

WINTER 2020

ISSUE 65

CHALGRAVE NEWS

Celebrating Chalgrave

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day/Date	Event	Location/Contact	Time
Third 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	
Second Tuesday of each month	WI	Memorial Hall	8–10 pm
Every other Friday	Quiz Night	Queen's Head	8.30pm
4 March, 01 April, 29 April, 27 May	Joe's Session	Queen's head	8.30pm
Saturday, 28 March	Race Night	The Plough	7.00pm ??
Thursday, 16 April	Parish Assembly	Memorial Hall	TBA
18 May— Surgery	Cllr Mark Versallion	Queen's Head	5.30-.30pm
Saturday, 4 July	Chalgrave Games	Memorial Hall	1pm
11-13 Sept	800 Festival	All Saints Church	
2nd Tues of month	Ukelele session	Queen's head	1pm

Cover photo kindly supplied by Aimi Francis

Deadline for next edition: 15 April 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.

A note from the editorial team

We hope everyone has survived the unusually high winds brought by storm Ciara with storm Dennis following on. More winds and more rain in the forecast for the next week or two makes us realise how lucky we are that our weather seems relatively mild compared to other parts of the country. However we noted that the road through Wingfield was flooded and two big old ash trees have blown over .

Lots of lovely Christmas photos in this edition. Super colourful pictures kindly supplied by former editor Roger Parker show the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner.

Organised by Flitwick Vale Rotary Club and held at Parkfield's School it was a fabulous example of community spirit.



Save the 4th July this year. Chalgrave Fun and Games at the Memorial Hall features all things American. Dress up if you like, wear a hat, get out the stars and stripes. More information about games and competitions later in the year.

Thanks to Colin for his frank and inspiring writing about his health issues. Not many of us could share this type of information.

Peter Warburton has tackled the "roundabout" issue head on. If you agree with his analysis take time to email Highways England let them know your views.

Finally, go to Page 7. Here's a chance to win £1000 for the Memorial Hall and £500 for you. Do you have a photograph that represents community life in Chalgrave? If so, send it into the Chalgrave News and we will compile a collection of the best shots.

Let's bag this prize for the village!

Keep warm and safe.
Spring is coming!



CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

From the Parish Council

Highways England. You will know that back in 2017 we raised the issue of the dangerous road markings on the roundabout at the bottom of Lords Hill A5/B5120 with Highways England. They originally said that they were going to work on the markings in 2018. They have now said the safety report will be published this summer.

In the meantime, accidents continue to happen on the roundabout. Last year up to October there were 16 injury accidents reported to the Police – some of these were serious. These are injury accidents – the many other non-injury accidents are not recorded. We are putting a post about this dangerous problem on Facebook.

Parking. It is a problem in Tebworth as it is in other villages. Please be considerate –

- Park away from the junction of Wingfield/Toddington Roads.
- Don't park on the corner of Wingfield Road and St Mary's Close, it makes it difficult for emergency vehicles, gritters, etc. to pass.
- Be aware that agricultural vehicles and emergency vehicles need to get down The Lane, so keep the road clear near the triangle.
- Don't park across pavements blocking pedestrians

Flooding. There was a serious flood before Christmas and more recently, on the Toddington Road on the bend towards Hockliffe. The flood was dealt with fairly quickly, but we are asking CBC to look at the cause of the problem – although we are aware that there was an unusual amount of rain and there were many reports of flooding across the County.

Emergency Plan. The Plan came into action when we had the water outage before Christmas. Thanks to Barbara and Debbie. If there is a similar event that has an impact on the Parish and you need help, the contacts are:

Phil Parry 07831 605600

Barbara Jackson 07960 445492

Debbie Levy 07931 408697

Paul Whitton 07808 174843

Potholes. It is the time of year when the number of potholes increases. We report all potholes to CBC and continue to press them to do the necessary repairs. Church



CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Lane is particularly bad.

Parish Assembly. The Assembly will be on 16 April.

It's an informal opportunity to find out what the Parish Council - and other organisations in the Parish - have been doing over the past year as well the plans for the coming year.

Millennium Youth and Community Awards 2019. The Youth award is for an under 18-year-old resident in the Parish who has made an achievement over the last year. This can be charitable, educational, sporting, overcoming a challenge, etc. The Community Award is a similar award for an 18 or over resident. If you know of someone who deserves either of these awards, please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors.

You are welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings. They are usually the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall.

Phil Parry, Chairman.

District councillor - Mark Versallion

District Councillor Mark Versallion holds regular local surgeries where residents are invited to come and talk about issues relating to highway maintenance, environmental health, housing needs, social care, children's services, transport or anything that is of concern locally.

His next surgery at Chalgrave will be at the Queens Head, Tebworth on 18 May from 5.30-6.30pm



Mark can be contacted on 01525 234 000 or at mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

VIEW FROM THE HOUSE

Increasing Bedfordshire Police funding warmly welcomed.

South West Bedfordshire MP, Andrew Selous has warmly welcomed the extra £8.7 million awarded to Bedfordshire Police yesterday for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Andrew Selous said, *“I am very well aware of how important law and order is to my constituents and I know how very hard Bedfordshire Police work to keep us all safe.*

There are so many new challenges they face from child sexual exploitation, county lines drug activity, increasing environmental crime and a large Involvement in dealing with mental health issues.

This additional funding will help them deal with these pressures as well as burglary, robbery and shoplifting as they continue to recruit more officers.”



Andrew Selous

Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire.

