# CHALGRAVE NEWS



#### **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
11-13 Sept	800 Festival	All Saints Church	

At the time of going to print most of the above are cancelled or postponed.

Please check later to see if any are resumed.

Cover photo of Billy Whizz kindly supplied by Colin McCausland

Deadline for next edition: 15 October2020
Please send your contributions to: thechalgravenews@gmail.com

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

According to Darwin, it's not the strongest or the most intelligent of the species that survives, but the ones most adaptable to change and, it's fair to say, we seem to have done a pretty good job of adapting to the changing Covid-19 landscape here in Tebworth and Wingfield.



Chalgrave Church is having regular online prayer meetings, the WI book group meets via Zoom and even the Parish Council have managed to get their heads around social media.

Many of us are now on first name terms with the Amazon delivery guy, cupboards have been decluttered and the garden has never looked so good, so life in Lockdown has not been *all* bad news.

The world has certainly had to slow down for a while and, when you go out for your daily health walk, neighbours have plenty of time to stop and chat.

Turns out when there's nowhere to go, there's no rush to get there and some of us will not be first in the queue to jump back on the hamster wheel too soon!

Comfortingly, despite Corona, many things have actually stayed the same: we've still got pot holes and road works, there is still no dog poo fairy and we do get regular visits from our friendly local fly tippers for instance.

Meanwhile, over here at The Chalgrave News, we like to think of ourselves as an oasis of calm in a sea of Covid chaos and you will find all the regular features to inform and entertain you in this edition, like Aunt Agnes and Cider Lil. We've even written a piece about how we put the magazine together for you each quarter.

So, chin up dear reader, shoulder to the wheel and, as Churchill said, 'let's keep buggering on.'

And the Queen's Head and Plough are back open so that's a sign that things are getting back to normal.

Whatever 'normal' is?

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

The Parish Council has been holding 'virtual' monthly meetings for the past few months. We hope to start our face to face meetings later in the year. As usual, we will not be holding a meeting in August unless there is something urgent that needs to be discussed. You are invited to attend any of our meetings. We have an Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting where you can raise any issues/concerns.

Fly tipping is a big problem in our Parish. Central Beds.Council (CBC) has now put up signs in the three popular areas for fly tipping on Tebworth Road and Chalgrave Road. The sign



reminds fly tippers that it is an offence and has a warning that covert CCTV may be in operation. We report incidents of fly tipping as soon as we can, and CBC are pretty good at clearing the mess.

Although 'lockdown' is easing, the Emergency Plan is still in operation. Please contact the team if you need any kind of help – Barbara Jackson 07960 445492, Paul Whitton 07808 174843, Debbie Levy 07931 408697, Roger Fenwick 07814 598309 or me.

Although it is outside of our Parish, you should be aware that there is a planning application for an extensive solar farm north of Tilsworth Golf Club on the other side of the A5 from our Parish. The proposed development is on the Green Belt and will have an impact on the views from our Parish.

The following is from Cllr Mark Versallion's Facebook Page -

Leighton Buzzards's green belt may get another solar farm, of 65 acres and months of construction lorries through <u>Stanbridge</u>, <u>Tilsworth</u> and possibly <u>Hockliffe</u>.

Danish company European Energy is intending to submit a planning application on farm land north of Tilsworth. They're suggesting HGVs come off the A505 southern bypass rather than the A5 but 'preferred routes' can be difficult to police and in any event will have to drive through villages. What benefit to these rural communities? I am a fan of renewable energy but this proposal is not without problems. It would generate enough power for 5,500 homes but not local homes and construction would start next year and last minimum four months.

A small notification should appear in the LB<u>Observer</u> again but as the application is assessed by <u>Council</u> I'll be making representations throughout so let me have your comments - Cllr Mark Versallion.

At last, Highways England have agreed to a site meeting at the roundabout at the

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

bottom of Lords Hill. This meeting is long overdue but with pressure from Cllr. Mark Versallion, they have relented and we meet in August. I will be attending this meeting along with Mark and a CBC Toddington Ward Councillor, Sylvia Collins. Hopefully, H.E. will agree to the changes to make the roundabout safe. Cllr. Ken Green has spent a lot of time updating the Rights of Way map for our Parish. He has had grateful help from Lyndie Lothian. You will get a copy once they are printed. Ken is also following up on the repair of a couple of styles in the Parish. With many more people out walking it has created problems with some walkers wandering off the paths, nuisance from dogs, dog fouling and people cycling on the paths. Messages about these issues have been posted on the Hockliffe and Toddington Facebook pages.

We are aware of all damaged road surfaces in the Parish. We have reported all the potholes and continue to press CBC to repair the damage. We are also aware of the damage to the road signs at the end of Chalgrave and Tebworth Roads and have asked for them to reinstated.

Phil Parry Chair

# LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update

#### **CHALGRAVE SENIOR CITIZENS**

We are a small committee set up many years ago with the purpose of giving a "helping hand" to elderly neighbours. We are happy to run errands, do food shopping and generally help out if we can.

Everyone on our list receives birthday and Christmas cards and is invited to the Christmas lunch held at Parkfields School in Toddington.

Anyone over the age of 65 can be added to our list by contacting either Roger Fenwick on 01525 873768 or Barbara Jackson on 07960 445492.

We are always looking for helpers with fresh ideas to join our team. If you are interested in becoming involved, please give either Roger or Barbara a call.

