

#### **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	
Weekdays	Book Club	Noeleen Thompson	
2ND Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	8–10 pm
Every other Friday	Quiz Night	Queen's Head	8.30pm
13 November 11 December 8 January 5 February	Joe's Session	Queen's head	8.30pm
Dec. see page 18	Services, Carols etc.	All Saints Church	

Thank you to Peter Maddox for the photo on the front cover of the re-thatching of The Plough Inn aptly called "Everything stops for tea!".

Deadline for next edition: 15 January 2020

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.

**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

#### A note from the editorial team

The long warm days of summer are now a distant memory and our thoughts are turning to winter and a season of warm fires and festivities. Time to reflect on recent events in our parish.

Sadly we report the death of Peter Kuys, a long standing resident of Chalgrave, active member of the community and a driving force behind the Chalgrave News in previous years.

We also note the death at 101 years old of Mrs. Heeps, one of the longest residents of Chalgrave, who lived in The Lane until her late nineties.

On a happier note we welcome the arrival of new resident Teddy, born to Emma and Lee at The Old Vicarage.

Also congratulations to Carlie and Ed Alvares of the Queens Head on their wedding on 12<sup>th</sup> October at Chalgrave Church.

Development in and around the parish continues to grow and will have considerable impact on us. Some of the largest developments are north of Houghton Regis. See Peter Warburtons informative article on Page 14 for more information.

Although Chalgrave is a small parish there is always something going on so don't forget to check the 'Dates for your Diary' for upcoming community events, such as 'Carols by Candlelight' at Chalgrave Church.

If there are particular events, articles or issues you would like covered in the magazine contact the Chalgrave News team at thechalgravenews@gmail.com

We are in little doubt that as you read this we will still be in the midst of political uncertainty over Brexit so we won't go there.

Instead why not get out into the Chalgrave countryside to enjoy the last of the autumn colour and cheer yourself up.



#### CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

#### From the Parish Council.....

**Parking.** We seem to mention this problem in Tebworth in every issue of the News.

The problem hot spots in Tebworth are:

Parking on the corner of Toddington and Wingfield Roads

On The Lane by the triangle

On the corner of St Marys Close and Wingfield Road The parking on the corner of Wingfield and Toddington Roads causes a danger for cars turning into Wingfield Road as they



cannot see cars coming down the road. The parking on the other two areas causes great problems for farm vehicles – and will do for emergency vehicles. Please park thoughtfully.

**All Saints Church.** We will be working with Church in the planning of its 800 years celebrations in September next year. We want to make it a community event involving all the Parish.

**Queens Head.** We are also working with the landlords of the pub to ensue it remains open and serving our community.

**Awards.** We are still looking for a nominee for the Millennium Youth Award. This is an award for someone under 18 who has made a significant achievement in the past year. This could be in education, sports, music, dance, etc. or it could be handling a challenge.

**Great Pond.** We will be forming a committee to look after the pond. Please contact us if you want to join.

**B5120/A5 Roundabout** There are still accidents on the roundabout at the bottom of Lords Hill. We ae convinced that the road makings are wrong. We have pointed this out to Highways England several times. We have also sent them the Police statistics of reported accidents on the roundabout. They have done nothing. We are now arranging a site meeting with Highways England and our CBC Councillor. Hopefully, they will do something before there is a really serious accident.

Phil Parry, Chair

#### VIEW FROM THE HOUSE

#### My Statement on the Current Brexit Situation

In normal circumstances, parliamentary democracy serves our country well, but in the past two and a bit years. I have been ashamed of the behaviour of this Parliament—a Parliament in which, as academic analysis by the Library points out, 409 out of the 650 constituencies had leave majorities. That was on an 80% turnout—far higher than any turnout we are elected on at a general election.

Over the past two and a bit years, we have a Parliament that

thinks it knows better than the public who this Parliament explicitly gave the decision to. We have a Parliament that thinks it is acceptable to use representative democracy to defeat direct democracy—a direct democracy explicitly agreed and voted for by this Parliament. We have a Parliament that has totally failed to work across party lines to find an acceptable way forward, and we have a Parliament that is very good at saying no but is bereft of ideas to come up with anything better. We also have a Parliament where an increasing number of MPs who were elected for one party, often with significant majorities, then declare for another without any agreement from their constituents.

If we value our democracy and everyone who took part in the referendum, we must honour the result and everyone who voted, all of whom were told that the result would be respected. Democracy requires that the losers accept the result. We should honour the referendum by returning powers over our money, laws, borders and trade in a way that is orderly and supports jobs. I want to see our negotiations turbo-charged. We need a Government with a mandate and a new Parliament that will actually vote for something for a change—a new Parliament that will work in the national interest for a good deal that respects the referendum result.

#### With very best wishes, Andrew Selous

For more information on these subjects and much more and on Andrew's work as your MP please access his website on

https://www.andrewselous.org.ukTo contact Andrew Selous MP:

Write to Andrew Selous MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A OAA

Tel: 0207 2198134 – email :andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk

Or to see him – tel: 01582 662821 or email –tracey.farrugia@parliament.uk

#### **BOOK CLUB REVIEW**

The Book Club has already read a Peter James novel and although the first one wasn't the best book we've read, the synopsis for Absolute Proof sounded extremely interesting – can someone have definitive proof of Jesus's existence? Peter James actually did receive a phone call from someone claiming they did have this proof many years ago and this novel is based on that phone call. The journalist who receives this phone call in the story is Ross Hunter, always looking for a good story he decides to investigate what he has been given and travels across the globe, gathering DNA information and the possibility of finding a direct descendant of Jesus. There are, however, a number of people and organisations who are not keen on this proof being found, and will do anything to stop Hunter. Although this book is a bit like The Da Vinci Code, it's very thought provoking and interesting, however, it was unclear where fact ended and fiction started.