Our Data Protection Policy can be found at www.andrewselous.org.uk

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.uk>

To contact Andrew Selous MP:

Write to Andrew Selous MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: [0207 2198134](tel:02072198134) – email :andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk

Or to see him – tel: [01582 662821](tel:01582662821) or email –tracey.farrugia@parliament.uk

'Wonderful Villages' Photo Competition



Ends 15th March 2020!

**Win up to £1000 for your Village Hall and
£500 for the photographer!**

Submit Your Entry & Vote For Others.

**Open to ALL RURAL UK Village & Community Halls.
Entry is FREE. No purchase necessary.**

**Details of prizes, theme and entry dates are in the
RULES available from our Facebook page:**

 <https://facebook.com/AlliedWestminster>

AND on our website detailing free rebuild valuations:

 <https://villagehallsurvey.com>

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - *Update*

BOOK CLUB REVIEW

We started the year on the right foot by having our annual lunch which was at Mama Rosa's in Leighton Buzzard, the food was good and we all enjoyed it immensely. Our first book was Platform Seven by Louise Doughty, an intriguing and very different book this time. It begins with the narrator describing Peterborough railway station early one morning, waiting for the first commuters to enter the station, she recognises a lot of them as she's been there a few months now, she also knows a lot about the staff who work there from listening in to their conversations, she doesn't talk to anyone as she's dead. We are steadily drip fed information about her life and how she died, through her memory of the relationship she had with her manipulative Doctor boyfriend. The book is a little slow to start but it's a really good one, bit sad but we all enjoyed reading this one.



Noeleen Thomson
Feb 2020

Rogation Walk Sunday May 17th 2020

We plan to "Beat the Bounds" of Chalgrave again this year.

We walk most of the boundary and it is the only day of the year that we are legally entitled to walk those parts of the boundary that are not a public right of way .

We leave from the Queens Head, Tebworth at 10am sharp, stop for lunch at the Fancott Arms around 1pm and get back into Tebworth around 5.30pm.

All are welcome.

For more info look at the 1986 survey on the history of Chalgrave at www.chalgrave.org

Ken Green



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - *Update*

CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB

Winter is always a quiet time for the Club. We have done some maintenance and clearing out of the Clubhouse and container. Thanks, as always to Roger Fenwick for all his help. Nev has been working hard keeping the 'Yellow Peril' going although we note that it has another flat tyre! We had a Winter Golf Day between Christmas and New Year at Woburn Golf Club organised by Ed Morton.



The weather was kind, but the ground was sodden from all the rain the week before.

The Golf Day was followed by our End of The Year Dinner at the Plough. 18 of us sat down for a fantastic three course meal.

We have our Race Night coming up on the 28th March in the village hall. £10 a ticket including a fish and chip supper. It's always a great night! Looking ahead, we will have a Family Day at the beginning of the cricket season and then hope to organise a few games during the summer. We play social cricket so if you fancy a game contact any of the committee.

Phil Parry/Mike Wells



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - *Update*

CHALGRAVE WI

In **November** we held our AGM and I confirmed that I would be standing down as President after 9 years. Maureen Gilmour (right) has agreed to take over. I am sure she will do a fabulous job and bring some fresh ideas to the group.

33 of us descended on the Woburn Coffee shop for a Christmas afternoon tea. This was a very special event – wonderful surroundings, delicious food - the best afternoon tea we had ever had and, of course, great company. Thanks to Lisa Scanes for organising.



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - *Update*

In December Lisa had us making Christmas wreaths. We were all thrilled with our creations – which cost us just £3 in materials!



Our **Book club** meets on the **Fourth Thursday of the month** in the evening.

In November we read *Fleishman Is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner, hosted by me. This book sparked lots of debate and discussion and was generally well received.

Our next book is *Platform Seven* by Louise Doughty and Bernadette Inzani is hosting. If you are interested in joining our book club please contact Sue Watling (sue.watling@hotmail.com, M 07792 495950).

If you are interested in giving the WI a try, then please come along to one of our meetings. No need to book – you will be made most welcome.

Debbie Parry – Chalgrave WI President – Outgoing
Maureen Gilmour – Chalgrave WI President – Incoming
Email: mg@maureengilmour.co.uk, Mobile: 07818 043311

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - *Update*

Chalgrave WI Forthcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
Tue-14-Jan	Hula Hooping	CMH
Tue-11-Feb	Cyber Crime	CMH
Tue-10-Mar	A Puppets Tale talk	CMH
Tue-14-Apr	Jewellery Making	CMH
Wed-22-Apr	Bluebell walk (plus lunch beforehand)	Luton Hoo
Tue-12-May	Researching your family history	CMH
Tue-09-Jun	Pub Walk	TBC
Tue-14-Jul	Cinderella in history and literature	CMH
August	Holiday no event.	CMH
Tue-08-Sep	Cake decorating with TV chef	CMH
Tue-13-Oct	Luton Hat trade	CMH
Tue-10-Nov	Art class - Drawing or Painting TBC	CMH
Tue-08-Dec	Christmas Event	CMH



Queen's Head

The Queens Head got herself all dressed up for Christmas and looked very festive this year.

Apart from the monthly Joe's sessions and the live folk music, there have been Friday night quizzes and the monthly lunchtime ukulele sessions to enjoy.

But the award for the best night yet has to go to landlords Carlie and Ed for hosting a brilliant New Year's party which saw the pub packed in time for the midnight celebrations and the welcoming in of a brand new decade.

Let's hope it's a good one for us all.



The meaning of Christmas



The carol service hosted by Tom and Anneliese at The Grand Chapel and the lighting of Ray and Sue's tree at St Mary's Close always feels like the signal for the Christmas festivities to start in Chalgrave.