# View from The House

# ANDREW SELOUS SPEECH TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE REOPENING OF ZOOS June 2020

I congratulate both my hon. Friend the Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) and the hon. Member for City of Chester (Christian Matheson) on their fantastic speeches. It is a testament to how important this issue is that the Chamber is this full on a Thursday afternoon.



When people ask me where I am the Member of Parliament for, I normally say Whipsnade zoo, because it is by far the best known part of my constituency. It occupies 600 stunningly beautiful acres of the south Bedfordshire countryside and it is a part of the Zoological Society of London, which is joined with Whipsnade zoo, so London zoo and Whipsnade zoo are both part ZSL, the same organisation.

I wish to start with a big thank you to the Minister. I have said on a number of occasions that her Department, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has been—if I can put it this way—on the side of the angels in this debate. It has been standing up for zoos and doing the right thing, so I would like to pass on my thanks to her and the Department for what they have done. Monday will be a great day. At 10 o'clock on Monday morning, Whipsnade zoo will open. There is a morning session and an afternoon session. I urge people to please go on the website and book. If they are going in the morning, they should go early so that they can make the most of it—they should not turn up in the late morning as they will not get full enjoyment from the experience. They should go on the website and book because normally in the Easter and May bank holiday periods Whipsnade will take in just under £8 million of income, so that is £8 million of income that it has lost. It costs the zoo £2.3 million a month to run London and Whipsnade zoos and do all the vital global conservation research work. They are in a £25 million black hole.

As the hon. Member for City of Chester said absolutely rightly, it is the vital conservation work that will be first to go. Of course London and Whipsnade zoos will put the animals—their 20,000 animals—first, as they should, but no one here wants to see that vital conservation work go, because it is so important. The ZSL research provides the Living Planet Index, which tells us of our indescribably awful biodiversity loss. Members will know from the United Nations report last year that 1 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction, many of those within decades. Since the 16th century, we have already lost 680 vertebrate species,

# View from the House ... continued

and I do not want us to lose any more on our watch. It is too important: we must stick up for nature and the glorious animal kingdom.

Whipsnade does so much. It has reintroduced tigers to Nepal, Kenya and Indonesia, and rhinos to Nepal and Kenya. It has helped restore coral reefs in the Philippines, and it has helped get angel sharks back off the coast of Wales and even seals and eels in the Thames right next to this building. And these zoos mean so much. I spoke to a lady in my constituency last week who has given all her holiday money to the zoo; it meant that much to her. People really do care about this in this country.

However, the costs are huge and ongoing, and the income has been eliminated. That is why I say to the Minister that the first part—the reopening—is excellent and fantastic, and thank you so much, but we need a multimillion pound package so that we do not lose the vital global conservation work. The research by Whipsnade led to the Dasgupta review, which played quite a significant part in helping to bring COP26 to the United Kingdom.

Not to put too fine a point on it, it is a little irritating to Whipsnade and London zoos that they see institutions such as Kew and the Natural History Museum regularly getting significant amounts of Government money, whereas I do not think any of the zoos we have talked about today are in receipt of Government funding. These are institutions that are normally financially self-sustainable and do not come cap in hand to the Government, but they have had their income taken away and their costs have continued. That is why I have one more request, please Minister, for one more final shove: let us get this multimillion-pound package to help all our zoos survive and not lose that vital conservation work.

For more information about Andrew's work as your MP please access his website on <a href="https://www.andrewselous.org.uk">https://www.andrewselous.org.uk</a>

*To contact* Andrew Selous, Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire. Write: Andrew Selous MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: <u>0207 2198134</u>

Email: andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk

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

#### **CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB**

Over the winter and close season, we have been maintaining and updating the pitch and clubhouse. The pitch is looking good (thank you Phoebe) and the inside of the clubhouse is coming together. Future working parties will be repainting the clubhouse, clearing the container, putting screens on the windows, repairing the roof and checking the electrics. We will



also be replacing the gang mowers – we have replacement gang mowers, but they need a service and sharpening.

We have put the nets up on the pitch and its great to see people and families taking the opportunity to have a bat and bowl. It is also good to hear the sound of leather on willow again!

At the time of writing with the easing of lockdown restrictions, we are planning a match against Eaton Bray. The match will follow the Covid 19 regulations for cricket matches. We are looking to get a few more games before the end of the season.

We are going to get golf driving nets - and have a Golf Day later in the year. We are expecting to run again our Family Day in September. It was very successful last year in getting new team members and renewing the energy and direction of the club. We decided to move away from 'league' style of cricket and go for more social cricket.

The Club has been going for nearly 100 years and we are determined to keep it alive. We also discussing how to get more young people involved in cricket. Possibly having Saturday or Sunday training sessions for youngsters over the summer.

We have a date for our Race Night which is the 21<sup>st</sup> November. If we are allowed to go ahead, we are going to make it a Community event. More details will follow.

As ever if you fancy a game then contact any of the Committee members.

**Phil Parry & Mike Wells** 

#### THE WI BOOK CLUB

We were having our monthly book meetings online using Zoom but from June we have managed to have a real meeting in person, where we meet up in the hosts back gardens, social distanced of course. It's been quite exciting to actually talk face to face to different people from those we live with! Some of our group have been shielding so haven't managed to join us in person yet but hopefully they will be able to join us again in August.

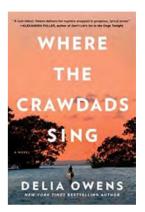
Books we have read are:

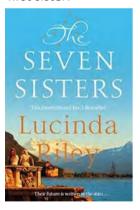
#### Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Set in Americas deep South, part murder mystery and part coming of age novel, but with lovely descriptions of wildlife found in the marshes.

