

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day/Date	Event	Location/Contact	Time
Third Tuesday of each month	Parish Council Meeting	Memorial Hall	7.30 pm

Thanks to Peter Warburton for the beautiful cover photo.

Thanks also to Su Parker, Hazel Zimmer, Sharon Brown and Phil Parry,
for the additional snowy pictures taken in the parish.



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

It is February all of a sudden! Where did Christmas go? All seems such a long time ago and some say we are blotting it from our memories. As usual there were lots of beautiful Christmas lights around the parish this year and by all accounts everyone is still eating the turkey and ham that we bought to share but sadly ended up in the freezer for another day.



A big thank you to all who sent us fabulous photos of snow scenes around the villages and we can see many of you had fun making handsome snowmen. We have dotted some of them about the magazine.

We were very sad to hear about the deaths of Malcolm Skevington who lived in Wingfield and Malcolm Baldwin from Tebworth. Both lived in the parish for many years.

We are lucky to have more news about Chops settling into his new home, Colin has kept us up to date about the next chapter of his cancer treatment and Su gives us an insight into life in our schools during this pandemic.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the News. Stay safe, get ready to sow seeds in the spring, for in the words of the lovely Captain Tom ...

"Tomorrow will be a good day"





View from The House

VACCINATION ROLL OUT IN SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE

Two vaccination hubs have been opened in South West Bedfordshire at Dunstable Priory Gardens and the Leighton Buzzard Rugby Ground, Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard. All patients of GP surgeries locally within the constituency will be notified in Tier order turn by their GP surgeries when they will be receiving appointments to visit the appropriate centre to receive their vaccines. Larger vaccine hubs have also been opened in Stevenage, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville and some patients are being sent offers of appointments to attend those centres but if there is a preference to wait for an



appointment at the two local centres then patients will need to notify their surgery. I am visiting the Leighton Buzzard vaccine centre on the 18 January [not to receive a vaccine as I am way down in priority] but to see for myself whether there are any problems the administrators of the centre are experiencing which I could take forward with Vaccines Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP.Other news locally is as follows.

Andrew Selous MP welcomes Government support to give every child in South West Bedfordshire access to a high-quality remote education

Andrew Selous MP, has welcomed the measures the Government has put in place to ensure every student across South West Bedfordshire receives a high-quality remoted education while schools are closed.

As part of the Government's commitment that no child is left behind, it is providing a million laptops and tablets for schools to allocate locally to students who need them most. To date, it has delivered over 560,000 devices to councils in England, with students in South West Bedfordshire benefitting from the 221 devices provided to schools and colleges across Central Bedfordshire, with a further 100,000 arriving this week nationally.

In tackling the barriers to remote learning for our most vulnerable students, over 54,000 4G routers to have been delivered to schools and colleges in England, ensuring every child has internet access. The Government is building on this work through its partnership with the UK's leading mobile phone providers, including EE, Three, O2 and Vodafone, to deliver free internet access for these students until July 2021.



View from The House

The Government has also strengthened remote education requirements for schools, which will be enforced by Ofsted, so parents can be reassured that their children will benefit from a set number of hours of high-quality remote learning a day.

Commenting, Andrew Selous MP said:

"The difficult decision to close schools and colleges was not taken lightly but is necessary if we are to keep the new variant of the virus at bay in South West Bedfordshire and across the country.

Andrew Selous MP welcomes £10.74 million boost to Central Bedfordshire Council budget next year

South West Bedfordshire MP, Andrew Selous has welcomed the Government's announcement that Central Bedfordshire Council will see its budget boosted by 5% per cent next year, as part of the Government's commitment to level up local services across the country and give them the resources they need to support their communities as we recover from the pandemic.

Local authorities in England, including Central Bedfordshire Council, will receive a share of £51.2 billion local government funding next year — up £2.2 billion on this year. Funding for key public services will again be protected, with significant extra resources dedicated to areas where they are needed most. Central Bedfordshire Council will have an extra £10.74 million to spend next year.

Commenting, Andrew Selous MP said:

"Local authorities play a vital role in our communities, providing the crucial local services that people rely on every day.

I am delighted that Central Bedfordshire Council will have additional £10.74 million funding this year. These funds will help our local leaders make positive change in the area.

This builds on the significant funding boost the council received at the beginning of the year, underlying our determination to ensure all local authorities have the resources they need to drive forward our recovery in a way that works for our community as we build back better after the pandemic."

Andrew Selous

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

Chairman of the Parish Council

From the Parish Council....

Chalgrave Emergency Response Team. The team is still active – we can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or just be a friendly voice if you need a chat. Please don't hesitate to call if you think we may be able to help.

Barbara Jackson 07960 445492 Debbie Levy 07931 408697 Roger Fenwick 01525 873768 Phil Parry 07831 605600



Flooding. The amount of rain in recent weeks has caused flooding on our roads and pathways. Our drainage system cannot cope easily or quickly with such a large volume of rainwater. Additionally, the soil in our area is largely clay so it takes a long time to drain. We are, however, concerned about the flooding on the Toddington/Hockliffe Road and Parkview Lane. We are working to solve the issues.

Parking. Please don't park on or across pavements causing pedestrians to walk on the road. Also, again, do not park on the corner of Wingfield Road and St Marys Close. A car parked on that corner last November obstructed a school bus which then had to reverse back onto Toddington Road and go a different route.

Electricity supply for Leighton Buzzard. New cabling is being laid from the new housing in Leighton Buzzard to the Sundon main substation. We understand that the cabling will be coming up Hockliffe Road then along Wingfield and Tebworth Roads. This will cause some disruption.

Our meetings are still virtual. If you want to attend please contact the Clerk for the Zoom ID and Passcode.

Phil Parry Chair

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.

Councillor Mark Versallion

As promised, a few words for the Chalgrave News:

I am sent to Central Bedfordshire Council to represent our rural communities' concerns and hold CBC to account. To say well done when they get it right and to challenge and support them when things need improving. Most importantly I endeavour to ensure that the Council is reflecting and implementing the views and preferences of us the residents.