This year's tree was the best yet. Well done Ray and Sue and thank you Tom and Anneliese for your annual festive contribution. It's the community spirit that make this village such a lovely place to live.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party 2019, in pictures



Senior Citizens Christmas Party 2019 in pictures



A CHALGRAVE CHILDHOOD



A water colour by Thomas Fisher about 1820 entitled "Mr Perret's House at Tebworth" and the same house now. The beautiful farm house has not changed much but the village that surrounds it certainly has.

Back in the 1820's, when this picture was painted, living conditions for village farm workers and their children would have been hard and basic.

Children worked on the farm from as young as six years old. They would collect gleanings of corn after the harvest to make flour and bread. Households would make their own cider, ale and wine from fruit such as blackberries or elderberries.

Younger village boys would have been employed to scare the birds from the crops, guard the livestock from straying, pick hops, sow potatoes and beans, gather mushrooms and herd animals to market in the nearby towns of Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard.

INTERESTING FACTS

- ◆ More people visit France than any other country.
- ◆ Indonesia is home to some of the shortest people in the world.
- ◆ There are only three countries in the world that don't use the metric system.
- ◆ The longest place name on the planet is 85 letters long. It is in Australia.

A CHALGRAVE CHILDHOOD



They would also have been sent out to collect firewood, fill sacks with grain and shred turnips. When they were older, they would take on the ploughing and other harder physical tasks.

At harvest time young and old all lent a hand making hay or harvesting crops and lunch would often be just bread and occasionally a piece of cheese. Supper was bread or potatoes and sometimes a piece of bacon.

Life expectancy back then was just 41 years with scurvy, scarlet fever, cholera and whooping cough a real threat to children in particular.

The old painting certainly looks lovely but I think I know in which century I would rather be living!

Frances Masters

INTERESTING FACTS

- ◆ Japan is the world's most earthquake prone country.
- ◆ The coldest temperature ever recorded was 144 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◆ Muhammad is thought to be the most popular name in the world.
- ◆ More than 50 percent of the world's population is under 32 years old.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE

The church was beautifully decorated on December 7th for our **Festive Afternoon Tea** and Craft Fair. We had 2 sittings and everyone enjoyed themselves. There was a real buzz in the church and the afternoon really put us in the Christmas spirit. We raised £1200 for the church and the event was a huge success.



Our annual **Carols by Candlelight** service 21 December was a real joy, with everyone singing so well, it would have made Peter proud! All the candlelight gave the church a beautiful glow and following the service we had mince pies, tea & coffee.

We held a **Crib Service** and **Midnight Mass** services that were both well attended. Our Priest in Charge: Rev. Linda Washington has started her **Sabbatical**. She will officially be away from 02 January until 04 April. It will be a time for her to reflect, discern, learn, pray and journey with God. January will be a time of retreat. She will also be continuing her CHUMS bereavement training course. She hopes she will

return with renewed energy levels to continue her work at Chalgrave. All church services will remain the same and coverage has been provided. Rev. Nigel Washington can be contacted during Linda's absence.

We are busy preparing for our **800 Festival**, which will be held the weekend of September 11th-13th, 2020 celebrating and commemorating 800 years since the Dedication of All Saints Chalgrave. We'll be focusing on the history of the 800 years and would like any contributions that you may provide. In particular we are asking for any photos or any of your family's connection with Chalgrave Church. Please share your stories, photos, or any other information that you may have.

We are also looking for donations of raffle prizes, sponsoring a flower arrangement, or cakes, or help you can provide.

Contact allsaintschurchchalgrave@gmail.com or Sandra-ryan@sky.com.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CHALGRAVE

We are also in the stages of obtaining a **Stained-Glass Window** to commemorate the 800 years. It is still early days for this and won't be completed by the Festival, because these things take time and preparation and careful planning is needed when making changes to such a historic church.

We'll keep you updated more on the 800 Festival and all the events upcoming this year.



And finally.....

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.

The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait."

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

CONGRATULATIONS TO EILEEN AND GARY!



Lots of congratulations to Gary and Eileen, now Mr and Mrs Burgess, who were recently married at sea on an exotic Caribbean cruise.

Back in sunny Tebworth, we helped them celebrate in style as the Memorial Hall rocked to the fabulous sounds of Little Chino, headed up by Frankie & Jess Inzani.



Celebrating Chalgrave

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

For a gardener, this time of year is full of optimism. The garden is starting to wake from its winter slumber, although this winter so far has been fairly mild. The days are getting longer, spring bulbs are showing signs of growth and the birds are pairing up for the breeding season.



It is a good time to think of new projects for the garden. Whilst most people are familiar with spring-flowering bulbs, summer and autumn-flowering bulbs are not so well known.. Although I call them bulbs, some are corms, some are rhizomes, but all can be treated in the same way. The general advice is to plant them at least 3 times their own depth in the soil. If you live in a particularly cold spot or on a particularly dry site, slightly deeper would be better.

Let me highlight some bulbs that have grown well for me in Chalgrave:

Allium – Spectacular starry flowers in May/June, mostly shades of mauve and purple.

Eucomis – Pineapple shaped flowers in mid/late summer, flowers are greenish white to pinky purple.

Gladiolus – Spires of showy flowers in mid-summer, big range of colour, The large varieties make great cut flowers, but if you prefer something more delicate the species varieties are more graceful.

Dierama – Also called Angel's Fishing Rods. Pendulous stalks of bell-shaped flowers in mid-summer, colours from palest pink to deepest purple.