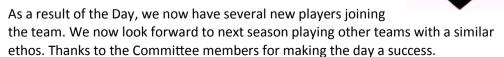
Our next book was The Enchanted April written in 1922 by Elizabeth Von Arnim. This is a charming novel about four very different women who respond to an advert in The Times and rent a medieval castle in Italy for a month in the spring. These women are all different but have one thing in common, their dissatisfaction with their lives, so a month's holiday in Italy appeals to them all. However, they do not expect to find themselves immersed in the beauty and romanticism of the castle and stunning countryside and soon the magic of Italy casts a spell over them and they find themselves changed in so many ways. This book sounded so wonderful and we all looked forward to reading it, however many of us found the early 1900's writing a little hard to get used to, if you persevere with the narrative you will find a lovely story.

Noeleen Thomson

To advertise in the Chalgrave News, please email thechalgravenews@gmail.com or phone 07927144090

#### CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB

We had a very successful Family Day last month. The weather was kind to us. We had a BBQ, bar and games for the children. We also had a game of cricket! It was a great example of the type of cricket we want to play next season – social and fun, where everyone gets an opportunity to bat and bowl.



We managed to paint the container next to the Clubhouse in time for the wedding on the cricket ground. The container now blends a little better into the background. Thanks again to the Committee and to Nicola Wells.

We are having our winter Golf Day on a date to be confirmed between Christmas Day and New Years' Day. It will be at the wonderful Woburn Golf Course. It will be on either on the Marquess or Duchess course with tea/coffee/rolls before we start and a two-course meal afterwards.

Contact any of the committee if you want to join us.

We will be planning next year's fixtures, arranging another Race Night on March 28th and organising a Family Day at the beginning of the season.

#### Phil Parry/Mike Wells



#### **Chalgrave WI**

Our summer outing was a tour of The Globe Theatre followed by a production of a Midsummer Night's Dream. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the costumes and having the chance to dress up. It was a great day out and well organised by Sue Bollins.



In **August** a number of members attended a Bedfordshire WI centenary Afternoon Tea at the Woburn Sculpture gallery. Lisa Scanes kindly hosted a pre and post event drinks at her house.



In **September** we had a beginners Salsa dancing session with Rosa Cristini of the SoYou boutique in Leighton Buzzard. This was great fun even though a few of us suffer from two left feet!

In **October** we had a visit from Toddington astronomer Seb Jay for a star gazing evening. We learnt how to identify stars in the night sky by sight such as the Plough, the Pole Star, Pegasus, Cassiopeia. Then we went outside and looked through two enormous reflector telescopes to see the moon and the milky way. We were able to take photographs using the telescopes too and were astonished at the detail they showed. The below photo was taken by Bern. It was a fascinating evening and Seb's enthusiasm for his subject rubbed off on everybody.

In **November** 33 of us are descending on the Woburn Coffee shop for a Christmas afternoon tea.

#### **Book club**

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the evening.

Our most recent books are below – all have been well received.

July - Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriarty hosted by Lisa Devayya August - The Girl Before by JP Delaney hosted by Tracy Malster September - Now You See Her by Heidi Perks hosted by Sue Watling

October - The Girl in the Letter by Emily Gunnis hosted by Anne French Our next book is Fleishman Is in Trouble by Taffy Brodesser-Akner and we are meeting at my house.

We do have non-WI members so please get in touch if you are interested in joining us, the evenings tend to be lively and informative with lots of wide ranging discussion.

If you fancy giving the WI a try then please come along to one of our meetings. Guest are welcome to attend up to 3 WI meetings for a fee of £4 per visit.

#### **Debbie Parry – Chalgrave WI President**

07770 543797, email <a href="mailto:Debbie.parry@accenture.com">Debbie.parry@accenture.com</a>



https://www.facebook.com/ChalgraveWI/

#### **Forthcoming Events**

Tue -12 - Nov	AGM - Nibbles and natter
Tue - 10 - Dec	Christmas Crafts

## Rights of Way [ROW] Footpaths and Bridleways

#### **FOOTPATH 12**

Our intrepid band of volunteers from Flitwick have just repaired the bridge and stile and cleared a pathway through a huge clump of brambles on footpath 12 just by Pond farm. Previously this was a very difficult bit to walk





Now we have a much improved path direct to Home Farm Tebworth. We very appreciate the Flitwick group for assisting our depleted footpaths group. Again, I ask if anyone is I nterest ed in helping please let me know

Ken Green 874107 or kentebworth@gmail.com



## **Calling All Park Runners!**

#### Houghton Hall Park Run Weekly Free 5km Timed Run

Parkrunning is a rapidly growing grass roots activity that is springing up all over the UK - over 2 million men, women and children have completed at least one.

Our nearest Park Run is the Houghton Hall Park Run, which takes place every Saturday at 9am sharp. There are usually around 200 participants who have pre-registered on the Park Run website. Park Runs are not races!! They are timed runs and take place in a spirit of mutual encouragement and fun.