It has been a busy and unusual time for CBC with many staff redeployed to deal with Covid, last year in social care and community support and recently with the vaccine rollout. There have been significant financial pressures as a consequence of the pandemic and although central government has given grants to CBC it has not covered all of the expense. Currently the Council is consulting on a 5% rise in our Council Tax, 3% of which would be ring-fenced for adult social care.

Due to Luton Airport's desire to expand, they have been consulting on flight paths. There appears to be no discernible impact on the our part of southern Central Bedfordshire and very minimal if anything in the northern half due to the high altitudes.

There is currently no update on the proposed 110 acres of solar panels at Chalgrave Manor Farm but once they progress their application I will represent the community's views. There is an imminent application of 65 acres of solar panels north of Tilsworth and I believe there may be another in Hockliffe of a similar size sometime this year. Combined with the Eggington solar farm and last year's seven acres in Heath and Reach, we are clearly a favourite among renewable energy firms. This is partly due to the availability of network capacity at the Sundon sub-station.

I continue to lobby Highways England on the confusing roundabout junctions at the bottom of Lord's Hill on the M1-A5 link road. I met with them last year on site and expect detailed designs this month and work to be implemented during 2021.

Best regards,

Mark Versallion

mark.versallion@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update

WI BOOK CLUB Sue Watling

We have continued to hold our monthly meetings online with Zoom, not ideal, but the best we can do at the moment, let's hope things change later in the year.

We always have a good chat about the current book and then end up talking about all sorts of stuff, what's going in people's lives, what's going on in the world and random topics that crop up along the way.

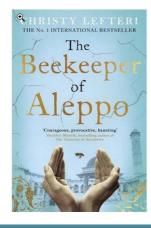
Books we have read recently are;

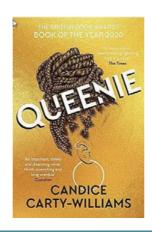
The Bee Keeper of Alepo by Christie Lefteri - Nuri is a beekeeper; his wife, Afra, an artist. They live a simple life, rich in family and friends, in the beautiful Syrian city of Aleppo - until the unthinkable happens. When all they care for is destroyed by war, they are forced to escape

Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams - Queenie is a twenty-five-year-old Black woman living in south London, straddling Jamaican and British culture whilst slotting neatly into neither. She works at a national newspaper where she's constantly forced to compare herself to her white, middle-class peers, and beg to write about Black Lives Matter. After a messy break up from her long-term white boyfriend, Queenie finds herself seeking comfort in all the wrong places.

More Than A Woman by Caitlin Moran- - Now with ageing parents, teenage daughters, a bigger bum and a To-Do list without end, Caitlin Moran is back with *More Than A Woman:* a guide to growing older, a manifesto for change, and a celebration of all those middle-aged women who keep the world turning.

We discuss the books on the fourth Thursday of the month and take it in turns to choose the book. For more information contact Sue sue.watling@hotmail.com







LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update

CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB Golf day Saturday 2nd January. 2021



It is not the Masters or the Open and frankly to some it is more important. In a year when so many sporting events have not taken place, we were fortunate to find a venue that could accommodate us. The tournament took place at Stockwood Park. It has long been the case that the golf society play within an hour's drive of the club, so this met the criteria. Players were all advised of COVID rules.

Keeping distance, no touching, flags, each other's balls or anything that was

So with the year end fast approaching the shout had gone out for attendees at what has now become the traditional Christmas holiday golf event.

Regretfully the only refreshments would be bottled drinks and confectionery, no Bacon Rolls, sit down lunch etc. This was after all the week that we were in tier, who can remember.

Weather conditions were not ideal in the build up to the day with much rain.

In fact, I was surprised that trollies were permitted. Half the players used a trolley the others choosing to carry, as they call it.

Players assembled for booked tees and went off in pairs.

not your own.

Some good golf shots and poor, in the conditions scores were probably as good as they would be But winter rules (obviously) applied and if you could find your ball, you could "unplug, clean and place".

This is a woodland course. So, players defied the odds, a tree is 90% air. So you have to be pretty accurate to hit the wood and so observing on another fairway one of our players hitting a tree and seeing his ball end up 30 yards behind him was quite something. More so as at this point my ball lay in a temporary lake at the bottom of a deep bunker (yes, I know, you can place at a dry spot no nearer the pin) Two shots later I was out the bunker. My playing partner and I picked up on this hole having failed to score. The problem with playing a tournament at 1pm in the winter with Sunset at 16.09 is that you run the risk of not finishing, so without hurrying shots all were urged to get around quickly. If you can't score pick up and move on, we all agreed.

This worked well to the 16th by which time there some bunching and delays at tees.

But long story told short all who played finished though the last pair were in the last light on the 18th. A review of the cards showed that it was awfully close and might have been different. The winner by a point, on 25, not too bad in the conditions.

So, despite the cold and the mud the two of us really enjoyed being out and playing a round of golf. The annual dinner in the Plough did not take place, there were no prizes. There was a benefit that there was no Chairman's speech. Hopefully, with vaccines administered and tiers gone we will be able to play again this year and have more turn out.

Phil Parry & Mike Wells

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update



Last night 17 of us attended the spa evening organised by Sue Watling.

Temple Spa was set up by the husband-and-wife team behind Virgin Vie. They do not have any standalone spas but have been in Harrods for 15 years and are on the Orient Express as well as in a number of hotels and boutiques.

Our host, Hannah Mahon, talked about the products (which were tailored to each person's skin type) and guided us through a lovely relaxing facial.

It was a really enjoyable evening and received great feedback from the attendees. You can host a class yourself and receive a free gift. Hannah recommends following her Facebook page where she posts details of the latest offers. https://www.facebook.com/Hannah-Mahon-at-Temple-Spa-108758407635129.