Crocsmia – sometimes known as Montbretia, flower colours from yellow to brick red in mid/late summer, in a range of heights.

Allium



Celebrating Chalgrave

Dierama



thechalgravenews@gmail.com

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? *continued*

Eucomis



Crocsmia



Gladiolus



All these benefit from a handful of sharp sand in the planting hole to improve drainage. It is also advisable to mark where you plant them, so that you don't accidentally dig them up later.

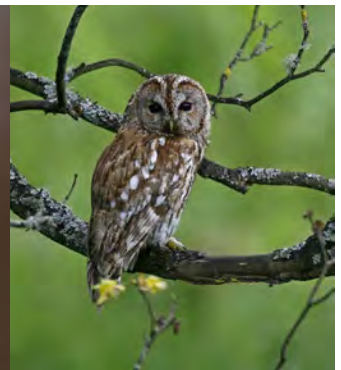
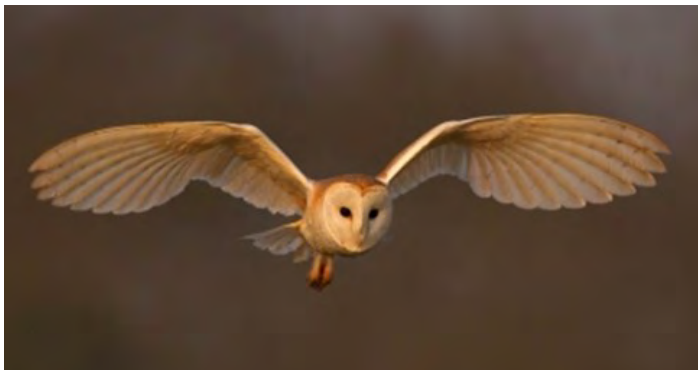
Whatever the weather, enjoy your gardening.

John Wojdyla

Wild Chalgrave - Night Life

If you hear a blood-curdling shriek at night in Chalgrave it's more likely to be a barn owl than a banshee. With their pale feathers, white face and silent flight they have long been considered birds of evil omen or harbingers of death. Even the tawny owl's call is often a mournful howl, rather than the tu-whit tu-woo of stories. Many cultures throughout the world have held this belief of owls bringing bad luck, but Western European culture also sees owls as symbols of wisdom. This might date from ancient Rome where Athena, the goddess of wisdom had the owl as her symbol, or it may be because of the owls' round face and large frontally placed eyes giving them an almost human expression.

Owls are nocturnal and are perfectly adapted for night time hunting. They have exceptionally good binocular vision due to the size and front facing position of their eyes, but their eyes are fixed and they have to turn their heads (up to 270°) to look around them. Their hearing is excellent as their ears are asymmetric, placed in slightly different positions on each side of their head. This enables them to determine the direction of a sound by minute differences in the time it takes for the sound to reach each ear (millionths of a second). Another good hunting adaptation is their ability to fly almost silently. Their feathers are designed to reduce aerodynamic disturbance and a downy coating to the feathers absorbs the sound of the wing moving. Their prey can't hear them until it's too late. Unfortunately this feather adaptation means they are not waterproof and they can't hunt in wet weather, with potentially disastrous results. They eat small rodents, frogs, birds, insects and worms and swallow their prey whole including fur, feathers and bones. These indigestible bits are later regurgitated in a pellet.



Barn Owl

Tawny Owl

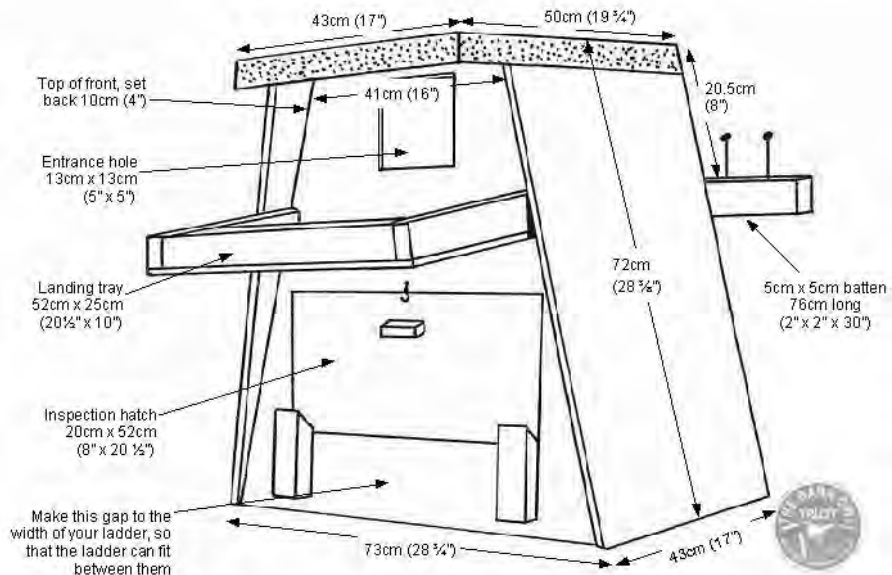
Wild Chalgrave - Night Life continued

Owls like rough grassland or field edges to hunt in, preferably by woodland for roosting and nesting. Barn owls are particularly fond of old undisturbed buildings like barns (obviously) and ruins but will also nest in trees like tawny owls. Although neither species is considered endangered at present, both are at risk of loss of habitat (grassland, woodland, large trees, barn conversions!) and the tawny owl has had a decline in numbers in recent years giving it an 'amber' status. If you're lucky enough to have a large tree, consider putting up a nesting box for an owl. For the rest of us – just enjoy the sounds of the Chalgrave owls.

