffed, have far too many restrictions put upon them, unlike the inmates that seem to do as they like! Plus they suffer intolerable abuse! – and, by the way, everybody you deal with hates you so you might as well be a traffic warden! (Better than walking the streets.)

JP

## "Save the Date" – JoeFest 2017

For the fourth year running, a festival of music is to be held in memory of our local musician, **Joe Inzani**. As previously, the proceeds will raise vital funds for the London Air Ambulance, a wonderful cause that relies on **charitable donations**.



You're guaranteed a day filled with live music, delicious food and good beer, a great way to remember a brilliant and generous man, who was always willing to help others and did much work for charity. This year is a very special occasion, because Joe would have celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The date for your diaries is **Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June** but the venue has still to be decided. Watch out for further announcements. Also, keep an eye open on Facebook for **JoeFest 2017**.

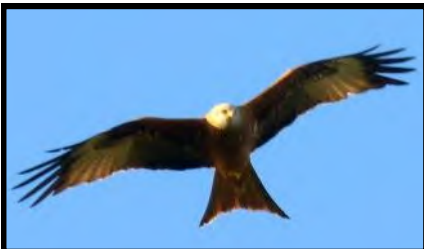


## Old News

*Luton Times and Advertiser*, 20<sup>th</sup> December 1895 –

### TEBWORTH.

LIGHT AT LAST.—As a result of the capital entertainment given in the school-room here, the other week, a new oil lamp has been erected (during the last few days) at the cross roads, in the most dangerous part of the village. This is a decided improvement, and is much appreciated by all the villagers. The lamp, which is of sixty-five candle power, was supplied by Mr. Horley, of Toddington, and gives a good light. Being situated on a hill, it serves as a kind of beacon to all the country-side. The cost of the lamp was about £3. Truly the schoolmaster is bringing real enlightenment, and Mr. Tucker deserves the hearty congratulations of his own and the surrounding community.



### Red Kite

A soaring red kite, scouring the ground for prey, photographed on a sunny day against a blue sky. These beautiful birds were once a rare sight over Chalgrave, but luckily they are now commonplace.

RP

# The Plough



Hello and Happy 2017 to all.

The year has started well in The Plough. Our wonderful quizzers raised a brilliant £672.00 last year. The charity chosen to receive this amount was *Guide Dogs for the Blind*. We now support the ongoing training of Immie, Irvine and Hattie, three adorable Labrador puppies – well done quizzers. See our website for updates and pictures.

Future events start with an evening of

clairvoyance with Denise Newman on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 8.00 pm – £15.00 per ticket, available on the door. Chris will be providing nibbles during the interval.

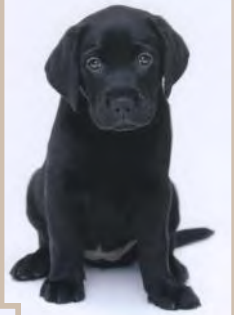
**Mothering Sunday** is 26<sup>th</sup> March – menu to follow online.

The **Chiltern Vehicle Preservation Group** are again visiting us with their wonderful selection of classic cars on the evening of Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May – it's well worth a visit.

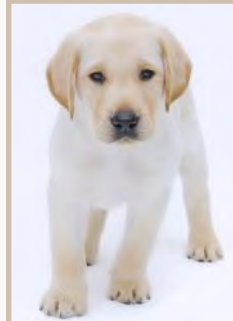
Well, that's all for now. Chris, I and our team are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Caroline, 01525 873077, [www.theploughinn.com](http://www.theploughinn.com)

Follow us on Facebook—search for Plough Inn Wingfield.



Hattie



Immie (or is it Irvine?)



Irvine (or is it Immie?)

## Bedfordshire Food & Drink Awards 2017

The Plough has again been nominated in the *Bedfordshire Food & Drink Awards* in the category of “**Pub of the Year – Tied House**”. The outcome is determined solely by public vote, so please support The Plough by voting for them.



This is easy to do – go to [bedsfoodanddrinkawards.co.uk](http://bedsfoodanddrinkawards.co.uk), then to Categories 2017, scroll down to “**Pub of the Year – Tied House**”, and then vote. To confuse us, the pub is listed as “**The Plough Inn, Leighton Buzzard**”!

Last year, The Plough came third – this year, with your support, they could come first!

RP



# Queen's Head

Hello everyone,

I know it's a bit late but I hope you all have a very Happy New Year. Last year was full of uncertainty and intrigue with rumours flashing around the villages about whether the Queen's Head was being sold or not, so let me put the records straight.

As I said in the last issue of this magazine the brewery, Charles Wells, have made it clear that it is their intention to sell the pub. Thankfully some people (other than myself) would like to keep a pub in Tebworth so they formed a company and tried to raise enough money to buy the pub. As it was designated a community asset they had 6 months to achieve this but, as far as I know, this has been unsuccessful and the 'cut off' date has been reached, although they are still trying to raise funds. Therefore the pub is now for sale on the open market and if it is sold either to a developer or another interested party then I have a month to vacate the premises, after that is anybody's guess.

I shall be heartbroken to leave my home of the last 35 years. My darling wife Liz and I were very happy here but my health is not so good now so I suppose it is time to go. Nevertheless, I shall not go quietly, but I will let you all know how the sale progresses – keep your eyes open for announcements on the blackboards outside the pub.

On a happier note I have heard that there is to be a new team producing this fabulous little magazine. This is really good news because as you may know it is the envy of all other parishes around us. I wish to thank the 'old' team and wish good luck to the new team.

That is nearly all I have to say except that we had a great Christmas, noisy fun was had by all on Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve was the usual mayhem. Thanks to all who wished me good fortune and a happy future – I am truly grateful.

I return those sentiments twofold.

God bless you all, *Colin*

**Check out our Facebook page—search for Queens Head Tebworth.**



## Charitable Donations

In December, the *News* was able to make a donation of £300 from its contingency fund to the Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale. This Club, of which several Chalgrave residents are key members, does much good work that benefits our villages, including organising the annual Santa Run and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch.

This gift followed a £100 donation made by the *News* to the Chalgrave Senior Citizens Committee in November.

The *News* has always seen it as part of its role to give back to the community and we're sure this will continue as the custody of the magazine changes hands.



# Race Night

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Doors Open at 6.30pm—First Race at 7.30 pm

Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Wingfield Rd, Tebworth

## All Welcome

Tickets £8.00 for adults, £4.00 children (under 16)

Includes fish & chip supper

**Licensed Bar**

*Own a horse for the evening!*

## Horse Racing

## Raffle

Contact Phil Parry (07831 605600) or Mike Wells (07900 253262)  
for tickets and to place your food order—alternatively pop into The Plough who also have details.

Don't forget to check the website at [www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk](http://www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk) for the latest information and results. And if you are interested in playing cricket let us know. All welcome!

Don't forget our special offers on servicing and repairs for local residents.



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