Please contact her directly should you wish to buy any products – she may be able to do a deal for you! I also attach the mini brochure that came with our samples so you can see some of the range and prices

Bev and Frances M did not receive their packs in time – Hannah has offered to have one to one session with each of you so they can still benefit from the products and a pamper. Please contact Hannah directly to arrange this.

Hannah Mahon Temple Spa Lifestyle Consultant / Telephone: 07979 988433 / email: han_lou87@hotmail.co.uk



LOCAL ORGANISATIONS - Update continued

WI Wanderers - https://www.facebook.com/groups/wiwanderers

The main purpose of this group is to ensure that members feel connected. This group is open to any WI member who would like to get to know ladies outside their area or are just looking for something different to do during lockdown.

They have list of WI events which have been opened up to other WI members – I have attended a session on garden design and am due to join a talk from a Drag Queen next week. Marie Smith recommended the group to me and I have benefitted from it.

They have list of speakers who will do talks/demonstrations via Zoom. This opens up a broader range of speakers since we won't be restricted to local ones.

We agreed that Amanda, Bern and I would attend the upcoming **Meet the Speakers** event so we can select some Zoom speakers for the coming year. If any once else fancies joining us let us know so we can arrange to listen to different speakers.

Unofficial Women's Institute

I would also recommend joining this group. You do not have to be a WI member for this one. https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnofficialWomensInstitute

This group is for WI members, women looking to join WI and open to anyone living as a woman along with women further afield who have an affinity with all that WI in England, Wales and the Islands stands for.

Debbie Parry



Reunion with Chops

Having maintained a low profile for some considerable time I am delighted to update readers with news of our erstwhile chaotic Wingfield resident. Lockdown restrictions having been relaxed a little, at the end of August we made a long overdue trip up to Raunds to visit him, laden down with a large bag of apples from the orchard he used to guard so possessively and a big bag of pig nuts. We found him residing in his own pen, next to several pigs in the neighbouring pen for company. He seemed pleased to see us, and luckily a strategically placed broom enabled me to give him a nice back scratch from a safe distance, which he enjoyed. On feeding him the treats which we had brought with us we noticed that his tusks were bigger than we had ever seen them; it transpired that the vet had been reluctant to go through the mud to access the purpose built enclosure we had provided, and so operation tusk trimming had been postponed - we were very happy to make a fuss of him from the other side of the fence!

A week after our visit we received the news that he had finally been permitted to join the other pigs in the neighbouring pen. It was felt that he had become much calmer, and although he is apparently still at the bottom of the piggy order he has been allowed to snuggle up next to the others as can be seen from the photo (he is the headless one on the left, not the fat one on the right!) It is heartening to see him enjoying a proper social relationship with other pigs, and I only hope that he is able to maintain this calmer and more sociable persona and refrain from any more aggressive outbursts - he can wreak a significant amount of damage with those tusks, as he has done in the past both here and at the Sanctuary!

Trotters crossed and watch this space.... Julia Marsh



Celebrating Chalgrave

thechalgravenews@gmail.com

Aerial photos of Chalgrave





These amazing pictures were taken by John Parker on the day of the car show in Wingfield.

The photo on the right is taken over Tebworth.





Celebrating Chalgrave

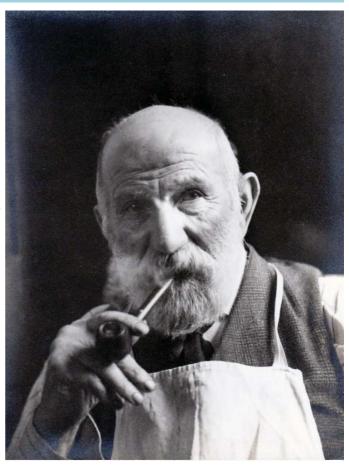
thechalgravenews@gmail.com

Celebrating Chalgrave's Heritage

Richard Tomkins has kindly been in touch to share some old photos from his family album, reaching back to the late nineteenth century.

He writes: "From Chalgrave, the Tomkins family mostly went to live in Luton and Dunstable, although I still had Tom(p)kins cousins in Tebworth until the 1980s, and of course, through marriage, we were related to Dolemore's, Birds, Ludgates and Whinetts to name but a few local families. My branch went from Wingfield to Luton, to Leagrave, back to Toddington in the 1950s then settled in Stanbridge.

The old chap with the pipe is Joseph Tomkins, born in Chalgrave in 1850 to James Tomkins (Blacksmith of Tebworth and Wingfield along with his brother Wil-



liam). His sister Ann was the schoolmistress in Tebworth in the late 1800s. Joseph died, aged 87, and here are some extracts from his obituary:

"A native of Chalgrave, Mr Tomkins was engaged in the building trade for some time before he settled in Luton. He founded the firm of J Tomkins & Sons and undertook many important contracts. He was one of the founders of the Luton and Dunstable Master Builders' Association."

He outlived his wife, Charlotte, by three years and they were married just five weeks short of their diamond wedding anniversary. They had four sons and four married daughters."

At his funeral service, Reverend A Loydall-Bee, then vicar of All Saints, Chalgrave, said that each time Mr. Tomkins came over to the village he loved so well, he would go around and wander among the old villagers. "He would call on them, always a kind and cheery word, always with some message of the Lord."

Celebrating Chalgrave's Heritage

One of Joseph and Charlotte's daughters, May Tomkins, is pictured below.



Richard asks: "Does anyone know on which farm this photo was taken?

James (the blacksmith) had married Ann
Whinnett, so it is possibly at the Whinnett's farm.

The fourth photograph on Page 16 is of Phyllis & Walter Ludgate, with Harold, Ada, and Sid Emerton. This was probably taken in the 1930s or early 40's. Harold was born in 1921 and looks like he's post-teenage years in the photo.

We are grateful to Richard for sending the photos and allowing us to publish them here and on the website.