Janet Day

If you have a large tree overlooking grassland you might like to make and install a Barn Owl or Tawny Owl box. We found several websites and videos that explain how to do it yourself.

Different owls need different styles of box so decide which owl you want to encourage and make one to suit. This one below is on the Barn Owl Trust website www.barnowltrust.org.uk



Devon Dumplings

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

There are loads of Devon Dumplings recipes, but this one will warm you from head to foot! Enjoy with Devon clotted cream or experience the wonderful distinction of cold ice cream against these hot apple Devon dumplings.

Ingredients: *This recipe serves 4:*

4 large Devon cooking apples

16 cloves

4 teaspoons mincemeat

8oz/250g shortcrust pastry

(it's much easier to buy than make!)

4 tbsps. brown sugar

Milk for glazing

Caster sugar



Method:

Peel and core your Devon apples (you can source yours locally, of course).

Mix a teaspoon of mincemeat with a tablespoon of sugar and stuff into each of the apples. Press four cloves into the outside of each apple.

Roll the pastry and divide into four squares. Each one should be big enough to wrap around a whole apple. Place one apple in the centre of each pastry square, dampen the edges with water and fold up the corners to meet at the top. Completely encase the apple in pastry.

Place the Devonshire dumplings onto a greased baking tray, brush with milk and sprinkle with caster sugar.

Bake in a preheated oven at 180 degrees C/gas mark 4 for about 30 minutes.



Chalgrave Sports Club

Race Night

Saturday 28th March 2020

Doors Open at 6.30pm—First Race at 7.30 pm
Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Wingfield Rd, Tebworth

All Welcome

Tickets £10.00 for adults, £5.00 children (under 16)
Includes fish & chip supper

Licensed Bar

Own a horse for the evening!

Horse Racing

Raffle

Contact Phil Parry (07831 605600), Mike Wells (07900 253262)
or Debbie Levy (07931 408697) for tickets and to place your food order.
or email nev@chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk

Celebrating Chalgrave

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West's Educational Trust

The next deadline for requests to this wonderful charity
is **30 June 2020.**

Remember to send your requests to the Clerk, Lesley Smith

Mr West made this gift to our Parish in 1690 and since then it has
helped many of our children by contributing to their education.

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

For information about the Trust go to the
Chalgrave Parish website.

You can download an application form or call
Lesley 01525 874716.

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MARTIN LONGMAN

It is with great sadness we must report the death of Martin Longman; also known as “The Chalgrave Rambler.”

Martin lived in Wingfield, moving later to Toddington.

While he was here, he was very much involved with village life and took the role of The Chalgrave Rambler in our village concerts where he would often “interrupt” the acts; emerging onto the stage with map of the footpaths, back pack and binoculars, often slightly lost but with some hilarious observations about life in the parish.

Martin will be greatly missed by those of us who had the pleasure to know him.

Frances Masters



Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire Police now have a police hub at Toddington fire station

Our local 'bobby on the beat' PC James Bonnie has informed us that, as of January this year, there has been a police hub at the fire station in Toddington.

You may have seen the police car parked there. Chief Constable Garry Forsyth, said 'Sharing office space at Toddington Community Fire Station will enable my officers to be on the beat within the heart of the community, dealing with issues that matter to local people, rather than having to always return to a central base.' This will hopefully give reassurance to local residents who have been increasingly concerned about rising crime.



How old am I?

I was born before:

Television, penicillin, polio vaccinations, frozen foods, computers, face book, contact lenses, the pill, credit cards, ball-point pens, tights, air conditioners, dishwashers, tumble dryers. As a child I had never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CD's, electric typewriters, yogurt, Pizza Hut, McDonald's or instant coffee.

You could buy a new car for £300 but most could not afford one which was a shame because petrol was only a shilling a gallon.

How old do you think I am?

I was born in 1953 !

Accident in Tebworth



Friday 17 January saw a nasty accident on the S bend in Tebworth. Around 9pm a car approached the bend at speed, crashing into the corner of a property at New Farm. The driver and two passengers hurriedly left the scene before police arrived.

This is the third accident at this spot in recent years and might signal the need for a closer look at the traffic calming options. Meanwhile, if you have any information about this accident or any other incident, you can contact the police direct on their non urgent phone number 101.

**The following was received by Chalgrave News by email.
The letter has been forwarded to the Parish Council.**

Dear Sir /Madam

I'm hoping you can help me regarding an accident that occurred with my property on Toddington Road. It has caused serious damage to my property, leaving a large hole in my wall and potential structural damage to my home. It has been yet another extremely stressful time for me and my family and has upset us terribly because this is the third time a car has crashed into our home in 10 years.

It's a real inconvenience in terms of work schedule and the fact that it has happened so frequently makes us feel as though our home is unsafe for us to live in. It happened first in 2012 where we reported it to the council and nothing was done. We then had an identical incident in 2017, whereby nothing was done yet again. Now this has happened for a third time, we have grown beyond frustrated and are tired of asking for the suitable precautions to be taken. The road signs and speed trackers are evidently insufficient. We have contacted the council again, but this time we want to be sure that the actions taken are satisfactory. At this point we are wondering what it is going to take for something to be done about this. I would be grateful if the parish council would help by making sure this does not happen again. Thus, we would like you to install a crash barrier to prevent my property getting damaged and making the road safer for both drivers and residents.