#### The Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley

The Seven Sisters is the first book in the Seven Sisters series. It's about 7 adopted sisters whose father dies and then each of them is then handed a tantalising clue to their true heritage. This book follows the journey of discovery for the first sister.







#### The Doll Factory by Elizabeth Macneal

The Doll Factory is described as an intoxicating story of one woman's dreams of freedom in Victorian England and the man whose obsession threatens to destroy them forever . . .

We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month and who ever is due to host that month gets to choose the book.

For more information contact Sue (sue.watling@hotmail.com) You don't need to be a member of the WI to join the book club.

#### **CHALGRAVE WOMENS INSTITUTE**

Our WI meetings changed to virtual meetings during Lockdown, courtesy of Zoom, as we adapted to Covid 19 restrictions. This gave us the chance to catch up and enjoy a glass of wine or a gin and tonic together. Having downloaded the App, found the meeting ID and password, enabled video and audio and found gallery mode we needed it!! We found the mute button a little later when we realised we were



talking over each other! We shared our experiences and opinions about the strange new world we were living in, swapped ideas for different hobbies and projects to try out.....gardening, gin making, workouts and crafting were popular. Some useful advice was given too, eg. before masks became mandatory, a glass of wine in each



hand stopped you from touching your face (or if you prefer...a slice of cake). Thank you Lesley

Having mastered the Zoom concept we held a Quiz for our May meeting and a Bingo Rock and Roll meeting for June. Both were good fun and we used a business Zoom link from members which meant we could carry on for longer than the standard free 45 minute session.

As Lockdown restrictions eased in July we met for a socially distanced walk around Chalgrave, finished off by a socially distanced picnic in small groups at a member's large and beautiful garden. This was the first time we had 'gathered' since February and it

was great to see everybody.

Lockdown has been a challenge but our WI has flourished none the less and the camaraderie and support it offers has been priceless.

Anybody interested in joining Chalgrave WI can phone our President

Maureen Gilmour, Mobile: 07818 043311





# LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update

#### **CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL**

Well, at last the Hall is open for business although we have only one booking for the 3rd August as yet, So Pilates is now on the agenda.

We have been very fortunate to get a £10,000 grant from Central Beds Council which will come in extremely handy this year.

Last year our letting income was £9,500 plus a Chalgrave Games surplus from the raffle of £1000. This year of course there will be no income from the Games and we will be lucky to get £3000. from lettings. In addition we are in the position of renewing the fire equipment at the Hall. Our security firm Chubb Fire and Security have suggested it is time to renew the equipment as currently the system is 21 years old. This will set us back some £600-£700. So our grant will be very helpful.

However , we have been successful in getting a new cleaner for the Hall and she will be starting on  $2^{\rm nd}$  August.

Roger Masters

### The Chalgrave News Team—who are we?

The Chalgrave News is published every quarter with a spring, summer, autumn and winter edition regularly landing on the doormats of every house in the parish.

Some are also circulated in Toddington and at the Chalgrave Church. But you could say, these days, we have a worldwide circulation as each and every edition is put online via the Parish Council website and now also on the Chalgrave News Facebook page.

There are nine of us in the editorial team; Lyndie, Tracy, Sharon, Bernadette, John, Jan, Frances, Noeleen and working remotely, ex pat Chris, otherwise known as Cider Lil and Tony Cornes, aka Aunt Agnes.

It's a pretty democratic group with no one person making editorial decisions without collaboration with the others. It's a system which has worked well. We all get on, so that helps a lot. The other thing that helps is the enormous amount of fun we have when we have our editorial meetings. Important decisions need to be made early in the evening as, later on, John's rhubarb gin kicks in and suggestions for items to Include in the next edition become more and more outrageous.

For some of us it's second time around, having had the baton passed on by Barbara Kingham in 2002 who recalled in the spring edition of that year, the origins of the News when, in 1976, much-missed Peter Freeman produced the first parish newsletter as 'a publication about the village for the village.'

At that time, it was a black and white photo-copied version. Things have certainly moved on technically and, these days, Lyndie and Tracy do a great job of compiling the articles into a pdf format which is sent for professional printing in full colour.

One noticeable improvement over the years has been in the quality of the images in the mag. Everyone who has a mobile phone is a photographer these days and, in a way, that makes it easier to get wonderful pictures captured by local people such as the front cover of this issue of Colin's dog Billy Whizz.

Communication has also improved and can now happen in real-time. The editorial team can chat to each other via Whatsapp and of course we have the Facebook page where any resident can post items they feel will be helpful to others in the parish.

The News is free, so where do we get the money to publish?

We do not ask for a grant from the parish council but rather rely on advertising for revenue and, of course, fundraisers such as Chalgrave Open Gardens, which sadly has been scuppered for the moment due to the Corona pandemic. Jan and John's plant sales have proved a bit of a lifeline and, all in all, we have no financial worries,

# The Chalgrave News Team—who are we?

so you'll be pleased to hear the News is safe for the foreseeable future. Chalgrave News has a history of light hearted pranks, jokes and fun promotions such as free CDs, seeds for sunflowers and pumpkin growing competitions. We also went through a phase of photographing famous people holding the News such as MPs Andrew Selous and Michael Howard and then cricketer Alan Lamb holding a copy of that edition. Quite a feat! Long gone are the days when we would all have to walk around Lyndie and lan's pool table, picking up the various pages that were laid out there and then stapling them together ready for circulation.