We are always looking for old photos of people or places relating to the parish, so if you do have any that you would be willing to share, please do get in touch with the Website or Chalgrave News teams.

Peter Warburton





Any Ideas on dates and location? Phyllis & Walter Ludgate and Aida & Sid Emmerton



WILD CHALGRAVE

Unkindness or Conspiracy

A reliable friend told me recently that he'd seen ravens in the fields between the end of The Lane and Hockliffe. Ravens are the largest of Britain's crow family (corvids) with a large beak and bluish-black feathers that are ruffled around their necks. Although they are quite widespread they tend to prefer the more rugged terrain of the north and west such as mountains, moors, coasts and cliffs, not the lowlands of Chalgrave. In recent years their numbers have increased and their range expanded with more birds being found further south and east. They are opportunistic birds with a wide ranging diet that includes seeds, insects, small mammals and carrion. Adult birds can weigh up to 1.3kg with wingspans of 135cm. Young birds congregate in flocks but adults pair up and mate for life. The crow family is one of the most intelligent and birds have been known to adapt objects as tools such as using twigs to prize insects out of crevices.

WILD CHALGRAVE continued

The collective noun for a group of ravens is an 'unkindness of ravens' or sometimes a 'conspiracy of ravens'. These collective nouns for birds and animals are thought to have originated in the middle ages but why ravens should have been thought of as unkind is



now a mystery. Ravens appear frequently in the myths and legends of many countries and cultures. In Sweden ravens were thought to be the ghosts of people murdered while in Germany they were the souls of the damned. Ravens often appear in literature with a supernatural context one of the most famous examples being Edgar Allan Poe's poem 'The Raven'.

One of the best known raven myths is that of the Tower of London ravens. According to legend if the Tower ravens are lost or fly away then Britain and the Crown will fall. An early version of this tale lies in Celtic myth when Bran the Blessed, king of the Britons was said to have had his head buried beneath the White Hill where the Tower of London now stands. (Bran is the Welsh word for raven). More recently it's thought to be a Victorian invention to increase tourism. The Tower ravens are cared for by Ravenmaster of the Yeoman Warders and are enlisted as soldiers. They can be dismissed for unsatisfactory conduct as happened to raven George in 1986 who was posted to the Welsh Mountain Zoo for attacking and destroying TV aerials. The Tower ravens are treated like royalty. They are kept at public expense and are fed choice meat from Smithfield market and biscuits soaked in blood amongst other delicacies. On 13th January this year it was announced that one of the ravens, Merlina had gone missing, presumed dead. There are still 7 ravens at the Tower – the legend requires a minimum of 6 – so maybe the country won't fall just yet. Or maybe she's just visiting Chalgrave.

If anyone has spotted the Chalgrave ravens please tell the Chalgrave News – we'd love to hear from you.

Janet Day

Here we go again ... SCHOOLS BACK IN LOCKDOWN

Where do I start???

There was never any doubt in Boris's mind that schools would stay open regardless, & yet the signs were there for all to see before the October ½ term break that infection rates in schools, particularly in the secondary sector, were rising. So we find ourselves in another Lockdown, which for schools & their pupils is fairly catastrophic not to mention how hard it is for parents & home schooling.

But surprisingly there have been advantages to this new Lockdown:

- ♦ We don't have to freeze to death lining up 5 times a day outside until we can dismiss the Year group bubbles to each lesson without them colliding into each other
- * We don't get wet in the rain lining up outside
- * We don't get muddy trudging across playing fields to the line up zones
- * We don't have to freeze in our classrooms because of having the windows & doors open constantly
- * We don't have to wear coats & scarves in class whilst we are teaching
- * The Yr 11 & 13 aren't taking their Mocks sitting in coats & scarves in a freezing cold hall ...unless of course they took them before Xmas & in which case they were freezing, which doesn't make writing very easy!

This may all sound crazy & unreal, but that was the reality of teaching that many of us faced last term. We also had the constant uncertainty of whether we would have a 2 week half term break, that came & went & then the dilemma of whether Christmas would be cancelled was upon us & whether schools would finish early. Nope, that didn't happen either. But 1 day before the end of term came the announcement that the return in January would be staggered & in school COVID testing would begin..... ONE day's notice to organize & plan, send out emails etc to parents!! However the delay in not finishing a week earlier than usual meant SLT members were 'on duty' constantly through until Xmas Eve, initially in order to monitor emails & calls coming in from new positive cases within the school community, & identifying those who were in close contact in the last few days of term in order to self isolate. But also to deal with the ramifications of the changes to the start of the new term in January.

Having organized the logistics of the staggered return & also set up testing systems in time, schools were then ordered to close with no return date in sight, too late to get set text books to students to help with work to be set during this term. I know they can Google for information but the reality is that many students just pick the first website that pops up & then....press 'copy & paste', at least with a book they have the correct & relevant information to use.

Here we go again ... SCHOOLS BACK IN LOCKDOWN

Yet again A-level & GCSE summer exams are cancelled, apart from some BTEC & all IGCSE exams which will continue despite the rest of the country doing no formal exams. Many students were, in October, already anticipating that exams would be cancelled but at least there has been time to decide how final grades will be awarded this time.

But sadly many students are still struggling with the same issues encountered in the first Lockdown...

- * Lack of computer devices in the family home for all to work independently
- * Feeling over-whelmed with workload
- * Too much screen time (for school work not games!!)
- * Not engaging with the work set
- * Lack of physical contact with their friends
- * Lack of exercise
- * Parents thrown back into the role of being teachers whilst continuing to work from home

The constant uncertainty of the situation & when we will return is hard enough for us to organize & plan for, but the effect it is having on many of the students is immeasurable.

However on a positive note...I am now a whizz at Google Meets with the students & talking to icons instead of faces on these Meets & navigating different methods of delivering work online.

I think, at least for many schools, the students' experience of online & remote learning is significantly better this Lockdown than previously, it should be....we've had plenty of time to learn from last time.