Prafula Patel

OUR BELOVED ROUNDABOUT

About four years ago, I contributed an article to the Chalgrave News about the unintended effects of traffic lights. I extolled the superiority of roundabouts over four-way traffic lights at junctions. I quoted some statistics: roundabouts typically achieve a 37 per cent reduction in overall collisions, a 75 per cent drop in injury collisions and so forth. I explained the reasons why roundabouts help reduce the likelihood and severity of collisions: lower traffic speeds at the junction, no light to beat, reduced delay, lower maintenance costs, insensitivity to power failures and one-way traffic around the island. I was fully on board the magic roundabout. As we approach the third anniversary of the new roundabout at the bottom of Lord's Hill, clumsily known as the A5-M1 Link Road/B5120 roundabout, do I feel the same way?



Actually, no. While I love the link road and appreciate the time saved by using it every day, I have very mixed emotions concerning that roundabout. I'll return to the personal reasons for my reservations (geddit?) but the glaringly obvious observation is the quirky labelling of the road on the northern approach (from the direction of Houghton Regis). The signage, though wearing away, invites road users to use the left-hand lane for both left turns and straight ahead, with the middle and right-hand lanes to be used exclusively for right turns (towards the M1). I would imagine that a large percentage of collisions and near misses on the roundabout derive from the confusion caused by this unconventional choice of priorities.

Just how dangerous is our beloved roundabout? An analysis of hundreds of

OUR BELOVED ROUNDABOUT continued

thousands of traffic accidents recorded by the Department of Transport was published by the Daily Mirror last August. They compiled a roundabout 'league of shame', a list of the top 20 hazardous roundabouts in the country - based on the number of accidents and casualties in the year July 2017 to June 2018. Top of the list was the 18 collisions at the Redbridge Roundabout near Redbridge tube station, resulting in 21 casualties. Hangar Lane was third (16 accidents), Hyde Park Corner was fifth (14) and the Bedford Road roundabout in Central Beds was ninth with 12 accidents.

So how does our roundabout stack up? The Parish Council sought, and received, data from Bedfordshire Police. They recorded 9 accidents in 2017, 14 accidents in 2018 and 16 up to October 2019. Of this total of 39, 33 were described as slight collisions and 6 were serious collisions. It should be noted that these numbers do not include accidents that were not reported to the police. When we confronted Highways England with these appalling statistics, they were quick to point out that the accident figures cover both our roundabout and the Watling Street roundabout to the west. No allocation of the accidents between the two roundabouts was available.

Highways England considers that it lacks sufficient information about the exact circumstances of the incidents: the human, environmental or highway-related factors that may have contributed to each particular accident. Were the accidents attributable to bad driving or excessive speed? What were the weather and road conditions, the time of day, the visibility?

To make matters worse, more than a year's detailed accident data has gone walkabout. A lack of data is being used as pretext for inaction. All the while, week by week, fresh accidents occur. I happened to capture the wonky lamppost (pictured), but 2 days later it had been removed! How come it takes 2 days to attend to a wonky lamppost and more than 2 years to address even the ill-advised signage, that invites motorists continuing along the B5120 to run the inside lane gauntlet while link road traffic intersects at speeds in excess of 50mph? Incredibly, Highways England insists that "no remedial works



OUR BELOVED ROUNDABOUT continued

have yet been identified". And even when we have won that battle, works will be subject to available funding and work programming.

Your Parish Council will not let this matter rest.

For what it's worth, my personal tally is one accident and one near miss. The accident occurred as I was obediently using the left lane from Houghton Regis to continue up Lord's Hill, but another motorist, using the middle lane cut in and collided with me, supposing that I had turned left but failing to check. The near miss occurred when I approached the roundabout from the direction of the M1 signalling right and someone overtook me on the roundabout, intending to go straight on. A scary moment.

How to break the impasse? If the authorities require more data, then maybe it is down to local road users to help them. The more detailed accounts of accidents and near misses that are recorded – as well as public expressions of concern – the more chance there is that we can spur Highways England into actions to improve safety and protect life.

Highways England can be contacted by email: info@highwaysengland.co.uk or by post: Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

Peter Warburton

The Plough

Hopefully, by the time you read this, The Plough at Wingfield will be open once more with its updated cellar, kitchen and menu.



**A warm welcome goes out to new tenants,
Paul and Sallie Adams.**

Father Christmas called in at Chalgrave

December 21st was when Wingfield and Tebworth saw Father Christmas in his float doing the annual round of the Parish.

It was a fairly miserable night but the rain stayed away which kept the elves dry at least. A big thank you goes out of course to all the elves; Paul Levy, Alison Young, Peter Warburton, Nev Andrews, Colin McCausland, Roger Fenwick, Lyndie Lothian, Will Randel, Phil Parry and Sharon Brown.....and the other guy helping Father Christmas, Paul Younger.

Thanks also to Flitwick Vale Rotary Club who organised the float and driver. The amount collected for the Senior Citizens of Chalgrave was £260.

Another great result all round and Santa is currently on a 365 holiday (as it's a leap year)

See ya next time Santa .



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PROVING LIFE IS FULL OF THE UNEXPECTED

Tebworth resident Colin McCausland gives a frank yet funny account of his recent health ‘hiccup’

*Oh B*gger!!*

It all started early 2016 with a phone call from BUPA “Mr McCausland as a member of BUPA we can offer you a discount on our Well Man/Old Git/Over 50/ Time to Start Worrying/You’re Doomed Health Check”. OK I may have forgotten the actual title of it but you get the picture. Incidentally BUPA comes as part of my job before you start thinking what a stuck up p*nce he is!