The Houghton Hall course is a two and a half lap flat course through open countryside and wooded glades. Every Park Run is of length 5k, so where ever you join in you will have a comparable time. Children from the age of 11 can run on their own but younger children must be accompanied by an adult.

This is a fabulous opportunity to get fit and make friends - there is a place to have drinks afterwards. And Park Runs are free! They are manned entirely by volunteers, including local runner Roger Fenwick. **Peter Warburton** 



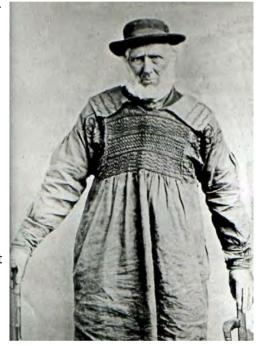
### A CHALGRAVE CHILDHOOD - local building of interest

Phyllis Ludgate talks about memories of her grandfather in an interview with Dick Dawson which appeared in the Post-Echo on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1981.

'One of Tebworth's oldest residents is 88 year old Mrs Phyllis Ludgate who owns an old picture of her grandfather, Mr Daniel Hart, dressed in a smock. Mrs Ludgate says he was a lovely old man who used a walking stick because he suffered very badly with rheumatism in the legs.

When he went to church on Sundays he wore the smock on the right way, but when he worked in the fields he wore it inside out to keep it clean because the poverty in the area did not allow him to buy two smocks.

'A description of a visit to Tebworth was written by Blundell who later on wrote the



History of Toddington. Blundell said he visited the village in 1898 and met an aged rustic who was completely ignorant of the world's progress, but very familiar with the simpler arts of husbandry.

The man told Blundell that he was one of a local group of people who specialised in washing sheep before their fleece was cut. The old man said: "Our master said we were going sheep washing and we would be very pleased because there would be fine homemade bread, pork and meat and bottles of good home brew when we got to the brook." The old man complained that one of the washers, a man called Dumnel, tended to indulge far too much in the home brew.

Despite this the sheep were washed very carefully in a brook of Tatterhill Road and all grit removed from the fleece. This road is now known as Tebworth lane but it was originally called Tatterhill road after a local farm.

The old man said a saying about sheep washing was "Let May come early or late, it will make the old ones shiver and shake."

Presumably he was referring to the sheep rather than the villagers... **Frances Masters** 

### Tom Dibb at The Bear Club



The night was a combination of fabulous music and good company with a large contingent of villagers going along to support. Even the 'dad dancing' couldn't take the edge off what turned out to be quite an evening.

A channel 4 film crew were there to record and talk to local people.

### Rona Phyllis Heeps 15th June 1918 — 7th August 2019

A service to celebrate the life of Rona Phyllis Heeps, was held at All Saints Parish Church, Chalgrave on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

The service was conducted by Reverend Linda Washington, and was well attended by many friends and family from the local community.

Gordon, Linda and the family, thank you for your cards and messages of sympathy and support.



## Keeping an eye on Thorn

Over the past few months, the new housing development on our doorstep (Houghton Regis North – site 2, abbreviated to HRN2) has advanced by leaps and bounds. The first residents have moved into Linden Homes' development of around 100 homes known as Buckwood Leys, located close to the A5 end of the Thorn Road. Signs to Countryside's Milard Grange development have appeared at the Thorn turn opposite the rugby club. Access for residents is from the Bidwell Hill entrance to the Thorn Road, as the road is closed between the new houses and the big new A5 roundabout.

The latest (January 2019) version of the housing plan envisages up to 1,850 new homes on the Thorn site. The first 80 are expected to be completed by next April and thereafter building is planned to continue at the rate of 150 homes per year until 2030. The largest segment is to be known as Thorn Fields, consisting of 625 homes and built by Taylor Wimpey. Bellway's Brambleside contributes 264 homes and Bloor Homes plans to build around 130 homes on the site.

The potential development of the area adjacent to Thorn Spring that contains Oakwell Hall was refused in 2017, when the property became Grade II listed, but the developers have come back with a slimmed down proposal which would add 48 houses.

More houses means more cars! The working assumption that planners use in the East of England is around 1.4 cars per household, but this may be an underestimate given the type and size of houses that will dominate this development.

Conservatively, this implies an extra 210 cars per year seeking to exit at either end of the Thorn Road, reaching a total of around 2,600 additional cars by 2030. All local routes are set to become steadily busier, but the greatest impact falls on the link road and on the two large roundabouts connecting it to the B5120 and the A5. At peak times Bidwell Hill could become virtually impassable. Queues on the A5 towards Hockliffe could reach all the way back to the link road roundabout.

What does all of this mean for Chalgrave Parish? A primary concern is that Tebworth and Wingfield roads will become (even more) a rush-hour rat run for drivers seeking to avoid traffic congestion on major roads. Is it time to make the case for traffic calming ahead of the challenges posed by the new housing development? For those commuting to London, the closest rail station is Harlington, suggesting increased traffic through Toddington and more pressure on station parking.

Will our local infrastructure cope?

Figure 1: HRN1 and HRN2



Figure 2: Buckwood Leys is taking shape



## Keeping an eye on Thorn continued

Figure 3: Initial phases of the HRN2 development



#### Appendix: developers' sales pitches

#### **Thorn Fields**

Thorn Fields is a new development of 625 high-quality homes in the vibrant town of Houghton Regis in Bedfordshire. With a collection of two bedroom apartments and two to four bedroom homes, each home offers everything for you to live life in comfort and style, whatever your needs may be.