But the bottom line is that remote learning is not for everyone... teachers included, & although I can speak to my students & sometimes they will appear in person on a Meet, I miss their chatter, the face to face contact & just being themselves having fun & being in school. I for one, can't wait until we are back in school again...whenever that may be? Su Parker



A Tribute to Malcolm Skevington

It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of Malcolm in the Luton and Dunstable hospital on 17th December 2020.

Malcolm was born and brought up in Newport Pagnell moving to Wingfield following his marriage to Vicky in 1967.

Malcolm had a strong family connection with both Wingfield and Tebworth as his Grandparents lived in his Wingfield house and were the Wingfield butchers, while his Uncle lived in the Old Blacksmiths (opposite the Queens Head).



10th March 1944 – 17th December 2020

On the death of Malcolm's Grandparents his mother inherited the Wingfield house and it laid empty for a while before Malcolm and Vicky took possession.

Malcolm and Vicky's daughter was born and brought up in their Wingfield home.

Tragically Vicky succumbed to cancer and died in 2005.

Malcolm and Vicky worked for Chassis Developments based in Leighton Buzzard for many years until they both retired around 2004.

Malcolm served as a Parish Councilor on Chalgrave Parish Council for over 25 years and was a founding member of the Parish Councils footpath committee, formed at a time when all the parish footpaths were in a terrible state and mostly unwalkable. His and the rest of the committee's success can be seen by everyone who walks our footpaths now.

Malcolm also took part in many of the Village Concerts held in the old village hall, most memorably in the sketch The Lion and Albert.

One of his early interests was sailing, and together with his brother-in-law, built several different sailing yachts. Malcolm enjoyed his regular sailing weekend trips to Wareham in Dorset where the current yacht was moored.

Malcolm was also a keen dancer and met Celia in 2007 at a jive class and they went to many ballroom dances together and became not only dance partners but also partners for the rest of his life.

A Tribute to Malcolm Skevington continued



Most people will no doubt remember Malcolm for his love of vehicle restoration, in particular buses. You only had to drive past his house to see the differing types of vehicles he and friends would be working on or see one of his buses driving through the parish often taking friends on trips. Such was Malcolm's engineering skill that his two single decker buses are now in museums. One at Brooklands in Surrey and the other at the Bressingham Steam Museum in Norfolk as part of the museum's Dads Army display, as it had appeared in that TV series. He still retained his love of boats and acquired a steam driven river boat which it is said he launched on the Grand Union canal, which must have been a sight to see!

He also more recently rebuilt a motorboat which can be seen standing in his orchard.

Malcolm also at one time owned an old steam roller which he used to roll the Cricket Club's square when asked.

It was not only vehicles he loved but also turned his hand to renovating an old juke box, piano forte and much more. He was also a beekeeper.

He leaves behind his dearly loved family - his partner Celia and daughter Becky with husband Steven and grandchildren Kezia, Megan and Molly.

Malcolm was a very talented man much loved and missed by all who knew him. **Tony Cornes**

Serious Lockdown advice!

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home! I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my Pepsi and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge cause he's been acting cold and distant! In the end the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out! The vacuum however was very unsympathetic .. Told me to just suck up! But the fan was very optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon! The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked it's opinion but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the door knob told me to get e grip! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to pull myself together! We will survive!

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PUNCH

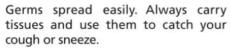
Eyecare and eyewear for all the family

- Professional friendly qualified Opticians and Contact Lens Practitioners
- Private, NHS and Corporate eye examinations (Eyecare vouchers accepted)
 - All contact lenses supplied and fitted
 - Range of children's spectacles
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Pop in anytime, a warm welcome awaits.

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CHALGRAVE NEWS FACEBOOK PAGE ..continued



Did you know there's another way you can keep up to date and stay in touch? The Chalgrave News has its very own Face book page at https://www.facebook.com/ChalgraveNews

We try and post regularly with items to keep residents informed about what's happening locally with Corona and lots of other issues. I had a look at what we've posted since the last publication went to print. Let's just say a lot has happened! Early in September, everyone was talking about the earthquake centred on Leighton Buzzard. There were also a couple of aftershocks and houses shook. We certainly felt it in Chalgrave. Who knew Central Beds was an earthquake zone? The good thing about Face Book is how local people can chat to each other in real time:

THE EARTHQUAKE?

Noeleen Pottage

Yes. I was at work in Wing and we thought a truck had hit the building. We all ran out of the office at the same time. It confused us until we found out it was an earthquake.

Tracy Malster

Paul was at home and definitely felt it!

Yvonne Catling

Yes, felt it in Wingfield

Bernadette Inzani

Yes, my whole house shook!

Amongst all the information about social distancing and Lockdown, there were plenty of other items, such as a warning about not leaving dogs unattended in front gardens after 8 dogs were stolen from a kennels in north Beds.

There was a reminder to local parents to stay vigilant after worrying reports of attempted child abductions in the Leighton Buzzard area and a notice to car owners to check CCTV and be alert after a car theft from near Signs of the Times.

In October we were shocked to hear that a Toddington resident had been arrested and charged in connection with a murder in Kensworth. There was a lot of police activity in Toddington and police were checking residents CCTVs for evidence. In November two whippets were spotted in the village heading down towards the

A5!
As Corona figures started to rise, we posted advice about restrictions in Tier 2, then

CHALGRAVE NEWS FACEBOOK PAGE ..continued

On a positive note, we posted about items being given away, an offer of dinner for anyone finding themselves alone on Xmas Day, links to free online stage shows and local music events like Tom Dibb Live from the Grand Chapel

which goes out every Thursday evening at 8pm.

Tier 3 and then Tier 4

There were cartoons and videos to cheer people up and some helpful advice from St Georges School for parents with children about to start there.