Well I was a lot over 50 and I thought “hmm - that would be sensible, you can never be too careful, don’t take your health for granted” and a whole lot of other middle class platitudes to cover the fact that I wasn’t getting any younger and frankly I knew it. So I booked it and a few weeks later off I went to a private hospital (get me!) for what I thought would be an interesting and diverting 4-5 hours of checks and chats all about me.

Well it was sort of interesting and sort of diverting and very, very, deeply, disconcertingly worrying. I was frankly thrown off balance and off kilter.

Blood pressure - way too high; Cholesterol - way too high; BMI - not good at all; Signs of a heart condition - to the extent that they refused to do the cycling, breathing exercise in case I had a heart attack; Higher than expected para-protein levels in my blood - more of that later....

The heart condition signs later also pointed to possible blocked arteries. I was 57. My father died at 59 of a heart attack caused by blocked arteries and very high blood pressure. So as you can imagine I was profoundly worried and affected by this news. And that’s an understatement.

Over the next few months I had various checks and scans, have to say BUPA were very good and the end result was that I did NOT have a heart condition or blocked arteries - the whole thing was caused by tests which can - and in my case did - give false positives.

To say I had been worried - especially having seen what happened to my dad - would be the understatement of the century. Five minutes after getting that news I was standing in a hospital car park physically reeling from the emotional impact of that news and desperately trying to hold myself together when I thought “Col you have been given another chance. What are you going to do with it?” Well to cut a long story short 3 years later - in 2019 I had another BUPA health check

Blood pressure – OK; Cholesterol – OK; BMI – OK; Signs of a heart condition – NO;

Higher than expected para-protein levels in my blood - oh yes that one.... Well back in 2016 BUPA had informed my doctors of this issue (para-protein in my blood) and ever since I had been having blood tests and an appointment at the L&D every 6 months. Each time I went I got a message along the lines of "Hmmm....well it's still creeping upwards Mr McCausland we will see you in 6 months time and see how it is" Then it went to "Hmmm....still creeping up we will see you every 3 months". Now all this time I have to admit I didn't know what it was all about. The NHS isn't always that good at describing things. As often happens with experts they tend to dive head first into the detail as that's what their daily work involves and leave the boring simplistic "this is what it's all about" bit out as they simply assume everyone knows that. I'm not particularly technical but I do work in IT and I see this all the time from technical specialists and gurus.

So about September 2019 one consultant at my monthly trip to the L&D asked me if I knew what the tests were all about to which I said not really. He wasn't impressed and told me rather shortly "This is serious you need to understand it"

Well I wasn't too thrilled by his response as I had never been given a clear explanation but to be honest I am a grown up (yes really) and it's my body, my future, my health so I really should have found out by then. So I asked him what to look up on Google. I suspect he wasn't that impressed by this response either as I'm told they don't like Dr Google but he did say MGUS. MGUS is raised levels of protein in the blood which itself isn't an issue but can be an indication of cancer developing BUT statistically very few people go from MGUS to cancer.

Next thing on NHS was a bone marrow biopsy. I got a pamphlet stating I would undergo some minor discomfort and consider taking along some Paracetamol or similar. Minor discomfort my backside! It was very painful indeed but only for about 30 minutes.

So November 7th 2019 yet another appointment at L&D. I've been going for over 3 years and nothing has really happened so yet another "where do I park challenge" followed by a wait and inconclusive 5 minute chat with a consultant. Not this time... "Mr McCausland you have myeloma cancer we will start chemotherapy in January, let me introduce you to your cancer nurse specialist" is a cut-down version of the 20 minute meeting.

It was a blur. As I said I work in IT so I tried to get my head round the facts and details, keep it technical, and deal with the emotions later but to no avail. My head was reeling. I had found comfort and security in the "very few people go from MGUS to cancer" statistics but "very few" isn't none and my number had been called. Well that was in November and since then the chemotherapy has been put back as

PROVING LIFE IS FULL OF THE UNEXPECTED continued

I'm not yet ill enough and clinically it's too early to start treatment. But it will happen, it's not going to go away but let's be clear about this. I will survive and be cured. It's not going to kill me but I may be very sick for 6 months or so when the treatment starts.

I started by keeping the news to a very small group of friends and family. Then pretty quickly I found I didn't like that - it felt like I was almost lying to so many other friends by keeping it a secret. So I told the next group, then some people at work. Sometimes I suspect they may think I'm a fraud as the treatment hasn't started yet, are they thinking "He just made it all up"?

And me?

The support I have received from the village has been simply amazing - I knew we had a great community and you would all support me but not to the level I have seen. Work has also been phenomenal - one of the reasons I work where I do is the care they have for their staff which has always impressed me - though I never imagined I would need it myself. I may well get to regret what I am about to say but I am going to say it anyway.

This is the best thing to have happened to me in years.

Why ?

However you look at it the one thing it gives you is perspective; what is important and what is not. I have made, or just simply admitted and faced up to, life-changing decisions and acted upon those decisions. I look to the future in terms of "What do I want?", "What is important?", "Who do I want to be?" Whereas before I - like so many of us - would tend towards "What is expected of me", "What is the norm", "What does everyone else do?"

I can't help thinking I will come out of this episode in my life a better, more grounded, person than when I went in - even if it involves 6 months within my head down a toilet.

Wish me luck!

Colin

Good Luck Colin!



WORDSEARCH



Chalgrave

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u m d a k t u i g r p o k i g l r
m c m p q p h o m e f a r m e i h
s w g r e a t p o n d e o d q h f

Can you find 11 words, all relating to
Chalgrave, hidden in the text?