#### **Brambleside**

Prices from £266,995 to £489,995

Brambleside forms part of an exciting new residential community in the popular and well-connected town of Houghton Regis. Residents will benefit from excellent transport links within the close surrounding area, as well as a prime location within commuting distance of London. Brambleside provides an ideal setting for a wide range of buyers, boasting good local shopping opportunities, acres of open countryside, recreational parks and sports facilities, all within a short distance of the development.

#### GET DOWN AND DIRTY AT THE GREAT POND!

A group of intrepid volunteers, enthusiastically marshalled by Barbara Jackson has been working to maintain the Great Pond in Tebworth.

It needs regular removal of pond weed and marginal plants to prevent it becoming overgrown and silting up. This work is scheduled to avoid disturbance to wildlife, which includes moorhens, frogs, newts, dragonflies and many more aquatic creatures. General tidying, litter-picking and hedge cutting are also needed. Our aim is to preserve the pond as a resource for wildlife and for the enjoyment of local residents.

If you would like to help everyone is welcome.
No commitment is necessary – just turn up if you can. You might enjoy it, and you'll certainly get dirty. If you would like more info

janet.day456@btinternet.com

contact



## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE

It was a gloriously sunny day for our **PigNic** on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The blankets were spread on the grass, the tables were set in the church yard and we served, 62 pig roast meals, 4 veggie meals and numerous pieces of cake, teas, & coffee as we spent the afternoon eating Al Fresco and enjoying meeting new friends and not so new ones. Children played badminton, kicked a football, and coloured. To say it was an



idyllic afternoon would about sum it up. Our dedicated team worked hard and we raised over £500!

For **Harvest**, the church was beautifully decorated by our team of Flower ladies, which made us appreciate even more the Bounty & Blessings that God provides. We joined St. George's Church at the Wilkinson Hall for a Harvest lunch. Fellowship and good food abound.

A **Bible Study** course began in October. The first 2 meetings were held at the Rectory on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Next sessions will be on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November. We are studying The Parables and looking at their meaning. If you would like to join the Bible Study, all are welcome.

We held an In Loving Memory Service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm to remember



our special loved ones who have died. It was a sensitive and moving service which was much valued, and so will definitely be held again next year.

Christmas will soon be here, so it's time to buy your tickets for some Festive Fun. We will be holding our **Christmas Afternoon Tea & Craft Fair** on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone liked it so much last year, that we had to do it again! There will be 2 sittings and to enjoy the afternoon tea, tickets much be pre-booked. If you'd like to come only for the Craft Fair, just come to the church. There will be Jewellery, Bags, Decoupage, Books and more.

See the attached poster for all the details and how to

#### **Christmas Church Service Times:**

Carols by Candlelight: Saturday, December 21st at 7pm.

**Crib Service**: Tuesday, December 24th at 3pm at Chalgrave and 4.30pm at

St George's Toddington

**Midnight Mass:** Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11pm and 10pm at Toddington **Benefice Service:** Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 11am at St. George's Toddington.

Living Gods,

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE continued

Hot off the presses is our **Chalgrave 2020 Calendar!** Part of our fundraising efforts for the 800 Year Festival. They cost £8 for one or 2 for £15. We've included pictures old and new. Contact Sandra-ryan@sky.com to purchase them.

Speaking of our **800 Years Festival**, we will be having a weekend festival September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 celebrating and commemorating 800 years since the Dedication of All Saints Chalgrave. We'll be focusing of the History of the 800 years and would like any contributions that you may provide. Has anyone in your family been a church warden? What history does the church have with your family: Marriages, Christenings, Burials, or anything else? We would love to hear from you. Please share your stories, photos, or any other information you can give us. Contact either Sandy Ryan.

We are also in the stages of obtaining a **Stained-Glass Window** to commemorate the 800 years. It is in the early stages and won't be complete by the Festival, because these things take time and preparation and careful planning is needed when making any changes to such a historic building. We are happy to accept donations towards this venture.

You'll hear more about the 800 Years Festival in the New Year, but if you can help us in any way, baking a cake, sponsoring a flower arrangement, providing entertainment, or helping during the weekend, we'd be grateful for your help.

#### News from All Saints Chalgrave and St George's Toddington-some shared events:

**Messy Church** gathers again on 15<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December 3.30-5.30pm at Wilkinson Hall and offers friendly, informal time together for children from 0 years upwards, with a caring adult, doing crafts and activities, singing, and a story about Jesus, followed by a tea. All welcome.

Both churches are very pleased to welcome Rebecca Caird, our **new family outreach worker** (who is working within the Quintet of churches). She along with Revd Linda and Fern from HUGS, spent special 'prayer space' time with the children of St George's lower school recently and will also be launching a **new group for young people 9-13 years** which will meet at the Rectory for the first time on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30 to 7pm for Pizza and to chat about future meetings. Please phone 07715 603557 if your child would like to join the group. All children welcome.

St George's, Toddington, will be hosting a **Shoebox Service** on 17<sup>th</sup> November at 4pm as we gather in the shoeboxes which contain 'Love in a box' to be sent abroad for children who have so little.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE continued

Our next 'Churches Together' 'Worship Word and Wonder' service will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm at St George's Toddington, We are delighted to be hosting visiting speaker Graham Seed 'who heads up Sowing Seeds Ministries, bringing the message and love of Christ to young prisoners and ex offenders' and who will be sharing his own amazing testimony of God's transformational love. Worship will be led by Hope Church worship band. Do come along and share the energy and joy. All welcome.