Flitwick Vale Rotary Club sent us a link to their Just Giving page after the Santa Run had to be cancelled. Santa's float is a major fund raiser for them that pays for the annual Xmas dinner for senior citizens. We're pleased to say they met their target and raised a wonderful £2110 which will go towards Xmas 2021 all being well. Most recently, there was a warning from Gov.uk about a vaccine hoax that's doing the rounds. If you get a text offering to sell you a Covid vaccine, do not click the link. It is fake.

More positively, we were happy to let people know that Toddington Medical Centre will be offering the genuine vaccine for free.

In a statement, they said 'We ask patients not to contact their practice regarding the vaccination, the practice will contact those eligible patients to book them in as soon as we know when the vaccine will be delivered.'

Finally, if you're looking for a way to help out during these testing times, why not volunteer to be a telephone befriender for Age concern. Bedfordshire co ordinator, Bev Creagh, told us:

It's incredibly worthwhile providing that heart warming link, so if you're at a loose end during Lockdown, maybe this is something that would make you feel better too. Give us a call on 01582 456812 or email gettingon@ageconcernluton.org.uk

So, if you want to stay in touch between issues of the Chalgrave News, search for the Chalgrave News face Book page and press the 'Like' button, then you'll get all our updates and we'll all be able to stay in touch which, let's face it, these days is more important than ever.



A year of COVID-19

A personal reflection on the past 12 months

I head up Quality for part of the NHS – ensuring that healthcare services in North West London are delivered to the right standard. I originally trained as a nurse in the 1980s. In January 2020 we first heard of a new illness in China. How little we knew then of what lay ahead of us.

By March COVID-19 infections were escalating and the hospitals I worked with were facing a tidal wave of admissions. Nightingale Hospitals were being built and the Government was issuing more and more guidance as new scientific data became available.

The government identified the need to isolate and quarantine individuals flying into and out of Heathrow. Hotels were requisitioned to provide this service and myself and many of my colleagues were required to support and care for the guests. Suddenly I was back working night shifts for the first time in 25 years.

The hotel also started accepting NHS staff; these were staff who were working in local hospitals but who didn't want to go home since they lived with vulnerable relatives or those who had tested positive for COVID and needed to isolate away from their households. These NHS guests shared the stresses and strains that they were under and we provided a listening ear to support them. Generally, those who had tested positive had a period of being unwell and then they either turned the corner or became very unwell. I made numerous 999 calls to the London Ambulance Service who then assessed the staff and, in many cases, took them to A&E.

The understanding of what we were facing, the randomness of COVID and clinically how this new disease affected people was becoming all too evident to us.

Given what we were seeing in our hospitals, care homes and in the hotels, my colleagues and I shared a frustration around the section of the public that was not following the guidelines of staying-at-home and social distancing. The behaviours of a minority were putting the population at risk including our already overstretched NHS staff.

After 3 months the need for the hotel diminished and my role moved to providing Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) support to Nursing and Care homes. Care homes had seen a heavy death toll in the first few months of the crisis. If you add up the number of residents in these homes across North West London it roughly equates to 5 hospitals the size of the L&D who require nursing care.

It has been a privilege to support homes, providing practical advice how to minimise the risk of infection and improve practices so that residents and staff are kept safe.

During this time across the NHS and social care there was relief that the numbers were going down but there was an expectation that in a pandemic there would be a second and third wave, with a lot hinging on the behaviours of our politicians and the public.

Like many of us, I enjoyed "eat out to help out", the good weather and the opportunity to get away in the UK. There was also disappointment around events which had to be cancelled, including my wedding to Debbie.

A year of COVID-19 continued

I felt lucky to be living in Chalgrave with easy access to the countryside and many local friends. We had a number of socially distanced small get-togethers outside which helped to give some kind of sense of normality.

With the numbers settling, work also started to return to a new normal - working from home, spending lots of time in Zoom meetings and finding new ways of working. Christmas was vastly different this year for us all. My colleagues and I worried about the impact of the proposed slightly relaxed measures on Christmas day. Sadly, in January we are seeing rising hospital admissions and deaths. I hope that by the time of publication these numbers will be falling once more.

The one positive that emerged towards the end of 2020 was a vaccine against COVID-19. So in early 2021 my role has changed again and I have become a vaccinator. First, I had to have a Pfizer vaccination myself, I can report the only minor side effect was a sore arm for 48 hours!

I have been to Nursing and Care homes to vaccinate residents and staff. I have also been to Wormwood Scrubs and Feltham Young Offenders to vaccinate



healthcare staff. Both of these visits provided a brief insight to different organisation. Every home and institution I have been to have welcomed us with open arms, the keenness to be vaccinated by the vast majority of people has been very refreshing.

I have been requested to vaccinate (as apparently, I am very gentle) specifically by some people, the most common reaction has been "Is that it?" as people seem to be disappointed that the actual vaccination has been an anti-climax. My photo has been taken numerous times and I have also been live streamed to families vaccinating a relative.

Looking forward into 2021 I expect to be vaccinating for a few more months as we will have to vaccinate those who are vulnerable and housebound and repeat second doses for all. The NHS family has risen to an unprecedented challenge and I am proud to have played a very small part in all of this.

Will Randell

Tribute to Malcolm Baldwin

It is with regret we have heard of the death of Malcolm Baldwin in November last year.

Malcolm and his wife Jo lived at Wings Cottage in The Lane, Tebworth, moving there about 1985/1986 when the cottages were extensively renovated.

Malcolm had a car repair business in Aylesbury but his real love was for the outdoors and he spent a lot of his free time at his house in Dumfries and Galloway fishing and shooting. At this time he qualified as a gamekeeper.

For a number of years Malcolm wrote the wildlife page for the Chalgrave News under the pseudonym of The Chalgrave Mole. You may also remember him as compere for Race Nights.

After retiring from his car repair business in 2011, Malcolm and his wife Jo, sold Wings Cottage and moved to Scotland permanently to follow his love of golf, wildfowling, deer stalking and fishing.