Fly Tipping

In line with a growing nationwide problem, Chalgrave has been increasingly affected by fly tipping; the largest and most recent incidents seeing what appeared to be an entire shed and its contents on the Chalgrave Road verge.



So, what can we do? Nationally, the rules around disposal of waste at Tidy Tips probably need to be loosened. But, until they are we need to stay vigilant. If you see someone dumping rubbish, and it's safe to do so, take a photo and registration details. You can report all incidents on the Central Beds Council fly tipping hotline 0300 300 8302.

Storm Ciara takes its toll !



Winter weather



January storms brought flooding all over the country and Chalgrave did not escape the problems presented by the sheer volume of rain that fell over a short period. Several gullies and storm drains were overwhelmed and Central Beds Council sent a team out to clear the worst. The ongoing problem on the S bend now seems to be a broken pipe and is possibly a matter for Anglian Water. Let's hope they sort it soon.

To advertise in the Chalgrave News,
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Aunt Agnes

Well a big hello again to all my fans.

As we move into the post Christmas blues I realise that not everybody has my lifestyle out here in my luxury beach front villa in the Caribbean, where for the next couple of months my life will be taken up with wild parties every evening and lunches on my veranda overlooking the warm deep blue sea. But it is not all pleasure as the temperature is a steady 35 degrees and my air conditioning unit has broken down and cannot be fixed until I receive my £200 winter payment allowance from the government, whoever they might be!



The other day I settled down in my hammock under the palm trees, and while sipping my margarita cocktail, I read a second letter I had received from what turned out to be a rather annoyed resident of Tebworth.

Let's call her Mrs X. Mrs X had originally sent a letter to the Chalgrave News asking for advice on a problem she was facing.

She wrote .. *"As the winter approaches I am becoming very concerned with the state of my blue tits once the cold weather comes along, as I can see them shivering in the garden."*

My reply as published in the Chalgrave News was on the lines of - I suggest that you knit a few bobble or in your case booby type hats, which you can put on your blue tits and at the same time knit a scarf to wear, which I think you will find will resolve your problem.



How was I to know Mrs X was a keen ornithologist and was referring to the breed of birds that she encourages into her garden?

In her latest letter she tells me that she has become the laughing stock of the Parish, dressing every bird she can find in a miniature scarf and bobble hat, even though this has resolved her problem and I am told the blue tits now feel warm when handled.

I am sorry for any misunderstanding but I cannot be held responsible for poorly written letters.

A Happy New Year to all my readers.....

Parish Noticeboard

**CHALGRAVE GAMES
4TH JULY**

**SAVE THE DAY
Saturday
27 June
JoeFest
Memorial Hall**

District Councillor Mark Versallion holds regular local surgeries where residents are invited to come and talk about issues relating to highway maintenance, environmental health, housing needs, social care, children's services, transport or anything that is of concern locally.

**His next surgery at Chalgrave will be at the
Queens Head, Tebworth on 18th May from 5.30-6.30pm**

Chalgrave Memorial Hall

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6pm – 11pm*	£10.50 per hour	£21.00 per hour	£28.50 per hour
<i>FRIDAY</i>			
6pm – 12 midnight*	£130	£260	£295
<i>SATURDAY</i>			
9am – 6pm	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£26.50 per hour
6pm – 12 midnight*	£145	£290	£370
12.30pm – 12 midnight*	£185	£370	£425
<i>SUNDAY</i>			
10am – 10pm*	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£29.00 per hour
<i>'WEEKEND RATE'</i>			
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USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Council			www.chalgrave.org
Clerk	Lesley Smith	874716	chalgravepc@btinternet.com
Chairman	Phil Parry	07831 605600	phil@philparryassociates.co.uk
Councillors	Ken Green	874107	kenandlyn@tinyworld.co.uk
	Peter Warburton	874036	pwarburton45@gmail.com
	Kevin Ludgate	07768 606968	kevin.ludgate@Oliverlandpower.co.uk
	Frances Masters	873039	frances.masters@btinternet.com
	Debbie Levy	07931 408697	debbie.hampson61@btinternet.com
	Jan Day	875921	Janet.day456@btinternet.com
Council	Central Beds	03003 008000	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Ward C'Ilr	Mark Versallion	03003 008555	Mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
MP	Andrew Selous	01582 662821	selousa@parliament.uk
Memorial Hall	Bookings	07831 482556	
Senior Citizens	Roger Masters	873039	roger.masters@btinternet.com
Speedwatch	Mike Wells	877098	mikewells@clara.co.uk
Rector	Rev Linda Washington	714442	
Warden	M. Chalmers	01582 605561	
Warden	S. Russell	07796 66174	
West Charity	Clerk Lesley Smith	874716	
Schools			
Lower	St Georges	872360	office@toddstg.co.uk
Middle	Parkfields	872555	schooladmin@parkfield.cbeds.co.uk
Upper	Harlington	755100	enquiries@harlington.org
Doctor	Medical Centre	872222	www.toddingtondoctors.co.uk/
Library	Toddington	03003 008069	
Police	PC James Bonney	01525 873193	<u>Or Dial 101</u>
Helping Hands		07882 988270	
Public Houses			
Queen's Head	Ed & Carlie Alvares	07375397231	
The Plough	Stacey	873077	
Clubs			
Rotary Club	Chris Osborn	873920	
Sports Club	Phil Parry	07831 605600	www.chalgravesportsclub.co.uk
Tennis Club	Roger Fenwick	07814 598309	
Chalgrave WI	Maureen Gilmour	07818 043311	mg@maureengilmour.co.uk
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