**Christingle Service** – another favourite with families – Sunday 1st December at St George's church at 5pm

Scouts Carol Service – at St George's Church Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

Christmas Tree Festival 13-15<sup>th</sup> December at St George's finishing with Carols under

the trees at 5pm on Sunday 15<sup>th,</sup> and with readings by the children.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing special time together. Thank you so much for all your support. We very much value your help and company.

#### **Linda Washington**



Christmas afternoon tea and Craft Fair event is pre bookable only.

Please contact, Alison Stone 07771 897451. £15 per person.



## Chalgrave VIP's (Very Interesting People)

#### **Debbie Morton—Fitness trainer**

Having recently retired, one of my main objectives was to get fit and with that regain some of the confidence I used to have.

I had seen Debbie's advert in the Chalgrave News, I contacted her and she had an 8 am slot available, to start almost immediately, which suited me, and as she lives in Wingfield meant I only had a 10 minute walk to her house, giving me a nice warm up before the session started. On our first meeting we talked about my wants and needs and my issues and limitations, and Debbie then devised a series of workouts each week for me to build my strength stamina and fitness and helped me to enjoy training again.

Debbie has a beautiful private gym set up with everything you need (see picture below) for a thorough work out. I cannot thank her enough for the experience and it gave me the confidence to join a gym and make exercise a part of my daily routine and lifestyle.

If you are interested in personal training have a look at Debbie's website at: www.debbiemortonfitness.co.uk/

#### **Tracy Malster**



#### **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?**

Sun worshippers among you probably weren't impressed with last summer, but for us gardeners it was probably too dry, although not as bad as last year. We would appear to have made up the shortfall this autumn.

Nature abhors a vacuum, and in this case that means bare soil. Previously I have mentioned mulching as a way of suppressing weeds and stopping the soil drying out. I would now like to propose another strategy, grow more ground cover plants.



The following suggestions have proved very reliable in Chalgrave:

Ajuga reptans 'black scallop': Evergreen ground cover. Grows best in moist soil.

Height: 5 - 10cm

Saxifraga urbium (London Pride): Will grow almost anywhere.

Evergreen. Height: 5 -10cm

Sedums: Lots of low growing and evergreen varieties. All like dry conditions in sun.

Height: 10cm

Alchemilla mollis (Ladies mantle): Will grow almost anywhere.

Height: 10 - 30cm

Tiarella (various cultivars) Prefers shade Height 20cm



Geranium Macrorrhizum: various colours

Almost evergreen and tough.

Height: 50cm Will grow in heavy shade



**Geranium Cantabrigiense:** 

Various colours Similar but smaller and not as vigorous.

Height: 10cm Will grow in

cun/nartial chado

sun/partial shade

**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

#### **HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? continued**



Waldsteinia ternata:

Evergreen

Height: 10cm Grows in heavy shade



**Epimediums:** Many varieties

Semi-evergreen **Height: 20-30cm** 



Helianthemum (various cultivars)
Low growing spreading plant, likes full sun
Height 20-30cm



**Heuchera** (various different coloured cultivars) Will grow in shade or dappled shade **Height: 10—50cm** 

I hope these suggestions may prove useful to you.

As we head into the depths of winter, remember Spring is just round the corner, some of the spring bulbs are already pushing through.

Wildlife has a hard time this time of year, try and put some food and water out for them.

Anyway enjoy your gardening, whatever the weather. John Wojdyla

## Wild Chalgrave - Dragonflies

On a fine sunny day in summer, or even into autumn you may see a dragonfly darting over a pond. Dragonflies are amongst our largest and most spectacular flying insects. They have a fascinating life-cycle, but most of it is spent in the murky depths of ponds, lakes or canals.

Dragonflies and their close relatives the damselflies lay their eggs either directly into water or into mud or plants near the surface. The eggs hatch within a few weeks into nymphs (larvae) and start to feed. They have voracious appetites and powerful, hinged extending jaws to catch their prey. They eat insects, worms, leeches and some larger species will take tadpoles, young newts, small fish, and sometimes other dragonfly nymphs. It can take several years before they reach their adult size. As they feed and grow they have to moult, discarding their old skin each time. Depending on the species this may happen up to 14 times and development is fastest in warm water where food is abundant. When they are ready to take their adult form they move near the water's surface while they adapt to breathing air. When they are ready they crawl out of the water, usually up the stem of a plant. Here they moult for the final time, their skin splits and the adult slowly pulls itself

out. The wings are last to emerge and once unfolded the dragonfly must wait until its wings have dried and hardened before it can fly. At this stage they are at their most vulnerable to predators.

Adult Hawker Dragonfly



## Wild Chalgrave - Dragonflies



Once able to fly they spend up to a week away from water feeding (on other insects) until their full colouring develops. Then they return to water and start looking for mates. Many species of dragonfly are territorial and the males will patrol an area of water seeing

off competitors for prey and females. When ready to mate the male dragonfly transfers sperm to the top of his abdomen and grabs a female using 'hooks' near the end of his body. The female then curves her abdomen up to collect the sperm. Dragonflies and damselflies can sometimes be seen over a pond joined in a loop like this. The female then lays her eggs and the cycle begins again. Adult dragonflies typically only live for a few weeks.