These days it all feels a bit more professional but, of course, we are not professionals. Our lack of proof reading skills is legendary! We are not journalists and most of us are doing our best while also trying to work or run our own businesses. We give our time freely because we love what we do and love supporting our community.

In turn, we are grateful to those that support us with articles, photos, updates and anything that contributes to making our parish magazine something that celebrates Chalgrave.

If you have a story, picture, poem or update for the next issue, please send it to thechalgravenews@gmail.com



Finally, thank you from all of us to all of you; to all our local readers and those a bit further afield.

#### West's Educational Trust

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

You can download an application form to apply for a grant or call Lesley 01525 874716.

# **HEDGEHOG SOS**

A hedgehog was found recently stranded in an empty bottle bin, unable to get out (an empty bottle bin in Chalgrave!). It's not known how long it was trapped there but it was large and appeared healthy. It was given water and cat food and released down the Lane close to where it was found. We hope it is now happily munching slugs and snails.

If you find a hedgehog it's best to leave it alone unless it needs moving to safety. If you need to move it use thick gloves – they're very prickly and may have ticks. (Hedgehog fleas won't survive on cats, dogs or humans). If it's injured contact a wildlife charity such as

'Tiggywinkles' for advice.

Hedgehogs roam over a wide area looking for food or a mate. If your garden is fenced make sure there are gaps so these endangered cute critters can come and go.







#### **OUR LIBRARIES**

#### Visit the library from the comfort of your sofa

With all our libraries closed and with people staying at home there has never been a better time to visit our Virtual Library at

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries. All you need is your library card number and a pin number to access a wealth of great resources. Not a member? Don't worry you can register or request a pin online.

#### Need something new to read?

Find a great selection of e-books and magazines on the RBDigital App. You will find something for all the family. If you enjoy listening to a book check our two great audiobook libraries on the BorrowBox and RBDigital Apps. Keep up with what the papers are saying without leaving home with Pressreader.

#### Need to take a moment to relax?

Download or stream some relaxing tunes with Freegal, our free music service.

#### Struggling with home education?

Have a look at Encyclopaedia Britannica. It has a junior level for lower and middle school children or if you need something a bit more in depth, find millions of articles from over 1300 reference books with Credo reference.

#### Want to keep busy?

Now is a great time to start researching your family history as Ancestry library is currently free to access from home.

Remember all you need to access these great resources is your library card number and pin!

Check out our Virtual Library at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries today!







I hope that Covid 19 has taught everyone to love, care and be patient with one another no matter what faults people may have.

Noeleen

#### Gorilla Gardening:

With time on my hands with different work shifts and then working from home due to Covid-19, I decided to experiment with two aims.

Tidy up a verge that looked a bit unloved and create a wild flower area for bees.

I started with a small area. Following digging it over and removing a fair amount of nettles and weeds.

I scattered wildflower seeds and waited.

It worked!

A range of wildflowers have grown.

Spurred on I decided to extend the experiment, so dug over an extended area, removing more nettles, weeds and ground ivy.

This coincided with the removal of some lavender, so the lavender was lifted, shifted and planted and more wildflower seeds sown.

These have all started to grow and hopefully they will be flowering soon.

So what next?

There are verges in Manchester and London that have been sown and left to grow. There are benefits to this, they look wonderful, great for nature, reduced costs, less mowing and they can slow traffic as sight lines are less clear so people instinctively slow down.

So are there other verges in the area that would benefit from this type of project?

#### The Gorilla Gardener

#### My lockdown achievements

During the course of lockdown, I have:-

Conquered the ironing pile, the majority of which had been lying around for at least 3 years.

Stained and varnished the exterior woodwork.

Kept the garden under control in the absence of the gardeners (with more than a little help from Dave!)

Sorted out my computer area and bookshelves.

Tidied out the conservatory.

Cleared out 2 kitchen cupboards, one of which everything cascaded out of whenever you opened the door, and the other you could barely close the door of, plus tidied up under the butcher's block.

Cleared out the workshop, which previously you could not even get in the door of never mind find anything, because the stuff covering the floor was waist high. Returned my bedroom walk in wardrobe to a state befitting its name. It is a joy to actually be able to get to my clothes, and if I want a pair of shoes it takes 2 seconds to walk in and pick them up. Previously the process of retrieving a pair of shoes required at least 15 minutes: having located one shoe, I would have to pull out and then replace several duvets and suitcases in order to find the other, all accompanied by profuse profanities and compounded stress if you were already late for wherever you were supposed to be going, which I always am. Tackled the most terrifying job, the cupboard on the landing, the door of which it had been impossible to close for many years. I very nearly chickened out, but a slot booked at the tidy tip the following day gave me a deadline and it was now

or never, so I took the plunge. It is impossible to believe that all the stuff I pulled out could have actually fitted in there in the first place - the picture shows about half the contents!

I now have a pile of colour coordinated pillowcases, everything is sensibly ordered and easily





**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

accessible, and who would have thought something as insignificant as being able to close a door could induce such delight!

Knitted 2 jumpers, a pair of mittens and a woolly hat and read 2 books. Acquired an amazing suntan!

Sorted my makeup into different containers so that I no longer have to tip out the entire contents of my makeup bag every time I need to find something!

Julia Marsh







#### My Hopes for Life After Lockdown

We will spend more time with our families and friends.