Our thoughts are with his wife Jo and the rest of his family. **Ian Lothian**



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CALLING ALL NEWT LOVERS

Early last year the Parish Council contacted the Newt Partnership to see if it could help us with the Great Pond in Tebworth. The Newt Partnership is a government approved scheme which was set up to mitigate the effects of development on Great Crested Newt Populations. Developers pay into a fund which is used to create new habitats for Great Crested Newts or to improve and manage existing habitats – a kind of 'newt offsetting'.

Great Crested Newts have been sighted in Chalgrave and are much bigger than the smooth newts we're all familiar with, up to 14cm long. They need ponds to breed in but many spend most of their lives on dry ground, although preferably in damp places.

After a site visit the Great Pond wasn't thought suitable as unfortunately it takes water run-off from the road, but it was still considered a good wildlife habitat and may already have great crested newts.



However, the Newt Partnership are still interested in habitat creation in this area so if there's anyone out there who has a large pond or a lot of land and they would like a great crested newt habitat created, please contact the Parish Council or www.newtpartnership.org.uk for more information. Landowners would receive an annual payment to maintain the pond and habitat but be warned – they are talking about LARGE ponds. See their website for details.

In the meantime we are planning to improve the Great Pond by planting some native hedging along the boundary and a wider range of native plants and flowers around the pond (covid restrictions permitting).

Recipe Corner



A Devon recipe from Cider Lil (AKA Chris McDonagh) an old Tebworthian, now living in Lockdown in Glorious Devon.

Devonshire Squab pie

I saw this dish on the menu of my local pub in Devon and the name intrigued me so much I did a bit of research. It is not made of squab (pigeon) at all but lamb, and is a very old-fashioned English pie as it mixes fruit with meat and spices. **This Devonshire pie is unusual in that it is served with clotted cream on the side.** As nod to authenticity, I was encouraged by our landlady to try it, well it was different I must say.

Ingredients:

450g cubed lamb

1 onion, sliced

1 red apple, thinly sliced

8 ready-to-eat prunes

350g ready-to-roll shortcrust pastry

1 egg, beaten

½ tsp ground cinnamon

½ tsp ground mace

Pinch of ground nutmeg

2 tsp cornflour

2 tsp light brown sugar

150ml good lamb stock

Salt and pepper



Method

Mix the lamb with the spices, salt and pepper and cornflour.

In an ovenproof pie dish, layer the lamb with the apple and onions, pop in the prunes and add the sugar and stock.

Roll out the pastry and use to top the pie, crimping the edges.

Brush with the beaten egg and bake for an hour at 170°C until golden brown.

The French Horn Restaurant





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I had fancied trying out this place for some time. I last went over 20 years ago and I know it has changed hands a few times since. So, when we learned in late November that the current lockdown would end, I was straight on the phone to book a table for dinner.

The pub is very characterful with lots of old paintings and antique furniture. The French owner/manager was particularly friendly and attentive. There were good social distancing and hygiene measures in place

The food was delicious – Will had fish soup with croutons and aioli to start, followed by roasted aubergine "Imam Bayaldi" - filled with tomato, onion, garlic, currants and light spices. I had boeuf bourguignon with dauphinoise potatoes. Too full for a pud! Portions were massive and our three dogs benefitted from the leftover beef. We enjoyed a bottle of Sancerre from the extensive wine list. We felt the prices were good for the quality of the food.

The two of us were seated in a booth which felt very cosy. There was a roaring fire in the log burner in the bar.

Overall a great evening I just hope the business can survive during these strange times.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

This Winter seems longer than most. The endless grey days, fog and above average rainfall, in conjunction with the lockdown, have contributed to the sense of gloom.



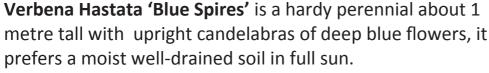
But gardeners are an optimistic bunch, we find solace in the first snowdrops, the fresh green shoots of daffodils and crocuses, the promise of things to come.

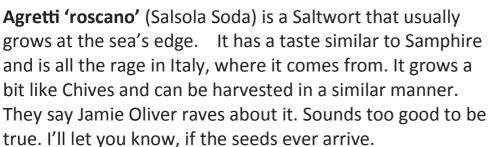
Now is the time to make your plans for the garden, as Spring will suddenly arrive and things will get away from you. Planning is good at this time of year, as you can do it with warm hands and feet, with something nice to drink. Also all your plans for next summer are still potential successes.

Soon the birds will start nesting, it's a good time to put up new nest boxes or clean out any you may already have. Don't forget to feed the birds, they really need our help at this time of year, as their normal food sources are in short supply.

Every gardener should try and grow something new each year.

This year I intend to grow 2 new varieties from seed, one edible and one ornamental.









Gardens and green spaces are good for our mental health in these difficult times, so get outside, you'll find something to cheer you.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your gardening.

John Wojdyla

All Saints Church Chalgrave report to the Parish Council

There is little to add in way of a Church report other than to say that at present church services are suspended due to concern for people's safety during this latest Covid-19 wave. We agreed to suspend services for January but will review this on a regular basis (guided by C of E and Government advice).



Sadly, many of our Christmas services were also cancelled. As infection levels rose during Christmas week, people who had booked to attend began to cancel places and it was not viable to run the Carols by Candlelight service, the Crib Service and Midnight Mass. There was a joint benefice service at Toddington Church on Christmas Morning with a congregation of about 7 people.

However, we did enjoy a special afternoon carols service on Sunday 13 December 2020, with a small choir of about 5 people who filled the church with wonderful singing and it was fantastic to listen to the organ play too. This was the last opportunity for many folk to gather pre-Christmas before lockdown.

Our last December service was on Sunday 20th with a morning lessons and carols service. My sincere thanks go to Sandy and the team of ladies who decorated the church so beautifully. I filmed a short film in the church which was put on Facebook so people could see the crib, the tree and the decorations, and I also prayed for the community for a safe, special Christmas.