Dragonflies and their ancestors have been around for over 300 million years – even before the dinosaurs. Fossils of dragonflies have been found with wingspans of 75cm. The largest British dragonfly, the Emperor dragonfly has a wingspan of 10.5cm. and is still pretty spectacular.

They are now threatened with loss of habitat due to the draining of agricultural land, filling in of ponds and pollution, so make sure you look out for these fascinating creatures next summer.



**Janet Day** 

## Queen's Head

There's always something happening at the Queens Head and it's certainly been a busy few months.

Apart from the fortnightly quiz night and monthly Joe's session and folk music, there have been some lively evenings (and mornings too) watching live football and rugby.

August Bank Holiday weekend saw several Pink Ladies (some of them were definitely not ladies to be fair) turning up for Grease Night and, more recently, there were spooky going-ons for the Halloween Party, followed by a great local turn out for the annual fireworks display, despite a bit of rain which, let's face it, has never stopped Chalgrave enjoying a good night out.



## Queen's Head

Warm wishes
for a long and happy future
together to Queens Head
landlords Ed and Carlie
On their marriage.

At All Saints Church, Chalgrave on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October.





## **Devonshire 'Squab' Pie**

## Recipe from Cider Lil aka ex pat Christine McDonagh, now living in glorious Devon

I love this dish it was on the menu at my local pub in Devon and the name intrigued me so much I did a bit of research. Young pigeons were the main ingredient originally but these have now been replaced with mutton, then lamb. This is a very old-fashioned Devonshire one and is unusual in that it is served with clotted cream on the side. No need for that, but as a nod to authenticity they put some (optional) cream in the filling. This is the pubs recipe which they serve at lunchtimes



#### **Ingredients:**

1kg (2lb 4oz) lamb neck fillet, cubed

plain flour

2 tbsp. oil

2 leeks, trimmed, base removed and cut into rings

1 onion, roughly chopped

¼ tsp cinnamon

¼ tsp nutmeg

½ tsp allspice

1 eating apple

1 bramley apple

10 prunes, pitted

2 sprigs of thyme

2 bay leaves

500ml (18fl oz.) lamb or chicken stock

2 tbsp. double cream (optional)

250g (9oz) puff pastry

1 egg

1 tbsp. milk



#### Method:

Toss the lamb with some flour and salt and pepper. Heat half of the oil in a casserole and the other half in a frying-pan so that you can brown two batches of lamb at the

## **Devonshire 'Squab' Pie continued**

same time. Brown the meat thoroughly on all sides then put the meat from the frying-pan into the casserole.

Wash the leeks well. Add to the frying-pan with the onion – there should be some fat left in it; if not add more oil – and cook over a medium heat until the onion is golden. Add to the lamb, along with the spices.

Halve and core the eating apple and cut it into about 12 wedges. Peel and core the bramley and cut into thin slices. Add both apples to the lamb along with the prunes, thyme, bay leaves and stock. Bring to the boil. Season and turn down to a simmer. Cook, covered, for 30 minutes, making sure it isn't getting so dry it catches on the bottom of the pan. (You do want the mixture to be quite thick, though, so don't add too much extra liquid.)

Stir in the cream if you are using it, check for seasoning and place in a pie dish with a capacity of about 1 litre (1¾ pints). Leave to cool. If you have a pie funnel set it in the middle.

Roll out the pastry until it is large enough to cover the pie. Cut off strips to fit around the rim of the dish. Mix the egg and milk to make an egg wash. Wet the rim with this and press the pastry strips on to it. Brush the strips on the rim with more of the wash. Place the pastry on top of the pie dish and press down all the way round the edge. Trim off the excess. Crimp the edges of the pie and 'knock up' the pastry with a blunt knife all the way round. Use any leftovers to make decorations. If you don't have a pie funnel, make slits in the top for the steam to escape. Paint the rest of the wash all over the pie with a pastry brush. Cook in an oven preheated to  $200^{\circ}\text{C}/400^{\circ}\text{F/gas}$  mark 6 for 25 minutes.

## West's Educational Trust—Reminder

Remember to send your requests to the Clerk, Lesley Smith before the 30 December deadline if you wish to make use of this wonderful gift that Mr West made to our Parish all those years ago.

Open to anyone who is under 25 and who lives in the Parish.

For information about the Trust go tp the Chalgrave Parish website. You can download an application form or call Lesley 01525 874716.

### **Tebworth's population grows**



Lots of congratulations to Emma Corkill and Lee Finch of The Vicarage on the birth of their first baby,

Theodore (Teddy) James Finch, born 29 August Looks like he's going to be another regular for The Queens Head ©

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### Joe's sessions at The Queen's Head

Joe's Sessions dates 2019

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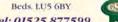
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### The Plough—Dave Worsley

Some of you may remember the former Landlord of The Plough Inn, Dave Worsley, who sadly passed away on September 18th 2019.

Dave, with his wife Carol, bought The Plough Inn in December 1992 having owned and successfully run two shops in Hemel Hempstead. A true family business,

Carol taking care of the excellent home-cooked food with Dave and youngest daughter Emma taking charge of the bar. Dave soon earned a great reputation for his outstanding range and quality of real ales which eventually earned The Plough the CAMRA South Beds Pub of the Year in 1995. Known for his dry sense of humour and endless stories, he was a well liked character by all the locals and new visitors alike.