We will maintain the new friendships we made during lockdown.

We will continue to use and develop the new skills we've learnt, whether it was a necessity or a new hobby or pastime.

We will get used to consuming less and travelling less and the environment will benefit.

We will take the opportunity to make those big and small changes in our lives we've been meaning to do for ages.

We will reassess the things that are really important to us.

We will continue to look out for the vulnerable people in our communities.

We will hug each other again. By Jan Day



During lockdown I made these houses with the girls. They come in kit form and each take 20 to 30 hours to make ......it took me over 5 hours to make all the little roses going up the stairs!

You make every little thing inside the houses, they are very detailed and intricate.

They all light up and the beach house also plays music.

We have 2 more still to make.







#### Lockdown lowdown at Heath Farm by Peter Warburton

With the arrival of lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March came the shocking realisation that my excuses for delaying longstanding unfinished (and, in some cases, unstarted) garden projects had been stripped away. A log-store kit that had been sitting in its wrappings on the drive for 9 months must finally be tackled. But first, this required some digging out and laying of concrete slabs. Over the course of the next 3 or 4 weekends, we carved out the time to assemble the kit, stain the wood and transfer the pile of logs into their new home. The sense of achievement was palpable. Then Anne reminded me that until we open up the fireplace, we don't actually have a use for the logs. It seems that we have built a luxury hotel for beetles and woodlice.

It all started when our friend Sandra said she knew a man who could supply some well-rotted manure and mentioned she could use a few bags on her garden too. We took the plunge and ordered a delivery. Having agreed a price that seemed reasonable, I enquired how much manure was involved in 'a load'. 'Plenty for a decent sized garden', came the replay. He was right. When he made the delivery, there was enough for our garden and about 10 others the same size. We considered renaming our home, 'The House on Poo Corner'. After giving countless boot-loads away to friends and sympathisers, we are still left with about 80 filled blue sacks that adorn our drive like an installation artwork. There was a brief flurry of excitement when one sack sprouted leaves that were not dissimilar in appearance to cannabis, but a local expert set me straight. By the way, has anyone managed to get the PlantSnap app to work?





The greatest joy of lockdown has been the opportunity to walk all the local footpaths and bridleways as well as some a little further afield. We recommend the exploration of Totternhoe Knolls, Rushmere Country Park and the Greensand Ridge that runs via Woburn, Ampthill, Haynes and Sandy into Cambridgeshire. All this walking has sparked an ambition to tackle the 110-mile Icknield Way that runs through our parish (and past our back fence).

The Icknield Way Association has updated the guide and this can be obtained by visiting www.icknieldwaypath.co.uk

# All Saints Church, Chalgrave

21st of July 2020 / REPORT FROM ALL SAINTS CHALGRAVE PCC

Hello from your Church.

We have been closed since mid March. No services, no christenings, no weddings or funerals.

Linda and Nigel put together a virtual service each Sunday with prayers and readings. If you would like to find out

more and how to join in go to our website and Facebook page.



We have in the last four weeks had truncated services in the grounds of the church. The service includes listening to a couple of hymns, a couple of readings and Prayers. Prayers for specific people are included. We gather with our fold up chairs and a flask of tea to be together for 3/4s of an hour in the sunshine at 10 30 each Sunday morning. Trust me when I say it is very uplifting. Seeing and listening and talking to friends we haven't seen since March and sharing our Corona virus survival stories and smiling and laughing is great therapy, it does set us up for the coming week. Church is open Thursday if you would care to go in for private prayer. I would strongly urge you to get a chair and come join us.

We have had an online meeting of the 800 years celebration committee to discuss whether or not to cancel our mid September event. After much deliberation we have decided to proceed but as a smaller celebration. The event will take place on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September with a wedding taking place on the 12<sup>th</sup>. This is assuming that it is completely safe to do so. We will keep you posted to the details nearer the time. Like yourselves we have been enjoying meeting up via internet video conference calling and by voice. It is good to keep the business end of Church moving on even though we can't fully meet up. We haven't had our APCM which should have been held in April. We may have it after one of our open air services.

On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of September, all being well, we hope to have our first wedding of the year. A small social distancing aware service using You Tube to video the wedding to all who cant attend.

On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September we hope to in some small way celebrate the churches 800 year anniversary .

We are all thinking of you and praying we will all come through this and celebrate this wonderful life.

Finally... A Rabbit, a priest and a vicar walk into a bar The rabbit says to the barman "I think I'm a typo"

#### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

In this first Coronavirus Spring, the weather has been very kind to us gardeners. Despite the hail and some late frosts, the fine warm weather in April and May has brought plants along nicely and although this Summer has not been one for sun-worshipers, we've had enough rain and clement weather for the garden to really blossom.

Gardeners will be relieved that garden-centres are open again, but we should try and maintain some of the good habits that evolved during lockdown. Growing your own plants from seed, brewing your own fertiliser and making your own compost.

My own compost making has been very rewarding and the results can be seen in my Courgette and Butternut Squash plants.







This proves the old adage: Feed the soil, not the plant.

Now is a good time to sow Biennial plants. Biennials are plants that you sow one year to grow into small plants, that then flower the following year, and then die. They are however prolific self-seeders, and as long as you are careful when weeding, you should have plants in perpetuity. Good examples are: Foxgloves, Iceland Poppies, Honesty, Sweet William, Angelica, Wallflowers to name a few.

# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? continued





Foxgloves Iceland Poppies





Honesty Sweet William

These are still difficult times, we are not out of the woods yet, but many people have said that gardening has been their salvation.

Whatever is going on in the world, find your little bit of peace in the garden.





# Wild Chalgrave

If you have walked past the Great Pond in Tebworth recently you may have thought it looked a bit weedy and overgrown. The team of volunteers who help to maintain and tidy the pond and its surrounding area have been unable to meet, first because of the restrictions during the early part of lockdown and later because we didn't want to disturb the pair of moorhens who had taken up residence. The birds are now rearing their second brood and have six tiny fluffy black chicks. Moorhens usually lay 5-7 eggs and are one the few species that breed co-operatively with older birds helping their parents to raise later chicks. They have a wide ranging diet that includes water plants, seeds, fruit, insects, snails, worms and small fish. When disturbed they make alarm calls and turn their tails up displaying their white tail feathers.

If you're passing, stop and look out for this little family and also the dragonflies that are emerging and flying over the pond.



Unfortunately this picture isn't the Chalgrave moorhens as no-one has got close enough to take a picture without disturbing them.

When the moorhens have left we will start to clear excess pond weed, tidy the banks and introduce a wider range of native plants. If you would like to join in please contact anyone on the Parish Council. Special thanks to John Parker for his help coppicing a willow, and Lesley Smith and Barbara Jackson for giving the railings a new lick of paint.

# Wild Chalgrave

Ken Greens beautiful wildlife garden







**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

#### Robert Smith's Lockdown Diary

I don't know if Monday's blue. It could be Tuesday. Wednesday, too. Or Friday, I don't have a clue. But Thursday's when I clap.

Monday, I don't want to blame. Tuesday, Wednesday not defame. Nor Friday – every day's the same, But Thursday's when I clap.

The weekend's scrapped. No Saturday, Sunday. It's left a gap. Thursdays, I never cease to clap. I don't know if Monday's black. A weekly schedule's what I lack. My sense of time's not coming back, But Thursday's when I clap.

Chronologies I disavow. Tuesday's Wednesday, I don't know how. Friday's just like Monday now.

But Thursday's when I clap.

Brian Bilston



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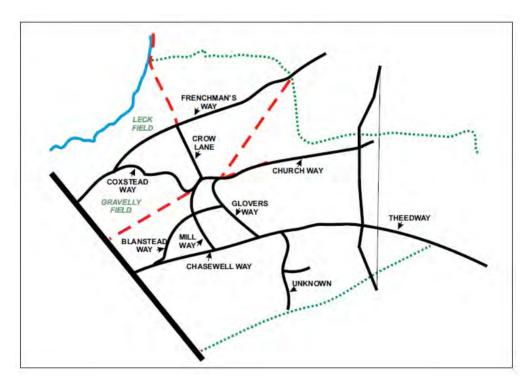




# History of Tebworth's Roads and paths

Daniel Osborn has exchanged a small amount of land to "bring together his land in Brook [Leck] Field and Gravelly Field, Tebworth"

This was in 1758! Was he related to Dan from Park Farm? Was he taking advantage of the Enclosures Acts which ended the communal system of farming and extinguished the common rights to roam?



Leck Field is off Leck [CLIPSTONE] brook and Gravelly Field is on the path down to Hockliffe.

Many hedges were planted to enclose the private land and "closes" [the origin of gardens]. Rights of way were allowed through the owned land. Many tracks used as roads were stopped up, some became footpaths and new roads were built.

• The road from Tebworth to Hockliffe was Coxstead way starting from beside "The Grange".

# History of Tebworth's Roads and paths

• The road from Toddington to Hockliffe was Frenchman's Way which crossed The Lane at the point where Chris and Dan Osborn's track is now and joined up with the Coxstead way into Hockliffe.

By 1800 these were stopped up and the HOCKLIFFE RD from Tebworth to Watling Street, and the TODDINGTON RD from Tebworth towards Toddington were built. The continuation of Crow Lane or Taterhill [THE LANE] from Tebworth towards Battlesden was built. Church Way [CHALGRAVE RD] was straightened, particularly at the end nearest Tebworth.

- The Theedway at that time extended up Featherbed Lane along the Tebworth Rd and down Chasewell Way, which is now a footpath, to Watling Street.
- The present Wingfield Rd was called Glovers Way. Blanstead Way, Mill Way and a road extending down Hill Close were blocked up.

In 1710 a tollgate was set up across Watling Street at its junction with the newly built HOCKLIFFE RD which, according to Daniel Defoe[ 1724], turned "Hockley in the Hole" from "The most dismal Piece of Ground for Travelling that ever was in England [now] handsomely repaired". [The east side of Watling Street was in Chalgrave until 1929]

Acknowledgements go to the Chalgrave Survey by Stephen Coleman which you can find on **www.chalgrave.org** 

For information and/or comment contact Ken Green on 874107 or **kentebworth@gmail.com** 

Oh, somebody make me a beautiful mask, Of shimmering silk, or brocade, or damask, Sequinned and spangled, my visage to cup, In fabric that won't make me glasses steam up.

Pam Ayres



**Celebrating Chalgrave** 

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

# Class photo 1958/1959

I have attached a photo of the pupils at Chalgrave Primary School taken in school year 1958/9 which you may like to publish if you think it's of interest.