It was a great sadness for us not to be able to celebrate Christmas as we would usually, and we have not been able to meet as church since, which is another sadness. But the view was unanimous, that for the time being, we need to stay closed to keep everyone safe. Each week we continue to issue a recorded Sunday worship Service and now also host two zoom services for the Quintet. The morning service is proving to be popular with about 45 folks attending each morning. The zoom Upper room services is also popular. It is good to meet together, albeit remotely. We very much look forward to the time when we can gather and worship again at All Saints Church but anticipate that this may not happen for some weeks .

We send our very best wishes to the Parish Council for the year of 2021. May it be a time of special blessing for you all, and for the community, despite these very challenging days. God bless, **Linda Washington**

Chemotherapy tales by Colin McCausland

Colin here again with more Myeloma Tales!

I find it quite easy to lose track of how I was feeling some months ago – maybe just me but I find this cancer/chemo thing makes me live in the moment, so it was important that I reread the last Chemo Tale I wrote Back in October as I'd forgotten how challenging it had all become.

I finished Phase 1 Chemo at the end of November. This was a sort of mid-level chemo aimed at reducing the cancer levels ready for the Phase 2 Stem Cell Transplant due to take place around January.

I think I expected – with the end of Phase 1 chemo – some sort of miracle overnight "I feel great again" experience. Well that didn't happen and it took quite a few weeks to start feeling human again but now I'm back into walking 2-4 miles a day with the ever-faithful Billy and enjoying life – hurrah!

In December I made several trips to University College Hospital (London) – where my Phase 2 will take place – including having my Stem Cells "harvested". A brief explanation....Phase 2 involves taking Stem Cells out of by bone marrow (harvesting), freezing them, giving me very high levels of chemo which kill the cancer in my bone marrow plus pretty much destroy my immune system, then putting the stem cells back (after defrosting them I assume) which vastly reduces the amount of time it takes to rebuild my immune system and so reduces the risk of getting a disease when my immune system is "on the floor". So, having been "harvested" is an important step.

At the same time, I had tests done on my blood para-protein level — in a "normal" person this should be zero, mine had been up to 51 in the past which was what originally indicated I was heading towards Myeloma and now it is down to 1 which is absolutely excellent. I also had a Bone marrow Biopsy (oh boy are they fun !!) to see how much cancer they could find in my bone marrow and they found......none! Tempting to jump up and down "I'm cured" etc, but in reality, that shows my body has reacted excellently to the Phase 1 chemo but without Phase 2 the Myeloma will almost certainly return. So brilliant news but not the end of the story quite yet.

So where does that leave me? Well pretty positive actually. I'm happy that all the right decisions are being made, happy I'm alive, happy I'm able to enjoy this wonderful world. I could choose to be depressed re the delay, COVID and whatever else but that won't get me anywhere so – bring it on!

So lets get going on Phase 2 eh? No – afraid not. Got a call early January, Phase 2 will be delayed as I was told a) my chances of getting COVID in hospital are far higher than

Chemotherapy tales by Colin McCausland

getting it at home b) there is a slight chance the Phase 2 treatment itself could put me in intensive care and with so few ICU beds available UCL thought the risk too high. For obvious reasons you don't want COVID or anything else that puts you in ICU when your immune system is down. This news could be seen as negative, but the Consultant did say that about a third of Stem Cells patients were going ahead with treatment as it was felt the clinical risk of not going ahead was bigger. My treatment is being postponed because my body has reacted so well I am at less risk than most. So I'm satisfied the correct medical decision has been taken.

So now I am on "holding chemo" – that is aimed at stopping the Myeloma coming back while we wait for Phase 2 to go ahead rather than tackling it head on so it's less aggressive than Phase 1 and so far – just one week in - it seems ok but we shall see.

No date set on when Phase 2 will take place, the Consultant said early Spring — whatever that means — but he also said that with everything changing every day they could not accurately predict when it could take place.



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Paraprosdokians

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.

Sir Winston Churchill loved them. Here are a few:

- ♦ Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak
- ♦ Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- ♦ You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice
- ♦ I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid .
- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me.

Walking Bedfordshire by John Harris

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Bedfordshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/beds is the website for you!



John Harris says, 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bedfordshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking www.walkinginengland.co.uk john@walkinginengland.co.uk

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Parish Noticeboard

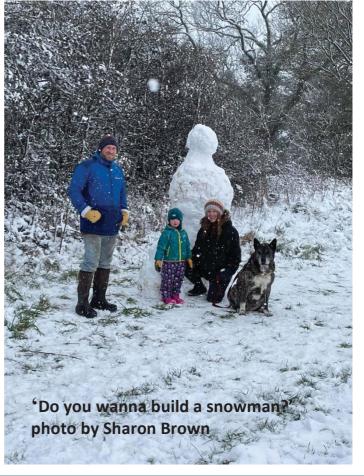




Wingfield scenes from Peter Warburton







Snowr

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Chalgrave Memorial Hall

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SATURDAY					
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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		
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(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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- Committee Room available for hire separately when Hall not hired Rates on application
- **Block/Regular booking discount of up to 15% available
- Bookings outside above hours subject to individual rates on application.
- Non-refundable deposit of 50% of the booking fee payable to confirm booking.
- £300 damage deposit required on all bookings refundable in full subject to no damage caused to Hall, contents, equipment or grounds and the Hall and grounds being left in a clean and tidy state. NB: should the cost of reparation to the Hall contents or equipment the Committee reserve the right to pursue the balance.

Enquiries—Bookings 07831 482556 Information—Roger Masters 01525 873039

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	kentebworth@gmail.com		
	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	<u>875921</u>	Janet.day456@btinternet.com		
Council	Central Beds	03003 008000	www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk		
Ward C'llr	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		101			
Helping Hands		07882 988270			
Public Houses					
The Plough	Sallie & Paul	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		
Brownies/Guides	Dee Curtis	872649			
Rainbow	Dee Curtis	872649			
Cubs Scouts	Karen Calder	873065			

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