Sadly, after leaving the pub, Dave and Carol divorced and he moved to Dunstable. Dave worked for Alucare in Flitwick until his retirement in 2010. During the noughties Dave would occasionally help out behind the bar as well as pop in for the occasional half!



He still supported the parish into the 2010's when he made a donation to the new clubhouse fund for the sports club as well as attending the many race nights over the years.

Dave leaves behind daughters, Sharon & Emma. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

**Phil Parry** 

## The Plough

## PLOUGH INN GOLF SOCIETY

# Winter Golf Day

## (a) Woburn

Bacon Roll / Coffee 18 Holes (Marquis or Duchess) 2 Course Lunch Friday December 27th 2019 Woburn Golf Club, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes MK17 9LJ (Tee Times TBC)

### £75 per person

3 course meal @ The Plough Inn from 7.3 opm on the day (Menu TBC)

## My Abseil—Bernadette Inzani

I've always been scared of heights so it was in a moment of madness that I agreed to do a charity abseil with my daughter Rosie for London's Air Ambulance (LAA) to mark their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Before I had time to reconsider Rosie had entered us and paid our registration fees!

"You'll enjoy it, Mum!" she said "once you go over the edge, the rest is easy!" I wasn't convinced but I had a plan. As long as I kept my eyes shut and my feet against the wall as I descended I thought I could manage it. Anyway It was 3 months away so no need to worry about it at the moment. I'd worry about reaching the £300 minimum target instead. I needn't have worried about that, friends and family supported us and we raised £2365. We were overwhelmed by everybody's generosity.

Before I knew it 14<sup>th</sup> September had arrived. Our abseil slot was 3.30-4pm and we would be going down together. Perfect! We decided to travel up to London by train, arrive in plenty of time and have a G&T to calm the nerves beforehand. We were a bit panicked when our train was late and the next one was cancelled. Should we head back, get the car and drive up or stick to our original plans? The platform was packed and the next train was late too. Not a good omen! Maybe I shouldn't be doing this? Perfect excuse....train delays caused me to miss my slot! As I pondered the situation the train arrived....it was too late to change my mind.

We arrived at Whitechapel with a little bit of time to spare so had a quick G&T around the corner from the Royal London Hospital. We bumped into my nephew James who had come to cheer us on, I was getting very nervous now but there was no turning back! We hadn't been back to the London Hospital since my husband was airlifted there by LAA after his car accident. We avoided the A&E entrance with it's bad memories and headed for the reception where we were met by a team of volunteers and kitted out with harnesses, helmets and gloves. Then we were escorted with other abseilers to the staff lift and taken up 17 storeys to the Helipad located 380ft up on the roof.

There was lots of jollity and small talk from the staff who trying to be encouraging and supportive. "Marvellous panoramic views across London up there" "It will be so exhilarating" "You'll want to do it again "No need to be nervous, the instructors are experts" I didn't believe a word of it, I was feeling sick with nerves and just wanted to get it over with.

When the lift doors opened and I saw what looked terrifyingly like gallows erected over the edge of the roof, I started to shake. The London skyline was all round us and people were pointing out landmarks, but there was no distracting me from the task ahead. I concentrated on the scaffold platform cantilevered onto the side of the roof realised with a shock I would be dangling from it and not "walking" down the side of the building. OMG! My Catholic roots resurfaced and I interceded with Jesus, Mary and Joseph and any other saint who was listening to no avail.

The instructors showed us the ropes, literally, explaining how to control our descent. I didn't like the sound of that, I was sure I'd be too scared to move my hands to control the ropes and would plummet to the ground below. "Oh no" they said "that wouldn't happen." I wasn't convinced, "I'm very accident prone" I said, they laughed it off. "I'm not joking," I said "I'm serious." So they allowed me to give the instructor control of the rope attached to my harness. Phew!

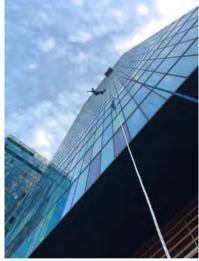
They led us to the safety rail, Rosie and I were the last in the queue, I was getting very scared. I didn't dare look down, I had agreed to go first (why?) and our turn came around very quickly. People were just merrily jumping off as if it were a bus!! Climb over onto the platform, facing us, they instructed. Trying not to think of the giant void under the scaffold boards I carefully stepped over the rail and immediately saw a big gap in the scaffold boards with a clear view to the ground. Apparently for the official photographer to take photos of the event! Just what I didn't need! Don't look, don't look but I couldn't get the sight out of my head.

I was shaking like a jelly, and burst into tears ." I can't do it, I can't do it!" I cried. "Yes you can, you'll be fine. Just take one foot off the platform, my instructor told me, "What!! Give me a chance to catch my breath." I can't do it, I kept repeating. I meant the abseil but my instructor thought I meant move my foot. He bent down and gently tried to move my foot towards the edge. I screamed and they all jumped. "Do that again and I'll kill you" I warned him. They all laughed, Rosie, already effortlessly in position next to me was trying not to laugh. I wasn't laughing, I meant it! I was absolutely terrified, I couldn't do this and they were rushing me, or so I thought. Apparently I was more then 10 minutes on the platform as they tried to coax me into it. I couldn't hear what they were saying to me, all I could feel was my heart beating really fast and my breathing ringing loudly in my ears.