The line-up is:

Front row, left to right

Victoria Harris, David Ludgate, Derek Brinklow, Nigel Inwards, Clifford Adams, Margaret Adams

Middle row, left to right

Sally Fenwick (Gutteridge), Diane Harris, Sandra Cooper, Caroline Powis, Christine Janes, Terry Stringer, Roger Fenwick

Back row, left to right

Shirley Ludgate, Keith Brinklow, Lesley Inwards (Hazzard), Brian Horne, Jacqueline Powis (Cherry), Keith Sharp, Julie Powis (Ambrey), Brian Day

The teachers are Pamela Fenwick and Nel Goodyear (Headmistress)

**Roger Fenwick** 

### www.nextdoor.co.uk

There's an online forum that's allowing neighbours to contact each other to hire, sell, inform and alert on all things local.

You might want to give it a try. Quite a few Chalgrave residents are using it already. Recently someone posted they had found a cat tracking device in The Lane.

• The message was spotted by a resident and the tracker returned to its owner.

I posted about my washing machine leaking and not wanting to pay a call out fee.

My neighbour, the inimitable Colin McCausland, popped up with a solution.

The result?

My old Bosch is now fixed and it only cost me a couple of cakes and a small schooner of sherry...chilled of course! Thanks Colin.

Take a look at the site and see what you think. It's completely free.

https://nextdoor.co.uk/news feed/

### **DON'T FALL FOR IT!**

And so it begins!.....

'Good afternoon I'm calling from the NHS track and trace service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a COVID-19 test.'

'OK. Can you tell me who that person was?'

'I'm not able to tell you that. That is confidential information.'

'Right. Um... so ....'

'But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?'

'OK (gives address)'

I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalize this and send the kit to you.'

'Sorry - a payment card? I thought this was all free?'

'No - I'm afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £50 for the kit and test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you're ready.'

'No - that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there's no charge.'

'I'm afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please - this is very important, and there are penalties for not complying.'

Puts the phone down.

This is how scammers work. And vulnerable people will fall for it.

Don't fall for it...!

### **Houghton Regis Library Update**



We are delighted to announce the start of our library Select and Collect service on Tuesday 11 August. Libraries are not open for browsing yet but <u>Select and Collect gives</u> you the chance to read library books again.

There are 2 ways you can choose your library books:

- Request a staff selected bundle of up to 10 fiction books of a genre you like, for example, crime or family saga. Children's and Teen book bundles can also be requested. (Large print books and spoken word CDs can be included in bundles but not DVDs or magazines.) Bundles can be requested using our <u>online form</u> or by phoning your local library.
- Reserve individual fiction or non-fiction titles for free using <u>Arena</u>, our online library catalogue.

To request your Select and Collect books online you will need your library card number and PIN. Don't know your PIN? Don't worry you can request one online. If you have registered for a library card number online then you will be able to select a maximum of 4 books

### **How will Select and Collect work?**

**Step 1**: Order your books online from home. (Or phone your local library if you cannot order online)

**Step 2**: Request a staff selected book bundle or reserve particular titles via our catalogue (There is no charge). **Step 3**: Wait while your local library gets your books ready.

**Step 4**: You will get an e-mail or letter when your books are ready to collect.

**Step 5:** Go to your local library. You won't be able to go in the library and may have to wait outside, so go prepared. Please do not visit if you feel unwell or are self-isolating.

**Step 6:** Collect your books from the library entrance. You will need to give staff your name and the last 4 digits of your library card number.

**Step 7**: Return any library books that you have been looking after whilst the library has been closed. Please be aware that all books will be quarantined for 72 hours after they have been returned and will remain on your card during this time.

Step 8: Go home and enjoy your books!!

Houghton Regis Library Select and Collect Opening Times. Telephone Number: 0300 300 8058

Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10am to 2pm Wednesday: 10am to 2pm Thursday: 10am to 2pm Friday: 10am to 2pm Saturday: 10am to 2pm

Please be aware that libraries may need to close at short notice due to staff shortages as staff will be working

in locality based work bubbles.

### RECIPE CORNER

Recipe from Cider Lil (AKA ex pat Christine McDonagh) Now living in glorious Devon.

A new revitalised image after coming out of lockdown.

### Devonshire Apple Tray bake

This cake is delicious served warm with cream or fromage frais. It's the latest addition in our pub post lockdown. Its yummy.



450g cooking apples

Juice of 1/2 lemon

350g self-raising flour

2tsp baking powder

350g caster sugar

4 eggs

1tsp almond essence

225g butter, melted

A generous scattering of shredded, flaked or chopped almonds

Caster sugar, to sprinkle



Pre-heat the oven to 180'C/Gas mark 4. Grease and base line a 12 x 9inch (30x23cm) roasting tin with greased greaseproof paper.

Peel, core and thinly slice the apples and squeeze the lemon juice over them. Measure the flour, baking powder and sugar into a large bowl. Beat the eggs together with the almond essence and stir into the flour with the melted butter. Mix well, then spread half this mixture into the tin. Arrange the apples over the top of the cake mixture. Carefully top with the rest of the mixture; don't worry if the apples show through a little. Sprinkle over the almonds.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 1 1/4 hours or until the cake is golden, firm to the touch and slightly shrunk away from the sides of the tin. Leave to cool for 15 minutes and then turn out and remove the paper. Sprinkle over the caster sugar and serve warm with cream or fromage frais.