In the end, I knew I had to calm myself down, and I got my breathing under control. I started to think about the £2000+ people had sponsored me for. I've got to at least try, I thought. Rosie looked so worried next to me, I had to try to find a way to do it. I started by taking one foot off, I was still holding onto the rail and it felt safe-ish. Next I took a hand away, still quite secure but I was too scared to do anything else for ages. I decided to try moving the other foot off and holding on with one hand. I zigzagged my foot towards the edge until I was just balancing on my toes. No, can't do anymore I said to myself. That's it, can't do it! Spent what seemed like ages in that position and then I had an idea. What if I balanced on my toes like a ballerina? I'd still be in contact with the board but not really standing on it. Maybe I could test the harness would support me by doing this? A crazy logic but it worked, as I transferred my weight so I was barely touching the boards I felt the harness gripping me as my weight shifted and although I was still holding the rail with one hand I realised the harness was holding me securely and I wasn't going to fall. This was what I needed to give me the courage to let go and lean back.

All I had to do now was lean backwards to be lowered. The instructor handed me a smaller wet rope, "You'll need to feed this back to me as you go down" "Oh no! That wasn't part of the plan, I can't lower myself" I cried. "You're not" he said "I'm still lowering you!" I felt I'd been hoodwinked but I gripped it and he said I could do it inch by inch if I wanted. I took him literally and that's what I did.

I shut my eyes tightly and slowly leant backwards away from the platform and was frozen by fear into that position. He lowered me an inch and I wailed out loud but I survived! It was a horrible feeling hanging there but I knew I could do it little by little even if it took much longer. As I disappeared under the platform out of sight he shouted "You'll start to spin now!" I still don't know why, it was something to do with me not lowering myself. I began to twirl like a whirling dervish and continued the whole way down. Somebody described me as a chicken on a spit which was a very accurate description. I had my eyes clamped shut so it didn't really make any difference to me, but I've heard it was comical to





Rosie, who is a bit of a daredevil was enjoying her descent, she waved to the patients at the windows and kept talking to me, encouraging me and telling me I was nearly at the bottom even when I wasn't! The crowd beneath us were cheering us on and I could hear Frances Masters' voice clearly, calling my name. Unfortunately I was being very unheroic and whimpering and crying all the way down but I really didn't care what I looked or sounded like at that moment.

From the gap in the platform the photographer called out to us, to look up for an official photo. There's a lovely one of Rosie smiling and me grimacing with my eyes shut, still in the contorted position I'd adopted as I leant backwards when I began the descent. The camera never lies!



Rosie was speeding down

ahead of me, but would pause and wait for me to catch up and as I got used to the rope I was able to go six inches or so at a time. Still slow but a miracle! I felt much better knowing she was near me, and she was very patient with me. When we first signed up, she had threatened in jest, to push me off if I faltered. Instead she was calm and supportive while I was having a meltdown on the platform. It had taken me over 10 minutes to get into position and I had felt the instructors were being very pushy with me. Rosie assures me they weren't, that they had great patience with me and they found me very entertaining. Apparently most people suffer their fear in silence and keep a stiff upper lip, but not me! I did swear and take the Lord's name in vain, I did threaten them, and I cried and wailed all the way down. How embarrassing!

I could hear the crowd getting louder so I knew I was getting closer, but I wouldn't look in case it panicked me. Then I heard lots of excitement as Rosie reached the ground so I sneaked a look. I was about 20ft away from landing. Oh thank God, I thought. Those last few feet seemed to take forever, but I got there eventually only to find my legs had turned to jelly and I couldn't stand up. I wobbled my way out of the harness and Rosie held me up and gave me a cuddle. I was white as a sheet according to Roger Masters, my nephew James kept laughing as he congratulated me. He'd got a great video of the descent. I knew it would be very unflattering, I didn't care, I'd done it and I would never have to do anything like that ever again! What a relief!

We made our way to the Blind Beggar pub across the road, a London landmark famous for its gangland connections with the Krays. We sat out in the courtyard garden, (yes it's very upmarket nowadays!) and had a relaxing drink and something to eat. We recapped the whole thing and felt very pleased with ourselves. As we chatted we saw the LAA helicopter launch three times in 2 hours and it made us realise just how important this service is and how vital it is to raise funds to support this charity. Most people assume they are funded by NHS, but this isn't the case, the service is provided by charitable donations and corporate donors. We were delighted to learn the whole event raised £128,719.00 which would cover the costs of 58 potentially lifesaving missions. We received another boost to our fund raising when Rosie's employer agreed to donate £500 to our total which will increase the sum to £ 2,865.00. There are some red tape hoops to jump through for this but it will be donated this month.

Over the years since Joe's death in 2013, a fantastic £45,948.07 has been raised in his memory by the generosity and support of family and friends for which I will be forever grateful. A big thank you to you all. I hope you will continue to support us in our fundraising for this vital service, I will continue to find ways to raise money but I will have my feet firmly on the ground in future.



## Chalgrave Young Writers

Hello to all you budding Chalgrave reporters in the parish. Here is your opportunity to contribute to our magazine by writing a short story of no more than 100 words, so that it will fit on 1 page of the magazine.

The title is 'WINTER'.

The story can be fiction or non-fiction and if you are feeling artistic you can illustrate it too.

Please send your stories to: The Old School 16 The Lane Tebworth LU79QB





Or e-mail them to thechalgravenews@gmail.com



We will award the best story with a WHSmiths gift voucher for £20 and will publish the best story in the next issue of The Chalgrave News.

Good Luck







## Congratulations Frankie and Sean







**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

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