### The History of The Old Queens Head

The first mention of the pub is in 1795 when it is referred to in passing in a legal document. In 1821 James Whinnett of Wingfield, yeoman, devised to his eldest son James a building previously called the Three Horse Shoes, then the Queen's Head in Tebworth. He died in 1824. His son James made



his will in 1837 leaving the pub to trustees until his "natural daughter" Flora was twenty one.

He died in 1838 and Flora married Alfred Hack, by whom she eventually had ten children. Hack mortgaged the pub in 1863 to Thomas Linnell and Woburn solicitor John Thomas Green and when he defaulted they were quick to sell the property in 1867 to William Maddocks but he was a speculator and sold it on, at £10 profit, to Leighton Buzzard shoemaker Joseph Reeve. He conveyed the pub to Newport Pagnell [Buckinghamshire] brewers Francis and William George Allfrey in 1890.

The countywide licensing register of 1903 reveals that the property was "clean and in good repair" and had one front door, one side door and one shop door. In 1905 the Bedford brewer Charles Wells took over ownership.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 legislated that every property and every piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. The valuer visiting the Queen's Head noted that the tenant paid £10 tied rent per quarter and that: "this house is under construction". It would contain a public bar, a private bar, a living room, a jug and bottle department, a scullery, a pantry and a cellar with four bedrooms on the first floor. Outside stood a weather-boarded and corrugated iron coal barn, a private earth closet and a public urinal and earth closet in yard. 1½ barrels of beer, three dozen mixed bottles of beer and a smiliar amount of minerals were sold each week and between half and one gallon of spirits per month. Gross takings were £30 per month. The valuer commented: "Very nice. Rebuilt 1926. In centre of village. Modern. Easily worked place". Today [2015] the Queen's Head is the last licensed premises in Tebworth.

## Aunt Agnes

Hello once again dear readers.

As always I am writing to you from my luxury beach front villa in the Caribbean where the sun is beating down and sky and sea are both a wonderful shimmering blue.

I have now had a rather rude reply to my letter to Boris Johnson protesting that the winter fuel allowance should be much more for those of us living abroad in hot countries to help us pay for our air conditioning, which we have to have going all year round. I did think I would get a more helpful and supportive reply than the brusque 'Get Stuffed' from number 10.



However you do not want to hear of my struggles so let me firstly apologise to, let's call them, Mr and Mrs X of Chalgrave Parish who you will remember last year had their letter published in the Chalgrave News asking me for advice, as they found themselves rowing on a daily basis and wanted this to stop so they could live a more happy life.

Now I cannot take any responsibility for the error in my subsequent reply. How was I to know that Mr and Mrs X meant that they were arguing on a daily basis rather than taking to the river rowing every day.

I assumed that they rowed daily as a way of getting fit and had become addicted to

this healthy exercise so much that they could not stop.

Also when I advised them to take a trip and cross the Atlantic I meant take a cruise liner and not attempt to row across the Atlantic.

I understand it is now many weeks since they were last seen rowing out of Poole harbour and there is some concern for their safety.

However on a positive note I have received letters from their neighbours congratulating me on getting rid of them as now everything has returned to peace and quiet since the shouting matches between these two have ceased.



**Aunt Agnes** 

# Parish Noticeboard



### Allotments

Many of us have discovered the joys of gardening during lockdown and a few residents have given thought to taking on an allotment or maybe a community garden.

A community garden behind the Queens head was a popular idea when we were trying to buy the pub as community.

Up until about 1980 we had some allotments down The lane, these are no longer there and sadly there is no Parish land available that can be used for allotments .

We can't apply in Toddington or most of the surrounding villages as they have waiting lists and understandably restrict them to village residents only

So what does anyone think about a community garden or allotments.....is there anyone with any land that could be used for this purpose. Is there any land that could be made available around the Church, Pubs, Memorial Hall or Sports club (someone did mention there is a really nice flat bit of green at the sports Club but I don't think it would be suitable). Has anyone purchased some land to protect it and doesn't really know what to do with it. Could a portion of it be made available as allotments or a community garden?

I think if we could get an area of accessible land that can be used for allotments it would be a great asset to the community ...maybe we could even get the kids/teenagers involved in growing their own.

Any comments or thoughts please email us at thechalgravenews@gmail.com

# Chalgrave Memorial Hall Fees and Charges effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Period	Parish Resident Individual and Par- ish Voluntary Community Groups	**Non-Parish Resident or Parish Commercial	**Non-Parish Organisation/ Commercial		
MONDAY TO FRIDAY					
9am – 6pm	£9.00 per hour	£18.00 per hour	£21.00 per hour		
6pm – 11pm*	£10.50 per hour	£21.00 per hour	£28.50 per hour		
FRIDAY					
6pm – 12 midnight*	£130	£260	£295		
SATURDAY					
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		
SUNDAY					
10am – 10pm*	£11.50 per hour	£23.00 per hour	£29.00 per hour		
'WEEKEND RATE'					
(Friday 6pm to Sunday 12 noon)  NB Hall must be vacated at 11pm  Friday and 12 midnight Saturday	£305	£610	£720		

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- £300 damage deposit required on all bookings refundable in full subject to no damage caused to
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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	
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MP	Andrew Selous	01582 662821	selousa@parliament.uk	
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Warden	S. Russell	07796 66174		
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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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- Mortgages for First Time Buyers, Homemovers and Remortgages
- · Life, Critical Illness & Income Protection cover
- Unemployment Insurance
- · Pension & Investment referrals
- Wills & Solicitor Recommendations
- · Commercial, Bridging and Development Finance



call Stuart for a no obligation chat

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